

7. Criminal behaviour in societies can't be explained by one single theory. There are a number of theories that play a ~~small~~ part in explaining criminal behaviour. Theories of crime can include sociological theories, psychological theories and Marxist theory.

One sociological theory is Strain Theory. This theory was first introduced by Merton in 1938 and he found that there was a contradiction between cultural goals and social structure; this contradiction is also known as anomie. There is the idea that society puts pressure on people to achieve acceptable goals. For example the American Dream ^{in which people try to get the possessions and education for their children.}. However, some people

lack the means to achieve these goals through different ways such as a lack of education and financial security, and because of this people often look to crime as a way of trying to achieve those goals. There is also the pressure from society to have the best things and due to this strain people desire these things and use crime as a means to achieve. This was evidenced during the 2011 English riots where there was widespread looting. People were stealing expensive electronics such as flat screen TVs as many would have been unable to afford it otherwise. Throughout the riots there was roughly 2,987 arrests made. Although Strain Theory does explain criminal

behaviour, it does so to a partial extent as the theory fails to explain crimes that are carried out not for social gain such as domestic abuse where the criminal is not getting anything out of the crime. Therefore, Strain theory cannot be the only theory of crime, there has to be others to fully explain criminal behaviour within societies.

Another sociological theory is that of Labelling Theory by Becker. This is the idea that people who have been labelled as being deviant will often fulfill the label by acting in a certain way. It is much more difficult to remove negative labels. This is shown by the fact that there is

still a stigmatisation of prisoners, so when they are released they find it difficult to find employment as employers are reluctant to take them on because of what they have been labelled as. ~~LIBERATION~~

~~LIBERATION~~ One weakness of the theory is that there is no evidence to say that it does effect people's behaviour and for this reason, it can be argued that Labelling Theory can be the sole theory to explain criminal behaviour in societies because not everyone fufills labels given to them by others.

On the other hand, Psychological theories can also explain criminal behaviour. One theory that does this is

in their house during their childhood. While Bandura's theory does explain elements of criminal behaviour, it fails to fully explain it as the theory fails to mention ~~that~~ prisoners who had a relatively happy childhood and that didn't see abusive behaviour which could lead them to become involved in criminal behaviour. Therefore, there has to be other theories to help explain criminal behaviour within societies.

One other theory of crime that can explain criminal behaviour within societies is Marxist theory. This theory is based on the idea that the upper classes are more superior to the lower classes and

that they create laws to suit their needs first. The upper class can also be considered to be able to not be prosecuted for their crimes or get caught because they are able to afford the best lawyers and are believed to have a better education to be smart enough to not get caught. The upper class also have the ability to use authorities and media to keep control over the lower classes. For example during riots in America, the police are called in to control and disperse protestors who are fighting against ideas of the upper classes. Marxist theory can explain the criminal behaviour of the upper classes as they are less likely to

get caught or jailed, the theory does not explain criminal behaviour of the working classes.

In conclusion, to a large extent criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime. There are many theories of crime which each explain elements of criminal behaviour, ~~some~~ and then fail to explain other elements, ~~many~~ many theories only suggest ideas to explain criminal behaviour and have no clear cut evidence to support it and therefore they remain theories. Overall, in order to explain criminal behaviour, it needs to be done by multiple theories.

8. The view that 'penal systems have had no ^{significant} impact on reoffending' is somewhat valid. In the UK there is still a high reoffending rate. Prison is not the only way to tackle reoffending, there are alternative methods such as tagging, open prison and rehabilitation programmes which also can impact reoffending. Overall, it can be argued that alternative methods to punishment have more of an impact on reoffending.

One reason why prisons have no significant impact on reoffending is because it focuses on four purposes; retribution, deterrence, protection and rehabilitation and by trying to fulfill all these purposes it makes

It difficult to properly stop ~~from~~ or decrease the reoffending rate in the UK. As there is four purposes they have to split resources to fulfil all of the purposes and therefore each purpose can be limited. For example, for ~~the~~ protection, the money that is given to the prison could be used to improve the buildings to ~~protect the~~ prevent possible escapes, instead it is having to be divided and therefore is less effective. In comparison, the main purpose for most alternative methods is rehabilitation. By having only one purpose, it allows them to concentrate everything into rehabilitating offenders so they can become effective members of the community. One alternative method that offers this is

rehabilitation programmes such as the 218 programme which was set up in Glasgow in 2003. The programme provides drug and alcohol support and provides people with essential life skills. Programmes like this can have a significant impact on reoffending because by giving people life skills and essential support if they have problems with drugs and alcohol can prepare them for the outside community and provide them with foundations to ensure that they don't need to reoffend. Prisons are beginning to introduce similar programmes within the prison but can only work effectively if there is enough interest or staff as in prisons it is ~~often~~ a voluntary programme. Therefore,

prison isn't have a great an impact on reoffending as rehab programmes because they are unable to focus enough resources into ^{the} rehabilitation of prisoners as well as be able to punish them, deter and protect, although more programmes like Z18 are being introduced more into prisons.

