

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.Sc.

Laws C40: Criminology

COURSE CODE : LAWSC040

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 13-MAY-03

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours 15 Minutes

CRIMINOLOGY

Answer **THREE** questions.

1. Are we likely to find a criminal gene that predisposes people to commit crime? What might be the policy implications of such a discovery?
2. Balch has argued that whilst physical illness exists independently of any social reaction to it, criminal behaviour exists only because of the social reaction to it. (Balch in Moir and Jessel 1995 'A Mind to Crime').

Discuss.

3. When talking of the ideological functions of imprisonment, Thomas Mathiessen (1974) refers to the ways in which prisons serve to house and control a proportion of the unproductive population of late capitalist societies in a way that denies them any power. He also argues that by marking out and punishing traditional criminals from the lower working class, prisons divert attention away from the dangers flowing from those in power.
What do you think of this statement? What does it suggest about the production of crime?
4. Critically analyse the assertion of control theorists that what really needs explaining is law-abiding behaviour and not law-breaking behaviour.
5. How violence is lived or experienced – the meaning and significance that violent acts have for particular groups and subcultures – helps to explain why so many violent offences are committed by young men.

Discuss.

6. What do you understand by ecological theories of crime? Are they persuasive?
7. Structure, culture and agency have all been implicated as factors in the causation or production of crime. Which, if any, of these might be considered the most important?

END OF PAPER