

Q What is your position on nature vs nurture debate in criminology? (2020)

1) overview of the question

The nature vs nurture debate in criminology examines whether criminal behaviour is primarily influenced by genetic factors (nature) or environmental influences (nurture). This discussion seeks to understand the extent to which genetics and upbringing contribute to an individual's likelihood of engaging in criminal activities.

2) Criminology's nature debate

Those in favour of the "nature" side argue that biological factors such as genetics, brain structure, and hormonal imbalances could contribute to criminal behaviour. They point to theories that suggest a potential genetic predisposition for criminal traits, such as impulsivity or aggression.

2.1) Lombroso's Theory of Atavism: influenced by Degeneration Theory, Cesare Lombroso introduced the Atavistic theory of crime in his book "The Criminal Man". He argued that there is a distinct biological class of people prone to criminality. He asserted that someone "born criminal" could be identified by the way they look. These people exhibit "atavistic" or "primitive" features. Lombroso argued that these people have adopted the biological characteristics of primitives that

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are considered as a tendencies to commit crime. Some of the examples of these throwbacks are as follows:

Thieves	expressive faces, manual dexterity, and small wandering eyes;
Murders	cold, glassy stares, bloodshot eyes, and hawk-like noses;
Sex offenders	have thick lips and protruding ears; and
Female criminals	shorter, more wrinkly, and have darker hair.

Lombroso in his theory argues that these offenders are at a more primitive stage than non-offenders, and just to fit in the society they commit crime. This perspective suggests that criminality has a hereditary nature.

2.2) Sheldon Somatotype Theory: In 1942, William Sheldon introduced the theory of Somatotype which emphasized the notable connection between the Personality traits and physique. His study involved the numerous males physique, and he derived from his analysis 3 distinct Somatotypes, which refers to a person's physique & body type. These 3 types were as follows:

	body type	Characteristics
Ectomorph	a thin, wiry frame	quiet, <u>fragile</u> , introvert

Endomorph	a heavy, rounded frame	relaxed, sociable, tolerant, peaceful
Mesomorph	a solid, muscular frame	aggressive, assertive, adventurous

Sheldon noted that vast majority of criminals were mesomorphs. A notable example for this is that a solid muscular person becomes involved in crime at an early age due to his intimidating appearance.

2.3) NeuroCriminology: NeuroCriminology examines the relationship between brain structure and criminal behaviour. Research in neuroCriminology explores how brain abnormalities or imbalances in neurotransmitters might contribute to impulsivity, aggression, and other behaviours. Criminologists focus on frontal lobe of cerebral cortex due to its functioning of abstract thinking, self-monitoring, planning, and control behaviour. In 1997, Raine et al. studied 41 violent murderers and discovered a decreased in Prefrontal Cortex and limbic system activity compared to non-offenders. Individuals with APD showed reduced activity in Prefrontal cortex. Additionally in 2002, Raine et al. found a reduced volume of grey matter in the same region of brain of these individuals. Criminologists also study neurotransmitters, such as dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine. These neurotransmitters are related with aggressive and antisocial behaviours.

According to various studies, such as Brizer, 1988, and Raine, 2008, these neurotransmitters can make a person to act violently.

Chemicals	Impacts
Serotonin	According to researchers reduced level of Serotonin is linked to criminal behaviour as it manages impulsivity.
Dopamine	According to some studies excessive level of dopamine can result in aggressive behaviour.
Norepinephrine	Studies suggest that increased level of this chemical leads to aggressive behaviour, while decreased level leads to anti-social behaviour.

2.4) Criticism: Critics argue that nature debate overlooks social and environmental influences on crime. Similarly solely focusing on genetics or brain structure oversimplifies complex structure, such as poverty, encourability, upbringing, and cultural norms. Furthermore, critics warn against making criminal justice policies on biological determinism, as it can profile and stigmatize individuals or groups due to their genetic structures.

3) Criminology's Nurture Debate

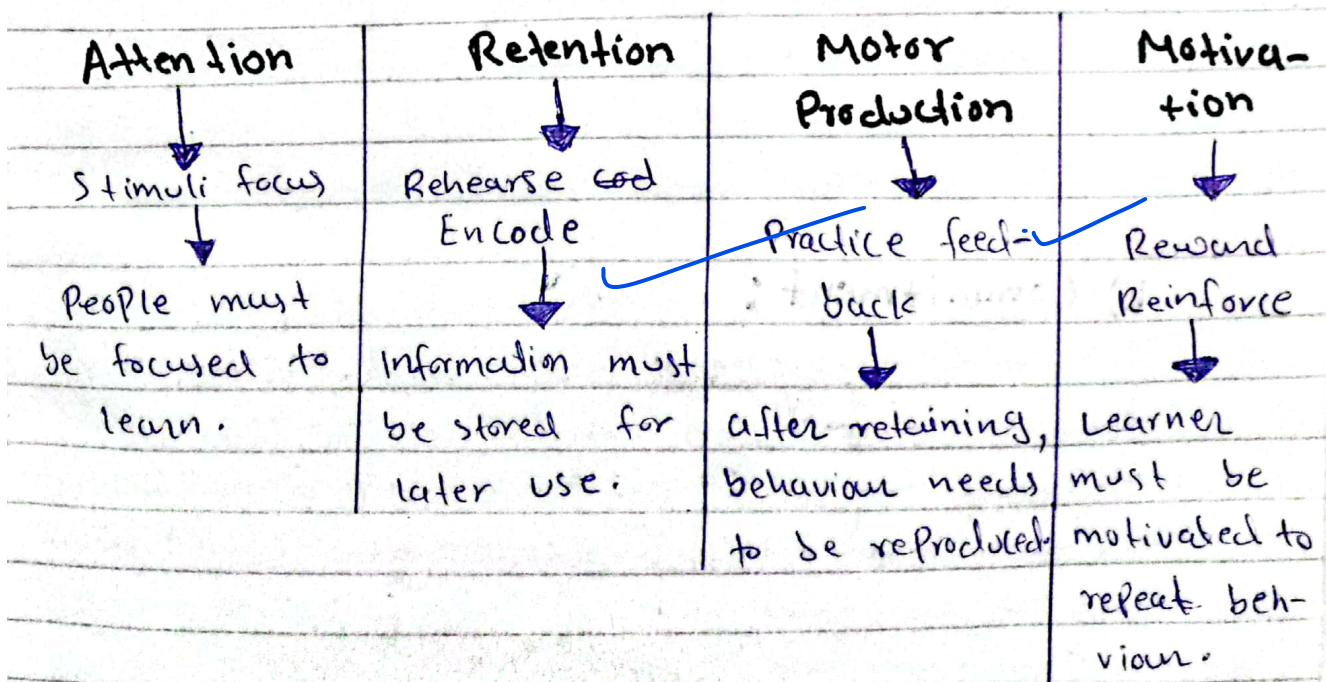
Proponents of the "nurture" debate side argue that impact of the environmental factors in shaping criminal behaviour is of ~~out~~ utmost importance. They argue that upbringing, social environment, childhood experiences, and exposure to crime-prone surroundings can shape an

Individuals Propensity for criminal activities.

3.1) **Social Learning Theory**: In the social learning theory, Albert Bandura (1977) agrees with theories of behaviorist; classical conditioning and operant conditioning. However, he adds two important ideas:

1) Mediating processes occur between stimuli and responses.

2) Behaviour is learned from the environment through the process of observational learning. People watch others, examine behaviours, observe resultant consequences, which in turn affect their own future behaviour. The theory contains four principles that are required for learning, these are as follows:



This theory covers both behavioural and cognitive characteristics, and internal thought process encouraged Bandura to rename it **Social Cognitive Theory** in

1986 to acknowledge the mental process that occur.

3.2) Social Bonding Theory: Travis Hirschi in his influential book "Causes of delinquency" introduced the theory of social bonding. In this theory he argues that the level of connection and attachment to the society plays an important role in an person's propensity towards crime. This theory posits that strong social bonds act as a deterrent against the crime and these bonds are constructed through four fundamental components: Attachment, Commitment, Involvement, and beliefs.

a) Attachment: This element refers to the emotional bonds an individual forms with family members, friends, and community. Strong bonds foster empathy, care, and a sense of responsibility, making individuals less likely to commit crimes that could harm these relationships.

b) Commitment: Commitment involves an individual's investment in conventional societal pursuits such as education, career, and future goals. When people have significant commitments, they are more inclined to avoid criminal behaviour that might jeopardize their achievements.

c) Involvement: Involvement pertains to an individual's active participation in the legitimate activities, whether they are related

to work, sports, clubs, or community management engagements. This active engagement reduces idle time and limits opportunities for criminal acts.

d) Beliefs: Beliefs refer to an individual's adherence to societal norms, values, and laws. People who have strong beliefs are more likely to resist criminal behaviour.

