**Labelling Theory**



How theorists argue it works –

**For example**

A school has 3 students from a particular area near school which is renowned as ‘being rough’

* + Their teachers taught their siblings and parents and they were very disruptive and always getting into physical fights
  + When the students first come into the class, they immediately realise who these 3 students are and who their family members were
    - “Oh you’re X’s sibling, you’re going to be trouble. I'll keep my eye on you”
  + Whenever there is any trouble, the teachers immediately go to the 3 students and blame them, even when they were not even involved
  + Every time the 3 students protest, they get detentions, etc and eventually give up on their classes because they are in the lowest sets with people who do not want to learn
  + The 3 students leave school with no A\*-C GCSEs and eventually begin selling drugs and steal whenever the opportunity arises.
    - When the Police realise the family of these 3 students, they are less lenient with their treatment

Explain what happened in the above situation using the key words:

How it can work in practice –

**For example**

A school teacher sees a student not trying their hardest at school, looks very disinterested and plays up in class.

* + Teacher reacts to what they see and keep calling the student names like “disruptive”, “lazy”, “useless” and “will never do well in life because they can’t do the simplest things”
  + Teacher speaks to other staff to see if the same is happening and they all agree. Eventually they all call the student by the same names
  + Student continues like this until the finish school and when asked why they say something like “because I was lazy and couldn’t be bothered”
* Years down the line the student meets some friends who realise they have a real talent for making Hollywood-style movies and encourage him to make it further
  + After a while, their work gets the attention of Hollywood production companies who eventually give them a shot, but ask where they were hiding all this time and cannot believe they didn’t start earlier
* They didn’t start earlier because the treatment they agreed with what their teachers said all those years bac

Explain what happened in the above situation using the key words: