

Worksheet 3.9b: What factors affect crime rates?

Remember: Defining crime is very complicated! Use this box to help you to answer the questions below.

Is it acceptable:

for an unemployed father to steal clothes for his baby?

for a drug addict to steal from a rich family?

for doctors to be paid less than footballers?

for 14 year olds to be prevented from leaving school?

1. Why are some crimes easier to notice than others?

2. Give an example of why a citizen might not report a crime against her/him.

3. Give an example of why someone might not report a crime against someone else/a company.

4. Why might some people deliberately reoffend in order to go back to prison?

5. Police officers are more likely to stop and search black teenage males than white teenage females. How might this affect which crimes are known about?

6. Is being drug/alcohol-dependent a cause of crime or an effect of crime? Why?

7. Most under-18s who leave prison reoffend. Should these teenagers be held responsible for this, or is the cause their local neighbourhood and role models?

8. Why do the police and the Office for National Statistics disagree about how much crime there is in the UK?
