Sociology GCSE

Unit 5:

Crime & Deviance

Name _____

2.2   Assessments

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education	Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification
What's assessed	**What's assessed**
• The sociology of families • The sociology of education • Relevant areas of social theory and methodology Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.	• The sociology of crime and deviance • The sociology of social stratification • Relevant areas of social theory and methodology Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.
How it's assessed	**How it's assessed**
• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE	• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE
Questions	**Questions**
• Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses. • Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.	• Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses. • Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Crime & Deviance:

Students must know and understand:	RAG
Theories of crime, including functionalism, Strain Theory, Marxism, Left Realism; subcultural explanations and interactionism; Non-Sociological explanations for crime, including the Biological and Psychological approaches	
Data on Crime & Deviance , including the different types of data, such as official statistics, self report studies and victim surveys	
The issues of social control	
The social distribution of crime, which explores the issue of social class, including explanations	
The social distribution of crime, which explores the issue of gender, including explanations	
The social distribution of crime, which explores the issue of ethnicity, including explanations	
The social distribution of crime, which explores the issue of age, including explanations	
Contemporary debates surrounding crime, including the influence of the media and the effectiveness of the prison system, sentencing and rehabilitation.	

Assessment Objectives:

AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.
AO3	Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods in order to construct arguments, make judgement and draw conclusions.

What is crime? What is Deviance?

Crime is an illegal act which is punishable by law. For example a bank robbery, child rape and murder. If a person commits a crime and it is detected, they could be arrested, charged and prosecuted . If found guilty, they could receive a sentence, such as prison, community service or a fine.

Deviance is behaviour which does not conform to the dominant norms of a specific society. If a person behaves in a way that is seen as deviant and this is discovered, it could lead to negative sanctions, such as being told off, ignored or ridiculed.

The Social Construction of Crime & Deviance

Crime varies between societies, and definitions of crime and deviance vary, according to time, place and social situation

Time	Where the act takes place can influence whether it is criminal or deviant	Homosexual acts were criminal until 1967
Place	Where an act takes place	Being naked at a nudist beach, compared to being naked at a cricket match
Social Situation	The context in which the act takes place	Chanting and flag waving at a funeral compared with being at a football match
Culture	Different cultures have different expectations	Using cannabis in some Arab states is acceptable, whereas drinking alcohol is not.

What is Social Control?

To prevent a society falling into chaos; the ways in which as society prevents members from doing what they want and causing damage to society is called social control.

Informal Social Control	Formal Social Control
Unwritten rules; based around approval and disapproval; for example , friends and families reactions to behaviour	Formal rules; organisations such as the police enforce order and control our behaviour.
Enforced through sanctions (e.g. poor exam results; being told off; being socially isolated) and rewards (promotions, praise, high exam marks)	The criminal justice system is intended to punish the guilty and help them to stop reoffending whilst protecting the innocent.

Agency of Control

* Courts; Police; Religion; Schools; Work; Home Office; Family; Friends; Peer Groups; Parliament

Key Study

Heidensohn: *Women & Crime* (1985)

⇒ Women are more likely to conform and commit fewer crimes than males.

⇒ Housework and childcare control and restrict women's time and movement. They have fewer opportunities to offend if they are confined to the home for long periods of time

⇒ Men as the main or sole breadwinners also have financial control over their wives.

⇒ Daughters are more closely monitored than sons.

Perspective	View on Social Control
Functionalism	Rules relate to stale society; social control encourages conformity and discourages crime; crime provides boundaries.
Marxism	The ruling class impose their values on the rest of the population; laws reinforce social control; Working class face mores social control
Feminism	Society is patriarchal; social control reinforces patriarchy to limit women's opportunities to engage in crime
Interactionism	Act becomes deviant or criminal when labelled by society and reinforced through control.

How is Crime measured?

Crime is measured in three ways: **Victim Surveys, Self Report Studies & Official Statistics**

What are Official Statistics?

Official Statistics are collected by the police from crime which has been discovered by the police; they are also made up of reports from the public.

What are Victim Surveys?

Large-scale surveys of the population ask people what crimes have been committed against them. This survey is carried out every year, using 35,000 participants from households, and also includes children. It is delivered through a semi-structured questionnaire. This survey is representative and is also called the *Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)*.

What are Self-Report Studies?

Self report studies (also called *The Offending Crime and Justice Survey– OCJS);* are carried out annually to investigate anti-social behaviour and drug use, for example.

Under-Reporting? Under Recording?

