

AQA Sociology Crime and Deviance Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What do Cloward and Ohlin's three subcultures demonstrate?**
 - A. Different power dynamics in society**
 - B. Responses to lack of legitimate opportunities**
 - C. Individual criminal motivations**
 - D. Societal norms discouraging crime**
- 2. What do statistics suggest about occupational diseases in the UK?**
 - A. They are rare and not a significant issue**
 - B. They cause an estimated 50,000 deaths per year**
 - C. Only a small number are reported**
 - D. They mainly affect office workers**
- 3. What does the chivalry thesis fail to acknowledge regarding male crimes against women?**
 - A. That they are more often reported than female crimes**
 - B. That they are less serious than female crimes**
 - C. That many are never reported at all**
 - D. That they are punished more harshly than female crimes**
- 4. What does Left Realism suggest should be addressed to combat crime effectively?**
 - A. Strict enforcement of existing laws**
 - B. Inequality of opportunity and unfair rewards**
 - C. Increased punitive measures against offenders**
 - D. Greater focus on victim support programs**
- 5. What is a particular criticism regarding the assumptions made by Carlen and Heidensohn?**
 - A. They focus too heavily on individual accountability**
 - B. They neglect the role of social structures**
 - C. They underestimate the impact of media on crime**
 - D. They only consider female perspectives**

- 6. What is a key aspect of the labeling theory's view on corporate crime as suggested by Cicourel (1968)?**
- A. Middle-class individuals are often punished more harshly**
 - B. Middle-class behaviors are more likely to be negotiated**
 - C. All individuals are subject to the same legal consequences**
 - D. Corporations engage in crime on a larger scale**
- 7. What aspect do Taylor et al. emphasize in their fully social theory of deviance?**
- A. The individual criminal's background only**
 - B. Multiple interrelated factors leading to deviance**
 - C. The role of punishment in society**
 - D. The effectiveness of social rehabilitation programs**
- 8. What were the consequences of the KPMG crime in the USA?**
- A. It led to significant improvements in corporate regulations**
 - B. KPMG was fined 456 million for tax fraud**
 - C. KPMG faced no penalties and continued operations**
 - D. KPMG is now banned from corporate activities**
- 9. Heidensohn's argument about bias against women in the court system suggests what about female offenders?**
- A. They are treated more leniently for similar crimes as males**
 - B. They are typically punished for ignoring gender norms**
 - C. They are always given custodial sentences**
 - D. They face no bias in court rulings**
- 10. What evidence does the Chivalry Thesis provide from self-reported studies?**
- A. Females report fewer crimes than they actually commit**
 - B. Males are less likely to admit to crimes**
 - C. Women are often treated more leniently than men**
 - D. Men are 2.33 times more likely to report their crimes accurately**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. C**
- 4. B**
- 5. B**
- 6. B**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. A**

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. What do Cloward and Ohlin's three subcultures demonstrate?

- A. Different power dynamics in society**
- B. Responses to lack of legitimate opportunities**
- C. Individual criminal motivations**
- D. Societal norms discouraging crime**

Cloward and Ohlin's theory emphasizes how individuals adapt to their social environments, particularly in the face of limited legitimate opportunities. Specifically, they propose that the youth who experience blocked access to conventional success paths tend to form distinct subcultures as a response. These subcultures represent different ways of coping with the strain of not being able to achieve societal goals through approved means. The subcultures identified by Cloward and Ohlin are the criminal, conflict, and retreatist subcultures. Each of these reflects a response to the absence of legitimate means of achieving success. For instance, the criminal subculture develops where there is an opportunity structure for organized crime; the conflict subculture arises in communities where violence is used to establish status; and the retreatist subculture emerges among those who withdraw completely from the societal race for success. This framework illustrates the link between social structure and individual behaviors, highlighting that responses to a lack of legitimate opportunities can creatively manifest in different subcultures, influencing the type of deviance exhibited by individuals.

2. What do statistics suggest about occupational diseases in the UK?

- A. They are rare and not a significant issue**
- B. They cause an estimated 50,000 deaths per year**
- C. Only a small number are reported**
- D. They mainly affect office workers**

The choice that states occupational diseases cause an estimated 50,000 deaths per year reflects a significant concern regarding the impact of work-related health issues in the UK. This figure underscores the seriousness of occupational diseases, illustrating that they are not merely isolated incidents but rather a major public health issue that can have deadly consequences. This statistic emphasizes the need for awareness and preventative measures in workplaces to protect employees from hazards that can lead to various diseases, ranging from respiratory conditions to musculoskeletal disorders. The notion that occupational diseases are rare and not significant tends to downplay the substantial health risks associated with various occupations, while suggesting that only a small number are reported addresses an important reporting issue but does not highlight the severity of the known cases. Finally, the idea that they mainly affect office workers is misleading, as occupational diseases can affect a wide range of workers across different sectors, including manual labor, manufacturing, and healthcare, not limited to the office environment.

