3.3 Globalisation and Crime in a Global Age

AQA 7192 · about 60 minutes · Write-in edition

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary where relevant. Write full sentences for extended answer questions. Timing guidance: about 75 minutes total; spend about 20 minutes on the final 12-mark question.

1 Identify and explain one strength and one limitation of using the concept of the 'network society' to understand modern organised crime.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 State one ethical issue researchers face when studying hidden global crimes such as trafficking.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 Explain two reasons why transnational organised crime networks often use money mules or intermediaries in different countries.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Compare how the spread of the internet and cheaper international travel each contribute to the growth of globalised crime.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two reasons why some sociologists argue that globalisation has not completely transformed the nature of crime, despite new technologies and networks.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Discuss how far sociologists would agree that globalisation has transformed the nature of crime, using Item B and your own knowledge.

(Total for Question 6 is 12 marks)

7 Define what sociologists mean by 'transnational organised crime' in the context of crime and globalisation.

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

8 Describe one way the growth of multinational companies and complex global supply chains can be linked to 'crimes of globalisation', as discussed in crime and deviance studies.

(Total for Question 8 is 3 marks)

9 Identify and explain two ways cybercrime differs from traditional street crime, in the context of globalised crime opportunities.

(Total for Question 9 is 4 marks)

10 State one characteristic of organised criminal networks that operate across several countries.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

11 Define the term 'glocal' as used to describe organised crime that combines global connections with local operations.

(Total for Question 11 is 2 marks)

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12 Item B: Short extract from a criminology briefing. "Modern global systems have increased flows of capital, people and information. This has led to growth in cross-border organised crime such as trafficking and international fraud, and to cyber-enabled offences that can be run from anywhere. Some scholars argue these changes amount to a transformation in the nature of crime; others say they are continuations of older criminal patterns using new tools."

Using Item B and your knowledge, analyse two globalised forms of crime mentioned in the extract, explaining how each is affected by global flows of capital, people or information.

(Total for Question 12 is 6 marks)

Mark scheme · 3.3 Globalisation and Crime in a Global Age

Question 1

identifies a strength, e.g. it highlights how global networks enable rapid coordination and information sharing — **B1**

explains the strength, e.g. this helps explain why some organised crime can operate across borders more effectively than before — **B1**

identifies a limitation, e.g. it can underplay the continuing importance of local conditions and face-to-face ties — **B1**

explains the limitation, e.g. local corruption, language and community ties still shape how networks operate in practice — **B1**

Answer: A strength is that the network society concept highlights how global networks enable rapid coordination and information sharing, explaining how organised crime can operate across borders; a limitation is that it can underplay local conditions and face-to-face ties, since local corruption, language and community connections still shape how networks operate on the ground.

Question 2

identifies an ethical issue, e.g. risk of harm to victims, confidentiality or the difficulty of gaining informed consent — **B1**

Answer: Researchers risk causing harm to victims or breaching confidentiality, making informed consent and protecting participants major ethical issues when studying hidden global crimes such as trafficking.

Question 3

identifies one reason, e.g. to launder money and obscure the origin of proceeds — **B1**

development of first reason, e.g. routing funds through many accounts and jurisdictions makes detection harder — **B1**

identifies a second reason, e.g. to reduce the risk to core organisers by using expendable local operatives — **B1**

development of second reason, e.g. intermediaries absorb risk and make investigations focus on visible low-level actors rather than leaders — **B1**

Answer: They use money mules to launder money and obscure the origin of proceeds, because routing funds through many accounts and jurisdictions makes detection harder; and they use intermediaries to reduce risk to core organisers, since expendable local operatives absorb exposure and divert investigative attention away from leaders.

Question 4

identifies internet contribution, e.g. enables cybercrime and remote coordination — **B1**

explains internet contribution, e.g. information flows and anonymity help criminals target victims worldwide — **B1**

identifies travel contribution, e.g. cheaper travel increases movement for trafficking or smuggling — **B1**

explains travel contribution, e.g. physical movement facilitates transporting goods and victims and links local networks to global ones — **B1**

Answer: The internet enables cybercrime and remote coordination because information flows and relative anonymity let criminals target victims worldwide, while cheaper international travel increases movement for trafficking and smuggling, linking local operatives to global networks and enabling physical transport of goods and people.

Question 5

identifies a reason, e.g. many crimes are continuations of old patterns adapted to new tools, not wholly new phenomena — **B1**

develops the reason, e.g. e.g. fraud, theft and exploitation existed before but now use new methods like the internet — **B1**

identifies a further supporting point, e.g. local social factors and demand remain important determinants of crime — **B1**

develops the supporting point, e.g. poverty, inequality and social networks still shape who commits and suffers crime — **B1**

Answer: Some sociologists argue globalisation has not transformed crime because many offences are continuations of older patterns adapted to new tools, for example fraud and exploitation existed before but now use the internet; additionally local social factors like poverty and social networks still shape who offends and who is victimised.

