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Q.: Discuss scope of Criminology dealing with study of Criminal law, Forensics Criminal Investigation. (Csc 2023)

Ans.

Introduction: Criminology, the scientific study of crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system, plays a pivotal role in understanding and addressing the complexities of crime in society. With the evolution of crime and advancement in Technology, criminology has expanded its scope to include various specialized areas. Among these, the study of criminal law, Forensics and criminal investigation stands out as crucial components. These fields not only help in understanding the legal frameworks and forensic science that underpin the criminal justice system but also in developing effective methods to investigate and solve crimes. As renowned criminologist Edwin H. Sutherland

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Once stated, "Criminology is the study of the entire process of lawmaking, law breaking, and law enforcement." This highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to crime, encompassing legal principles, scientific analysis, and investigate techniques.

Scope of Criminology Dealing with the study of criminal law, Forensics, and Criminal Investigation.

1. Criminal law

A- Foundation of Criminal Justice

Criminal law forms are the backbone of criminology, providing the legal frame works within which crimes are defined, prosecuted and punished. It establishes the rules and principle that govern the conduct of individuals in society, distinguishing between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. According to the United

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Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), there are over 10.7 million people incarcerated worldwide, highlighting the global impact of criminal law enforcement.

Example: The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe has redefined the legal landscape regarding cybercrime, showcasing how criminal law evolves with societal changes.

B- Interpretation and Application -

Criminology examines how criminal laws are interpreted and applied in different jurisdictions, analyzing discrepancies and impact of legal decisions on crime rates. This includes the study of case law, statutes, and the role of the judiciary in shaping criminal justice. Once Aristotle said, "The law is reason, free from passion." This underscores the objective nature of criminal law, a key focus area in criminology.

2- Forensics

A- Forensic Science and Evidence Collection

Forensic Science is a crucial element of criminology, focusing on scientific analysis of evidence collected from crime scenes. This includes DNA analysis, fingerprinting, ballistics, and digital forensics, all of which are vital for solving crimes. According to the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), over 75% of crimes in the U.S. involve some form of forensic evidence, underscoring the importance of forensic science in modern criminal investigation.

Example The use of DNA evidence in the exoneration of wrongly convicted individuals, such as the cases handled by the Innocence Project, highlights the critical role of forensic science in ensuring justice.

B- Advancement in Forensic Technology

The scope of criminology also includes the study of advancements in forensic technology, such as the development of next generation sequencing (NGS) for DNA analysis and the use of AI in crime scene reconstruction. Once crime scene investigator Barry Fisher stated,

"Forensics is not about gadgets and toys; it's about using the right tool for the job."

3. Criminal Investigation

A- Investigative Techniques

Criminal investigation is a critical area of criminology, focusing on the methodologies and techniques used by law enforcement to solve crimes.

This includes everything from crime scene management and witness interrogation to under cover operations and surveillance. According to Federal

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Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the clearance rate for homicides in the U.S. is approximately 61.4%, indicating the effectiveness of investigative techniques.

Example The use of geolocation data and digital forensics in the investigation of high profile cases like the Boston Marathon Bombing demonstrates the evolving nature of criminal investigation.

B- The Role of Technology in Investigation
Modern criminal investigations increasingly rely on technology, such as surveillance systems, data analytics, and cyber forensics, to track and apprehend criminals. Criminology studies the integration of these technologies into investigative practices. Former FBI Director James Comey said, "Technology has become a critical component of crime-fighting: without

it, we would be severely limited in our ability to protect the public."

Conclusion: The scope of criminology is vast and continually evolving, particularly in the areas of criminal law, forensics, and criminal investigation. These fields are integral to understanding and addressing crime in modern society. As technology advances and societal norms change, the study of criminology will continue to adapt, providing insights into the legal, scientific and investigative frameworks that shape the criminal justice system. In a world where crime is increasingly complex, criminology remains essential for ensuring justice, protecting communities, and upholding the rule of law. As we move forward, the integration of criminal law, forensics, and investigative techniques will be crucial in tackling the challenges

of crime and safeguarding society
for future generations-