

Offender Profiling - Mark Scheme

Q1.

[AO1 = 2]

1 mark for brief outline

Plus

1 further mark for elaboration

Possible content:

- The study of spatial behaviour in relation to crime and offenders.
- Focuses on the location of crime as clues to where offenders live, work and socialise.
- Relevant data include the crime scene, local crime statistics, local transport, geographical spread of similar crimes etc.
- Based on the notion of schema theory and mental mapping

The data can be combined into a model, the jeopardy surface, though explicit reference to this is not necessary for 2 marks.

Q2.

[AO1 = 2]

2 marks for a clear, coherent explanation of the top-down approach to offender profiling.

1 mark for a very brief, limited or muddled explanation.

Content:

- conceptual categories/templates of organised and disorganised offender are pre-existing in the mind of the profiler
- evidence from the crime scene and other details of the crime/victim/context are then used to fit into either of the pre-existing categories and determine the offender as one type or the other.

Q3.

[AO3 = 2]

1 mark for a brief explanation of a limitation (must be explained rather than stated).

Plus

1 mark for elaboration.

Possible limitations:

- based on a restricted sample of 36 serial sex offenders (therefore cannot be

- generalised to a wide population)
- based on the self-reports from this sample (which cannot therefore be relied on for validity)
- distinction is an oversimplification (difficult to categorise some offenders as one type or another so is of questionable validity / usefulness)
- research (Canter 2004) shows evidence for the organised type only (suggesting that organisation is a characteristic typical of most serial killers).

Credit other valid limitations.