

A. Keywords:

Operant conditioning – learning from the consequences of actions
 Positive reinforcement – receiving something pleasant for behaviour, so we repeat it
 Negative reinforcement – the avoidance of something unpleasant, so we do it again
 Modelling – learning a new behaviour through paying attention, retaining and reproducing the behaviour of a role model
 Vicarious reinforcement – motivation to model the behaviours of others who we see being rewarded for their behaviour
 Extraversion – behaviour that is outgoing, sensation seeking and sociable
 Introversion – behaviour that is reserved, calm and quiet
 Neuroticism – refers to nervous disposition and can be stable or unstable
 Psychoticism – a personality trait that is cold, lacks empathy, anti-social and can be aggressive
 Recidivism – offender is committed for one crime but commits another upon release (rate of reoffending)
 Rehabilitative – a programme designed to help offenders rather than punish
 Community sentence – when an offender serves a sentence in the community rather than prison
 Restorative justice – when a victim and offender meet

B. Operant conditioning and Social learning theory

Skinner developed operant conditioning. So for crime, if someone receives financial reward from committing fraud they are likely to repeat the behaviour whereas if someone receives a prison sentence they may not repeat the behaviour. SLT explains criminal behaviour by observational learning. If someone is exposed to criminality, such as a child living in a violent household they are more likely to pay attention to this and retain it.

C. Independent Consolidation

Evaluate the usefulness for SLT to explain criminal behaviour
 Explain how biological theories would explain criminal behaviour
 Compare and contrast community service and restorative justice as ways to reduce offending

D. Expert Modelling:

Explain one weakness of the researchers' study into television and aggression. (2)
 P The researchers have used a sample of children aged between four and ten years old only, instead of all children up to 18 years old. (1)
 E This is not a representative sample of children in the study so the results cannot be generalised to all the children in the town. (1)

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E. Biological explanations explain criminality as a result of our biological systems. Studies have shown that criminality runs in families. Christiansen found that 35% of identical male twins recorded in Denmark were criminals compared to 13% of non-identical male twins. Eysenck developed a theory that suggested personality traits can explain crime. Extroverts are sensation-seekers so may commit crime for the thrill while neurotics are unstable and may over react. Those with a high PEN score are difficult to socialise, lack empathy for others, are quick to react and are sensation seeking.

F. Punishment and rehabilitation

Punishment can be aid to be effective as it is based on the principles of operant conditioning which demonstrates that positive punishment can be used to stop a behaviour happening again. Those who serve prison sentences may also receive treatment while their. Token economy programmes give tokens for prosocial behaviour while anger management programmes help those who have committed violent crimes.

G. Wider thinking / further reading:

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/bandura.html>
<https://restorativejustice.org.uk/what-restorative-justice>