

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
DEVIANCE, LAW AND SOCIAL CONTROL
WRITTEN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

January 2001

PART II. AFTERNOON

A. ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS:

1. On balance, research finds persistent race, class and gender effects on criminal offending.
 - a) Choose one theory and fully explore the ways in which it accounts for the above effects.
 - b) Discuss recent empirical research on race, class, and gender relevant to the theory you have chosen. The literature may include research based on the theory, or based on some other framework but relevant.
 - c) Assess the adequacy of your chosen theory in accounting for race, class and gender effects. Which effects does it explain? What, if any, are its weaknesses?

2. A question of continuing interest is the relationship between age and rates of criminal and deviant behavior.
 - a) Summarize the theoretical literature on this issue over the past three decades (1970 to 2000).
 - b) Summarize the relevant research during this same period. What relationships have been theorized and empirically documented?
 - c) Based on the literature, can we draw any conclusions about the relationship? If so, what are they? If not, what steps are needed in order for us to draw such conclusions?

B. ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Consider the literature on the impact of law.
 - a) Discuss the development of the literature and the major research findings and controversies regarding the impact of law.
 - b) How have the issues and findings changed over the decades since the first significant studies on the question? To what extent have these changes been "for the good," and to what extent should we return to [or abandon] the original questions, and/or adopt new ones?

(See page 2 for question 2)

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2. Much of the literature on crime and deviance locates the causes of these behaviors within the individual. A smaller literature considers the role of organizational processes in the initiation and maintenance of criminal or deviant behavior.

- a) Select an empirical study of the role of organizational factors in crime/deviance. What is the theoretical/conceptual perspective of the research?
- b) Summarize the empirical findings of the research. Do they clearly demonstrate the influence of organizational factors? If not, in what way(s) might the theory and/or methods be improved in order to strengthen the validity of the results?