Candidate 1 evidence

Instructions for candidates

This assignment is worth a maximum of 30 marks. Your report should be between 800 and 1,200 words long, excluding references, footnotes, and appendices. You must provide the word count of your completed report, excluding references, footnotes, and appendices. Your report is marked by SQA. If the word count exceeds the maximum by 10%, a penalty will be applied.

Please note that you are not permitted to use the two sociological studies which are a mandatory part of the National 5 Sociology course: – Rosenthal R. and Jacobson L. 1968. Pygmalion in the classroom. New York: Holt. Rinehart and Winston – Kingdon G. and Cassen R. 2007. Understanding low achievement in English schools. London School of Economics.

A Choosing and describing a topic that is of interest to sociologists – maximum of 2 marks available.

The issue for this assignment is Reasons for crime.
This is an important issue because it has an impact on people's safety.
It is an interest to sociologist because of social construction of crime, crime has been divided with certain criminal acts suck as theft, violent crime, and burglary have been on a decrease but stalking, sexually assault, fraud, and cybercrime have been on a increase.

B Describing basic differences between sociological and common-sense explanations of human social behaviour – maximum of **6** marks available.

A common-sense view on reasons for crime, would suggest that the reason why there's so much crime is because they enjoy the thrill of committing crime or lack morality. This is shown in a news report from Fox News with the subheading "Criminals just don't really care.
Another example of a common sense view is that criminals are most likely not to have jobs which is why burglary and theft is still big. This is shown in a blog post entitled "Poor, lazy and unemployed".

As shown above, while common sense arguments will say things like criminals just can't be bothered to get a real job, the research actually shows that being male and having societal pressures create a better understanding for causes of crime. For example, 95% of all murder convictions are men. This shows that there are more deep rooted reasons for crime, other than just laziness or just being bad.

C Using investigation skills to find appropriate sources of information – maximum of 2 marks available.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw3hrmn

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c747179w17eo

D Organising and interpreting information in sociology – maximum of 10 marks available.

Source 1:
My first source of information is (title)What are the causes and effects of crime?, https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw3hrmn
My first key finding from this source is that it suggests, peer pressures plays a big part amongst young people.
My second key finding from this source is, crime is statistically more likely to be committed by younger individuals (typically males aged 15-25) living in urban areas.
My final key finding is that poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational opportunities are strongly correlated with higher crime rates.
These findings suggest that the reason for crime is sociological because higher crime rates are often found in communities with high poverty and social inequality.

Source 2:
My first source of information is (title) Domestic abuse and indecent messages on the rise in Scotland, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c747179w17eo
My first key finding from the source is that it suggests, why domestic abuse has increased so much over the years. 20,271 reports were created about domestic abuse between April-September
My second key finding from this source is, according to records 35% of all reported incidents featured a male perpetrator, under the age of 35.
My final key finding is, men are also victims to domestic abuse with 15% featured a female perpetrator and a mail victim, and 3% were same sex couples.
These findings suggest that the reason for domestic abuse is getting worse over the years and the reports are increasing significantly with it getting 11% higher in only 6 months, as well as males under the age of 35 are more likely to commit domestic abuse. This shows that a significant factor in causing of crime is men. This would relate to feminist theory which argues that men have increased societal pressures which lead them to have toxic masculinity and act in a violent manner. While this is not an excuse there needs to be a shift if expectations in society.

E Communicating sociologically informed views – maximum of 10 marks available.

Sociological theory

Sociologists generally believe that the reason crime is committed is because of how society works, Albert Cohen states that lower education students want to succeed but lack motivation and interest on education that the end up not reaching their goals in life. This can link in with source 2 where there are different expectations of men.

On the other hand, Walter B Miller, who is also a Subcultural theorist believes that criminal activity does not spark from the lack of success, but is caused because the lower classes follow different norms and values compared to everyone else in the mainstream society, 'toughness' in the lower class subculture is an important feature but can also change into violence and criminal behaviour fast, and that he believes 'smartness' leads towards crime as allot of people try to be clever and sneaky to be better than other people. Lastly 'excitement' is another factor that Miller believes in that impacts on lower classes. The adrenaline rush can come easy from the risky actions such as committing crimes wether that's taking drugs, robbery, and murder. This links to source 1 in understanding the link between peer pressure and crime.

Conclusion

Overall the evidence presented here suggests that sociological theory is more relevant when explaining the issue on reasons for crime because sociological views are based on facts,
evidenced and research. Crime is a huge issue with the world and it shows by the domestic abuse rapidly increasing over months and that's only in Scotland this isn't talking about the United Kingdom Or any other country, in terms of burglary and theft that has decreased over the years whilst it's still a major issue it has calmed down in Scotland, and the fact that poverty and peer pressure play such a huge role when it comes to crime as everyone is staying to impress one another.

Bibliography

Police expert says "criminals just don't really care" as more crimes are caught on camera
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f389cd680f3241a2bc504547a8bc466a
https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/accuracy-criminal-statistics-matters#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20few%20things,of%20all%20convictions%20each%20year.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw3hrmn
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c747179w17eo

E Communicating sociologically informed views – maximum of 10 marks available.

It is clear from both sociological studies that the issue is still relevant today, as rape cases are still high. The trends are that men don't report rape cases as they feel embarrassed or they aren't confident enough to talk to someone about it. Research findings didn't consider men getting raped and the statistics. To understand this topic better, future studies should include clear statistics of men being raped. The stigma of under-reporting is also problematic because it creates difficulty in policy responses and leaves the survivor unsupported.

Feminist theory can be explained in terms of rape as an act of power and control. It challenges the notion of rape as a sexual act, highlighting its function as a form of male dominance and patriarchy. Radical feminists believe that criminal justice systems are male-dominated (67% are male officers in Scotland). Radical feminists are also interested in how men use their strength to overpower women and make it hard for women to refuse men.

Liberal feminists believe that men are more likely to be prosecuted for their violent crimes. According to Anne Oakley, canalisation channels children towards appropriate toys. This means that boys in childhood are given toys like boxing figures, tools, guns, and swords, so that they can learn aggression, while girls are given kitchen sets, making them learn that they are only for household tasks. This tells us that it is no surprise that males are prosecuted due to being violent. Expectations show that males are physically stronger, aren't meant to show any sign of weakness. This might make men hesitate to report assault or rape due to thinking they should 'man-up'.

The evidence has refuted the common-sense view that women are raped because they drink and wear revealing clothes. This is not right, as rape can happen for any reason. If it were about clothes, why are men and children the victims? There is evidence of labelling; the person who has committed this crime will now have a master status as a rapist. They won't be able to find jobs due to the master status, and their social lives will be affected. They will also end up losing people around them, making them lonely. The government should bring changes so that the raped and sexually abused are heard. The government has come up with a strategy for tackling this called Violence Against Women and Girls. This includes teachers to tackling misogyny in the classroom with a view to reducing violence. Young people should know how to report rape cases anonymously. They should learn about consent and respect. Abused men can't open up due to being judged. Usually, it is observed that the victim gets blamed instead of the offender, and most of the offenders do not get punished, as the victims do not report properly. The police should have courses on labelling, as they only focus on a certain group.