

Core unit 2: Inequality

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| <p>Inequality – the differences between rich and poor.</p> <p>Causes of inequality: <u>Racism</u> – the belief that some races are better than others. <u>Sexism</u> – the idea that one gender is better and more suited to some activities than the other. <u>Ageism</u> – the idea that some age groups, e.g. the old, are not capable and some act in a certain way, e.g. the young are trouble makers.</p> | <p>Wealth includes: Wealth – includes property, savings and shares. Income – weekly or monthly wages, pensions or benefits Changing patterns of wealth – in the 1950s working people became better off. 1980s onwards most reports suggest that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Deprived – not having things needed for a decent life</p> | <p>How gender affects women’s life chances Social construction of gender – the idea that the norms of gender vary from society to society and over time, e.g. a woman’s place used to be in the home but now is also in the workplace. Women are now more equal to men Equal Pay Act 1970 – have to pay men and women the same money for the same work. Sex Discrimination Act 1975 – employers have to employ and promote the best person for the job. They can’t discriminate against women.</p> |
| <p>Reasons for discrimination: Socialisation – brought up to be prejudiced, e.g. dislike Jews. Stereotypes – fixed exaggerated ideas about a group of people can cause prejudice, e.g. Jews are greedy.</p> | <p>What inequalities are there in life? Elite - a small group who are rich and powerful and control society. Power – the ability to get what you want. Privilege – advantages over different groups, e.g. men as there are 504 MP following the 2010 election compared to 146 female MPs. Life chances – opportunities that individuals have of having good things happen to them and avoiding bad things. Quality of life – being happy and healthy and feeling good about your life. Lifestyle – attitudes, possessions, interests and how they live Status – how important your position is in society. Prestige – respect given on the basis of our achievements</p> | <p>Women have not gained full equality Glass ceiling of sexism prevents women from getting the top jobs. Women are still the main person responsible for housework and childcare (Triple shift)</p> |
| <p>What is poverty? Absolute poverty – the person does not have the basic necessities to live, e.g. food, water, shelter Relative poverty – to be poor compared to other people. Subjective poverty – to think you are poor. Social exclusion – being left out in society in important ways, e.g. homeless people because they are not part of a community. Therefore poverty is linked to social exclusion. Inclusion – all groups should be encouraged to be part of society, e.g. schools try to ensure everyone has the chance of a good life Why is there an underclass? Underclass – a group of people below working class and left out by society, e.g. long term unemployed There underclass is to blame for their situation: Can’t take part in community life due to lack of money They have different norms, e.g. no jobs and make money in a different way. The New Right – blame the underclass for their poverty and the government because they give them benefits which encourages them not to work. Cycle of deprivation – the underclass socialise their children in a way that makes it impossible for them to escape from their poverty, e.g. by not valuing education. Marxists – there is an underclass because in a competitive society someone has to end up on the bottom of society</p> | <p>Social class – grouping people based on their job and status: <u>Upper class</u> - .aristocracy, owners of big business and the very rich. Have good contacts and so likely to get the best jobs.. <u>Middle class</u> – are better off and do not work with their hands, e. teachers, nurses and office workers. <u>Working class</u> – people who work in manual jobs, e.g. miners, factory workers and shipbuilders. Other things to consider when deciding someone’s social class – accent, private education, wealth, lifestyle and area they live in.</p> | <p>How have changes in traditional roles affected men? Men’s traditional role – breadwinner New man – helps with housework and childcare. Househusband – men and women swop roles Crisis of masculinity – due to changes in the home and at work men no longer know what the norms are for being a man. Homosexuality Homosexuality legalised in 1967 2005 – civil partnerships were legalised 2013 - Marriages (same sex) Act allowing same sex marriages.</p> |
| | | <p>Disability – unable to do everyday tasks due to mental or physical difficulties. Often suffer prejudice leading to discrimination.</p> |
| | | <p>Racism - the belief that some races are better than others. Ethnicity - a persons’ cultural group, religion, nationality or way f life Ethnic pay gap – gap between the pay of white British people and ethnic minority groups</p> |
| | <p>Ageism – the idea some age groups, e.g. the old, aren’t capable, and some act in a certain way, e.g. the young are trouble makers. The social construction of age – the idea that the norms of what we do and how we behave at a certain age is made by society, e.g. childhood did not exist until recent times Work – young people are often paid low wages and exploited. Older people are not promoted and sometimes forced to retire</p> | <p>Sociological views of inequality Functionalists – inequality motivates people to work hard to be winners, without it nobody would work hard. Feminists – inequality between men & women is most important as it traps women in traditional roles of housewife and mother. Marxists – inequality exists because ruling classes are exploiting the working classes who don’t realise they are being used.</p> |

CRIME AND DEVIANCE

What are crime and deviance?

Deviance is actions that break the social norms

Crimes are actions which are against the law

The social construction of crime and deviance - what is a crime or deviant changes over time and varies from place to place, e.g. age that it is legal to marry.

Most crimes are deviant, e.g. murder. **Some crimes are not deviant**, e.g. speeding

Social order is how society is kept under control.

Formal sanctions – punishments for breaking written rules, e.g. a prison sentence

Informal sanctions – punishments for breaking unwritten rules, e.g. dirty looks

Close knit communities have lots of links, e.g. between family and friends. They have stronger informal social control.

Agencies of social control shape our behaviour, e.g. family, education and the police.

The police and judiciary

Community policing involves making links with the community and is useful when dealing with ethnic minority groups.

Zero tolerance involves the police being strict on even the smallest crimes.

Functionalists believe the police are doing a good job in maintaining social order by socialising the public, e.g. about speeding.

Marxists believe that the police keep the ruling classes in charge by protecting them from the workers who may try to steal their wealth and help to stop working class protest.

The judiciary includes legal institutions that decide what happens when laws are broken.

Youth Courts are for young people.

Magistrates' Courts are for less serious offences. They can give fines up to £5,000 and prison sentences up to 6 months.

Crown Courts - for serious offences. A judge is assisted by a randomly selected public jury who decide by a majority of at least 10 - 2 if the person is innocent or guilty. The judge decides the sentence.

Functionalists – state that the judiciary is good; taking bad people out of society, punishing & resocialising them.

Marxists have a negative view of the judiciary stating that the courts protect the rich and powerful.

The media and social control

Media - all mass communication, e.g. TV, Internet.

The media focus on certain crimes, e.g. those committed by young people and the working classes. Newspapers, particularly tabloids, often sensationalise crime and focus on extremes.

Moral panics make the public worried. Example newspapers exaggerate violence, draw attention to events and the public call for greater punishment of offenders.

Folk devils – groups the media make people afraid of.

Deviancy amplification – when the media make the problem worse by the way they report it.

Types of crime

White collar – committed by the middle classes, linked to their jobs, e.g. fraud, bribery, MPs fiddling their expenses. Hard to detect as often no obvious victim. Criminals are respectable & able to cover up their crimes. Companies often ask them to resign avoiding publicity.

Blue collar crime - committed by the working classes, is usually less planned than white collar crime & may involve damage to a person or property. Also includes drug abuse, prostitution and illegal gambling.

Corporate crime - motivated by greed; committed by 'respectable', high status people in big companies. Aims to make the company rich leading to higher wages. Marxists see it as ruling class crime.

The main difference between white collar and corporate crime is the company can be held responsible, not just individuals.

Victims of corporate crime: the public and employees. Includes negligence, false advertising, bribery and financial fraud.

Corporate crime example – Thalidomide. A drug developed by a German company in the early 1960s to relieve morning sickness in pregnancy; babies were born with missing limbs & deformities. The company tested the drug on animals but not the effects on pregnant women. After years of campaigning they were forced to pay compensation for negligence when testing the drug.

Youth crime committed by 10 to 17 year olds, e.g. vandalism & theft.

Street crime takes place in public places, e.g. mugging, prostitution.

Society views youth crime and street crime as big concerns.

Marxists believe this is because the media often focus on them causing moral panics so the public and New Right want harsher punishments so the police and judiciary focus on them. The New Right also want stricter discipline from parents & schools. According to Marxists attention is diverted from white collar & corporate crime.

Social class and crime

Official statistics show young working class males are more likely to be prosecuted & sent to prison. Educational failure & feeling of low status & material deprivation have been used to explain this. **BUT** self-report studies show all social classes commit crime. White collar and corporate crime may not be detected or reported.

