

5 Crime

Activities

Understanding the text: identifying relationships between ideas and theories

1 a What can you remember about these criminal theories? Make a note of any ideas or comments.

- Italian positivism
- body-type studies
- labelling

b How are these theories and ideas connected?

2 The Unit 5 text describes some more research into criminal behaviour based on genetics. Read it and answer these questions.

- 1 What aspect of deviant family research is still important today?
- 2 What evidence is there that criminal tendencies and genetics may be linked?
- 3 Why were people concerned about the discovery of a 'criminal' gene?
- 4 Is there a relationship between criminal fathers and the criminal behaviour of their children? Explain your answer.
- 5 Give two reasons why sibling similarities may be explained not only by genetics. Write them in your own words.
- 6 Of the two different types of twins (MZ and DZ), which was the more likely to share criminal behaviour?
- 7 Is there a difference in twins' behaviour when they are not raised together?

Language focus: modals and hedging

3 a Read the final paragraphs again. Is this research completely accepted? Underline the language that helped you to make your decision.

Twin studies also have their detractors. Some opponents suggest that available evidence provides little conclusive proof that crime is genetically predetermined. Not all research efforts have found that MZ twin pairs are more closely related in their criminal behaviour than DZ or ordinary sibling pairs, and some have found an association note that is at best 'modest'. Those who oppose the genes-crime relationship point to the inadequate research designs and weak methodologies of supporting research. The new, better-designed research studies, critics charge, provide less support than earlier, less methodically sound studies.

Even if the behaviour similarities between MZ twins are greater than those between DZ twins, the association may be explained by environmental factors. MZ twins are more likely to look alike and to share physical traits than DZ twins, and they are more likely to be treated similarly. Similarities in their shared behaviour patterns may therefore be a function of socialization and/or environment and not heredity.

b Write the phrases you underlined in the appropriate column of this table.

cautious language	criticizing theories

c Can you add any more language to the table?

4 Using cautious language, write a brief summary of one of the theories mentioned in the text (e.g. parental deviance). Cover these topics.

- Importance in the field
- Strength of the theory
- Weaknesses in the theory

5 a Complete this table with the correct forms of the words. They all come from the Academic Word List.

verb	noun	adjective	adverb
		conclusive	
	attitude		
	linkage, link		
			selectively
maintain			

b Complete these sentences using the correct form of the words in the table above. Use each word family once only.

- 1 The results did not provide proof that he had committed the crime.
- 2 There is a between parental deviance and criminal behaviour in children.
- 3 He undertook several studies of how the general public felt about different types of punishment for young offenders.
- 4 A younger sibling may behave deviantly in order to a good relationship with an older sibling.
- 5 The subjects were chosen, based on their background and previous criminal behaviour.