



Crime and Deviance: Revision Guide



Rule
Socialisation
Deviance
Crime
Police
Marxism
Gender
Value
Norm
Sanction
Ethnicity

What does the exam board expect me to know about crime and deviance?

The following table shows you everything you need to know about crime and deviance. The exam board say so. So if there's something you don't know – you need to find out about it...sharpish.

You can do it from either this revision guide, your exercise book, your textbook (available in the library) or your teacher.

The gap to the right of the table is just for you. You should tick it when you've completed the section or when you're happy that you know it all...who knows - it might even help you in the end.

You should know and understand:	<input type="checkbox"/>
- What crime is	
- What deviance is	
- Why people commit criminal and deviant behaviour	
- How people are stopped from committing crimes formally	
- How people are stopped from committing crimes informally	
- Different patterns of crime	
- The problem with crime statistics and how they are gathered	

What is crime and deviance?

Introduction

Crime is one of those difficult definitions you must know. It is often used in the same sentence as deviance – in fact even the topic is crime and deviance.

Be careful though because it could be potentially be a pitfall if you get the two mixed up so it's hugely important you know the difference between crime and deviance. Particularly if you're asked to define one of the key terms – so pay close attention to the legal and social differences between the two.

Crime

A crime can be defined when somebody breaks the rules that have been made into **laws** by the leaders / government of a particular society. Different countries have different laws. For example in the UK it's against the law to possess a gun without being registered but in the USA it's a human right as an American – the right to bear arms.



Deviance

Deviance refers to behaviour that takes place which most or all people would disapprove of within society. Deviance is behaviour that does not conform to the norms and values of society.

Normally, but not always, where behaviour is serious and strongly disapproved of there is a law against it and it becomes criminal, an example of this being murder or rape. It is for this reason that crime and deviance are often used hand in hand.

Remember

Delinquency

Another quick key term – a word used to describe behaviour by young people that is disapproved of – it is mostly deviant behaviour but can also be criminal. You'll need to know it.

Have a go at this....

1. Complete the boxes and unfinished sentences . Sentences in italics are there to help you!

Deviant: A person who is deviant is one who breaks the norms of society.

Give one example of a behaviour that is deviant for our society.

Are the following forms of behaviour deviant or not? Why do you think this is?

	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>because....</i>
Eating in lessons			
Sitting underneath desks			
Wearing wedding clothes to a sandy beach			
Smiling at friends			
Watching television			
Speeding in a car			
Buying cigarettes under age			
Refusing to go in lifts or aeroplanes			
Never telling fibs even to save people's feelings			
Giving away money to anyone who asks for it			

A deviant is someone who breaks a social rule. Social rules can either be written (laws and rules) or unwritten (normal ways of behaving).

Criminal: A person who is criminal commits a crime. A criminal breaks the laws of society.

Write down one law that we must all obey

If people break laws they are known as _____

People may commit crime because....

A huge section this one –and it should go over loads of pages – there a number of different reasons why people comitt crime and you need to know them all. There could potentially be an essay question on this.

You could also link these into other essay questions – the labelling section is particulary useful for the ‘why young people are more likely to be convicted of crimes than young people. So what are you waiting for? Read on!

Biological explanations

According to a socialist called **Cesare Lombroso**, who was writing in the mid 19th century, criminals had distinctive physical features which meant you could tell them apart from the rest of society just be looking at them.



This is a known as a biological explanation and although old fashioned and a little sinister you can still see some leftover ideas from this in the media – people who’ve committed crime are often shown with a less than flattering picture – see right – or the villain in movies is often easily spotted by their appearance.

Psychological explanations

Psychological explanations are something different – and these look at the idea that criminal minds are different. A Psychologist called **Hans Eysenck** believed that there were two types of personality – introvert and extrovert. Introvert personalities are shy and quiet whereas extrovert personalities are confident and outgoing – but according to Eysenck this type of personality was more likely going to get them into criminal or deviant situations.

