

Criminology

Part - II

Section - A

Q No. 3

Ans:

"Criminal behavior is learned in interaction with other persons in a process of communication."

-Edwin H. Sutherland

1. Introduction:

Social Learning Theory (SLT), developed by Ronald Akers (1966) from Edwin Sutherland's Differential Association Theory, argues that crime is not innate but learned through social interaction, imitation, and reinforcement. In criminology, SLT provides a framework to understand how deviant behaviors spread in society. In Pakistan, where cyber harassment has surged with digitalization, SLT helps explain why individuals adopt abusive online practices. According to the National Cyber Crime Agency, around

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142,270 cybercrime complaints were recorded in 2025, with harassment and black mail forming a major share.

2. Key ideas of Social Learning Theory:

Key ideas	Explanation	Example in Cyber Harassment
Differential Association	Crime learned in groups	Peer circle normalize trolling
Definitions	Attitudes justify crimes	Patriarchal norms justify harassment
Imitation	Copying models	Mimicking celebrities' toxic behavior
Differential Reinforcement	Rewards/ Punishments	Likes/share encourage harassment
Operant	Behaviour shaped by	Anonymity reduces

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Conditions

outcomes

Punishment fear

Environment

Content shapes
learningOnline platforms
as deviant
spaces.

a) Differential Association (Sutherland's foundation):

Edwin Sutherland argued that criminal behavior is learned through interaction with intimate groups. People acquire definitions of behavior that are either favorable or unfavorable to law violation. When favorable definitions outweigh unfavorable ones, crime becomes more likely.

b) Attitude toward crime (Definitions):

Individuals internalize attitudes that justify or condemn crime. For example, harassment may be defined as "fun" or "masculine" in certain peer groups. SLT emphasizes that these definitions are central in shaping criminal conduct.

c. Imitation (Modeling behavior):

People often imitate the behavior of peers, celebrities, or online figures. If they observe harassment or deviance being practiced and rewarded, they are more likely to replicate it. This explains why cyber harassment spreads quickly in digital ~~structures~~ subcultures.

d. Differential Reinforcement (Rewards and Punishments):

Behavior is sustained when it is rewarded and discouraged when punished. In criminology, reinforcement can be peer approval, like/shares on social media, or the absence of legal consequences. SLT highlights that reinforcement determines whether deviance persists.

e. Operant Conditioning (Psychological integration):

Akers integrated behavioral psychology into criminology, showing that crime is shaped by operant conditioning.

Positive reinforcement such as status, recognition and negative reinforcement such as avoiding shame or punishment both influence criminal persistence.

f. Role of Environment (Learning process):

SLT emphasizes that environments such as schools, peer groups, or online platforms act as "learning spaces" for deviance. Exposure to deviant models increases the likelihood of adopting criminal behavior.

3 Trends of cyberharassment in Pakistan and SLT:

a. Peer influence:

Cyber harassment spreads through peer circles. With 140 million smartphone users in 2025, exposure to deviant online behavior is widespread. SLT explains that youth imitate peers who normalize trolling, making harassment a learned group practice.

b. Anonymity:

Pakistan registered 142,272 cyber-crime complaints in 2025, but only 31 convictions. This low conviction rate reinforces anonymity as a shield, encouraging offenders to persist without fear of punishment.

c. Digital Subcultures:

Online groups glorify harassment. With 60% of internet penetration, digital subcultures act as "learning spaces" where deviant definitions are shared and reinforced. For example, certain Facebook groups or WhatsApp circles encourage derogatory memes targeting women. SLT highlights how such environments act as "learning space".

d. Gender Norms:

Patriarchal attitudes in Pakistan create definitions that favor harassment of women. SLT emphasizes that individuals adopt definitions favorable or unfavorable to crime. In such cases, cultural norms justify

harassment as a way of asserting dominance. The Digital Rights Foundation reported 3,171 cases of gender-based ^{online} violence in 2024 which shows favoring such harassment making women disproportionately vulnerable.

e. Weak Legal Deterrence:

The lack of effective legal deterrence sustains cyber harassment. According to FIA reports, only a fraction of complaints results in FIRs. Out of 142,272 complainants, only 1955 FIRs were registered. SLT's reinforcement principle explains that when punishment is rare, deviance persists.

f. Victim Silence:

Victims often remain silent due to stigma or fear of retaliation. Despite thousands of complaints, conviction rates remain below 0.03%. Victims silence and stigma reinforce offenders' behavior by removing negative consequences. In Pakistan, cultural taboos discourage women from reporting harassment, which indirectly reinforces offenders' behavior.

g. Educational Gaps:

Lack of awareness about cyber ethics in schools and universities contributes to harassment. SLT emphasizes the role of environment in shaping behavior. Without proper education, students learn deviant online practices from peers rather than ethical norms. Surveys show that over 90% of students reports exposure to online bullying.

