



GSOC.CR10 Situational Crime Prevention: Target Hardening and Designing Out Crime

AQA 8192 • Calculators not allowed • about 60 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. For three of the longer short-answer questions write your response in full sentences as directed. The pack should take about 60 minutes.

1 Which one of the following is an example of target hardening at a shop in a shopping centre?

- ☐ A) Offering free parking to customers
- ☐ B) Installing security tags on clothing
- ☐ C) Running a youth outreach programme nearby
- ☐ D) Publishing crime maps online

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Define the term 'situational crime prevention' as it is used when discussing crime at specific sites such as car parks and shops.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Identify and explain two examples of target hardening that a retail manager could introduce in a high street shop.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

- 4** Describe one way CCTV can reduce crime in a multi-storey car park, and one limitation of CCTV in this setting. Name the car park setting in your answer.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

- 5** Identify and explain one way the physical design of a car park can be changed to 'design out' opportunities for vehicle theft, referring to a specific feature you would change.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

- 6** Identify and explain two problems that might limit the effectiveness of target hardening measures such as alarms, shutters and heavy locks in a busy city centre shop.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

- 7** Outline two ways security guards can contribute to reducing shoplifting in a large department store.

(Total for Question 7 is 4 marks)

- 8** State one advantage of using electronic security tags on goods in a retail setting, and one possible disadvantage. Name the retail setting in your answer.

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

- 9** Using the example of a shopping centre entrance, explain two ways that 'access control' as a designing out measure can reduce opportunistic crime.

(Total for Question 9 is 4 marks)

- 10** Identify and explain one way improving lighting in a car park can both increase perceived risk for an offender and help evidence-gathering after an incident.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

- 11** State one example of how shops can use product display design to reduce theft, and briefly explain why it helps, referring to a high street shop.

(Total for Question 11 is 2 marks)

- 12** Identify one ethical concern that may arise from the use of widespread CCTV in public shopping centres, and give a brief reason why it is a concern.

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

- 13** Explain one way that target hardening measures could unintentionally increase the costs to legitimate users of a facility, using a multi-storey car park as an example.

(Total for Question 13 is 2 marks)

- 14** Identify and explain one reason why situational crime prevention measures at a single site might not reduce overall crime in a town centre.

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

- 15** Which of the following best describes 'designing out' crime in an urban shopping centre?

- ☐ A) Focusing police patrols on known hotspot streets
- ☐ B) Changing the physical layout to increase visibility and reduce hiding places
- ☐ C) Offering community crime awareness workshops
- ☐ D) Increasing penalties for shoplifting in the courts

(Total for Question 15 is 1 mark)

- 16** Discuss how far situational crime prevention measures such as target hardening, CCTV and designing out crime are effective at reducing crime at specific sites like car parks and shopping centres. In your answer, consider at least two different types of measure, include strengths and limitations, and reach a supported judgement.

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(Total for Question 16 is 12 marks)

Mark scheme · GSOC.CR10 Situational Crime Prevention: Target Hardening and Designing Out Crime

Question 1

- **B1** B (installing security tags on clothing)
- **Answer: B**

Question 2

- **B1** identifies that situational crime prevention aims to reduce opportunities for crime at particular places and times (oe)
- **B1** development, e.g. by increasing perceived risks and reducing rewards, or by target hardening and designing out crime
- **Answer: Situational crime prevention aims to reduce opportunities for crime at particular places and times by increasing perceived risks and reducing rewards, for example through target hardening and designing out crime.**

Question 3

- **B1** identifies one appropriate target hardening measure, e.g. installing a visible alarm system or metal shutters
- **B1** explains how that measure reduces opportunity or increases perceived risk, e.g. alarms deter entry and trigger rapid police response
- **B1** identifies a second, different appropriate measure, e.g. security tagging of goods or better locks on stock rooms
- **B1** explains how the second measure reduces opportunity or reward, e.g. tags make stolen items harder to remove undetected or locks restrict access to valuable stock
- **Answer: Example measures include installing visible alarm systems or metal shutters, which deter burglars by increasing the risk of detection, and security tagging of goods or improved locks, which make theft harder and reduce the reward from stealing.**

Question 4

- **B1** describes a way CCTV can reduce crime in a car park, e.g. by increasing the chance offenders will be identified and caught
- **B1** development of that description, e.g. recorded footage can be used by police to identify suspects and act as a deterrent
- **B1** states a limitation of CCTV in a car park, e.g. CCTV has blind spots, poor lighting can reduce effectiveness, or it may only record rather than prevent
- **B1** development of the limitation, e.g. offenders may avoid cameras or footage may be unusable without good lighting and maintenance
- **Answer: In a multi-storey car park CCTV can reduce crime by increasing the chance offenders will be identified and caught, since recorded footage can be used by police and deters potential offenders. A limitation is that CCTV can have blind spots or poor lighting, reducing its effectiveness, and it may simply record crimes that still occur if not monitored or maintained.**

Question 5

- **B1** identifies a design change and names a specific feature, e.g. improving sightlines by removing tall planters or reconfiguring bays
- **B1** explains how the change reduces opportunity, e.g. better sightlines increase natural surveillance and make it harder for thieves to work unseen
- **Answer: Improving sightlines by removing tall planters or reconfiguring parking bays increases natural surveillance, making it harder for thieves to work unseen and reducing opportunities for vehicle theft.**

Question 6

- **B1** identifies one problem, e.g. displacement where crime moves to softer targets nearby
- **B1** explains that problem, e.g. burglars may target neighbouring shops with weaker security so overall crime is not reduced in the wider area
- **B1** identifies a second problem, e.g. cost and practicality, such as expensive installation and maintenance
- **B1** explains the second problem, e.g. small businesses may be unable to afford measures or may not maintain them, reducing long term effectiveness
- **Answer: Problems include displacement, where burglars target nearby shops with weaker security so crime moves**