Crime varies between societies, and definitions of crime and deviance vary, according to time, place and social situation;

This forms the 'dark' or 'hidden figure of crime'

Reasons for Under-Reporting	Reasons for Under-Recording
Embarrassment	Police may not see the crime as serious
Social Stigma	
Seen as a 'private' or 'family' matter	Unsolvable
	Lack of evidence
Do not know it is a crime	Police may not have a good relationship with community
Fear of reprisals	
Lack of trust in the police	Promotion concerns
Trivial	

Theory	View on Crime Data?
Functionalism	Accept statistics as accurate and helps establish patterns
Marxists	Under-represents crimes of the powerful; makes it appear than most crimes are committed by the working class and not the middle class
Feminists	Statistics underrepresent crimes against women committed by men
Interactionism	Statistics are socially constructed. They show stereotypes of racism and sexism from the CJS. Police have a perception of an 'ideal criminal' which are shown. Prefer victim surveys and self report studies

Survey	Advantages	Disadvantages
Official Statistics	Shows a large amount of data on crime; produced by the government; representative	Not all crime is detected, reported or recorded; the government may manipulate data on crime
Self-Report Studies	Reponses are anonymous, so people are likely to give valid answers; gives statistics on crime which isn't usually reported to the police, including anti-social behav-	Only focuses on young people; individuals may exaggerate
Victim Surveys	May reveal crimes which have not been reported; helps create policies on crime; can view trends on certain hidden crimes	Excludes victimless crimes; crimes where businesses are victims (e.g, shoplifting); recollections may be false

Key Terms

Social Construction: the idea that something doesn't exist in reality and is created by society

Objective: Something which is true or scientific

Dark figure of Crime: the idea that crime statistics do not show many crimes because of underreporting and under recording

Perspectives on Crime: Poor Socialisation & the New Right

One view of the cause of criminal behaviour, is poor **socialisation** into a life of criminal activity. This generally refers to poor parenting or learning from poor role models.

Farrington & West found that boys who lacked a father figure can cause problems for boys later in life, and means that they lack both **external social control** (e.g. parental discipline) and, as a result, they lack **internal social control**. They are likely to engage in crime as a result.

Bernard found that **maternal deprivation** (lack of a mother figure) was especially damaging to children in early life, and leaves them with social and psychological problems which often result in crime.

Murray from the New Right position suggests that the growth of a **welfare dependent underclass** resulted in the growth of crime across all of society. The **nanny state** has exasperated the problem causing the growth of crime across society.

Perspectives on Crime: Non Sociological Explanations

The Biological Approach

This approach is also termed *the physiological approach*. This was founded by **Lombroso.** Their physical characteristics, which Lombroso argued were common amongst criminals, proved that some are **born criminal**.
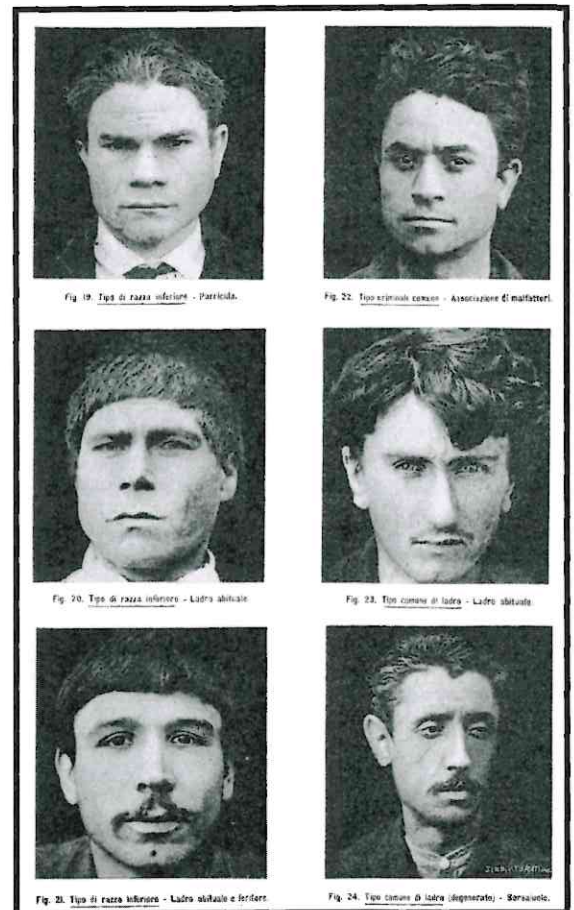
The shape of the skull, genes, jaw lines, head shape and brow identify criminals

Dalton also suggested that severe pre-menstrual tension, being more common in some women, determined that they were more likely to commit crime. Dalton argued that inherited genes determined such symptoms.

