Q. Write a critical note on the increasing importance of criminology in Pakistan. Also discuss the historical development of criminology as a scientific study discipline.

Ans 1, Introduction:

Criminology, the scientific study of crime and its causes, effects, and social impact, has gained increasing significance in Pakistan due to the growing prevalence of various criminal activities and the complexity of law enforcement in the country.

2) Definition of Criminology.

Eminent criminologists Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressy define criminology as under:
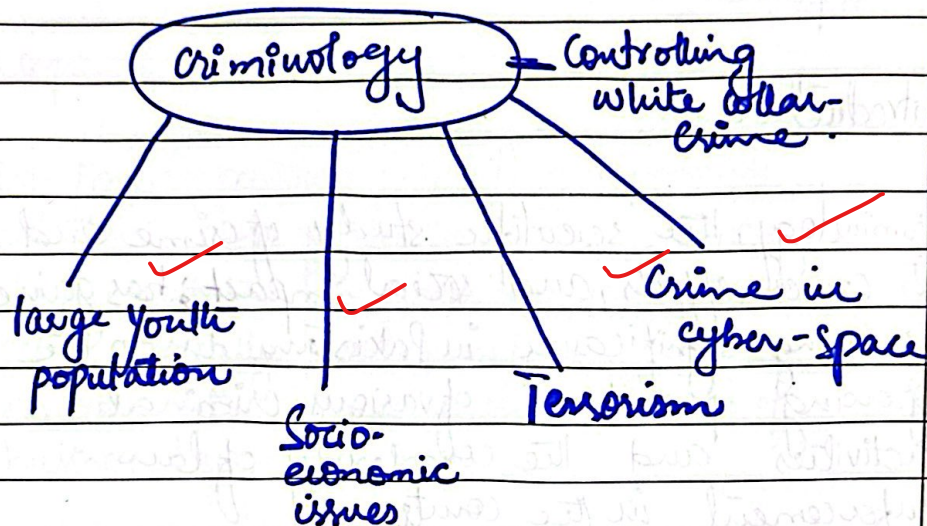
> "Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the process of making laws, of breaking laws and reacting towards the breaking of laws."

On the basis of this definition the most important areas of criminology are:

(i) The development of criminal law and its use to define crime

(ii) The causes of violation of law.

(iii) The methods used to control criminal behaviour.

3, Increasing importance of criminology in Pakistan

(i) Large youth population

It is generally believed that a big majority of offenders fall in the age bracket of 15-30 years. It is the age when an individual's delinquency or risk taking behaviour is at its peak. Pakistan being the fifth most populous country in the world, hosts the fifth largest population of youth as well.

According to the **United Nations Population Fund Report of**, around 63% population of country comprises youth aged between 15 and 33 years. Such a large young population has posed a daunting challenge to the law-enforcement agencies (LEAS), particularly police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). This is the content that

attaches great significance to the field of criminology in Pakistan.

(iii) Socio-economic issues

Socio-economic problems of Pakistan, which include poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, slums and poor neighbourhoods, drug addiction and higher dropout ratio are the factors which encourage crime; thus making the study of criminology very much relevant.

(iv) Terrorism

Since the Pakistan's decision to join US-led War on Terror, Pakistan was the second severest terror-hit country, after Afghanistan. Many deadly attacks including suicide blasts were launched on Pakistan's civil and military agencies, institutions and the general public. The most heinous was the one committed upon the Army Public School, Peshawar, on 16 december 2014, which took lives of 132 school children, ranging between eight and eighteen years of age, making it the world's fourth deadliest school massacre. In this incident, a total of 142 persons embraced martyrdom whereas 114 were injured. These terror incidents require elaborate planning, ideological base support, transportation and facilitation networks and financing. Without the study of all these contributing

factors, such terror networks cannot be eliminated. Study of all the factors and processes is the domain of criminology.

