

Summer Independent Learning

Year 11 into Year 12

The following work aims to provide you with an introduction to various aspects of the Criminology course. Please read the material provided (you can highlight and/or annotate the document as you go through) and complete the questions and tasks throughout the document. Please bring this work with you to your first Criminology lesson.

What is Criminology?

Criminology is an interdisciplinary social science that combines content regarding crime from sociology, psychology, law and politics.



Newburn (2007) defines Criminology as:

- The study of crime
- The study of those who commit crime
- The study of the criminal justice system and penal systems

Crime or Deviance?

The concepts of crime and deviance are often used interchangeably, suggesting that people may regard them as the same thing. However, in Criminology it is essential that we can **discuss and identify the distinct differences between the two terms.**

Defining Crime

The term crime is not easy to define, in Criminology we explain the meaning of the word through various definitions, and you are required to know two of these:

1. **The social definition** - *Crime is any act so identified by groups in society*

The social definition of crime suggests that an act is only labelled as a crime if society decides that the act is criminal.

This definition of crime focuses predominantly on the social reaction and the actual process of criminalisation as opposed to the behaviour and the individual. This definition of crime is conditional and can change over time and between societies.

For example views regarding sexual conduct in the UK have changed, in the past consensual sex between men was prohibited, this is now accepted and legal in the UK but is still labelled as criminal in other countries across the world.

It is important to acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of the social constructionist definition of crime; whilst ensuring that the definition of crime is always up to date and acknowledges the fluidity of society, this definition could lead to a lack of consensus (agreement) in society.

2. **The legal definition** – *Crime is an act that is against written law*

In the UK the legal system defines a crime as any act that breaks the law and can result in formal punishments, set by the judiciary.

In law a crime must have two elements:

Actus reus = is the physical 'doing' part of the crime and committing a guilty act, this can be physically acting (causation) or failing to act (omissions).

Mens rea = is the intention for the crime.

For example, if Keith takes a knife and purposely stabs Alan in the chest multiple times and kills him, he has committed the actus reus (murder) and has the mens rea (intent to kill).

However, in instances of defence, such as self-defence, infancy, insanity etc. even if both parts of the law are present a person may not be found guilty.

Again, it is important to acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of the legal definition of crime, it allows for crime to be easily understood and identified due to its fixed certainty, however it responds slowly to social developments (e.g. cyber-crime) and still differs across location for example jaywalking is illegal in Australia but not here in the UK.

So ... whether an action is criminal depends on:

- ✓ Time
- ✓ Place
- ✓ Situation
- ✓ Culture

TASK 1:

Can you find examples of the following:

- An act that was illegal in the UK and is now legal
- An act that is illegal in the UK but legal elsewhere in the world
- An act that is legal in the UK but illegal elsewhere in the world

E.g. An act that was legal in the UK and is now illegal

The laws on selling cigarettes in the UK has changed over time. In the 1950's cigarette companies could advertise their products openly. Now, advertising is banned, cigarettes can only be bought by those over the age of 18 and shops must store cigarettes behind the counter and not on display. In 2020, selling rolling tobacco and menthol cigarettes will be banned.

Stretch: Think about why these changes have occurred / exist.

- WHY do different countries have different laws?
- WHY do our laws continue to change?

Defining Deviance

Deviance is a term that should be used when describing **an act or behaviour that goes against societal norms**. Deviance is any behaviour that would receive a critical reaction or disapproval from a specific group or the society in which it is carried out. There are no written rules (or laws) regarding what is or is not deemed socially acceptable, meaning that like crime, the concept of deviance is complex and will vary depending upon the time, place situation and culture – referred to as **situational deviance**.

Norms, moral codes and values are what distinguish deviant behaviour in a society.

- **Norms** are social expectations in a society that guide behaviour and explain why people behave in the way that they do. E.g. In the UK it is the norm to eat with a knife and fork, however in India it is customary to eat using your hands.
- **Moral codes** define what is regarded as good behaviour. Breaking a moral code would be considered as serious in society and could even cross the boundary of committing a crime, such as burglary.
- **Values** are ideas or beliefs about general principles or goals within a society or culture, they are things that we deem to be important for example the value of 'honesty', 'respect', 'fairness' and equality.

Forms of Deviance

It tends to be assumed that "deviant behaviour" is somehow always behaviour that is generally frowned upon by people in a society or viewed as negatively, that is not necessarily always the case. We can categorise various basic forms of rule-breaking behaviour in terms of three basic ideas:

1. **Admired Behaviour** - An example of deviance that might be considered as "good" or "admirable" behaviour (whilst also breaking social norms) might be something like heroism - the saving of the life of another person whilst putting your own life in great danger.
2. **Odd Behaviour** - This form of deviance ranges from such things as outlandish modes of dress, through mildly eccentric forms of behaviour (the person who shares their house with 50 cats, for example). The behaviour is not criminal but somewhat differs to 'normal' behaviour.
3. **Bad Behaviour** - This category of deviant behaviour tends to be restricted to law-breaking or criminal behaviour that in some way is seen as being something more than odd or out of the ordinary, for example assault.

