# Module 6

## Psychology and Crime

The psychology of crime is the study of the psychological factors that contribute to criminal behavior, including the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ traits of individuals involved in illegal activities. This field of study seeks to understand why some individuals engage in criminal acts while others do not and how psychological factors interact with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ influences to shape criminal behavior.

Certain personality traits have been associated with an increased likelihood of criminal behavior. Traits such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and a lack of conscience or guilt (associated with psychopathy) have been linked to criminal conduct.

Cognitive factors play a role in criminal behavior. Deficits in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ skills, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ functions can lead individuals to engage in criminal acts as a way of addressing their problems or achieving their goals.

Mental health issues can be relevant to criminal behavior, particularly in cases of severe disorders like antisocial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disorder, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disorder, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disorders. However, it is essential to recognize that most people with mental health issues are not involved in criminal activities.

Adverse childhood experiences, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence, can significantly impact an individual’s likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior later in life. Early trauma can affect brain development and lead to maladaptive coping strategies.

The social learning theory suggests that individuals \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ behaviors, including criminal ones, through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of others. Exposure to criminal role models or environments can contribute to the adoption of criminal behavior.

Family influences, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ discipline, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conflict, or a lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ supervision, can impact an individual’s likelihood of engaging in criminal conduct. A dysfunctional family environment may contribute to the development of delinquent behavior.

Peer relationships and social networks can play a significant role in criminal behavior. Association with delinquent peers can reinforce criminal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, leading to further involvement in criminal activities.

Substance abuse can impair judgment and increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal acts to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drugs or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an addiction.

Advances in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have shown that brain structure and functioning can influence behavior, including criminal conduct. Abnormalities in certain brain regions may be associated with increased \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.