Marxists argue police are more likely to arrest & convict the working classes as more resources are used in policing working class areas & street crime (likely to be working class). The courts are middle class & the laws enforced favour the rich upper classes & protect property.

Women are 5% of the prison population. Females are socialised to be gentler & are controlled more by parents. This is changing; women are now being convicted of more violent offences, possibly due to ladette culture (norms that encourage girls to behave like men).

The chivalry factor - women are treated more gently by the forces of social control e.g. teachers, police and the judiciary.

Demonisation of women – women who go against the view of their caring nature are treated more harshly, e.g. by the courts & media.

Explanations of crime and deviance

Nature explanations of crime

1. Biological explanations - see criminals as born that way. Cesare Lombroso: criminals have physical characteristics, e.g. large ears. More recent views state behaviour can be linked to **chemical**

imbalances causing mental health problems. Research has identified behaviour caused by genes, e.g. the **warrior gene** which can lead to psychopathic behaviour if a person has poor socialisation or is abused.

2. Psychological explanations of crime are connected to the mind & personality; impulsive, aggressive risk takers struggle to obey the law.

Nurture explanations of crime

1. Labelling theory people are socialised into criminal behaviour by the way they are treated, e.g. if you call a shoplifter a thief they may accept the label and commit worse crimes as a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Strain theory - crime occurs when there is no or little opportunity to achieve goals we are socialised to strive for without breaking the law.

Malcom Webster, a nurse, murdered his first wife and attempted to murder his second for the money, could be seen as an example of this

Status frustration – success is highly valued. Cohen believed many working class people who fail to be successful invent their own subculture with opposite norms and values to mainstream culture thus gaining success & respect. Example Al Capone (USA) who joined a criminal subculture selling alcohol during a period when it was illegal.

Ethnic minorities are over-represented in prisons. Some conclude they are more likely to be criminals. Conviction rates vary between ethnic groups and sexes within them.

Paul Gilroy argued the police are racist & ethnic groups are not more criminal than whites. Macpherson Report, after Stephen Lawrence's murder, found a culture of racism in the police.

Stereotypes & labelling of ethnic minorities by the police & courts may have increased criminal behaviour. Increased resources put into investigation raise detection rates amongst ethnic groups. This may result from moral panics created by the media focusing on crime amongst ethnic minorities and also about immigration itself. Ethnic groups are also more likely to be victims of crime as they often live in poor areas where crime rates are higher.

Is crime getting worse?

According to Official Statics recorded by police overall crime rates are falling. **BUT** people may feel crime is getting worse because tabloid newspapers often sensationalise stories. Some crimes may not seem serious to the victim or they may feel the police will be unable to do anything, they may fear repercussions if they tell the police. The criminal may be known to them or a family member. Sexual crimes may be too stressful or embarrassing to report. Crimes such as child abuse may not be reported for years. Some crimes may not have a victim, e.g. underage drinking or drug abuse. On the other hand some crimes will be reported so that the victim can make an insurance claim, e.g. burglary. The police may not choose to record some crimes so that detection rates look better than they actually are.

Work and Leisure

- Work is done for a purpose, usually a paid job
- Leisure and non-work – Everything outside of ‘work’ – for relaxation
- Work and leisure can be the same – e.g. professional footballer

Types of work

- Manual – blue collar – physical
- Non-Manual – white collar (office)
- People work for intrinsic (job satisfaction from doing a job well) or extrinsic rewards (money)

People do leisure activities because of the influence from their culture or class (and money available) They are socialized into leisure. E.g.

- upper class – ballet / sailing
- middle class – swimming / cycling
- working class – football / darts

Working conditions, e.g. hours worked, pay, holidays, relationships with coworkers and bosses.

Trade Unions – organisations to protect the interests of a group of workers. They:

- Bargain for better wages
- Protect workers from unfair treatment offering legal advice when workers are in danger of losing their jobs or are being disciplined.

In the 1970s unions were very powerful but Thatcher’s Conservative government passed laws to weaken the trade unions and some argue they are no longer strong enough to protect their workers.

Paper 2 - Work

Changes in Work

1700: Cottage Industry – Living and working in countryside, e.g. farming, spinning and weaving wool in the home (Work and Leisure pretty much the same). People made the whole product and so had intrinsic job satisfaction from doing a job well. Most work is in the primary sector because they involved using the earth’s natural resources, e.g. farming.

