

Answer all questions.

1. Martha has been married to Tony for 15 years. For most of that time she has been the victim of domestic abuse. For several reasons, she has never reported this to the police. The main reason is that she feels sorry for Tony as he has been unemployed for some time and cannot get a job. Tony gets upset about not being able to provide a better standard of living for Martha and himself. As a result of this, he has recently started to steal food from a local supermarket. Their neighbour knows about the domestic abuse and has recently seen a campaign on the television to promote awareness and encourage reporting of such abuse.

- (a) (i) Describe **one** sociological theory of criminality.

[4]

SOCIAL STRUCTURE THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY SEE CRIME AS AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAY THAT SOCIETY IS STRUCTURED. MARXIST'S SUGGEST THAT SOCIETY IS DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN CLASSES, THE 'BOURGEOISIE', OR THE RULING CLASS AND THE 'PROLETARIAT', OR THE WORKING CLASS. THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, WHICH INCLUDES THE POLICE, PRISONS AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORKS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE RULING CLASS, AND AS A MEANS TO CONTROL THE WORKING CLASSES. STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY MEANS THAT MANY WORKING-CLASS PEOPLE WILL EXPERIENCE CONDITIONS SUCH AS POVERTY, POOR EDUCATION, AND UNEMPLOYMENT. WORKING CLASS CRIMES TEND TO BE A REACTION AGAINST THESE CONDITIONS AND ARE DEALT WITH VERY HARSHLY BY THE STATE, WHEREAS THE CRIMES OF THE RULING CLASS, WHITE-COLLAR CRIME, TEND TO BE DEALT WITH IN MORE LENIENT MANNER, IF DEALT WITH AT ALL

- (ii) Analyse how the theory described above can be applied to Tony's situation.

[6]

IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT TONY COMMITS CRIME BECAUSE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PROLETARIAT, AS SUCH HE EXPERIENCES MATERIAL DISADVANTAGE, HE HAS BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR SOME TIME AND CANNOT AFFORD THE THINGS THAT HE OR MARIA WANT. THIS SITUATION IS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAY THAT SOCIETY IS STRUCTURED. EVERYTHING IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY IS ORGANISED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT BENEFITS THE INTEREST OF THE RULING CLASS, OR THE 'BOURGEOISIE', AND WORKS AGAINST THE 'PROLETARIAT' OR THE WORKING CLASS. TONY'S LOW WAGES, AND NOW HIS UNEMPLOYMENT MEAN THAT HE HAS BEEN FORCED TO STEAL FROM A CAPITALIST SUPERMARKET SIMPLY TO SURVIVE. MARXIST WOULD ARGUE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS ONE OF THE TOOLS THAT CAPITALIST SOCIETIES USE TO CONTROL THE WORKING CLASS. THE FEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS ENOUGH TO KEEP WORKING CLASS MEN LIKE TONY, WORKING IN LOW-PAID, BORING JOBS AS THEY KNOW THE ALTERNATIVES, NO WORK ARE MUCH WORSE. THE BOURGEOISIE CLASS WILL ALSO USE TONY'S SITUATION TO CONTROL THE WORKING CLASSES. IF HE GETS CAUGHT, HE WILL BE SUBJECT OF A CRIMINAL CHARGE AND CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE A FINE OR EVEN CUSTODIAL SENTENCE. THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE WERE HE PART OF THE RULING CLASS, WHERE HIS WHITE COLLAR CRIMES WOULD NOT BE TREATED AS SERIOUSLY, OR EVEN AS CRIMES AT ALL

(iii) Evaluate the theory described in (a)(i) and (ii).

[6]

MARXISM PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION OF CRIME IN SOCIETY. IT EXPLAINS WHY THE WORKING-CLASSES ARE OVER-REPRESENTED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS, AND THE RULING CLASSES UNDER-REPRESENTED. THIS IS FIRSTLY BECAUSE OF MATERIAL DISADVANTAGE; THE WORKING CLASSES ARE FORCED TO COMMIT CRIME BECAUSE OF LACK OF OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY. MARXISM ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE 'SYSTEM' WORKS AGAINST WORKING CLASS PEOPLE THROUGH 'SELECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT'. THE CRIMES OF THE RULING CLASSES, ARE SERIOUS AND MAY BE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN WORKING CLASS CRIMES, IN TERMS OF MONETARY VALUE BUT WILL NOT BE PURSUED WITH THE SAME ENERGY AS WORKING CLASS CRIMES', AND MAY EVEN NOT BE TREATED AS CRIMES AT ALL. ONE LIMITATION OF MARXISM IS THAT IT DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR WORKING CLASS PEOPLE WHO DON'T COMMIT CRIME, IN FACT MOST PEOPLE, EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED GREAT DISADVANTAGE DO NOT TURN TO CRIME. THE IDEA THAT THE CRIMES OF THE RULING CLASSES ARE ALWAYS TREATED LENIENTLY IS ALSO OPEN TO QUESTION. WHITE-COLLAR CRIME AND THE CRIMES OF THE RICH AND THE POWERFUL ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND ARE PROSECUTED. CASES SUCH AS BERNIE MADOFF AND JEFFERY EPSTEIN WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALL ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LAW.