

**Unit 2 Topic 3.2 Page 137**

**Activity: Media**

**Evaluating theories of crime**

**Learning objective**

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

- evaluate the usefulness of combining theories of criminology.

A. Using the link below, answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbikaH4GTS0>

1. According to Boutwell, what is the problem of the science of crime?
2. What biological factors linked to crime does Boutwell list?
3. According to Boutwell, what social processes have taken priority over biological factors in the study of crime?
4. Why does Boutwell suggest that science may not be open to change?
5. What factors did Lombroso consider when trying to understand where crime comes from?
6. According to Boutwell, what happened in 'the wake of Lombroso's eulogy' (i.e. when Lombroso died)?
7. What does Boutwell suggest Lombroso may have been right about in his attempts to study criminology?
8. According to Boutwell, what are the two factors we need to examine to understand why people differ?
9. Which factor has been taken out of the equation for criminology students?
10. How does Boutwell suggest we can understand the impact of genes and the environment?
11. What has been found from twin studies?
12. What does Boutwell's example about him and his brother show for the study of crime?
13. What did the study of fifty years of twin studies find?
14. What is the impact of the findings in question 13 on the study of criminology?
15. What is the problem of ignoring genetic influences on the study of crime?
16. Why might existing theories of criminality be wrong?
17. Why does Boutwell think it is a disaster to keep studying criminology in the same way?
18. According to Boutwell, what is the advantage of using biosocial theories and methods?

B. Using Topic 3.2 and your answers to 1-18, write a summary paragraph of why we may need to consider more than one theory when trying to understand the causes of crime. In your answer you could consider how the strengths and limitations of biological, individualistic and sociological theories might combine.