It is not uncommon for behaviour to overlap in the categories of deviance. Some behaviour may be deemed as both odd and bad for example exposing yourself in public.

It is important to remember that these boundaries are blurred and that some acts may be deviant and not criminal, some acts are criminal but not necessarily deviant and some acts would be classified as both criminal and deviant.

TASK 2:

Decide whether the following acts are Criminal, Deviant or Both:

	Criminal	Deviant	Both	Neither
Murder				
Streaming a film that hasn't been released yet				
Cannabis use				
Drinking underage				
Smoking over the age of 18				
Trespassing				
Tattoos on the face				
Pushing in a queue				
Speeding – doing 45mph in a 40mph zone				
Burglary and Theft				

TASK 3:

Decide whether the following acts are Criminal, Deviant or Both:

Using the information in the table below, write a short explanation for each crime, acknowledging whether or not you think the crime is criminal, deviant or both.

1. White collar
2. Moral
3. State
4. Technological
5. Hate crime
6. Honour crime
7. Domestic abuse

Does the act break a law?
Does the action go against the norms of society?
Why?

Different Types of Crime

Type of crime	Criminal offences	Types of victim	Types of offender	Level of public awareness
White-collar crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-violent • Usually committed in commercial situations for financial gain • E.g. credit card fraud, computer and internet fraud and tax evasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with funds to invest in a financial scheme • Anyone with accessible money • The government (tax evasion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually people of a high status who have power and are respected, this leads to them not raising suspicion • Offenders can also have connections with organised crime groups such as the Mafia and gangs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively low due to violence related crimes being more widely publicised • White-collar crimes are difficult to prosecute because the perpetrators identity is hidden and their activities are usually concealed through a series of complex processes and transactions
Moral crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed against the normal standard of morality in society • E.g. underage drinking, assisted suicide, illegal gambling, illegal drug use, prostitution and vagrancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral crimes are sometimes regarded as being victimless • However, arguably the offender and the victim can be the same person, for example under-age drinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offenders of moral crimes differ depending on the type of crime committed • As stated before, the offender can be the same person as the victim • It is important to acknowledge however that some people may commit a moral crime due to a difficult situation, for example a homeless person cannot do anything other than commit a crime of vagrancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of moral crimes are hidden, for example drug use may not be widely discussed within the family • In addition to the point made above, if the crime is known a family or the public may not report the crime to the police due to sympathy. • The victim may receive help as oppose to a conviction for example giving a homeless person money rather than reporting them to the police

<p>State crimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carried out by (or by the order of) the state or state agencies • E.g. genocide, war crimes, torture and imprisonment without trial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens from a different country to the government committing the crime • Those with a different political or religious view point to the government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government • High ranking personnel working for government agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High due to the extremity and seriousness of the crime • High levels of media reporting in society heightens the awareness
<p>Technological crimes (cyber-crime)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offences are committed through the use of technology • E.g. internet-enabled fraud, illegal downloads/streaming & inappropriate use of social media to promote hate crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who uses or has access to the internet • Cyber-crime can affect individuals or large organisations/businesses • Vulnerable or gullible people often become victim to fishing scams (a scam or an attempt to persuade someone to give out their personal information and details) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offender must have basic knowledge of and access to the internet to instigate the crimes • Offenders can be based overseas where they have the ability to gain access to bank accounts • Recent investigation shows that the number of young people committing cyber-crime in the UK is increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially the public perception of cyber-crime was low but over recent years the awareness has increased dramatically in line with the popularity and expansion of technology • Increased publicity and promotion of technological crimes is now more apparent
<p>Hate crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crimes that are perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate • A crime committed due to aggravation against race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender is regarded as a hate crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone that falls under any of the characteristics already outlined • Through association with anyone who categorises under any of the five strands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person that has a prejudicial view against anyone who comes under the five strands already outlined • Offenders are likely to hold traditional views that do not respect the diversity of today's society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to having a high media focus, the public awareness of hate crimes has grown recently • A new crackdown on hate crime that occurs due to or through social media has aided the rising awareness of this type of crime

