

Social Deviance

1. Drawing specifically upon the works of Emile Durkheim and Kai Erickson, present an analysis of the functionalist approach to the study and explanation of social deviance. That is, what might the deviant contribute to the on-going existence of a society?
2. Drawing on the works of Travis Hirschi and others working in the general area of control theory(ies) present an analysis of social deviance from this perspective.
3. Assuming you do or would teach a course in Social Deviance, develop a detailed outline for coverage of the topic. Indicate projects, textbooks, lecture topics and activities. Justify your outline in terms of its relevance to the field. NOTE: This outline does not have to fit any course that you may have taken for it to be acceptable in this examination.
4. Often in sociology, we consider the illegal or the exotic as forms of social deviance. Are there other behaviors that also might be considered deviant? Present one or two examples, then comment on what it is that determines whether something is deviant; e.g., context, setting, era, power, status, etc.
5. Present a detailed comparison and contrast of the labeling approach to social deviance with a structural functional approach. Draw upon the ideas of representative sociologists as well as your own interpretation of these approaches.
6. Discuss differential association theory.
7. What are the main points of Hirschi's Social Control Theory?
8. elect three behaviors: (a) a behavior you define as seriously deviant, with which many Americans concur; (b) a form of behavior most Americans define as seriously deviant, but which you regard as mildly to non-deviant; (c) a behavior which you define as seriously deviant, but with which many Americans disagree. What are the common features of which behavior? How is each

- unique? How might your background as a professional sociologist affect your definitions and assessments?
9. What is social stigma? Why might it be important to social deviance? What situational factors affect the definitions of deviance?
 10. Discuss the importance of in re Gault.
 11. What are the key ideas of the juvenile court?
 12. Discuss Merton's strain model of deviance.
 13. What situational factors affect the definitions of deviance?
 14. Discuss the labeling approach to deviance, focusing directly on Becker, Lemert, and Erickson. Compare and contrast this with the social control approach of the criminologist, Reckless.
 15. What is the UCR and how does it differ from the NCVS?
 16. Some argue that the very term "Social Deviant" is a negative label prohibiting value-free analysis of behavior so labeled. What term would you substitute for that which traditionally has been termed Social Deviance? Include those aspects of social behavior which would be included in your definition and those which would be excluded.
 17. What are the major mechanisms of social control in America? How do they differ from a developing society, which hopes to become first world? How does social control in dominant culture America differ from a tribal and/or nomadic society?
 18. What are the major mechanisms of social control? Why do all societies have such mechanisms in place? How do the issues of social control and social deviance appear to be relevant to an understanding of the recent cult suicide by the followers of Heaven's Gate? How might Merton's model explain the same phenomenon?
 19. An often used phrase in Sociology is that "Deviance is socially constructed." Present a systematic discussion of this phrase including consideration of intervening variables and extenuating situational circumstances which might serve to further explain this process of social construction of deviance.

20. An often overlooked area of social deviance is rehabilitation. Based upon your readings, courses, knowledge of research data, and personal observations, to what extent is the idea of rehabilitating deviants a realistic possibility? Does the possibility vary by the type of social deviance? To what extent does the desire to rehabilitate a “deviant” beg the issue of whether one (or society) should rehabilitate social deviants?
21. Discuss the following familial variables as factors affecting Intra-Family Violence.
- a. Family Organizations
 - Power structure
 - Sex role segregation
 - Solidarity, integration, conflict
 - Number and ordinal position of children
 - Extended vs. nuclear family
 - Age and years married
 - Problem-solving ability
 - b. Family Position in Social Structure
 - Social class
 - Residence
 - Ethnic group
 - Wealth relative to class
 - Security
 - c. Values, Beliefs, and Personality
 - Individualism vs. familism
 - Developmental values (permissiveness in child rearing)
 - Aspiration level
 - Activism vs. fatalism
 - Religious beliefs
 - Political beliefs
 - Self-concepts
 - Empathy
 - Sexual equalitarianism
22. How do the concepts of Mala In Se and Mala Prohibitum relate to the field of social deviance? Present two examples of behavior which, while legal, might be considered as socially deviant by one segment of society and not another. Characterize the features of each societal segment and relate those characteristics to the two forms of behavior.

23. Rubington & Weinberg (1996:3) note:

“Sociology is the study of social relations. Sociologists study how people arrive at common definitions of their situations; how they form groups based on such definitions; how they go on to set down rules of conduct, assign social roles to each other, and enforce their rules. Sociologists who examine these questions are part of the larger question: how is social order produced and sustained? Deviance refers to an alleged breach of a social norm. By looking at deviance, we can come to a better understanding of the dominant social order. At the same time, the study of deviance also sheds light on the way ‘deviant’ patterns and lifestyles are themselves organized.” Using it as a starting point, respond to the following:

- a. How do we study deviance?
 - b. What issues arise when we study deviance?
 - c. What is involved in the process of social typing?
 - d. How does the social-moral climate of a society affect our study of deviance?
 - e. How can the modes of societal accommodations to deviants affect our (sociologists’) ability to study deviance within a society?
24. Compare and contrast Differential Association Theory with Anomie (Merton) Theory.