

Defining crime and deviance and social control

The social construction of crime and deviance

Definitions of crime and deviance can change over time and from place to place. Whether an action is seen as criminal or deviant can depend on the time, place, social situation and culture in which it occurs.

Feature	Explanation
Time	When the act takes place can influence whether it is criminal or deviant. For example drinking in the morning compared to at night, smoking in public places is illegal but may be deviant in someone's house. What is considered as deviant changes over time. For example, pre 1945, abortion, divorce, homosexuality and sex before marriage were seen as deviant, but they are not now.
Place	Where the act takes place, for example being naked in the shower or on a nudist beach is not illegal but walking down the street naked is illegal.
Social situation	The context of where the act takes place, for example chanting and waving a flag at a football match is normal but doing it at a funeral would be seen as rude
Culture	Different countries have different rules and expectations for example in Saudi Arabia, it is illegal for women to interact with men who are not their husbands in public. In the USA, gun ownership is widespread and not considered deviant, whereas it is in the UK. In Switzerland, Euthanasia (assisted suicide) is legal, whereas it is illegal here.
Reactions	Sociologists argue that what is considered deviant depends on people's reactions rather than the act itself. For example, seeing a drug dealer selling drugs on a street corner would be seen as deviant, but seeing a pharmacist selling (legal) drugs would not be.

Social order

For people to live and work together order and predictability are needed if society is to run smoothly. In studying social order, sociologists are interested in the parts of social life that are stable and ordered. Sociologists are interested in why and how social order happens in society. There are two approaches to studying social order: consensus and conflict.

Consensus (functionalist) view of social order	Conflict (Marxist) view of social order
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social order depends on cooperation between different groups • People need to agree on norms and values through the socialization process • Social order is maintained by most people agreeing with and obeying the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict of interests exists between different groups in society • Marxists believe there is a conflict between the ruling class and working class • The ruling class (bourgeoisie) have conflicting interests from the working class (proletariat) as the bourgeoisie want to make money, whereas the proletariat want to be paid more • Social order is maintained because the bourgeoisie use their power to control the working class

Social control-

Social control refers to the way people are encouraged to follow formal and informal rules in society. A part of this is how society punishes the breaking of these rules. It can involve positive and negative sanctions, and social reactions. There are two types of social control: formal and informal.

Formal social control – to do with formal written rules (CRIME

Refers to the way the state regulates people's actions and behaviour. It is concerned with written rules and laws

Name of agency	Their role in social control
The Houses of Parliament 	Their role is to legislate, which means that they make the laws that regulate our behaviour.
The police 	Their role is to enforce the laws that have been made by the Houses of Parliament and to investigate crime.
The courts (the judicial system) 	Their role is to deal with alleged (suspected) offenders and to convict and sentence those who are found guilty of a criminal offence.
The prison service 	Their role is to confine convicted criminals and punish them. The thought of prison is enough to deter most people from committing crime.

Informal social control – to do with informal written rules (Deviance)

Informal social control is based on informal processes. Control is enforced through the positive and negative **reactions** of other people as well as giving out punishments and rewards.

Name of agency	Rewards	Sanctions
Family 	Smile Pocket money Reward	Grounded Removal off phone Curfew
Education 	Positives Praise	Detention 'C' system
Religion 	Heaven	Hell

Key term	Definition	Example
Crime	A crime is an illegal act which is punishable by law.	Fraud, Robbery, Shoplifting Murder
Deviance	Deviance is behaviour which does not conform to society's rules and norms	Laughing at a funeral, Picking your nose
Formal rules	Formal rules are written down. These guide people's behaviour in many social situations such as at work and on transport. They have official status and sanctions such as penalties, imprisonment	Highway code Laws of society School behaviour systems
Informal rules	These are the 'taken for granted' rules that guide aspects of social life	Queuing up in a line
Formal social control	The formal way behaviour and actions are formally regulated and controlled in society	The police The courts Parliament
Informal social control	Informal social control means how we are persuaded to conform most of the time through being taught and reminded about what is acceptable and what is not	Family Education Religion Peer groups
Social construction of deviance	There is no fixed universal agreement on what is seen as deviant	Idea that deviance changes over time

Functionalism and crime – key terms and core study

Key ideas	Criticisms of Durkheim
<p>Functionalism is a consensus structural theory. It is structural theory because functionalist argue that crime and deviance is located in the structure of our society. Each society has a set of rules that that tell us how to behave in different situations.</p> <p>It is a consensus theory because they argue that in order for society to function effectively, there needs to be a general agreement of the rules of society. There needs to be a collective conscience that forms that basis of our actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durkheim does not explain what the causes of crime might be – he simply states that crime is there • He ignores issues of class/power, gender and ethnicity. • Durkheim suggests that crime/deviance strengthens social cohesion – but overlooks how it can also isolate people – e.g. drug addicts. • Durkheim argues that a certain amount of crime/deviance is healthy for society – but does not indicate how much is the right amount.

Positive functions of crime

Functionalists like Durkheim argue that crime in small amounts is necessary for society to function. Crime is inevitable but not everyone can be integrated into society

Function	Explanation	Example
Re-affirming boundaries of society	Every time a criminal is punished, it reminds society of what happened when boundaries are crossed.	Criminals who are sent to prison
Changing values	Occasionally sympathy occurs for someone on trial and this can signify a change in values, this can sometimes lead to a change in the law.	Changes in laws over same sex marriages
Social cohesion	When horrific crimes have been committed, the entire community draws together in shared outrage, and the sense of belonging to the community is strengthened.	Manchester bombings Terrorist attacks Child abduction
Safety valve	Deviant acts may be functional as a form of pressure release – releasing stresses in society. Deviance can allow individuals to express themselves in ways that may not be criminal.	Demonstrations Protests Prostitution

Key term	Definition
Anomie	The breakdown of norms governing accepted social behaviour.
Collective conscience	shared beliefs and values that bind communities together and regulate behaviour
Consensus theory	The idea that society is based on a set of agreement
Structural theory	The idea that institutions / structures shape human behavior in society
Value consensus	Beliefs that are commonly shared by particular social groups.
Strain theory	The theory there is a strain between individuals who have the same goals as everyone in society but lack of the means of achieving them.

