

Developing Your Interpretation and Evaluation Skills:

This sheet is a preparation for group discussion. Talk about it with your friends and family. Add ideas of your own from your reading and bring rough notes to the lesson. Refer to social theories, research and perspectives in your work.

1. Is our society obsessed by crime and criminal behaviours?

Think and talk about how much media time is taken over with fictional, factual and documentary discussions of crime and deviant behaviours. Why are you interested in this topic.

2. How deviant is our society?

What examples of deviant behaviour exist? Think of groups of deviant people as well as examples of deviance.

Can you prove/ disprove the central premise of the piece which is that there is some degree of deviance in our society?

Is your experience of the deviance of society first hand (you have been a victim) or second hand (you have heard about deviance and crime)? How has this experience affected your belief about the deviance and criminality or otherwise of society.

3. How could you set about trying to prove that our society is more (or less) deviant than societies of the past?

Try and think of a variety of methods that could be sociologically valid.

4. Develop and argue a strong case to prove that our society needs people who are deviant, different, non-conformist rule breakers.

Here you might like to consider questions of how society, science, art, music and the social world all achieve change.

5. Our society will admire the artful criminal more than the saintly good and noble person. Discuss.

Actually, it would be better practice at analysis for you to try and prove with evidence taken from all kinds of sources that the statement is true than argue against it. Find examples of criminal and deviant heroes from today and the past. Find examples of admirable criminals and rule breakers, both fictional and historical.

How do you feel when confronted by a real rebel? How are the IRA portrayed by American films? Develop your thoughts on these issues. How do you feel about the daily rebels in your school? Non-conformist teachers? Cheeky students?