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The
Crime and Deviance
Channel

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Applying Theories of Crime and Deviance

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Adapted from: Deviance Theory Exercise: Jerry Shepperd, Austin Community College.

Instructions

In this activity students, preferably working in small groups, have to do two things in relation to a particular theory of deviance:

1. Briefly explain how a theory defines and explains deviant behaviour.
2. Show how the theory can be applied to different situations / scenarios in order to explain deviant behaviour.

The range of theories used can be adapted to the number of student groups and time available within the class. If time is tight, for example, students can be given the activity to complete outside class, with the “report stage” (see below) being completed in the classroom.

If there are a small number of students each group can be given 2 or 3 theories to consider.

Although an extra dimension to the activity can be created by requiring each group to research a particular theory without having been first taught it in the classroom, it's probably more useful to see this activity as a way of reinforcing prior knowledge of particular theories that have been taught (since a major part of the exercise is to get students to understand a theory by applying it to practical examples).

Report Stage

Once each group has completed the two activities they are required to present their arguments to the rest of the class for discussion, evaluation and expansion.

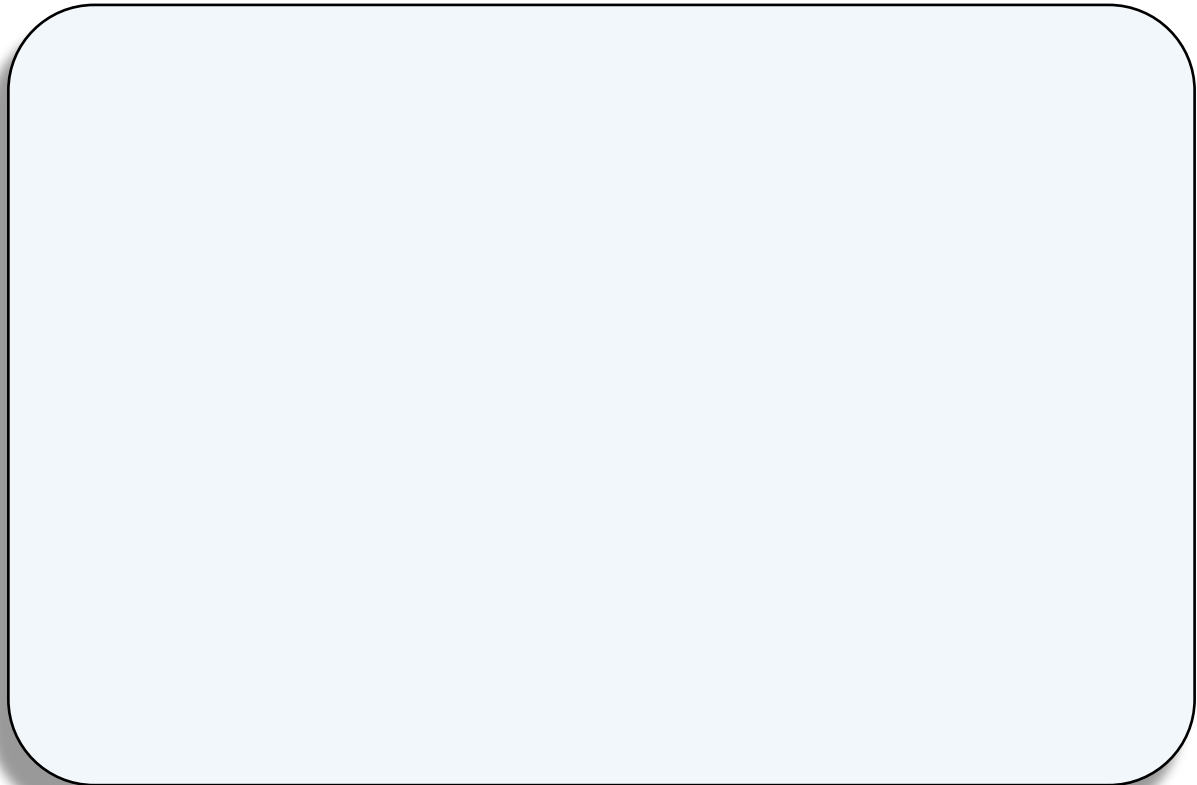
Theory Name:

1. How does this theory define deviance?

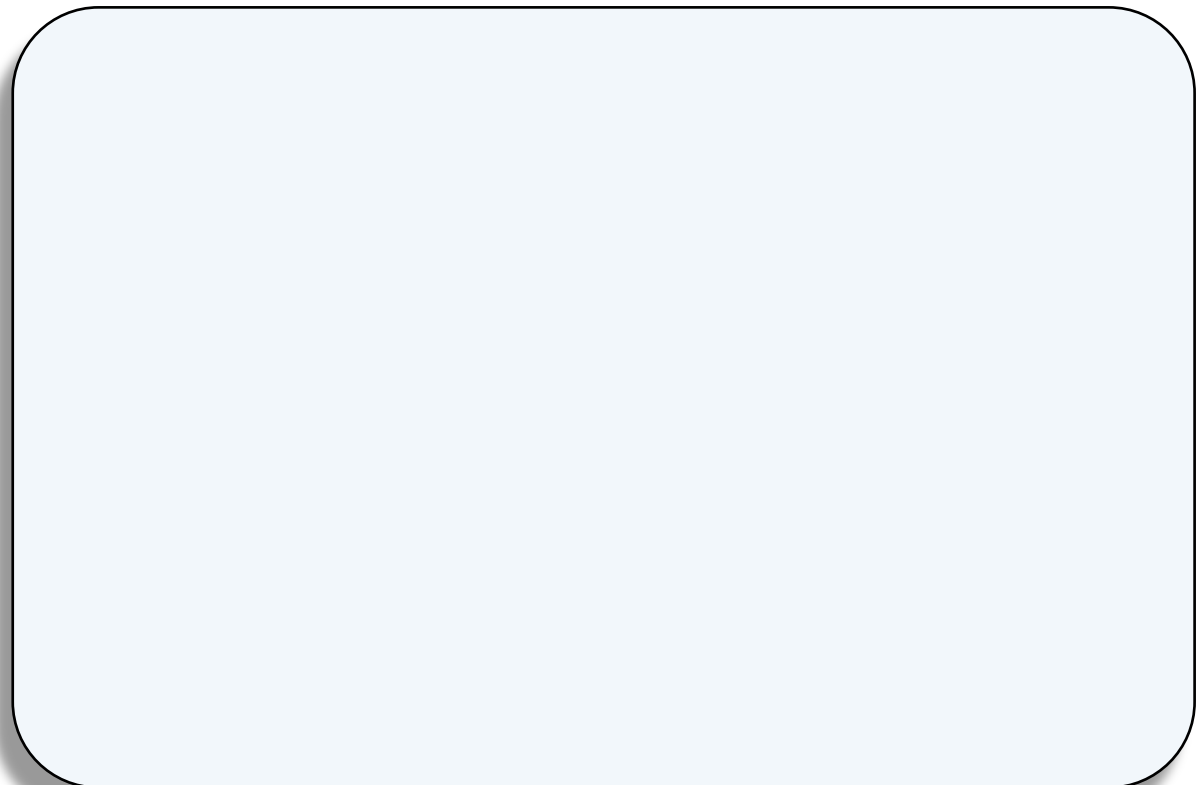
2. How does this theory explain deviance?

