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| **Applications of Research into Criminal Behaviour:** Crime Reduction. | |
| Not many societies and governments seem to agree with the biological perspective on criminal behaviour. There is a lot of money and resources invested into trying to reduce crime, which implies that criminal behaviour can be changed. This would suggest that criminal behaviour is more to do with learning and experiences rather than genetics and brain structure. | |
| **Some exemplar answers from the mark scheme…**  Research shows that punishment can act as a deterrent. This is based on social learning theory. If people see criminals getting away with offending then they are more likely to copy the offence as it is being reinforced. However, if criminals are seen to be punished then there is less chance of others doing the same thus reducing crime overall.  Prisons reduce crime in three main ways. One is to punish offenders by taking away their freedom reducing the likelihood of offending again. Secondly, prisons give authorities the opportunity to rehabilitate offenders away from the potentially negative influences of their communities. Finally, prisons may prevent crime by deterring other potential offenders who can see the negative consequences of committing crimes. | Crimes can be punished through the use of custodial sentencing and rehabilitation programmes seek to condition offenders by reinforcing appropriate forms of behaviour.    If criminals are seen the be punished then this will acts as a deterrent to others who are less likely to imitate that particular behaviour, ‘media censorship (1) uses the principles of social learning to reduce crime by limiting access to negative role models (1) whom young children might be tempted to imitate, for example through gun use (1)’ |
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