



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY
LEADERSHIP**

JANUARY-APRIL 2024 SEMESTER

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COURSE CODE: BCSL 115

COURSE TITLE: THEORIES OF CRIMINOLOGY

EXAM DATE:

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- **Answer any TWO questions**
- *ALL PAC University's examination rules and regulations apply*

QUESTION ONE

- (a) Citing relevant examples explain FIVE causations of crime and criminal behaviour in Kenya based on criminological theories. (15 Marks)

(b) Citing any five examples discuss how crime is a social construct. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

(a) Discuss the biological theories of offending in relation to the contemporary Kenya. (10 Marks)

(b) Using any five relevant examples discuss how Lombroso atavist criminal explanation is applicable to the modern Kenyan criminal justice system. (10 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

(a) Citing different crimes as examples, discuss how the following theories of crime causation are related to current crimes as reported in the Kenyan mass media;-

- (i) Anomie/strain theory (5 Marks)
- (ii) Social learning theory (5 Marks)
- (iii) Social control (social bond) theory (5 Marks)
- (iv) Deterrence theory (5 Marks)

MARKING SCHEME

QUESTION ONE

a) Citing relevant examples explain FIVE causations of crime and criminal behaviour in Kenya based on criminological theories. (15 Marks)

1. Classical	Crime occurs when benefits outweighs costs. People pursue self-interest in the absence of effective punishments. Crime is a free willed choice.	<i>Beccaria</i>
2. Positivist	Crime is caused or determined. <i>Lombroso</i> placed more emphasis on biological deficiencies, whereas later scholars emphasized psychological and sociological factors.	<i>Lombroso</i> <i>Querry</i> <i>Quetelet</i>
3. Individual Trait	Criminals differ from non-criminals on a number of biological and psychological traits. These traits cause crime when they interact with the social environment.	<i>Glueck & Glueck</i> <i>Mednick</i> <i>Caspi</i> <i>Moffitt</i>
4. Social Disorganization	Disorganization of communities causes crime; informal social controls break down leading to emergence of criminal cultures due to lack of collective efficacy to fight crime and disorder.	<i>Shaw & Mckay</i> <i>Sampson</i> <i>Bursik & Grasmick</i>
5. Differential Association Social Learning Sub-cultural	Crime is learned through associations with criminal definitions that might be approving of criminal conduct or are neutralizations justifying crime under certain circumstances. Interacting with antisocial peers is a major cause of crime. Criminal behavior will be repeated and become chronic if reinforced. When criminal subcultures exist, many individuals can learn to commit crime increasing violence & crime rates.	<i>Sutherland & Cressey</i> <i>Sykes & Matza</i> <i>Akers</i> <i>Wolfgang & Ferracuti</i> <i>Anderson</i>
6. Anomie Institutional Anomie	The gap between economic success goals & opportunities to obtain these goals creates structural strain. Norms weaken and 'anomie' ensures leading to high crime rates. When social institutions (such as family) are weak, economic institution dominates leading to institutional imbalances thus high crime.	<i>Merton</i> <i>Messner & Rosenfeld</i>

7.Strain General Strain	When individuals cannot obtain success goals, they experience strain. Under certain conditions, they are likely to respond through crime. The strains leading to crime may not only be linked to deprivation of valued stimuli but also to the presentation of noxious stimuli & the taking away of valued stimuli. Crime is a more likely response to strain when it results in negative affect such as anger and frustration.	<i>Cohen</i> <i>Cloward & Ohlin</i> <i>Agnew</i>
	Asks the question, “Why don’t people commit crime?” They assume that criminal motivation is	
8.Control General Theory of Crime Control Balance Power Control	widespread. Identifies control as the key factor in crime causation. These controls might be rooted in relationships (e.g. social bonds) or be internal (e.g. self control). Exposure to control might also differ by social location and historical period, such as the changing level and type of control given to males and females.	<i>Hirschi</i> <i>Reckless</i> <i>Gottfredson</i> <i>Hagan</i>
9.Rational Choice Deterrence	Building on classical theory & sees crime as a choice that is influenced by its costs and benefits (rationality). Argue that crime will be more likely deterred if its costs are raised (e.g. more effort required, more punishment applied), especially if costs are certain and immediate. Information about the costs and benefits of crime can be obtained by direct experiences with punishment & punishment avoidance, & indirectly by observing whether others who offend are punished or avoid punishment.	<i>Stafford & Warr</i> <i>Patternnoster</i> <i>Cornish & Clarke</i> <i>Matsueda</i>
10.Routine Activities	Crime occurs when there’s an intersection in time and space of a motivated offender, an attractive target, and a lack of capable guardianship. People’s daily routine activities affect the likelihood they will be attractive target who encounters an offender in a situation where no effective guardianship is present. Changes in routine activities in society (e.g. women working can affect crime rates).	<i>Cohen & Felson</i>

