3.2 Left Realist Criminology and Community-Based Crime Prevention: 30-minute Pack

AQA 7192 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological terms where appropriate. Questions 3 requires full sentences and a clear conclusion.

1 Outline the left realist concept of a 'victim centred' approach to crime prevention in a neighbourhood affected by antisocial behaviour.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain one reason why left realists place importance on local community perceptions of crime and the fear of crime when designing prevention policies.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Item B: A report on the fictional Riverside Estate shows rising petty theft, low employment and poor relations between youth and police. Using Item B and your own knowledge, evaluate the left realist explanation of why crime occurs in places like Riverside Estate and the left realist solution of multi-agency community prevention. Make sure you reach a supported conclusion.

Discuss how far sociologists would agree that left realist explanations and community-based solutions offer the best way to understand and reduce crime in estates such as Riverside Estate. Use Item B and your sociological knowledge in your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 12 marks)

4 Define the term 'community-based multi-agency prevention' as it is used by left realists proposing local crime reduction schemes.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Describe one example of a community-based crime prevention policy that left realists might support in a deprived urban area.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

6 State one common criticism of left realist explanations of crime from other sociological perspectives.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.2 Left Realist Criminology and Community-Based Crime Prevention: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies that a victim centred approach prioritises victims needs and reduces harm	**B1**
development, e.g. provides practical support, improved reporting channels and restorative measures to help victims	**B1**

Answer: A victim centred approach prioritises victims needs and reducing harm, providing practical support, better reporting channels and restorative measures so victims are helped and communities feel safer.

Question 2

identifies that fear of crime affects quality of life and social cohesion	**B1**
development, e.g. high fear can reduce community interaction and informal social control	**B1**
links this to policy, e.g. reducing fear can help restore neighbourhood order and reduce opportunities for crime	**B1**

Answer: Left realists stress local perceptions because fear of crime harms quality of life and social cohesion; high fear reduces community interaction and informal social control, so reducing fear is a key policy aim to restore order and lower crime opportunities.

Question 3

Level 1 Basic knowledge of left realist ideas with limited application to Item B, minimal analysis and no sustained evaluation. Conclusions, if present, are unsupported.	**1-3**
Level 2 Some accurate knowledge of left realist concepts and policies with straightforward application to Item B. Some analysis of strengths and weaknesses, but limited depth and an undeveloped conclusion.	**4-6**
Level 3 Clear and accurate knowledge of left realist explanations and community responses, with good application to Item B. Balanced analysis considering alternative sociological perspectives and evaluation of effectiveness, leading to a reasoned conclusion.	**7-9**
Level 4 Thorough and accurate knowledge of left realist theory and policies, well applied to Item B. Detailed, balanced evaluation that weighs empirical and theoretical strengths and limitations, compares with other perspectives, and reaches a well-supported, explicit conclusion.	**10-12**

Indicative content:

- Explain left realist causes: relative deprivation, marginalisation, subcultural responses, and the square of crime linking offender, victim, state and public.
- Apply to Item B: low employment links to marginalisation; rising petty theft linked to relative deprivation; poor relations with police increase distrust and underreporting, fitting the square of crime idea.
- Strengths of left realism: focuses on real victims and local-level causes, offers practical, community-focused policies such as multi-agency work and victim support, can restore trust and reduce fear.
- Limitations and criticisms: may underplay deeper structural causes of crime and capitalism, risk of insufficient resources for multi-agency schemes, potential to neglect long-term economic change, and evidence on effectiveness may be mixed.
- Compare other perspectives: right realism emphasises control and deterrence which may reduce short term offending but neglects root causes; Marxist approaches stress class structure and capitalism as underlying causes; interactionism highlights meanings and labelling which left realism accepts only partially.
- Evaluation of policy: community policing and job initiatives may reduce petty crime in the short term, but without broader economic investment and tackling inequality their effects may be limited. Consider evidence for mixed outcomes and the importance of local implementation.
- Conclusion should weigh evidence and argue whether left realist explanations and community solutions are convincing overall, for example useful and pragmatic but incomplete without wider structural change.

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Question 4

identifies multi-agency prevention as coordinated action by local agencies such as police, youth services, housing and health to prevent crime **B1**

development, e.g. explains the aim is to combine resources to tackle causes, help victims and reduce opportunities for crime **B1**

Answer: Community-based multi-agency prevention is coordinated action by local partners such as police, youth services, housing and health to prevent crime, aiming to combine resources to tackle causes, help victims and reduce opportunities for offending.

Question 5

identifies a community-based policy, e.g. multi-agency youth outreach, environmental improvements, or local CCTV combined with community oversight **B1**

development, e.g. explains how the policy aims to reduce opportunities for crime or increase informal social control **B1**

further development, e.g. links the policy to left realist goals of helping victims and reducing root causes **B1**

Answer: An example is multi-agency youth outreach combining youth workers, local police and job advisors to provide activities, employment help and positive supervision; this reduces opportunities for crime, increases informal social control and addresses root causes in line with left realist aims.

Question 6

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. that left realism accepts the reality of crime but underplays structural class analysis or fails to challenge capitalism strongly enough **B1**

brief development, e.g. Marxists argue left realism does not fully explain wider economic causes **B1**

Answer: A common criticism is that left realism accepts the reality of crime but underestimates deeper structural causes tied to capitalism, with Marxists arguing it does not offer a strong enough critique of economic inequality.

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