



# Indicative Content (Results)

June 2019

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in  
Forensic and Criminal Investigation

Unit 5: Applications of Criminology  
(20149K)



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June 2019

Publications Code 20149K\_1906\_MS

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# **Unit 5: Applications of Criminology**

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## **General marking guidance**

- All learners must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first learner in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Marking grids should be applied positively. Learners must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do, rather than be penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the marking grid, not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- All marks on the marking grid should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the marking grid are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks, if the learner's response is not rewardable according to the marking grid.
- Where judgement is required, a marking grid will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the marking grid to a learner's response, a senior examiner should be consulted.

## **Specific marking guidance**

The marking grids have been designed to assess learner work holistically. Rows in the grids identify the assessment focus/outcome being targeted. When using a marking grid, the 'best fit' approach should be used.

- Examiners should first make a holistic judgement on which band most closely matches the learner's response and place it within that band. Learners will be placed in the band that best describes their answer.
- The mark awarded within the band will be decided based on the quality of the answer, in response to the assessment focus/outcome and will be modified according to how securely all bullet points are displayed at that band.
- Marks will be awarded towards the top or bottom of that band, depending on how they have evidenced each of the descriptor bullet points.

## Indicative Content Summary (to be expanded and used alongside mark scheme for live papers)

### Activity 1

#### Summary Indicative Content

Activity 1 requires learners to use the case study and data to discuss the type of crime committed, interpret and discuss the usefulness of crime statistics, a general theoretical explanation of the crime committed and two specific theoretical theories (social class as defined in the Activity 1 question and age, which is implicit within the case study and figure 1).

Learners are likely to use a variety of theoretical knowledge and understanding of general and specific theories. They should be credited for supporting their argument with appropriate evidence and marked holistically.

#### **A1 Types of crime and statistics**

##### A1.1 Crimes against the person

- The crime in the case study is robbery, which is a crime against the person. A person is guilty of robbery if they steal, and immediately before or at the time, use force on any person (The Theft Act, 1968). In the case study Millie was pushed to the floor and the phone was grabbed out of her hand using force.
- Accept theft as the crime only if assault is discussed also. Theft alone is not acceptable.

##### A1.1 Indictable offences

- Robbery is an indictable offence (The Theft Act, 1968). This means that it can only be tried at Crown Court.
- The offenders in the case study have committed robbery. As they are young offenders, they could be tried at Crown Court, or at Youth Court depending on the severity.

##### A1.2.1 Home Office statistics

- Home Office statistics are official statistics. These are a record of crimes that have been both reported and recorded.
- Figure 2 shows that in 2016 around 15% of the school population were eligible for free school meals, suggesting that their families were lower class/living in poverty. 45% of those eligible for FSM had received custodial sentences suggesting a link between social class and crime.
- Figure 2 indicates that there is a significant number of young offenders who are involved with the CJS, or have received cautions that are eligible for FSM.
- Official statistics can be useful as they can show long-term and emerging trends in offending behaviour and police practices.

- Official statistics can be misleading as they only show crime that is reported and recorded. The dark figure of crime (the true crime rate) may be significantly different. For example, these figures only reflect the number of individuals eligible for FSM that have been caught committing offences, as they have received a caution or been charged.
- There is no reference in figure 2 to the rates of offending in the cohort who are not eligible for free school meals, so this may not be a true reflection of social class and crime.
- Police trends and practices can skew data. Police may spend more resources in fighting crime in lower class areas, so the arrest rate is higher, skewing the figures.

#### A1.2.2 Self-report victim, surveys

- Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) (Figure 1) is a self-report victim survey that interviews people about being the victim of a crime in the last 12 months. The figures from victim surveys can be very different to official statistics as they include crime that has not been reported.
- CSEW claims that only 4 in 10 crimes are reported to the police. Often due to fear of reprisal from the offender so the data in figure 1 may be more accurate than those in figure 2.
- Figure 1 shows that in 2017 the CSEW reported that there was around a 20% increase in the age of offenders aged between 10-15 committing robbery, where there has been a fall in both 16-24 (10%) and 25-39 year olds (8% approx.) age groups from 2015-2017.
- Victim surveys may not be accurate though. They rely on the memory of victims, so might be biased. Offences may not have been committed in the last 12 months/they may not be able to remember the age/characteristics of the offender accurately so just guess or answer in a socially desirable way.
- Figure 1 shows a large rise in 10-15 year olds committing robbery, they may be older than that, but victims are influenced by social factors such as media and see them as very young. In the case study Millie said the offender was really young, so may assume they were under 15 when they were not.

