

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

**FUNDAMENTAL
CRIMINOLOGY**

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**This paper consists of 10 pages including the cover
page**

Internal Examiners
Mr L. Ngwane

External Examiners
Dr S. Mkhize

INSTRUCTIONS

- **This paper has two sections - Section A and Section B.**
- **Section A consists of four questions, answer all questions.**
- **Section B consists of three questions, answer any two questions.**
- **Write neatly and legibly.**
- **Number your answers correctly**

SECTION A (ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION)

QUESTION 1

The incident sparked widespread outrage and protests, with many people accusing the police of using excessive force and violating the human rights of the miners. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) launched an investigation into the incident, and several police officers were subsequently charged with murder and attempted murder.

“The Marikana Massacre illustrates the challenges that SAPS faces in building public trust and confidence. While the police were attempting to maintain law and order, their use of force led to a tragic loss of life, which in turn damaged public perceptions of the police.”

In response to the incident, SAPS has attempted to improve its training and operational procedures to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future.

1. To what extent has SAPS been successful in building public trust and confidence in its ability to prevent and control crime in South Africa? kindly provide a case study in line with this question? [10 marks]

Answer

- ✓ The extent to which the South African Police Service (SAPS) has been successful in building public trust and confidence in its ability to prevent and control crime is a complex issue. While there have been efforts to improve the effectiveness and accountability of the SAPS, concerns around corruption, misconduct, and inadequate resources continue to undermine public confidence in the institution.
- ✓ A case study that highlights this issue is the Marikana massacre that occurred in August 2012. In this incident, 34 striking miners were shot dead by the police, with many more injured. The incident sparked national and international outrage and raised questions about police accountability and the use of lethal force.
- ✓ In the aftermath of the Marikana massacre, there were calls for greater transparency and accountability within the SAPS. The Farlam Commission of Inquiry was established to investigate the incident and make recommendations for reform. The Commission found that the police used excessive force and violated the rights of the miners and called for a range of reforms to address issues such as police training, accountability, and the use of force.

- ✓ While the Commission's recommendations were a step towards improving police accountability, many of the underlying issues around corruption, inadequate resources, and insufficient training remain. In addition, subsequent incidents such as the killing of Andries Tatane in 2011 and the death of Collins Khosa in 2020 have highlighted ongoing concerns around police brutality and accountability.
- ✓ Moreover, while there have been some efforts to address issues of trust and confidence within the SAPS, incidents such as the Marikana massacre underscore the need for continued reforms and accountability to ensure that the police are able to effectively prevent and control crime in South Africa while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

QUESTION 2

2. How does community policing fit into broader crime prevention and criminal justice strategies in South Africa, and what are the potential benefits and drawbacks?

[5 marks]

Answer

- ✓ Community policing is an approach to law enforcement that emphasizes collaboration between the police and the community to prevent crime and promote public safety. In South Africa, community policing is seen as an important part of broader crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, particularly in addressing issues of trust and legitimacy between the police and the public.
- ✓ One potential benefit of community policing is that it can help to build relationships and trust between the police and the community, which in turn can lead to more effective crime prevention and response. By working closely with community members, the police can gain a better understanding of local crime patterns and concerns, and tailor their strategies accordingly. Additionally, community members may be more willing to report crimes and provide information to the police if they feel that they have a positive relationship with law enforcement.
- ✓ However, there are also potential drawbacks to community policing. One concern is that it can place an additional burden on already overstretched police resources, particularly in areas with high crime rates and limited resources. Additionally, there is a risk that community policing can be co-opted by local power structures or used as a tool for surveillance or control, particularly in contexts where there are existing tensions or power imbalances between different groups.

- ✓ Finally, while community policing has the potential to play an important role in broader crime prevention and criminal justice strategies in South Africa, it is important to approach it with a critical eye and ensure that it is implemented in a way that is effective, equitable, and respects human rights. This includes ensuring that there is sufficient investment in police resources and training, and that community policing is integrated with broader efforts to address structural drivers of crime such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

QUESTION 3

3. What steps can the South African Police Service take to improve its crime prevention and control strategies and ensure that it is meeting its mandate of providing a safe and secure environment for all South Africans? [10 marks]

Answer

- ✓ The South African Police Service (SAPS) faces a range of challenges in preventing and controlling crime, including issues around corruption, inadequate resources, and poor public trust and confidence. However, there are a number of steps that the SAPS can take to improve its crime prevention and control strategies and ensure that it is meeting its mandate of providing a safe and secure environment for all South Africans:
 - *Increase community engagement:* As mentioned earlier, community engagement is an important aspect of effective policing. The SAPS can improve its crime prevention and control strategies by actively engaging with communities, building trust and partnerships, and working collaboratively with community members to identify and address crime issues.
 - *Enhance intelligence capabilities:* The SAPS can improve its crime prevention and control strategies by investing in and enhancing its intelligence capabilities. This includes improving information sharing and coordination between different units within the SAPS, as well as with other law enforcement agencies.

