5.6 Crime Statistics and the Media: 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 Explain one strength of using a victim survey, such as the Crime Survey for England and Wales, alongside police-recorded crime statistics.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain one way media reporting of crime can distort public understanding of how common certain crimes really are.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Media outlets do not report every crime equally; some stories are chosen over others. Define the term 'news values'.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 State one reason official crime statistics and media coverage of crime can give the public two very different impressions of crime trends.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.6 Crime Statistics and the Media: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies it can capture crimes never reported to the police, giving a fuller picture of the true extent of crime **B1**

development, e.g. comparing the two sources can reveal how much of the dark figure of crime police-recorded statistics are missing **B1**

Answer: A victim survey can capture crimes never reported to the police, so comparing it with police-recorded statistics can reveal how much of the dark figure of crime the official figures alone are missing.

Question 2

identifies that media coverage tends to focus disproportionately on rare, dramatic or unusual crimes, since these are seen as more newsworthy **B1**

development, e.g. this can make audiences believe such crimes are more common, or that crime overall is rising, than official statistics actually show **B1**

Answer: Media coverage focuses disproportionately on rare, dramatic crimes because they are seen as more newsworthy, which can make audiences believe such crimes are more common, or that crime overall is rising, than official statistics show.

Question 3

the qualities, e.g. drama, unusualness or shock value, that make a story more likely to be selected and prominently reported by the media (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. this shapes which crimes the public hears most about, regardless of how common they actually are **B1**

Answer: The qualities, such as drama, unusualness or shock value, that make a story more likely to be selected and prominently reported by the media; this shapes which crimes the public hears most about, regardless of how common they actually are.

Question 4

identifies a genuine reason, e.g. official statistics can show a long-term fall in some categories of crime, while media coverage of dramatic individual cases can create an impression that crime is getting worse **B1**

brief development **B1**

Answer: Official statistics can show an overall long-term fall in some categories of crime, while media coverage focused on dramatic individual cases can create an impression that crime is getting worse.

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