The Psychological Approach

Eysenck argued that some personality types were more likely to lead to criminal behaviours. He argued that **extrovert personalities** which display characteristics, such as recklessness, irrational behaviour and impulsiveness were more likely to result in criminal behaviours. It was also argued that psychopathic personalities are more likely to lead to criminal behaviour.

Bowlby found that the first 5 years were most important in a baby's life. He argued that a separation of 6 months or more in the first 5 years left permanent emotional damage and, as a result, crime. This is what Bowlby termed an **attachment disorder**.

Fig. 19. Tipo di razza inferiore - Parricida.

Fig. 22. Tipo criminale comune - Associazione di malfattori.

Fig. 20. Tipo di razza inferiore - Ladro abituale.

Fig. 23. Tipo comune di ladro - Ladro abituale.

Fig. 21. Tipo di razza inferiore - Ladro abituale e feritore.

Fig. 24. Tipo comune di ladro (degenerato) - Borsaiuolo.

Perspectives on Crime: Functionalism

It is argued that a society requires crime in order to function; **Durkheim** argued that it was also inevitable. Crime helps society to progress and become more civilised.

- Crime **reaffirms the boundaries of society** , reminding people what happens if they break the rules.

- Sometimes sympathy for people targeted by the criminal justice system leads to **changes in the law**.

- Durkheim argued that **social cohesion** and **collective conscience** are created by the existence of crime in society ; people are outraged by horrific crimes in society. This creates a sense of community as a result.

- Crime can act as a **safety valve** to relieve pressure. Crime, such as rioting can tell members of society when there are problems within parts of society.

- Crime provides **employment** within society, such as doctors, social workers, police, probation workers, prison officers, security guards and judges

Problems with the Functionalist View

Too much crime can be damaging for society.

People are generally **selfish** and follow their own social norms rather than following social norms; something Durkheim failed to argue.

Crime is not always useful to society and can be disruptive and expensive.

Key Terms

Anomie: social disorganisation and social chaos

Collective Conscience: the idea that everybody is united through grief, shock and anger in the face of criminal activity.

Social Cohesion: the bonding of individuals in society

Consensus: general level of agreement in a society

Functional Prerequisites: the basic needs of any society to survive

Perspectives on Crime: Subcultural Theory

Key Text: Cohen, A (1955); 'Delinquent Boys'

Albert Cohen argued from a functionalist perspective , which is similar to Merton. Cohen suggested that working class boys has precisely the same goals as the rest of society– to have a good job, a family and wealth.

However, they were not able to achieve these goals because of **educational failure** and **poor employment**.

They feel a sense of frustration at being left at the lowest levels of society.

As a result, they form an **alternative set of values,** which is called a 'delinquent subculture', with similar people.

The features of this include:

⇒ Anti-social behaviour

⇒ Risk taking behaviour

They believe that they can achieve status through criminal behaviour, that is denied to them through the rest of society.

Perspectives on Crime: Strain Theory

Key Text: Merton, R; Social Theory & Social Structure

Strain Theory is an amendment to the functionalist perspective. Merton argues that crime and deviance were evidence of **poor fit** in society, rather than being beneficial to society.

Merton claimed that there were **socially approved goals** in society and **legitimate means** to achieve these goals. Merton claimed that where individuals could not achieve their socially approved goals through legitimate means, they experienced strain. Merton argued that this left them with a number of possible actions:

Reaction to Strain	Description	Example	Follow Societies Goals?	Use Legitimate means?
Conformity	Continuing to adhere to goals & means	Working hard in a normal job to achieve wealth	Y	Y
Innovation	Maintaining to goals but using illegal means	Forming a criminal sub-culture to get wealthy	Y	N
Ritualism	Abandoning goals but continuing with means anyway	Working for a company with no aim of ambition or concern about doing well anymore	N	Y
Retreatism	Abandoning both goals and means	Becoming a drop out or drug addict or homeless	N	N
Rebellion	Changing the goals and means for new ones	Forming a new far right movement or choosing to go 'back to nature' 'off grid'	Exchanged	Exchanged

Criticisms of Merton

It is an assumption that everybody shares the same values

There are many reactions to 'strain' and this is too simplistic.

Doesn't explain why goals and means are accepted.

Strays too far from functionalism, so cannot really be called a Functionalist theory.

Key Terms

Socially approved goals: the ambitions of individuals in society which are legal and encouraged by society (e.g. to get a good job, to be ambitious, to be wealthy, to own a house, to have a family)

Legitimate means: the legal ways to achieve your goals; for example working hard is a legitimate means to achieve wealth and success

Perspectives on Crime: Interactionism & Labelling Theory

Labels are often attached to an individual or group and has consequences for identity.

