

Criminology

1. Define Criminology. Elaborate its nature, scope and importance in contemporary world with special reference to Pakistan.

I. Introduction:

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

~ Edwin H. Sutherland

Criminology is a scientific discipline that systematically studies crime, criminals, criminal behaviour, and society's response to it. In contemporary world, rising crime rates, transnational crimes, cybercrime, terrorism, juvenile delinquency, and gender-based violence have made criminology indispensable for understanding the cause of crime, the working of criminal justice institutions, and the prevention and control of criminal behaviour. The subject is

inherently scientific in nature, multidimensional in scope, and policy-oriented in importance, particularly for developing countries like Pakistan, where issues such as terrorism, police inefficiency, prison overcrowding and juvenile crime demand criminological insight.

II. Definition of Criminology:

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, criminals, and criminal behavior, including the causes of crime and society's reaction to it.

"Criminology is the scientific study of crime and criminals."

~ Paul W. Tappan

III. Nature of criminology:

(i) Criminology is Interdisciplinary:

It draws knowledge from psychology, sociology, law, biology,

economics and political science

For example:

Understanding terrorism in Pakistan requires psychological profiling, sociological analysis, and political context.

(ii) Criminology is a Scientific Discipline:

Criminology employs empirical research, statistics, observation, and experimentation to analyze crime pattern and criminal behaviour.

For example:

Crime data collected by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and police departments is used to analyze trends in urban crime.

(iii) Criminology is Dynamic:

Crime changes with time, technology, and social structure; hence criminology evolves continuously.

For example:

The rise of cybercrime led to the enactment of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), 2016.

(iv) Criminology is both Theoretical and Applied:

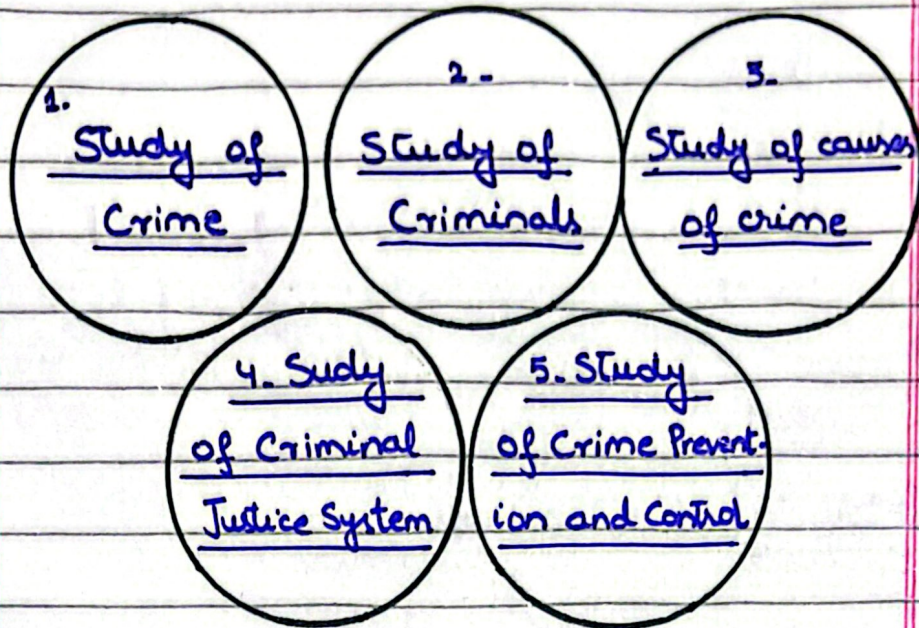
"The proper subject matter of criminology is crime, its causes, and its prevention."

~Edwin H. Sutherland

Criminology develop theories of crime and applies them to control crime and crime prevention.

IV - Scope of Criminology:

The scope of criminology is described below by the diagram.



(i) Study of Crime:

Includes violent crimes, property crimes, organized crime, cybercrime and terrorism.

For example:

Analysis of organized crimes and militant violence in Karachi and former FATA regions.

(ii) Study of Criminals:

Focuses on personality, social background, and psychological

traits of offenders

For example:

Juvenile offenders studied
under the Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA),
2018.

(iii) Study of Causes of Crime:

"Crime is a normal response of
normal individuals to abnormal
social conditions."

~ Robert K. Merton

Criminology explores biological,
psychological, and sociological causes

For example:

Poverty, unemployment and
urbanization contribute to street crimes.

According to Pakistan Journal of Criminology
(PJC), increased crime rate in Gujrat
is due to ^{increased} poverty and bad socioeconomic
conditions.

iv) Study of Criminal Justice System:

It includes prisons, courts, police, and correctional institutions.

For example:

Issues of police brutality, delayed justice, and prison overcrowding.

v) Study of Crime Prevention and Control:

It focuses on reforms, rehabilitation, and policy-making.

For example:

Police reforms, prison reforms, and community policing initiatives.