## **A2 General theoretical explanations**

#### A2.2.1 Left realism

- In the case study the Head of the school indicates that crime is rising because there are fewer jobs and people are living in poverty/need FSM. But Lea and Young state that deprivation is not a cause of crime. Crime is caused by relative deprivation, marginalisation and subculture.
- Relative deprivation is how deprived someone feels in relation to others. When people feel that others, unfairly, have more than them they resort to crime to get what they feel they are entitled to. In the case study Millie has a new phone. The

offenders see this as unfair as she may be around their age, but they cannot afford such a phone, so they steal hers.

- Lea and Young claim that although people in society today are better off they are also more aware of what others have (compared to themselves) due to the media. Adverts and programmes that show the rich and famous raise the expectations for material possessions. For people who cannot afford these possessions, such as those in figure 2 on free school meals, crime is an option.
- Left realists state that working-class youths feel relatively deprived compared to middle-class youths. (Link to A3 below)
- Lea and Young claim that individualism is leading to disintegration of families and communities, which reduces the informal controls creating a spiral of crime and antisocial behaviour. The Head of the local school and parents are not able to stop young people from getting involved in crime.
- Marginalisation is where groups have no representation, organisation or clear goals. Young people in the case study from the school and Croyley area see an area where they are unlikely to get a job when they leave school. They are likely to be young and unemployed. Feeling marginalised leads to frustration and hostility towards authority and can result in offending such as seen in the case study.
- Subculture is the answer to relative deprivation. Deviant subcultures, such as becoming part of a robbery spree, are a reaction to being undervalued by society, but still value the goals of mainstream society like consumerism and materialism. In the case study the robbers are stealing high value electronic items.

### **A3 Specific theoretical explanations**

#### **A3.3 Social class**

- Omolade (2014) found 43% of prisoners in England and Wales had no educational qualifications. When sentenced 60% were claiming benefits. In the case study the Head of the school claims that a lot of problems in the area are down to loss of unskilled work in the area.
- A prison reform working group (2002) found 67% of the entire prison population of England and Wales were unemployed and 32% were homeless before prison. The case study explains that Croyley is suffering from a reduction in household income due to lack of jobs, which suggests unemployment.
- Reiner (2007) 74% of the prison population are from the poorest 20% of society.
- Hagell & Newburn (1994) most persistent young offenders came from working-class homes (whose head was in manual work or unemployed) compared to only 8% from middle-class backgrounds. The case study and figure 2 both point towards a rise in crime in the Croyley area where there have been traditionally unskilled manual workers, and people are living in poverty/lower class due to claiming free school meals.
- Statistics may not be accurate as FSM status may not be an accurate measure of social class.

- “working-class” crimes such as robbery in the case study are far more likely to be prosecuted and recorded than “middle-class” white-collar crimes such as fraud.
- There are many relevant theories to link social class and crime.
- Strain theory (functionalism) individuals cannot achieve societal goals through acceptable means so turn to crime. The offenders in the case study would be innovators, achieving goals such as having mobile phones, but rejecting the traditional way of achieving them.
- Marxism states that inequalities give the working class a sense of injustice and frustration that they are not sharing wealth. As a result, capitalism leads to crime. Millie is flaunting her expensive mobile phone in public. This results in people who cannot afford such items taking them from her.
- Hirschi argues that criminal activity occurs when attachment to society is weakened. According to Hirschi there are four social bonds that bind us together – Attachment; Commitment; Involvement and Belief. When these are weakened delinquency occurs. He states that offenders are likely to be young, unemployed and single. The offenders in the case study are youth offenders and they are from an area of high unemployment and low prospects.

