

## Unit 2 Topic 3.2 Page 133

### Activity: Discussion

#### Evaluating cognitive theories

##### Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- evaluate a cognitive theory of criminality.

1. Working in pairs and using the list of crimes below:

How could criminal personality theory account for each type of crime? Use the link to identify which thinking errors and biases you think would be most likely in each case.

(Note: you may find that several errors can be linked to any given type of crime.)

<https://www.criminalthinking.net/top-ten-criminal-thinking-errors/>

- 'honour' crimes
  - domestic violence
  - fraud
2. Working in pairs, for each of the following thinking errors or biases, suggest one or more crimes where the error might be an important aspect of the criminals' thinking:
    - fear of fear
    - lack of time perspective
    - victim stance
  3. As a class, discuss your answers to 1 and 2 above and see how far you all agreed. Did you find that criminal personality theory allows you to distinguish clearly between the causes of different crimes?
  4. Apart from how a criminal *thinks*, what other things might you want to take into account when trying to explain some of the crimes mentioned above?