# Defining and Measuring Crime - Mark Scheme

## Q1.

(a) **[AO1 = 1]**

Official statistics (or similar eg police statistics)

Note: can identify by name, example or description.

(b) **[AO1 = 1]**

(Offender) self-report (accept specific examples of offender surveys eg OCJS)

Note: can identify by name, example or description.

(c) **[AO1 = 1]**

Victim surveys (accept BCS)

Note: can identify by name, example or description.

## Q2.

**[AO2 = 4]**

| Level | Marks | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 4 | Two problems are clear and coherent and both are applied clearly to the stem. |
| 3 | 3 | Two problems are clearly presented but only one is appropriately applied to the stem. |
| 2 | 2 | Two problems are presented and one is applied to the stem. The answer lacks clarity. **OR** One problem is clearly presented and appropriately applied to the stem. |
| 1 | 1 | One problem is presented and / or applied to the stem. The answer lacks clarity. |
|  | 0 | No relevant content. |

**Problems:**

- time relative because attitudes change according to historical context PLUS application: over time attitudes to child rearing and child discipline have changed and so, whilst smacking was common practice many years ago it is no longer acceptable
- culturally relative because social attitudes / mores differ between cultures PLUS application: having more than one wife / husband is socially acceptable in some cultures because it is legal and common practice.

## Q3.

**[AO1 = 3   AO3 = 5]**

| Level | Marks | Description |
|-------|-------|-------------|
| 4 | 7 – 8 | Knowledge of different ways of measuring crime is accurate and generally well detailed. Discussion is effective. The answer is clear, coherent and focused. Specialist terminology is used effectively. Minor detail and/or expansion of argument sometimes lacking. |
| 3 | 5 – 6 | Knowledge of different ways of measuring crime is evident. There are occasional inaccuracies. There is some effective discussion. The answer is mostly clear and organised. Specialist terminology mostly used effectively. |
| 2 | 3 – 4 | Knowledge of different ways of measuring crime is present. Focus is mainly on description. Any discussion is of limited effectiveness. The answer lacks clarity, accuracy and organisation in places. Specialist terminology used inappropriately on occasions. |
| 1 | 1 – 2 | Knowledge of different ways of measuring crime is limited. Discussion is limited, poorly focused or absent. The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology either absent or inappropriately used. |
|   | 0 | No relevant content. |

**Possible content:**

• Official Home Office statistics

• Victim surveys (CSEW formerly BCS)

• Offender surveys

**Possible discussion points**

• No fully acceptable way of defining crime – crime as social construction

• Official statistics may be selective eg number of crimes or conviction rates?

• Figures may be massaged for political reasons

• Victim surveys include crimes not officially reported, so are more accurate

• It would be relevant to discuss reasons for non-reporting of crime eg lack of trust in police, trivial nature of some crime, fear of revenge attacks

• Offender surveys may be unreliable – over or under reporting; largely ignore white collar crime

Note that problems in defining crime are not referred to in the question and answers not

covering definitions can receive marks across the board. However, as definitions and measurement are necessarily linked, discussion of ways of defining crime can be credited.

Credit other relevant materials.