Once a person is labelled successfully, the label sticks. After reinforcement the label sticks.; this may form **self fulfilling prophecy**. After time this process may lead to a **master status**, where a powerful label is difficult to remove and defines an individual, no matter what else they may do.

Cicourel found that the police had a 'typical' type of criminal in mind which influenced how they treated individuals found committing crime. They saw criminals as working class, therefore they were more likely to be arrestsed. Where middle class people were caught engaging in crime, they were likely to be cautioned or police to use their discretion in a positive way.

Becker, H (1963); 'The Outsiders'

Labelling somebody as criminal varies by time, place, situation and the person observing.

Labels applied by the criminal justice system have the power to stick; this is the formation of a master status.

When a label is internalised and performed the self-fulfilling prophecy occurs; this may encourage further deviance and as a result, a **deviant career**.

Criticisms of Interactionism & Labelling Theory

This theory removes the blame from individuals who engage in crime.

Assumes that an act isn't deviant until it is defined as such

Doesn't explain why some are deviant in the first place

Perspectives on Crime: Left Realism & Relative Deprivation Theory

Relative deprivation theory was developed by **Young**. This theory suggests that **material deprivation** can lead to people feeling **resentment** and jealously towards those who do have material rewards.

This is exasperated by the **mass media** who use images of goods such as phones, trainers, holidays and clothes, which those who cannot afford such things feeling left out, or resenting those who can afford these things.

Young calls this '**bulimic society**' where materially deprived individuals gorge themselves on images of consumption but are forced to 'vomit them out'.

Such reasons have been given for the 2011 riots, where looting by working class males was rife in cities because people felt abandoned and deprived in society, whilst others were doing very well.

Perspectives on Crime: Feminist View

Feminists believe that most of sociology focuses on men and much of **female offending is ignored**.

Feminists believe that there needs to be newly devoted focus on **patriarchy** as a cause of crime and women being victims of male crime.

However, many claim that women are **sanitised** for their involvement in crime, by always viewing them as victims. This approach has also been accused of viewing women as **victims** and not empowered. The approach also ignores the role of **social class and ethnicity** in the examination of crime and deviance.

Perspectives on Crime: Marxist View

Marxists believe that **capitalist society** is the root cause of all crime and deviance in society. Such inequality in terms of the **relations of production** causes crime.

Marxist View	Explanation
The Basis of Law	Laws are created by the bourgeoisie in their own interest. To protect themselves.
Law Creation	The ruling class impose their values on the population through socialisation, which benefit them.
Law Enforcement	This means they can unfairly target the working class and protect themselves as their own interests when they engage in activities like **tax avoidance**
Individual motivation	Capitalism is based on **greed, competition and self-interest**, as well as personal gain. For example, people may want new clothes of goods. As a result of the working class inability to afford such things, this could lead to crime such as stealing

Criticisms

Ignores ethnicity and gender in this analysis

Portrays the working class as victims of capitalism; some crimes are not related to capitalism.
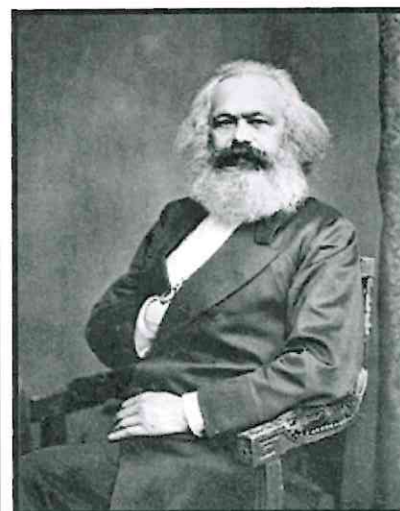
Key Terms

Patriarchy: Male dominated society

Relations of Production: the unequal relationship between the working class and the middle class, which is based on exploitation

Bourgeoisie: Middle Class

Proletariat: Working Class

Means of Production: the tools of industry which are owned by the middle class (e.g. factories, land, capital)

Social Class & Crime: Why do the Working Class Engage in Crime?

Working class are statistically more likely to engage in crime, and there are more working class people in prison.

