

Causes of crime according to different theories

You may be asked to evaluate 'causes of crime' for 30 marker – here are some key theories and what they think cause crime .

Theory	Sociologist(s)	Causes of Crime	Key terms
Strain theory	Merton	Unequal structure of society and how people react	Strain, American Dream, Legitimate and Illegitimate Means, Conformity, Innovation, Ritualism, Retreatism, Rebellion
Subcultural Theories	A. Cohen, Cloward and Ohlin	Lack of opportunities for young males in society	Status frustration, Criminal Subcultures, Conflict Subcultures, Retreatist Subcultures
Marxist Theories	Bonger, Chambliss, Snider, Gordon	Unequal structure of capitalist society	Criminogenic capitalism, law creation, selective enforcement
Neo-Marxist Theories	Taylor, Walton and Young, Hall, Gilroy	Social reactions to crime create further criminal activity	Fully Social Theory, Media Reactions, Culture of Resistance, Scapegoating, Myth of Black Criminality, Policing the Crisis
Interactionist Theories	Becker, Cicourel, Young, S.Cohen, Lemert	Social reactions to initial crime cause more crime	Labelling, Primary and Secondary Deviance, Typifications, Negotiation of Justice, Moral Panics, Folk Devils, Deviancy Amplification
Right Realist Theories	Wilson, Kellings, Murray, Clarke	Crime is largely a result of individuals not conforming to social norms	Rational choice, Inadequate Socialisation, Underclass, Broken Windows, Zero Tolerance, Target Hardening, Environmental Prevention, Situational prevention
Left Realist Theories	Lea and Young	Crime is a result of social inequality	Marginalisation, Subcultures, Relative Deprivation, Social and Community Prevention