

Part-II

Section: I

Question: 2

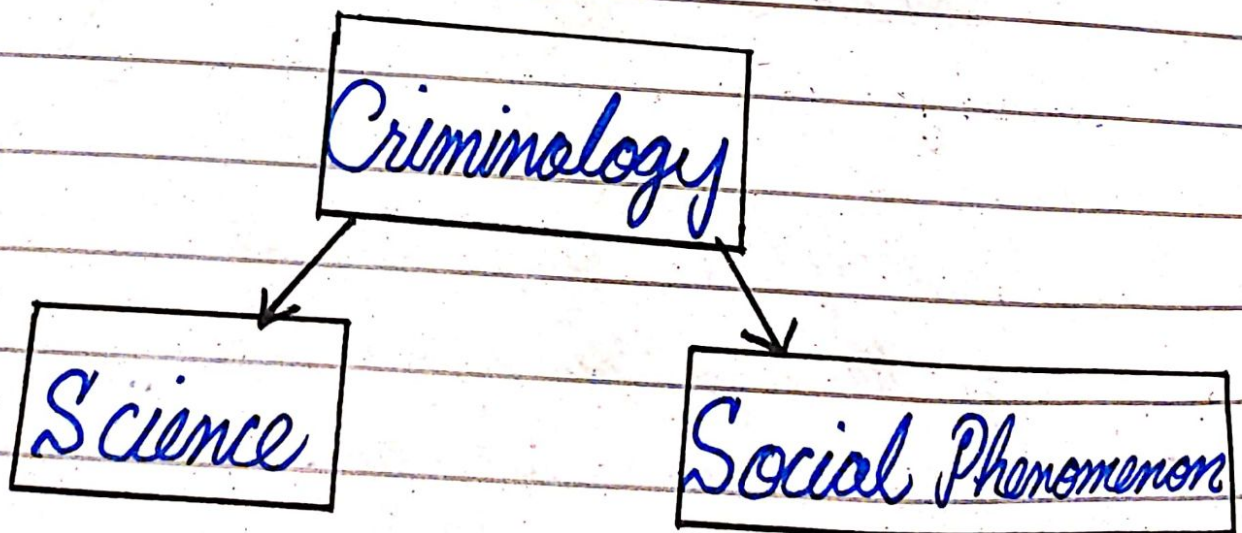
Explain the nature and importance of Criminology in detail

1. Introduction:

Criminology is study of criminal behavior scientifically. According to Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressey:

"Criminology is the study of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon."

The objective of criminology is the development of a body of general and verified principles and of other types of knowledge regarding this process of law, crime and treatment. There are different views about nature of criminology. Besides this criminology has great importance in society as a whole in maintenance of order, peace and justice.



2. Definitions:

According to Donald Taft
"Criminology is the study
of crime and criminals"

According to another criminologist
Sutherland:

"Criminology is the body of
knowledge regarding crime
as a social phenomenon. It
includes within its scope
the process of making laws,
breaking laws and reacting
towards breaking of law"

Most standard definition
is:

"Study of Crime"

