

**Unit 1 Topic 1.5 Page 35**  
**Activity: Discussion**  
**Stereotyping of criminals**

**Learning objective**

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

- **assess how far popular stereotypes of criminals match different kinds of offenders.**
- A. Working in small groups:
1. Make a list of characteristics most people would think of for the 'typical criminal'. This may include age, social class, gender, ethnicity and other characteristics. You could ask relatives or friends who are not studying criminology for their image of the typical criminal. (You may also like to consider why they hold these images.)
  2. Look back at Topic 1.1. For each of the different types of crime, who are the typical offenders?
  3. Which of those offenders match the 'typical criminal' image in Question 1 and which ones do not? Why might there be differences or similarities?
- B. Present your group's answers to questions 1-3 to the whole class and compare them. What similarities or differences are there with other groups' answers? Summarise whether your class findings confirm ideas about the 'typical criminal' (see page 35 of your textbook).