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

AQA 7192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological terms where appropriate.

1 Which of the following best describes a core concern of left realist criminologists when studying crime in urban communities?

- ☐ A) That crime is solely the result of individual moral weakness
- ☐ B) That relative deprivation and community conditions cause real harm to victims
- ☐ C) That only harsher sentencing will reduce crime
- ☐ D) That labelling explains all crime patterns

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Outline two causes of crime identified by left realist criminologists in the context of deprived urban neighbourhoods.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Explain how left realists understand subcultures as part of the explanation for youth offending in poor neighbourhoods.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Item A: Local youth centre survey in the fictional Brookfield Ward. The survey reports: 40% of young people say they feel excluded from decent jobs, 55% say they compare themselves unfavourably with peers in neighbouring areas, and 30% report being stopped by police in the past year. Using Item A and your knowledge, identify two left realist explanations that could account for rising low-level offending in Brookfield Ward.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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

Question 1

B (relative deprivation and community conditions cause real harm to victims)	**B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies relative deprivation as a cause	**B1**
explains briefly how relative deprivation can lead to crime, e.g. comparisons with others produce frustration and offending	**B1**
identifies marginalisation as a second cause	**B1**
explains briefly how marginalisation can lead to crime, e.g. lack of voice and employment pushes marginalised groups toward criminal responses	**B1**

Answer: Two left realist causes are relative deprivation, where people who compare themselves unfavourably with others become frustrated and may offend, and marginalisation, where excluded groups with limited political or economic voice may turn to crime as an outlet or means of survival.

Question 3

identifies that subcultures provide alternative status, values or support where mainstream opportunities are blocked	**B1**
development, e.g. youth subcultures may legitimize offending or provide networks for criminal opportunities	**B1**
further point, e.g. left realists see subculture as responding to relative deprivation and marginalisation rather than romanticising it	**B1**
links subculture to practical causes of offending in disadvantaged areas	**B1**

Answer: Left realists see subcultures as offering status, identity and practical support where mainstream opportunities are blocked; youth subcultures may legitimize or facilitate offending, and are viewed as responses to relative deprivation and marginalisation rather than as inherently positive or solely symbolic.

Question 4

identifies relative deprivation as an explanation, linked to 55% comparing unfavourably with peers	**B1**
explains briefly how that comparison could lead to offending, referencing Item A	**B1**
identifies marginalisation or lack of access to decent jobs, linked to 40% feeling excluded	**B1**
explains briefly how marginalisation could lead to offending, referencing Item A	**B1**

Answer: One explanation is relative deprivation, shown by 55% comparing themselves unfavourably with neighbouring areas, which left realists say can cause frustration and petty offending. A second is marginalisation, shown by 40% feeling excluded from decent jobs, which can push people toward unorganised crime or subcultural responses.

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