Strain theory and crime – key terms and core study MERTON

Strain theory is a branch off Functionalism.

Unlike Durkheim, Merton offers a reason for why people commit crime.

Merton states that deviance occurs when individuals find that they cannot achieve the success goals of society in the normal way. There is “strain” between the goals and people’s abilities to achieve them

Merton argued that all societies have goals and that everyone has a chance to achieve these goals. However, once their goals become virtually impossible to achieve, this creates strain and people seek new (often deviant ways) to achieve these goals.

Type of Adaption	Explanation	Example
Conformity	They conform to the ideas of success in society: both the goals and the normative means of reaching them.	The non-criminal, non-deviant citizen.
Innovation	They reject the normative means of achieving success, so they turn to deviant means such as burglary	Factors like unemployment, poor education mean these people don’t have the means to achieve goals so turn to crime.
Ritualism	They recognise the common goals and the means of achieving them, but view the reality of achieving success as unlikely. They ‘go through the motions’ in society, but without motivation to progress	People who have given up on achieving their goals, but stick to the means. E.g an employee who has given up hope of promotion, and just work to ‘skim by’.
Retreatism	They have strongly internalised both goals and means of achievement, but retreat from society, turning to alcohol or drugs, as a way of avoiding social reality	People who have given up all together, e.g drug addicts, drop outs.
Rebellion	They reject both the goals and the institutionalised means of achievement, replacing them with different goals and means. They wish to create a new society	Individuals reject existing goals and replace them with new ones in desire to bring about a revolutionary change

Evaluation:

- ❖ Criticised for failing to consider who make the laws and who benefits from them (Marxist view)
- ❖ Criticised for assuming that there is value consensus in the first place
- ❖ Exaggerates working class crime and underestimates middle class crime
- ❖ Many crimes are not motivated by money e.g. vandalism
- ❖ Merton fails to acknowledge how some people who suffer from anomie break laws and others just conform.

Feminist explanation of crime – Control theory and core study: Heidensohn

Feminists view society as patriarchal. The sociology of crime and deviance tends to focus on men mainly. Female offending has not been studied until recently but this is changing.

Although it is true that approximately 80% of offenders are men, there is the other 20% that are women who simply get ignored in many sociological theories.

The feminist perspective has made a number of contributions to the study of crime and deviance:

1. A new focus on female offending and the experiences of women
2. A new focus on women as been victims

Key term	Definition
Bedroom culture	Girls are more likely to spend time with their friends in their bedroom. Girls are more likely to get dropped off and picked up by their parents when going out
Chivalry thesis	The idea that a male dominated police force and criminal justice system treats female offenders more leniently because of their gender.

Heidensohn

- ❖ Uses **control theory** to explain why women commit fewer crimes than men.
- ❖ **Patriarchal societies** control women more effectively than men so it is more difficult for women to commit crime. This is done in various ways:

Area control	Description
At home	Women expected to spend time on housework and childcare
Patriarchal authority	Women risk domestic violence if they challenge these expectations
Breadwinner	Men as main have control over financial decisions
Closer controls of daughters than sons	Control over when they leave home and expected to do domestic tasks
In public	Controlled by threat of male sexual violence . Women controlled by idea of inappropriate behaviour being bad for their reputation bringing shame on their families
At work	Controlled by male dominated hierarchies and trade unions. Controlled by intimidation and various forms of sexual harassment

Marxism and crime – Overview and key terms



Overview of ideas

Marxists explain crime by examining the type of society in which we live.

They are critical of our society as it's capitalistic and is based on values such as materialism, consumerism and competition between individuals to achieve these possessions.

The media also reinforce these values through advertising.

In this sort of society it is likely that some people will attempt to obtain material goods through any means, including illegal means, leading the criminal and deviant behaviour.

Evaluation:

- Marxists ignore the importance of gender and ethnicity.
- Marxists assume all poor people turn to crime because they feel deprived. The vast majority of poor people are actually law abiding citizens.

<u>Marxism:</u>	<u>Brief Outline:</u>	<u>Example</u>
The basis of laws	The laws are made by the powerful and will essentially benefit the ruling class (the bourgeoisie) and reflect their interests. Criminal law therefore operates to protect the rich and powerful	Many of the UK laws centre on property and fraud
Law Creation:	The ruling class imposes their values upon the rest of the population. They do this through agencies of secondary socialisation such as education and the media	They teach obedience and to respect rules
Law Enforcement:	Even though laws reflecting the interests of the ruling class, they could benefit everyone if they were treated fairly. This is not the case as some groups are treated more leniently than others.	The police stop and search certain groups of people. Middle class crimes often go undetected
Individual Motivation	Marxism provides a reason for the increasing emphasis on consumerism, greed and self gain. Capitalist society is based on competition and consumerism. Those living in poverty are not able to complete and buy the latest products due to relative deprivation	For example buying the latest model or brand of product

- Marxists believe capitalism creates crime.
- People feel the injustice of the class system and commit crime.

Labelling theory and crime- Key terms and core study: Becker

Becker (1997) argues that there is no such thing as a deviant in itself. We cannot understand deviance by focusing on acts that people commit. Instead, we must explore the interaction between the person who commits an act and those who react to it. Behaviour only becomes deviant when other people (such as police officers and teachers) define it as such

An act only becomes deviant when others define it as such. The **label** of deviancy depend on:

1. Who commits the act, When and where it was committed, Who observes the act
2. The negotiations that take place between the **actors** (individuals) involved in the **interaction**

For example:

