



**NEED to
KNOW**

HIGHER

.....
MODERN STUDIES



**Key
content
at your
fingertips**



**Quick
and easy
revision**



Paul Creaney

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Getting the most from this book

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This *Need to Know* guide is designed to help you throughout your course as a companion to your learning and a revision aid in the months or weeks leading up to the final exams.

The following features in each section will help you get the most from the book.

You need to know

Each topic begins with a list summarising what you 'need to know' in this topic for the exam.

Exam tips

Key knowledge you need to demonstrate in the exam, tips on exam technique, common misconceptions to avoid and important things to remember.

Key terms

Definitions of **highlighted** terms in the text to make sure you know the essential terminology for your subject.

Do you know?

Questions at the end of each topic to test you on some of its key points. Check your answers here:
hoddereducation.co.uk/needtoknow/answers

Synoptic links

Reminders of how knowledge and skills from different topics in your Higher course relate to one another.

End of section questions

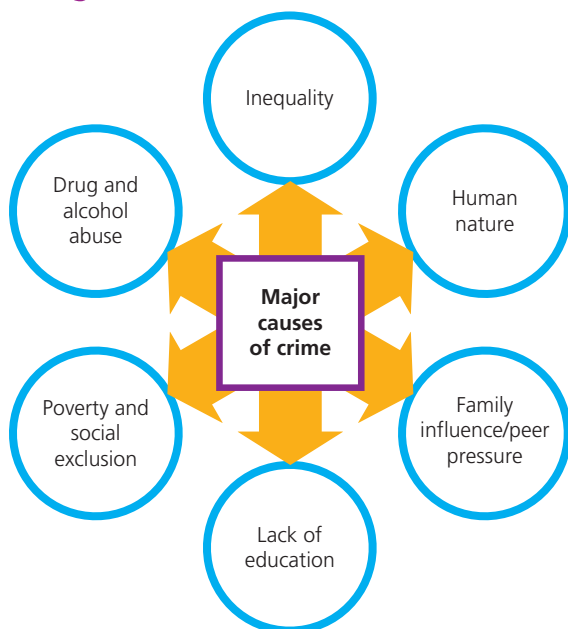
Questions at the end of each main section of the book to test your knowledge of the specification area covered. Check your answers here: hoddereducation.co.uk/needtoknow/answers

2.7 Causes and theories of crime

You need to know

- the causes of crimes
- the theories behind why crimes happen (biological, psychological and sociological; individualist free choice versus collectivist socialisation theories)

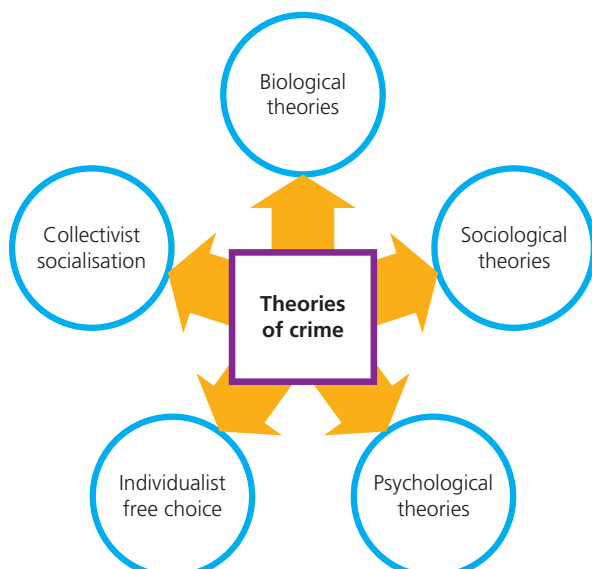
Major causes of crime



Exam tip

When answering question on the causes and theories of crime, you should also provide analytical/ evaluative comments referring to each cause or theory and their relative importance.

Theories of crime



Biological theories

- Biological theories say that some people are 'born criminals' and are physically different to non-criminals.

Biological theory of crime	Explanation of main points
Lombroso theory	There are physical differences between criminals and non-criminals, and criminal tendencies are inherited
Sheldon's theory of body types	<p>There are three different human body types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ectomorphs (thin and fragile) ■ endomorphs (soft and fat) ■ mesomorphs (muscular and athletic) <p>According to Sheldon's theory, those with a mesomorph body type are the most likely to be criminals</p>
Y-chromosome theory	Criminals have an extra Y-chromosome that causes them to commit crimes

Exam tip

You can gain marks by referring to links between factors such as drug and/or alcohol abuse, peer influence or family influence, even if you don't specifically mention theorists.

Sociological theories

- Sociological theories say that society creates criminals.
- They state that criminals are drawn to crime by external social factors that influence them, such as their family and friends and where they live.

Sociological theory of crime	Explanation of main points
Strain theory (Emile Durkheim/Robert Merton)	Crime is caused because of the strain on people who lack the money, employment or education to achieve wealth and status. This strain creates criminals who are pushed into crime to get what they want
Labelling theory (Howard Becker)	Certain groups that are labelled as being 'deviant' are more likely to commit crimes as a result. Attaching negative labels to groups (e.g. age or race) can stigmatise them and influence them to adopt their labelled behaviour and commit crimes
Social control theory (Travis Hirschi)	People are less likely to commit crime if they have strong social bonds, but are more likely if they have weak social bonds

Psychological theories

- Psychological theories say that individuals are responsible for their own behaviour and that criminals act based on their own individual personality.

Psychological theory of crime	Explanation of main points
Psychoanalytic theory (Sigmund Freud)	Everyone has criminal tendencies which are normally suppressed. When they are not, it can lead to criminal behaviour
Cognitive development theory	Criminals have not developed sufficient reasoning skills to help them make moral decisions. Their criminal behaviour is seen as a defect in moral thinking, thought processes and mental development

Individualist free choice versus collectivist socialisation theories

- Advocates of individualist free choice theories would argue that:
 - individuals in pursuit of their own self-interest are responsible for their own behaviour and actions
 - thus they should be prepared to suffer the consequences for those actions
- Advocates of collectivist socialisation theories would argue that:
 - external factors influence the behaviour and actions of individuals
 - thus society has a responsibility to create fair and equal communities that will ultimately deter crime

Individualist principles	Collectivist principles
Place a strong emphasis on individual rights	Place a strong emphasis on the role of the state
It is the responsibility of the individual to respect and not break the law	Everyone has a shared responsibility towards wider society
The individual has the freedom to pursue their own self-interests within the bounds of the law	Everyone has a shared responsibility to actively contribute as good citizens and hold the government accountable for society
Individuals should be responsible for themselves	As citizens, we have a shared responsibility for each other and to create a better society

Do you know?

- 1 Give three major causes of crime.
- 2 Give three major theories of crime.
- 3 What do biological theories of crime say?
- 4 What do sociological theories of crime say?
- 5 What do psychological theories of crime say?