### A3.2 Age

- Ashe (2008) found that 22% of 10-25 year olds admitted to at least 1 of 20 core crimes in the past 12 months; theft and assault being the biggest. Often because of wanting to impress their friends, or from being bored. The offenders in the case study are 13 and have previously committed theft.
- Cohen: young people turn to crime due to status frustration. This means that they don’t have the independence they want as they are stuck between child and adult. The offenders in the case study are 13 so would fit this description.
- Miller (1958) focal concerns: working-class boys are socialised into values such as excitement, toughness and trouble that meant they were more likely than others to engage in delinquent or deviant behaviour.
- Focal concerns are exaggerated in young people because they are seeking to achieve peer group status. The young offenders in the case study are seeking excitement from riding mopeds to commit robbery and getting into trouble to demonstrate toughness.
- Lyng (1990) Edgework claims that young people get a “buzz” from the excitement of “living on the edge” and carrying out risk-taking and impulsive behaviours, such as committing robbery in the case study and driving at high speed through a shopping area.
- Matza claims young people drift, due to status frustration and weakened social bonds. Because they have lost their identity, they turn to their peer group where they are able to get a sense of identity, excitement and status. He says that young people do not commit to a criminal career and will drift in and out of it.
- When they have committed a criminal act, young people will go through techniques of neutralisation where they will excuse or neutralise any blame for what they have done. One technique that the offenders in the case study could

use is denying causing injury to the victim. They could claim that she was not hurt, and the phone can be replaced.

- Young people are more likely to commit visible crimes such as robbery in the case study, which was very visible, so these more likely to be seen and reported (Fitzgerald et al, 2003).

## Activity 2

### **Summary Indicative Content**

Activity 2 requires learners to discuss theories of crime prevention and punishment; and suggest the most appropriate aim and sentence type related to the crime in the case study.

#### **B1 methods of crime prevention**

##### B1.3 Postmodernist methods of crime prevention

- Postmodernists state that in a postmodern society, there is more emphasis on private crime prevention techniques and informal arrangements of controlling crime.
- There is a fragmentation of society and this is reflected in the fragmentation of organised crime prevention, as private methods of crime prevention and informal, local arrangements for controlling crime are emphasised over relying on the police.
- In a modern society, surveillance techniques such as CCTV are used to control everyone, not just offenders. The shopping area has CCTV installed as a security measure rather than relying on police patrols to reduce crime.
- Foucault states that surveillance is now part of our everyday lives and citizens are now being regarded as consumers. These consumers are seduced into avoiding social harm by participating in the consumer society.
- Crime can be prevented by turning people into consumers; data gathered from social media and loyalty card schemes targets consumers with customised advertising, seducing them with promises of happiness in the status quo of this consumer culture.
- Some members of society are not seduced or cannot afford to engage in consumer culture, such as those in the case study who are from lower class families who possibly struggle to find work.
- Individuals are then subjected to stricter controls through CCTV and surveillance systems. Such as in the case study where the offenders were identified using CCTV.
- Therefore, controlling crime in an area such as Leechester should focus on including more CCTV and localised policing to control the behaviour of the youths, in the hope that this would put them off committing crime.
- More aggressive forms of policing are only appropriate for those who don't want to cooperate in the consumer society. Here, it would appear that only heavier and



repressive policing is appropriate as the youths don't appear to be seduced by the consumer society, or more likely they do not have the means to take part, so they commit robbery.

- Crime should no longer be classified by the breaking of a law, but by harm inflicted on another. In the case study harm of reduction is inflicted on the victim; the moped robbers use their power to cause the victim immediate loss and harm.

