control and punishment of offenders. Wilson and Kelling use the broken window thesis, the idea that we must keep neighbourhoods orderly to prevent crime taking hold. Any sign of deterioration eg graffiti must be dealt with immediately. They also advocate ‘zero tolerance’ policing (ZTP). The police should focus on controlling the streets so law aiding citizens feel safe. It was claimed a success after its introduction in New York. Zero tolerance polices allow police to discriminate against ethnic minority, youths and the homeless. They also result in displacement of crime to other areas.

Overall, rational choice theory could be used to explain some professional utilitarian crime, which may often involve rational cost benefit calculations. By contrast, it is harder to apply it to violent crime that results from an irrational outburst. Right realism are criticised as it ignores the structural causes of crime eg poverty. It is concerned with street crime, ignoring corporate crime which is more costly and harmful to the public. Also, it over emphasises control of disorderly neighbourhoods and Young argues that crime was already falling before ZTP came in. police then boosted their arrest rate by defining deviance up – arresting people for minor deviant acts,
social policies to mask this. Social democrats criticise Marxists for rejecting the idea that sociological research can help bring about progressive policies within the capitalist system.

Para 5: feminists see society as a patriarchal, benefiting men at women’s expense. They see the state’s social policies perpetuating women’s subordination. Research by liberal feminists has had an impact in a number of policy areas eg anti discrimination and equal pay policies. However, many Marxist and radical feminists reject the view that reformist social policies can liberate women and call for more radical changes that the existing state cannot deliver.

Para 6: the New Right believe that the state should have only limited involvement in society eg state welfare provision should be minimal. State intervention undermines people’s sense of responsibility, leading to greater social problems. Murray argues that policies such as universal welfare benefits and council housing for lone parents act as ‘perverse incentives’ that encourage a dependency culture. The new right see the role of sociologists as being to propose policies that promote individual responsibility and choice. The new right support a strong ‘law and order’ policy and research by right realist criminologists eg broken windows has been influential in the introduction of zero tolerance policies.
Topic 4. 1) two realist solutions to the problem of crime (4)
2) two explanations of causes of crime put forward by right realists (10)
3) left realism (30)

Theory 20 marker:

Evaluate the claim that the functionalism understates both the extent of conflict in society and the ability of social actors to create society through interaction.

Intro: Functionalism – macro structural theory, needs of the social system as a whole, also a consensus theory, to obtain true knowledge for the functioning of society and this knowledge can be used to improve society.

Durkheim - He was concerned by rapid social change and the transition to modern industrial society as he saw this as a change from a simple social structure to a society with a complex specialised division of labour.

Parson – organic analogy, basic function of the value consensus is therefore to make social order possible. In does this by integrating individuals into the social system, therefore directing them towards meeting the systems needs. The system has 2 mechanisms – socialisation (the social system can ensure that its needs are met by teaching individuals to do what it requires them to do) and social control (positive and negative sanctions).

Parson – the systems needs, four basic needs AGIL schema, adaptation (economic sub system) goal attainment (political sub system), integration (sub system of religion, education and the media) latency (kinship sub system).

However, as societies develop, the kinship system loses these functions- Parsons calls this structural differentiation. This is a gradual process in which separate, functionally specialised institutions develop, each meeting a different need. Furthermore, he also sees gradual change occurring through moving equilibrium. As a change occurs in one part of the system, it produces compensatory changes in the other parts. In this way society gradually changes from one type to another.

Merton also contributes a useful distinction between ‘manifest’ and ‘latent’ functions. He uses the example of the Hopi Indians who perform a rain-dance with the aim to magically produce rain in times of draught- this is its manifest (intended) function. However, the ritual may also have an unintended or latent function- such as promoting a sense of solidarity in times of hardship, when people might be tempted to look after themselves at the expense of others.

Conflict theorists such as Marxists criticise functionalism for its inability to explain conflict and change. This inability arises partly out of the organic analogy that organisms are relatively stable systems in which all the parts work together for the common good. Marxists argue that society is not...