

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY
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*TUTORIAL KIT
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PROGRAMME: PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE: PSY 423

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PSY423: Forensic and Correctional Psychology

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Question 1

- (a) Define crime according to Curzon (1973)
- (b) Crime is broadly described as a particular form of deviance to social norms, discuss in details three elements of social norms.

Define crime according to Curzon (1973)

According to Curzon (1973) “Crime is any act or omission resulting from human conduct which is considered in itself or in its outcome to be harmful and which the state wishes to prevent, which renders the person responsible liable to some kind of punishment; the result of the proceedings which are usually initiated on behalf of the state and which are designed to ascertain the nature, extent and the legal consequence of that person’s responsibility”.

1. Folkways- Folkways are approved ways of behaviour which are passed from one generation to another. They are norms that are looked upon by the members of a society or a group within the same society as not being extremely important and that may be violated without severe punishment from the society or group. That is, folkways are the least important norms which involve in everyday conventional routines. They belong to the category of behaviours that “should” and “should not” occur, as specified by the society or a social group.

2. Mores- These are norms that are looked upon by the members of a society or a group within the same society as being extremely important and the violation of which will normally result in severe punishment from the society or group. They are norms which reflect moral and ethical behaviours. They generally include behaviours defined as those that absolutely “must” or “must not” occur.

3. Law- Laws represent formalised norms that may derive from folkways or mores and are enacted by lawmaking bodies in response to new or newly recognised developments or needs. That is, laws are the folkways and mores deemed so vital to dominant interests that they become translated into written, legal formalisations that even non-members of the society are required to obey. Sanctions are formally enforced and are carried out by special officers who are charged with the purpose of maintenance of social order in the society.

Question 2

- A. Define the following terms (i) Penology (ii) Victimology, (iii) Criminalistics
 - B. Classify criminal offenders from a legal point of view
 - C. Differentiate between organised crimes and unorganised crimes
 - i. Penology, the study of penal sanctions or punishment;
 - ii. Victimology, the study and rehabilitation of the victims of crime;
 - iii. Criminalistics, the methods of investigation and detection of crime, especially the job of law enforcement agencies and forensic experts;
- (i) Classified criminal offenders from a legal point of view

As Clinard notes, criminal offenders are often classified, from a legal point of view, by the type of the crime, such as murder, burglary, arson, rape or embezzlement. In these instances, such criminals will be classified as murders, burglars, arsonists, rapists or embezzlers respectively. At other times, criminals may be classified according to sex or age. But a good number of offenders belong to career types, in which group or cultural influences play a major role in the development of this offender-type; e.g. property offenders.

Question 3

- A. Attempt profiling of organised and disorganised killers using FBI Psychological Profile of Lust Killers
- B. Solvability of serial killer crime depends on five factors, identify and discuss these factors

(a)

Organized Killer	Disorganized Killer
• intelligent	• below average IQ
• masculine image	• socially immature
• charismatic	• seldom dates
• socially capable	• high school failure
• sexually capable	• unemployed father
• occupationally mobile	• lives alone
• lives with partner	• has secret hiding places
• geographically mobile	• nocturnal
• harsh childhood discipline	• lives/works near crime
• controlled emotions	• unskilled worker
• interested in media	• behavior change
model inmate	• low interest in media
	• high anxiety during crime

(b) Solvability of serial killer crime depends on:

1. Quality of police interviews with witnesses
2. Circumstances that lead to the initial contact with the murderer
3. Circumstances that established probable cause to search & seize physical evidence
4. Quality of scene crime investigation
5. Quality of scientific analysis of physical evidence

Question 4

(A) What is forensic psychology?

- (B) List and discuss five areas of concern of forensic psychologists as regards to the law and court system.
- (C) Critically assess the differences between forensic psychologists and regular therapists or counsellors.