## **B2 Punishment**

### **B2.1.1 Functionalist**

- There are two main justifications for punishment, reduction and retribution.
- Reduction is preventing the criminal from committing further crime. This can be done by using punishment as a deterrence or through incapacitation. The offenders have previously received cautions for similar offences in the past but this has not deterred them from committing crime so incapacitation would be another option.
- Retribution is where the individual is punished for what they have done. Cautions were not effective so the next step would be something more controlling.
- Durkheim's function of punishment is to reinforce shared values and maintain social solidarity. By punishing the offenders in the case study the hope would be that the robberies would reduce as the shared values of society (abiding by the law) would be reinforced.
- By punishing the offenders, people in Leechester can feel that they are safe from the robbers, the law is working and society is functioning. By punishing the offender society's value consensus is reaffirmed with a feeling of moral unity.
- Durkheim identified two types of punishment.
- Retributive justice is often found in traditional societies that have a strong collective conscious. Punishment is severe, known as "an eye for an eye" such as corporal punishments or the death penalty. Restitutive justice is found in modern society. Crime damages the relationship between individuals, so restoration is needed, this is done through things like compensation. For the offenders in the case study restoration could be in the form of community service as part of a YRO, or to reimburse Millie by paying compensation for the phone and emotional strain caused.

### **B2.2.2 Aims in youth sentencing**

- The principle aims of youth justice are twofold. Prevent offending and look after the welfare of the offender.
- Sentencing upholds the aims of punishment, protection, reduction of offending and reparation.
- Factors such as: age of the offender, seriousness of the offence, likelihood of reoffending and extent of harm from further offences should be considered in making the decision as to which of these aims is most appropriate. The offenders

are 13 so very young, but they have committed an indictable offence and one has previously had a caution so has reoffended. Further offences are likely in this case.

### B2.3.2 Types of sentences: youth sentences

- Sentencing can incorporate several options; YOI, Detention and Training Orders, Youth Referral Orders or fines. In the case study the offenders could have detention and training orders for persistent offenders aged 10-14 or a custodial sentence in a YOI as the offence carries a maximum penalty of a life sentence.
- The offenders do not have past convictions so are not persistent offenders.
- As the aim of sentencing young people is to rehabilitate them and prevent further crime, the most appropriate form of sentence for the offenders is a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Gives the court the option of combining orders from a list of 16, including a curfew requirement, a supervision requirement and an unpaid work requirement.
- The offenders can be ordered to take drug testing and become involved with treatment programmes. They can also be ordered into education programmes, as they should all be involved in some form of education or training until the age of 18, which could help them to gain skilled employment.
- A curfew can also be enforced with electronic monitoring to ensure that they are not in the shopping area of Leechester where the offences in the case study took place.
- The court may impose intensive supervision and surveillance, which will only be imposed if the offence was imprisonable, such as robbery in the case study, and the court feels the offence is 'so serious' that a custodial sentence would be appropriate.
- The order must include supervision; curfew; electronic monitoring; and activity of more than 90 days but not more than 180 days, known as an 'extended activity' requirement.

*Learners may present other aims of sentencing, which can be credited if given with a justification.*

## Activity 3

### **Summary Indicative Content**

Learners are expected to explain victimisation in relation to Millie Whittaker in the case study and article.

#### **C2: Victims of crime**

##### Patterns of victimisation C2.1

- Becoming a victim of crime is more likely for some people than others. Most victims of crime go on to become repeat victims; around 4% of the population account for victims of 44% of all crime. In the interview with Millie Whittaker it is revealed that she has been a victim before when had her purse and phone stolen from her bag in a restaurant.
- Millie is likely to become a victim of crime because of age and her gender.
- Younger people are more at risk of victimisation. Millie is 17 so not yet an adult.
- Gender may have been a factor as although men are more likely to be a victim, women are more likely to face harassment, such as being followed and pushed over.

##### C2.2.1 Positive victimology

- Positivist victimologists identify patterns that make people more prone to becoming victims.
- Von Hentig (1948) two factors that increase the chance of becoming a victim. Victim proneness focusing on 13 characteristics that increase this chance.
- Some of the characteristics that apply to Millie would be female, lonesome (on her own when she got off the bus) and young.
- Victim precipitation is where a person contributes to being a victim. Millie contributed to becoming a victim by flashing her mobile phone in public, and not being aware of who was around her/following her. She has also previously been a victim, again contributing by leaving her bag on the back of her chair where she could not see it.
- Wolfgang (1958) found that 28% of victims triggered events leading to their death.
- This can be criticised for blaming of the victim, suggesting that they invited the crime in some way.

##### Impact of victimisation C2.3

- The impact of crime can lead to insecurity, such as Millie not feeling safe in town without her parents.
- It can result in an increase in precautions and problems in socialising. Millie and her friends have stopped going into Leechester at night now as they are worried

about what might happen to them.