(iv) Crime in the cyber space

Of late, the menace of crime has shifted to the cyber space because of the growing use of the Android cellular phones and social media among the youth of Pakistan. National Response Center for Cyber Crime (NRC3) has been established by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to respond to the ever-increasing cyber-crime. Some of the examples of cybercrime are hacking, identity theft, digital piracy, bank frauds, child pornography and spamming. According to the former Director General of FIA, Dr Sana Ullah Abbasi, as many as 102,356 complaints pertaining to cybercrime were recieved by the FIA in the recent past year. Criminology gives us better understanding of the cyber crime and its different nodes.

(v) Controlling White-collar crimes

Being a developing country, Pakistan is facing the challenge of white-collar crime and corporate crimes, which are a big challenge to the development and prosperity of the country. Corruption in the development funds is common in the country because

of the overwhelming influence of the powerful white collar criminals on the country's criminal justice system. They take benefits from the loopholes in the system and go scot free. It comes under the scope of criminology to study the different dimensions of white-collar and corporate crime and learn the lessons from the countries where such crimes are successfully curbed and controlled. It has been rightly said that the damage caused by white-collar crimes is many times greater than that caused by ordinary crimes.

4, Historical Development of Criminology as a Scientific Discipline.

Criminology evolved as a formal discipline during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, driven by major social, political, and intellectual changes. They key stages in its development are as follows:

(i) Pre-Modern Era

In ancient civilizations, crime was often viewed as a moral or religious offense, and punishments were typically dictated by divine law. The focus was on the individual's sin or wrong-doing rather than on any scientific study of the causes of crime.

2. Classical School (18th century)

The emergence of criminology as a formal field of study began with the Classical School, represented by thinkers like **Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham.**

They proposed that individuals commit crimes based on rational choice, weighing the benefits of the crime against the potential punishment. Beccaria's book on "**Crimes and Punishments**" laid the foundation for modern criminal justice systems, advocating for fair and proportionate punishment and against the torture and the death penalty.

3. Positivist School (19th century)

The Positivist School emerged in the 19th century, largely the work of **Cesare Lombroso.** Lombroso suggested that criminal behaviour could be linked to biological factors, claiming that criminals had distinct physical characteristics. Though his ideas have since been discredited, the activist movement marked a shift from moralistic to scientific analysis of crime, incorporating biology, psychology, and sociology.

4. Chicago School (Early 20th century)

In the early 20th century, the Chicago School of Criminology with scholars like Robert Park and Earnest Burgers, focused on the relationship between crime and the social environment, particularly in urban settings. They developed the theory of social disorganization, which argues that crime is more likely to occur in communities with weak social institutions and low levels of social cohesion.

5. Modern Theories (Mid 20th century and Beyond)

Criminology continued to evolve within. The introduction of several new theories.

Strain Theory (Robert Merton) emphasized how societal pressure and inequality contribute to criminal behaviour.

Labeling theory (Edwin demest) focused on the relationship societal reaction to crime and how labels can influence criminal identities. The conflict theory, influenced by Karl Marx, viewed crime as a result of social and economic inequalities, with the criminal justice system serving the interests of the powerful.

6. Contemporary Criminology.

In recent decades, criminology has expanded to include new areas of study, such as cyber crime, terrorism, and transnational crime.
There is also growing attention to issues of victimology, restorative justice, and globalization. Criminology now incorporates an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from sociology, psychology, law and political science.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, criminology has become an essential field of study in Pakistan due to the increasing complexity and scale of crime in the country. It offers scientific insights into the causes and effects of criminal behaviour, helping to inform policies aimed at reducing crime and improving the criminal justice system. The historical development of criminology as a discipline has evolved through various schools of thought, from the classical emphasis on rational choice to the modern focus on social, psychological and global factors. As Pakistan continues to face emerging criminal challenges, criminology will play a pivotal role in shaping more effective crime prevention and justice strategies.

satisfactory
write neatly add more charts and work on presentation skills
content is fine 9/20