**Example of 10 mark ‘analyse’ question for Paper 3**

**Reminder of structure for any 10 mark question:**

**2 paragraphs (about just under a page)**

**At the start at each clearly state your point**

**Support with evidence, including named sociologists and theory (where appropriate).**

**Explain your point**

**Add a tiny bit of evaluation**

Item: Marxism sees capitalist society as divided along social class lines. The ruling class own the means of production and use their power to exploit the working class in pursuit of profits, often resulting in workers living in poverty. This relationship then determines the shape of the superstructure – that is, all the other institutions that make up society, including the state, the law and the criminal justice system. Capitalism is also intensely competitive, with companies and individuals motivated to seek profit.

Applying material from the Item, analyse two ways in which Marxists see class and crime as related [10 marks]

What could be some of the reasons that you could take from the item that are either explicit (actually stated) or implicit (implied):

Write the answer

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Answer:

One way that Marxists see class and crime as related is due to the way in which law making and reinforcement are there to serve the interests of the ruling class. The nature of capitalism as the item indicates, means that the superstructure, including the law and criminal justice system, exploit the proletariat. For example, Chambliss argues that laws to protect private property help to perpetuate the ability of the Bourgeoisie to control the means of production. Snider also argues this group have the power to prevent laws that would threaten their interests, such as challenging the big gap in wealth. However, the criminal justice system sometimes acts against the Bourgeoisie by challenging corporate crime.

Another way is that capitalism, by being ‘intensely competitive’ (as the item suggests), is in itself criminogenic. The way in which this system promotes a 'dog eat dog’ mentality has a massive impact on the working class who may turn to crime as a solution to their poverty. Gordon argues crime is a rational response to the system and is found in all social groups. For the working class, crime may be the result of poverty, or the only way to buy consumer goods, or may lead to frustration. However, Marxism is too deterministic. Their argument over-predicts the amount of crime in the working class when not all poor people commit crimes.

10/10