3. What does the chivalry thesis fail to acknowledge regarding male crimes against women?

- A. That they are more often reported than female crimes**
- B. That they are less serious than female crimes**
- C. That many are never reported at all**
- D. That they are punished more harshly than female crimes**

The chivalry thesis posits that the criminal justice system is more lenient towards women than men, suggesting that male offenders are treated more harshly due to societal perceptions of women as needing protection. The failure of the chivalry thesis to acknowledge that many male crimes against women are never reported highlights a significant oversight in understanding the dynamics of gender and crime. This lack of reporting can result from various factors, including fear of retaliation, societal stigma, or lack of trust in authorities, all of which contribute to underestimating the prevalence and severity of such crimes. This point is crucial as it suggests that the criminal justice system may appear unduly lenient towards women not because of a protective stance, but rather due to a failure to accurately capture the extent of male crimes against them. Thus, the chivalry thesis does not account for the hidden prevalence of these crimes, which can skew perceptions and analyses of gender and crime. This understanding is essential in sociology as it helps illustrate the complexities of crime reporting and societal attitudes towards gender-related offenses.

4. What does Left Realism suggest should be addressed to combat crime effectively?

- A. Strict enforcement of existing laws**
- B. Inequality of opportunity and unfair rewards**
- C. Increased punitive measures against offenders**
- D. Greater focus on victim support programs**

Left Realism emphasizes the need to tackle the root causes of crime, particularly focusing on social inequalities and the injustices inherent in society. The theory posits that crime is often a product of structural conditions such as poverty, social exclusion, and limited access to resources. By addressing inequality of opportunity and unfair rewards, Left Realism argues that society can create conditions that reduce criminal behavior. This approach advocates for reforms that offer equal opportunities and a more equitable distribution of wealth and power. It stresses that merely punishing offenders or enforcing laws strictly does not address the underlying social issues that contribute to crime, which is a critical aspect of Left Realist thinking. The belief is that by improving socio-economic conditions, the likelihood of individuals engaging in criminal activities can be significantly diminished. In contrast, options that focus strictly on enforcement or punitive measures neglect the societal and structural factors that lead to crime, while a greater emphasis on victim support programs, although important, does not fundamentally resolve the root causes of criminal behavior as identified by Left Realism.

5. What is a particular criticism regarding the assumptions made by Carlen and Heidensohn?

- A. They focus too heavily on individual accountability**
- B. They neglect the role of social structures**
- C. They underestimate the impact of media on crime**
- D. They only consider female perspectives**

The criticism that Carlen and Heidensohn neglect the role of social structures is rooted in their focus on individual-level explanations for women's crime. While both sociologists provide valuable insights into how gendered socialization and individual circumstances influence women's engagement in crime, critics argue that they may not adequately account for the wider social and structural factors that contribute to criminal behavior. These factors include socioeconomic conditions, systemic inequalities, and institutional forces that shape an individual's opportunities and choices. By downplaying the significance of these structural influences, their analyses might overlook the complex interplay between individuals and the societal context in which they operate, thereby offering a less comprehensive understanding of female criminality. Other options focus on different facets of their work but do not capture this specific critique. They do not center on the social structures that affect individuals. For instance, while discussing individual accountability or focusing solely on female perspectives might highlight important aspects of their theories, those elements do not directly address the broader social context that influences crime, which is at the heart of this particular criticism.

6. What is a key aspect of the labeling theory's view on corporate crime as suggested by Cicourel (1968)?

- A. Middle-class individuals are often punished more harshly**
- B. Middle-class behaviors are more likely to be negotiated**
- C. All individuals are subject to the same legal consequences**
- D. Corporations engage in crime on a larger scale**

