



Key Terms:

Crime—an illegal act which is punishable by law.

Deviance—behaviour that does not conform to society's rules and norms.

Social Control— how rules are enforced and how behaviour is controlled.

Agents of Social Control—Individual or group responsible for ensuring members of society conform to socially acceptable behaviour.

Formal Social Control— behaviour controlled through law enforcement. The police, Government & Criminal Justice System (CJS)

Informal Social Control—behaviour enforced through sanctions given by families, friends, etc.

Formal Rules— rules written down in the form of laws or codes of conduct.

Informal Rules— guidelines on how we are expected to behave in social settings.

Sanctions— rewards and punishments by which social control is achieved and conformity enforced.

Criminal Justice System (CJS)—Police, crown prosecution service, courts and prisons.

Importance of Social Order

- For people to live and work together, a certain amount of order and predictability (consensus) are needed.
- social order is necessary for everything to run smoothly, without chaos.
- Formal and informal social control is carried out by the agents of social control to ensure that most people comply with the rules and laws of society.

Deviance is a social construct

- It is an idea defined/ created by people within a society.
- What is considered deviant does not depend on the act itself. It depends on how other people react to it.
- Whether an act is seen as deviant depends on where the act takes place, when the act takes place and who commits the act.

Perspectives:

Functionalists

- The CJS helps to maintain social order by discouraging crime and punishing offenders.
- The police help to keep people safe.

Marxists

- The CJS is run by the rich and powerful to help protect the rich and powerful.
- The police treat the lower classes unfairly and are more likely to target them.
- The courts are more likely to give harsher punishments to the lower classes.
- There needs to be more representation of lower class individuals, women and ethnic minorities within the courts.

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Key Terms:

Anomie—a feeling of 'normlessness'. Individuals may feel that rules (formal or informal) that control our behaviour no longer exist anymore.

Collective Sentiments— a shared idea on what is right and wrong.

Subculture— A group with a set of values and ways of behaving which are different from the generally accepted cultural values of society.

Status Frustration—A feeling of frustration at the low status you have in society.

Innovation— People realise they will not achieve their goals through legal means so innovate their means and turn to crime to achieve the goals.
(Stealing)

Conformity— People continue to try and achieve their goals through legitimate means by conforming to societies norms and values.
(working hard for a promotion)

Retreatism—People give up on their goals, reject any means to reach them and retreat from mainstream society. (Drug addict)

Rebellion— People reject society's goals and means and rebel against society (terrorism)

Durkheim

- Crime is inevitable and happens in all societies.
- Some crime can be good for society as it creates collective sentiments which bring people together, creates social change and highlights social problems that need solving.

Merton—Strain Theory

- Most people have the goal of money, status and power – The American Dream.
- These goals put a strain on people as many find it hard to reach these goals legally. Therefore some people result to crime to reach these goals. (Innovation)
- He believed people responded to strain differently: - 1) Conformity 2) Innovation 3) Retreatism 4) Rebellion

Cohen—Subcultural Theory

- Crime and delinquency is carried out by groups not individuals and that groups often commit crimes not motivated by money – e.g. vandalism, joy riding, etc
- Working class boys experience status frustration due to educational failure, this leaves them feeling not valued by society.
- They join/form delinquent subcultures where they develop deviant careers and earn prestige/ status in their subculture and work their way up in the hierarchy.
- Committing crime gives them the status they desire.

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Key Terms:

Capitalism—An economic system based on competition and the pursuit of profit, in which the means of production are privately owned by the bourgeoisie.

Materialism—Valuing material possessions.

Consumerism—Buying more, and better consumer goods such as phones, designer clothes and cars

Competition—Wanting better possessions and consumer goods than other people.

Selective Law Enforcement—the criminal justice system overly focusses on crimes committed by proletariat rather than crimes committed by the bourgeoisie.

Occupational Crime—crimes linked to or committed at work.

Corporate Crime—crimes committed by higher status people for the benefit of large companies.

White Collar Crime—crimes committed by higher status people for their own individual gain, often at the expense of the company they work for.

Gordon—Capitalism Creates Crime

- Capitalism creates inequality which leads to crime.
- Capitalist values of materialism, consumerism and competition actually create crime as when individuals can not afford the luxury items shown as important they turn to crime to get these items.

Sutherland—Corporate and White Collar Crime

- First sociologist to focus on occupational crimes usually committed by the rich in society.
- Argued that individuals who committed these crimes were more likely to get away with it as they were hard to detect and usually not reported to the police as companies deal with these crimes themselves to save their reputation.

