16.1 Defining and Measuring Crime, and Offender Profiling: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define historical relativism in the context of crime, with an example.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline interpersonal coherence in investigative psychology.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Apply profiling to the supplied crime-scene description and explain investigative consequences.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 16.1 Defining and Measuring Crime, and Offender Profiling: Test Pack

Question 1

definition: the idea that what counts as a crime changes over time, depending on historical social norms and laws oe **B1**

example: e.g. homosexuality was illegal in the UK until the late 20th century, so behaviour considered criminal then is not criminal now oe **B1**

Answer: Historical relativism: the view that crime is defined differently at different times; for example, homosexual acts were criminal in the UK in the past but are not today.

Question 2

identifies interpersonal coherence: behaviour at the crime scene reflects the offender's everyday interactions and personality oe **M1**

explains that analysts infer habitual interpersonal style from victim interactions, e.g. level of control or intimacy oe **A1**

gives consequence: this helps link crime behaviour to likely characteristics or routines of the offender oe **A1**

Answer: Interpersonal coherence is the idea that an offender's behaviour during a crime reflects their normal interpersonal style, so analysts infer personality or habitual interaction patterns from how the offender treated the victim.

Question 3

chooses a profiling approach and gives initial justification, e.g. top-down organised preferred because scene shows control and planning oe **M1**

uses evidence 1: restraint with ligatures and removal of personal items indicates planning and attempt to control victim, supporting organised interpretation oe **A1**

uses evidence 2: partially buried flashlight and single boot print suggest offender attempted to hide or transport items and took steps to avoid detection, supporting organisation and forensic awareness oe **A1**

explains investigative consequence 1: treat suspect as likely to be organised so check for people with forensic awareness, search for ownership of similar boots and for missing flashlights in local property oe **A1**

explains investigative consequence 2: if using geographical profiling, evidence of single isolated scene near rural track could suggest commuter if offender travelled there, so enquiries should include travel routes and recent visitors to the area; if organised and local, focus on nearby residents with relevant knowledge oe **A1**

links interpretation to priority actions: prioritise forensic analysis of prints and the boot, check CCTV on access routes and interview people with relevant skills or missing items oe **A1**

Answer: An organised top-down interpretation fits because restraint and control, removal of items, and attempts to hide a flashlight suggest planning and forensic awareness; investigators should therefore treat the suspect as organised, check for people with relevant skills or possessions (similar boots, missing torch), and prioritise forensic trace analysis. Alternatively, if geographical profiling is used, the rural isolated site could indicate a commuter who travelled there, so enquiries should also examine travel patterns and visitors to the area; if seen as a marauder then focus on local residents and nearby CCTV.

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