

SUBJECT: Geography

UNIT: Year 8 – Geography of Crime



Definition

Crime is an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law.

Types of crime

Antisocial behaviour, arson, burglary, cyber-crime, online fraud, domestic abuse, hate crime, violent crime.

Crime Hotspots

Definition - An area with a particularly high incidence of crime.

Examples of crime hotspots: London, Birmingham, Manchester

Reasons for crime hotspots:

1. Large amounts of poverty in inner city areas of London
2. Gang culture in many areas
3. Lack of employment opportunities in many inner city areas
4. Racial tensions between different races and cultures leads to hate crime
5. High volumes of school drop outs leads to fewer opportunities of going on the higher education
6. Lack of investment in the poorer parts of London as most is spent in the most affluent areas.

Crime in Sunderland

Annual crime rate in Sunderland postcode area is 44.2, i.e. 44.2 crimes reported per annum per 1000 workday people. Compared to the national crime rate, Sunderland's crime rate is at 140%. Violent crime makes up 28.2% of all crimes reported in the postcode area.

Reasons for committing crime

- Peer Pressure - people are more likely to commit crime because of the world around them – i.e. they are living in poverty, drink alcohol or experience peer pressure.
- Deprivation - Deprived areas tend to have higher crime rates, and this suggests that poverty can lead to crime.
- Substance misuse (Drugs and Alcohol) - Alcohol and drugs are big contributors to crime. When under the influence, people may think less about the consequences of their behaviour. They are also less able to control their emotions.

Effects of crime

Individual - Crime has a range of effects on victims and their families. Those affected may be hurt emotionally, physically and/or financially. The effects can be worse if the crime involves violence.

Community - Communities which experience higher levels of crime are also adversely affected. Apart from people being frightened inside or outside their own home, property prices are affected and homeowners can find it more difficult to sell their property. Crime has an impact on home insurance premiums. New businesses may avoid the area and existing businesses may close down due to crime such as repeated theft, vandalism or having too few customers as a result.

Reducing crime strategies

- Crime prevention – CCTV, alarms, monitors, security tags, removing high value items from open areas.
- Police Presence -Increasing the amount of police, offenders are more likely to be caught if there is a strong police presence in an area and therefore are less likely to commit crime.
- Designated areas - These are areas targeted for operations by police forces.
- Tracking – UV markers, security tags, GPS trackers

International Crime - An international crime is an act that is directly criminalized by international law.

Examples of international crime – drug trafficking, weapon trafficking, piracy.

Example: Drug trafficking from Afghanistan. Causes and impacts:

A farmer can earn ten times as much money growing opium poppies for the drug trade than growing wheat for food supplies. The country is politically unstable, and the Taliban operates in the area. Some of the heroin can be sold along the route. This means that there are people who have become addicted to the drug along the route. The profit gained could go back to Afghanistan to help finance Islamic fundamentalist groups such as the Taliban. A fungus has affected about 50 per cent of the crop of opium poppies in Afghanistan. This has meant some of the crops have failed.