

GCSE GENERAL STUDIES

Unit 1 (Case Study)

June 2016

Case Study Material

Case Study material on 'The changing patterns of modern crime'

Instructions

- To be issued to teachers and candidates on or after **1 March 2016**.
- You may write notes in this copy of the Case Study, but you will not be allowed to bring this copy, or any notes you may have made, into the examination.
- You will be given a clean copy of this material at the start of the examination on Wednesday 15 June 2016.

Advice (See Specification, 2.1 Summary of Assessment)

- Teachers are allowed to discuss this material with candidates.
- Candidates are encouraged to do their own research and wider-reading around the topic and sources provided.

Information

- The Preliminary Material is to be seen by teachers and candidates **only**, for use during preparation for the examination on Wednesday 15 June 2016. It **cannot** be used by anyone else for any other purpose, other than as stated in the instructions issued, until after the examination date has passed. It must **not** be provided to third parties.

There is no source material printed on this page

Study **all** the information in this booklet.

The changing patterns of modern crime

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(See **Advice** on the front cover of this booklet)

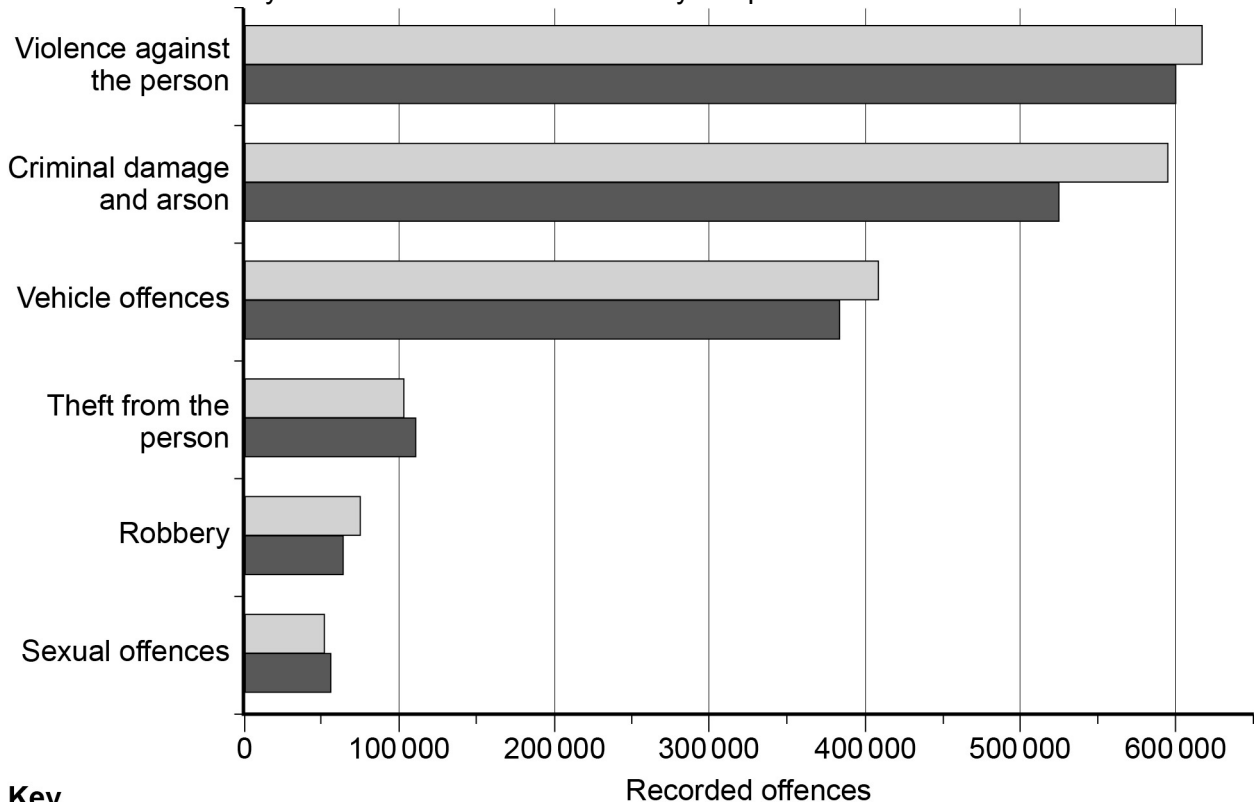
Source 1

What do crime statistics tell us?



The Home Office, a branch of the Government, publishes crime statistics in England and Wales each year. Some statistics are obtained from the police records of arrests and referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service. Other statistics are gathered through a telephone survey of people representing all groups in society. In this way it is possible to have a view of the public's perceptions of crime as well as data on reported crimes where the police have been formally involved.

