

Using a criminal activity of your choice, describe and discuss how classical criminology informs evidence-based policing.

In this essay I have decided that I have chosen theft therefore throughout my essay I will discuss how classical criminology informs evidence-based policing. At the beginning of this essay, I will discuss and describe each of the models that are used in evidence-based policing to back their ideas and why they are used. I will also discuss the key ideas and theories associated with classical criminology and the theories behind doing so. Behind the ideas and theories associated with classical criminology put to one side, I will explain the separate ways it can help us as views from the public to understand crime and criminality. Behind the models that are used for classical criminology, I will demonstrate how I understand the reasoning behind classical criminology used to understand those methods. I have stated that the criminal activity I have picked is theft based on what I have demonstrated already spoken about how classical criminology has an impact on evidence-based policing or how models used for evidence-based policing apply to theft. Towards the end of my essay, I will then evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of classical criminology and evidence-based policing.

To start my essay off I will discuss the models that are used in evidence-based policing. The first model used in helping the police give their evidence is POP also known as problem-orientated policing, according to the college of policing this model is strong in having an impact on deterring crime for areas but it depends on the area. There is a real focus of this model intervening to tackle crime and take an approach towards the main related areas. They use this intervention to identify certain specific reoccurring problems and assess the effects of the responses given etc. (College of Policing, 2017) This method is used to develop those interventions that are already in place to deter that crime from the area, not an intervention itself. The POP method can be described alongside the SARA model which is the problem-solving model that is in place to deter crime. The SARA model is in place to identify the problem that is causing a persistent condition so the solution of this model is to tackle and prevent therefore finding the underlying cause of it will show to be effective. The Second model as mentioned above is the SARA model which as overall has four stages attached to it which are according to a policing website provided by Arizona State University, the stages are as follows Scanning, Analysis,

Response, and Assessment. The main reason for implementing this model is to identify the persistent problems for the public and the police, outline a identify the agencies that are required to help etc. (Arizona State University, 2019) Lastly, the final model that is used in evidence-based policing is Hotspot, this strategy is in place for reducing crime as it targets the most used places that have a higher rate of crime so to target this by providing suitable resources, they can focus on the more persistent high-crime rated areas to tackle it efficiently and effectively. According to the college of policing, it states that “to reduce crime police can increase their presence in high crime spots” (College of Policing, 2022) this can suggest if certain areas are prone to high crime, then increasing the patrol of officers on these areas then the crime rate shall decrease as individuals will not attend social events if there is a police presence. After discussing the models that are in place for evidence-based policing to help make decisions there is a reasoning behind how classical criminology is used to define those methods. Firstly, Classical criminology is a view which explains crime to be so influential and decisions made by the acting individual, it was established in the eighteenth century providing a hopeful approach to punishment. “Criminology has an approach to understanding criminals and crimes and how to prevent furthermore being committed” this starts my essay off where classical criminology informs evidence-based policing because there is an approach to deter crimes and criminals by giving punishment. (Ferguson and Boyd, 2022). Classical criminology informs evidence-based policing according to a website providing evidence-based policing “evidence-based policing emphasizes police departments consistently evaluating their practices.” this can suggest that there is a requirement for analysis and data collection to be able to make that decision. (Telep, 2018) Having the models evaluated and analysed to check if they work when being put in place can provide the police reassurance that there is possibly an effective police programme in place that can deter crime this could be due to the fact that the police can improve on projects by providing answers to what works the best and deliver accurate results to the people. (Coffey, 2020) Applying these methods such as SARA and POP to certain areas to an extent to see if the crime rates decrease significantly can then decrease the presence of people in areas if they seem to be working because the SARA model implements the problems that underlying whilst the POP method tackles crime and takes an approach to the most affected areas however, one of the websites demonstrates that the classical approach used towards those methods will examine where the individual is having the opportunity to commit specific crimes without having police presence, therefore, these crimes will not be tolerated if they continue to increase. (UNODC, 2018) As described above what is each of the models used for and having a clearer understanding of

classical criminology, having found an article about the principles of classic criminology attached to crimes states that having a code of ethics created for those who commit crimes to give a fair trial to whatever penalty suits the crime they have done. (Masterclass, 2023).