One of the things to consider about this psychological idea is that criminals are ‘sick’ and rather than punishment need help and treatment – something which the prison service tries to do. You might want to think about this when you look at role of the state in controlling behaviour. Remember the case of Andrea Yates.



Sociology says.....

Biological and psychological explanations are all well and good but you also need to know about the sociological reasons why some people may commit crime. There are loads of different ideas.

Socialisation and the family

You should remember all about socialisation and it being the process of learning acceptable behaviour and you should remember that primary socialisation happens when you're very young and within the family.

If it goes right – perfect – if it doesn't some sociologists believe that it can cause crime and deviance through:

- Boys who grow up in lone-parent families without their dads don't have a male role model around as such are likely to end up falling into anti-social behaviour rather than channelling their energy into supporting the family.
- Poor parenting can cause crime and deviance as children aren't aware of the boundaries between right and wrong so regularly cross over them.
- A troubled family life with arguments, violence, too much use of alcohol etc will do pretty much the same – it will socialise children into believe this is the norm. All of these attributes are closely linked to crime and deviance.

Peer Groups, subcultures and socialisation

Peer groups are another **agency of socialisation** – providing secondary socialisation (again – you should remember all these terms – if you don't check out the society and the individual booklet – it's good. You'll like it).

Peer groups can have norms or values that encourage deviant or criminal subculture – and as such young people may be socialised into these norms and values.

This next bit is important - Where the norms and values of the peer group differ from that of society it is called a **subculture**. The table below gives some examples of how a subculture can lead to deviant or delinquent behaviour.

Subcultural Feature	Deviant / Delinquent Behaviour
Little value on education	Truancy, bad behaviour
No respect for authority	Rudeness to bosses, teachers, other adults
Dislike of school rules	Breaking rules, testing / pushing of boundaries
No respect for property	Vandalism, graffiti, theft, etc.
Enjoyment of thrills and risks	Fights, joy riding

Lack of opportunity

This is a key sociological idea and being able to describe and explain it fully will get you some good marks from the examiners.



The key term here is **relative deprivation** – which easily defined is being aware that most other people are doing better than you are. So how does this cause crime? Well the argument goes that people commit crime when they are unable to get the things they are entitled to.

Evidence for this can be found after World War Two when living standards were on the whole rising, as was the crime rate! People became aware of others living standards increasing and so rather than get left behind turned to crime.

The nature of society

Sociologist Merton believed in something he called the “Strain Theory”. Working class people do not have the financial capacity to have the same amounts of goods as upper class people. The upper classes whatever they wish to have as they have the *capital* do to so. This creates a *strain* between the classes as the working class want what the upper class. They want something called the American Dream (house, car, family, money to travel, children). So in order to gain the American Dream, people commit crimes, such as becoming drug dealing and stealing money. This is a quick fix to gain moneys and live the American Dream.

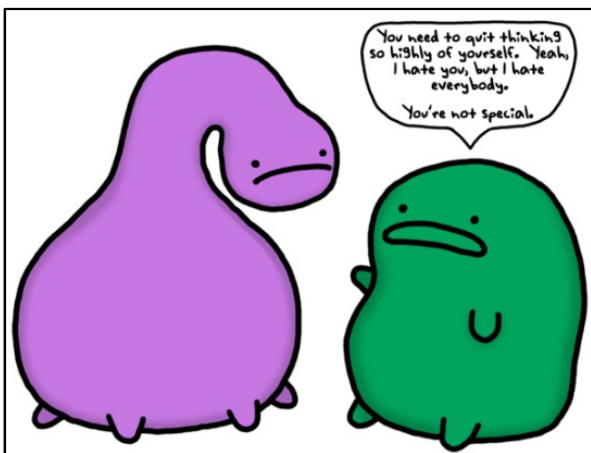
It's the latest label.....