Question 7

- **B1** identifies one way, e.g. visible patrols deterring potential shoplifters
- **B1** development, e.g. presence of guards increases perceived risk of being caught
- **B1** identifies a second way, e.g. guards can intervene and apprehend suspects or monitor fitting rooms
- **B1** development, e.g. active intervention prevents theft and can recover goods before offenders leave
- **Answer: Security guards reduce shoplifting through visible patrols that deter by increasing perceived risk, and by intervening or monitoring areas such as fitting rooms to prevent theft and recover goods before offenders leave.**

Question 8

- **B1** states an advantage with setting, e.g. in a high street clothing store tags deter theft and alarm at exits
- **B1** states a disadvantage, e.g. tags can be expensive and may inconvenience paying customers or require staff time to remove
- **Answer: In a high street clothing store, electronic security tags deter theft and trigger alarms at exits; a disadvantage is they can be costly and may slow checkout if staff must remove tags, inconveniencing customers.**

Question 9

- **B1** identifies one access control measure, e.g. restricting entrances to a shopping centre or installing gated entries
- **B1** explains how it reduces opportunity, e.g. fewer entrance points make it easier to monitor people and spot suspicious behaviour
- **B1** identifies a second access control measure, e.g. timed automatic barriers or controlled vehicle entry
- **B1** explains how the second reduces opportunity, e.g. barriers stop quick drive-off thefts and slow entry, increasing chance of detection
- **Answer: Restricting entrances or installing gated entries reduces opportunity by making the shopping centre easier to monitor and by concentrating pedestrian flow where staff or cameras can watch. Timed barriers or controlled vehicle entry prevent quick drive-off thefts and slow access, increasing the chance of detection.**

Question 10

- **B1** identifies that better lighting increases visibility and perceived risk of being seen
- **B1** explains that lighting improves CCTV and witness ability, aiding identification and evidence after incidents
- **Answer: Better lighting increases visibility so offenders feel a higher risk of being seen, and it improves CCTV and witnesses ability to identify suspects, helping evidence-gathering after incidents.**

Question 11

- **B1** states an example, e.g. keeping high-value items behind counters or in locked cabinets in a high street shop
- **B1** brief explanation, e.g. such placement reduces easy access and increases the effort and risk required to steal
- **Answer: In a high street shop, keeping high-value items behind counters or in locked cabinets reduces theft by restricting easy access and increasing the effort and risk required to steal them.**

Question 12

- **B1** identifies an ethical concern, e.g. privacy and constant surveillance of shoppers
- **B1** gives a brief reason, e.g. it can make customers feel watched and raise questions about who controls footage and for what purpose
- **Answer: An ethical concern is privacy: constant CCTV surveillance can make shoppers feel watched and raises questions about who controls footage, how long it is kept and whether it is used appropriately.**

Question 13

- **B1** identifies a cost to users, e.g. installation of barriers leading to parking charges or slower entry
- **B1** explains why, e.g. costs of equipment and staffing may be passed on as higher fees or cause delays that inconvenience legitimate users
- **Answer: Installing barriers or staffed checkpoints in a multi-storey car park can lead to higher parking charges or slower entry, because equipment and staffing costs are passed on to users and checks can delay access.**

Question 14

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. spatial displacement where offenders move to other, less well-protected locations
- **B1** explains spatial displacement, e.g. crime may shift to nearby streets or shops so the town centre's total crime does not fall
- **B1** identifies a second reason, e.g. limited scope of site-based measures for offences motivated by other factors
- **B1** explains the second reason, e.g. crimes driven by personal disputes or organised criminal networks may not be prevented by physical security alone
- **Answer: Site measures may cause spatial displacement, with offenders targeting less well-protected nearby locations so the town centre's total crime does not fall; also some crimes driven by personal disputes or organised networks are not prevented by physical security, so site measures have limited scope.**

Question 15

- **B1 B** (changing the physical layout to increase visibility and reduce hiding places)
- **Answer: B**

Question 16

- **Level 1** (1-3): Basic statements about situational measures with limited development. May list measures or give one-sided points without evaluation or a supported judgement.
- **Level 2** (4-7): Clear explanation of how situational measures can reduce opportunity and increase perceived risk, with some evaluation. Includes at least one strength and one limitation and some attempt at a conclusion.
- **Level 3** (8-12): Detailed, balanced discussion of a range of situational measures, showing understanding of mechanisms (opportunity reduction, perceived risk) and limits such as displacement, ethical issues and costs. Uses specific examples and arrives at a supported, well-justified judgement.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Explain how target hardening (locks, shutters, security tags) increases effort and risk for offenders, reducing opportunistic theft at the site.
 - Explain how CCTV increases perceived risk and aids evidence-gathering, and how its effectiveness depends on monitoring, lighting and maintenance.
 - Explain designing out crime through layout changes, such as improving sightlines, reducing concealed areas, and controlling access points to increase natural surveillance.
 - Consider strengths such as rapid, local reductions in opportunity, clear design interventions, and deterrence effects for opportunistic offenders.
 - Consider limitations such as spatial displacement of crime to nearby softer targets, temporal displacement, the limited effect on motivated or organised offenders, and high costs or maintenance needs.
 - Discuss ethical and social concerns like privacy from CCTV or the potential to make spaces feel less welcoming if over-fortified.
 - Consider evidence that combining measures can be more effective than single measures, and that situational measures work best when part of a wider strategy but are limited if used alone.
 - Reach a supported judgement weighing local benefits against limits like displacement and cost, for example saying situational measures are often effective at reducing opportunistic crime at a site but cannot alone eliminate crime across an area.