

Q. No. 1. What is the difference between classical and positive school of thought in criminology and what are the three major perspectives in positive school of thought? | D

Answer: The three major perspectives in positive school of thought are:

1. Introduction

Criminology, as a discipline, has evolved through various school of thoughts that attempt to explain the causes of crime and prescribe appropriate reason. The Classical School of thought, emerging in the 18th century, was rooted in Enlightenment philosophy and emphasized free will, rationality, and deterrence. In contrast, the Positivist School, developed in the 19th century, viewed crime as a product of biological, psychological, and social determinism rather than individual choice. The shift from Classical to Positivist thinking marked a transition from moral philosophy to scientific inquiry in understanding criminal behaviour.

2. Difference Between Classical and Positivist School of Thought in Criminology

2.1 Main exponents of Classical vs. Positivist school

The Classical school of thought was pioneered



by Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham.

In contrast, the positivist school of thought was developed by Cesare Lombroso, Enrico Ferri, and Raffaele Giavarino.

2.2 Defines Crime in legal terms VS crime in sociological terms

The Classical school defines crime strictly in legal terms, as a deliberate violation of law chosen by an offender.

Conversely, the positivist school defines crime in sociological terms, as behaviour shaped by external or internal factors.

2.3 Reliance on free will to commit crime VS reliance on biological determinism to commit crime

Classical theorists argue that people commit crimes through free will, making rational decisions based on pleasure-pain calculations.

In contrast, positivists emphasize on biological determinism, asserting that crime is biologically, psychologically, or socially determined.

2.4 Nature of Criminal is Rational VS Nature of Criminal is determined

According to the Classical school of thought, the criminal is a rational being who consciously decides to commit crime, while on the other hand, the Positivist school views criminal as determined.

individual, shaped by factors beyond his/her control such as genetics, upbringing, or social conditions

2.5 Focus on Crime VS. Focus on Criminal

The Classical school concentrates on the act of crime itself and the moral responsibility of the offender. The Positivist school, however, focuses on the criminal as a person, trying to uncover the underlying causes of the deviant behaviour.

2.6 Crime as Inherent vs. Crime as Caused

The Classical school perceives crime as inherent in human nature due to the desire of pleasure and avoidance of pain. In contrast, the positivist school holds that crime is caused by multiple factors such as poverty, low intelligence, social disorganization, or biological defects.

2.7 Punishment for deterrence VS. Treatment instead of punishment

The Classical school advocates punishment as the means of deterrence, while, the positivist school promotes treatment, rehabilitation, and social reform instead of punishment, aiming to correct the offender rather than merely penalize him.



3. Major Perspectives of Positive School of Thought

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Biological Positivism	Psychological Positivism	Sociological Positivism
<p>The Criminal Atavistic Man by Lombroso</p>	<p>Intelligence and Crime</p>	<p>Social Learning Theory</p>
<p>Body Type Theory by William Sheldon</p>	<p>The Psycho-analytical Theory by Sigmund Freud</p>	<p>Differential Association Theory</p>
<p>The XY Test Score Theory</p>		<p>Social Labelling Theory</p>
<p>The Ecological Theory</p>		<p>Social Conflict Theory</p>
		<p>Radical theory</p>

3.1 Biological Positivism

Biological Positivism links criminal behaviour to physiological or genetic causes. Cesare Lombroso's theory of Criminal man, The Body

Type theory by William Sheldon, The XY Chromosome theory and the ecological theory comes under the umbrella of biological positivism.

3.2 Psychological Positivism

Psychological positivism attributes criminality to personality disorder, low intelligence, or inner psychological conflicts. It uses psychological theories and assessment tools to understand, predict, and treat criminal behaviour by focusing on mental states, early childhood experiences, and learned behaviours.

3.3 Sociological Positivism

Sociological positivism links crimes to social structures and cultural conditions. It tells that people learn criminal behaviour through imitation and observation of others. Sociological positivism also explains that crime emerges from class inequality, power struggles, and exploitation in capitalist societies.

4. Conclusion

To conclude, the Classical School of thought emphasizes free will, irrationality, and deterrence, whereas, the positivist system stresses determinism, science, and reformation. Moreover, the three major perspectives of Post Positivist School - biological, psychological, and Sociological positivism - collectively explain that crime is a multi-functional



phenomenon. Thus, modern criminology today synthesizes both schools: it accepts crime involves rational choices influenced by biological, psychological, and social determinants.

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dimensions of the question is good work

answer is satisfactory and covers the dimensions of the question

over all good work

write complete 7 8 pages for better score
over all answers is well composed

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