3. Apply the theory to an understanding and explanation of the following:

a. The theft of a packet of nappies by a destitute woman with a new born baby



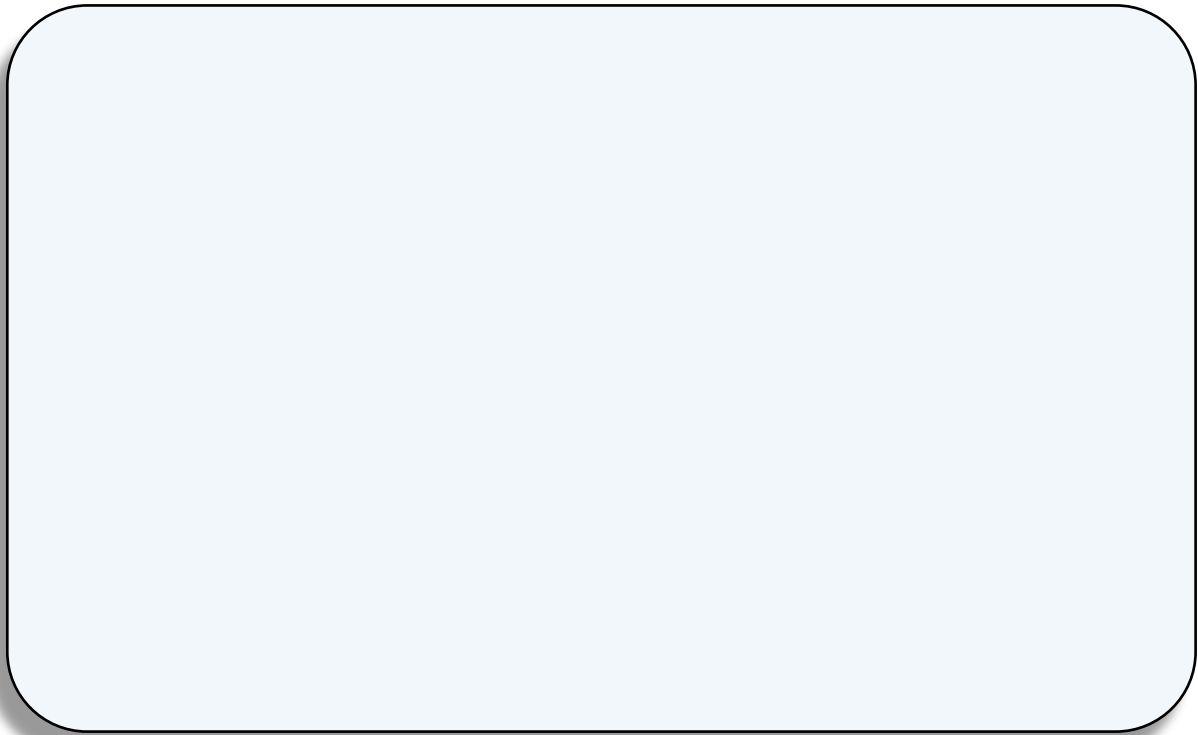
b. Homeless street beggars



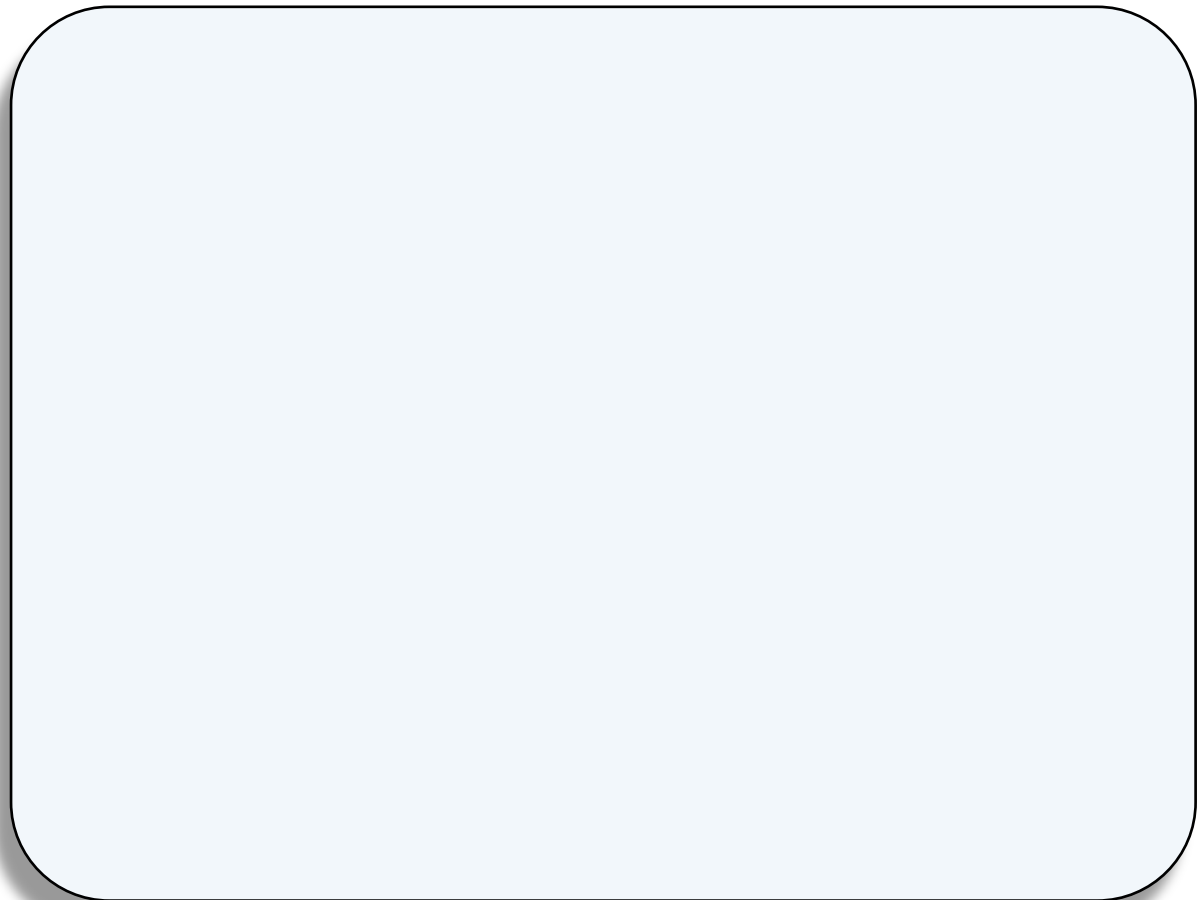
c. A street fight between two groups of teenage youths

d. The embezzlement of £50,000 by a middle-ranking bank employee

e. Insider share dealing



f. A transnational corporation that pollutes the water system in a neighbourhood whose residents are predominately members of a minority group:



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