

Answer the following questions:

Question#1

Critically analyze the biological and genetic theories of criminal behaviour. Highlight their limitation and strength

Answer:

Biological and genetic theories of criminal behaviour suggest that an individual's propensity to commit crimes is influenced by physiological, neurological, and hereditary factors. These theories draw on research in genetics, neuroscience and evolutionary biology to explain why some individuals are more predisposed to criminality than others.

Strengths of biological and genetic theories:



## Scientific Basis:-

↳ Biological theories are grounded in empirical research, using tools like neuroimaging, twin studies and genetic analysis. For example, studies on the MAOA gene (warrior gene) have shown correlation between genetic variations and aggressive behaviour.

↳ Neurobiological studies have linked brain abnormalities, such as damage to the prefrontal cortex, to impulsivity and poor decision-making, which can lead to criminal acts.

## Holistic view of behavior:-

These theories emphasize the interplay between biology and the environment (nature vs nurture). For example, epigenetics demonstrates how environmental factors can influence gene expression, potentially leading to criminal behaviour.

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## Early intervention potential:

Insights from biological theories can aid (in) identifying at-risk individuals. For example neurodevelopmental disorders linked to crime, such as ADHD can be managed through early medical and psychological interventions.

## Objective approach:

Unlike purely sociological explanation, biological theories provide measurable and observable evidence. This scientific objectivity strengthens their validity.

## Limitations of biological and genetic theories

### Reductionism:

Biological theories often oversimplify complex human



behaviours by attributing them primarily to genetic or neurological factors, neglecting sociocultural, economic, and psychological dimensions.

### Ethical Concerns:-

Identifying individuals as "biologically predisposed" to criminality raises ethical dilemmas, including stigmatization, discrimination, and the potential misuse of genetic information.

### Limited predictive powers:-

It can't predict just because someone has a certain gene or a brain condition does not mean they will commit crimes. Many people with these traits live normal - law abiding lives.

### Neglect of free wills

These theories can diminish



personal accountability by suggesting that behaviour is biologically determined, conflicting with legal principals of culpability and free will.

There history is bad: These theories was misused in the past to support harmful ideas like eugenics, which damaged their reputation.

overgeneralization of these theories:

Genetic and neurological studies are often conducted on small or unrepresentative populations limiting their generalizability across diverse groups and contexts.

**Balanced perspective:**

The strength of biological genetic theories lie in their ability to highlight the



the influence of physiological and genetic factors on behaviour. However, these theories emphasize the importance of integrating these theories with psychological, sociological and environmental explanations.

Modern criminology increasingly adopts a biosocial approach, which considers the interaction between biological predispositions and environmental conditions, providing a more comprehensive understanding of criminal behaviour.

## Conclusion:

Biological and genetic theories have significantly advanced our understanding of criminal behaviour by providing scientific insights into its underlying mechanisms. However, they should not be viewed in isolation but as part of a multidisciplinary



approach that consider the complex interplay of biological, psychological and sociocultural factors. Balancing their scientific rigor with ethical considerations and broader social contexts ensures a fair and holistic application in criminology.



## Question #2

Examine the impact of poverty and unemployment on crime rates in Pakistan. Suggest policy interventions to mitigate these issues?

### Answer:

Poverty and unemployment are significant social issues in Pakistan, contributing to rising crime rates. Limited access to resources, education and employment opportunities often forces individuals into illegal activities to meet their basic needs. This answer examines the link between poverty, unemployment and crime in Pakistan and suggests policy interventions to address these challenges.



## Impact of poverty and unemployment on crime rates in Pakistan:

### Economic Pressure and Crimes of Necessity:

High poverty levels push people to commit theft, robbery and other crimes to provide for the families. For example, food insecurity can drive individuals toward petty crimes.

### Youth Unemployment and Criminal Behaviour:

Unemployed youth are particularly vulnerable to criminal activities. Frustration and lack of opportunities make them easy targets for gangs, drug trafficking and extremist groups.

### Social Inequality and Resentment:

wide gaps between



Rich and poor create resentment and social unrest. This inequality often leads to crimes like vandalism, protests and even violent offenses.

## Urbanization and crime:

Rapid urbanization in cities like Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad leads to slum development, overcrowding and unemployment, fostering environments where crime thrives.

## Organised crime and terrorism:

Unemployed individuals are often recruited by organised crime groups and terrorist organisations offering financial incentives in exchange for illegal activities.



**Policy intervention to reduce Poverty, Unemployment and crime:**

## Economic reforms:

Promote job creation through public infrastructure projects.

Encourage small business by providing low-interest loans and grants.

## Education and skill development:

Launch vocational training programs to equip people, especially youth, with job-relevant skills.

Expand access to quality education, especially in rural and underprivileged areas.

## Social welfare Programs:

Strengthen cash schemes like the Benazir income support



program to support poor families

and introduce unemployment benefits to provide temporary financial relief.

## Community policing and social reforms:

strengthen local policing to prevent crime and involve communities in safety initiatives

Promote community development projects to reduce inequality.

## Urban Planning and housing:

develop affordable housing projects to reduce slum population

Plan of urban growth to ensure equal access to jobs and services

## Investment in rural developments:



Focus on rural areas to reduce migration to cities.

Provide agricultural subsidies and create rural jobs through farming modernization.

## Conclusion:

Poverty and unemployment are major drivers of crime in Pakistan, and addressing these issues requires a mix of economic, social and policy reforms. By creating jobs, improving education and supporting vulnerable populations, Pakistan can reduce crime and promote a safer, more equitable society. These interventions should be implemented alongside effective governance to ensure lasting results.