5.6 Crime Statistics and the Media: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Stanley Cohen's study of clashes between Mods and Rockers is best known for introducing the concept of a...

- ☐ A) self-fulfilling prophecy
- ☐ B) moral panic
- ☐ C) strain
- ☐ D) class deal

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Sociologists use the term 'moral panic' to describe a distinctive media and public reaction. Define the term 'moral panic'.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Cohen's study also described how media coverage can escalate a social reaction over time. Explain what is meant by a 'deviancy amplification spiral'.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 There is ongoing debate about whether media content can be a cause of crime. Explain two views about whether media content can be a cause of crime.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 State one criticism sometimes made of Cohen's original study.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.6 Crime Statistics and the Media: Test Pack

Question 1

B (moral panic) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

an intense wave of public concern and disapproval about a particular group or issue, often fuelled by exaggerated or sensationalised media coverage (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. can lead to calls for tougher laws or policing **B1**

Answer: An intense wave of public concern and disapproval about a particular group or issue, often fuelled by exaggerated or sensationalised media coverage, which can lead to calls for tougher laws or policing.

Question 3

identifies a deviancy amplification spiral as a process in which media coverage exaggerates and sensationalises a group's deviance, provoking a stronger societal and criminal-justice reaction **B1**

development, e.g. the stronger reaction, such as more policing attention, can produce more recorded incidents involving that group **B1**

further point, e.g. the media then report these further incidents as proof the original concern was justified **B1**

concludes this feeds further exaggerated coverage, forming a spiral **B1**

Answer: A deviancy amplification spiral is a process in which exaggerated media coverage provokes a stronger societal and criminal-justice reaction, such as more policing attention, which then produces more recorded incidents that the media report as proof the original concern was justified, feeding further exaggerated coverage.

Question 4

identifies that some argue exposure to violent or criminal content in the media can encourage imitation or 'copycat' behaviour **B1**

development, e.g. particularly in a small number of vulnerable individuals **B1**

identifies the counter-argument: critics argue this claim is difficult to prove **B1**

development, e.g. since most people who consume such media never offend, so a simple direct-cause link is not well supported by evidence **B1**

Answer: Some argue media content can encourage imitation or copycat behaviour, particularly among a small number of vulnerable individuals; critics respond that this is difficult to prove, since most people who consume such media never offend, so a simple direct-cause link is not well supported.

Question 5

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it focused on a specific historical case, the 1960s Mods and Rockers, from a very different media era **B1**

development, e.g. some sociologists question how far its findings about media amplification apply unchanged to modern media, such as social media **B1**

Answer: Cohen's study focused on a specific 1960s case from a very different media era, and some sociologists question how far its findings apply unchanged to modern media environments such as social media.

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