5.2 Functionalist and Marxist Explanations of Crime: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and name sociologists where you can.

1 Using your knowledge of Marxist explanations of crime, explain what this scenario might illustrate about the criminal justice system.

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

2 Merton's strain theory relies on a distinction between goals and the ways of reaching them. Define institutionalised means.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.2 Functionalist and Marxist Explanations of Crime: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies selective law enforcement or differential treatment of corporate versus street crime as relevant	**B1**
links the company's lenient fine to the harsher treatment of street crime described in the scenario	**B1**
explains the individual's prison sentence for a relatively low-value offence as evidence of harsher treatment for working-class or street crime	**B1**
explains this pattern could disguise or underrepresent the true extent and seriousness of crime committed by the powerful	**B1**
development referencing the Marxist argument that law can serve capitalist or business interests	**B1**
clear, accurate use of Marxist terminology throughout	**B1**

Answer: The company's small fine compared with the individual's prison sentence for a much smaller-value offence is consistent with the Marxist argument of selective law enforcement, where street crime is treated more harshly than corporate crime, disguising the true scale of harm caused by the powerful.

Question 2

the socially approved, legitimate ways of achieving a culturally valued goal (oe)	**B1**
a correct example, e.g. education and work as legitimate routes to financial success	**B1**

Answer: The socially approved, legitimate ways of achieving a culturally valued goal; for example, education and work as legitimate routes to financial success.

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