Chambliss—Selective Law Enforcement

- Argued that laws were made by the rich and therefore laws protect them and their assets.
- Laws and the police are often told to focus on 'working class crimes' rather than 'upper class crimes'. This means that poorer people are more likely to be targeted by police, arrested, put in prison and appear on official crime statistics.
- Found that despite participating in similar types of behaviour, the working class 'roughneck' boys are arrested more frequently and punished more harshly than their more middle class peers (the saints).

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Key Terms:

Labelling— attaching a category, tag or name to a person. This can have an impact on an individuals behaviour or view of themselves.

Master Status—a label given to someone that becomes their primary identity, over-riding all other statuses.

Deviant Career—a path that a person labelled as criminal may follow where they engage in many forms of deviant and criminal behaviour

Self-fulfilling Prophecy—when a person who has been labelled begins to live up to the label they have been given, therefore making the label true.

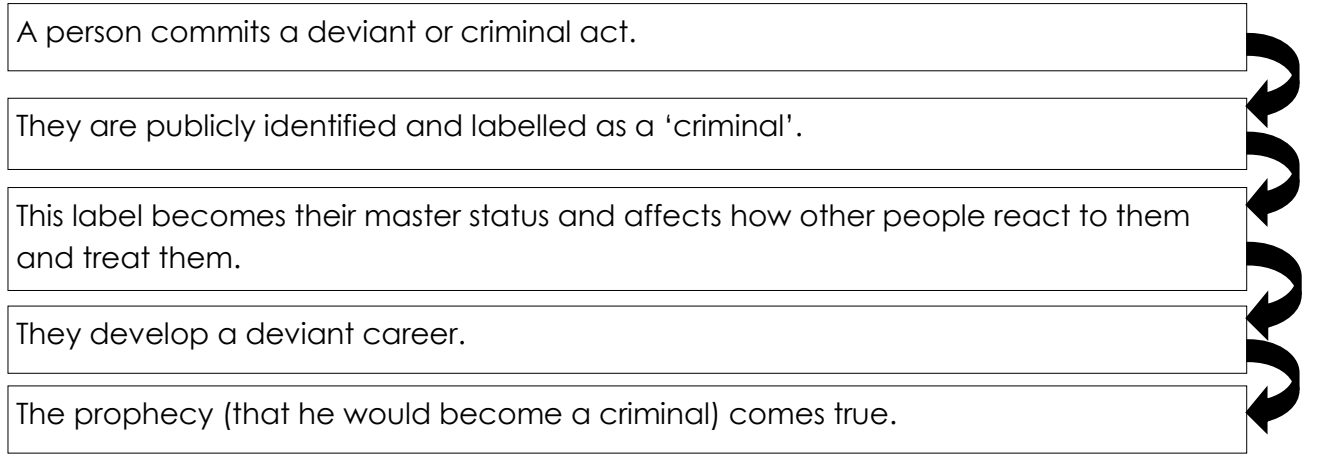
Typical Delinquent/ Offender— the stereotypical characteristics of someone who commits crime. For example young, male, working class, ethnic minority.

Stereotype— an exaggerated and simplified view of a group of people.

Becker –Labelling Theory

- Society creates rules and anyone who does not conform to the rules is labelled deviant.
- Powerful groups, such as the media and police, use stereotypes and misconceptions about what they believe is criminal or which area is criminal – e.g. black youths in inner-city London.
- They then get mistreated – e.g. stop and search, and then get labelled with criminal records. This then leads to them developing deviant careers and the deviant label can become a master status.
- Labelling can lead to the self-fulfilling prophecy where they continue to behave this way.

Stages of Labelling and the Self-fulfilling Prophecy



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Key Terms:

Copycat Crime— A criminal act that is inspired by a previous crime.

Deviancy Amplification—The reaction and reporting of deviance by the media leads to an increase in the deviance by provoking more of the same behaviour. It also leads to the police overly focusing on a particular deviant act, therefore they find more of this type of deviance.

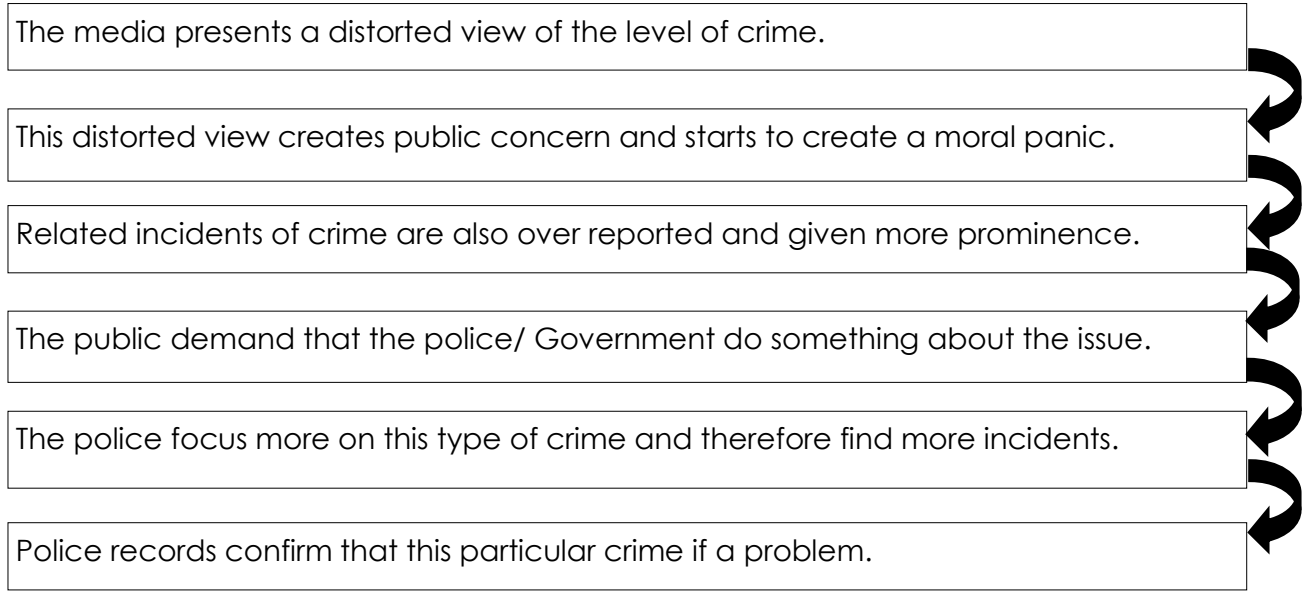
Folk Devils—A group that is seen as a threat to society's values and is to blame for social problems.

Moral Panic—Media coverage of an issue leads to exaggerated public concern and widespread fear.

Cohen—Moral Panics—Studied the mods and rockers in the 1960's

- The media sensationalise and over report certain crimes leading to moral panics in society where individuals become over concerned about a crime (knife crime)
- This creates folk devils (groups who are negatively stereotyped and blamed for societies problems)
- Can lead to deviancy amplification by making the problem worse as it sometimes encourages more of that particular crime. Can also lead to the police focussing on the issue more and therefore finding more of that particular crime.

Stages of a Moral Panic and Deviancy Amplification



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Key Terms:

Official Crime Statistics— Information on the number of crimes committed that are reported to and recorded by the police. These are collected by the police, for the government and are published each year.

Self Report Studies— Research that asks individuals about the crimes they have committed. These are anonymous.

Victim Surveys— Research that asks individuals about the crimes they have been victims of. E.G the Crime Survey for England and Wales

Dark/ Invisible/ Hidden Figure of Crime— All crimes that are not reported to and/or recorded by the police. These crimes do not appear on official crime statistics.

Official Crime Statistics

Strengths/ Advantages	Weaknesses/ Disadvantages
They enable us to make comparisons between crime rates in different years and areas.	Any crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police do not appear on the official crime statistics. This makes them inaccurate as there are many reasons why a crime does not get recorded by the police: The crime has not been discovered or witnessed. A victim decides not to report the crime to police. The police decide not to record the crime.
They enable us to see trends in crimes.	
They are reliable as they can be repeated each year.	

Self Report Studies

Strengths/ Advantages	Weaknesses/ Disadvantages
Give information on offenders who were not caught by police.	Respondents may lie or exaggerate. Not representative as mainly focus on the young and students.
Good way to find out about victimless crimes (drug use)	

Victim Surveys

Strengths/ Advantages	Weaknesses/ Disadvantages
Give information on crimes not usually reported to the police (sex offences)	Based on the memories of victims. Some crimes are still underreported, even on victim surveys.
More accurate as includes crime not recorded.	

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**Key Terms:**

Edge Work—Some individuals commit crime because it is exciting.

Labelling—attaching a category, tag or name to a person. This can have an impact on an individuals behaviour or view of themselves.

Self-fulfilling Prophecy—when a person who has been labelled begins to live up to the label they have been given, therefore making the label true.

Subculture— A group with a set of values and ways of behaving which are different from the generally accepted cultural values of society.

Status Frustration—A feeling of frustration at the low status you have in society.

Moral Panic—Media coverage of an issue leads to exaggerated public concern and widespread fear.

Katz—Edge Work

- Young people want excitement and seek this through risk-taking and impulsive behaviours, including criminal and deviant behaviour.
- There is a 'buzz' generated from living 'on the edge'. The risk of being caught is also part of the appeal.

Cohen—Status Frustration and Subcultures

- Most young delinquents are motivated by status frustration, because they do not have the independence they want and they are stuck between child and adult.
- Young individuals are more likely to join deviant subcultures to try and gain status.
- Joy ridding, vandalism and other petty crimes are valued and can help them gain status within the subculture.
- Peer group pressure can encourage some criminal and deviant behaviours.