- *Address corruption and misconduct:* Corruption and misconduct within the SAPS undermines public trust and confidence and can have serious implications for the effectiveness of crime prevention and control strategies. The SAPS can take steps to address corruption and misconduct within its ranks by strengthening internal oversight mechanisms, improving training and education on ethics and professional conduct, and taking swift action against those found to be engaged in corrupt or unethical behavior.
 - *Invest in technology and infrastructure:* The SAPS can improve its crime prevention and control strategies by investing in modern technology and infrastructure. This includes improving the use of data and analytics to better understand crime patterns and trends and investing in modern equipment and facilities to support policing operations.
 - *Enhance training and professional development:* Effective policing requires ongoing training and professional development for officers at all levels. The SAPS can improve its crime prevention and control strategies by investing in ongoing training and development for its officers, with a focus on building skills in areas such as community engagement, intelligence gathering, and ethical conduct.
- ✓ Improving crime prevention and control strategies in South Africa requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that addresses both the root causes of crime as well as the operational challenges faced by law enforcement. By investing in community engagement, intelligence capabilities, anti-corruption measures, technology and infrastructure, and officer training and development, the SAPS can work towards providing a safer and more secure environment for all South Africans.

QUESTION 4

4. Critically evaluate the role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in preventing white-collar crime in South Africa, and its limitations as a preventive measure.

[15 mark]

Answer

- ✓ Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a concept that has gained significant traction in recent years, particularly as a means of encouraging businesses to operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. In the context of white-collar crime in South Africa, CSR can play an important role in preventing such crimes by

promoting ethical business practices and fostering a culture of corporate responsibility. However, there are also limitations to the use of CSR as a preventive measure, and it is important to critically evaluate its role in addressing white-collar crime.

- ✓ On the one hand, CSR can contribute to the prevention of white-collar crime in a number of ways. Firstly, by encouraging businesses to operate in a socially responsible manner, CSR can help to promote a culture of integrity and ethical conduct within companies, reducing the likelihood of criminal behavior.
- ✓ Additionally, CSR initiatives can help to build trust between businesses and their stakeholders, including customers, employees, and regulators, which can in turn reduce the risk of white-collar crime. For example, by promoting transparency and accountability in business operations, CSR can help to prevent financial fraud and embezzlement.
- ✓ However, there are also limitations to the use of CSR as a preventive measure for white-collar crime. One key limitation is that CSR initiatives are often voluntary and not legally binding, meaning that businesses may not be held accountable for failing to comply with CSR standards. Additionally, some critics argue that CSR can be used as a form of greenwashing, with companies using superficial or tokenistic gestures to appear socially responsible while continuing to engage in unethical or illegal behavior behind the scenes. Furthermore, there may be inherent tensions between the profit-driven nature of corporate behavior and the social and environmental responsibilities that are often central to CSR initiatives.
- ✓ The CSR has the potential to contribute to the prevention of white-collar crime in South Africa, it is important to approach it with a critical eye and recognize its limitations as a preventive measure. Effective prevention of white-collar crime requires a multi-faceted approach that includes not only CSR initiatives, but also strong legal and regulatory frameworks, effective enforcement mechanisms, and a culture of accountability and transparency across all sectors of society.

SECTION B (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION)

QUESTION 5

5. How environmental, social, and criminal justice approaches intersect in addressing environmental crimes and protecting vulnerable communities? [30 marks]

Answer

- ✓ Environmental crimes, such as illegal pollution, toxic waste dumping, and

deforestation, often have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities, particularly those in developing countries or marginalized groups within society. Addressing these crimes and protecting these communities requires a multifaceted approach that integrates environmental, social, and criminal justice approaches.

- ✓ Environmental justice is a framework that recognizes the interconnectedness of environmental and social issues, and seeks to ensure that all communities, regardless of their socioeconomic status or race, have access to a healthy and safe environment. Environmental justice approaches can be used to identify and address the root causes of environmental crimes, which often stem from systemic issues such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.
- ✓ For example, communities living near toxic waste dumps or industrial facilities may be exposed to higher levels of pollution due to their lack of political power or access to resources to fight against these environmental hazards. Environmental justice approaches can be used to empower these communities and give them a voice in decision-making processes that affect their health and well-being.
- ✓ Social justice approaches are also important in addressing environmental crimes and protecting vulnerable communities. Social justice recognizes that environmental crimes often occur within a broader context of social and economic inequality and seeks to address these root causes through policies and initiatives that promote equity and fairness. For example, policies that provide access to clean water, affordable housing, and public transportation can help to alleviate the burden of environmental hazards on vulnerable communities.
- ✓ Criminal justice approaches are also critical in addressing environmental crimes, particularly those that involve intentional harm or damage to the environment or public health. Criminal justice approaches can be used to hold individuals and corporations accountable for their actions, and to deter future criminal behavior. For example, effective environmental law enforcement can help to ensure that companies comply with environmental regulations and are held accountable for any harm caused by their actions.
- ✓ The intersection of environmental, social, and criminal justice approaches is essential in addressing environmental crimes and protecting vulnerable communities. By integrating these approaches, policymakers, law enforcement officials, and activists can develop more comprehensive and effective strategies for preventing environmental crimes, holding offenders accountable, and promoting environmental and social justice.

QUESTION 6

6. How effective are the three tactics of situational crime prevention - target hardening, environmental design, and access control - in reducing crime rates? Provide examples from real-world applications and discuss the potential limitations of each approach in the context of criminological perspective. [30 Marks]

Answer

- ✓ Situational crime prevention is a crime prevention approach that focuses on the situational factors that enable or facilitate crime. This approach aims to reduce crime by making it more difficult or less attractive for offenders to commit crimes. There are three main tactics of situational crime prevention: target hardening, environmental design, and access control.
- ✓ In this essence, discussing the effectiveness of these tactics in reducing crime rates, provide examples from real-world applications, and discuss the potential limitations of each approach in the context of criminological perspective of the crucial aspect.
- ✓ Target hardening is a tactic that involves making targets more resistant to attack. This can include installing alarms, locks, and security cameras, as well as reinforcing doors and windows. The effectiveness of target hardening in reducing crime rates has been demonstrated in various studies. For example, a study in the United States found that the installation of security cameras in a high-crime area resulted in a significant reduction in crime rates. In another study, the installation of window bars in a high-crime area resulted in a 62% reduction in burglaries.
- ✓ However, target hardening also has its limitations. One potential limitation is displacement, which occurs when offenders simply move their criminal activities to another target that is less secure. This can result in a redistribution of crime rather than an overall reduction. Additionally, target hardening can be costly and may not be feasible for all targets, particularly those in disadvantaged communities.
- ✓ Environmental design is another tactic of situational crime prevention that involves modifying the physical environment to make it less conducive to crime. This can include installing lighting, removing graffiti, and landscaping. Studies have shown that environmental design can be effective in reducing crime rates. For example, a study in the Netherlands found that the installation of lighting in a high-crime area resulted in a significant reduction in crime rates.

- ✓ However, environmental design also has its limitations. One potential limitation is that it may not be feasible or affordable for all communities. Additionally, environmental design may not address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to crime, such as poverty and inequality.
- ✓ Access control is the third tactic of situational crime prevention, and it involves controlling access to targets. This can include installing fences, gates, and security guards. Access control has been shown to be effective in reducing crime rates. For example, a study in the United Kingdom found that the installation of security guards in a high-crime area resulted in a significant reduction in crime rates.
- ✓ However, access control also has its limitations. One potential limitation is that it may create social divisions and exacerbate inequalities. Additionally, access control may not address the underlying factors that contribute to crime, such as drug addiction and mental health issues.

QUESTION 7

7. How has SAPS adapted to changing crime trends and emerging technologies in the fight against crime? **[30 mark]**

Answer

- ✓ The South African Police Service (SAPS) has had to adapt to changing crime trends and emerging technologies in the fight against crime. This is because criminals are continually evolving and adopting new technologies, and the police need to keep pace with these changes to effectively prevent and control crime. The essay is based on the discussion of how SAPS has adapted to changing crime trends and emerging technologies in the fight against crime.
- ✓ One of the key ways that SAPS has adapted to changing crime trends is by investing in technology. For example, SAPS has implemented a new Integrated Justice System (IJS), which integrates various criminal justice databases and systems to improve information sharing and collaboration among law enforcement agencies. This has helped SAPS to better track and respond to emerging crime trends.
- ✓ SAPS has also invested in new technologies to enhance its crime prevention and control capabilities. For example, SAPS has implemented a new Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which allows for faster and more accurate identification of suspects and helps to link them to other crimes. SAPS has also implemented a new electronic case docket system, which allows for the electronic capture and storage of

criminal case dockets. This has helped to reduce the amount of time and paperwork required for criminal investigations.

- ✓ Another way that SAPS has adapted to changing crime trends is by developing new crime prevention strategies. For example, SAPS has implemented community policing forums (CPFs) in various communities to encourage community participation in crime prevention efforts. SAPS has also implemented a new Anti-Gang Unit (AGU) to target organized crime syndicates and gangs.
- ✓ However, SAPS still faces significant challenges in adapting to changing crime trends and emerging technologies. One of the main challenges is the limited resources and capacity of the police. For example, there are often not enough police officers to effectively patrol and respond to crime in high-crime areas. Additionally, there is a lack of specialized skills and expertise among police officers, particularly in areas such as cybercrime and digital forensics.
- ✓ Another challenge is the need for improved collaboration and information sharing among law enforcement agencies. SAPS must work closely with other agencies, such as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), to effectively prevent and control crime. However, there are often bureaucratic barriers and communication breakdowns that hinder collaboration among agencies.
- ✓ In conclusion, SAPS has adapted to changing crime trends and emerging technologies in various ways, such as investing in technology, developing new crime prevention strategies, and implementing community policing forums and specialized units. However, there are still significant challenges that need to be addressed, such as limited resources and capacity, the need for specialized skills and expertise, and the need for improved collaboration and information sharing among law enforcement agencies.