11.Labeling Re-integrative shaming	People become stabilized in criminal roles when they are labeled criminal and stigmatized. They develop criminal identities, are sent to prison and are excluded from conventional roles. Re-integrative shaming responses are less likely to create defiance and a commitment to crime.	<i>Lemert</i> <i>Matsueda</i> <i>Braithwaite</i> <i>Sherman</i>
12.Critical	Inequality in power and material well-being create conditions that lead to street crime and corporate crime. Capitalism and its market economy are especially crime-causing because they create vast inequality that impoverishes many and provides opportunities for exploitation for the powerful few.	<i>Bonger</i> <i>Quinney</i> <i>Greenberg</i> <i>Currie</i> <i>Colvin</i>
13.Peacemaking	Crime is caused by suffering due to injustice rooted in inequality and daily personal acts of harm. Making “war on crime” will not work. Making peace is the solution to crime.	<i>Quinney</i>
14.Feminism	Crime is shaped by different social experiences of power exercised by men and women. Patriarchy is a broad structure that shapes gender-related experiences and power. Men may use crime to exert control over women to demonstrate masculinity – to show that they are “men” in ways consistent with societal ideals of masculinity.	<i>Adler</i> <i>Daly</i> <i>Chesney-Lind</i> <i>Messerchmidt</i>
15.Developmental Life Course	Crime causation is a developmental process that starts before birth and continues throughout one’s life course. Individual factors interact with societal factors to determine the onset, length and end of criminal careers. Key theoretical issues indicate continuity and change in crime: some theories predict continuity across the life course; others predict continuity for some offenders and change for other offenders; and some predict continuity and change for the same offenders.	<i>Moffit</i> <i>Shampson & Laub</i>

(Any five points (4mark each) and a relevant example (1mark eachs)=15marks)

(a) Citing any five examples discuss how crime is a social construct. (5 marks)

Crime is a social construct (meaning it is a product of historical events and social forces), and therefore, hard to define. It differs between countries and cultures and throughout history. Also, perspectives on crime can differ.

- a. Becker (1963) described crime as a social construct. It is always in someone's interest that something is being criminalised.
- b. According to Vold (1958), crime is a social conflict. There are competing group interests, and in order to protect the interest of the ruling class (those who have the power), some issues are being criminalised.
- c. Some people argue crime is crime because it is consensually viewed as a crime. The criminalisation of certain subjects reflects the values, beliefs, opinions and moralities of society.

(Definition of crime and citing five perspectives (2marks) and explaining the three arguments as presented by the scholars (1mark each)=5marks)

QUESTION TWO

(a) Discuss the biological theories of offending in relation to the contemporary Kenya. (10 Marks)

- Crime is caused or determined. Lombroso placed more emphasis on biological deficiencies, whereas later scholars emphasized psychological and sociological factors.
- Criminals differ from non-criminals on a number of biological and psychological traits. These traits cause crime when they interact with the social environment.
- Biological inferiority causes people to commit crimes.

(Any three points with relevant example (3mark each) and explaining what is biological theory (1mark each)=15marks)

(b) Using any relevant examples discuss how Lombroso atavist criminal explanation is applicable to the modern Kenyan criminal justice system. (10 Marks)

