5.3 Labelling Theory and Crime: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question refers to Item C, use both the Item and your own knowledge of labelling theory in your answer.

1 According to Howard Becker, an act only becomes 'deviant' when...

- ☐ A) it breaks a written law
- ☐ B) a social group or rule-makers label it as such and react to it
- ☐ C) the person doing it feels guilty
- ☐ D) a court convicts the person

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Labels can be applied by both formal and informal agencies.

(a) State one agency that might apply a formal deviant label to a young person. **(2)**

(b) State one agency that might apply an informal deviant label to a young person. **(2)**

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Sociologists sometimes describe a sequence of increasingly deviant roles that follows secondary deviance. Define deviant career.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain one reason why sociologists argue that some groups are more likely than others to be labelled deviant by the police.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.3 Labelling Theory and Crime: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

B (a social group or rule-makers label it as such and react to it) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

(a) names a genuine formal agency, e.g. the police, through a caution or an arrest **B1**

(a) brief accurate development **B1**

(a) Answer: The police: issuing a caution or making an arrest formally labels a young person's behaviour as deviant or criminal.

(b) names a genuine informal agency, e.g. peers, the school or the local community **B1**

(b) brief accurate development **B1**

(b) Answer: Peers: classmates calling someone 'the thief' informally attach a deviant label without any official legal process.

Question 3

the idea that, once someone is labelled deviant and experiences secondary deviance, they may progress through a sequence of increasingly deviant roles or behaviour over time (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. linked to the individual increasingly organising their identity around the deviant label **B1**

Answer: The idea that, once labelled deviant and experiencing secondary deviance, a person may progress through a sequence of increasingly deviant roles over time, as their identity becomes organised around the label.

Question 4

identifies that the police, like other social groups, can hold stereotypes about who is a 'typical' rule-breaker **B1**

development, e.g. this can shape which people and areas receive closer surveillance, affecting who is more likely to be caught and labelled, regardless of actual rates of rule-breaking **B1**

Answer: Sociologists argue the police, like other social groups, can hold stereotypes about who is a 'typical' rule-breaker, which can shape which people and areas receive closer surveillance and are therefore more likely to be caught and labelled, regardless of actual rates of rule-breaking.

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