

e You should spend about 45 minutes on this question and will find it helpful to use the essay-writing template. You should refer to evidence relating to possible racism in the criminal justice system (CJS) from various sources. A good place to start is the item, but you should refer also to evidence from self-report studies. Be sure to look at different aspects of the CJS such as policing and sentencing, as stated in the item, and refer to different ethnic groups. When explaining conflict theories, refer to the various ways the interactionists look at the social construction of crime, such as police labelling, deviancy amplification and moral panics, and refer to Marxist and neo-Marxist views on the causes of selective law enforcement. When looking at the alternative argument, as stated in the item, refer to the different approaches such as functionalists and right realists, who would focus on factors such as inadequate socialisation, and left realists, who point to how members of different ethnic minority groups may commit more crime due to being socially excluded.

(05) Outline and explain two arguments in favour of the view that sociological perspectives or research should have an influence on social policy. (10 marks)

e You should spend about 15 minutes on this question. Divide your time fairly equally between each argument and write one paragraph on each. There is no need to write a separate introduction or conclusion. A good way to structure your two arguments would be to base them on different theoretical views that argue that sociological theory can have a positive influence on social policy, such as liberal feminist, functionalist, social democratic or socialist. Alternative views such as Marxists could be used to evaluate. You could refer to specific policies that have been influenced by sociological theory in your response.

(06) Read Item C and answer the question that follows.

Item C	
Positivists argue that by replicating the logic and methods of the natural sciences, sociology can uncover laws of human behaviour. They believe that, like natural scientists, sociologists should use quantitative data to	deduce objectively whether a hypothesis is true or false. However, sociologists from other perspectives have different views, not only on whether this is possible, but on the very nature of science itself.

(A)

Applying material from Item C and your own knowledge, evaluate the claim that sociology can and should be a science. (20 marks)

e You should spend about 30 minutes on this question and will find it helpful to use the essay-writing template. Use the first two sentences of the item to introduce the positivist view on the question. Make sure that you refer to alternative views on the nature of science, such as those of Popper, and the inductive versus deductive debate. As well as evaluation from interpretivists and realists you could also refer to other theories such as feminism and postmodernism. Material relating to all perspectives *must* be applied to how they agree or disagree with the claim and should refer to whether sociology both *can* and *should* be a science.

evidence. Furthermore, we should use the experimental method of the natural sciences for research as hypotheses can be tested in a controlled and systematic way. However, interpretivists argue that science doesn't deal with meanings, only laws of cause and effect, so sociology can't be scientific. They argue that they ignore the role played by consciousness, meaning and choice. However, realists argue that sociology can't always be studied in a 'closed' way as it is too large-scale and complex.

B

e A good account of the positivist approach using Durkheim to illustrate it. It includes some good evaluation of both Durkheim and from other perspectives.

Interpretivists argue that sociology can't and shouldn't be modelled on natural science because this is unsuited to the study of humans and sociology is about internal meanings, not external causes. They argue that natural sciences study matter which has no consciousness while humans do have consciousness and individuals construct their social world through the meanings they give to it. However, positivists reject this and argue that society is an objective factual reality so sociology can be studied in a scientific way. While positivists use quantitative methods, interpretivists favour qualitative methods, which give subjective understanding so we can uncover meanings. Interactionists argue that we can have causal explanations like positivists argue, but through a 'bottom-up' rather than 'top-down' approach. Douglas argues we should uncover social meanings rather than laws. He used a case study approach using qualitative methods to uncover the process of labelling by coroners to reveal the meanings of those who committed suicide. Ethnomethodologists such as Atkinson, however, go even further and argue that we can never know the real rate of suicide, even by using qualitative methods to gain *verstehen*. Atkinson argues that suicide is an individual act, not a social fact as Durkheim argued, and therefore cannot be explained. Both types of interpretivist approach, however, completely reject the positivist argument that behaviour is determined by external causes and would reject the claim that sociology can and should be a science.

D

e This paragraph is a very good discussion of the different interpretivist views on the question, with some good analysis using the topic of suicide.

Although positivists see natural sciences as using inductive reasoning, as the item states there are alternative views of science. Popper rejects the positivist view that science is based on verificationism, rather he argues that it should be based on falsificationism. This means a statement is scientific if it is capable of withstanding attempts to falsify it. He also argues that all knowledge is provisional as there is always the possibility that it can be falsified. As Popper argues, seeing one black swan destroys the theory that all swans are white. He believes that some sociology can model itself on natural sciences by producing hypotheses that can be falsified. However, he argues that much of sociology can't be scientific because its theories could not be proved false, such as Marx's view of

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such social policies only serve to legitimise inequality that exists and that they have not addressed the issues of the education system reinforcing and perpetuating masculine hegemony through verbal abuse and double standards.

e This paragraph on feminism has some good analysis but is less developed and would benefit from the inclusion of specific policies that have been influenced by feminism.

e 9/10 marks awarded.

(06) As stated in Item C, positivists argue that just as in the natural sciences, sociology can be objective using the inductive approach. 'Can' suggests that it is possible for sociology to be a science, while 'should' suggests that there is a good reason to do so. As there are different views on what science actually is, people have different views on whether sociology can be a science. Positivists argue that sociology can and should be a science by using quantitative methods and verification to establish observable patterns in behaviour and develop causal laws. However, interpretivists argue that sociology can't and shouldn't model itself on natural sciences because human conduct is not governed by external causes but by internal meanings. For interpretivists, the task of sociology is to use qualitative methods to uncover these meanings through verstehen. Alternatively, realists argue that sociology can and should sometimes be a science because, like science, sociology studies unobservable structures as well as observable facts.

