KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER LO4: UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF POLICY CHANGES

AC4.1 ASSESS THE USE OF CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES IN INFORMAING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

AC4.1: You should be able to assess the use of criminological theories in informing policy development. You should be able to identify, explain and assess by referring to the strengths and weaknesses of a range of crime control policies for all three of the main theoretical approaches: biological; individualistic, and; sociological. **This KO gives a basic overview of a range of methods, but you should refer to your original notes and handouts in order to give a more thorough and detailed assessment of different methods.**

Exam Tip: As the key command word for this AC is 'assess' you should be prepared to comment on **whether or not the policies work and are successful in preventing or controlling crime**.

Formal Control Policy: this is linked to **official ideas to prevent crime** such as prison sentences or community orders**.**

Informal Control Policy: this is linked to **non-official ideas to prevent crime.** This could be family rules such as grounding or withholding of pocket money**.**

Crime Control Policy: these are aimed at **preventing crime** from happening e.g. CCTV

State Punishment Policy: these are the ways in which the state **can punish offenders for committing crime** e.g. prison.

CRIME CONTROL/PUNISHMENT POLICY	CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Psychoanalysis: involves a treatment whereby the patient verbalises their thoughts, with the aim of accessing unconscious, repressed thoughts, which are believed to have led to the criminal behaviour.	**INDIVIDUALISTIC**: Freud and Psychodynamic approach	Allows the patient to discover painful memories that they had repressed, which could once revealed, allow them to move on and understand their own behaviour better.	Is very time-consuming as it is a long process. Both Andrews (1990) and Blackburn (1993) found very few, if any, positive aspects of this type of therapy for dealing with offenders.
Behaviour modification: good behaviours are reinforced and therefore strengthened, while bad behaviour is punished and weakened. Token economy: token is given for a desired action, which is exchanged for a treat.	**INDIVIDUALISTIC**: Learning Theory	**Fo and O'Donnell** (1975): devised a 'buddy system' did have success in terms of improving the behaviour of serious offenders. Token economies can be effective with both young offenders as well as adult offenders.	Impact on those who had committed less serious offences was mixed. Also, behaviour modification appears to only have short-term impact.
Anger Management: cognitive behavioural techniques are used to help offenders deal more effectively with their feelings of anger. (1) recognise feelings of anger; (2) control their angry behaviour; and (3) resolve conflict.	**INDIVIDUALISTIC**	**Feindler** (1984) found that anger management training led to improvements in self-control and a reduction in offending in young men.	Few studies of its effect on offending. **Howitt** (2009) points out that some offenders act violently not out of anger but in order to achieve specific goals.
Neurochemical: adapting diets or the use of supplements and minerals in order to alter the neurochemicals in the brain to reduce aggression.	**BIOLOGICAL**	**Schoenthaler** (1982) found that a reduced sugar diet reduced anti-social behaviour by 48%. **Virkkunen** (1987) found that changes to a diet can improve serotonin turnover.	Fails to take into account wider considerations such as who an offender associates with. Easy to control in an institutional environment but may not work in wider society with little control.
Eugenics: discouraging reproduction by persons having genetic defects or presumed to have inheritable undesirable traits (e.g. behavioural characteristics such as anger or aggression)	**BIOLOGICAL**: Genetics	**Osborn and West** during the 1970s provides some support to this theory in that they found 40% of boys whose fathers had criminal records had criminal records themselves	There are massive ethical concerns regarding this approach e.g. associations with the Nazi Sterilisation Programme. Highly unlikely that this approach would gain public support.
Death Penalty: otherwise referred to as capital punishment, it involves the state sanctioned killing of an offender	**BIOLOGICAL**	Giving a killer the death sentence will stop them - and others - doing it again. The very small chance of executing the wrong person is balanced by the benefits to society of putting off other murderers.	Statistics from the USA show that the murder rate is lower in states that do not have the death penalty. This approach has been permanently abolished in the UK. There are ethical and moral questions.
Prison: custodial prison sentences has been a long established and primary policy regarding controlling offenders.	**SOCIOLOGICAL**	Some ex-prisoners who made honest mistakes can learn which actions are appropriate and will allow them to stay in the community and out of prison.	Poor record for reducing reoffending as 46% of adults are reconvicted within one year of release (recidivism).
Zero tolerance: all crimes are acted on, no matter how small, minor or trivial they are	**SOCIOLOGICAL**: Right Realism	Clear record of reducing crime: New York: -39%, Hartlepool: -38%, Liverpool: -25.7%. Zero Tolerance is the ASBO – you can get an ASBO for antisocial rather than criminal behaviour, helping to solve deviant behaviour.	Authorities can be accused of aggressive policing policies and strategies, for example, the police being accused of acting over the top or being heavy handed. Some groups being targeted and feeling victimised
Restorative Justice: a voluntary process involving the person who has suffered harm, victims and offenders to talk about what happened, who was affected and how, and what can be done to help repair harm.	**SOCIOLOGICAL**: Interactionism	It can allow a victim a voice in the criminal justice system and can make offenders accountable. It can reduce PTSD in victims and, in some cases, motivate offenders to turn away from a life of crime (reduce offending rates).	It can be a very distressing process for both the victim and the offender, and as details of the crime are brought up. Tends to have little impact on some types of crimes where there is no direct human victim.
CCTV: (closed circuit television) it is useful in the identification of a potential perpetrator or suspect of a criminal act and as a deterrent to prevent crime.	**SOCIOLOGICAL**: Right Realism	CCTV is effective when directed at reducing crimes such as theft. It can be used to show the nature and severity of the crime and identify suspects and witnesses.	It has little effect in preventing violent crimes. There are also questions of privacy, especially of new types of CCTV that can use facial recognition and store peoples data on databases.
Multiagency approach: this involves cooperation between agencies working in the criminal justice system in order to increase the chances of detecting crimes and preventing crimes occurring	**SOCIOLOGICAL**: Structural approaches such as Functionalism	Issues such as domestic abuse may be prevented if numerous agencies were to cooperate and work together as it would provide them with the big picture of what is happening.	Requires each agency to do their job and communicate effectively. It would also require the cooperation of the offender as they would have contact with multiple people.

SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

Evaluate the effectiveness of a range of individualistic criminological theories to explain causes of criminality [*8 marks*]

Describe the crime control policy options that Alan might propose. [*6 marks*]

Assess one crime control policy developed from sociological theories of criminality. [*6 marks*]

Assess a range crime control policy developed from biological theories of criminality. [*8 marks*]