h. Regional Trends:

Punjab accounts for the majority of cyber harassment cases. SLT explains this through exposure: larger populations and higher internet penetration increase opportunities for deviant learning. Regional disparities highlight how environment shapes crime trends.

i. Economic Stress:

Economic frustration often channels into online aggression. SLT suggests that deviant definitions are adopted when individuals seek outlets for stress. In

Pakistan, unemployed youth rate hovers around 11-12% (2025). SLT suggests frustration channels into online aggression, reinforced by peer approval.

j. Technology access:

The wide-spread availability of smartphones and cheap internet expands exposure to deviant models. SLT highlights how environment facilitates learning process. In Pakistan, with 140 million smartphone users, exposure to deviant models has multiplied. The increased access to digital platform has multiplied opportunities for imitation and reinforcement of harassment.

k. Policy failure:

National policy often ignores the dimension of cyber harassment. Despite rising complaints, Pakistan's cyber laws secured only 31 convictions in 2025. SLT explains that without negative reinforcement, deviance persists unchecked, whether Pakistan's National Action plan focuses on terrorism but neglects cyber harassment, leaving offenders unchecked.

4. Conclusion:

Social Learning Theory provides a comprehensive lense to understand cyber harassment in Pakistan. It shows that harassment is not random but learned, reinforced, and normalized through peer influence, cultural definitions, and weak deterrence. Addressing this requires education, strict enforcement, and cultural reforms.

Section D

Q: 9

Ans: Introduction:

Terrorism is generally defined as the deliberate use of violence or threat of violence to instill fear and achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives. From a criminological perspective, terrorism is not only political violence but also a form of organized crime, where illicit economies sustain militant networks. In Pakistan,

the terror-narcos nexus has become a major concern, as proceeds from narcotics trafficking are funneled into terrorist organizations. This nexus blurs the line between crime and ideology, creating a hybrid threat that undermines national security and social stability.

Terrorism from the lens of Criminology:

Criminology treats terrorism as a crime against society, comparable to organized crime in its methods and networks. Scholars such as Baylis and Smith in "The Globalization of World Politics" emphasizes terrorism as a non-traditional security threat, while Ikram Rabbani in "Pakistan Affairs" highlights its destabilizing impact on state sovereignty. Terrorism involves secrecy, recruitment, and financing, all of which overlap with criminal enterprises. Thus, criminology frames terrorism as both a political act and a criminal phenomenon, requiring law enforcement and policy responses alongside military measures.

Terror-Narco Nexus in Pakistan:

Pakistan's geographic proximity to Afghanistan, the world's largest opium producer, makes it vulnerable to narco-trafficking. According to UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), over 80% of global opium originates from Afghanistan, much of it smuggled through Pakistan. The domestic narcotics market is valued at nearly \$2 billion annually, with 7.6 million drug users, most under 25 years of age. Militants exploit this trade by taxing smugglers, running trafficking routes, and laundering profits into arms purchases. The Tirah valley and tribal areas have historically served as hubs where trafficking and military interest intersect, sustaining terrorist organizations despite state crack-downs.

Criminological Perspective:

From criminological theory, the terror-narco nexus can be explained through multiple lenses. **Routine Activity**

Theory: suggests that availability of

lucrative narcotics markets creates opportunities for terrorism financing.

Strain theory by Merton explains how socioeconomic deprivation pushes individuals into drug trade, which militants exploit for recruitment. **Differential Association Theory** by Sutherland highlights how youth exposed to drug-terror networks learn deviant behavior through association. These perspectives show that terrorism in Pakistan is not only ideological but also structurally linked to crime, poverty and social disorganization.

Table: Narco-Terror Link in Pakistan

Factor	Statistics/ Evidence	Impact on Terrorism
• Drug Users	7.6 million (UNODC 2024)	Recruitment pool
• Narcotics Trade value	\$2 billion annually	Terror financing
• Afghan Opium share	80% of global Opium	Smuggling routes
• Youth involvement	Majority under 25	Radicalization risk

Critical lens:

The narco-terror nexus in Pakistan demonstrates how crime and ideology merge into a hybrid threat. Militants rely on drug money to purchase arms, recruit youth, and sustain propaganda. Weak border control, porous frontiers, and limited enforcement capacity exacerbate the problem. Criminology emphasizes that combating terrorism requires dismantling its economic base. This means modernizing law enforcement, strengthening anti-narcotics campaigns, rehabilitating drug-affected youth, and enhancing regional cooperation with Afghanistan and Iran. Without addressing the financial lifeline of terrorism, military operations alone cannot achieve lasting peace.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, terrorism in Pakistan is not merely an ideological struggle but an organized crime sustained by narcotics trafficking. The terror-narco nexus provides militants with billions in

illicit funds, perpetuating violence and instability. Criminology frames this nexus as a structural problem requiring multi-pronged strategies - law enforcement modernization, youth rehabilitation, and international cooperation. As Ikram Rabbani rightly notes "Pakistan's survival depends on addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats with equal vigor." Thus breaking the narco-terror link is essential for Pakistan's security and development.