1800-1950 - Industrial Revolution (70% of people worked in Primary, e.g. coal mining and Secondary Sectors, i.e. making things out of raw materials)

- People moved to towns and worked in factories (Mass production)
- Just make part of a product (Division of labour)
- Mechanization – things made by machine
- Automation - Everything is automatic
- Deskilling – due to machine doing the job
- Re-skilling needed to use new machines e.g. computers
- All this mechanization, automation and the division of labour leads to ‘alienation’ – people feel dehumanized because they have no control over when they work, speed of work, and what they do at work.

1970s onwards – Decline of Manufacturing (Factories)

- Caused by **GLOBALISATION – companies are based in many countries**
- UK workers are expensive so factories moved abroad – e.g. clothes factories to India, electronics to China
- Many of these factories abroad are ‘sweat shops’ – cheap labour and poor working conditions.
- Caused lots of unemployment in 1970s – e.g. steel factories closed in Sheffield, coal mines closed in Mansfield
- People re-skilled in 80s 90s and 00s into service sector jobs – office and shop work
- Now 70% in service sector and only 30% in primary and secondary sectors

Consequences of Change

The effects of unemployment caused by GLOBALISATION in GB in 1970s and 1980s

- Depression
- Damage to relationships
- Financial problems which may lead to loss of their home and poverty
- Damage to health due to poor diet
- Loss of opportunities due to lack of money, e.g. school trips
- Increased unemployment as unemployed people are unable to spend money so less goods are needed.

Men and Women

- Men in ‘crisis of masculinity’ (being unsure what the man’s role is now) due to doing ‘feminised’ roles – e.g. office jobs and not doing manual (masculine jobs) and change in family roles as many women went out to work whilst men were unemployed for long periods which was a great blow to their role as breadwinner.
 - High suicide rate
- Women have more freedom to work – equality, partly because of:
 - 1970 Equality Act – Equal Pay Act
 - 1975 Sex Discrimination Act must employ and promote the best person for the job
 - Women’s skills such as understanding emotions (emotional intelligence) were more valued in the new service sector
 - Development of the contraceptive pill in the 1960s meant that women had fewer babies and so were freer to work

So now families are usually dual income (both the man and the woman work)

- However women still face issues:
 - a ‘gender gap’ – e.g. poorer pay because they tend to do gendered work which is paid less; this is work that fits with their traditional feminine role, e.g. nursing, cooking and secretarial work serving male bosses.
 - Triple shift – Work / Children / Housework
 - Criticism from the New Right who argue that children brought up by women who do not work have the best start in life.

Ethnicity

- Massive increase of immigrants in 1950s from Pakistan / India / Jamaica) to do low paid work in factories
 - Experienced extreme racism – e.g. black footballers had bananas thrown at them
- Increase in Eastern Europeans in 2000s 2010s to do low paid work on Zero contracts (i.e. they have no rights)
 - Racism not in workplace as much. More from outside – e.g. ‘Taking our Jobs’
- Two ‘acts’ have helped to address discrimination in the workplace and reduce the ethnic pay gap (ethnic minority groups are paid less) – but also shown that things must have been bad
 - 1976 Race Relations Act – Employ best person regardless of race
 - 2010 Equalities Act strengthened the above act.

Age

- People live longer so more older people in society wanting to work
- Retirement age increased to 67 so many have to work
- Our society is ‘youth obsessed’ so old get overlooked for jobs and promotion – discrimination
 - Many old people depressed as a result
- Young people also overlooked because they are often ‘labelled’, e.g. as lazy = discrimination. Also they often work in casual work and so can’t get the minimum wage and often have zero hours contracts so may not get any pay at all some weeks.

Marxists

Believe everyone in society should be equal. They exploit the working classes and get richer because of their hard work. They don’t like globalisation and argue it has led to even greater exploitation of the ‘sweatshop’ workforce.

Functionalists

Believe that society and its structures bring order. They probably like globalization because British society has remained stable and living standards have gone up despite the fact that norms and values have changed, e.g. women now work.

Feminists

Believe men and women should be equal but state society is run by men for men’s benefit. They see changes in work as good for women, e.g. the Equal Pay Act but state that a glass ceiling prevents women gaining the top jobs.