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e This is a good introduction, which follows the AAA format in the essay-writing template, and shows good application skills by the use of the words 'can' and 'should' from the question.

Positivists argue that we can and should apply the logic and methods of natural sciences to the study of society so we can solve social problems. They believe that reality exists outside the human mind and society is an objective factual reality which is patterned and can be observed by using quantitative methods. For example, Durkheim used official statistics to discover laws of cause and effect on suicide. He felt patterns in suicide rates were caused by differences in integration and regulation levels. This he discovered by examining correlations in the suicide rates of different countries in a scientific, objective and detached way, just as in experiments in the natural sciences. However, it could be argued that Durkheim wasn't actually very scientific. He did not clearly operationalise concepts such as integration and wasn't completely value free and objective as he chose to study this topic due to a family member committing suicide. Positivists also argue that we can discover laws, like in the natural sciences, on how society works by using inductive reasoning which is verified through research

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historical materialism. Although Popper sees scientific communities as critical, Kuhn rejects this as he says that scientists are conformists. They just fit in with the paradigm (shared framework) that they have been socialised into. Kuhn, however, argues that sociology can't be a science because there is no shared paradigm of shared assumptions, principles and methods. He argues that in sociology there are only rival schools of thought, it is not a unified science as there is no shared paradigm. When applied to sociology, Kuhn argues that sociology is divided into competing perspectives, such as Marxism and feminism, so it can't be a science as these disagreements would never be resolved.

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- e This is a good presentation of the views of Popper and Kuhn on the nature of science, which are applied to the question.

A third view of science comes from realists, who argue that sociology can and should attempt to model itself on the natural sciences. Realists reject the positivist view that science should only study observable phenomena. Keats and Urry stress that, just like some natural sciences such as meteorology, sociology studies 'open systems' where there is no control over variables and causes are explained by underlying structures that cannot be observed. Realists argue that sociology can be scientific because in the open systems processes are too large and complex to make exact predictions. For example, we can't see patriarchy but it is clear that it impacts on the life chances of women, such as the glass ceiling. However, they also argue that we can't model sociology on the natural sciences because some natural scientists study 'closed systems' under laboratory conditions which doesn't apply within sociology. Realists feel that sociology is similar to natural science because they both attempt to explain the causes of events in terms of underlying structures by observing their effects, which implies that sociology can model itself on the natural sciences. Realists also argue that sociology should try to model itself on the natural sciences as far as possible as this can help study meanings. However, interpretivists argue that meanings are not observable so sociology can't be a science.

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- e The realist view of science is discussed well and again is clearly applied to the question.

Perhaps the main strength of the positivist argument that sociology can and should be a science is that Durkheim's study showed that we can discover laws and effects of social phenomena such as suicide. However, interpretivists argue sociology should uncover meanings not laws. Perhaps the main strength of the interpretivist argument that sociology can't and shouldn't be a science is that humans have consciousness while the subject matter of the natural sciences does not. Despite this, positivists argue that society is an objective reality. Perhaps the best argument is the realist view that sociology sometimes can and should model itself on the natural sciences because both natural and social sciences explain causes in terms of underlying structures. Alternatively,

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postmodernists argue that sociology shouldn't be a science because natural science is someone's 'big story' and therefore not the truth. Conversely, feminists argue that sociology should not model itself on the natural sciences because the quest for a single scientific theory is a form of domination because it excludes many groups of women.

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e A good conclusion, which follows the format suggested in the essay-writing template.

e 20/20 marks awarded. Overall this response has excellent AO1 on the question and all arguments presented are applied well to the question. The only minor issue is that the postmodernist and feminist views could be introduced earlier in the essay rather than briefly stated at the end of the conclusion.

e Total score: 77/80 marks — grade A*

Student B

(01) ■ CCTV

- Digital finger printing
- Electronic tagging. This is used as a form of punishment to control the behaviour of offenders, such as those on ASBOs who have curfew times to adhere to.

e 3/4 marks awarded. The first two points are partial and would each score only 1 mark as they have not been explained in relation to controlling crime or behaviour. The third point scores 2 marks as tagging is applied to control. This is a good example of the potential benefit of including an additional bullet point, if time permits. This response scores 3 marks rather than 2 as a result of the inclusion of the third point.

(02) ■ Selling illegal goods

- Human trafficking
- New global communications have meant that crimes such as identity theft and credit card fraud have increased. For example, fraudsters can send emails globally asking for personal bank details.

e 3/6 marks awarded. The first point does not score as it applies to crime in general. The second point is partial as it lacks explanation or an example. The third point scores 2 marks as it has a clear explanation with an example.

(03) Becker believes that once a label has been applied to an individual, it becomes their controlling identity and leads to a 'master status'. This then results in them having a 'deviant career' due to society stigmatising them with a particular label. This forces the outsider to join a subculture similar to themselves. Lemert also talks about primary and secondary deviance. Primary deviance is when the individual does not get publicly labelled and does not see themselves as deviant, whereas secondary deviance is

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