<p>Honour crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour crimes are punishments for causing issues or bringing shame to a family • E.g. Murder, beatings, acid attacks, abductions and mutilations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually the victims of honour crimes are females within the family • Commonly it is the Asian community that are associated with honour crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offender is usually a male from the same family as the female victim • As stated previously, usually Asian communities are associated with honour crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour crimes have a low level of public awareness, this may be due to a difference in culture and lack of understanding • Within societies where honour crimes are deemed acceptable the community will support the crime and regard it as appropriate retaliation to the shameful behaviour • Due to the acceptance within communities, it is unlikely that the crimes are widely reported, hence the unfamiliarity and lack of awareness of this type of crime
<p>Domestic abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse is any act or abusive behaviour that is targeted at a partner or family member • This type of crime is usually hidden and not often reported to authorities • Domestic abuse can include physical violence to the extent of murder, as well as emotional abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are usually regarded as the victims of domestic violence, yet it should be noted that men are also victims just to not the same volume • Domestic abuse victims cannot be categorised with characteristics, they are not restricted by age or any circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually the offender is the dominant male in the relationship, however as mentioned before this is not always the scenario • Offenders usually ensure that victims do not report or speak about the crime and this subsequently means that the crimes are kept hidden and are not common knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public awareness of the type of crime itself is relatively high due to major cases and publication surrounding them • However, as mentioned before, this type of crime is kept private and this means that the crimes are not always reported, this could be down to fear of the repercussions from the offender

TASK 4

Research these real-life examples and make notes on the cases:

- Bernie Madoff
- Sophie Lancaster
- Shafiea Ahmed
- Clare Wood
- Lauri Love

Produce a summary for each that takes into consideration the crime, the victim, the offender and the level of public awareness.

Using the table above outline which category of crime these cases are related to

Outline some reasons for why people may not report these crimes.

TASK 5

Watch the following clip and answer the questions that follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r61ks18Bd7lo>

According to the mod (in the hat), what was the cause of the trouble?

Why do you think the media reports used the word 'battle'?

What might be the impact of the police and the media being present the next time the mods and rockers met?

What roles did Stan Cohen play during his research?

According to Cohen, why was the media so crucial in this case study?

Why did the media exaggerate the situation?

What was the public response to the media coverage?

What was the impact of the media coverage on the mods and rockers?

Howard Becker's study 'The Outsiders'

TASK 6

Read the extract below regarding Howard Becker's explanation of how we define crime and answer the questions below:

1. Which definition of crime does Becker most associate with and why?
2. In your own words, explain what is meant by the statement 'no act is inherently deviant'?
3. What percentage of people in the 2015 survey did not admit to speeding?
4. Outline one advantage of applying labelling theory to the explanation of crime.
5. Outline one disadvantage of applying labelling theory to the explanation of crime.

There is no such thing as an inherently deviant act – in other words there is nothing which is deviant in itself in all situations and at all times, certain acts only become deviant in certain situations when others label them as deviant. Deviance is not a result of an act or an individual being 'uniquely different', deviance is a product of society's reaction to actions.



Sociologist Howard Becker (1963) says that – “Deviancy is not a quality of the act a person commits, but rather a consequences of the application by others of rules and sanctions to an ‘offender’. Deviant behaviour is behaviour that people so label.”

Howard Becker illustrates how crime is the product of social interactions by using the example of a fight between young people. In a low-income neighbourhood, a fight is more likely to be defined by the police as evidence of delinquency, but in a wealthy area as evidence of high spirits. The acts are the same, but the meanings given to them by the audience (in this case the public and the police) differ. Those who have the power to make the label stick thus create deviants or criminals.

You could apply the same thinking to criminal behaviour more generally in Britain – According to a recent 2015 survey of 2000 people, the average person in Britain breaks the law 17 times per year, with 63% admitting speeding, 33% stealing and 25% taking illegal drugs – clearly the general public is tolerant of ‘ordinary’ deviance – but every now and then someone will get spotted doing ‘ordinary’ criminal activities and publicly shamed.

TASK 6: Media Reviews

As part of your extended learning, you will be expected to engage with Criminology in the media. There are many TV Shows, Films, Books, Magazines and Websites about Criminology - it will be your task to watch, read and research different areas of Criminology and write short reports about each of them.

You should complete a minimum of 3 reviews from the list below (or chose your own).

Step-by-Step Guide to How to Write a Film Review:
<https://edusson.com/blog/how-to-write-movie-review>

Beginnings are always the hardest. This is the point where you set the pace and determine how to approach this assignment in the most efficient manner. Here are some useful tips to kick-start the movie review writing process:

- Watch the movie or documentary with your full focus and take notes of both major and minor events and characters. It is a mistake to rely on the power of your memory only.
- Carry out a thorough research. Watching the movie is not enough, research is equally important. Look for details such as the name of the filmmaker and his/her motivation to make that film or documentary work, locations, plot, characterization, historic events that served as an inspiration for the movie (if applicable). Your research should serve to collect information that provides more depth to the review.
- Draft an outline that you will follow to write the review in a concise and cohesive fashion
- Include examples for claims you make about the movie. For example, if you claim the plot is relevant to psychology, mention an example of a situation or scene where this was evident.
- Analyse the movie after you watch it. Do not start working on the review if you are not sure you understand the film. Evaluate the movie from beginning to an end. Re-watch it, if necessary, if you find some parts confusing. Only when you understand events that happened on the screen will you find it easier to create the review.

