AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

REVISION FLASHCARDS

CRIME AND DEVIANCE

tutor2u
THESE REVISION FLASHCARDS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR REVISION FOR AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY.

The cards are split into easily-identified, colour-coded sections, mapping different aspects of the Crime and Deviance topic specification:

- **THEORIES OF CRIME**
- **PATTERNS OF CRIME**
- **CONTEMPORARY CRIME**
- **VICTIMS AND JUSTICE**

There are also links to key themes and a handy revision checklist.
DURKHEIM ON DEVIANCE
DEVIANCE IS:
- Functional, normal, inevitable
- There would be deviance even in a “society of sinners”

FUNCTIONS OF DEVIANCE:
- Boundary maintenance and social change (also Davies, 1976, argues it acts as a safety valve)

DEVIANCE IN MODERN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY:
- More deviance because more isolated (less mechanical solidarity) – weaker social bonds
- Rapid change leads to anomie (normlessness; absence of social control and cohesion)
- Too much deviance and too little can be signs of a dysfunctional society

HOWEVER:
- Realists argue these ideas do not help tackle crime
- Marxists criticise Durkheim for not questioning who makes the rules
- Other functionalists ask: why do some people deviate and others conform?
THEORIES OF CRIME
FUNCTIONALISM

BONDS OF ATTACHMENT
TRAVIS HIRSCHI (1969):

Why do people not commit crimes? How is social control maintained?

Hirschi identified four bonds of attachment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attachment</td>
<td>How much do we care what others think? We might particularly care about what our spouses or children would think if we committed crimes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>What have we got to lose? If we have a good job (for example) committing a crime puts a lot at risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement</td>
<td>How involved are we with society? What takes up our time? If we work and are involved in group hobbies or leisure activities or volunteering, would we have time to commit crime?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belief</td>
<td>To what extent do we believe obeying the law is the right thing to do? How strong is our personal moral code?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However: does not question why some in society have more secure bonds of attachment than others.
THEORIES OF CRIME
INTERACTIONISM

FOLK DEVILS AND MORAL PANICS
Stan Cohen (1972):
Studied the societal reaction to fights between mods and rockers.

Introduced two new concepts:

Folk devils: Villains, constructed by the media for their narrative of any “deviance”. In this case it was the mods and rockers and youth culture. It is easier to tell the story with clear “baddies”.

Moral panics: Any “over-the-top” or sensationalist reaction to an issue that relates to morality / right-and-wrong. The implication is that the reaction is out of proportion to the issue itself and indeed may serve to create the phenomenon it is reacting to (see deviancy amplification, card 37).

There were scuffles between the rival youth subcultures, but it was the reaction to this (by media, police, etc.) which turned it into a phenomenon, which in turn brought more and more people to beaches on bank holidays to join in deviant behaviour that had effectively been created by the moral panic.
GENDER

CONTROL THEORY
FRANCES HEIDENSOHN:
An alternative feminist explanation for why women commit fewer crimes than men.

Women and girls are controlled more throughout their lives: girls by their fathers and perhaps male siblings; women by their husbands.

As such, boys spend more time unsupervised, out with friends, late at night, etc. and therefore have more opportunities for crime.

However...
Again, some argue that this is outdated and does not reflect the lives of women today.

If this is the case, then Adler would again suggest this helps account for the significant rise in female crime in recent decades.
Transgressive Criminology
A very important concept in the study of crime and deviance is **transgression**. Most studies of crime begin from a clear definition of crime as acts that break the law. However, some sociologists - particularly those critical of the law and lawmakers - point out that this misses out a lot of **harmful behaviour which is legal but should not be**.

Some Marxists would point to legal but harmful behaviour by companies (e.g. low pay and exploitation, or setting up business in countries where they can get away with minimal health and safety protections or workers’ rights).

Some feminists argue that feminist criminology should not focus on the laws made by a patriarchal society but instead focus on all behaviour that causes harm to women, regardless of whether or not it is illegal.

Some green criminologists are interested in all activity harmful to the environment. State crime is best understood in a transgressive way.
EVALUATING SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION
• Can be very effective (councils, businesses, home-owners tend to approve).
• Some specific crimes have definitely been reduced (e.g. intruder alarms have reduced burglaries).

However:

• **Displacement.** These measures may move the crime to a different neighbourhood, rather than actually help to prevent it altogether. For example, CCTV being widespread in city centres has moved crime into other areas of cities.

• **Fortress cities.** Zygmunt Bauman writes of cities in late modernity being controlled and protected with people unwilling to dare to travel outside them (like medieval fortresses).

• Some of the activities targeted by Situational Crime Prevention might not be considered criminal or deviant by everyone (e.g. rough sleeping should be dealt with by housing policy and charities rather than by crime prevention strategies).