

Topic E: Are criminals born or made?

Explanations of criminality		
Biological explanations	Social explanation for criminality	Childrearing
How to measure the link between biology and criminality;	Can someone be made a criminal because of the way they are brought up?	The way parents deal with their children when they have been naughty might affect whether they turn to crime
<p>1. Family studies Comparing the family trees of criminals and non-criminals – to see if criminal behaviour runs in families.</p> <p>5. Adoption studies Can see if adopted children whose biological parents are criminals will turn out to be criminals with non-criminal adoptive parents.</p> <p>Study: Mednick 14427 adopted children – found adopted children with criminal record for property theft likely to have a criminal father.</p> <p>6. Twin Studies Studying identical and non-identical twins is a good of investigating whether criminal behaviour has a biological cause.</p> <p>Study: Christiansen 3586 pairs of twins. He found that if an identical twin was a criminal the other twin was also likely to be a criminal – 52% of the time = only 22% in non-identical twins.</p> <p>The evidence suggests genetics does play a part. However, the problem with family studies is that children might just be copying their parents – Social Learning.</p> <p>Criminality and genetics By taking blood samples from criminals it is possible to find out if violent criminals are more likely to have a genetic abnormality. Some do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Wayne Gacy (murdered 33 boys and men) = XYX <p>However, not all murderers have XYX – so violent criminal behaviour might have many causes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Family patterns as an explanation for criminality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Divorce – some research = children from ‘broken homes’ = 2x more likely to commit crimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys – no father figure as a role model Girls – often become depressed Disruptive – move school / home etc... Maternal deprivation – being separated from your primary caregiver. <p>Evidence: Bowlby – 44 boy offenders – found 14 boys felt no guilt for the crimes they had committed – 12 / 14 = had been separated from their mothers before they were two. The other 30 boys (did feel guilt) – only five had been separated from their mothers before 2.</p> Family size – larger the family greater chance of their being a criminal in the family – especially 6+ children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attention seeking behaviour Tend to have lower income Fewer educational opportunities Parental occupation – Australian study found it was the mothers (not father’s) occupation which could be linked to whether their children committed crime. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children suffering maternal deprivation whilst mother out at work = crime = attention seeking. <p>Investigating social causes of crime is complex.</p> <p>Study: Farrington = 411 boys from East End of London – studied over 40 years = Longitudinal study</p> <p>Findings - factors which seemed to cause the boys turning to crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low supervision by parents Poor housing Separation from parents Low achievement at school 	<p>3 types of response to a naughty child:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Induction = explaining to the child what they have done wrong and the consequences of their actions. = encourages empathy and understanding in the child. Love withdrawal – makes the child feel guilty by withdrawing their love for a time. = creates a sense of individuality because of being rejected – more likely to go against the norm. Power assertion – smacks the child and tells them off. = most likely to lead to delinquency. Lowers self-esteem. Child thinks aggression is acceptable (social learning). <p><i>It is very difficult to investigate childrearing in relation to crime because there are so many other variables such as friends, TV etc...</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Self-fulfilling prophecy as an explanation of crime.</p> <p>Self-fulfilling prophecy = when people expect us to behave in a certain way and we live up to that expectation. <u>See Madon (2004) study.</u></p> <p>Evidence - Study – Rosenthal and Jacobsen (1968)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gave children IQ test. Told teachers which of the children were average and which were going to be ‘bloomers’. This was a lie. Teachers did not expect a lot from the average group and spent more time with the ‘bloomers’ One year later – IQ of ‘bloomers’ had risen and average child fallen. <p>Teachers’ expectations of the children’s ability had led to the children conforming to this expectation of them.</p>		
Comparing theories of criminal behavior		
Biological causes of crime		Social causes of crime
<i>The nature debate</i>		<i>The nurture debate</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On how we are born a criminal Inherit the criminal genes – XYX = makes people more aggressive (?) Adoption studies = show how crime can be inherited Difficult to investigate – XYX = very rare and not all XYX men are criminals. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How we are made a criminal Brought up in a family that makes criminal behaviour more likely = Social Learning Separation from parents has a link with criminal behaviour Very difficult to isolate one social cause from many.
Conclusion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for criminal behaviour not fully understood – bit of both? Researchers tend to focus on either the nature or nurture explanations – should really consider both – not all XYX men commit crimes and not all children born to criminal commit crime – so v. complex. 		