3.3) Social Strain Theory:

Social strain theory was developed by American sociologist Robert K. Merton, who in this theory states that structures may pressure citizens to commit crime. Strain can be in two forms: structural and individual. Structural strain pertains to societal processes trickling down to influence an individual's perception of their needs. This can be seen in the context of material possession, when an individual is influenced by society's pressure of being wealthy, he will be inclined to have more wealth regardless of his needs. Individual strain ~~which an individual~~ refers to the difficulties and unease that an individual encounters when trying to find ways to meet their personal needs. In his exploration of deviance, Merton introduces a typology, system of classifying on the basis of distinct characteristics, of deviant behaviour. The typology is as follows:

- 1) a person's motivation and their alignment with cultural objectives; and

2) A person's belief in the approaches they adopted to reach their goal.

According to Merton there are five types of deviance based upon these criteria: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion.

Institutionalized means

		Institutionalized means	
		Accept	Reject
Cultural Goals	Accept	Conformity	Innovation
	Reject	Ritualism	Retreatism
			New means
			New goals
			Rebellion

A) Conformity: It involves the acceptance of the cultural goal and means of attaining those goals.

B) Innovation: It entails the acceptance of cultural goals and rejection of conventional and authorized methods to achieve those goals. For instance, a Mafia member pursuing wealth might use unconventional means, their methods of attaining it might be deviant.

C) Ritualism: It entails dismissing cultural goals while consistently adhering to the established means for attaining those goals. For instance, an employee who diligently follows company procedures and maintains a routine despite losing interest in climbing the corporate ladder.

D) Retreatism: It involves rejecting both cultural goals and traditional means for achieving them. Someone who abandons societal goals and lives as a hermit in the wilderness, exhibits retreatism.

E) Rebellion: It involves rejecting cultural goals and conventional means, actively seeking to replace them with different elements within society. An example of this can be a group of activists who want to dismantle traditional institutions and replace them with others which can satisfy their demands.

3.4) Criticism: Critics argue that "nurture" side of criminology oversimplifies the role of environment, neglecting genetic factors. Critics also stress individual differences and ethical concerns for crime in blaming solely environment for crime. Additionally, they argue that this perspective does not fully explain criminal behaviour, and a more holistic approach is necessary.

4) Conclusion

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in the "nature" vs "nurture" debate in criminology, it becomes evident that both genetic predisposition and environmental influences play pivotal role in shaping human behaviour. Accepting the interplay between these factors allows for more comprehensive approach to understand the complex mechanisms that triggers criminal tendencies. Embracing a holistic approach that respects the uniqueness of individual, while recognizing the impact of societal and biological contexts, provides a balanced lens through which we can

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decipher the multifaceted origins of criminal behaviour.

- Q5 a) How would you classify criminal behaviour?
b) what would be the focus of typology?

Answering Part (A)

1) overview of criminal behaviour:

"a behaviour which is an expression of needs and values of the individuals, but in a form which is not approved by the dominant culture."

Edwin Sutherland

So, criminal behaviour refers to actions that violate established laws and regulations, and norms of any given society.

2) Types of criminal behaviour:

Crimes are classified into three major categories: Felony, misdemeanor, and infractions.

2.1) Felony: felony covers serious and often more severe crimes that typically involve violence, harm, or significant financial damage. Some examples of crimes that fall under the felony category include:

• **Murder**: The intentional killing of another person.

• **Rape**: forced sexual intercourse without consent.

• **Robbery**: Taking someone's property by force or threat.

• **Burglary**: Illegally entering a building with the intent to commit a crime, usually theft.

• **Kidnapping**: Abducting and holding a person against their will.

• **Assault**: Intentionally causing bodily harm or the threat of bodily harm to another person.

• **Arson**: Deliberately setting fire to property.

• **Drug trafficking**: illegally manufacturing, distributing, selling, or possessing controlled substances.

• **Fraud**: Deceptive practices with the intent to gain something of value.

• **Embezzlement**: Misappropriating funds entrusted to someone's care, often in a workplace setting.

Felony crime typically carry more severe penalties than misdemeanor offences due to their more serious nature. Penalties can include imprisonment for more than a year, substantial fines, probation, and even death penalty among others.

Examples: bloody attack on malala, gang rape of mukhtara mai, and Taranwala incidents are examples.

