

AQA Psychology A-level

Option 3: Forensic Psychology Flashcards

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List three ways of measuring crime.



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1. Official statistics
2. Victim Surveys
3. Offender Surveys



List problems with defining crime.



List problems with defining crime.

1. Definitions of crime differ across cultures (eg. Homosexuality)
2. Definitions of crime change over time



What is the top-down approach?



What is the top-down approach?

This refers to the analysis of previous crimes creates a profile of a likely offender. Profilers use this knowledge to narrow the field of possible suspects. This, unlike the bottom-up approach relies on the intuition and beliefs of the profiler.



Describe organised offenders.



Describe organised offenders.

This refers to crimes committed by an offender who planned the crime and may engage in violent fantasies with the victim. The perpetrator is high in intelligence and socially competent.



What is the bottom-up approach?



What is the bottom-up approach?

This is a data-driven approach, where statistical techniques are used to produce predictions about the likely characteristics of an offender.



Describe disorganised offenders.



Describe disorganised offenders.

This refers to crime scenes that are left with many clues such as fingerprints. There is little evidence of engagement with the victim, there are signs that the offender has both low intelligence and competence.



Define 'crime'.



Define 'crime'.

This refers to any behaviour that is unlawful and therefore justified to be punished by the state. Such acts are harmful to an individual, group or society as a whole.



What is a biological explanation for criminal behaviour?



What is a biological explanation for criminal behaviour?

A biological explanation is the atavistic form which suggests that certain individuals are born with criminal personality and this innate personality is due to our earlier primate forms.



What is geographical profiling?



What is geographical profiling?

This is a form of bottom-up profiling based on the pattern shown by the location of a series of crimes.



What is antisocial personality disorder?



What is antisocial personality disorder?

This suggests that there are neural differences in the brains of criminals and non-criminals. ASD is associated with a lack of empathy and a reduction of grey matter in the prefrontal cortex. This is the part of the brain that regulates emotional behaviour.



How are mirror neurons implicated in crime?



How are mirror neurons implicated in crime?

They help with understanding behaviour, if the mirror system is functioning incorrectly, then individuals may experience a lack of empathy, making it more likely that they will commit a crime.



Who devised atavistic form?



Who devised atavistic form?

Cesare Lombroso



What are epigenetics?



What are epigenetics?

This is the study of changes in organisms caused by modification of gene expression rather than alteration of the genetic code itself. It refers to the material in each cell that acts a switch to either activate or deactivate a gene.



What are methods of dealing with offending behaviour?



What are methods of dealing with offending behaviour?

1. Custodial Sentencing
2. Behaviour Modification
3. Anger Management
4. Restorative Justice



What are issues with restorative justice?



What are issues with restorative justice?

- Restorative justice is reliant on the offender showing remorse which may not always happen.
- It may not be cost effective- mediators are required during meetings and such individuals have to be highly trained, which is expensive.
- It may not be suitable for all types of offence- for example offenders who have committed violence against women. Meetings between offender and victim will inevitably have a power imbalance which may not be fair to the victim.
- It is seen as being too lenient on the offender.



What are cognitive distortions?



What are cognitive distortions?

This biased thinking, to the extent that what is perceived by a person is not consistent with reality.



What is extraversion?



What is extraversion?

This, according to Eysenck refers to 'outgoing' individuals who enjoy risk and danger as their nervous systems are underaroused.



Describe Kohlberg's moral dilemma study.



Describe Kohlberg's moral dilemma study.

In 1973, Kohlberg used a moral dilemma technique and found that criminal offenders were at a lower level of moral reasoning- they were at the preconventional level. The preconventional level is characterised by a need to avoid punishment and get rewards, and childlike reasoning. Typically non criminals tend to progress to the conventional level and beyond.



What is the hostile attitude bias?



What is the hostile attitude bias?

This is when a person automatically attributes bad intentions to another person.



Define neuroticism.



Define neuroticism.

This, according to Eysenck, refers to people with a negative outlook who are easily upset. Their lack of stability is due to an overactive response to threat. (They have an overactive fight or flight response).