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Is criminal research practical and ethical?	Gathering information from convicted offenders	Offender profiling	The Case of John Duffy												
<p>Problems with biological research:</p> <p>Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XYY is very rare so the samples studied are very small. • Time consuming – taking blood tests to find XYY men takes a long time • Twin studies and adoption studies rely on convictions. It does not include those criminals who have never been caught. <p>Ethical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling someone they have a chromosome abnormality that might make them a criminal – could cause stress and lead to self-fulfilling prophecy. • All studies keep participants’ details anonymous. – ethical. 	<p>Practical problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offenders might try to get early release from prison by telling the psychologist they are sorry for their crimes. • Criminals might feel guilty about what they have done – so asking them about their crimes might cause them distress. • They might try to glorify their crimes – so the findings might be useless. <p>Ethical problems</p> <p>Criminals used in research must be treated in the same way as any other participant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must give informed consent. • Must not be made to feel uncomfortable or stressed • Have the right to withdraw • Should be debriefed • Have their privacy respected. 	<p>Offender profiling – a way of using psychology to help the police catch criminals.</p> <p>Looks at the clues at a crime scene and tries to work out the type of person the police should look for. This is based on an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of victim • Type of crime# • Location of crime • Time of day / night • What was taken / left <p>A criminals behaviour is likely to reflect their normal lifestyle = criminal consistency.</p> <p>All this is put into a database and compared with similar cases and the type of person convicted.</p>	<p>David Canter – offender profile helped to solve the case of John Duffy = a sex attacker and murderer.</p> <p>Canter used the evidence from various crime scenes to suggest that it was the work of one man.</p> <p>His profile of John Duffy:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1239 623 1957 792"> <thead> <tr> <th>Canter’s profile (from the evidence)</th> <th>Facts from after his arrest</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Lived in London</td> <td>• Lived in Kilburn, London</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Married – no children</td> <td>• Married – no children</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• A small man</td> <td>• 5ft 4 inches</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Semi-skilled carpenter</td> <td>• Trained as a carpenter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Link to British rail</td> <td>• Ex British rail worker</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>He was arrested and sentenced to three life sentences.</p>	Canter’s profile (from the evidence)	Facts from after his arrest	• Lived in London	• Lived in Kilburn, London	• Married – no children	• Married – no children	• A small man	• 5ft 4 inches	• Semi-skilled carpenter	• Trained as a carpenter	• Link to British rail	• Ex British rail worker
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<p>Problems with social research:</p> <p>Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most information is gathered through questionnaires or interviews; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Criminals might not remember what they did or why they did it. ○ Criminals might blame things which are not the real cause ○ Criminals might boast about what they did and why they did it. <p>Ethical</p> <p>If there is a link between family and crime then parents might get blamed for their children’s behaviour when it could be down to many other factors as well.</p>		<p>Creating a profile</p> <p>A profile will probably provide the following bits of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex of offender • Race • Age • Marital status • Occupation • Intellectual ability • Possible criminal history • Area where the criminal lives. <p>Does it work?</p> <p>It helps the police narrow down their search. It provides information about how likely it is that the criminal has this profile.</p>													