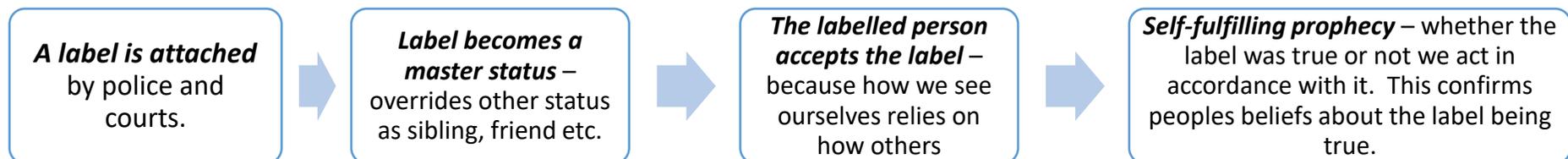
- A teenager is defined as being delinquent and is convicted for a crime – this person is then **labelled**. Powerful **agents of social control**, such as police, courts, media, have the power to make the label stick. This label then becomes a **master status** for the individual, which overshadows other aspects of their identity and affects how other see and respond to them
- Individual may see themselves in terms of the **label**, producing a **self-fulfilling prophecy**. Ultimately this may lead the individual into a **deviant career** because other law-abiding options appear closed to them. This career is completed when the individual joins a deviant organised group – a **deviant subculture**

1. Crime is Sociology Constructed – An act which harms an individual or society else only becomes criminal if those in power label that act as criminal.
2. Not everyone who is deviant gets labelled as such – negative labels are generally (deviant/ criminal) are generally given to the powerless by the powerful.
3. Labelling can lead to deviancy amplification, self-fulfilling prophecy and deviant careers.

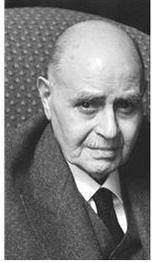
Key term	Definition
Labelling theory	The process of defining a person/ group in a certain way
Deviant career	A process that develops over time as the individual progresses through their deviant behaviour, accepting and adopting labels applied to them
Master status	After internalising the label applied to them, this becomes their defining characteristic
Self-fulfilling prophecy	When someone accepts a label that has been applied to them and acts in-line with this label

Evaluation

- Labelling theory fails to tell us why crime exists in the first place.
- Labelling theory fails to consider social inequalities (poverty or deprivation) and how it creates crime.
- Fail to acknowledge the real victims of crime.



Subcultural explanations of crime – Key terms and core study: COHEN



- Some sociologists argue that subcultures are the cause of crime. Albert Cohen (1955) studied juvenile delinquency in working-class boys in North America.
- He argued that juvenile delinquency is a group phenomenon – young males commit crimes as a result of joining gangs and groups in which delinquent behaviour is expected.
- He also argued that the American education system is organised around middle-class values, and that working-class boys experience status frustration when they try and fail to meet the expectations at school.
- Being part of a delinquent subculture allows them to gain status in their group, when the mainstream system has branded them as failures.

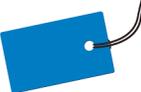
- ❖ Working class boys have same success goals as those of wider society
- ❖ But as a consequence of educational failure and lack of job prospects the chances of attaining these goals is minimal
- ❖ **Cultural deprivation** limits these boys' educational success
- ❖ As a consequence of their lack of opportunities, they suffer **status frustration**
- ❖ As an alternative route to success, they turn to crime, joining a **deviant subculture**, which values stealing, vandalism and truancy etc
- ❖ Reward of recognition and prestige are given by their peers

Key term	Definition	Example
Status frustration:	Feelings of anger or frustration people experience at being unable to achieve social status in society	Might want a good job but don't have the correct qualifications
Delinquent subculture	A sub-culture which encourages members to be involved in minor criminal/ deviant activity	A gang
Alternative status hierarchy	A subculture's set of values – which turns the values of society upside down	Displaying 'spite, malice and hostility to outsiders'

Evaluation:

- ❖ **Criticised** because working class boys don't necessarily accept mainstream success goals, but **exhibit delinquent behaviour out of resentment against those values they don't share**

Sociological Approaches to Crime: A summary

<p>Functionalism and the New Right</p> <p>(Durkheim's F.I.N)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inadequate socialisation within your family can cause crime. Children's whose parents fail to take responsibility for socialising them correctly are prone to crime. ➤ Single parent families produce the most criminal and deviant as socialisation can be inadequate – particularly in the case of absent fathers ➤ Crime provides a positive function for society
<p>Marxism</p> <p>(Remember the 'triangle of inequality')</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This approach links crime to the social inequalities that are built into capitalism. ➤ In a Capitalist society, not everyone can access wealth and status so some people commit crime to acquire the consumer goods and material possessions that others have and that the media promote. ➤ According to the Marxist approach, the legal system operates in favour of the rich. Rich people who commit fraud or tax evasion are less likely to be convicted than working-class people who commit benefit fraud. ➤ White collar crime is a key concept to learn – this refers to middle class individuals committing crime. ➤ Corporate crime refers to a company committing crimes, for example, not adhering to health and safety laws at work.
<p>Labelling</p> <p>Key thinker: Becker</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Labelling theory looks at how some people are labelled as deviant or criminal. A delinquent is someone who is labelled as such. Being labelled as criminal or deviant may be the result from the reaction of other people (such as the police) and may not be entirely due to an individual's actions or behaviour. ➤ Labelling someone as deviant may help to create a self-fulfilling prophecy by pushing someone further towards deviance. A master status is when someone is labelled as deviant or criminal and this becomes the most powerful label. For example, they may be a father or husband – but society would only see them as criminal or deviant. ➤ The label then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. ➤ The labelling theory looks at how and why some people become labelled as criminal. Cicourel, a phenomenologist, argued that a delinquent is someone who has been labelled as such.
<p>Sub-Cultural</p> <p>Key thinker: Cohen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A subculture is a collection of people who have the same norms and values and these may differ from the rest of society. Vandalism and joy-riding are carried out by subcultures. ➤ Young males are the most likely group to join a subculture and may be because of status frustration. This means that they are fed up with their situation and are angry about it. ➤ They may also join a subculture because of peer pressure and material deprivation. Cohen argues that working class boys joined delinquent subcultures to gain status with their peer group.

Who Commits the Most Crime?

Social Group	Explanation – Basic	Explanation – more detail
<p>Men</p> 	<p>Statistically there are more men in prison than women.</p> <p>Men are more likely to become part of a gang where it is the norm to be part of fights or to drive drunk. Boys are also more likely to be given more freedom by their parents as children- this gives them more opportunity to commit crimes. Boys are also socialised to be more aggressive (rough and tumble play) this can lead them to get involved in violence later on in life.</p>	<p>Feminists believe that men control women in society and that this means that women don't get a chance to commit crimes because they are stuck at home looking after their family.</p> <p>Courts harder on men than women and give them custodial sentences whereas women may get community service</p>
<p>Ethnic Minorities</p> 	<p>The amount of ethnic minorities in prison is not proportional to the amount of ethnic minorities in society.</p> <p>It could be that we expect ethnic minorities to commit more crime because of negative stereotypes created in the media- this would cause ethnic minorities to be labelled as 'criminal' and lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy.</p>	<p>Institutional racism in the police could mean that ethnic minorities are arrested more often and given longer sentences because of prejudice. An example of this is the Stephen Lawrence murder where the family were treated very poorly because of police racism.</p>
<p>Young People</p> 	<p>Most prisoners are aged 18-25.</p> <p>Young people are often labelled as criminal which could lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy. There is lots of unemployment which means that young people need to commit crime in order to get money as they cannot get a job.</p>	<p>In modern society, young people do not hold the same values as older people and may not value law and order- e.g. the London riots could have been caused for this reason.</p> <p>The media also makes young people into folk devils which can lead to deviancy amplification.</p>
<p>Lower Classes</p> 	<p>Most prisoners are working class or underclass.</p> <p>The working class suffer from poverty so may steal food or use fraud to obtain more benefits. The underclass do not have a job so have plenty of opportunity to commit crime. Some crimes are considered the norm in working class subcultures e.g. working 'cash in hand' on odd jobs.</p>	<p>Marxists suggest that the judiciary are harder on the working class because they do not identify them and it is a way of controlling them.</p>

Social Class and crime – Factors and explanations

Explanation	<u>Description</u>	<u>A02 –Evidence</u>
Socialisation and subculture	If children are not socialised into the norms and values of mainstream society then there is little to stop them committing acts of deviance or crime. If children are brought up with parents who are criminal this going to make them think criminality is a natural part of life.	Use Murray's ideas on the family – many criminals tend to come from less stable backgrounds and single parent families
Lack of opportunities	When people are unable to achieve a standard of living they feel they are entitled to crime becomes a means of attaining money and prestige they cannot get through legally. This is a STRUCTURAL explanation of crime,	The working class experience unequal opportunities in education, gain fewer qualifications and are unable to get high paid jobs, crime is tempting to the working classes.
Status frustration	Due to the lack of educational success and high paid jobs, the working classes experience are made aware of the lack of power and status they hold in society. They feel frustrated and angry at the unfair treatment they experience in society, which can lead to crime. This is a STRUCTURAL approach to explaining crime.	Miller (1962) suggested that working class males are more likely to engage in criminal activities due to their subculture having a number of characteristics which carry a risk of law breaking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masculinity • Street smarts • Excitement • Fatalism (a sense there is little they can do about their lives) • Trouble Miller suggests these characteristics are shared by many working class males, however they are likely to become exaggerated in young males as they seek to achieve peer group status.
Marxist view	Society is divided between those who have and those who do not have. Crime is a part of the conflict between these two groups. The media reinforce the Capitalist system of materialism, consumerism and competition, which encourages greed and selfishness. The ruling class creates the laws and place a larger importance on theft of property than violent crimes.	Crimes committed by the working class are punished more severely than white-collar criminals – this is because working class crimes are ore visible and easily detectable than white collar and crimes them middle classes.

Gender and crime – Factors and explanations

Although women still commit considerably fewer crimes than men, the amount of crime women commit is increasing. There are a number of explanations for this:

Reasons why women commit less crime than men	
Explanation	<u>Description</u>
Differential gender socialisation	Girls are encouraged to be more passive and boys more active and tough (manipulation and canalisation)
Different levels of social control	Parents more heavily supervise girls and later in life women have children to care for. Boys are given much more freedom and generally take less responsibility for child care.
Gender stereotyping.	Those in the criminal justice system will have different expectations of each gender, it may be that police, jurors and judges believe women less likely to commit crime but not the case for men.

Carlen

Theory	Method	Findings
Feminist perspective	Used research methods of in-depth-unstructured interviews on a group of mostly working class women – aged 15-46 – some of whom were in prison or youth custody	<p>Working class women have been controlled by promise of rewards. They make a class deal which offers respectable working class women consumer goods in return for their wage.</p> <p>They make a gender deal that in return for their love and domestic labour they get psychological and material rewards from a male breadwinner.</p> <p>When rewards are not available or illusory, they may turn to crime as an alternative</p>

Although women still commit considerably fewer crimes than men, the amount of crime women commit is increasing. There are a number of explanations for this:

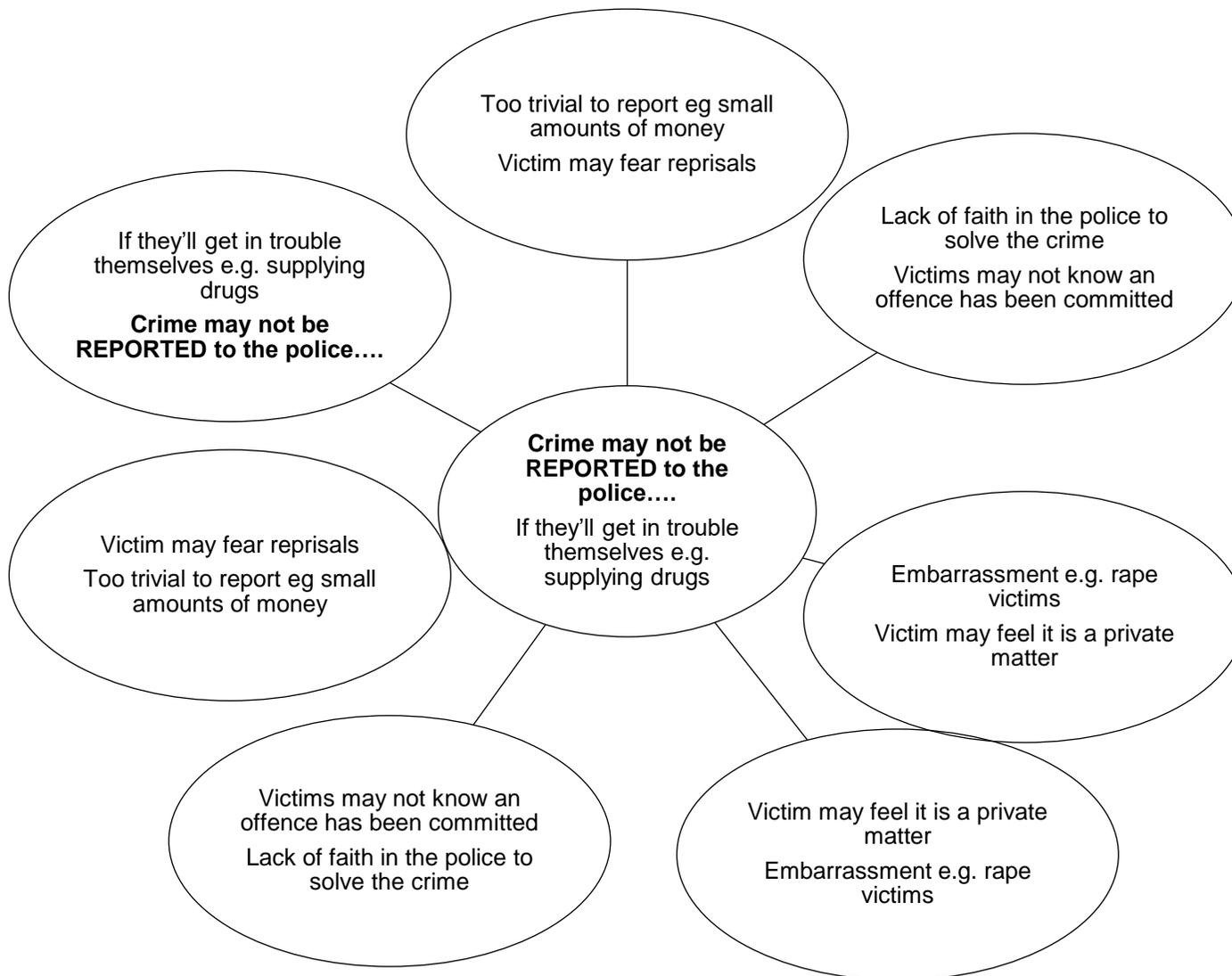
Factors	Description
Women are becoming more equal	<p>women have more opportunities in society, and are becoming more equal to men.</p> <p>Many women do not have the same amount of domestic responsibilities as women once did, and do not have the same constraints and control on them, so they have more opportunities to commit crime now.</p>
Persistent inequality	<p>some sociologists argue that despite increasing equality, many women have not benefitted from this. More women than men live in poverty, and women are more likely to have low-paid jobs and to be unemployed.</p> <p>Women's increased involvement in crime is related to their economic situation, and explains why more poor women commit crime.</p>
Decline of the chivalry effect	<p>some sociologists argue that women are not committing more crime, but more female crime is being reported and recorded. Changing attitudes to gender and crime mean that law enforcers are less likely to treat women leniently</p> <p>John Garrod (2002) argues the increase in the number of women in prisons over the last 10 years is a result of harsher sentencing, rather than more women committing more crime.</p>

Ethnicity and crime – Factors and explanations

Statistics from the Ministry of Justice show some ethnic minority groups are over-represented in the prison population. For example, black people are around four times more likely to be in prison than the general population.

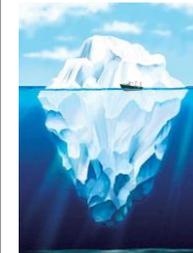
<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>A02 –Evidence</u>
Poverty and unemployment	In a consumer society such as Britain people are bombarded with images of material goods to buy. If they cannot be attained legally then crime is another	Link back to education – some minority groups experience material deprivation so may not be able to have access to good education resulting them in turning to crime
Police targeting	Prejudice held by the police, ethnic minorities particularly black people find themselves the victims of police discrimination. This idea is also linked to labelling theory and self-fulfilling prophecy.	Townsley and Marshall (2001) argue that police officers rarely catch criminals 'in the act' and therefore must rely on profiles and characteristics eg young, male, black to identify criminals. This therefore influences the 'group' who the police target, and can be influenced by stereotypes.
Discrimination and racism in the criminal justice system	The police, law courts and prison system are racist and that ethnic minorities do not get treated fairly, leading to an over representation in criminal statistics. This can lead to ethnic minorities feeling alienated from the rest of society, which in turn can lead to a self fulfilling prophecy of criminality.	
Different norms and values	Ethnic minorities may have norms and values that go against mainstream society such as the Rastafarian religion believing smoking marijuana brings you closer to God. This could lead to criminal or deviant behaviour being committed due to cultural differences.	Link back to different cultural ideas – some ethnic minorities have different attitudes and values which clash with the mainstream ideas on deviance.

Why do some crime go unreported?



Sociologists often say that there is '**a dark figure**' or crime- this means that as a society we can never know just how much crime there is in society.

Crime levels are like an iceberg – you can only see the tip of the issue. We cannot know how much crime goes unreported, undetected or even unrecorded



Sociologists argue official statistics are manipulated and constructed to fit with what governments or police forces want to portray about types and rates of crime.

How are crime levels measured?

Official Statistics are drawn from records kept by the police and other official agencies. They are published by the Home Office annually, sociologists use these statistics as a secondary source of quantitative data to obtain information of a range of crime-related issues.