However in some cases the label sticks and people cannot escape this. Where this happens people may change the way they think about themselves and act up to the label. Two key words you need to know here are **self fulfilling prophecy**, where people have lived up to the label they have attached to them, and **master status**, which is where the label becomes the most important thing about the person.

So who labels? Well put simply – we all do but **agencies of social control** (which we'll look at in more detail later on) like the police, the courts and the media are in a stronger position.

Label	Self-fulfilling prophecy	Status changes into...



How can crime be controlled?

Crime can be controlled in a number of ways – both formally (through set established and conventional ways and procedures) and informally (through relaxed, unwritten and un-established ways).

The next two main sections will look at the how crime can be controlled in these ways. There are lots of different people or institutions which are involved in formal or informal control but the key word that the exam board will use that covers them both is **social control**.

Let's start with formal ways of social control which can be defined as

Formal social control - We all have to follow certain written rules or codes. In school, if you break certain rules, then you can expect certain sure punishments. In adult society, if you break the law and are caught, then you will probably end up in front of a court and you will be called a criminal.



Formal ways of social control.....

Rules

Rules are like laws in that they tell people how to behave in many situations, they are often written down and are more explicit and obvious than norms because of this. They control behaviour because they are often linked to a clear warning of possible consequences if you don't follow them.



Rules can be set by pretty much anyone – more than likely though they will be set by people in charge, and enforced by an agency of social control which we'll look at.....now!

Agencies of social control

There's an argument in sociology that agencies of formal social control take over when informal social control doesn't work. Regardless of that these agencies are controlled by those in power – more often the government – and are important to look at and remember. There may be a question about these!

Legislature / Law Making

Laws are made in two ways:

1. Someone in Parliament suggests a law. If the majority of MPs agree that the law should be accepted, and it is passed, it is known as an Act of Parliament.
2. Judges can make legal judgements based on what other people have agreed in the past, or based on their ideas of what the words in an Act of Parliament actually mean.

New laws can be passed in this way and many don't have any impact or relevance to crime and deviance – but others do. For example the Criminal Justice Act 1994 – created new laws and in turn made new behaviour deviant or criminal, behaviour like squatting or raving.

The Judiciary

The judiciary refers to the courts – who try those accused of crimes and sentence those who are found guilty. It can control behaviour by imposing probation orders, community service, and ASBOs which can control people's movements, actions and behaviour.



~~Each of these agencies is controlled by the government and the police~~

One for you to try....

1. Complete the table below using information you should now know. Then read on and learn about how the judiciary may be affected by outside factors.

What is the difference between formal and informal social control?

The police.....



The police are one of the main ways in which crime and deviance is controlled in a formal way. It does this through having rights that normal people do not. For example it can arrest people, order them to move on and use reasonable force if they are not obeyed.

