5.4 Feminist Explanations of Crime and Gender Patterns: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Frances Heidensohn's control theory argues that women commit less recorded crime than men mainly because...

- ☐ A) women are naturally more law-abiding than men
- ☐ B) women are subject to greater patriarchal control, limiting their opportunities to offend
- ☐ C) women are punished more harshly than men for any crime
- ☐ D) crime statistics ignore all female offending

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Sociologists urge caution when comparing recorded crime statistics between men and women.

(a) State one recorded pattern in official crime statistics regarding gender. **(2)**

(b) State one reason feminist sociologists give for being cautious about reading this pattern as simply meaning 'men offend more'. **(2)**

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Feminist sociologists also use the concept of the 'dark figure of crime' when discussing women and crime. Explain how the dark figure of crime is relevant when discussing women's victimisation and offending in private settings.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 The sociologist Pat Carlen interviewed working-class women who had been convicted of crime. Explain Carlen's class deal and how it may link to crime.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.4 Feminist Explanations of Crime and Gender Patterns: Test Pack

Question 1

B (women are subject to greater patriarchal control, limiting their opportunities to offend) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

(a) identifies a genuine recorded pattern, e.g. men are convicted of far more recorded crime than women **B1**

(a) brief accurate development **B1**

(a) Answer: Official statistics show men are convicted of far more recorded crime than women.

(b) identifies a genuine reason, e.g. some female crime, such as theft or violence within the home, may be less likely to be reported or officially recorded in the first place **B1**

(b) brief development **B1**

(b) Answer: Some crime committed by women, such as theft or violence within the home, may be less likely to be reported to or recorded by the police, meaning recorded figures may not fully reflect underlying offending by gender.

Question 3

identifies the dark figure of crime as the gap between crimes that occur and crimes officially recorded **B1**

development, e.g. domestic abuse is currently underreported, partly due to fear, shame or dependency on the abuser **B1**

explains this means official statistics may understate the true scale of women's victimisation **B1**

further point, e.g. it may also understate offending that takes place within private, domestic settings **B1**

Answer: The dark figure of crime is the gap between crimes that occur and crimes officially recorded; domestic abuse is currently underreported, partly due to fear, shame or dependency on the abuser, so official statistics may understate the true scale of women's victimisation and of offending within private, domestic settings.

Question 4

identifies the 'class deal' as the implicit promise that, in return for working within the legitimate economy, a person will be rewarded with a reasonable standard of living **B1**

development, e.g. Carlen argued that when working-class women feel this deal is not available, for example through poverty or unemployment, it can break down **B1**

further point, e.g. when the class deal breaks down, crime can start to look like a rational alternative for meeting material needs **B1**

correctly and specifically attributes this concept to Carlen's study of women and crime **B1**

Answer: Carlen's 'class deal' is the implicit promise that working within the legitimate economy will bring a reasonable standard of living; when working-class women feel this deal is unavailable, for example through poverty, crime can start to look like a rational alternative.

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