Issues	Explanation
Detect -Not all crime is reported	<p>Depends on the type of crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93% of motor vehicle theft is reported to the police...insurance. Burglaries where something is stolen more likely to be reported. Vandalism, assault without injury, theft from the person less likely to be reported.
Report - Many crimes are not recorded:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It may be too sensitive or embarrassing, i.e., rape Think the police may handle it insensitively, i.e., rape Crime in the workplace may not be reported because the company may prefer to dismiss the person rather than involve the police. The item stolen is uninsured – no point reporting it Might not want to get the offender into trouble - family
Record -Not all crimes is recorded	<p>The police decide to record a crime. Only about 40% of crimes reported to the police are recorded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is seen as too trivial The reported crime was not actually a crime The victim may not wish to proceed Not enough evidence Doubt the honesty of the complainant's report

Are official crime statistics valid? (Can we trust them to tell us the truth?)

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Most serious crimes are reported to the police so most serious crime data can be trusted. 	<p>X. The dark figure of crime stops official crime statistics from being valid e.g. domestic violence is not often reported to the police because of fear. Not all crimes are investigated or recorded because they are not considered serious enough e.g. someone having £5 stolen from a purse.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The police can't to ignore data because of their own prejudices so all data for all social groups should be recorded fairly. 	<p>X. Some crimes are not seen or noticed e.g. shoplifting a small back of sweets.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Objective inspectors to ensure that crime data is being recorded properly inspect the police. 	<p>X. Police may not include data in crime statistics due to institutional racism i.e. they may not record/investigate a crime which has happened to an ethnic minority.</p>
	<p>X. Marxists believe that the police represent the upper classes so will only investigate crimes which affect the rich therefore crimes that affect the poor are not recorded.</p>

Alternatives to using Official crime Surveys

Victim Surveys: The British Crime Survey is a victim survey that is given to all households asking which crimes they have been a victim of and if they reported it to the police. The Crime Survey for England and Wales has been conducted since 1981 and includes a large sample.

Victim surveys include crimes that are not reported to the police, results suggest that only 4 in 10 crimes are actually reported to the

Advantages of Victim Surveys	Disadvantages of Victim Surveys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Useful for picking up on the dark figure of crime ✓ People may feel more comfortable filling in a survey than speaking to the police and be more honest (making it more valid.) ✓ Helps to show who is most likely to be a victim of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X. People may not know they have been a victim e.g. someone who has had their identity stolen X. People may lie due to fear or embarrassment e.g. a man may not want to admit a woman assaulted him. X. People may have forgotten crimes which have happened to them e.g. someone who was pickpocketed for a small amount of money.

Self-report surveys ask people to reveal the crimes they have committed and, if so, how often they have done so. They include lists of criminal and deviant acts and people are asked to tick the activities they have committed in a given time period. Responses are always given anonymously, so that people can feel free to admit to crime.

Advantages of Self-Report Studies	Disadvantage of Self-Report Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May uncover some of the dark figure of crime. ✓ As they are anonymous, people are likely to be honest, making the results more valid. ✓ Shows differences in who commits different types of crimes e.g. men commit more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X. People may lie X. People may forget what crimes they have committed or only admit to less serious crimes. X. People may exaggerate their crimes so they sound worse.

Victims and areas of crime

Who is most likely to be a victim of crime?	
Social Group	Why?
Lower classes 	<p>They have less money to spend on security measures at home so are at risk of burglary.</p> <p>Lower classes are more likely to use public transport, pubs and clubs; there is a risk of mugging, assault and pickpocketing in these areas.</p>
Men 	<p>Men are more likely to attend football matches and pubs, these areas put them at risk of mugging, assault and pickpocketing.</p> <p>It is a value in society to protect women (chivalry thesis) so criminals may be more likely to target men for violent crimes (however, women are more likely to be raped or a victim of domestic violence.)</p>
Ethnic minorities 	<p>Racism can lead to ethnic minorities being victims of violent crimes. Ethnic minorities are often in the lower classes so live in high crime areas and have little money to spend on home security.</p>

Where is crime most likely to occur?

Urban Areas (Cities)	Rural Areas (Countryside)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings may be run down making them easier to break into. • The presence of gangs means that violent crimes are more likely to occur as well as environmental crimes such as graffiti and arson. • There are many places to hide (side streets etc) which make drug dealing and prostitution more common. • People do not always know their neighbours so crime is more common as people are more anonymous. • People may not value 'community spirit' which means that they do not work together to make the area crime free (e.g. through neighbourhood watch.) • Pubs and off licenses may sell alcohol to young people. • The amount of pubs and bars means that people may get involved in alcohol fuelled violent crimes. • More shops means shoplifting may occur. • There is more poverty in cities so people may steal to feed themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are fewer police officers so there are less available to catch potential criminals. • Certain crimes are more common in the countryside e.g. stealing red diesel from trucks and tractors. • Long, dark roads can lead to speeding and underage driving. • The official crime statistics may be flawed because people in the countryside may not call the police e.g. if they see a teenager shoplifting they may contact their parents because they are more likely to know each other. • People may commit crimes out of boredom.

Solutions to crime

How has the government tried to reduce crime in the UK?

Strategy	Description	Successful Because...	Unsuccessful Because...
Police community support officers on the streets (PCSOs) 	Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour by having a more visible presence on the streets.	They are official and are able to call for police officers quickly. This frightens potential criminals.	As they are not police officer people may not always take them seriously and commit crimes anyway.
CCTV 	Where camera are installed to record activity in order to catch crime in the act	Criminals don't want to get caught so may decide not to commit crimes in case they are seen by CCTV	Some criminals don't care about CCTV and commit crimes anyway. Other criminals may just go and commit crimes in another area.
Banning orders 	Where people are banned from certain areas for example in the case of football hooligans these prevent known hooligans from attending football matches	These people are not able to start fights during football matches	People with a ban may fight with police to try to get entry to a match or they may fight in another area e.g. pub.
Curfew 	Where is where an offender has to remain in their house during certain times	If offenders are at home then they cannot commit crimes on the streets	An offender may ignore their curfew and go out anyway
Tag 	An electronic device which offenders wear around their ankle and records their movements via GPS)	Offenders wearing a tag must remain indoors at certain times or away from certain areas, if they don't comply then they are re-arrested.	Some offenders don't care and break the terms of their tag anyway.

