5.8 The Effectiveness of Prison and Rates of Reoffending: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for extended responses and for any question asking you to explain. Aim to spend about 75 minutes on the whole paper.

1 Using the context of prison effectiveness, explain one theoretical sociological reason why reoffending might remain high despite imprisonment.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Identify one strength of the argument that prison protects the public by incapacitation, as used by politicians and some criminologists.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Define what sociologists mean by 'incapacitation' when discussing prison as a form of punishment in the criminal justice system.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.8 The Effectiveness of Prison and Rates of Reoffending: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a theoretical reason, e.g. labelling theory suggests imprisonment can stigmatise offenders and limit lawful opportunities **B1**

development, e.g. a labelled ex-prisoner may find employment and housing harder to secure **B1**

further development, e.g. this social exclusion can push people back towards criminal networks **B1**

links the theory clearly to why reoffending might remain high after prison **B1**

Answer: Labelling theory suggests imprisonment can stigmatise offenders and limit lawful opportunities; labelled ex-prisoners may find employment and housing harder to secure, creating social exclusion that can push people back towards criminal networks and reoffending.

Question 2

identifies a strength, e.g. incapacitation does prevent the imprisoned individual from committing further offences against the public while they are inside custody **B1**

brief development, e.g. this can reduce immediate risk to victims and neighbours **B1**

Answer: A strength is that incapacitation prevents the imprisoned person from committing further offences against the public while in custody, reducing immediate risk to victims and neighbours.

Question 3

identifies incapacitation as making an offender unable to commit crimes against the public while held in custody (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. by removing offenders from the community for a period of time **B1**

Answer: Incapacitation means making an offender unable to commit crimes against the public while held in custody, for example by removing them from the community for a period of time.

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