



**Explain why sociologists find it difficult to precisely define the limits of deviant behaviour.
(10 marks)**

*The wording of this question is difficult. The answer is simpler so do not be put off. The question is about the fact that most people commit some minor criminal acts and yet are basically honest and decent people. You will need to revise your work on **norms** and **values**. Check out the difference between **moral codes** and **legal codes**.*

Defining your terms.

1. What is deviant behaviour? Explain in two or three sentences.
2. What do the terms **norm** and **more** refer to in relationship to deviant behaviour? Explain in one or two sentences.

The body of the essay

3. Write a paragraph explaining how some behaviour is definitely both deviant and illegal. Give an example of such behaviour. Think of a recent murder case or rape case that has been in the news for your example.

Prove that, as a general rule, people are very shocked by this sort of behaviour. Use evidence from any source to support this idea.

Use some of the following ideas: moral code, moral panic

4. Write another short paragraph explaining how some behaviour is deviant but not immoral or against the law.

You could use examples such as the behaviour of vegetarians or any other group of people which is a little unusual but generally harmless to others. Be careful in your choice of example. You should remember that many people would regard sexual deviation to be immoral while others do not.

Suggest that, as a general rule, people have strict ideas about what is normal behaviour but that these ideas of normality do vary from group to group.

5. Write another paragraph explaining that it is normal to break some of society's rules.

Give examples of times when it is acceptable to tell fibs or to bend the truth a little even though we all agree that telling lies is very wrong.

Prove that, as a general rule, people tend not to break the law but that each of us has some laws or norms that we are willing to break.

Conclusion

In the light of the previous few paragraphs explain why you think sociologists find it difficult to decide what is normal behaviour and what is deviant behaviour.