The trends shown by statistics of crimes recorded by the police in 2012 – 2013 are shown below:



Key

■ Year end June 2012

■ Year end June 2013

Crimes recorded by the police for Year Ending June 2012 and Year Ending June 2013.

The telephone survey, conducted across a nationally representative sample of people, produced the following information:

- Households within the UK experienced 8.5 million crimes in the year ending June 2013.
- 0.8 million crimes (out of 8.5 million in total) were experienced by children aged 10 to 15.
- Crimes against households were down 7% compared with the previous year's survey. This is the lowest in the history of the survey and less than half of the peak level for crimes against households.

Crimes **reported** to the police also show the following data:

- 3.7 million offences were reported to the police in the year ending June 2013, a decrease of 5% compared with the previous year. This is the lowest comparative level since 2002/03 when the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced to bring greater consistency to crime recording.
- Victim-based crime accounted for 83% (3.1 million offences) of all offences reported and fell by 6% in the year ending June 2013 compared with the previous year.
- Other crimes against society (totalling 400 156) showed a decrease of 8% compared with the previous year.
- In the year ending June 2013, 230 335 fraud offences were reported. This represents a volume increase of 21% compared with the previous year. This should be seen in the context of a move towards the centralised recording of fraud by the police. It should also be noted that some fraud cases are not recorded as "theft from the person" because banks invariably pay back the stolen money to the person who owns the account or credit card.

Turn over for the next source

Source 2

Police not recording a fifth of crimes, watchdog report suggests



A fifth of crimes in England and Wales could be going unrecorded by police, according to a report.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) independently assesses police forces and policing at all levels – in the public interest. The watchdog claims: “We ask the questions which citizens would ask, and publish the answers in accessible form, using our expertise to interpret the evidence. We provide authoritative information to allow the public to compare the performance of their local force against others, and our evidence is used to drive improvements in the service to the public.”

The HMIC's study of 13 forces across England and Wales revealed that on average, around a fifth of reported crimes were not recorded by the police. An unrecorded crime is classed as one that is reported to the police, but not recorded as an offence.

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) said 14 alleged rapes were among the crimes that had not been recorded by officers. One report of rape was not recorded because of “workload pressure”, the inspection of 13 forces found.
- Home Secretary Theresa May said the HMIC report exposed “unacceptable failings” by the police.

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- The report said that if its initial findings were repeated across England and Wales, it could mean 20% of all crimes were going unrecorded.
 - Mrs May said it was “quite possible” the HMIC study could lead to an increase in recorded crime.
 - The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) said the report highlighted both “strengths and weakness” in the forces inspected.
 - “We believe that it is weak or absent management, poor knowledge on the part of those making the crime recording decisions with the crime recording rules, weak or absent training or workload pressures that has led to poor recording,” said Chief Inspector of Constabulary Tom Winsor. “But because the failure rate is as high as it is... it is impossible to rule out discreditable or unethical behaviour.”
 - The BBC’s home editor Mark Easton said crime levels were decreasing. He said: “There is a great temptation to suggest that police statistics on crime trends cannot be trusted, fuelling suggestions that crime is rising while politicians say it is falling. Crime is falling - fast. It has been for 20 years. Police records have always been a poor measure of crime trends, partly for the reasons identified by the HMIC, such as workload pressure. People should not think their risk of being a crime victim is rising. It is at an historically low level.”
 - Inspectors listened to original calls from the public and the resulting incident reports to check whether or not crimes had been recorded correctly.
 - Out of a sample of 3,102 reported incidents across 13 forces audited so far, HMIC found 2,551 crimes should have been recorded but 523 were not. These included reported sexual offences, violent crimes, robbery and burglary. 28 offences were correctly left unrecorded.

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Source 3

Technology to help cyclists stay safe

Smart pedals that warn when a bike is stolen have been unveiled at the Consumer Electronics Show 2015.

The pedals have in-built sensors that spot when a bicycle has been stolen and can report where it has been taken. The pedal has its own coded key to ensure that it can only be used by its rightful owner.

French firm “Connected Cycle” showed off its smart pedal that it hopes will help reduce the number of cycles being stolen.



The smart pedal is self-powered and can monitor what happens to the bike to which it is attached

“In Europe six bikes are stolen every minute and everyone who cycles in a city knows that bike theft is a real problem,” said Connected Cycle founder Jean-Marie Debbasch.

Connected Cycle’s pedal looks like any other but, he said, it can be used to turn an old, dumb bike into one that is much smarter.

“Inside the pedal we have GPS, a GPRS connection and also a sensor that captures your activity,” said Mr Debbasch.

“Everything goes to the cloud and is displayed on a smartphone app. It is totally autonomous, it has its own generation of energy and internet connection so that you can be alerted if someone steals your bike,” he said.

Source 4

Car key burglary message



A recent circular to all residents from Wolverhampton Police

This is a request to help reduce house burglaries, committed with the intention of stealing a car. There has been a small number of house burglaries in the area, committed with the intention of stealing the homeowner's car.

On every occasion the offenders have fished the car keys from either the letter box or through a broken window. Vehicles being stolen are models that are desirable or of high value.

Because car security has improved markedly in recent years, offenders seeking to steal cars are having to obtain the keys by burgling houses, or in rare cases threatening the owner.

Wolverhampton police are taking a number of steps to prevent this type of crime, including increased patrols in the affected areas and investigating any information that we receive from the community.

You can also help by being vigilant. Be on the lookout for any unusual individuals or vehicles in your street, particularly if they appear to be paying attention to a house where a desirable car is parked, whether or not the car is there at the time.

Car owners, especially those owning cars of high value, are advised to take extra precautions. Our advice to you is:

- Never leave car keys in open view of your letterbox or ground floor windows where they might be "fished" by a pole with a hook through the letterbox or window
- Always keep your windows and doors locked
- Fit a steering lock to your vehicle as this will prevent the vehicle from being driven away
- Because it is the car keys the thief wants, when at home at night DO leave them downstairs, do not take them upstairs with you. If they are persistent enough to break-in it is best you do NOT risk them entering your bedroom areas
- If you have a garage, always make sure the car is parked in it overnight
- If you have a home security system, always use it
- Invest in a tracking device so if your car is stolen it stands a better chance of being traced. If your car is fitted with a tracking device, activate it every time
- Be alert when you are outside – consider who is around you and where your keys are
- Before getting out of your car, check your surroundings – wherever you are. If you feel uneasy do not park. Drive off and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Source 5

Case study 1: Crime in Carlisle, Cumbria

Cumbria is a diverse county with both rural and urban areas, it is one of the safest places to live, work and visit with relatively low levels of crime compared to other areas in England and Wales.

Cumbria is the second largest county in England by area and is one of the most sparsely populated areas, with a population of just under half a million. The county's largest settlements, Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness, account for only 15% and 12% of the county's total population respectively, while only 19 others have a population of more than 2500.

There are significant areas of isolated and rural community, and the county has one of the lowest visible minority ethnic populations in the country. Each year Cumbria, which incorporates the Lake District National Park, attracts over 23 million visitors from all over the world, 7 million of who stay more than one day. The county has 67 miles of motorway and some 700 miles of trunk and primary roads.

In the year to April 2015, 2706 crimes were reported in Carlisle City Centre. Of these, roughly 40% were anti-social behaviour such as throwing around beer cans or arguing in an aggressive manner.

Detailed statistics for Carlisle City Centre

Comparison of crime types in this area between May 2014 and April 2015

Crime type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	1079	39.87%
Bicycle theft	24	0.89%
Burglary	35	1.29%
Criminal damage and arson	128	4.73%
Drugs	89	3.29%
Other crime	20	0.74%
Other theft	147	5.43%

Crime type	Total	Percentage
Possession of weapons	6	0.22%
Public order	164	6.06%
Robbery	5	0.18%
Shoplifting	508	18.77%
Theft from the person	21	0.78%
Vehicle crime	22	0.81%
Violence and sexual offences	458	16.93%

Case study 2: Crime in Southampton, Hampshire

Hampshire is a large county in the South of England. It is smaller than Cumbria but more densely populated. It is still one of the safest areas in which to live in England. Among its claims to fame are the two great harbours of Portsmouth and Southampton.

Hampshire is the ninth largest county of England in geographical area, and also the ninth largest in population; with a population of just over 1.3 million. Its population is swollen by the number of commuters living in Hampshire but travelling each day to London by train. Trains from Aldershot to London take less than 40 minutes. The largest settlements are Aldershot, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester.

In the 18th century, the main London to Southampton road was famous for highwaymen. Dick Turpin was said to have his headquarters in the small town of Farnborough. Nowadays the road runs through heathland and tranquil, rolling country, while most of the traffic runs along the M3.

In the year to April 2015, 16 802 crimes were reported in Southampton Town Centre. Of these, roughly 40% were anti-social behaviour, most committed by people under 25 on Friday evenings or during weekends.

Detailed statistics for Southampton Town Centre

Comparison of crime types in this area between May 2014 and April 2015

Crime type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	6677	39.73%
Bicycle theft	444	2.64%
Burglary	1133	6.74%
Criminal damage and arson	608	3.61%
Drugs	598	3.56%
Other crime	877	5.22%
Other theft	1109	6.60%

Crime type	Total	Percentage
Possession of weapons	74	0.44%
Public order	831	4.95%
Robbery	140	0.83%
Shoplifting	1482	8.82%
Theft from the person	76	1.95%
Vehicle crime	890	5.30%
Violence and sexual offences	1616	9.61%

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