

Biological Theories

Biochemical

Premise

Crime can be a result of diet, hormonal imbalances or allergies

Strengths

Explains irrational violence. Shows how personal traits are influenced by the environmental circumstances

Neurological

Brain impairment can cause criminal behaviour. ADHD, hyperactivity disorder and some brain dysfunction can correlate to antisocial behaviour

Explains unfounded behaviour and violence. Identifies how the mind influences personal traits

Genetic

Criminal traits are inherited. Criminality of parents can predict delinquency of children

Explains why a small proportion of young criminals in high-crime zones become habitual offenders

Evolutionary

Due to evolution some traits have become deep-rooted. Some of these traits create aggression and a criminal inclination

Explains high level of violence and gender differences in the crime rate

Psychological Theories

Psychodynamic

Premise

The unconscious of personality early in childhood influences lifelong behaviour. Vulnerability can create damaged personalities leading to criminality

Strengths

Identifies illogical behaviour, criminality and violence and Demonstrations how external circumstances interact with personal traits to influence behaviour

Behavioural

Criminal behaviour modelled on others, reinforced by perceived rewards for activity and punishment minimised

Explains the influence of others in the development of criminality. Illustrates how media can influence criminal behaviour

Cognitive

Personal reasoning influences behaviour, inclined by the perception of their environment

Indicates why criminal behaviour changes over time due to maturation and development of reasoning. Explains the ageing-out process