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Thielgaard (1984): the criminal gene	Sigall and Ostrove (1975): attractiveness and jury decision-making	Madon (2004): self-fulfilling prophecy and drinking behaviour
<p>Aim: to see if criminal have a particular gene that could be responsible for their criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood samples from 30,000 men born in the 1940s From the sample found two chromosome abnormalities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> XXY – 16 men from the 30,000 had this XXX - 12 men from the 30,000 had this. These 28 men interviewed by a social worker and asked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backgrounds Criminal history All 28 men given a personality test to see if they were more aggressive than normal XY males. <p>Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> XXY men had slightly lower levels of intelligence than average. XXY men a little bit more aggressive than average. More similarities between XXY men and XYY men than differences. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence that XYY men more aggressive than normal XY men. 	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether attractiveness affected jury decision-making Was there a relationship between attractiveness and the type of crime committed. <p>Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 participants – each given a card with a crime written on it and a photograph of woman. Split into 6 groups (20 in each). 4 groups had different combinations of information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photograph – attractive or unattractive Crime – fraud or burglary 2 groups were the control groups – no photograph with burglary case and no photograph with fraud case. All had to rate the attractiveness of the woman. All had to give the woman a prison sentence between 1 and 15 yrs. <p>Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For burglary condition – those that saw the attractive photo gave a shorter sentence than those who saw the unattractive photo. For fraud condition – those that saw the attractive photo gave a longer sentence than those who saw the unattractive photo. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks seem to influence jury decision-making. Good looking people may get away with some crime (they are not expected to do - burglary) but harsher punishments for crimes that they have used their looks for (fraud) 	<p>Aim: to see if a parent’s expectation of their child’s drinking habits become a reality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If parents thought their child would drink a lot would this lead to the child drinking a lot? <p>Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 115 children (12 – 13 years) and their parents - questioned. Parents – asked to guess how much alcohol their children regularly drank and would drink over the coming year. Year later – children asked how much they actually consumed. <p>Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who drank the most – their parents had predicted they would. Parents were accurate in predicting how much their children would drink <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There seems to be evidence for a self-fulfilling prophecy – the children’s parents’ expectations came true. Therefore, parents seem to have a massive influence on their children’s behaviour.
<p>Evaluation of Thielgaard (1984): the criminal gene</p>	<p>Evaluation of Sigall and Ostrove (1975): attractiveness and jury decision-making</p>	<p>Evaluation of Madon (2004): self-fulfilling prophecy and drinking behaviour</p>
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All tests and interviewed done by an independent person so no researcher bias. ✓ Lots of different test done on the men to measure different things such as IQ, personality etc... = conclusion based on lots of data. 	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good use of controls – all participants given the same instructions and only the photo and crime conditions were changed. ✓ No demand characteristics as they didn’t know what the other groups were doing. ✓ Could be useful to tell real jurors not to base their judgment on looks alone. 	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A large sample of participants – results are likely to be more valid (true) as a result. ✓ Useful as it informs parents about the effect of having negative beliefs about their children.
<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Only a small sample of men used – but this was because XYY is a rare condition. ❖ As only 12 XYY men tested it is difficult to generalize the results to all XYY men ❖ It does not prove that XYY leads to criminal behaviour. XYY men might have felt frustrated with their low intelligence and this could have caused aggression. 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not a realistic experiment as real jurors would see the defendant in real life and not just as a photo. ❖ Real juries only decide on whether someone is guilty or not guilty. It is the judge who decides on the sentence. 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ There could have been a social response bias in answering the questionnaire. Children might have said they drank more to seem cool. ❖ There could be many more explanations as it is not only parents who influence their children. ❖ Parents might have just been very good at guessing how much their children would drink.

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The Job of a forensic psychologist	How a forensic psychologist might help treat offenders	How defendant characteristics affect jury decision-making
<p>What they do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in courts to help decide if offenders have psychological problems • Look at why criminals commit crimes • Look at how society should treat criminals. • Work with prisoners and prison officers. <p>Examples of what they do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up treatment programmes to help offenders – so they don’t re-offend. • Carry out 1:1 assessments of prisoners. • Offender profiling to help the police <p>Dealing with criminals with psychopathic disorders</p> <p>Psychopathic disorders = someone who has no feeling of guilt and is very aggressive and violent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a criminal has a psychopathic disorder they should receive treatment such as medication or therapy. The courts also have to decide whether the person should be in prison or a psychiatric hospital. 	<p>Rehabilitation programmes = ways of trying to teach the offender different skills so they don’t re-offend and can live a more normal life.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal Construct Therapy A therapy where someone finds their own way of looking at people (their personal constructs) and uses their constructs to see how they judge the people they know. 2. Treating drug abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prescribing substitute drugs ○ Making sure they have adequate housing and funding to prevent them turning back to drugs. 3. Treating sexual offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medication to reduce sex drive ○ Cognitive behaviour therapy 4. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involves helping someone to change how they think about something and therefore behave differently. Changing the negative thoughts to positive. 	<p>A jury listens to all the evidence and then has to make a decision as to whether the accused (defendant) is guilty or not-guilty (the verdict). They should base this only on the evidence but research has found that the following traits affect jury decision-making:</p> <p>We tend to stereotype people according to the traits they show:</p> <p>Attractiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we tend to view attractive people as more intelligent, friendly and honest. A jury might be influenced by these things when making their decision. <p>Accent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a defendant is well-spoken, we are less likely to find them guilty of burglary. • A defendant with a strong regional or ‘rough’ accent (e.g. Geordie, Scouser etc) may be more likely (in the minds of a jury) to commit a crime. <p>Race</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we have a stereotypical view of a black man as more likely to commit a crime, we are more likely to find them guilty. There is a higher proportion of ethnic minorities in prison (15%) than in the UK general population (8%)
<p>Becoming a forensic psychologist</p> <p>Might work for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mainly prison service ○ Also NHS (secure hospitals) <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication ○ Write well – reports ○ Problem-solving skills ○ Good observational skills ○ Good listening skills <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Degree in psychology (recognized by the British Psychological Society) ○ Work experience ○ Masters degree in Forensic psychology 		
<p>Comparison of the three psychology jobs</p> <p>Educational Psychologist – works with children – focus = development and learning</p> <p>Clinical psychologist – works with the mentally ill – focus = treatments and management of the illness</p> <p>Forensic psychologist – works with criminals, the police and the courts</p>		