REALISM ESSAY PLAN

- Political landscape of 70s/80s
- Crime rising – statistics and media
- Particular focus on working class crime since destroying communities
- Conservative policy to find realistic workable solutions which take victims seriously, rather than working on theories that explain the reasons for crime such as labelling theory which place too much emphasis on the criminal.

- As a solution, the realism became central to criminological thinking. Thought of in two contexts, left and right. Both have similarities and differences in their way of dealing with crime.

RIGHT REALISM

- 2 main features:
- Individualised view, crime result of individual choices.
  o Social structures and poverty not to blame.
- Crime control solution. Crime should be taken seriously and people are rightly concerned. Safety main concern and hence tougher punishments the solution. Makes crime less attractive for people to choose to do.

- Much of the academia and policy in this area developed from the workings of particular criminologists who explained the reason why working class crime was rising.

  o See family and education as key in stopping criminality.
  o Believe in traditional families and citizenship education.
    ▪ Believe that these two factors will reduce crime rates.

- Murray (1990) and the Underclass
  o Rising amount of underclass
    ▪ People with no desire for employment
    ▪ Fathers with no responsibility for offspring, leaving many one-parent households incapable of socialising young children
    ▪ Children brought up with no values like rest of society who then commit crimes to gain social status.
      • All result from over generous welfare state. Referred to the ‘generous revolution’ since the 1960s which encouraged welfare dependency and discouraged personal responsibility.

- Herrnstein and Murray (1994) argued that
  o Using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, crime result of low intelligence.