Answers

- (A). Forensic psychology is an application of psychology to legal issues and the criminal justice system. In order to understand what forensic psychology encompasses, consider the types of questions forensic psychologists answer in regard to the law and court system.
- (B) The areas of concern include;
 - I. Is a particular individual competent to stand trial?
 - II. What was the individual's state of mind when he or she committed the act? (e.g. sane versus insane, accidental versus pre-meditated)
 - III. Was the individual solely responsible for his or her actions or were they being manipulated or threatened to commit the act?
 - IV. Are the witnesses or expert witnesses credible?
 - V. Is the jury objective or impartial?
 - VI. Are the lawyers acting in their client's best interest?
 - VII. Is anyone involved malingering (that's a fancy word for lying)?
 - VIII. Is the sentence/punishment appropriate for the crime and or state of mind of the defendant?
 - IX. Can witness testimony be trusted as fact? Do we accept "recovered memory" as evidence of a crime?
 - X. In situations where there are several culprits, how we determine who is the most to blame and therefore should get the heaviest sentence or should they all be treated the same?
 - XI. Should children that commit crimes be charged similarly to adults?
- (C) Forensic psychologists are different from regular therapists or counselors because they are not as interested in the client-therapist relationship or building rapport. Instead, forensic psychologists attempt to evaluate individuals according to guiding laws and statutes. They are adept at recognizing deception. Forensic psychologists also profile criminals and explain the thought and behavior patterns of particular crimes and groups of people (e.g. serial killers, pedophiles, arsonists and terrorists).

Question 5

- (A) Identify two functional correctional facilities in Nigeria.
- (B) What are the problems facing operation of these correctional facilities

Answers

- (A)
 - i. Prisons
 - ii. Remand homes

(B). (I). Prisons- Nigeria's prisons are filled with people whose human rights are systematically violated. Approximately 65 per cent of the inmates are awaiting trial most of whom have been waiting for their trial for years. Most of the people in Nigeria's prisons are too poor to be able to pay lawyers, and only one in seven of those awaiting trial have private legal representation. Although governmental legal aid exists, there are too few legal aid lawyers for all the cases that require representation. Living conditions in the prisons are appalling. They are damaging to the physical and mental well-being of inmates and in many cases constitute clear threats to health. Conditions such as **overcrowding, poor sanitation, lack of food and medicines and denial of contact with families** and friends fall short of UN standards for the treatment of prisoners. The worst conditions constitute ill-treatment. In many Nigerian prisons inmates sleep two to a bed or on the floor in filthy cells. Toilets are blocked and overflowing or simply nonexistent, and there is no running water. As a result, disease is widespread.

(II) Remand homes- Remand homes were established by the Nigerian government in major cities of the country to care for juveniles who had committed crimes, children beyond parental control and abandoned children. Presently, the remand homes are sometimes used as a dumping ground for children that do not fit anywhere else. The poor living conditions at the remand homes constitute a violation of the children's right to health, nutrition, education, and recreation. Lack of appropriate medical treatment can be seen in the children's skin rashes and sores. In some cases, the older children do not go to school nor do receive any education at the remand home. Occasionally various church groups visit the children and give them religious instruction. Supervision at these homes is minimal, there is no privacy and the children are often exposed to abuse, often kept under lock and key, forced to sleep in beds without mattresses, or with very old and dirty mattresses and pillows. Malnutrition manifests itself in the smaller children, showing in their inability to walk or sit, motor retardation, muscle atrophy, lack of teeth and problems with hair and skin. Volunteer groups sometimes provide toys that soon disappear or are locked away. Some children are forced to work and attend to the smaller ones. They wash their clothes, carry water, light fires of wood when kerosene is not available; they can spend years doing these and other tasks without having the opportunity of performing activities suitable for their age group.

Question 6

- a. What is forensic psychology?
- b. List and discuss five areas of concern of forensic psychologists as regards to the law and court system.
- c. Critically assess the differences between forensic psychologists and regular therapists or counsellors.

Question 7

- a. What are the common crimes that youths commit?
- b. Identify and discuss three factors that make the youths commit crimes.
- c. What are the effects of crimes on the youths?
- d. List and discuss five ways of rehabilitating the youths?

Question 8

- a. Identify four functional correctional facilities in Nigeria.

- b. Critically assess the effectiveness of these correctional facilities
- c. What are problems facing operation of these correctional facilities

Question 9

- a. What is criminal profiling?
- b. List and discuss steps to criminal profiling
- c. Justify or otherwise the assertion that that talented criminal profilers are born, not taught.

Question 10

- a. What are the basic tenets of Atavism theory
- b. Explain the following terms and concepts
 - (i) Compos mentis
 - (ii) Dactyloscopy
 - (iii) Ecomania
 - (iv) Familicide
 - (v) Mens rea