- *Lombroso's approach "suggested that criminals are distinguished from non-criminals by the manifestation of multiple physical anomalies, which are of atavistic or degenerative origin. The concept of atavism (from Latin atavus, ancestor) postulated a reversion to a primitive or subhuman type of man, characterized physically by a variety of inferior morphological features reminiscent of apes and lower primates, occurring in the more simian fossil men and, to some extent, preserved in modern 'savages.'" In addition, Lombroso's theory implied that the "mentality of atavistic individuals is that of primitive man, that these are biological 'throwbacks' to an earlier stage of evolution, and that the behaviour of these 'throwbacks' will inevitably be contrary to the rules and expectations of modern civilized society."*
- *Lombroso not only focused on the "born criminal," atavism, and degeneracy; as a positivist, he also expressed concern for factors such as the social and physical environment of the offender. In Crime, Its Causes and Remedies (1899), he reported that economic and political developments give rise to the appearance of abnormalities that induce social reactions. In discussing socioeconomic factors, he emphasized a*

mutual interactive relationship between heredity and environment and, in other written works, stressed environmental conditions as causing or having an effect on criminality. For example, he discussed the influences of poverty on crime, the relationship between the cost of food and crimes against property and person, and the relationship between alcohol and crime.

- *Lombroso also investigated the etiology (or origins) of crime. He used a wide variety of research techniques and procedures, ranging from historical and clinical methods to anthropometric and statistical techniques. These were important strides in the study of crime; nevertheless, Lombroso's research methods would not be accepted today as scientific.*
- *Lombroso was unhappy with the abstract, judicial methods of studying crime in his day. He wanted to apply the experimental method in studying the differences between criminals and noncriminals.*

He did his research by studying criminals in Italian prisons, where he became acquainted with a famous bandit named Vilella. When Vilella died and Lombroso did a postmortem examination, he found a distinct depression at the base of the skull, a "characteristic found in inferior animals, and a depression correlated with an overdevelopment of the vermis, known in birds as the middle cerebellum." [i] In reviewing this moment in his life, Lombroso later stated: "This was not merely an idea, but a revelation. At the sight of that skull, I seemed to see all of a sudden, lighted up as a vast plain under a flaming sky, the problem of the nature of the criminal—an atavistic being who reproduces in his person the ferocious instincts of primitive humanity and the inferior animals. Thus were explained anatomically the enormous jaws, high cheekbones, prominent superciliary arches, solitary lines in the palms, extreme size of the orbits, handle-shaped or sessile ears found in criminals, savages, and apes, insensibility to pain, extremely acute sight, tattooing, excessive idleness, love of orgies, and the irresistible craving for evil for its own sake, the desire not only to extinguish life in the victim, but to mutilate the corpse, tear its flesh, and drink its blood."

In modern criminal justice system – criminal investigations, most of these characteristics are used in describing criminals in the criminal description forms in our police stations.

(Explanation of the theory and its elements (6marks) and citing relevant examples (4mark each)=10marks)

QUESTION THREE

- (b) Citing different crimes as examples, discuss how the following theories of crime causation are related to current crimes as reported in the Kenyan mass media;- (20 Marks)

(v) Anomie/strain theory (5 Marks)

- *The gap between economic success goals & opportunities to obtain these goals creates structural strain. Norms weaken and 'anomie' ensues leading to high crime rates. When social institutions (such as family) are weak, economic institution dominates leading to institutional imbalances thus high crime.*

(vi) Social learning theory (5 Marks)

- *Crime is learned through associations with criminal definitions that might be approving of criminal conduct or are neutralizations justifying crime under certain circumstances. Interacting with antisocial peers is a major cause of crime. Criminal*

behavior will be repeated and become chronic if reinforced. When criminal subcultures exist, many individuals can learn to commit crime increasing violence & crime rates.

(vii) Social control (social bond) theory (5 Marks)

- *“Why don’t people commit crime?” They assume that criminal motivation is widespread. Identifies control as the key factor in crime causation. These controls might be rooted in relationships (e.g. social bonds) or be internal (e.g. self control). Exposure to control might also differ by social location and historical period, such as the changing level and type of control given to males and females.*

(viii) Deterrence theory (5 Marks)

- *Building on classical theory & sees crime as a choice that is influenced by its costs and benefits (rationality). Argue that crime will be more likely deterred if its costs are raised (e.g. more effort required, more punishment applied), especially if costs are certain and immediate. Information about the costs and benefits of crime can be obtained by direct experiences with punishment & punishment avoidance, & indirectly by observing whether others who offend are punished or avoid punishment.*
(Explanation of each theory and its elements (4marks each) and citing relevant examples (1mark each)=20marks)