

Introduction to Sociology

Chapter 7: Deviance

Study Guide

1. Forty years ago, being a child whose parents were divorced was commonly considered a stigma. Today, there is little stigma attached to this situation. Why do you think this is?
2. How might labeling affect an individual's behavior?
3. Give an example of a situation in which deviant behavior can positively affect society.
4. Identify a situation in which our society considers killing to be a deviant behavior. Identify a situation in which it would not be considered deviant behavior.
5. Some behaviors are illegal for juveniles but not for adults. List two such behaviors. Why do you think society has decided to make these behaviors illegal for juveniles but not for adults?
6. Why is it sometimes difficult to identify deviant behavior?
7. The chapter states that a major negative effect of deviant behavior is that it erodes trust. What does this mean? Give a specific example of how deviant behavior erodes trust.
8. Do you think white-collar crime is punished less severely than other types of crime? Why or why not?
9. Why do you think recidivism is so common in our criminal justice system?
10. What are two problems in the way in which crime statistics are gathered for the FBI's Uniform Crime Report?
11. Interpret and clarify this quote from the text: "Deviance promotes needed social change." Use examples to support your argument.
12. Identify and describe primary and secondary degrees of deviance.
13. Of the four approaches to crime control (deterrence, retribution, incarceration, and rehabilitation), explain which one may be least effective in reducing crime.