5.4 Feminist Explanations of Crime and Gender Patterns: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Define the 'chivalry thesis'.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Not all sociologists accept the chivalry thesis without qualification. Explain one criticism of the chivalry thesis.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain one way that being a mother might, according to feminist sociologists, affect a woman's likelihood of receiving a prison sentence compared with a man convicted of a similar offence.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Compare Heidensohn's control theory and Carlen's class deal/gender deal as explanations for lower recorded female offending.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Heidensohn's theory rests on the concept of patriarchal control. Define patriarchal control.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

6 Heidensohn identified different settings in which patriarchal control operates.

(a) Explain how Heidensohn argued women are controlled 'at home'. **(2)**

(b) Explain how Heidensohn argued women are controlled 'in public'. **(2)**

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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7 State one criticism often made of Carlen's study.

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

8 Pat Carlen's concept describing the implicit promise of reward for working within the law is called the...

- ☐ A) gender deal
- ☐ B) class deal
- ☐ C) strain theory
- ☐ D) master status

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

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Mark scheme · 5.4 Feminist Explanations of Crime and Gender Patterns: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

the chivalry thesis argues the criminal justice system, e.g. the police and courts, treats women more leniently than men for similar offences (oe)	**B1**
development, e.g. women may be more likely to receive a caution rather than a charge for a similar offence	**B1**
further point, e.g. this leniency is contested and debated among sociologists rather than universally accepted	**B1**
correct use of the term 'chivalry thesis'	**B1**

Answer: The chivalry thesis argues the criminal justice system treats women more leniently than men for similar offences, for example through cautions rather than charges, though this claim is debated among sociologists.

Question 2

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. leniency may not be shared equally, and can particularly benefit women seen as conforming to traditional expectations of femininity	**B1**
development, e.g. women judged to have broken gender norms, for example through violent crime, can instead be treated especially harshly	**B1**
identifies this pattern as sometimes called 'double deviance': being punished both for the offence and for departing from expected gender behaviour	**B1**
further point, e.g. this suggests the criminal justice system's treatment of women may depend heavily on how far a woman's behaviour matches or breaks traditional expectations, not simply on being female	**B1**

Answer: Critics argue chivalry is not shared equally: it may particularly benefit women seen as conforming to traditional femininity, while women judged to have broken gender norms, for example through violent crime, can be treated especially harshly, sometimes called 'double deviance'.

Question 3

identifies that courts may be reluctant to separate young children from their primary carer	**B1**
development, e.g. this can lead to more non-custodial sentences, such as community orders, for mothers than for otherwise similar male offenders	**B1**
further point, e.g. this reflects wider social expectations about women's caring roles rather than the seriousness of the offence alone	**B1**
correctly links this to wider debates about gendered treatment in the criminal justice system introduced in Q1 and Q2	**B1**

Answer: Courts may be reluctant to separate young children from their primary carer, so mothers convicted of an offence may be more likely to receive a non-custodial sentence than a man convicted of a similar offence, reflecting wider social expectations about women's caring roles.

Question 4

identifies that both are feminist explanations focusing on how patriarchal social structures shape women's behaviour	**B1**
explains Heidensohn emphasises broad, everyday control across the home, public space and work	**B1**
explains Carlen focuses more specifically on the material and emotional 'deals' offered to working-class women and what happens when these deals break down	**B1**
development noting the two explanations are complementary rather than contradictory, both pointing to patriarchal structures rather than biology as the cause of gender differences in recorded crime	**B1**

Answer: Both are feminist explanations rooted in patriarchal social structures: Heidensohn emphasises broad, everyday control across home, public space and work, while Carlen focuses more specifically on the material 'class deal' and emotional 'gender deal' offered to working-class women; the two views are complementary rather than contradictory.

Question 5

social control exercised by men over women, restricting women's behaviour and opportunities within a male-dominated society (oe)	**B1**
development, e.g. operating in different settings, such as the home, in public and at work	**B1**

Answer: Social control exercised by men over women, restricting women's behaviour and opportunities within a male-dominated society; it can operate in the home, in public and at work.

Question 6

(a) identifies that domestic responsibilities such as housework and childcare restrict women's time and freedom	**B1**
(a) development, e.g. limiting opportunities to be out of the home, where most recorded crime happens	**B1**

(a) Answer: Domestic responsibilities such as housework and childcare restrict women's time and freedom, limiting their opportunities to be out of the home, where most recorded crime takes place.

(b) identifies that fear of male violence can restrict where and when women feel able to go out	**B1**
(b) development, e.g. this limits opportunities for offending and for association with delinquent peer groups in public spaces	**B1**

(b) Answer: Fear of male violence can restrict where and when women feel able to go out, limiting their opportunities for offending and for association with delinquent peer groups in public spaces.

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Question 7

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it was based on a small, unrepresentative sample of women who were already involved in crime **B1**

brief development, e.g. so its findings may not generalise to women in general **B1**

Answer: Carlen's study was based on a small, unrepresentative sample of women who were already involved in crime, so its findings may not generalise to women in general.

Question 8

B (class deal) **B1**

Answer: B

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