

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

A Key Concepts

1	Defining criminal behaviour <i>Pages 2-4</i>	Criminal behaviour is any act that is against the law however there are many different laws and many different types of crime; violent crimes (crimes causing physical harm), drug related crimes (involving trading in or using drugs), acquisitive crimes (where capital or belongings are taken), sexual crimes (a victim is forced to commit or submit to a sexual act against their will) and anti-social crimes (cause harassment or distress to people).
2	Measuring crime <i>Pages 4-5</i>	Crime can be measured using official statistics which are gain by the police and published by the government to give us an idea of the amount of crimes that have been reported and recorded. Self-report surveys are also used to get an idea of the crimes a person has committed (offender surveys) or the amount of crimes a person has been victim to (victim surveys)

B Psychological explanations

3	Social Learning Theory – AO1 <i>Pages 6-7</i>	A theory that explains behaviour in terms of observation and intimidation. SLT theory sees crime as being a result of an individual identifying with a criminal role model and observing and imitating their behaviours.
4	Social Learning Theory – AO3 <i>Pages 7</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only focuses on the role of nurture and ignores biological factors that might contribute to crime. • The theory does not explain how crime occurs when there is no role model. • The theory does not explain how crime starts in the first place.
5	Cooper and Mackie – AO1 <i>Pages 9-12</i>	Researchers used a lab experiment to assess whether playing an aggressive game compared to other games would increase aggression in children. Research found that playing or watching an aggressive game has an impact on girls who were more likely to choose to play with an aggressive toy afterwards.
6	Cooper and Mackie - AO3 <i>Pages 12-13</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sample was biased. • The sample was conducted in an artificial setting so has low ecological validity. • Aggression was measuring in a narrow way so leads to low construct validity. • There were several extraneous variables that were not controlled for.

C Biological explanations

7	Eysenck's Criminal Personality – AO1 <i>Pages 13-15</i>	The criminal personality is a set of relatively fixed traits associated with people who commit crimes. Personality is assessed across three traits; extraversion (how outgoing a person is), neuroticism (how anxious a person is) and psychoticism (how impulsive and aggressive a person is). Eysenck suggests that a person with a criminal personality will measure highly on these three scales – a PEN personality.
8	Biological basis of Personality <i>Pages 15</i>	<p>Extraversion – result of under aroused cerebral cortex due to stimuli being restricted by RAS. Also have a higher dopamine reward system.</p> <p>Psychoticism – result of excess of dopaminergic neurons causing an excess of dopamine.</p> <p>Neuroticism – ANS is over-aroused leading to higher levels of violence</p>
9	Eysenck's Criminal Personality – AO3 <i>Pages 16</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignores individual differences • Unlikely that all criminals share a similar personality • Theory is deterministic <p>Theory ignores the role of nurture and only focuses on nature</p>
10	Heaven et al. – AO1 <i>Pages 17-18</i>	Conducted a longitudinal study looking at whether psychoticism, neuroticism and extraversion were predictors of offending. Results found the psychoticism was related to delinquency and that males were more likely to commit crime than females.
11	Heaven et al. – AO3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sample was culturally biased • The sample was age biased • The study was a self report study meaning there could be high levels of social desirability

D Application

12	Punishment <i>Pages 20-21</i>	Punishment aims to reduce offending by offering a negative consequence for wrongdoing which means it is less likely to be repeated in future. Examples of punishment prison, fines and community service.
13	Rehabilitation <i>Pages 21-22</i>	Rehabilitation is the process of reintegrating a person back into society after they have committed a crime. An example of rehabilitation is restorative justice where an offender meets the victim or victim's family to understand the consequences of their crime and to apologise (make restitution)