Many of the reasons have already ben explored previously :

	Explanation	Example
Inaccurate Statistics	Statistics do not represent a reality. Police target the working class and people over report working class crime	Working class are more identifiable
Socialisation	Children develop the norms and values of their parent	Working class children are likely to develop more negative norms and values
Material Deprivation	Children form working class families may also suffer from material deprivation where they are unable to afford items they need	This may lead to working class people reverting to crime to obtain things they need
Education	Working class youths are more likely to be put in the bottom streams, fail at school and be in lower paid jobs	A lack of money leads to criminal behaviour
Labelling	Poorer groups in society are more likely to be the victims and perpetrators of crime and police may label them more readily	Working classes are more likely to be labelled negatively

Cohen: Working Class Delinquent Boys are more likely to develop into criminals out of status frustration

Becker: The Outsiders; those labelled, like the working class, as criminal are likely to face a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy, Master Status and a Deviant Career

Young: the working class are more likely to face relative deprivation

Social Class & Crime: Why do the Middle Class Engage in White Collar Crime?

Sutherland: White Collar Crime is committed by those in potions of respectability

There are different types of crimes of the 'rich and powerful':

Corporate Crime: crimes committed by large companies; can include breaking employment law and health and safety regulations

Occupational Crime: crimes committed by individuals in the course of their employment; it includes embezzlement, fraud etc.

Computer crime: crimes carried out using modern computer systems (such as hacking)

Professional crime: crimes which are carried out as a lifetime career 9e.g. drug running

Crimes committed by those who are middle class can be done for similar reasons to working class crimes, but may also be caused by **capitalism** according to **Marxists**. They believe that capitalism is designed to exploit the working class through middle class greed and ruthlessness. Some sociologists have suggested that **differential association** (socialising with those who are criminal and replicating their behaviours) may be to blame for certain types of middle-class crime, such as stock fraud and manipulation. Some have suggested that **masculinity** may be to blame for middle class crime. Women lack access to such environments because of their roles (expressive), and the lack of access to highly paid jobs as a result of the **glass ceiling effect**. A desperation by some businessmen to progress in their careers, whilst seeing others succeed may lead to desperate measures from middle-class workers to engage in crime, this could br attributed to **subcultural theory** or **relative deprivation theory**.

States may also commit crimes, exercising dominance of the powerful and wealthy in society, such as **humans rights violations** or **genocide**. Corporations are also likely to cut corners, exploiting the poor and weak laws in the developing world; **Marxists** would refer to such violations as **corporate crime** motivated by greed. Corporations can also damage the environment through such exploitation in **green crimes**.

Middle class crime costs the UK £14bn per year.

Gender & Crime

The Statistics

Women commit far fewer crimes than Men. Statistically, they engage in much less crime and are far less likely to end up in prison. Around **5% of the total prison population** is made up of women. **90% of burglary, robbery and drug offences were done by men** and **men are 60x more likely to commit sexual offences, compared with women.**

Why are there different statistics on gender & crime?

Women may feature less on statistics, because **statistics are a social construction** (they have no basis in reality); **women are less likely to engage in crimes** or their may be a system where **women are being let off by society.**

However, many argue that women are engaging in much more crime than they once were, causing serious concerns.

Statistics are not true

Females may commit crime which is less visible or obvious in society, such as shoplifting. Women's crime may not be detected by the police and where they are, police may use their **discretion** not to record female crimes.

Women commit less crime than men

They have different **socialisation** to men; men are socialised into being masculine, tough and aggressive, whereas women are socialised into being emotional, less aggressive and less competitive than men. Women are also less likely to engage in **risk taking behaviour.**

Women also lack the opportunities to engage in crime; it is argued that their status means that they suffer from the **glass ceiling effect** which means that they cannot engage in white collar crimes, because they cannot access such settings. Many women also have to fill the **expressive** role, which may limit times for criminal behaviour, especially having to cope with both the **triple shift** and the **dual burden**. Women are also less likely to be involved in crime because of fears surrounding a loss of child custody.

Women are also more likely to be subjected to **social control**, and girls may face scrutiny on their behaviours and not have a great deal of freedom. There is also lots of pressure on girls in society to **conform**. They may have their **femininity scrutinised** by society if they fail to adhere to gender norms. When women do commit crime, they have two forms of judgement applied to them; firstly from the courts and then from wider society. Women are often seen as 'worse than men', when they engage in crime, because they break the **expectation of the expressive role**. This is called **'Evil Woman Theory'**; it puts women of engaging in crime

Chivalry Thesis

Male dominated police and courts are more lenient on women according to chivalry thesis. Women are seen in the context of the **expressive role** with childcare responsibilities; the courts have a reluctance to split up families. Furthermore, courts and police use their discretion to view the women as **'sad, not bad'.**

Why is Female crime increasing?

Many see female crime as an increasing problem for society. With the growth of **feminism** new opportunities have been given to women in society, releasing them with social pressures. Female crime is also increasing due to the growth of **laddette cultures** in schools and youth culture.

