

Q Albert Reiss held that moral codes and socialization make people control their deviant behaviour. This way society controls the criminality.  
Comment

Ans

To existing norms and values. However, other theorists argue that social control is not solely dependent on moral codes and socialization but also on the existence and effectiveness of formal control mechanisms such as laws and punishments.

Reiss, a sociologist, believed that individuals are socialized through the process of internalizing moral codes and norms. This socialization helps individuals develop a sense of right and wrong and govern their

behaviour accordingly. Deviant behaviour occurs when an individual chooses to disregard or reject these moral codes. According to Reiss, social control operates through the use of positive sanctions and negative sanctions.

Positive sanctions reinforce conformity to the moral codes, while negative sanctions deter individuals from engaging in deviant behaviour.

**For example,** individuals who receive praise and rewards for following the moral codes are more likely to conform, while those who experience shame, criticism, or punishment for deviating from the norms are more likely to control their behaviour. Reiss argued that the

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Reiss argued that the

main mechanism of social control is the effective socialization of individuals. He believed that through socialization, individuals internalize societal values, norms, and moral codes, which then guide their actions and prevent them from engaging in criminal behaviour. By conforming to societal expectations, individuals are less likely to become deviant and engage in criminal acts.

However, other theorists argue that social control is not solely dependent on moral codes and socialization. They highlight the importance of formal control mechanisms such as laws, regulations, and punishments in regulating and controlling criminality. These

Mechanisms serve as external constraints on individuals' behaviour by outlining acceptable conduct and imposing consequences for deviating from these norms.

Formal control mechanisms are enforced by various societal institutions such as the police, the judiciary, and correctional facilities. They act as deterrents, as individuals fear the potential consequences of breaking the law. The presence of these mechanisms creates a sense of fear and helps maintain social order by reducing the prevalence of criminal behaviour.

## **Conclusion**

Albert Reiss believed that moral codes and socialisation play a crucial role in

controlling deviant behaviour  
and society regulates  
criminality through the  
internalisation of norms and  
values. However, other theorists  
argue that social control  
also depends on the  
existence and effectiveness  
of formal control mechanisms  
that enforce laws and  
punishments. It is the  
combination of these factors  
that allow society to  
regulate and control criminal  
behaviour.