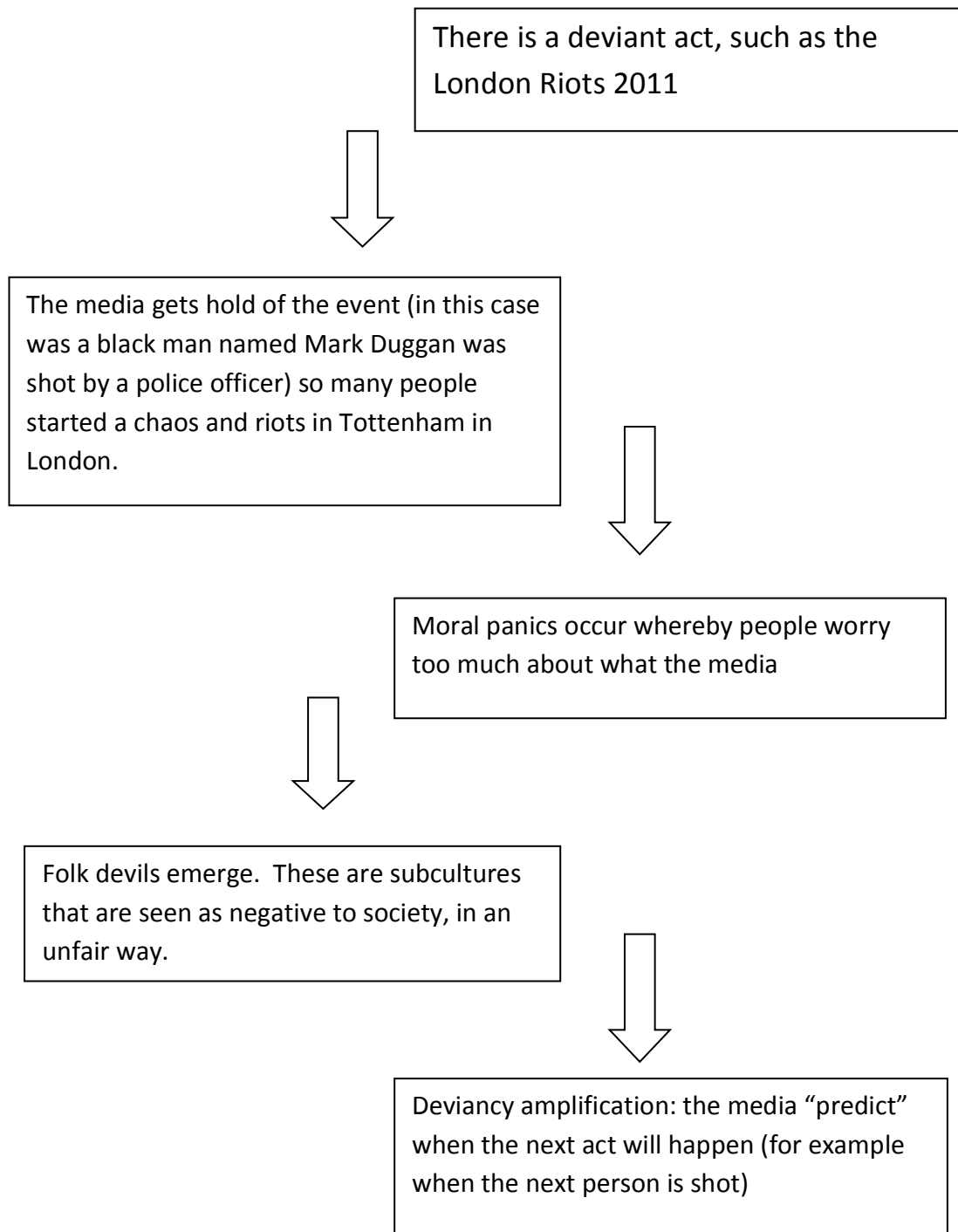
There are however significant criticisms with the police and how they operate. Marxists believe the police are used by the ruling class to make sure the ruling class keep power over the working class. Examples of this include the way in which the police have been used to control working class riots.

The police have also been accused of developing an anti gay, racist and sexist subculture that puts off women and ethnic minority policemen and women from the job.

The most high profile example of this was the Stephen Lawrence Case, a case of an 18 year old sixth form student who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in London. Five men were arrested but never convicted. A later enquiry into the case found that the police failed to deal with it properly because it was 'institutionally racist' – mistakes had been made and the wrong choices made because of race.

Media as social control...

Imagine this can be a cycle



So the media can impact the society, but generally in a negative way.

Informal ways of social control.....

You should already know about socialisation – both primary and secondary – and how these can contribute to crime and deviance. You should also know about what

their main function is – to teach you agreed ways of behaving – or put in a different way – to control your behaviour!

Informal social control can therefore come through socialisation from:

- The family
- Education
- Peer groups
- The workplace
- The media
- Religion

It can also come through informal sanctions. Sanctions can be used as an umbrella term for punishments (and rewards when you behave) given when an offence has been committed or deviant behaviour displayed. You should know about formal sanctions like prison sentences or probation orders – we read about them in the last section! But informal sanctions? For that you’ll need to read on.