Key Study

Pat Carlen: 'Women, Crime & Poverty'

Pat Carlen carried out in-depth interviews with a group of mostly working class women aged 15-46, who had been convicted of one or more crimes.

She found that women felt powerless and oppressed and saw themselves as victims of injustice, when they couldn't find a way to earn a decent living.

Many of the women lived in poverty and felt they had nothing to lose by turning to crime.

She argued that the class deal (material rewards promised by abiding the law) and the gender deal (a loving and blissful domestic life) were promised to women who abided by the law. Where these were unavailable, women engaged in crime.

Heidensohn : Women & Crime (see social control)

Ethnicity & Crime

Black and other Ethnic minorities feature disproportionately on crime statistics. They are more likely to be arrested (2x), charged or go to prison (5x). Asian people are more likely to be charged or sent to prison.

Other areas where there are disproportionate statistics amongst ethnic minorities include **stop and search** and **taser use**.

Sociologists question whether these statistics are **a reflection of reality** or, rather, a **social construction**. In this debate, most sociologists are critical of the role that the police play in creating a fractured relationship with BAME groups.

Reflection of Reality– BAME do engage in more crime

Poverty causes crime

Many minorities face issues with poverty. **2 in 5 BAME live in poverty**. Poverty and material deprivation can cause crime, through strain between goals and means (Merton), resorting to criminal subcultures (Cohen) or generating resentment towards those who are wealthy (Young).

Crime as Resistance

Crime may be an act of resistance for black and other ethnic minorities. They may engage in crime in reaction to **racism** from the police or members of society. For example, BAME individuals may protest that they are being **stopped and searched.** The fractured relationship was one of the primary causes of the Brixton Riots in 1981 and the London Riots. (Gilroy)

Statistics are the result of social construction

Police Racism– Canteen Culture & Institutional Racism

The police may selectively enforce their discretion against minorities; the often have a perception of the **typical type of criminal**, which is black; consequently, they may **selectively enforce** the law. Police may also take out their stresses of the job by reinforcing **stereotypical assumptions** and dealing with minorities heavy handily. Such racism is called 'canteen culture' (Bowling). The concept of institutional racism may also account for the disregard with which minorities are treated

Gilroy

There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack
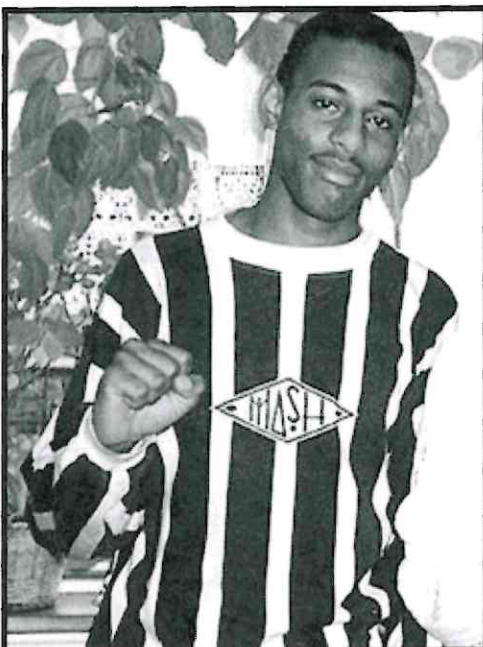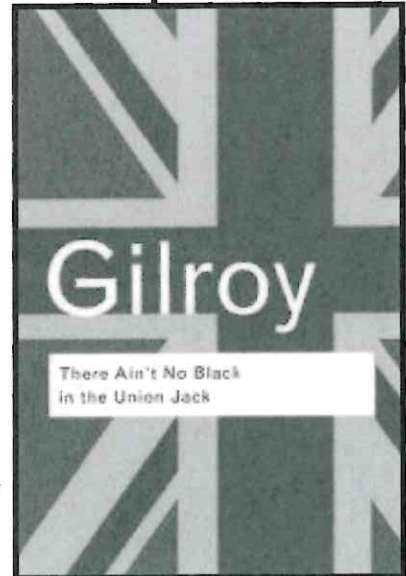
How are ethnic victims of crime treated?

Ethnic minorities are likely to be victims of crime (Walklate)

Most crime that happens in society is **intraracial**.

Institutional Racism: systematic racism which is often unintentional and practiced by large agencies, such as the police and health services.

The case of **Stephen Lawrence**, where the police did not deal with the murder of a black teenager with professionalism or sensitivity led to accusations of **institutional racism**. The report into the death and investigation, called the **MacPherson Report**, forced the police to change practices, training and recruitment, and reflect on relationships with minorities

Age & Crime: The Statistics

Young men are most likely to engage in crime.

