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**Submission date:** 22-Oct-2020 08:37PM (UTC+0800)

**Submission ID:** 1423057592

**File name:** Criminology.docx (24.79K)

**Word count:** 987

**Character count:** 5574

**Criminology**

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## **Criminology**

### **Question One**

In criminology, theories that illustrate the concept that a criminal is "made and not born" fall under a broad category of sociological theories. These are sociological approaches to a crime that point toward the view that external factors help shape an individual's likelihood to engage in criminal activities. These factors include the family, prevailing neighborhood experiences, and the peer group. To exemplify the idea mentioned above, it suffices to compare and contrast Strain and Subcultural theories. The subcultural theory presumes that members of a disadvantaged group engage in delinquent activities out of status frustration and differences in opportunities (Han et al, 2016). On the flipside, Strain theory suggests that a gap between societal, cultural goals such as status and material affluence, and acknowledged structural means of achieving them such as employment and education, leads to criminal activities. This fact is so, as the strain between means and goals amount to hatred and frustration, thus encouraging people to apply illegitimate means of realizing success.

Both Strain and Subcultural theories converge at the point where they assume that most delinquent activities are carried out by the individuals ascribing to lower social classes and tend to downplay white-collar and other kinds of delinquencies committed by those with power. Consequently, Subcultural theory provides an account of deviance positioned inside the participants' terms of reference and comprehension. In contrast, Strain theory proposes an assortment of reactions to circumstances of dissatisfaction, not merely crime.

### **Question Two**

When studying police brutality, not all injustices are readily available to a researcher. Although arbitrary apprehensions, shootings, and unfair traffic stops are among a few

discriminations that could be considered quantifiable and specific, there are less concerning somewhat indefinite (Collins, 2020). The latter category includes a feeling that a probe into a reported crime fails to be scheduled as a priority. Also, the intricacies that go into the resolve to call 911. While not all these issues could be measured, a researcher might be exposed to data involving readily tabulated and easy to digest information such as instances of police use of force per department or even per district. However, a researcher will undergo an uphill task to pinpoint how police make different individuals feel from secondary data. Nonetheless, there is a method worth trying.

Surveys aimed at asking the general public whether the police make an individual feel tense or whether an individual has confidence in law enforcement is a better method for a researcher to collect data on police brutality (Collins, 2020). This method's benefit is that it would help gather data incorporating individuals' feelings that cannot be easily measured or quantified. However, the downside of surveys is that questions used provide partial insight into what causes precise results or the associated impact.

### **Question Three**

A pandemic tends to impact society in unprecedented ways. For example, the novel COVID-19 goes down in history as a pandemic this generation will live to relate to so vividly. In a few months, COVID-19 has been around; reliable evidence submits that one way the world has been affected was through crime rates, which seem to have drastically reduced among various communities worldwide (Stickle & Felson, 2020). Most researchers attribute this fall to the stay-at-home government orders, which had a tall impact on the whole populaces' conventional activities. Since these government orders did affect countries, states, and communities in various ways, the pandemic opened a window to try different criminology theories (Stickle & Felson,

2020). One such approach tested was the social control theory, which equips criminologists with a basis to study how a pandemic may have a significant effect on crime. Essentially, the approach does not deliberate causes of delinquencies. However, it revolves around why individuals submit to the law. That is, it downplays deviance and focuses on conformity. A pandemic generally results in strong social bonds. As a result, folks will tend to conform to social norms.

On the contrary, when these bonds are weak or broken, people engage in criminal activities. Nonetheless, from the *involvement* component of social bonds, the more time people spend engaging in law-abiding actions, the less time they have to engage in law-breaking activities (Han et al., 2016). Therefore, it suffices to conclude that a pandemic brings about novel rules and regulations, such as the stay-at-home orders that all have to follow. In turn, a community is likely to experience a drastic fall in the crime rate.

#### Question Four

In a 1992 <sup>1</sup> entrapment case of *Jacobson v. the United States* in *U.S. v. Hollingsworth*, the Supreme Court was treated to an interruption by Judge Posner, who deemed the court had elucidated the connotation of the word predisposition to infer to something far from the sheer willingness of the mind (Casetext.com, n.d.). Since the term had dispositional and positional influence, the United States' government was asked to present the evidence that the defendant was intuitively pre-inclined to gulp the government's bait and was the respondent. Nonetheless, a recent court ruling on the Jacobson case that was decided on the divergent ground, all courts of appeal had been drifting in the direction of the understanding that the defense of entrapment ought to fail in any given case if that defendant was willing.

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