Institutional aggression

AO1:
- An issue in institutions = high assault rates in prisons
- Occurring due to situational factors (from social situation) or dispositional factors (stemming from personality factors)
- Importation model- Irwin and Cressey – prisoners brought own social history and traits into environment influencing prison adaptation. “Imported” everything that seems normal in the outside. Pre-existing factors may affect aggression in institutions (alcoholism, race, age and culture (from cultures that see it as valued, so is reinforced)
- Deprivation model- Sykes- Aggression as result of stressful, oppressive conditions. Five deprivations involved: Liberty (loss of civil rights and use of numbers), autonomy (no control over choices made, feel helpless), of goods and services (materialistic possessions), heterosexual relationships (reduces man’s self-worth and prevalence of homosexual relationships results in fear)
- Aggression in prison may be reclaiming control, reducing stress and obtaining resources.

AO2:
- Importation model support for race, age and educational background.
- Harer and Steffensmeier- 58 US prisons, black inmates had higher rates of violence but lower rates of alcohol and drug misconduct than white inmates. Supports importation model as matches racial differences in US society. Act more aggressively due to segregation and abuse (aggression defence mechanism). Confounding variables such as this can affect aggression in society and institutions to cause and effect obtained.
- McCorkle- Overcrowding, lack of privacy and meaningless activity increased peer violence (Deprivation model). Yet Nijman found when given more space, psychiatric patients levels of aggression hardly decreased (yet illness as an individual difference and confounding variable).
- McCorkle later found that with individual and collective acts of aggression in 370 US prisons, accounted for by a strong link between prison administrative practices (poor management, high staff turnover and lack of discipline) disproving deprivation. This could practically improve prison practices to reduce aggression.
- BBC Prison study based on Zimbardo participant behaviour such as aggression understood in terms of social identity theory (in group and out group schemas)- behaviour not explained due to allotted roles alone.

AO3:
- Nature/nurture: Importation model personality traits (due to nature), or deprivation model situations in the prison (nurture)
- Gender bias- Little research into females in institutions who tend to create strong group cohesion rather than identify with prison subcultures.
- Deterministic- Models ignore the concept of free will and consciousness in managing own behaviour. Suggests either personality or environmental factors, when individual differences and extraneous variables can come into account.