



Step Up to Criminology

Welcome to WJEC Criminology! These activities will help you explore the relationship between crime and deviance and understand how crime is socially constructed and changes over time. Please complete the tasks below.

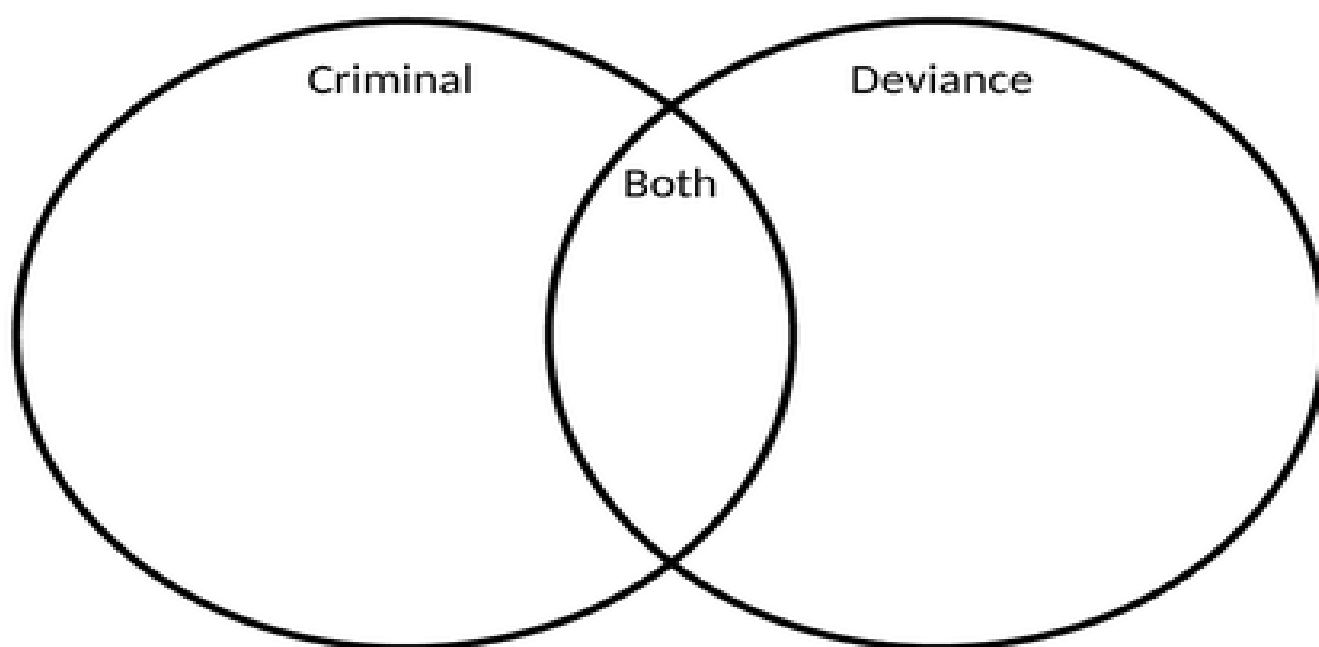
Definitions

Crime: An action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law.

Deviance: Behaviour that violates social norms, and can be but is not necessarily punishable by law.

Activity 1: Venn Diagram

Decide whether the behaviour listed below is a crime, is deviant or could be considered both. Draw the simple symbol into the appropriate section of the Venn diagram.



Smacking your son and leaving a red mark.		Not covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.	
Kissing passionately in a place of worship.		Chewing loudly with your mouth open at the dinner table.	
Speeding in a car outside a primary school.		Putting a stamp upside down on an envelope.	
Being drunk in a pub.		Sharing intimate images of an ex-partner on social media.	
Wearing a clown's costume at a funeral.		Walking directly to the front of a long queue.	
Punching someone in the face.		Being drunk in charge of a cow.	
Flying a kite in your back garden when your neighbours have asked you to stop.		Smashing the glass at a bus stop.	
Speaking loudly on public transport.		Beating the dust door mat outside your door in the street in the afternoon.	

We can see from some of the examples above that there are some strange laws or written rules of society. These are put in place by very old laws that have not been changed.

The phrase "**crime is a social construct**" means that what a society defines as a crime is not fixed or universal—it is shaped by the values, beliefs, and norms of that society at a particular time.

1. Crime is Defined by Society

- Laws are created by people in power (e.g. governments, lawmakers).
- What is considered a crime in one country or era may not be in another.

2. Crime Changes Over Time

- As social attitudes evolve, so do laws.
 - **Example:** Domestic violence was once seen as a private matter; now it's a serious criminal offence.
 - **Example:** Homosexuality was once criminalised in the UK but is now legal and protected under equality laws.

3. Crime changes between different cultures.

- Different societies criminalise different behaviours based on their norms.
 - **Example:** Drinking alcohol is legal in the UK but illegal in some countries with strict religious laws.

Activity 2: Crime Changes over time

You are now going to carry out some comparative criminology by identifying and researching two behaviours that have changed over **time** in England and Wales. One should be a behaviour that was once illegal and is now legal and one should be a behaviour that was once legal and is now illegal.

Activity 3: Crime changes between different cultures

Identify and research how crime is defined differently across cultures. Choose a country or culture and find one behavior that is a crime there but not in the UK, and one that is legal there but a crime in the UK.

Your research findings should...

- identify the behaviour
- outline the legal status and how it has changed over time/between cultures.

Set out your findings in the boxes below.

Crime Changes over time (Eng & Wales)

Behaviour that was illegal in the past but is legal today

[illegible]

Behaviour that was legal in the past but is illegal today

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]