

Use chapter 13 of Paul Taylor et al (1996) **Sociology in Focus**

Answer these questions and then learn the answers. You may find it useful to create an index card for each answer to hold in your revision notes.

1. What is a norm?
2. How do Downes and Rock define deviance?
3. Attempt a definition of crime.
4. Why does Heidensohn consider that there are a variety of acts that are crimes?
5. What varying forms can deviance take in our society? (Think of overt and covert, singular and collective deviance)
6. Plummer points out that 'time' is an element of deviant behaviour. Explain this in your own words.
7. Why is deviance generally agreed to be a 'relative concept'?
8. Why must sociologists reject common-sense views of crime and deviance?
9. How do the media create and structure public perceptions of crime?
10. What did Smith say was people's most significant source of information about crime?
11. Williams and Dickinson discovered an anomaly between media coverage of violent crime and its actual occurrence in society. What was that?
12. Explain the sentence 'crime is a social construct' in your own words. This could be worth developing into an essay plan.
13. What is the 'dark figure of crime'?
14. List all of the reasons why one should distrust official crime statistics in your own words. You may choose to return to this question after reading the whole chapter as this is a classic question for both crime and for methodology sections of papers.
15. Summarise the main trend in crime occurrence recorded by the police.
16. Account for the trends in crime occurrence with reference to the reporting of crime and changes in legislation
17. What pattern in nostalgia and public response to perceived crime waves can be seen over the years?
18. What is the BCS or British Crime Survey? How often does it take place?

19. According to the BCS, what proportion of crimes end up in police statistics?
20. According to the BCS, why has the recorded crime rate risen since 1981?
21. Which people are most likely to be the victims of crime? For each category identified, you should offer a reason for their victim status.
22. Why is there a gap between BCS figures on sexual offending and the figures suggested by victim surveys of females?
23. According to crime statistics, who offends? In your opinion, and based on previous reading of this chapter, how much trust should we place in that figure?
24. What is a self report study?
25. What picture of the criminal do socio-biologists such as Lombroso and psychologists such as Eysenck offer to the debate?
26. Why should sociologists reject such theorising?
27. Why does Durkheim suggest that deviance is good for society?
28. Suggest in one word what an abused wife or child might think of Durkheim's view! Now summarise the same view in sociological language.
29. What was Durkheim's purpose in studying **Suicide**?
30. What forms of suicide did Durkheim identify? Summarise each in one simple sentence.
31. Why has Durkheim's reliance on official statistics been criticised?
32. Why does Atkinson say that suicide is a social construction?
33. What is the difference between Durkheim's and Merton's view of suicide?
34. What is the 'strain' theory of crime
35. Summarise each of Merton's accounts of the origins of criminal behaviour in one sentence each.
36. What is a subculture?
37. How did Cohen use subculture to explain crime?
38. Cloward and Ohlin identified three types of deviant subculture. What were these?
39. What are the typifying features of working class culture according to Miller?
40. Marxists offer a different view of deviant subculture, how do they suggest that working class sub-cultures arise?

41. What is the significance of notions of 'resistance' in the development of working class subculture?
42. According to Marxists, why can nothing be done to solve the problems of crime?
43. How do the Marxists manage to make racism and homophobia among working class males seem to be acceptable modes of behaviour?
44. Interactionalists such as Matza suggest that criminal careers can happen by accident, through 'drift'. Explain this process.
45. How do deviants justify themselves according to Matza?
46. What is 'white collar crime'?
47. What is 'corporate crime'?
48. What is occupational crime?
49. What are the three central beliefs which underlie interactionism according to Blumer?
50. How do interactionists define deviance?
51. What is 'labelling theory'?
52. What is the difference between 'primary' and 'secondary deviance'?
53. How do mental institutions and prisons create a deviant personality according to Goffman?
54. According to Stanley Cohen, what is a 'moral panic'?
55. Summarise the deviance amplification spiral described by Cohen.
56. What, according to many theorists is the main failure of interactionism and labelling theory?
57. What is the relationship between crime and the structures of society according to Marxists?
58. How does capitalism affect people's personal morality?
59. What is the relationship between the law and the upper classes according to Marxism?
60. What is radical criminology and why was it felt necessary to develop such a view?
61. What are the seven dimensions of the new criminology?
62. What is mugging? How can it be understood as a moral and racist panic?

63. Why do black youths 'mug' according to Hall?
64. Why did the government 'need' mugging in Hall's view?
65. In your view, is mugging a moral panic or a natural reaction of black children to the oppression of racism? Does Hall clarify his position on this point?
66. How did Rock challenge the New criminology?
67. How did Lea and Yong challenge interactionalism?
68. What are the three main areas of concern of feminist criminologists?
69. What is victimology?
70. How does Heidensohn turn malestream sociological approaches to women and crime on their heads?
71. What did the Scarman Report suggest about ethnicity and crime?
72. Which groups are most likely to be the victims of racism?
73. What was the contribution of right realism to Reagan's administration in the USA?
74. Wilson offers a new right perspective on the link between poverty and crime. Summarise it.
75. What are the cultural factors which contribute to crime according to Murray?
76. What is 'control theory'?
77. Is crime a real problem according to left realists?
78. Why do left realists support the police?

Points of evaluation and discussion

- Why are Marxists likely to romanticise criminal behaviour among the working classes?
- Does interactionalism solve the question of why people choose to act in a criminal or deviant fashion?
- Are youth cultures about rebellion or having a good time?
- To what extent is crime a masculine behaviour?
- Suggest reasons why crime rates have risen at the same time as relative affluence.

- Is CCTV an infringement of civil rights or a blessing which prevents crime from occurring?
- Is crime a positive feature of society? Answer with reference to sociological theory.
- Can we ever solve the 'problem' of crime?
- Is crime an extension of 'normal' behaviour?
- Which is more unacceptable, the breaking of a moral code or the breaking of a social code?