5.2 Functionalist and Marxist Explanations of Crime: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Durkheim argued that crime performs an important function for society by...

- ☐ A) reaffirming shared values when society reacts to it
- ☐ B) making everyone in society richer
- ☐ C) removing all rule-breaking permanently
- ☐ D) proving that laws are unnecessary

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

---

2 State one example of a type of crime Marxists argue is committed disproportionately by wealthy or powerful people or organisations, but is often underpoliced.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

---

3 Which perspective argues that laws mainly serve the interests of the ruling class?

- ☐ A) Functionalism
- ☐ B) Marxism
- ☐ C) Interactionism
- ☐ D) New Right

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

---

4 Durkheim's theory of crime rests on the idea of a shared moral order. Define collective conscience.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

5 Durkheim identified more than one function that crime performs for society.

(a) Explain what Durkheim meant by crime performing 'boundary maintenance'. **(2)**

(b) Explain what Durkheim meant by crime and deviance allowing for 'adaptation and change'. **(2)**

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

---

6 State one criticism often made of Merton's strain theory.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 5.2 Functionalist and Marxist Explanations of Crime: Test Pack

Question 1

A (reaffirming shared values when society reacts to it) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

identifies a genuine example, e.g. corporate crime, such as breaching health and safety or environmental regulations, or large-scale financial fraud or tax evasion **B1**

brief accurate development linking it to the underpolicing argument in Q9 **B1**

Answer: Corporate crime, such as breaching health and safety or environmental regulations, or large-scale financial fraud, which Marxists argue receives comparatively little police or prosecuting attention.

Question 3

B (Marxism) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 4

the shared set of beliefs, values and moral attitudes that operate as a unifying force within society (oe) **B1**

development linking it to boundary maintenance, e.g. punishing crime reaffirms this shared moral order **B1**

Answer: The shared set of beliefs, values and moral attitudes that unify society; punishing crime reaffirms this collective conscience through boundary maintenance.

Question 5

(a) identifies that publicising and punishing a crime reminds society of its shared moral boundaries (oe) **B1**

(a) development, e.g. this reaction reaffirms and strengthens the collective conscience, the shared beliefs and values that unite society **B1**

(a) Answer: Punishing a crime publicly reminds society of its shared moral boundaries, reaffirming and strengthening the collective conscience, the shared beliefs and values that unite society.

(b) identifies that some deviance introduces new ideas that challenge currently accepted norms (oe) **B1**

(b) development, e.g. today's deviance can sometimes become tomorrow's accepted norm, allowing society to gradually adapt and change **B1**

(b) Answer: Some deviance introduces new ideas that challenge accepted norms; over time, today's deviance can become tomorrow's accepted norm, allowing society to gradually adapt.

Question 6

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it does not explain crimes committed by wealthy or already successful people who are not experiencing strain **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that it assumes everyone shares the same success goal, which may not be true of every social group **B1**

Answer: Critics argue strain theory does not explain crimes committed by wealthy or already successful people, and assumes everyone shares the same success goal, which may not be true of every social group.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk