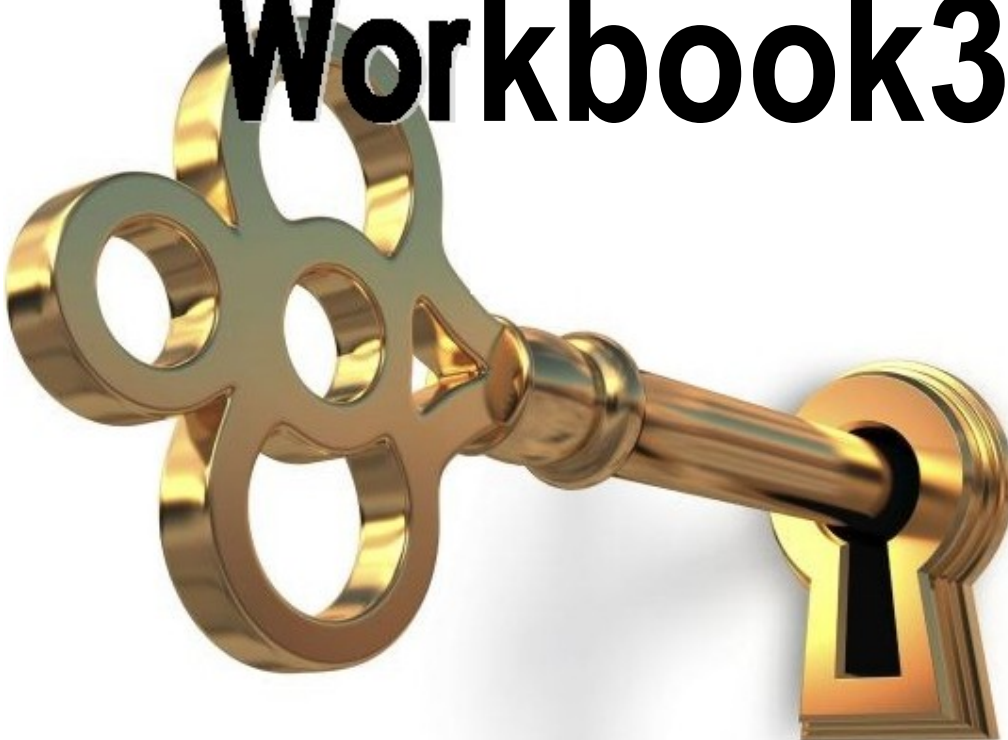


GCSE Sociology

9-1

Key Studies

Workbook3



Name _____

Class _____

Becker (1963) Outsiders

Writing from an interactionist perspective Becker argued that an act only becomes deviant when others define it as such. Whether the 'label' of deviancy is applied depends on who commits the act, when and where it is committed, who observes the act, and the negotiations that take place between the various actors involved in the interaction. If, for example, the actions of young people are defined as delinquent and they are convicted for breaking the law, those young people have been labelled.

The agents of social control, for example the police and the courts, have the power to make the label stick. The label applied to the individual becomes a master status; the young people have become criminals and this label will affect how others see them and respond to them. Assumptions will be made that the individuals concerned have the negative characteristics normally associated with the label. As a consequence, the individuals will begin to see themselves in terms of the label, producing a self-fulfilling prophecy. The individual who has been publically labelled as deviant is rejected from certain social groups on the basis of various negative assumptions about their future behaviour; this may well encourage further deviance, which in turn begins what Becker describes as the deviant career. This career is completed when the individual joins an organised deviant group which develops a deviant subculture, this subculture develops beliefs and values which rationalise, justify and support deviant identities and behaviours.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/social-science/gcse/social-science-8192/appendix-b-texts-and-studies>

Complete the flow diagram to show the process of labelling an act as deviant through to the start of a deviant career.



Think of 3 acts that are considered deviant in one particular place/time/culture but not in another.

Eg: Wearing a bikini to the beach vs Wearing a bikini to school

1)

2)

3)

'I conducted 50 interviews with marijuana users. I had been a professional dance musician for some years when I conducted this study and my first interviews were with people I had met in the music business. I asked them to put me in contact with other users who would be willing to discuss their experiences with me.'

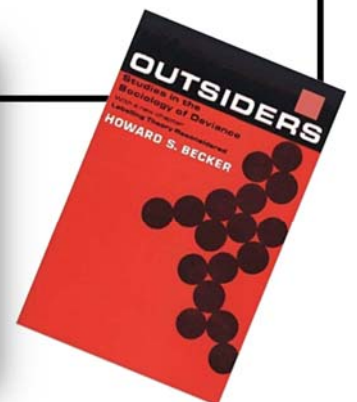
Becker, H. (1997) *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance*. London: Free Press, p45

In his book, Becker describes how he selected his sample and some of the methods he used.

List the strengths of his sampling and research methods.

List the weaknesses of his sampling and research methods.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z			
3			23												9													
A				A														D			A							
5	4	3	22	8	3	1	14	2	2	15	8	14	22	4	11	17	19	23	14	10	11	3	17	22				
								A				D																
								11	2	17	15	22	5	4	3	22	11	2	23	15	17	14	16	13	22	4	15	5
P		P		A				A				D																
9	14	15	9	26	14	20	14	3	24	22	22	15	5	4	3	22	11	2	23	15	17	14						



Discuss how far sociologists agree that working class youths are more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system due to labelling (12 marks)

Working class youths are involved in the CJS because of labelling	Working class youths are involved in the CJS for other reasons

Carlen (1988) Women, Crime and Poverty



Written from a feminist perspective, Carlen studied a group of mostly working class women aged between 15 and 46 who had been convicted of one or more crimes. She carried out in-depth, unstructured interviews with each of the women, a number of whom were in prison or youth custody at the time.

Carlen uses control theory as the basis for her approach, this starts from the assumption that human beings are neither naturally good nor bad but will make a rational decision to turn to crime when the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

In Carlen's view, working-class women have been controlled through the promise of rewards. They make a class deal which offers respectable working class women consumer goods in return for their wage. They make a gender deal for the psychological and material rewards offered by male breadwinners in return for their love and domestic labour.

When these rewards are not available or prove to be illusory, then criminality becomes a viable alternative. Carlen's work was based on a relatively small sample (39 women) but it supports the view that criminal behaviour becomes more likely when social control breaks down.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/appendix-b-texts-and-summaries>

N A K V Q X D Q L G H W G V N
H Y P V Z H R N K U O A A I A
U N S T R U C T U R E D N E G
O Z T V H O V S K M W R D J K
R R L G N H Q I I P D A U K B
F I L T G X N R Q N C O O I H
L Q R E P G C Z W H K O M V V
L O I F C S A N Q J M Z U T E
L Q A L U F Q G U F L G N A L
A K A A D M K C A W O W D P F
M S M Q W F M C P X T K Q I J
S E R M J E Y A T D V F X U U
Y D A O G M O S W U O F C C T
M B E Q N A J C K Z Q Y B R Y
F B Q T F X N Y G N Z U B X I

- Carlen's study consisted of a sample of _____-_____women
- What type of interviews did she use?
- What theory does she use as the basis of her approach?
- Which 'deal' offers respectable working class women consumer goods in return for their wages?
- Which 'deal' offers psychological and material rewards in return for their love and domestic labour?
- When the class and gender deals are not available, what might it result in?
- One criticism about Carlen's sample is it is _____

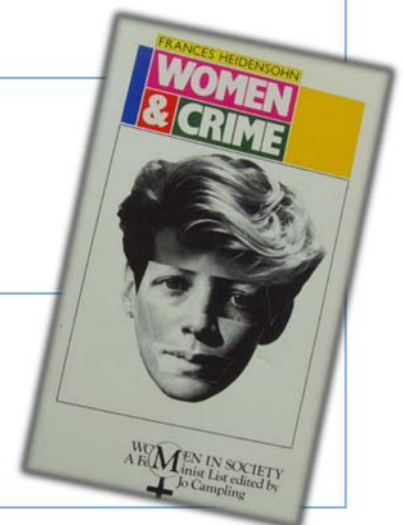
Heidensohn (1985) Women and Crime

Writing from a feminist perspective Heidensohn uses control theory as the basis for her explanation of why women commit fewer crimes than men. She argues that male-dominated patriarchal societies control women more effectively than men, making it difficult for women to break the law. Women in such societies are closely controlled in the home, where they are expected to spend the majority of their time on housework and childcare. Women who challenge these assumptions risk male violence as an assertion of patriarchal authority. Men as the main or sole breadwinner also have financial power over their wives. Daughters are more closely controlled than sons, they have more limits on when they may leave the home and they are expected to contribute more time to domestic tasks. In public, women are controlled by the threat of male sexual violence and by the idea that inappropriate behaviour may bring loss of reputation and shame upon their families. The idea of separate spheres emphasises women's place as being in the home, those who attempt to raise concerns in public are subject to ridicule and told to return to where they belong. At work women are controlled by male-dominated hierarchies and workers organisations. They are subject to intimidation by various forms of sexual harassment. Heidensohn has been criticised for making generalisations that do not apply to all women and for not always supporting her claims with strong research-based evidence.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sciology/gcse/sciology-8192/appendix-b-texts-and-summaries>

Using the information above, provide examples of how women are controlled in each of the places identified in the table.

Where?	How?
At home	
At work	
In public	



Item B

This extract is adapted from a book by the sociologist Frances Heidensohn:

'I first knew Rosa when she was an art student. She discussed her life with me and gave me this account of her career. I have added a few explanations.'

"I was born working class. On a big estate – slum clearance – in the North. It was pretty rough and my mum watched us. Well, I was watched more. She wouldn't let me play out. My brother was allowed out. He'd cycle round and round the estate on his bike and I'd stay in. So of course I'd do my homework, nothing else to do. I wasn't clever. [Rosa had passed her 11+ and gone to grammar school]. I was a big girl and I could fight, the boys were scared. They were all too small.

I knew some rotten men but Steve was marvellous." [Rosa worked for several years as a graphic artist and met Steve, a younger man who depended on her a good deal. Her flat was raided during a party and marijuana was found. Rosa was charged with illegal possession and threatened with possible drug dealing charges.] "It wasn't even my party. Boring people, I think I had gone to bed. Well it was my flat and I was older." 'But it was what counted later. It was really the start [of her involvement with crime].'

From **Item B**, identify and describe the method used by Frances Heidensohn including what you know of her perspective on female criminal behaviour.

[4 marks]

Cohen (1955) Delinquent Boys

As a functionalist, Cohen thinks that everyone learns the same values and goals through socialisation, part of creating a value consensus. In that way, working-class boys have the same life goals as middle-class boys. However, Cohen notes that working-class boys are much less likely to achieve at school than middle-class children. For Cohen this is down to **cultural deprivation** - working-class attitudes to school and education - rather than a structural issue relating to capitalism or **material deprivation**.

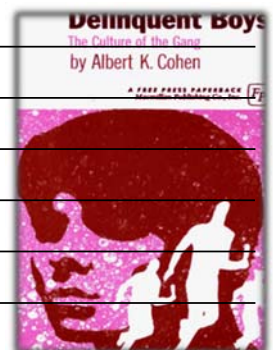
Because pupils don't get the status they crave, they instead form delinquent subcultures. A subculture is a group with its own norms and values, separate from those of mainstream society. For Cohen, it was not that the members had not been socialised into mainstream values - they had - but to gain status they turned them on their head. So things that would be viewed as bad in mainstream society - like vandalism and truancy - are viewed as good within the subculture. In some ways this is similar to Paul Willis' study of "the lads" (even though he was coming from a Marxist perspective, rather than a functionalist one).

Cohen's theory is often referred to as **status frustration** and is used to explain why young working-class males are more likely to commit crimes than other people, why they do it in groups, and why it includes crimes that does not materially benefit them (i.e. why they might commit vandalism or fight).

Critics suggest that members of delinquent subcultures may have been socialised into deviant values, rather than sharing the same values and goals as everyone else. Others question why Cohen only focused on boys. Marxist critics criticise Cohen for ignoring the causes of social class inequality.

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic-texts-albert-cohen-delinquent-boys-1955>

Identify and explain a reason why working class boys commit crime according to Cohen, including what you know of his perspective. (4 marks)



Make links between these concepts by joining them with a line. Write an explanation along the line to explain how they are linked.