Criminology

Study of

Crime

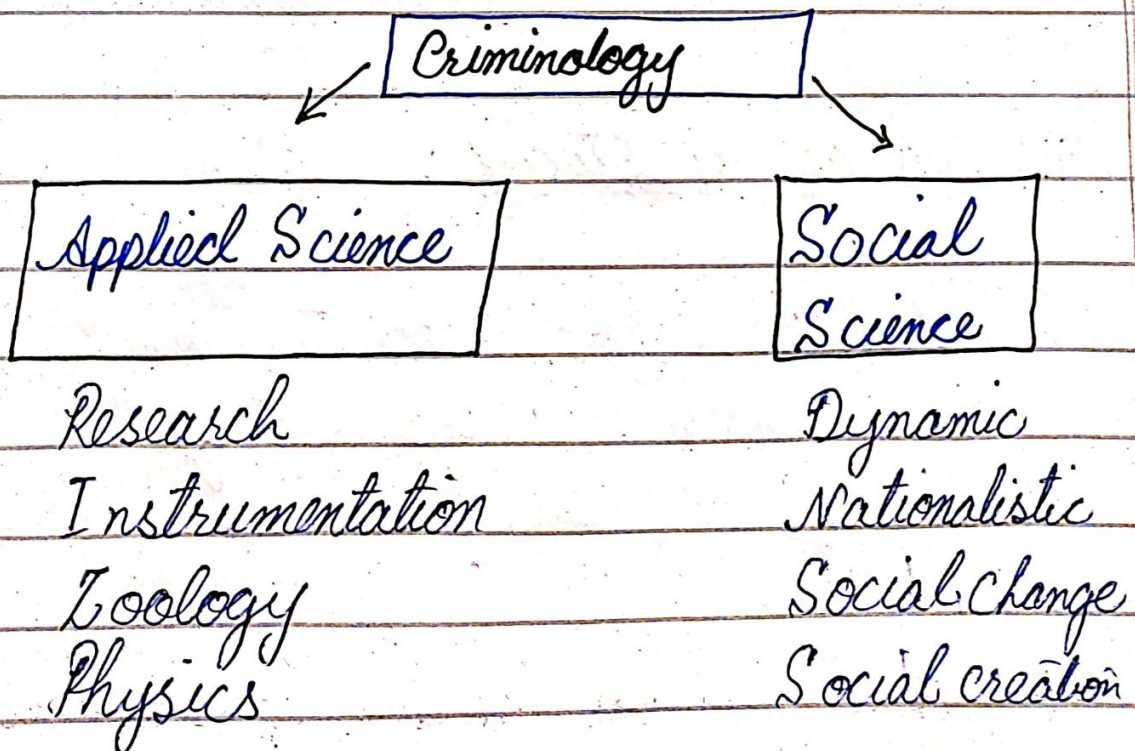
Anything
that is punishable
by law

3. Nature of Criminology:

Criminology is concerned with the scientific study of crime and is also termed as a social field. It is multi-disciplinary field of study.

(i) Criminology as a Science :

Criminology is a science in itself when applied to law enforcement and prevention of crimes. It also deals with scientific evidences and scientific behaviors in detection of crimes. Besides this, scientific research is another extensive field of criminology including forensic science.



ii) Criminology VS Crime detection :

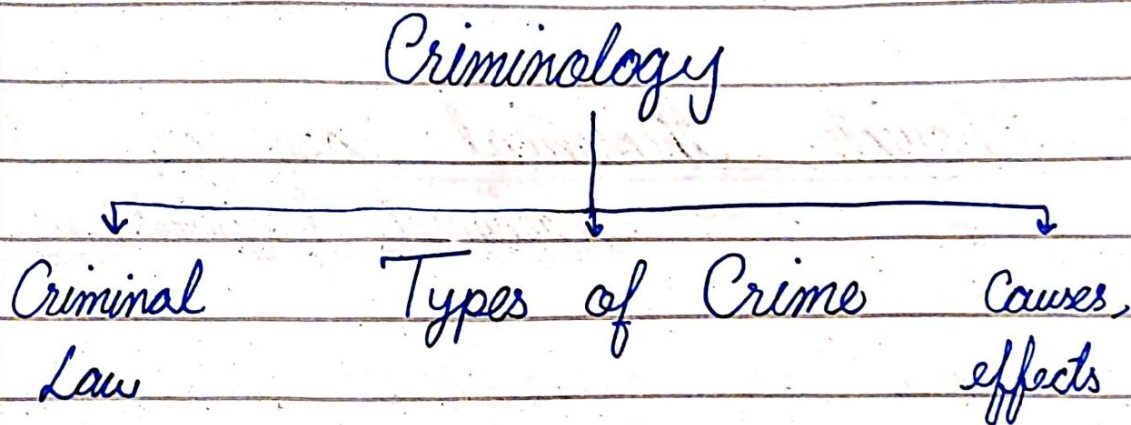
Criminology should not be confused with the science of criminal detection or forensic science and forensic pathology. There is no direct connection between the study of crimes and detection of crimes. Criminologists are more concerned with why and how crimes are committed.

Criminology → Study of crime
and criminal behavior

iii) Areas of study :

A criminologist may properly be concerned to study fringe areas, deviant behavior which

is not actually criminal. It throws light on the gaps in criminal law. Studies of alcoholism, drug abuse, gambling and sexual behavior are included in this examples.



4. Importance of Criminology:

As a great discipline of study, criminology has great importance.

i. Aids in understanding

Causes of crime:

Criminology has a huge role in understanding causation of crimes, control of crimes and crimes policy formulation

ii. Provide theoretical base for
enactment of Criminal Law

When it comes to formulation as well as enactment of criminal law in society, criminology has a special role as it tells the effectiveness of criminal law

iii) Rehabilitation and reformation of offenders

Rehabilitation of offenders is the most important part of criminal justice, justice and it is aided by the research in the field of criminology especially on rehabilitation of criminals.

iv) Study of juvenile delinquency

Criminology has also a great importance in the study of causes, impacts and remedial measures of juvenile delinquency.

v) Planning, Operation, Evaluation and Revamping of Criminal Justice System:

Criminal Justice System of a country is highly dependent on the work and efforts of its criminologists for innovation and stability.

5. Conclusion:

In a nutshell, criminology is a social science that is connected with several other scientific disciplines as well and has a great importance in knowing the causes, effects and solutions of crimes, effects and solutions

This ultimately makes
criminology a very significant
study.

"The term criminology
should be used as a
body of scientific knowledge
about crime"

(Wolfgang & Ferracuti)