E&W 2015, per 100,000 of the male population– numbers cautioned or sentenced for serious offences

- Aged 15-17: 2000
- Aged 18-20: 3031
- Aged over 21: 1171

Should we send Young people to prison for committing crimes?

Some sociologists say that young people **should** be sent to prison if they engage in crime, because it may prevent them from being a **danger to society**, prison can **teach them the norms and values of society**, and those who break the law must be punished. However, it simply does not work, as **73% reoffend within one year (recidivism).** Many suggest they are very expensive (100-200k each year) and **not value for money.** Furthermore, some might suggest, **education, skills and employment should be the focus**, rather than prison. Many young people also may be sent to prison for small offences, leading to 'ex offender' labelling and master status, and a lifetime of deviant career. Many disagree with sending young people to YOUs because many **institutions are inadequate** with many incidents of **violence, drug use, suicide, self harm and mental illness**; it has also been suggested that 1/4 young offenders have a **disability**, thereby, questioning how appropriate such a setting is.

Why do young people engage in crime?

Most young people **do not** engage in crime; they are also more likely to be **victims on crime.** According to self-report studies, young people are more likely to engage in less serious offences, like anti-social behaviour or shoplifting.

Some young people do engage in crimes because of:

- **Poor socialisation**: according to the New Right, poor parenting and a growing underclass is likely to have led to a rise in crime. **Murray** suggests that the growth of the **Welfare State** has created **dependency culture** which makes crime more likely. Some have suggested that the growth of fatherless families may be to blame. Other **agencies of socialisation** such as schools are failing to give children the correct norms and values, or are weakening. This has further weakened **social control.**

- **The Media**: the role of the mass media is seen as very important in making crime happen. Media glamorises gun crime. The media may encourage young people to replicate behaviours, such as violence (Bandura). Some sociologists claim that media violence can **desensitise** young people.

- **Peer Groups & Subcultures**: Cohen claimed that subcultures are influential in the crimes that young people commit. Cohen argued that **status frustration** amongst working class youths, especially males, has led to a growth in youth crime. Young people are more likely to be influenced by deviance around them, **(differential association)** and so peer groups are likely to lead to youth crime. Schools are likely to bring students together, through **anti school subcultures**, which may be a catalyst for crime.

- **Class and Focal Concerns**: Many working class young males commit crime, because they have **focal concerns.** Characteristics can lead to young WC males committing crime to gain peer group status. These include **trouble, smartness, toughness** and **fatalism** (Miller).

- **Risk Taking**: Lyng suggests that young males are likely to commit crime for thrill and risk; this is called 'edgework'

- **Gender & Youth**: young men are more likely to commit crime than young women; this may suggest that a range of factors, especially gender and class, should be explored alongside age

*However, some sociologists would suggest that crime amongst young people may be a reflection of social construction, as police may **selectively enforce discretion**, meaning that police may view young people as typical criminals and target them more.*

The Media & Crime

Does the Media create crime?

- Some criticise the role of the media in creating criminal acts. Many suggest that the media is a powerful **agency of secondary socialisation** and so can influence individuals to engage in acts of crime.

- **Bandura**'s Bobo doll study focused on the idea that children a particularly susceptible to engaging in criminal activity as a result of replication. The study focused on children watching an adult strike a Bobo Doll with a mallet and they replicated the violence.

- There have been concerns about the rise in violent content, along with it's accessibility in the mass media; some high profile cases, such as the murder of James Bulger have ignited such concerns. Some sociologists have suggested that the media **desensitises** children to violence

- Social media has facilitated new forms of **hate crime** and organisation of criminal activity, for example the 2011 London Riots.
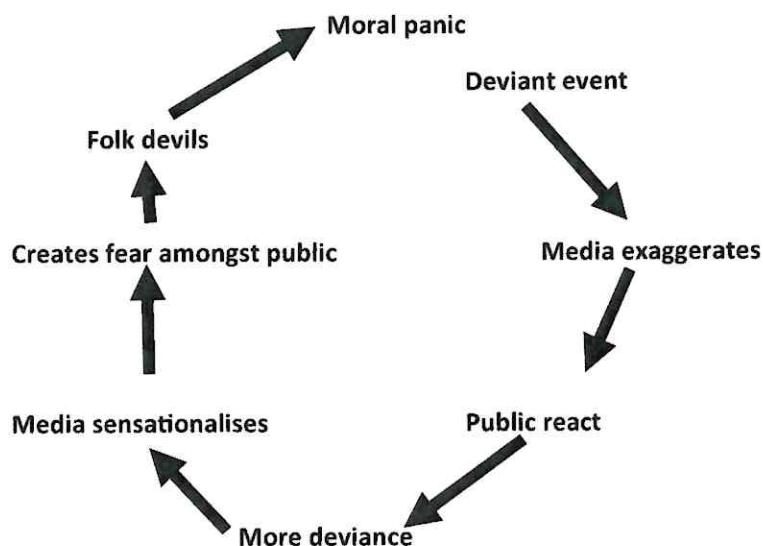
Some Sociologists have suggested that the conclusions are wrong, and there is little evidence to suggest that the media creates crime. The laboratory studies done by sociologists are not applicable to society.