Informal sanctions can vary enormously from a tut to somebody who cuts into a cue, to a teacher giving you – ‘the glare’, to being sent out of a room, or kicked out of a pub. Either way informal sanctions are often small punishments that will remind an individual that they have broken a norm or value and again you should remember that where these fail formal sanctions take over.

Have a go at this....

1. On the next page is an example of how informal sanctions, used by campaigners, can be taken too far and then formal sanctions need to be brought into punish the campaigners.
2. Read the case study, and make a list of formal and informal sanctions in the table below.
3. Then answer the questions that follow the case study.

Formal Sanctions		Informal Sanctions	



Targeted guinea pig farm closes

A farm that has been breeding guinea pigs for medical research for more than 30 years is to stop after intimidation by animal rights activists. The family-run Darley Oaks Farm in Newchurch, Staffordshire, has been hit by a six-year campaign of abuse.

The owners and people connected with the firm have received death threats. The family said they hoped the decision would prompt the return of the body of their relative Gladys Hammond, whose remains were stolen from a churchyard. The remains were taken from her grave in nearby Yoxall in October.

Mrs Hammond, who was buried in St Peter's churchyard seven years ago, was the mother-in-law of Christopher Hall, part-owner of the farm. In a statement, a close relative of Mrs Hammond, who declined to be named, said there was now no reason why her body could not be returned.

"Gladys was a relative of the Halls by marriage only and had no involvement in guinea pig breeding. She was a kind, gentle country lady who loved animals. She was also friendly, generous and loving and always put her family first."

The Hall family have been subjected to hate mail, malicious phone calls, hoax bombs and arson attacks. A spokeswoman for David Hall and Partners confirmed that the business, where several thousand guinea pigs are reared, was to stop breeding animals for medical research.



Campaigners who have legitimately picketed the farm over recent years said they would continue their protest until the guinea pig breeding operation officially closed at the end of the year.

Johnny Holmes, a spokesman for Stop the Newchurch Guinea Pigs, said: "This is the most fantastic day of my life. It's a victory for the animals and it's a fundamental victory for the animal rights movement. Ideally, I wish they would close down today and hand them over. We want those guinea pigs out."

In a statement, the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) expressed its best wishes to the family and said their decision was "regrettable but understandable".

Director of the ABPI Philip Wright said guinea pigs had been essential in research into disease resulting in breakthroughs in the development of new medicines.

"The activities of a few animal rights extremists have placed impossible pressure on those going about their legitimate business," he said. While animal rights extremists are likely to be only one factor in the final decision, it does underline the need for greater protection of those individuals and companies targeted."

David Bird, from Staffordshire Police, told BBC Radio 4 it had been impossible to give complete protection because the campaign had been so widespread. Protesters have used graffiti to get their message across. "We have had some success in dealing with those responsible. What I would say is that this closure is not a victory for anybody," he said. "This campaign has done absolutely nothing to further the cause of animal rights."

Rod Harvey supplied fuel to the farm and endured four years of abuse from activists before he was forced to cease trading with the Halls. The 63-year-old businessman said he received threatening letters, including one accusing him of being a paedophile which was then sent to a number of people he knew.

"In December 2003 a brick came through the window of my front door, hitting my foot and cutting my hand," he said. "In view of what they (the Hall family) and their staff have had to put up with I'm not surprised that they have stopped breeding guinea pigs. I just feel so angry that these animal rights activists have won."

Types of crime...