Section C

Q No. 7

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The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), established in 1923, is the world's largest policing body with 195 member states. Its mission is to facilitate cooperation against transnational crime through

illicit funds, perpetuating violence and instability. Criminology frames this nexus as a structural problem requiring multi-pronged strategies - law enforcement modernization, youth rehabilitation, and international cooperation. As Ikram Rabbani rightly notes "Pakistan's survival depends on addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats with equal vigor." Thus breaking the narco-terror link is essential for Pakistan's security and development.

Section C

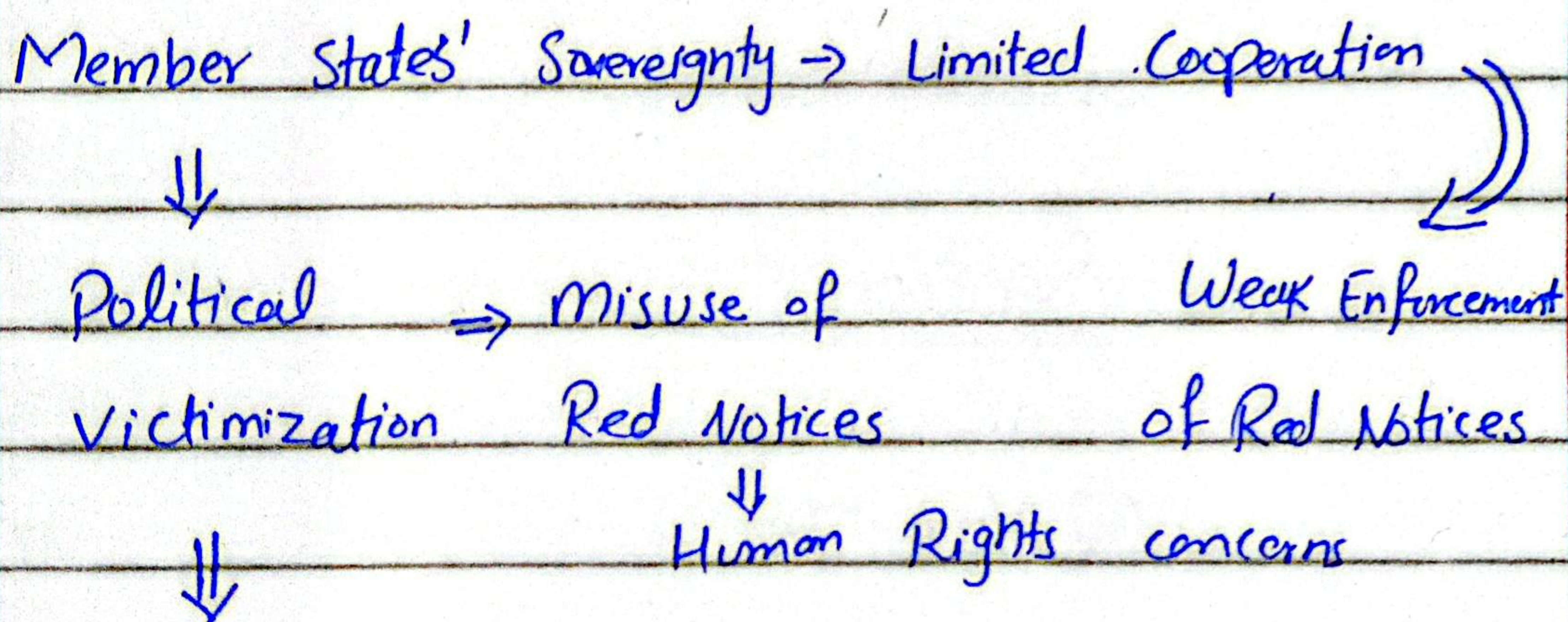
Q No. 7

Ans: 1. Introduction:

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), established in 1923, is the world's largest policing body with 195 member states. Its mission is to facilitate cooperation against transnational crime through

tools like Red Notices. However, INTERPOL's effectiveness is undermined by member states' sovereignty concerns and political misuse, raising questions about neutrality enforcement, and credibility. In perspective of criminology, INTERPOL exemplifies the paradox between global policing needs the national autonomy.