Another reason why penal systems have had no significant impact on reoffending is because many prisoners are locked up for years and therefore don't get the chance to find work when they are released and can also lose family ~~relationships~~ relationships as well. This can result in reoffending because some prisoners may not have anywhere to go as

they have lost their possessions and have no one to go to and therefore will reoffend because they will have people with them and shelter. However, Open Prisons can help decrease reoffending because ~~they are able to~~ ~~work~~ open prisons can allow prisoners to continue with their lives ~~by~~ by going out and working and helping to establish family relations, which can also impact any children because they are able to see and interact with their parent in an open environment rather than ^{in an unfamiliar place.} for a limited time. An example of an effective open prison system is ~~the~~ Bastøy Prison in Norway. There is little supervision at the prison and all the prisoners ~~that~~ are able to work in

order to help prepare them for release and prisoners are sent to Bastøy after having served a period of time in a closed prison. Open prisons must have somewhat of a significant impact on reoffending because in Norway the reoffending rate is roughly just 16%.^{*} However, some prisons also give ^{certain} prisoners the opportunity to work ^{usually cleaning jobs,} which can help them once they are out in the community as it can help them to become more responsible. Therefore, prisons can have a limited impact on reoffending rates because although some prisoners are able to work within the prison, they can still have nothing to go to when they are released which can cause them to reoffend just to have the

Social Security.

In conclusion, penal systems have a limited impact on reoffending because they don't focus enough on how to prevent people reoffending before they are released. It can also leave them with nothing when they are released as they will likely have no house to go to, no money and prison can also cause them to lose relationships with people. However, prison can impact reoffending because they are being to introduce rehab programmes to help people become more effective members of society and the community and the opportunity for some prisoners to work. Although it can be argued that

Overall alternative ~~is~~ methods ^{to punishment} on the other hand ~~are~~ have more of an impact on reoffending compared to prison.

★ Electronic tagging can also link to this as it also offers prisoners to continue with their lives, although tagging usually comes along with curfews. According to Policy Exchange, it costs £13.14 to monitor a prisoner by tagging, making it one of the cheapest ~~alternative~~ alternative punishments.

and compared to prisons which can cost as much as £36,000 a year ^{Whereas} to keep a male prisoner. In America, tagging only cost £1.22 per prisoner therefore allowing more prisoners to be released on tags and helping to decrease

reoffending.

9. To a small extent covert participant observation would be the best method for investigating gang crimes in the UK. ^{However} Arguably the best ^{for investigating this issue} method [^] would be ~~#~~ holding a focus group.

One way a focus group would be a better method than covert participant observation is because the researcher would be able to target specific areas where crimes committed by gangs in the UK are high and would therefore be able to obtain more detailed responses. This also links to the fact that the people involved in the focus group would be

able to give personal accounts and experiences of gang crimes in the UK giving the researcher more in depth knowledge and understanding of crimes committed by gangs in the UK. Covert participant observation on the other hand would be less inappropriate ~~when~~ when investigating crimes committed by gangs in the UK because the participant may not be honest with ~~the~~ ^{the} research and give false responses which can cause the information gathered to be inaccurate.

Another way a focus group would be a better method for investigating gang crimes in the UK is because the researcher is able to ask further questions in order to gain more

detailed responses or to gain additional information. The researcher is also able to clarify any questions that the people participating in the focus group in order to get accurate and valid responses.

This can also be effective as the researcher can ask additional questions based on the conversation as a way of getting more honest ~~answers~~ answers and extra details.

However Covert participant observation ~~was~~ would not be the best ~~best~~ method ~~of~~ ^{to} research gang crimes in the UK in comparison to focus groups ~~is~~.

In conclusion, it can be argued that covert participant observation

is not the best method for researching crimes committed by gangs in the UK ~~to~~ ~~with~~ an comparison to focus groups, ~~because~~ because focus groups can target specific areas where gang crime is high in the UK and the researcher doesn't have set questions allowing them to be able to ask follow up questions and clarity questions the respondents don't understand in order to get the most accurate responses.

10. Source B can partially be considered trustworthy. One reason for this is that it comes from a reliable source, the Home Office, which ~~is~~ ^{is part of the} government and would therefore make Source B trustworthy as the government are likely to produce accurate information.

Another reason Source B can be viewed as trustworthy is because the Survey has been done multiple times in 2014, 2012, ²⁰⁰² and 1994 and therefore this can allow clear trends and comparisons to be drawn which can increase the validity of the statistics and findings of the report [★] and during the responses from 2014 survey, they received [^] just over half of the people asked, which can also increase validity of findings of the Survey

because they received a large number of responses back which can strengthen the findings, and produce more accurate information that can be used by the researcher.

Another reason why Source B can be considered to be trustworthy is because the data provided in the source has been weighted which means that the statistics have been checked and this shows clear differences from the original survey responses which can be trustworthy as it gives the researcher more accurate and valid data to use.

However, Source B can be considered untrustworthy because the survey was

carried out in 2014, and therefore the data can be a few years out of date. This is untrustworthy because during the three years there has been changes in Government and therefore changes in policies which may affect crime in certain areas.

Another reason why the source can be believed to be untrustworthy is because some of the evidence from the 2014 survey has been estimated based on interviews and therefore this is clearly untrustworthy as it may not show the true statistics of the findings of each group which can affect the validity because they may not be the true responses and may be inaccurate.

In conclusion, Source B is partially trustworthy as it comes from a reliable source and the data collected was weighted and was able to show trends over a long period of time and the survey received a somewhat high response rate. However, there are elements of it that are untrustworthy. For example, some data was estimated and could possibly be inaccurate and there have been changes in Government since 2014 which may ~~reflect~~ change the data presented.

★ the graphic of statistics is also useful as it ~~clear~~ somewhat clearly shows these trends for different businesses, ~~and~~ crimes and years, making Source B trustworthy.