Status frustration

Working class

Voiced opportunity Resonance Reputational Subject

Cultural capital Assumes share Boasting status
some values

8W!J:::> UD!JDt!!!tn-UON

8W!J:::> 81DW8J S8JOU6i

Merton (1938; 1968) Social Theory and Social Structure

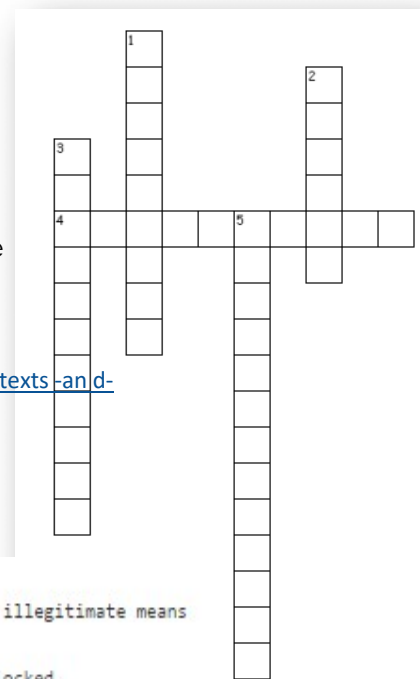
Writing from a functionalist perspective Merton argued that deviance results from the culture and structure of society. He starts from the standard functionalist position of value consensus – all members of society hold the same values (see above). However, because members of society have different positions in the social structure, for example in terms of social class, Merton believed that they did not have the same opportunity to realise their shared goals. He also believed that American society was unbalanced because greater importance was attached to success, than to the ways in which that success was achieved. In the search for success by almost any means the danger is that the usual rules governing behaviour in society are abandoned, a situation of anomie results, where 'anything goes' in pursuit of wealth and material success.

He described five possible ways in which individuals could respond to success goals in American society.

1. **Conformity:** this describes individuals who work towards achieving success by conventionally accepted means, eg by gaining educational qualifications which in turn give them access to secure, well paid employment. Other conventional routes to success include talent, hard work and ambition.
2. **Innovation:** this describes individuals who are unable to succeed using conventionally accepted routes and turn to deviant means, usually crime. Merton believed that this route was most likely to be taken by individuals who came from the lower levels of society and who are denied the usual routes to success because they are, for example, less likely to gain the necessary educational qualifications.
3. **Ritualism:** this describes middle class individuals who are deviant because they abandon conventional success goals. They are unable to innovate because they have been strongly socialised to conform, but they have little opportunity for advancement and remain stuck in low paid, low status 'respectable' jobs where they may exhibit an enthusiasm for rules and petty bureaucracy.
4. **Retreatism:** this describes individuals from any social class position who are deviant because they abandon both success goals and any means of achieving them. They 'drop out' of society; this response can be applied to explain the behaviour of social outcasts of all kinds including vagrants and drug addicts.
5. **Rebellion:** this describes those individuals who reject success goals and the usual means of achieving them, but then replace those that they have rejected with different goals and means. They are deviant because they wish to create a new society, in Merton's view they are typically members of a 'rising' social class who may well attempt to organise a revolution.

Merton has been criticised for not taking into account power relations in society, for example by failing to consider who makes the laws and who benefits from them. He has also been criticised for his assumption that there is such a thing as a 'value consensus' in American society. Furthermore, it has been suggested that his 'deterministic' view fails to adequately explain why only some individuals who experience anomie become criminals and that his theory exaggerates working class crime and underestimates middle class, 'white collar' crime.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/socialogy/gcse/socialogy-8192/appendix-b-texts-and-summaries>



Across

4. One response to strain that results in individuals achieving the American Dream through illegitimate means

Down

1. Merton identified 5 of these

2. This is experienced when individual's opportunities to achieve the American Dream are blocked

3. The type of crime that this theory explains

5. Merton believes everyone is striving for this

Key Study: **Merton**

In your own words, write a summary of the study.

Name the 5 responses to strain/anomie

Give an example of behaviour that may be shown by someone responding in each of these 5 ways.



Create 3 questions to test a friend about the study.

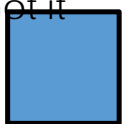
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Strengths of the study

Weaknesses of the study

Self assess your understanding of the key study:

Got it



Almost



Not yet