- Victimisation can spread further afield than the individual to secondary victimisation, where crimes such as robbery can affect whole communities; people becoming afraid of being a victim of this type of robbery, or not taking their phones out with them, even if it has not actually happened to them directly. Millie's friends are also afraid to go to Leechester now, even though they were not victims themselves.

## Activity 4

### Summary Indicative Content

Learners should assess the news values relevant to the article with Millie and the representation of her social class.

#### C1) The media and crime:

News values: C1.1.1

- Journalists use a set criteria called news values. They use this to decide if a story is newsworthy or whether people will be interested in it.
  - Whether the dramatisation is enough, in the case study there has been a sharp increase in moped-related robberies. The snatch and grab is exciting and dramatic.
  - Personalisation means whether the article has human interest, the interview was personalised to Millie and the impact on her.
  - Immediacy talks about whether the crime is close enough geographically to the readers of the article and if it is happening now. In the case study, it is relevant to the people who use the shopping area in Leechester and is happening at the time of writing.
  - Violence enables the media to report a story using drama, which makes more readers interested. In the case study, Millie was pushed to the ground and the phone was pulled out of her hand. This is violent and makes the crime robbery rather than theft, which is also more dramatic.
  - Risk refers to the likelihood of the reader becoming a victim. Most people use mobile phones or electronic devices so the likelihood of becoming a victim is high.
  - Unexpectedness is whether the crime is out of the ordinary. Having a phone snatched is not routine and would be unexpected and shocking.
  - Simplification is whether the crime is easily understood. Snatching mobile phones does not need any background or detail.

#### C1.1.2 Age

- Hough and Roberts (2004) public opinion is misinformed about youth crime, and that the media is responsible for a large proportion. In their survey, despite the overall trend of falling crime levels,  $\frac{3}{4}$  believed that there had been an increase in the number of young offenders. 64% said the media were the main source of information. The news article reports that the police are powerless to stop the young moped robbers and that this type of crime is increasing.
- Young people are growing up in a culture that has widespread negative media perceptions. Ennals (2003) young people are 'vilified' by the media and the public. The media labels the offenders as teenage thieves, even though there may be older offenders involved too.
- The media report on the most violent and sensational crimes – these are in the

minority and not representative of the types of offence that make up the majority of youth court hearings (Hough and Roberts, 2004). In the interview study the crime is sensationalised as it involves mopeds used to snatch phones and the victim is pushed over. This is a dramatic event and the police are not stopping them.

- In the case study the age of the offenders is prominent, and the Head of the school is mentioned making it sound like a lot of young people are involved. The media are selective in reporting youth crime. Mattinson and Mirrlees-Black (2000) reduction in vandalism and shoplifting between 1995-1997 did not lead to a fall in public perceptions of youth crime. High-profile crimes, such as the James Bulger murder (BBC, 1993), still stay in the public mind.
- High-profile crimes committed by, and on, children and young people have affected the public perception of youth crime (Youth Justice Board, 2008). The crime in the article was high profile and visible to many people so may affect the reporting and public perception of young people.
- Lovbakke and Moley (2007) newspaper readership influences how people perceive offending and crime rates. National tabloid readers were shown to be twice as likely as broadsheet readers to suggest that crime had risen 'a lot'.

#### C1.2 Media as a contribution to the fear of crime

- Moral panic is when the media increase the level of public concern about a problem out of all proportion.
- Moral panic increases the audience of the media. For instance, the residents of Leechester may watch the news more to see if there have been any further moped related robberies.
- Young, working-class individuals, such as the offenders in the case study, are often the subject of moral panic (Cohen).
- Moral panics can lead to deviancy amplification. When a social group, such as young, working-class individuals are labelled as offenders, they are stigmatised.
- This increases police and media attention such as more arrests and more reporting of offences around moped robberies.
- This is more likely to make young, working-class individuals more aware of their labels and creates a self-fulfilling prophecy where they are likely to take part in these types of offence. This creates a cycle of labelling, offending, police action and media reporting, which escalates.