After researching theories that are associated with classic criminology, I have come across a theory which is the classic crime theory that people are free of their will to make rational decisions depending on their acting behaviours, based on this decision crime then acts because of rational decisions of the acting individuals. Extend this theory has come from Cesare Beccaria, who believes that the level of punishment must be based on the damage the individual has caused therefore torture should not be used in defence of the accused, to further this the use of further sanctions such as imprisonment can be sued if the level of crime is high. (Bright and Dugger, 2022) Using imprisonment against the accused for the crime could go both ways one being they will come back out, learnt their lesson therefore it will not happen again OR it will happen again as they have that guilty set mind to deliver inadequate behaviour. Relating back to the theory stated above about using the right punishment related to the crime Beccaria states “it is necessary to introduce clear, legal and equal rules for everyone regarding punishment” this sets out the standard by the accused has the right to a fair trial however, from this we can assume when deciding the punishment not based on the person themselves but the act committed having rules and policies set out clearly can be strictly written for all to understand with their meaning for various reasons such as the crime they committed so they will have the corresponding criminal regulations. (Wickert, 2020). The theory behind doing this Beccaria had spoken “punishment should not be an act of violence committed by one person or many against a private citizen” from overseeing the statements you could come to terms with that having a purpose of punishment is more or less than to deter the offender from committing the crime and realistically punished should be based on the harm caused where in today’s world and the past it has always been decided on the intent of the offender because it would make more sense have a punishment debated between by the harm done. (Beccaria, 1986). The view from the public related to the Beccaria theory, there is a view from the public and their understanding of the sentencing and criminal justice system. Another theory which relates to this is Jeremy Bentham’s theory where he believed that there should be he and well-being of the individuals (accused) and inflicting pain as a sort of punishment needs to be justified in terms of greater. (Law Teacher, 2021). Bentham’s theory has an opposing side to Beccaria's theory as he believes there should be a valid reason to punish a human being and if not then it is inflicting pain for no reason

and giving a detrimental effect on someone's well-being. Bentham strongly believed in the political system and that the best laws that benefitted society would benefit a high number of people. According to this article, it states "any person who carried out an act that was detrimental should be punished or imprisonment" this is like Beccaria's theory but that is the accused has committed the crime to a high degree but if not, then Bentham believes that there should be a reason. (Museum, 2022). Through these theories as I have chosen theft as my criminal activity you can see clearly that by these two theorists then a punishment would be required this is due to the fact its theft, theft will only happen if the accused is going to commit the offence, having that guilty mind its set that you're going to steal and having that mindset to do so, not many views from the public believe that the punishment is harsh enough that way the crime will get more repetitive and happen more often.

Having researched there is a document provided by the government giving the views etc. Throughout this document, there are findings where the public does not know much about the sentencing therefore there may be a bit of confusion and undermines the confidence of the criminal justice system. This document states "public opinion on sentencing is poorly informed" this can suggest that there is a view from outside coming from the public that they believe when in courts the sentences being given to the accused are not enough and quite frankly maybe they are too lenient. (Wilson and Ellis, 2013). To evaluate the views and how the public perceives them by the public they carried out a test where they took a 'three-stage approach' where they would then use participants with new expressions for sentences etc or even carry out interviews to assess the impact of the public's ongoing understanding and perceptions of sentences and the Criminal Justice system. Applying the SARA model towards theft can go either way because the model is used to identify the problem that is causing a persistent condition, therefore applying this to theft can be accomplished because having stages put in place for example placing more officers in this area where theft reoccurs to happen. The individuals that commit this type of crime will see the changes and either move on or they will stop. Applying theft to the POP model has a similar reason behind it which is intervening to tackle crime and take an approach towards the main related areas. This can be done by identifying the real problem and then acting upon it by applying to theft and stopping it from happening by getting feedback from the public and other agencies. To close my essay, I will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of classical criminology and evidence-based policing. Having found a document to do with the strengths and the weaknesses, a strength of classical criminology and evidence-based policing is that it is driven by "psychological influences"

this means that it is the individual's response to crime and how they act to commit their offence depending on their circumstances. A weakness of this is that for example, theft gives a positive view as criminal behaviour meaning that the accused would know what they are doing therefore, they are relieved of the crime that they have committed. The difference between the strengths and weaknesses is that it is proven to be successful in reducing crime rates and providing a deterrent to stop individuals from going against the system. (UK Essays, 2018)

To conclude this essay, I have discussed and identified each of the models that are used in evidence-based policing to help decide the level of extent of criminality. I have also stated why they are used and what they can do when being put in place. I have explained the ways how the public can understand crime and criminality and their opinions and views on sentencing as they believe the courts are too lenient from what I have found out. Lastly, I identified the reasoning behind classical criminology used to understand the methods used and why and how they come into one involving the theorists and their theories.

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