2.2) Misdemeanor: Misdemeanors cover less serious crimes than felonies. Some common examples of crimes that are classified as misdemeanors include:

- **Petty Theft:** Theft of property with a relatively low value.

- **Simple Assault:** Causing minor injury or threatening bodily harm to another person.

- **Vandalism:** willful destruction or defacement of property.

- **Trespassing:** unauthorized entry onto someone's else property.

- **Disorderly conduct:** Engaging in disruptive behaviour that disturbs public peace.

- **Public intoxication:** Being in the influence of alcohol or drugs in the public to the extent that endangers oneself or others.

- **Shoplifting:** Stealing merchandise from the store.

- **Prostitution:** Engaging in sexual acts for money.

- **Driving under the influence (DUI):** operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- **Simple drug possession:** Possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use.

2.3) Infractions

Infractions are minor violations of laws or regulations that typically result in fines or other relatively minor penalties. Infractions are generally less serious than misdemeanors and felonies. Common examples of infractions include:

- **Traffic violations:** It includes driving over the posted speed limit, failing to stop completely at a stop sign, illegally parking in a no-parking zone, or exceeding parking time limits.
- **Littering:** Throwing waste and trash in the public area.
- **Jaywalking:** Crossing the street in a way that violates pedestrian traffic rules.
- **Noise ordinance violations:** Creating excessive noise during designated quiet hours.
- **Public Nuisance:** Engaging in behaviour that interferes with the public's enjoyment or use of public spaces.
- **Failure to obtain a permit:** Conducting certain activities without the required permits, such as street vending without a license.
- **Minor Trespassing:** Entering private

Property without authorization but without criminal intent

• **vandalism** : Defacing Property with graffiti or other forms of damage.

• **violation of city ordinances** : Breaking local laws that pertain to specific areas or activities within a city.

• **Minor in Possession** : Being in possession of cigarettes and tobacco underage.

Example : According to Dtnext, in Pakistan 1200 boys and girls are becoming addicted to smoking every day, and every year, about one people die in the country due to this malpractice. More than 800 people are admitted to hospital everyday.

2.4) Critical analysis:

a critical examination reveals that there is no fixed global standard for defining these classifications. Instead, the interpretation of what constitutes as a felony or misdemeanor often varies significantly from one country to another, as well as within different jurisdictions within the same country. However, there are some crimes which are inherently considered as felonies due to their potential harm. For instance, taking a life is universally seen as a grave offense (felony) and pickpocketing as a lesser offense (misdemeanor).

2.5) Conclusion :

In conclusion, classification of crime into felony, misdemeanor, and infraction categories serves as the corner stone of the legal system, aiding in the administration of justice and allocation of appropriate penalties. The distinctions are crucial in determining the severity of the offences and directing legal process. However, the lack of a fixed global standard and the varying interpretations among different countries emphasize the challenges in achieving uniformity. Despite these challenges, the core idea of categorizing crimes based on severity remains valuable in facilitating legal systems to maintain harmonious social environment.

Attempting Part (B)

1) overview of the term "typology"

In social sciences, typology refers to the classification or categorization of entities, behaviors, or phenomena based on shared characteristics or traits. Typologies are often used to understand variations, similarities, and differences among groups or individuals in fields, such as sociology, Political Science, Psychology, anthropology etc.

2) Concept of typology in criminology

"a scheme for classifying criminals on the basis of their motivations or behavioral patterns."

So, a criminological typology is a way of classifying criminals or criminal behaviour based on common characteristics or patterns. Typologies are used to understand causes and motivation of crimes, as well as to develop more effective crime prevention and intervention strategies.

