

Unit 2 Glossary

KEY

Socialisation* - one asterisk means this term is generally A/A* grade level

Socialisation** - two asterisks means that this is highly unlikely to come up on the exam

Crime and Deviance

Definitions / types of crime

Crime
Deviance
Anti-social behaviour
White-collar crime
Corporate crime
Cyber crime

Social Control & Punishment

Social order	A stable state of society where most people follow the rules. Consensus view* = social order is achieved because people are socialised into the same norms and values. Most people agree with the rules and agree to follow them for the benefit of society as a whole. Conflict view* = social order is achieved because one group has the power to enforce their rules on the rest of society
Social control	Refers to control that a group or society exercises over people's behaviour and actions
Agencies of social control	Groups or organisations that control or influence people's behaviour
Formal social control	Control of people's behaviour based on written laws and rules . The agencies of formal social control include the police, courts, judiciary* (judges) and prisons
Informal social control	Control of people's behaviour based on social processes e.g. approval and disapproval of others. Enforced through social pressure. Agencies of informal social control include families, peer groups etc
Socially defined behaviour**	The idea that deviance is socially constructed , i.e. defined by society. E.g. being naked is acceptable in

	certain circumstances but deviant in others
Conformity	Following the rules
Negative sanctions	Sanctions that punish those who do not conform to the group's expectations, eg by ignoring them
Positive sanctions	Sanctions that reward those who behave according to the group's expectations, eg through praise
Data Protection**	The Data Protection Act controls how personal information is used by organisations, businesses or the government. Breaking data protection laws is unethical (morally wrong), can be an example of cyber crime and corporate crime
Surveillance	Monitoring behaviour for the purpose of social control eg CCTV cameras. *Sociologists claim that surveillance is increasingly used to control people in a postmodern society.
Community service	Unpaid work in the local community, like removing graffiti. A non-custodial (not prison) sentence a court can give.
ASBO	Anti-Social Behavioural Orders ASBOs are civil orders to protect the public from behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. An ASBO contains conditions banning an individual from carrying out certain anti-social acts eg going to a particular place; spending time with people who are known as trouble-makers etc. ASBOs became seen as a " badge of honour " for some people. The government is phasing them out
Probation**	Probation means you're serving your sentence but you're not in prison . E.g. because you're serving a community sentence; you have been released from prison on licence or on parole. While on probation, you may have to: do unpaid work, complete an education or training course get treatment for addictions, like drugs or alcohol have regular meetings with an 'offender manager'

Measuring Crime

Crime rate	Number of offences per 1,000 of the population per year.
Official crime statistics	Collected by police and courts. Huge dark figure (unreported + unrecorded crime) so lack validity. i.e. are not a true reflection of all crime
Recorded crime	Crimes that are recorded by the police. These form the official crime statistics but are just a 'tip of the iceberg' due to the dark figure.
Dark figure	Crimes that have either not been reported or not been recorded by the police and therefore are not part of the official crime statistics. There is a huge dark figure.
Social construct*	Something that is defined or created by society. The official crime statistics are a social construct because they do not represent ALL crime that occurs, just the ones which have been processed by the criminal justice system.
Victim survey	A study which asks a cross-section of the population whether they have been victims of particular offences and if so, whether they reported the crimes to the police
Self-report study	A survey that asks a cross-section of the population whether they have committed particular offences during a specified time period such as the last year. Such studies provide information on offences that are not necessarily dealt with by the police or courts (dark figure)

Explaining crime

Stereotype	A simple and false image . E.g. some sociologists argue the police have a stereotype of what a typical offender looks like
Labelling	The process of attaching a stigmatising name to individuals or groups. May lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy.
Self-fulfilling prophecy	A prediction that comes true - eg if a police officer expects young black males to be likely trouble makers, they may focus more attention on these groups and consequently will find more crime
Master status	A label that overrides all others . E.g. if someone is labelled a paedophile this becomes what they are known as, rather than by their occupation, family roles etc
Scapegoat	An individual or group (e.g. immigrants, teenagers) who are unfairly blamed for something
Chivalry effect/thesis	The idea that female offenders are seen as deserving more lenient treatment within the criminal justice system
Institutional racism	Discrimination in the day to day workings of an organisation such as the police force e.g. in its policies or procedures . E.g. higher rates of stop and search of black people
Peer pressure	The social pressure that a peer group (a group of people who share similar status and position in society, such as people of a similar age) puts on its members to encourage them to conform to the group's norms

Subculture	A social group which differs from the mainstream culture. Conforming to deviant subcultures can lead to criminal behaviour.
Relative deprivation	When individuals or groups feel that they are badly off in relation to their peers
Anomie*	Functionalist term for normlessness or chaos and the opposite of social order . There is a state of anomie when the rules break down, e.g. during a riot. Anomie can lead to further crime.

Mass Media

Mass media	Forms of communication that reach large audiences e.g. newspapers, television, internet
Traditional media (old media)	Media based on older technology e.g. newspapers, cinema and terrestrial television
New media	Forms of communication based on new technology e.g. internet and digital radio. More interactive, updated more frequently than traditional media
Digital media*	Digital media refers to audio, video, and photo content that has been encoded (digitally compressed)
Digital divide	A division or gap between those who have access to new media technology e.g. internet and those who do not
Interactivity	Being able to ' get involved ' with the new media e.g. searching the internet, writing comments, 'liking', retweeting etc
Social networking	Websites dedicated to interacting with other people e.g. Facebook, Twitter
Audience	A group of people who receive media texts (e.g. TV programmes, films, magazines etc) and make some sort of sense out of them Sociologists disagree about the impact the media has on the audience (<i>see the different 'audience theories' below</i>)
Readership	The group of people who regularly read a particular newspaper, magazine etc. Overall, readership of newspapers has declined
Blog	A regularly updated website or web page, typically run by an individual/small group, written in an informal style. Blogs are one way ordinary people can create media content (i.e. are 'empowered' by the internet)
Broadsheet	A newspaper with a large format, regarded as more serious and less sensationalist than tabloids. e.g. The Times
Tabloid	A newspaper of small format giving the news in condensed form, usually with illustrated, often sensational material. E.g. The Sun
Popular press	Another name for tabloid newspapers ("red tops")
Convergence*	The way in which technologies come together to create something new. The iPhone represents the convergence of books, TV, maps, the internet and the mobile phone.

Theories

Conflict approach	Claim that there has been a concentration of ownership i.e. the mass media is owned and controlled by a small number of very powerful people (e.g. Rupert Murdoch) who use it for their benefit/to exploit other people. E.g. through agenda setting and gatekeeping
Multi-media (or cross-media) conglomerate	A huge corporation or company that is formed when different firms merge and that has stakes across a range of different media, such as newspapers, films, digital TV service e.g. News Corporation owned by Rupert Murdoch
Pluralist approach	A perspective that believes a range of views and opinions exists in society and this range is reflected in the varied media products available to consumers. (the opposite view to the conflict approach)
Postmodern society*	The idea that society is radically different nowadays. Society is more diversity and fragmented. The media is increasingly important.
Hyperreality*	A postmodern idea that the media seems more 'real' than reality. Reality TV (e.g. Big Brother, Geordie Shore) is an example of hyperreality
Hypodermic syringe model	Claims the media is so powerful it directly injects messages into a passive audience .
Cultural effects model	Recognises that different groups of people will interpret media messages differently and that it is a slow, drip drip process .
Uses and gratifications model	Claims that people actively seek out certain media products to satisfy particular needs . E.g. for entertainment, for information etc
Selective filter model	Sees the audience having an active role in whether they internalise media messages.
Decoding model*	Sees the audience as active decoders of the content of TV programmes.
Desensitised	The claim that if audiences are frequently exposed to violence in the media they begin to see it as normal behaviour.

Political socialisation

Political socialisation	The process by which we acquire our political values and beliefs, e.g. which political party to support.
Democracy	Government by the people - a political system based on voting
Agenda setting	The ability of the media to focus public attention on particular topics and in doing so, direct public discussion and debate onto these topics.
Gatekeeper*	A journalist or editor (or owner) who decides which stories to publish or broadcast.
Norm referencing	The ability of the media to present some behaviour, views and groups positively and others negatively , thereby shaping public opinion on these groups
Bias	Not being neutral. Favouring one view.

Spin*	Providing a biased interpretation of an issue or event. A spin doctor is a spokesperson employed to give a favourable interpretation of events to the media, especially on behalf of a political party .
Censorship	Restricting media content e.g. the 9pm watershed
Freedom of speech	The right to speak without censorship . A human right and an important element of a democratic society . Sociologists debate how far people should have this right e.g. in relation to cyber bullying/trolling
Pressure group (also known as an interest group)	A group of people who try to persuade the government to adopt a particular policy or to influence public opinion on an issue eg Greenpeace
Citizen journalism*	Ordinary people can upload stories, photos, and videos. Some sociologists see this creating a more truthful media and undermining the conflict view that the media is controlled by powerful people who brainwash us with their ideas.
Propaganda	Biased or misleading material used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Mass culture and the media as an agent of socialisation

Mass popular culture	Ideas, attitudes, memes , images etc that are within the mainstream of a given culture. Forms part of the everyday lives of the society. E.g. pop music, soap operas, reality television etc . Popular culture is often viewed as being trivial and "dumbed down", especially compared to the high culture of the elite.
Globalisation	The process of the growing interconnectedness of different countries e.g. due to a global media , cheaper and easier travel, increased foreign trade etc
Media imperialism*	The idea that the global media is dominated by Western values and media products, and particularly American media products e.g. most films shown in British cinemas are American
Agency of socialisation	A social group or institution responsible for teaching norms and values eg family, peer groups, mass media etc
Substitute hearth	Sociologists compared the television to a fireplace in the way in brought the family together . *Postmodern sociologists claim this is now outdated as individual family members are now more likely to be divided by media rather than united by it
Gender socialisation	The process by which individuals learn appropriate masculine and feminine behaviour and acquire a gender identity .
Identity	How we see ourselves. It is argued that the media can be an important source of identity .

News

Moral panic	A media fuelled overreaction to an issue or a particular social group (e.g. 'hoodies') this process involves the media exaggerating the extent and significance of a social problem. A particular group is portrayed as a folk devil and becomes seen as a threat to society's values.
Folk devil	A group that is defined as a threat to society's values. The 'enemy' in a moral panic.
Deviance amplification	The process whereby the social reaction to deviance from the mass media and public leads to an increase in (amplifies) the deviance, by provoking more of the same behaviour.
News values	The ideas and beliefs editors/journalists etc hold about what makes a good story
Image	How certain groups are represented (shown) in the media. Sociologists have claimed that the way some groups were portrayed relied heavily on stereotypes . E.g.: Women were portrayed as sex objects or housewives Ethnic minorities were portrayed as criminal Other sociologists claim that this has changed and that media representations are now more realistic.
Stigma	Social shame. E.g. stigmatising headlines about benefits claimants

Researching the media

Content analysis*	A method used to research the media. Either quantitatively, e.g. counting the number of times women are portrayed as sex objects or qualitatively, e.g. analysing the language used, pictures etc
Semiotics**	The study of signs and symbols

Social Inequality

Social inequalities	The uneven distribution of resources (such as income and power) or opportunities and outcomes related to, for example, education, employment and health
Social stratification	The way society is structured or divided into hierarchical layers (strata), with the most privileged at the top and the least favoured at the bottom. Social class is an example of a stratification system
Socio-economic class	Social class = A group of people sharing a similar economic position in terms of occupation, income and wealth Working class - manual occupations Middle class - non-manual/professional occupations
Income	The flow of cash received e.g. salary/wages; interest; benefits
Wealth	Ownership of assets such as property, land and works of art as well as money held in savings accounts and shares in companies
Status	Social position . Can be ascribed or achieved . It can also refer to the amount of prestige or social standing that an individual in a particular social position is given by other members of the group or society
Power	The ability of an individual or group to get what they want despite any opposition they may face
Achieved status	Social positions that are earned on the basis of personal talents or individual merit e.g. career
Ascribed status	Social positions that are fixed at birth and unchanging over time e.g. Royal Family
Ethnic group	A group of people with a common (shared) cultural background. <i>Remember White British is an ethnic group!</i>
Ethnic minority	A group of people who differ in national, religious, or cultural origin from the dominant group – often the majority population – of the country in which they live
Ethnic diversity	The range of different ethnic groups that exist in society now. Multiculturalism
Immigrant	Someone who comes to live permanently in a foreign country
Asylum seeker	A person who has left their home country as a political refugee e.g. because of war, torture, genocide etc and is seeking asylum (safety) in another.

Poverty

Absolute poverty	When income is not enough to survive
Relative poverty	When people cannot afford to meet the general standard of living of most other people in their society
Social exclusion	Being shut out or excluded from participating in society's social, economic, political and cultural life. A broader term than poverty

Subjective poverty*	People who see themselves as poor, regardless of whether they are judged to be so objectively. <i>(This is the closest type of poverty to relative deprivation which is different from relative poverty! :-S)</i>
Environmental poverty*	Living in an unhealthy environment e.g. local area is polluted, destroyed or dangerous
Cultural (Individual) explanations	Blame poverty on the way of life of poor people. New Right view (culture of poverty, cycle of deprivation, the poor as an underclass)
Culture of poverty	The claim that poor people have a distinct lifestyle that keeps them poor. E.g. holding values such as fatalism and immediate gratification
Cycle of poverty/deprivation	The idea that poverty and deprivation are passed on from parents to their children
Dependency culture	When being reliant on benefits becomes a way of life - people become so reliant on benefits that they lose the motivation to work
Structural explanations of poverty	See poverty as a result of the way society is organised e.g. not enough jobs, poverty is inevitable in capitalism, failure of the Welfare State to lift people out of poverty
Poverty trap	The idea that it is very difficult to escape poverty e.g. poor pay more e.g. for credit, energy bills etc
Life cycle of poverty	Movement into and out of poverty at different stages during the course of a person's life
Poverty line	A government approved line that divides people who are living below a set income level (living in poverty) from those who are living above it.

Prejudice and discrimination

Prejudice	A pre-judgment in favour of, or against, a person, group or issue. Prejudice involves opinions and beliefs rather than action
Discrimination	Less favourable or unfair treatment based, for example, on an individual's gender, ethnicity or age
Ageism	Prejudice or discrimination based on age
Sexism	Prejudice or discrimination based on gender
Patriarchy	Male power and dominance over women
Glass ceiling	The invisible barrier which prevents women from reaching the highest management positions
Racial prejudice	Preconceived ideas based on race or ethnicity
Racial discrimination	Treating someone differently (less favourably) because of their race or ethnicity
Racism	Prejudice or discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity
Racial equality	When all ethnic groups receive the same opportunities. No racism.

Social policies

Selective benefits	Benefits that are targeted at only certain people.
Means test	A test to establish need before benefits are give. (selective benefits)
Universal benefits	Benefits given to everyone, e.g. treatment on the NHS

Social security	Benefits system
Welfare to work policies	Any policy designed to get people off benefits and into work. E.g. 'New Deal'
Welfare State	Set up in the 1940s, aimed to offer "cradle to grave" health and social care. E.g. NHS set up, state education expanded, National Insurance system set up including state pensions, unemployment and disability benefits, lots of council housing built etc. Due to welfare reform the Welfare State is being reduced e.g. private landlords instead of council housing, people pay for some elements of NHS (eg prescription charges, dentist etc), reduced pensions/raising state pension age etc
Welfare reform	Any change to social policy concerning E.g. changes to the Welfare State, sanctions, Universal Credit, bedroom tax
Voluntary sector	Charities/non-profit organisations providing welfare e.g. Macmillan nurses, Salcare etc
New Right view of policy	Benefits encourage welfare dependency and should be reduced/abolished.
Social Democrat view of policy (left wing)	Society should be fairer - taxes should be raised to redistribute wealth. Benefits should be high enough to lift people out of poverty.
The "third way"*	Combines left and right approaches - believes poor people should be supported in helping themselves out of poverty (a "hand up, not a hand out").

Social Mobility

Social mobility	Movement up or down between the layers or strata of a society
Short-range mobility	Social mobility that involves limited movement e.g. from a semi-skilled to a skilled job
Long-range mobility	Social mobility that involves significant movement up or down the stratification (class) system
Barriers to mobility	Obstacles to moving up the class system e.g. prejudice or university fees
Routes to mobility	Ways to move up the class system e.g. education
Inter-generational social mobility*	Movement up or down the class system as measured between the generations of a family
Intra-generational social mobility*	Movement of an individual over the course of their life , up or down the class system

Proletariat*	Term used by Karl Marx to refer to the working class , the oppressed group in capitalist society
Bourgeoisie*	Term used by Karl Marx to refer to the ruling class that owns the big businesses in capitalist society
Capitalism	Economic system based on inequalities in income and wealth.
Classless society	A society that does not have different social classes
Hierarchy	The layers of power within a society. Shaped like a pyramid - where each layer has more power than the one below it

Life chances	Chances of achieving positive or negative outcomes (e.g. in health, education, employment)
Meritocracy	A system in which an individual's social position is achieved on the basis of their abilities and talents (i.e. on merit) rather than on the basis of their social origins and backgrounds. Fair society.
Underclass	Can refer to a group whose attitudes and values are different from mainstream society (New Right view) It can also refer to people who experience long-term poverty and who are unable to obtain a living