Labeling theory, as suggested by Cicourel (1968), emphasizes that societal reactions to behavior, including crime, vary significantly based on the social status of individuals. A key aspect of this theory is the concept that middle-class behaviors, including those related to corporate crime, are more likely to be negotiated or treated leniently within the legal system. This can be attributed to the social networks, resources, and influence that middle-class individuals and corporations possess, which allow them to shape the legal outcomes in their favor. Cicourel's observations highlight how the criminal justice system often views middle-class offenders differently from those of lower socioeconomic status. As a result, middle-class offenders, or corporate actors, may use their negotiating power to mitigate the consequences of their actions, illustrating a bias in how laws are applied. This highlights the idea that not all individuals face the same repercussions for their actions, challenging the notion of equality within the legal framework. In contrast, other options do not align with the key principles of labeling theory. The idea that all individuals face the same legal consequences disregards the systemic inequities highlighted in the theory. Similarly, the notion that middle-class individuals are punished more harshly contradicts the findings that suggest leniency based on

7. What aspect do Taylor et al. emphasize in their fully social theory of deviance?

- A. The individual criminal's background only**
- B. Multiple interrelated factors leading to deviance**
- C. The role of punishment in society**
- D. The effectiveness of social rehabilitation programs**

Taylor et al. emphasize multiple interrelated factors as crucial to understanding deviance in their fully social theory. This approach integrates various influences, including economic, political, and social contexts, as well as individual circumstances. By focusing on the interconnected nature of these factors, their theory moves beyond simplistic explanations that attribute deviance solely to individual behavior or background. Instead, it offers a comprehensive framework that examines how societal structures, social interactions, and historical conditions collectively shape deviant behavior. This perspective reflects an understanding that deviance is not isolated but rather a result of complex interactions between individuals and the broader social environment. Such an approach allows for a more nuanced analysis that can account for variations in deviance across different social contexts.

8. What were the consequences of the KPMG crime in the USA?

- A. It led to significant improvements in corporate regulations**
- B. KPMG was fined 456 million for tax fraud**
- C. KPMG faced no penalties and continued operations**
- D. KPMG is now banned from corporate activities**

The choice indicating that KPMG was fined \$456 million for tax fraud accurately reflects one of the immediate consequences of the firm's involvement in illegal activities surrounding tax shelters. This penalty was part of a broader effort to hold corporations accountable for unethical practices and to deter similar actions in the future. The substantial fine underscored the seriousness of financial crimes and the government's commitment to enforcing tax laws. Additionally, while other choices address the fallout of the scandal, they either misstate the ongoing status of KPMG or oversimplify the regulatory response. The actual financial penalties imposed on KPMG were significant and highlighted the tension between corporate compliance and aggressive tax avoidance strategies. This incident contributed to further scrutiny of corporate governance and practices by regulatory bodies.

9. Heidensohn's argument about bias against women in the court system suggests what about female offenders?

- A. They are treated more leniently for similar crimes as males**
- B. They are typically punished for ignoring gender norms**
- C. They are always given custodial sentences**
- D. They face no bias in court rulings**

Heidensohn's argument posits that the court system exhibits a bias against women, particularly in terms of how female offenders are perceived and treated in relation to societal gender norms. According to her perspective, women who engage in criminal behavior often challenge established expectations of femininity and proper conduct. Consequently, when they do commit offenses, they may face harsher scrutiny and punishment, not solely for the crime itself but also for their deviation from traditional gender roles. This reflects a societal tendency to penalize women more stringently when they defy the expected norms of behavior, as their actions are seen as a larger threat to the accepted social order. The other options do not align with Heidensohn's framework. For instance, women are not treated more leniently for similar crimes as males; rather, their punishment can reflect a greater backlash against their non-conformance to gender norms. The notion that all female offenders receive custodial sentences is misleading since sentencing varies widely based on numerous factors. Additionally, the idea that women face no bias in court rulings contradicts Heidensohn's core argument advocating that such biases are present and significantly impact the judicial outcomes for female offenders.

10. What evidence does the Chivalry Thesis provide from self-reported studies?

- A. Females report fewer crimes than they actually commit**
- B. Males are less likely to admit to crimes**
- C. Women are often treated more leniently than men**
- D. Men are 2.33 times more likely to report their crimes accurately**

The Chivalry Thesis suggests that society, particularly the criminal justice system, is inclined to treat women with more leniency than men, which can lead to underreporting of crimes committed by females. Self-reported studies that provide evidence for this thesis often show that women acknowledge committing fewer crimes than they actually do. This is indicative of the societal perceptions and expectations surrounding female behavior, which tends to view them as less criminal or more innocent. As a result, when women are surveyed about their criminal activities, they might underreport their involvement, whether due to societal pressures, self-perception, or the belief that their actions may not be considered serious offenses. This supports the idea that the criminal justice system's chivalrous treatment may contribute to a discrepancy between the real levels of female offending and their self-reported figures.