Types of crimes – Blue and White collar crime

White Collar Crime

White collar crime is often a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of their occupation. Examples of white-collar crime include expense accountant padding, embezzlement, tax fraud, false advertising and the use of insider trading in stock market trading. White-collar crime and cooperate crime can have financial, physical and social costs. White collar crime can take several forms

Type	Description	Example
Corporate Crime	Carried out by executives of organisations to increase profit and can include such activities as selling harmful products.	Tax evasion
Occupational Crime	This is carried out by individuals in work and ranged from minor theft of an organisation's property to large scale fraud	Stealing office supplies
Professional Crime	Carried out as a lifetime career such as drug running	Arms trade dealer
Computer Crime:	This is increasing as more financial transactions are conducted via computers.	Identity theft

- White collar crimes are treated differently in court than 'normal' crimes because judges have similar social backgrounds to them, they're not considered a danger to the public, and the media doesn't portray them as serious crimes as no one is harmed.
- Nelken (2007) argues that with white-collar crimes, it is difficult to actually identify when an offence has been committed. Fraud often goes undetected.
- Tombs (2005) notes the government do not keep official statistics on corporate crime.

Blue collar crime

Blue-collar crime is any crime committed by an individual from a lower social class.

They often dominate statistics and form the basis of crime novels, television programmes and factual programmes such as Crime watch - This is because many blue collar crimes are obvious and attract police attention.

Blue-collar crimes tend to be committed for immediate benefit to gain access to money and goods.

Why are more working class people in prison?

Reason	Explanation
Statistics say this is true	Most people in society want to be successful and well-off, but working class people have fewer opportunities to succeed through conventional routes.
Deviant subculture	Working class people are also more likely to be part of a working-class subculture which may stress deviant or criminal behaviour to bring status in that particular subculture.
Bias statistics	Statistics could illustrate a bias in the criminal justice system against working class people who commit robbery, for example, whilst powerful people can get away with corporate crimes.

- There is also a link between crime and locality.
- More crimes are committed in inner cities- This could be because of higher rates of poverty, more opportunities to commit crime, lower levels of social control in cities and stricter, more formal policing in cities.

Crime and deviance – Debates- Youth crime

- The media plays a key role in setting the agenda of what people care about and worry in relation to crime and deviance. By focusing on particular issues, they come to be seen as social problems by the public.
- Reiner (2007) argues that news reports over-represent violent crimes, compared to official statistics, and that they exaggerate the risk of crime faced by women, more affluent people and children.
- People are particularly worried about youth crime as they see it as having negative consequences – it causes damage to the community, and could lead to both vandalism/ damage to property and to physical and emotional costs.
- Newburn (2007) highlights that young people to commit a significant amount of crime, according to official statistics.
- Some sociologists argue the media portrayal of young people as folk devils can result in a 'moral panic' or public outcry about their behaviour, because the media exaggerate quite trivial acts. This process also involves scapegoating – blaming young people for society's problems.

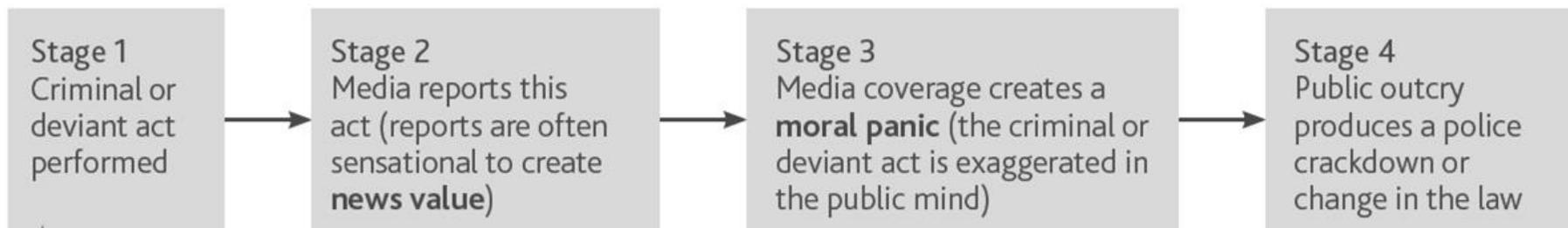
The role of the media

Through the media **labelling** groups and creating **Folk Devils** – as well as exaggerating the extent of these 'problems' in society through the **Media, Moral Panics** are generated within society:

Young offenders (10-17) can be given the following sentences and punishments:

Type	Description
Fines:	Have to pay a certain amount
Referral Order	offender must visit a panel and agree to make up for the harm they have done.
Youth rehabilitation order	includes community service, unpaid work, curfews, mental health support and education
Custodial sentences	imprisoning young people for serious crimes
ASBOs	Anti-social behaviour orders can be given to anyone for behaving in an anti-social way.

- Youth crime and antisocial behaviour is a particular social problem in the UK, with Pitts (2005) noting youth crime is often front-page news, and is therefore a huge source of anxiety for people. Particular youth crimes include antisocial behaviour, drug use, binge drinking, gangs and violent crime.



Crime & Deviance Key Studies			
Sociologist	Theory	Method	Key Findings
Merton's (1938) - Strain Theory	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<p>People believe in socially constructed goals – e.g. The American Dream. These goals put a strain on people as many find it hard to reach these goals legally. Therefore some people result to crime to reach these goals. This may lead to anomie (normlessness)</p> <p>Merton believed people responded to socially constructed goals in 5 ways: - 1) Conformity 2) Innovation 3) Ritualism 4) Retreatism 5) Rebellion</p>
Becker's (1963) - Interactionist perspective	Interactionist	Work of other sociologists	<p>He argued that society creates rules and anyone who acts out of these rules is labelled deviant. Becker also believed powerful groups, such as the Police, use stereotypes and misconceptions about what they believe is criminal or which area is criminal – e.g. black youths in inner-city London. They then get mistreated – e.g. stop and search, and then get labelled with criminal records. This then leads to them developing deviant careers. The deviant label can become a master status (main identity) Labelling can lead to the self-fulfilling prophecy where they continue to behave this way.</p>
Heidensohn's (1985) Control Theory	Feminism	Data from her study of delinquent girls; secondary sources	<p>She argued women commit less crime because they are more closely socially controlled in society. In a patriarchal society, women have stronger social control placed on them which can reduce opportunities for crime – e.g., women are at home more.</p> <p>At home, women are controlled by domestic (home) responsibilities, at work by fear of damaging reputation and in public by fear of male violence.</p>
Carlen's (1988) - Class and Gender deal	Feminism	Unstructured interviews	<p>She argued working-class women may turn to crime if they do not receive the rewards promised to them by society. They make two deals with society for conforming; 'class deal' (money and material items from working hard) and 'gender deal' (happy domestic life with husband and children)</p> <p>She found these women committed crime when these rewards were blocked due to: poverty, living in care, drug addiction.</p>
Cohen's (1955) - Subcultural Theory	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<p>He argued that delinquency is carried out by groups not individuals and that groups often commit non-utilitarian (not motivated by money) crimes – e.g. vandalism.</p> <p>Working class boys experience status frustration due to educational failure which was a result of cultural deprivation.</p> <p>They join/form delinquent subcultures where they develop deviant careers and earn prestige in their sub-culture and work their way up in the hierarchy.</p>

Crime & Deviance – Measuring Crime – You Must Know These

Measure of Crime	What Is It?	Advantages?	Disadvantages?
<p>Official Crime Statistics</p>	<p>Police crime statistics have been collected since 1857 are now published every 3 months. Use to show trends and patterns of offending. They are a secondary source of quantitative data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide useful data on crime. • Cheap and easily available. • Can show change over time. • Can compare crime in different areas. • Can be combined with VC & SRS to estimate 'real' rate of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a crime is not detected it cannot be reported, therefore not in the official statistics. Many crimes go undetected. • Many crimes are not reported to Police. • Police decide whether reported crime are recorded. Only 40% of reported offences are actually recorded. • Thus official statistics ignore the 'dark figure of crime'.
<p>Victim Surveys</p>	<p>These are large-scale surveys where people are interviewed and asked what crimes they have had committed against them.</p> <p>The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a large-scale victim (now called the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)). The sample is around 50,000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May uncover some of the hidden figures of crime. • Gives a more accurate figure of crime than official statistics. • Includes crimes not reported to the Police. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT does not survey all crime, for examples, theft against businesses and victimless crime (middle class crime?). • People may still not admit to being a victim of crimes – e.g. rape. • Victims' memories of crime may be inaccurate. • People may not be aware that they are victims of crime.
<p>Self-Report Studies</p>	<p>These ask people to reveal crimes they have committed and how often. They include lists of criminal and deviant acts – e.g. stealing. SRS is anonymous.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May uncover some hidden figures of crime. • Possible to find out hidden offenders' ages, gender, class and location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People may lie or exaggerate. • Majority of crimes uncovered tend to be small because people do not want to admit to doing serious crimes.

ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY

Key term	Definition	Example
Crime	Any form of behaviour that breaks the law	For example murder or stealing
Custodial sentences	Punishment where offenders will be sentenced to go to prison or Young offenders institute	For example if someone is sent to court they will be sentenced by a judge
Crime rate	A measure of the level of criminal activity in a society based on crimes recorded by the police	
Dark figure of crime	The unknown amount of criminal activity that is not reported or recorded to the police	For example when crimes are not picked up by the police
Deviance	Any form of behaviour that does not conform to the norms of a society – this can be influenced by time, place, social situation and culture	For example at night time it might be more socially acceptable to drink than first thing in the morning.
Formal agencies of social control	Formal rules and social controls that tell everyone within society what is and is not acceptable	For example the police, the courts, the government
Informal agencies of social control	The approval or disapproval of people around us that can influence and control our behaviour	For example family , friends, peer group, schools, work, religion
Official crime statistics	Government statistics on crime based on official sources	For example police records
Self-report study	A survey that asks respondents to identify crimes they have committed, but for which they have not been caught	
Social construction of crime	What is considered criminal and deviant changes over time or when it takes place, therefore is socially constructed. No act is in itself criminal or deviant- it largely depends on how other members of society see it.	For example homosexuality or teenage pregnancy
Victim survey	A survey that asks respondents about their experience of crime, regardless of whether or not those crimes have been reported	

Higher grade Vocab

Key term	Definition	Example
Anomie	A situation of normlessness in which the norms that regulate people's behaviour breaks down	For example places where civil war breaks out
Chivalry Thesis	The idea that the criminal justice system treats female offenders (especially those who conform to stereotypes) more leniently than male offenders	For example a women might be given a lesser sentence compared to a man
Collective conscience	The shared beliefs that bind communities together and regulate individual behaviour	For example uniting in the idea that murder is wrong
Deviant career	Deviant behaviour that develops over time due to labels	For example when someone is labelled a troublemaker at school and then goes onto commit crime later in life
Deviancy amplification	The exaggeration of a particular social issue as a consequence of media coverage, e.g.	For example anti-social behaviour by groups of young people
Edgework	Behaviour at the edge of what is normally allowed for accepted	For example stealing and racing a car
Hate crime	Crime based on prejudice towards others because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender	For example Islamophobia or Homophobia
Probation	Prisoners are allowed to leave prison and enter the wider community under supervision, provided they follow certain conditions set by the court	For example if a prisoner might get day release
Reported crime	Crime that is reported to the police - not all crime is recorded	
Status frustration	A sense of frustration arising in individuals or groups because they are denied status in society	For example if you want a good job but do not have the qualifications to meet the goal
Violent crime	Recorded as 'violence against the person', which covers grievous bodily harm (GBH).	For example assault, kidnap, child abduction, harassment and threats to kill
White collar crime	Criminal acts committed by people in high status positions, such as accountants, doctors or solicitors, during their work,	For example fraud, tax evasion and 'fiddling' expense accounts at work