Question 6

Level 1 Simple or generalised statements about globalisation and crime with little sociological explanation or use of Item B. **1-3**

Level 2 Some relevant sociological points and use of Item B, but limited balance. Explanations may be partial and examples may be underdeveloped. **4-6**

Level 3 Clear sociological arguments using Item B and wider knowledge to show how global flows have led to new crime forms; includes evaluation and alternative views with appropriate examples. **7-9**

Level 4 Well-developed, balanced discussion that integrates Item B and wider knowledge. Considers multiple perspectives, such as those who see a transformation and those who see continuity, and reaches a supported conclusion. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- Points arguing globalisation has transformed crime: growth of cybercrime and cyber-enabled offences that can be run remotely; expansion of transnational organised crime networks exploiting open borders, global finance and trade; crimes of globalisation such as large-scale environmental harm and corporate abuse across borders; Castells' network society explains rapid cross-border coordination.
- Use of Item B: refer to Item B's claim that flows of capital, people and information have led to growth in trafficking, international fraud and cyber-enabled offences, and use this as evidence for transformation.
- Points arguing continuity rather than transformation: many crimes are old in form, for example fraud and theft, but use new tools; local social factors such as poverty, demand and opportunity still determine much offending; policing and legal systems adapt and sometimes maintain control.
- Evaluation of evidence: difficulties of measurement and the dark figure of transnational crime, problems of jurisdiction and data consistency, and the fact that some global harms are under-recorded.
- Perspectives: a view linking to network explanations that emphasise transformation, and critical views that stress continuity and adaptation; realist evaluation weighing the empirical examples and recognising both change and continuities.
- Conclusion: a supported judgement that globalisation has changed some important features of crime, notably scale, reach and methods, but that many underlying causes and patterns remain continuous, so the nature of crime has been partly transformed rather than wholly replaced.

Question 7

identifies that transnational organised crime involves organised groups committing crime that crosses national borders **B1**

development, e.g. examples include drug trafficking, human trafficking or smuggling that operate in more than one country **B1**

Answer: Transnational organised crime involves organised groups committing crimes that cross national borders, for example drug trafficking or human trafficking operating in more than one country.

Question 8

identifies a link, e.g. exploitative labour practices, environmental harm or illegal dumping within global supply chains **B1**

development, e.g. weak regulation in some countries can allow corporations or suppliers to break laws causing harm **B1**

further development or example, e.g. shipment of hazardous waste to countries with lax controls **B1**

Answer: Global supply chains can be linked to crimes of globalisation through exploitative labour practices or environmental harm, because weak regulation in some countries allows suppliers or firms to break laws, for example shipping hazardous waste to places with lax controls.

Question 9

identifies a difference, e.g. cybercrime can be committed remotely across borders **B1**

explains the difference, e.g. this reduces the need for physical presence and can complicate policing and jurisdiction **B1**

identifies a second element or consequence, e.g. it can target large numbers of victims quickly **B1**

explains the second element, e.g. malware or phishing campaigns can reach victims worldwide at low cost **B1**

Answer: Cybercrime differs from street crime in that it can be committed remotely across borders, reducing the need for physical presence and complicating policing and jurisdiction; additionally, cybercrime can target large numbers of victims quickly, since malware or phishing campaigns can reach people worldwide at low cost.

Question 10

identifies a characteristic, e.g. use of corruption to protect operations, or flexible, cell-based structures **B1**

brief development, e.g. corruption of officials helps avoid detection and cell structures reduce the impact of arrests **B1**

Answer: They often use corruption to protect operations or have flexible, cell-based structures that spread roles across countries, so corruption helps avoid detection and cell structures reduce the impact of arrests.

Question 11

identifies that glocal means global links combined with local structures or operations **B1**

development, e.g. transnational groups using local contacts or cells to run operations in specific towns or cities **B1**

Answer: Glocal means organised crime that combines global links with local structures, for example transnational groups using local contacts or cells to carry out operations in particular towns or cities.

Question 12

identifies and explains one globalised form of crime, e.g. human trafficking, and links it to flows of people and capital	**B1**
develops the explanation for the first crime, e.g. demand in wealthier states and transport networks facilitate movement of victims	**B1**
identifies and explains a second globalised form, e.g. international fraud or cyber-enabled crime, and links it to flows of information or capital	**B1**
develops the explanation for the second crime, e.g. online platforms allow fraud to reach victims across borders and enable laundering of proceeds	**B1**
shows explicit use of Item B in the analysis, not just general definitions	**B1**
accurate use of sociological terms and examples to support each analytic point	**B1**

Answer: One example is human trafficking: global flows of people and demand in wealthier states, together with cheaper transport and weak enforcement in some countries, make it easier for traffickers to move victims across borders for forced labour or sexual exploitation. A second example is international fraud or cyber-enabled crime: flows of information and digital connectivity let criminals run scams and phishing from anywhere, target victims in many countries and move proceeds through international accounts, while global financial systems can be abused to launder money. Both analyses draw directly on Item B's point about flows of capital, people and information.