

## Defining Deviance

---

Revise your core unit: ***People and Society***. Look at Norms, Morals and Values.

Here are the main ideas again:

**Norm**: This is what is considered normal behaviour for any given situation.

Give one example of a norm for school

**More**: This is what we consider to be right and wrong behaviour or ideas.

Give one example of a more for school.

**Values**: These are the ideas that are important in our lives and our society.

Give one example of a personal value that you hold

**Deviant:** A person who is deviant is one who breaks the **norms** of society.

Give one example of a behaviour that is deviant for our society.

Are the following forms of behaviour deviant or not? What do you think?

	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
Eating in lessons		
Sitting underneath desks		
Wearing wedding clothes to a sandy beach		
Smiling at friends		
Watching television		
Speeding in a car		
Buying cigarettes under age		
Refusing to go in lifts or aeroplanes		
Never telling fibs even to save people's feelings		
Giving away money to anyone who asks for it		

A deviant is someone who breaks a social rule. Social rules can either be written (laws and rules) or unwritten (normal ways of behaving).

Think of a law that we must all obey

Think of any rule we must all keep even though it is not a law.

If people break laws they are known as

---

Deviant behaviour depends upon

- a) The situation
- b) The culture.

A person who is deviant in one country might be considered perfectly normal in another.

Deviant behaviour is not always criminal behaviour.

Think of one law that nearly everybody breaks at some time.

Almost all criminal behaviour is deviant. Think of behaviours that are against the law and which everyone considers to be wrong

Summary point:

**Crime** is behaviour that breaks the written codes of rules for our society. Most criminal behaviour is deviant as well as criminal because it breaks the **norms, values** and **mores** of our society.

What is the difference between crime and deviance?

**Social control** is the way in which people are expected to follow all of society's rules and behave according to the norms of society.

Not all of us are concerned about the same social rules so you ought to discuss the examples with people in your group to see which rules they obey and why.

- People obey social rules much of the time and will do so even when there is no-one there to see that they are obeyed.
- People will obey social rules even when to do so will result in injury or death.
- People often react with great hostility to people who break important social rules.
- People learn the social rules through the process of socialisation.

We seem to follow social rules for these reasons:

- We learn some rules from our families and friends and do not really question whether they are correct or not, we just carry on doing what everyone else does.
- We learn some social rules so strongly that they are **mores or morals**. We cannot break them because we would feel terrible if we did. These are internal (inside yourself) rules. You could call these rules, your **conscience**.
- . We are afraid of getting caught doing something wrong and suffering from everyone else's bad opinion as a result.