### Explaining Criminal Behaviour

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CUES</th>
<th>Right Realism</th>
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| **What is right realism?** | • Revival of classical school of criminology  
  → Popularised by Thatcher and Reagan  
  → Favours traditional views  
  → Manifestation of the dissatisfaction with the moral relativism of the 1960’s-1970’s  
  → Doesn’t agree with “progressive” explanations for crime, e.g. Victimised Actor Model which suggests criminals are criminals because of societal inequalities |
| **How does this apply to criminology?** | 1. Neo-Classicism  
  a. Rational Choice Theory  
  b. Routine Activities Theory  
  i. Both of these theories claim all acts are made by rational people weighing up the rewards and risks and choosing to commit crime |
| **What is the Rational Choice Theory?** | 2. Right Realism  
  – Based on hedonism (Bentham)  
  o Not pleasure/pain but reward/risk  
  – Clarke and Cornish (1986) – crime is the result of decisions made by ordinary people responding to pressures...and environmental encouragements  
  o Pressures include drugs, gangs, pleasure etc. and are different for everyone  
  o Bennett (2001) – increase in drug addictions motivate searches for these markets |
| **How does this theory argue we can reduce crime?** | 1) Opportunities need to be reduced:  
  a. Raise risks = crime is less attractive  
  b. Clarke (1980) – situational crime prevent by and target hardening are key  
  2) Critics – make legitimate lifestyles more rewarding  
  a. Difficult to implement and not guaranteed to work – not worth the money spent |
| **What is a history of the RCT’s findings?** | 1984: Samenow – criminals think differently  
  1985: Wilson and Herrnstein – criminals are biologically predisposed to offend  
  1994: Herrnstein and Murray – less intelligent people are less likely to succeed legitimately in life  
  Predispositions are a factor – criminal behaviour – we should still punish people who offend due to these |
| **How is this criticised?** | ► Illogical conclusions  
  • Predispositions and lower intelligence don’t automatically equal criminal behaviour  
  ► Ideologically focused  
  • Do criminals make choices in the way the theory suggests or another way? |
| **What is the Routine Actor Theory?** | • Cohen and Felson (1979) - Victimisation Triangle  
  • Each of these factors need to be present in order to convince a criminal to offend  
  • Victims can actually be their own guardians e.g. if they’re trained in self-defence |
| **What are criticisms of the theory?** | It is actually not a theory at all – it does not predict future crimes!  
  ◆ What motivates offenders?  
  Brought in ideas of perception  
  ◆ Sampson et al. (2009) – controllers and super-controllers |

### Diagram

- **Motivated Offender**
- **Vulnerable Target**
- **Absence of Capable Guardian**
- **CRIME EVENT**

Motivated Offender and Vulnerable Target are necessary for a crime event to occur. The Absence of Capable Guardian is also crucial. This model illustrates the Victimisation Triangle proposed by Cohen and Felson.