How to organise your review:

- Introduction (with title, release date, background information)
- Summary of the story / case / background / aim of the programme
- Opinion (supported with examples and facts from the story), such as:
 - Do you believe it be accurate?
 - Could it have been bias in anyway?
 - How did it depict crime? (Positively / negatively / creating fear / awareness, etc.)
- Conclusion (announcing whether the filmmaker was successful in his/her purpose, re-state your evidence, explain how the motion picture was helpful for providing a deeper understand of the topic or case covered)

Finally, reflection:

- Did you enjoy it?
- Has it improved your understanding and knowledge? How?
- Would you recommend it to others wanting to study Criminology?

Media Resource List

You Tube:

Mods & Rockers	Mods and Rockers Rebooted BBC Documentary 2014.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFL54R9g5lo
Jamie Bulger	There are a number of different documentaries to choose from at this address.	https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jamie+bulger+documentary
Young Gunmen - Panorama	Panorama investigates the rise of armed teenage street gangs and discovers how shockingly ingrained the culture of guns and violence is in parts of Britain.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3O3bh59dRA
Murders That Shocked The Nation: Serial Killer John Reginald Christie Murdered Six Women	The case of John Christie, who murdered six women between 1943 and 1953 and hid their bodies in his house at 10 Rillington Place.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSL_zNlXm-k
Sally Clark: Innocent Mother Sent To Prison over Statistical Error	Sally Clark was convicted of killing her two baby boys after her second baby died at only 8 weeks old.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F03Wf3lvzs
Babies behind bars	Having a baby in prison is no picnic. Every year thousands of babies are born in American prisons.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nErmW89_hr_0
Amanda Knox Documentary BBC	Two documentaries about the murder case – notice the changes in view point?	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erla7Ley4Tw
An Hour to Catch a Killer	Follows a UK homicide team after the death of a young woman in her own home. Discusses the importance of the Golden Hour as the killer tries to flee.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ex4Jr8Vx7SI&t=123s
Stephen Lawrence - Time for Justice	Looking at the case of Stephen Lawrence and the impact had with the abolition of double jeopardy in the UK	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsHwKPE0mjU
Crimes that Shook Britain – Colin Stagg	Looks at the case of Colin Stagg and what it has taught us.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sivHAHkphbU&t=2745s
Crimes that Shook Britain – Claire Wood	Explores the case of Claire Wood and what followed – the case that Claire's Law exists because of.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THSwWRjSvW8

Netflix:

The Stanford Prison Experiment	A film adaptation of a psychological experiment by Phillip Zimbardo into societal roles.
Amanda Knox	A two sided documentary looking at the case of Meredith Kercher and accusation of Amanda Knox
The Mind Explained	How your brain works - From dreaming to anxiety disorders.
Killer: In the Mind of Aaron Hernandez	Via interviews with friends, players and insiders, this docuseries examines how Aaron Hernandez went from an NFL star to a convicted killer.
Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes	Present-day interviews, archival footage and audio recordings made on death row form a searing portrait of notorious serial killer Ted Bundy.
The Confession Killer	Henry Lee Lucas rose to infamy when he confessed to hundreds of unsolved murders. This docuseries examines the truth -- and horrifying consequences.
I am killer	Death row inmates convicted of capital murder give first hand accounts of their crimes in this documentary series.
Mindhunter	In the late 1970s two FBI agents expand criminal science by delving into the psychology of murder and getting uneasily close to all-too-real monsters.
The People vs. O.J. Simpson	A dramatisation traces the twists and turns of O.J. Simpson's murder trial, examining behind-the-scenes gambits on both sides of the court.

Amazon Prime:

A dangerous method	Freud and Jung struggle to use their techniques in Psychoanalysis to treat patients.
Bowling for Columbine	Documentary about the Columbine High School shooting.
12 Angry Men	A jury deliberates behind closed doors on the fate of someone accused of murder
Prison: First and Last 24 Hours	Looks at the prison system in Scotland and the first and last 24 hours of prisoners and their experiences

BBC:

Love and Hate Crime	A range of documentaries covering a range of crimes.
Stacey Dooley – Locked up with the lifers	Looks at a different way of running prisons in the USA
Catching Britain’s Killers	A series that looks at the developments in evidence collection
Murder 24/7	Following cases from crime scene to court room
The disappearance of Margaret Fleming	One of the first recorded court cases in Scotland. This looks at the murder trial of Margaret Fleming who went missing years previously – unnoticed.
Forensics: the real CSI	Follows Scenes of Crime officers as they investigate a range of cases using a range of techniques
Stacey Dooley – Stalkers	Stacey meets those who have experienced stalking. With focus on changes that have been made to the laws on stalking