

JSB238 EXAM NOTES 2

Quick structure

Key thinkers, pros & cons of theories, history dev of theories, prevention approach,
Key contribution of theories.

Definitions / key terms	Key thinkers	Responses / prevention	Cons / criticisms
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Covered Topics Overview

- W1: Criminology & crime prevention
- W2: Classical theory
- W3: Environmental & situational prevention
- W4: Biological & psychological positivism
- W5: Developmental crime prevention
- W6: Strain, anomie & social ecology
- W7: Labelling & deviance
- W8: Community crime prevention
- W9: Critical criminology, Marxism, left realism & new right criminology
- W10: Cultural criminology, post-structuralism & post-modernism
- W11: Queer criminology & feminist criminology

Week 1: Crime & Crime Prevention

Week overview

This week introduces broad ways of explaining crime and the main models used to prevent it.

Definitions

Term / concept	Meaning
Paradigm	A broad model or set of assumptions used to explain how the world works. Example: explaining behaviour through religion, rational choice, or social conditions.
Theory	An evidence-based explanation for a specific problem or behaviour. It should use analysis, critical thinking, evidence, and observation.
Crime prevention	Actions or strategies designed to stop crime before it happens, reduce a specific crime problem, or control crime so it does not get worse.

Key paradigms

- **Conservative:** individuals choose to offend, so the response focuses on punishment.
- **Liberal:** crime is caused by social disadvantage and structural inequality, so the response should address those causes.
- **Rational:** people offend through free will and rational choice.

Types of theories

- **Individual theories:** focus on the person or offender.
- **Situational theories:** focus on the setting or opportunity for crime.
- **Social structural theories:** focus on wider social conditions such as poverty, inequality, or disadvantage.

Crime prevention approaches

- **Community safety:** identifies issues that harm the public and addresses them, such as road safety or access to healthcare.

- **Crime reduction:** aims to reduce a specific type of crime or reoffending. Example: diversion for youth before offending becomes a pattern.
- **Crime control:** controls crime so it does not get out of hand. Example: police at events where drug use may be a problem.

Public health model

- **Primary prevention:** identifies factors that may contribute to offending or increase the risk of offending.
- **Secondary prevention:** identifies people at risk of offending and gives them support or legitimate pathways.
- **Tertiary prevention:** responds to offenders to prevent reoffending.

Tonry & Farrington's typology

- **Community/social crime prevention:** strengthens relationships between social institutions and law, such as schools and community programs working with police.
- **Developmental crime prevention:** early intervention around the individual, family, school, and community.
- **Situational crime prevention:** increases the risks and reduces the rewards of crime.
- **Law enforcement/criminal justice:** traditional responses such as courts, arrest, and punishment.

Week 2: Classical Theory

Week overview

Classical theory focuses on free will, rational choice, rights, social contract, and deterrence-based punishment.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Feudalism	A social order where society was organised through hierarchy, land ownership, and aristocratic power.
Aristocracy	A class system where elites held social and political power.
Social contract	The idea that people give up some freedoms in exchange for state protection, security, and order.
Mens rea	The intention or mental element behind a criminal act.
Classical theory	People commit crime because they have free will and make rational choices based on costs and benefits.

Key thinkers

Cesare Beccaria:

- Law should apply equally and be justified when applied.
- The offender still has rights and should be judged by a jury.
- Punishment should be based on deterrence, not revenge.
- Punishment should prevent the offender and others from committing further crime that harms society.

Jeremy Bentham:

- Pleasure-pain principle.
- Crime results from irrational or poor choices.
- The justice system should ensure that the risk of crime outweighs the reward.
- Punishment is justified on the basis of prevention.

Historical context

- Punishment originally focused on punishing the individual and displaying the power of the system.
- Capitalism challenged the power of the landed aristocracy and required protection of property, wealth, and state rule on behalf of everyone.
- A major shift occurred from religious explanations to classical texts, from feudalism to capitalism, from faith to reason, and from divine rule to the social contract.

Political & legal context

- Rule of law.
- Rights of individuals.
- Supremacy of law.
- Social contract.
- Equality under the law.
- Lawmakers should also be bound by the law.

Principles of classical theory

- Rights: the justice system should uphold the rule of law and human rights.
- Law: the law should reflect shared values and protect individual rights and freedom without causing social harm.
- Social contract: the state guarantees protection and security, but laws should not unnecessarily restrict human rights.
- Law breaker: people obey or violate law based on free will, and law influences the costs and benefits of offending.
- Punishment must be justified because offending is seen as breaking the social contract.

Week 3: Environmental & Situational Crime Prevention

Week overview

Focuses on crime opportunities, places, targets, guardianship, environmental design, and practical prevention techniques.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Rational choice theory	Developed from classical theory. Crime happens when the benefits outweigh the risks, so people weigh the costs and benefits before acting.
Routine activities theory	Crime occurs when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian come together.
Eck's crime triangle	Crime involves an offender, place, and target. Prevention involves a handler, manager, and guardian.
Situational crime prevention	Prevents crime by changing the situation that creates opportunities for crime, such as increasing risks or reducing rewards.
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; preventing crime by changing the design and use of physical environments.

CPTED concepts

- **Access control:** limits who can access an area.
- **Target hardening:** makes it physically harder to use a place or object illegally.
- **Activity support:** makes legitimate use of the area easier.
- **Natural surveillance:** increases visibility by police, guardians, or the public.
- **Mechanical surveillance:** uses cameras or technology.
- **Image maintenance:** avoids signs of breakdown or isolation.
- **Territoriality:** uses signs, fences, buildings, or design to show who an area belongs to.

Situational prevention techniques

- Increase effort.

- Increase the risk of getting caught.
- Decrease rewards.
- Reduce provocations, such as using polite services, calm music, or reducing frustration in an environment.
- Remove excuses, such as clear no-parking or private-property signs.

Pros & cons

Pros	Cons
• Resource efficient and highly effective for some types of crime. • Can create diffusion of benefits where nearby areas also become safer. • Works well when the crime problem is strongly linked to opportunity or place.	• May lead to crime displacement. • May reinforce fear of crime. • May be ineffective for serious or less situational crime types. • Can be costly to implement.