2. Flowchart: INTERPOL's Operational Constraints



3. Sovereignty Concerns:

Member states often refuse to act on INTERPOL's Red Notices, citing sovereignty and national legal autonomy. Courts in

democratic states argue that foreign police requests cannot override domestic judicial safeguards. This sovereignty shield weakens INTERPOL's universality, as states prioritize national law over international cooperation.

4. Political Misuse of Red Notices:

Authoritarian regimes have repeatedly used INTERPOL to target political opponents, journalists, and activists. For example, Russia and Türkiye have been accused of issuing politically motivated notices. Such misuse undermines INTERPOL's neutrality and transforms its policing tools into instruments of repression rather than justice.

5. Lack of Enforcement Power:

INTERPOL has no binding authority to compel member states to arrest or extradite suspects. Its notices are advisory, not mandatory. This structural weakness means compliance depends entirely on states' willingness, leaving gaps in global policing where.

fugitive exploit safe havens.

6 Immunities Gap:

Unlike UN agencies, INTERPOL lacks a unified framework of Privileges and immunities. Member states apply cooperation on a case-by-case basis, creating inconsistencies. This fragmented legal status reduce INTERPOL's ability to operate seamlessly across jurisdictions, especially in sensitive cases.

7 Selective Compliance by Powerful States:

Major powers such as the US, China, and Russia often ignore Red Notices when politically inconvenient. This selective compliance reflects power politics in criminology, where stronger states resist external policing pressure. It erodes trust among smaller nations that rely on INTERPOL for justice.

8. Human Rights Concern:

The misuse of INTERPOL has raised human rights alarms. The US TRAP ACT (2022) documented cases of transactional repression through INTERPOL. Refugees and dissidents risk wrongful arrest if notices are politically motivated, contradicting international human rights conventions.

9. Judicial Delays:

Even when states accept notices, extradition is delayed by lengthy judicial appeals. Courts scrutinize requests for fairness, often blocking them if political bias is suspected. These delays frustrate INTERPOL's mission of swift justice and allow fugitives to exploit loopholes.

10. Political Asylum Protections:

States frequently refuse extradition when suspects hold refugee status under the UN Refugee Convention. This creates tension between humanitarian obligations

and INTERPOL's policing goals.

11. Resource Disparity Among States:

Developing countries lack the resources to enforce INTERPOL notices effectively.

Weak policing infrastructure, corruption, and limited training hinder compliance. This disparity creates uneven enforcement, where wealthier states dominate global policing while poorer states lag behind.

12. Cybercrime Jurisdictional Gaps:

Cybercrime transcends borders, yet sovereignty concerns block effective cooperation. States hesitate to share sensitive cyber data with INTERPOL, fearing espionage or privacy violations. This limits INTERPOL's ability to tackle emerging digital crimes, a major criminological challenge.

13. Terrorism and Security Dilemmas:

States often prioritize national security over INTERPOL alerts in terrorism

cases. Intelligence agencies guard information closely, limiting cooperation. This reflects the criminological concept of the "security dilemma," where mistrust between states undermines collective policing.

74 Corruption and Manipulated Notices:

Corruptionist regimes sometimes issues Red Notices for personal or political gain. Such manipulation turns INTERPOL into a tool of vendetta rather than justice. Transparency International has highlighted cases where notices were abused to silence critics abroad.

15 Neutrality Crisis:

INTERPOL's credibility suffers when it is perceived as biased toward powerful states. Smaller nations accuse it of double standards, where Western states' requests are prioritized while others are ignored. This neutrality crisis undermines its legitimacy. ~~as a consequence~~

16. Lack of Sanctions for Non-Compliance:

INTERPOL cannot penalize states that ignore its notices. Unlike the UN Security Council, it lacks enforcement mechanisms. This absence of sanctions emboldens states to disregard cooperation, weakening INTERPOL's ~~de~~ deterrence capacity against transnational crime.

17. Credibility Erosion and Trust Deficit:

NGOs and watchdogs criticize INTERPOL's vulnerability to political victimization. The erosion of credibility creates a trust deficit among member states. This reduces INTERPOL's effectiveness as a global policing institution, as cooperation depends on mutual trust.

18. Critical Analysis:

INTERPOL's strengths lie in its global database and facilitation of cooperation. Yet sovereignty concerns, political misuse, and lack of enforcement

Power undermines its credibility. Conflict Theory highlights manipulation by powerful states; Labeling Theory shows dissidents criminalized through Red Notices; and globalization theory underscores paradox of international policing vs national sovereignty.

A. Conclusion:

INTERPOL remains vital for combating transnational crime but is constrained by sovereignty concerns and political victimization. Its credibility suffers when authoritarian regimes exploit its mechanisms. INTERPOL illustrates the tension between global policing and state autonomy. Reforms—human rights safeguards, sanctions for misuse, and stronger immunities—are essential to restore trust and effectiveness.
