

**FUNCTIONALISM** argues that crime and deviance is useful, necessary and inevitable in a progressive, dynamic society.

**Durkheim** believed that crime and deviance can reinforce consensus values, allowing social change to occur.

**Positive aspects** reaffirm boundaries, i.e. public sanctions ensure that values and rules are maintained; changing values, i.e. sympathy, demonstrated by society due to changes in social values (can lead to change in the law); social cohesion; society demonstrating outrage and uniting to show a sense of belonging when a particular horrific crime is committed.

**Negative aspects** reaffirm anomie, i.e. a state of normlessness where a collapse of collective conscience exists – ‘anything goes’.

**Bonds of attachment:** *Why don't people commit crime?*

**Hirschi** argues that social bonds keep people together and when these are broken that's when crime occurs.

These bonds include attachment (how much to people care about other's opinions and wishes), commitment (personal investments that could be lost), involvement (are we too busy to commit a crime) and belief (a sense of obeying society's rules).

**Merton** believes in **strain theory** (striving to achieve the American Dream). People share the same goals of achieving a good lifestyle and usually via conventional methods (education/qualification, hard work). However, not everyone has the same opportunities and therefore achieve the American Dream via unconventional methods, i.e. crime.

Five ways that people 'adapt' to achieve the American Dream:

- conformity
- innovation
- ritualism
- retreatism
- rebellion.

**Davis** supports the theory of a **safety valve** – crime acts as an outlet for problems.

**Clinard** believes that crime acts as a **warning sign** that something is wrong in society.

### Why do men commit crime?

According to **Messerschmidt**, **hegemonic masculinity** (**Connel**) drives men to prove their masculinity while **subordinate masculinity** drives men to turn to crime as they cannot achieve hegemonic masculinity.

**Winlow's** study in Sunderland shows a decline of traditional manual jobs. This means that men cannot assert their masculinity. Bouncers in de-industrialised Sunderland found opportunities to commit crimes through illegal drug dealing and violence.

**Katz** suggests that crime is seductive and entices men who are thrill-seeking.

**Lyng** suggests that men are living on the edge (**edgework**).

**FEMINISM** argues that women have been 'ignored' and/or 'neglected' when discussing crime and deviance.

The relationship between women and offending is not the same as the relationship between men and offending. **Dalton** argues that **biological explanations** (women are innately different to men) and **sex-role theory** (there are core elements of the female role that limit their ability and opportunity to commit crimes) have a role to play in this. Girls are socialised differently to boys (**socialisation**) and are more closely supervised (**social control**).

**Heidensohn** argues that there is an **invisibility of women** due to sociology being "malestream". Women's crimes are minor compared to men's and not a social threat. Women conform more – they are socialised with norms and values that instil conformity (**Box** and **Smart** agree with this). Women are controlled more in the home, in the workplace and in society, leaving them with less time and opportunity to commit crime – their crimes therefore is usually linked to their daily lives.

**Pollack** supports the **chivalry thesis** – the criminal justice system is predominantly male and therefore is socialised to treat women courteously – they protect women and issue lesser sentences. **Leonard** agrees but **Carlen** disagrees; she believes women are treated harsher. The **FLOOD-PAGE** study and **HOOD** study show that women are less likely to face punishment for their crimes.

**SMART** supports **transgression** and argues that you must look more closely at factors such as women fearing to go out at night, being more likely to be victims of domestic violence and how they are treated in cases such as rape and harassment.

**Carlen** supports **rational choice** – that women commit crime as a choice, e.g. for children or gender deal/class deal.

**Allen** argues that **mental health issues** are offered as an explanation for female crime as some crimes committed are not 'natural' for women, e.g. the case of Myra Hindley, and therefore they must receive psychiatric care.

**Heidensohn** highlights women as **victims** of crime. **Dobash** and **Dobash** studied domestic violence against women. **Walklate** argued that women have to prove their respectability.

**Adler** supports the **liberation thesis** – a new type of female criminal is evolving, leading to a rise in female crime.

**Don't forget criticism  
– this is also important for the exam!**