What is a Moral Panic?

A Moral Panic is an event which is created by the mass media and societal reaction to an event. It is an **overreaction to events depicted in the mass media**. A single event triggers the moral panic, which is made more likely by certain factors (e.g innocence or age of a victim, violence that is used, motivations, sex, murder). This leads to over reporting and engagement in such events by members of society. The media and wider society/politicians etc. may respond.

Stan Cohen: Folk Devils & A Moral Panic

Cohen said that Mods and Rockers, which began with minor criminal events, over reacted to by the mass media, led to great curiosity and larger gatherings and further deviance (deviancy amplification). The media reacts by **sensationalising** the events. This led to great **fear** amongst the population and made the mods and rockers into **folk devils** (those given a bad name by the media).

Moral panic

Deviant event

Folk devils

Creates fear amongst public

Media exaggerates

Media sensationalises

Public react

More deviance

Representations of Crime

The media only reports certain elements of crime which are newsworthy or likely to sell newspapers or increase readership/viewership.

A story which is likely to be 'news worthy' may feature sex, violence, graphic images, celebrities or children.

Journalists and gatekeepers (those who control the content of media) have the power to control what is and what is not shown by the media. This may eliminate the broadcast of middle class crimes.

Bias and one sided representations of crime are presented by the media.

Journalists may distort the reality of crime in the media, through presenting alternative 'hyper realities'.

PALADIN
FOLK DEVILS
& MORAL PANICS
STANLEY COHEN

Contemporary Debates: Prison, Rehabilitation & Sentencing: Does Prison Work?

Prison should be used	Prison should not be used
Criminals deserve to be punished It acts as a **deterrent** Prison keeps the public safe	Prisons have become 'universities of crime' (e.g. drug use, gangs) Prisons may turn small time offenders into career criminals. Reoffending rates are high (57% for adults and 75% of children, within 2 years) Prison is too easy Prisons are **dangerous and violent**; they put people at risk; mental health concerns and high rates of suicide are serious issues in prisons Prisons don't have very good education programmes to help people turn their lives around Prison creates **dependency**, because regimes do not allow criminals to think for themselves. Harsh conditions in some prisons and ineffectiveness can lead to resentment and apathy. Other sentences are **less expensive** and can have far more effectiveness. More lenient regimes or open prisons in other countries, such as Scandinavian nations, has reduced the crime rate Restorative justice allows offenders to explore the harm they are doing to themselves and others.

Types of sentences

- **Prison**: can be Categorized according to seriousness; from maximum security (A) to open (D)

- **Community Service**: Where individuals complete unpaid work, over a number of directed hours

- **ASBOs/CrimBOs**: Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Criminal Behaviour Orders are usually given to young people who break the law with smaller offences in communities

- **Fines**

- **(Youth) Rehabilitation Order**: a range of specific sentences aimed at reducing future offending, such as curfews, restraining orders, tagging, supervision of drug treatment

Knife Crime

Many have recently shown deep concern about rising levels of knife crime. Measures which have been taken to reduce such crime include **target hardening** (making it more difficult to target individuals, through community orders), amnesties, seizures of weapons, stop and search (although this remains controversial because it disproportionately affects BAME), media campaigns, harsher sentences for possession of knives and education.

However, concern remains about the effect on youth (most victims are under 21); others have suggested that such crime is a **moral panic.**

Violent Crime

Many in society, especially the media have commented that **sentences are far too lenient** especially for violent offences. For example 1/10 first time violent offenders are jailed, in 5 years 80,000 walked free from court. 1/3 sex offenders went to prison for first time offences and 38 rapists were given community service.

The government introduced the **2 strikes rule** in 2012 (convicted of 2 serious violent or sexual offences=life sentence)

Members of society have a great deal of **fear about crime in society** as a result of levels of violent offences and lenient sentences.