V. Importance of Criminology in Contemporary World with special reference to Pakistan:

The following points depict the importance of criminology in contemporary world.

(i) Policy Formation:

It helps states design effective crime control policies for crime prevention.

(ii) Crime Prevention:

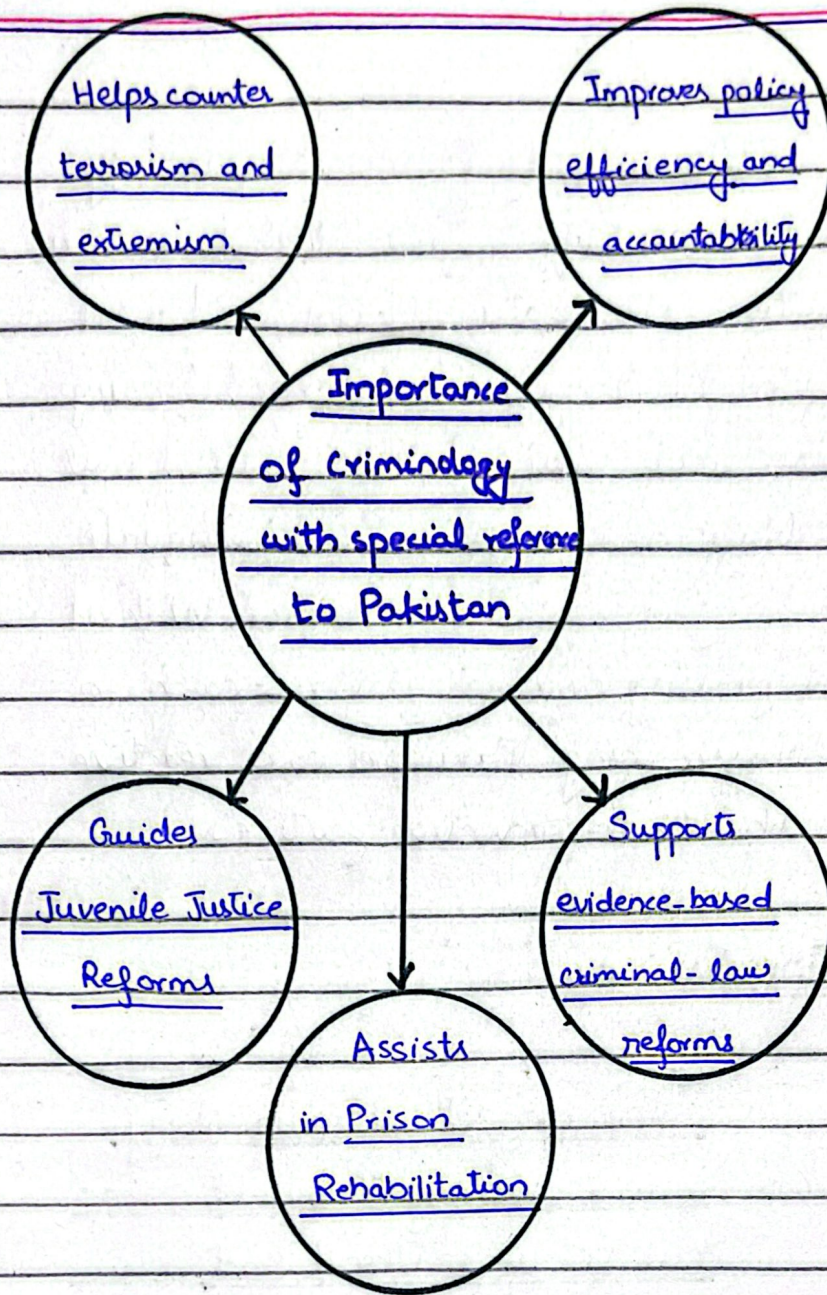
It identifies root causes rather than relying solely on punishment.

(iii) Protection of Human Rights:

It promotes fair trials, rehabilitation, and alternatives to incarceration.

(iv) Addressing Modern Crimes:

It is essential for tackling cybercrime, terrorism, and transnational crimes.



VI. Critical Analysis:

"Punishment without prevention is both cruel and futile."

~ Jeremy Bentham

1. Despite its significance, criminology in Pakistan suffers from limited research culture, poor data collection, and weak implementation of criminological findings. Law exists, but lack of political will, institutional corruption, and inadequate training hinders crime control. Without integrating criminological research in policymaking, Pakistan risks reactive rather than preventive justice.

VII) Conclusion:

"The object of criminology is not merely to punish crime but to understand and prevent it."

~Raffaele Garofalo

Criminology is a vital scientific discipline that explains crime and criminal behavior. Its wide scope

and growing importance make it indispensable in the modern world. For Pakistan, criminology offers practical solutions to crime prevention, justice system, and social stability and can significantly improve Pakistan's criminal justice system.