1. Blue Collar Crime (blue overalls for a garage)

Not planned out crimes and normally committed by the working class. Can include things like damage to a property

2. Collar Crime (white shirts for n office)

Middle class professionals or 'white collar' workers are more likely to work on their own and as such have more opportunities to commit crime. The range of occupation crimes can vary from a little bit of food or a product here and there to stealing huge amounts. White collar crimes can include:

- Stealing money from a company – called embezzlement
- Fraud – claiming to have qualifications you don't actually have
- Fiddling expenses claims
- Stealing from the company
- Tax evasion (not paying taxes)
- Bribery and corruption



3. Corporate Crime

This is different from occupational and white collar crime because these were committed in the interests of the individual rather than corporate crime which commits crime in the interest of the company.

Crimes such as this can include selling goods known to be dangerous, breaking health and safety laws, dumping poisonous waste and knowingly polluting the environment. Cases such as this are difficult to prove and are rare because it's often troublesome to pin who the person to blame is.



Patterns of crime.....

Gender and Crime

When looking at crime and gender nearly five times as many men as women are found guilty or cautioned of criminal offences – the biggest crime being theft and handling stolen goods. There are of course examples where women have committed crimes – the worse of which tend to be reported by the media.

Why do women commit less crime?

1. Socialisation: Girls are socialised into being soft and delicate, whereas boys are socialised into being much more aggressive and active. These differences may make it more likely that males are more likely to be in trouble with the police. EG.....

2. Opportunity: because females have less opportunity to commit crime. When they are young there are closely protected or supervised – parents may want to know more detail about where their daughter is. When they are older women are said to not have the time to commit crime because they’re too busy at home. EG...

3. Chivalry factor: women are treated more softly when it comes to law enforcement and trials. This also occurs in schools, whereby boys are related more harshly for going against the school rules. Always use an example when explaining this in an exam question E.g. man and woman seeing in a car.

4. Demonization of women: but, in this instance women are treated more harshly. A women’s “job” is to care for children and be kind to them, so if a women is found to be guilty of mistreating a child, they are demonised (made out to be worse than a male who were to commit the crime).

5. Victimisation: women are much more likely to be victims of crimes. However, they are may not always inform the police due to embarrassment of what the nature of the crime. This is also true of men who suffer from domestic abuse – they are often too ashamed to admit it.



Ethnicity and Crime

Need to know	The facts
Conviction rates	There is very little difference in conviction rates and ethnic background, despite that ethnic minorities are always

	spoken about
Racism	The police have had a troubled relationship with ethnic minorities since the 70s and it is reported that racism is a factor of Black and Asian people getting arrested and prosecuted.
Stereotypes	There is a negative perception about ethnic minority groups in the media and therefore the police follow them
Victimisation	More likely to be victims and blamed for being victims!

Studying Crime.....

Reporting and Recording

Official crime statistics only ever show the number of recorded crimes – which can under represent the number of crimes that take place. But there are problems with this – for example a crime may not be reported to the police in the first place. This could be because:

- The victim is too scared about what might happen to them if they report the crime to the police.
- The victim may feel the police won't do anything even if they do report it – so why bother?
- If the item is unlikely to be returned or is uninsured then a victim may feel that there is little point in reporting it because they won't ever be reunited with it.
- The victim doesn't want to get the criminal into trouble – it could be a member of their family.

Victim Surveys

Victim surveys are surveys of people who have been a victim of crime – the best example is the British Crime Survey which takes a **representative sample** of the population.

Benefits of it are that it hopes to catch people who have not reported crimes to the police for whatever reason. It therefore looks to uncover



Self Report Studies

Self report studies are another attempt to gather more accurate crime statistics – these work by getting people to **admit to the crimes they have committed**. It has significant problems though such as:

- People may not choose to cooperate with the study.
- People may tell lies.
- These studies tend to be done with teenagers – who are less able to refuse – is this really fair?
- They also tend to focus on studying delinquency which includes non-criminal / deviant behaviour rather than specifically crime.



Official crime statistics may also under-represent some groups within society (like women and over represent others (like some ethnic minorities) – you should remember this from earlier in the booklet.

If you don't - use the contents pages and go back and learn about them.