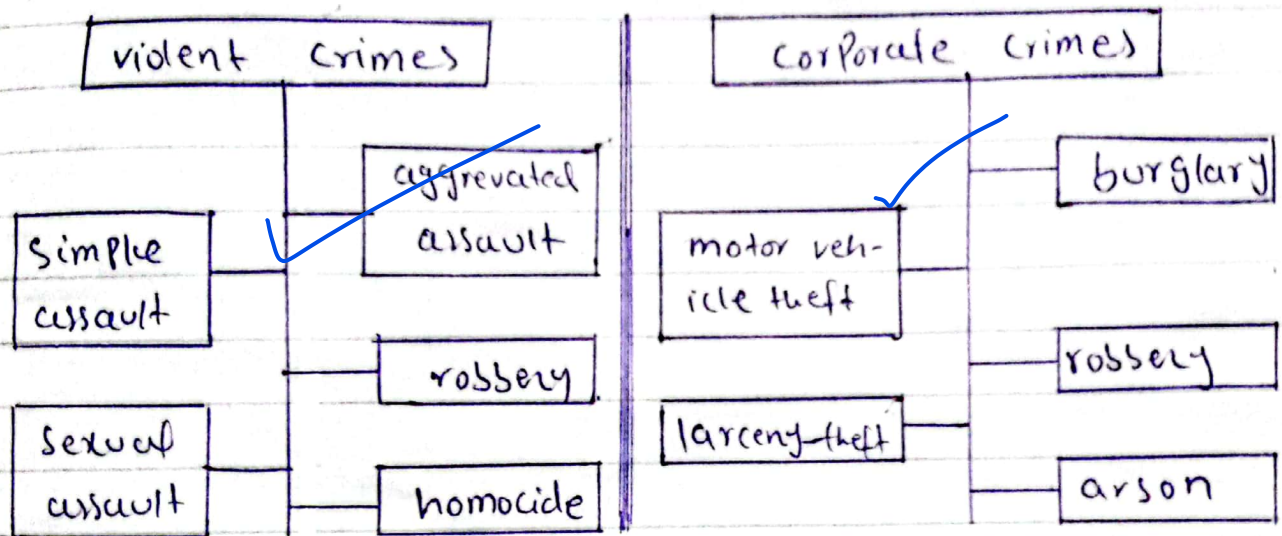
3) focus of typology

The focus of typology in criminology is to organize criminals into groups based on their shared characteristics. This can be done by focusing on the crime itself, the offender, or both.

- i) Crime-centered typologies; and
- ii) Person-centered typologies.

3.1) Crime-Centered: It focuses on the criminal itself rather than the individual who committed it. These typologies group crimes together based on their similarities, such as the type of victim, the method used, or the motive. For instance, a crime-centered typology might group together all crimes involving violence against women, or all crimes committed by juveniles. Here are some examples of specific crime-centered typologies.

a) **FBI's Crime Classification Manual**: It is a comprehensive typology of violent and property crimes. It is used by many law enforcement agencies around the world to classify crimes and develop investigative strategies. The CCM divides crimes into two main categories which are further divided into more specific types of crimes. For example:



b) **The Modus Operandi (MO) Typology**: It is a comprehensive typology based on criminals' methods of operation. It is used by law enforcement agencies to identify and track criminals. The MO typology classifies criminals based on their methods of committing crimes, such as their choice of victims, their use of weapons, and their methods of escape. For instance, if a law enforcement agency knows that a specific criminal constantly employs a knife to carry out their offenses, they can remain vigilant for any other incidents involving the use of a knife.

3.2) Person-centered Typologies: They focus on the person who ^{has} committed crime, rather than focusing on crime itself. These typologies group offenders together based on their shared characteristics, such as their personality traits, their criminal history, or their social backgrounds. For example, a person-centered typology might group ^{together} all offenders who have a history of substance abuse, or all offenders who were raised in abusive homes. Here are some examples of specific person-centered typologies.

a) The Psychopathy Checklist: It is a typology of offenders based on their personality traits. It is used by psychologists and ~~to~~ criminologists to understand the motivations of the criminals behind their criminal activities. For instance, a person who has high scores on the PCL-R can be involved in different criminal activities, such as ~~a~~ theft, fraud, arson, vandalism, murder, or rape. They do ~~so~~ theft and fraud for personal gain, arson and vandalism for the thrill of it, and murder or rape for satisfying needs and aggression.

b) The Social Learning Theory: It is a typology of offenders based on their social environment. Developed by Albert Bandura in 1970s, theory classifies offenders in two groups:

- i) vicari learners learn to offend by observing others who are offending.
- ii) Direct learners learn to offend by directly

experiencing the consequences of offending, such as caught and punished.

For instance, a child who sees their friends shoplift may be more likely to shoplift themselves. And a child who is caught stealing may be more likely to steal again in the future.

4) Conclusion

In conclusion, both Person-centered and Crime-centered typologies have their own advantages and disadvantages. Person-centered typologies can be more comprehensive and can provide insights into the motivations of criminals. However, they can be more difficult to develop and use, Crime-centered typologies can be easier to develop and use, but they may not provide as much insight into the motivations of criminals, that's why, most criminologists use a combination of Person-centered and Crime-centered typologies, getting a more comprehensive understanding of criminal behavior.

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