Becker—Labelling

- Young people are more likely to be negatively labelled in society which can lead to the self fulfilling prophecy.
- The media tend to over focus on crimes committed by the young and they are often at the center of many moral panics.

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Key Terms:

Chivalry Thesis—The criminal justice system is more lenient towards women when they commit crime and is more likely to let them off with a warning.

Class Deal—Women would work hard in exchange for pay which they could then use to pay for consumer goods.

Gender Deal—should do domestic labour and give love and companionship to their husbands, in exchange for love and financial support.

Control Theory—Women's behaviour is more controlled than men's which means they are less likely to commit crime.

Ladettes—females who take on traditional male characteristics and act more 'laddish'. They drink, fight and take risks.

Reasons Less Women Commit Crime

Heidensohn —Control Theory

- Women commit less crime because they are more closely controlled in society.
- In a patriarchal society, women have stronger social control placed on them which can reduce opportunities for crime – e.g., women are at home more.
- At home, women are controlled by domestic (home) responsibilities, at work by fear of damaging reputation and in public by fear of male violence.

Reasons Poor Women Commit Crime

Carlen—Class and Gender Deals

- Working class women are expected to make a class deal and a gender deal
- When they cannot achieve these due to poverty, these women sometimes turn to crime as they believe they have nothing left to lose.

Reasons Why Women Get Away With Crime

Pollak—Chivalry Thesis

- Male dominated police and courts are more lenient on women.
- Courts punish men more harshly than women if the same crime was to be committed.
- The criminal justice system has a stereotypical view of females as helpless and naïve. The CJS is more likely to treat females more leniently than men and let them off for offences.

Reasons Why Female Crime is Increasing

- Some women are taking on more typical male characteristics and as a result are more likely to take risks, disrespect authority and engage in drinking and violence.
- Traditional gender roles are breaking down so women are no longer confined to home or controlled by society.

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Self-fulfilling Prophecy—when a person who has been labelled begins to live up to the label they have been given, therefore making the label true.

Stereotype—an exaggerated and simplified view of a group of people.

Scapegoat—individuals or groups in society who are blamed for problems in society.

Moral Panic—Media coverage of an issue leads to exaggerated public concern and widespread fear.

Institutional Racism—a form of racism that exists in institutional settings (education/police). This form of racism includes prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which can disadvantage minority ethnic people

Prejudice—judging someone based on stereotypes rather than knowing them as an individual.

Gilroy—Negative Stereotypes

- Ethnic minorities are often negatively stereotyped and labelled as criminal by the media and society.
- Police act on these negative labels and judge the actions of individuals from ethnic minorities as more deviant or criminal
- This can lead to an increase in stop and search and arrests.

Hall—Scapegoats

- Argued that black people have been used as scapegoats in order to divert public attention away from an economic crisis in society.
- In the 1970's a moral panic about 'black muggers' was created by the media in order to take people's attention away from the growing economic problems being faced in Britain.
- Black people were then seen as the cause of society's problems at the time.

Institutional Racism

- The Macpherson Report, published after the poor handling of the Stephen Lawrence murder in 1999, suggested that the police were institutionally racist and often acted on prejudices about individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Problems with racism in the police are not because of a few racist officers but the institution itself – its policies and procedures – are themselves racist.

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- He believed people responded to strain differently: -
1) Conformity 2) Innovation 3) Retreatism 4) Rebellion
- **Individuals from the lower social classes are more likely to suffer from strain.**

Becker –Labelling Theory

- Powerful groups, such as the media and police, use stereotypes and misconceptions about what they believe is criminal or which area is criminal.
- They then get labelled and treated more harshly by the police. This then leads to them developing deviant careers and the deviant label can become a master status.
- Labelling can lead to the self-fulfilling prophecy where they continue to behave this way.
- **Individuals from the lower social classes are more likely to be negatively labelled.**

Gordon—Capitalism Creates Crime

- Capitalism creates inequality which leads to crime.
- Capitalist values of materialism, consumerism and competition actually create crime as when individuals can not afford the luxury items shown as important they turn to crime to get these items.
- **Individuals from the lower social classes are more likely to suffer the effect of inequality and therefore more likely to turn to crime.**

Cohen—Subcultural Theory

- Individuals experience status frustration due to educational failure, this leaves them feeling not valued by society.
- They join/form delinquent subcultures where they develop deviant careers and earn prestige/ status in their subculture and work their way up in the hierarchy.
- Committing crime gives them the status they desire.
- **Individuals from the lower social classes are more likely to suffer from status frustration and join subcultures.**

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