

SOCIOLOGY

Crime and Deviance-Defining Crime, Social Order and Social Control

Year 13: Paper 3



Defining Crime and Deviance				
I	Crime	The breaking of criminal law		
2	Examples of crime	Murder, manslaughter, burglary, rape.		
3	Deviance	The breaking of social norms		
4	Examples of deviance	Spitting, tattoos, swearing		

	deviance	swearing		
Social Construction of Crime: NEWBURN				
_	Key idea	There is no act that is in itself criminal. It depends on how members of society see it and define it.		
2	Labelling	Crime is a label that is attached to certain types of behaviour that are prohibited by the State and are punishable by law.		
3	Changes over time	Changes in social attitudes may mean that the law changes over time eg homosexuality		
4	Changes between societies	Criminal law varies from country to country and so crime is socially constructed eg LGBT laws in Brunei		

	So	Social Construction of Deviance:PLUMMER			Ke	
	Key idea		ı De	Deviance is socially defined		
•	2 Non-deviant crime?		de	The majority of us commit acts of deviance but may not see them as deviant. Eg littering		
	3 Time			The definition of deviance changes over time. Eg smoking		
4 Culture			Deviance is culturally relative. Eg. Alcohol			
	5 Social group		aco	Some behaviours may only be acceptable in a certain group eg tattoos.		
	6 Place/contex		on	The definition of deviance depends on where and how it takes place.eg. Fighting.		
		Theoretical definitions of crime and view of criminal law				
	Functionalism		ism	Crime is the violation of a legal code-law reflects norms and values	5	
	2	Marxism		Crime refers to acts of the powerless-law reflects the interests of the ruling class		
	3 Interactionism		nism	Crime is a social construct-law is culturally and historically relative		
	4 Feminism and Critical criminology			Crime is politically informed-law reflects structured inequalities eg gender and ethnicity	6	

Key Vocabulary			
I	Crime	The breaking of criminal law	
2	Deviance	The breaking of social norms – societal deviance-considered deviant by most, situational deviance – considered deviant in certain contexts.	
w	Social construction	A social phenomena which is not naturally occurring but created by the society in which it is found.	
4	Social order	a situation where society is ordered ,runs smoothly and is free from disruption	
5	Social control	Ensures people conform to social norms. Informal agents of social control eg. The family, Formal agents of social control eg. The police	
6	Sanctions	Positive=Rewards Negative = Punishment	

Part of sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control- also see Theories of Crime lessons