

**How can we help US and UK  
gang members leave gangs?**

Key Stage 5

Sociology and Media Studies

**Teacher Guide**

# Resource One

## Model Answers



**Answers** 1. Explain the difference between qualitative and quantitative data

Quantitative data is objective. It is statistical and numerical in nature. This type of data is used in sociological research to determine trends and answers the questions 'Who? When? Where? and 'How many?'. Qualitative data is subjective. It is more descriptive in nature and provides more in-depth information. This type of data is used in sociological research to gain a deeper understanding of a topic and answers the questions 'How?' and 'Why?'

2. List the advantages and disadvantages of quantitative data.

Advantages:

- Effectively tests theories and hypotheses
- Provides information on trends and numbers
- Can (usually) be replicated and tested

Disadvantages:

- Can be unreliable due to 'dark figure of crime;
- Does not provide in-depth information
- Can be expensive and time-consuming depending on sample size

3. Is narrative analysis a form of primary or secondary research method? Explain why.

Narrative analysis is a form of secondary research method because the data being used already exists.

# Resource One

## Model Answers



### Answers

#### 4. What is the dark figure of crime?

A sociological and criminological term that refers to the unreliability of crime statistics due to underreporting and under-recording. The dark figure is the unknown number of crimes that have occurred but are not included in crime statistics for a number of reasons including the following:

- The victim's allegation was not taken seriously
- The crime was not witnessed
- Human error
- A conscious decision by law enforcement not to record the crime
- The victim does not know/understand that what occurred was a crime
- The victim does not feel comfortable/safe enough to report
- The victim is incapable of reporting the crime (i.e. a child/disabled person)
- The crime was not legally a crime at the time it was committed

#### 5. Create a research design using the subheadings below for a study titled 'The Female Experience in a Los Angeles Street Gang'.

(Activity is open to interpretation and will differ by student due to it being a creative task rather than a straightforward question and answer activity. However, the following page demonstrates what would be considered a model response to the task).

# Resource One

## Model Answers



### Answers 5.

#### Methods

The methods used will be both primary and secondary and qualitative in nature. The primary data will be in the form of semi-structured open-ended interviews with female ex-gang members. The secondary data will be in the form of narrative analysis of female gang autobiographies and interviews.

#### Rationale

Semi-structured open-ended interviews will provide in-depth information straight from the source (female ex-gang members). Narrative analysis through autobiography, as a secondary data source, will similarly provide in-depth first-hand accounts of the female experience in an LA street gang.

#### Access

I will contact a non-profit organisation, such as Homeboy Industries, and request permission to carry out primary research with some of their female employees. They have a café called 'Homegirl Café' in which female ex-gang members work, so I will visit the premises and undertake my interviews here. If I am unable to visit the premises directly, I will carry out the interviews via video call using a platform such as Zoom. The autobiographies will be found using Google Scholar and library resources.

#### Ethical considerations

Interviewing ex-gang members raises some ethical concerns regarding safety. I will ensure that the interviews are undertaken in a safe environment (such as Homegirl Café). I will provide an interview guide that is sensitive to the experiences of the participants. I will also include a written brief of the research, consent forms and offer anonymity and confidentiality throughout. The data will be stored safely on a password protected computer.



# Resource Two

## Model Answers

### Answers

1.

- (1) 1988
- (2) 2015
- (3) Vague
- (4) Violence
- (5) Segregation and discrimination
- (6) Lack of other opportunities

2. Research the Bloods and the Crips. Create a list of indicators of gang membership for each gang and compare these (style of clothing, colour of clothing, gang hand symbols, tattoos, activities etc.).

Bloods:

- Use of the colours red and black
- Clothing such as (mostly red and/or black) bandanas, heavy use of jewellery, sportswear.
- Tattoos - 'MOB' (member of Bloods), dog paw, word 'blood', set name, five-pointed stars, crowns, teardrops.
- Symbols and signs – letter 'B', letters 'C K' (for 'Crip Killer'), five-pointed star, word 'Blood',

Crips:

- Use of the colours blue and grey
- Clothing such as (mostly blue and/or grey) bandanas, heavy use of jewellery, sportswear. East Coast Crips wear accessories on left hand side, West Coast Crips wear on right hand side.
- Tattoos – 6-pointed star, number '6', letter 'C', pitchfork.
- Symbols and signs - 6-pointed star, pitchfork, letter 'C', word 'Crips', letters 'BK' (for Blood Killer),

# Resource Two

## Model Answers



**Answers** 3. Look at the definition provided by the California STEP Act. Keeping in mind the importance of critical review in sociology, reflect on the following questions:

‘A group of three or more persons ... having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in, or have engaged in, a pattern of criminal gang activity’

(Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act, 1988)

✓ Who is creating this definition?

The state/government is creating this definition.

✓ What is the aim of this definition?

The aim of this definition is to be used by the state to criminalise gang membership and increase sentences for gang related criminality.

✓ Could the use of this definition be open to bias?

The use of this definition could certainly be open to bias, racial profiling and discrimination, and individuals being wrongly accused of gang membership due to how vague the definition provided is.

✓ Do you agree with this definition?

This is open to interpretation of the student; however a model answer would justify why they agree or disagree and would look something like the following)

No, I do not agree with this definition as I believe it is too vague and some of the terms used such as ‘terrorism’ are racially prejudiced.

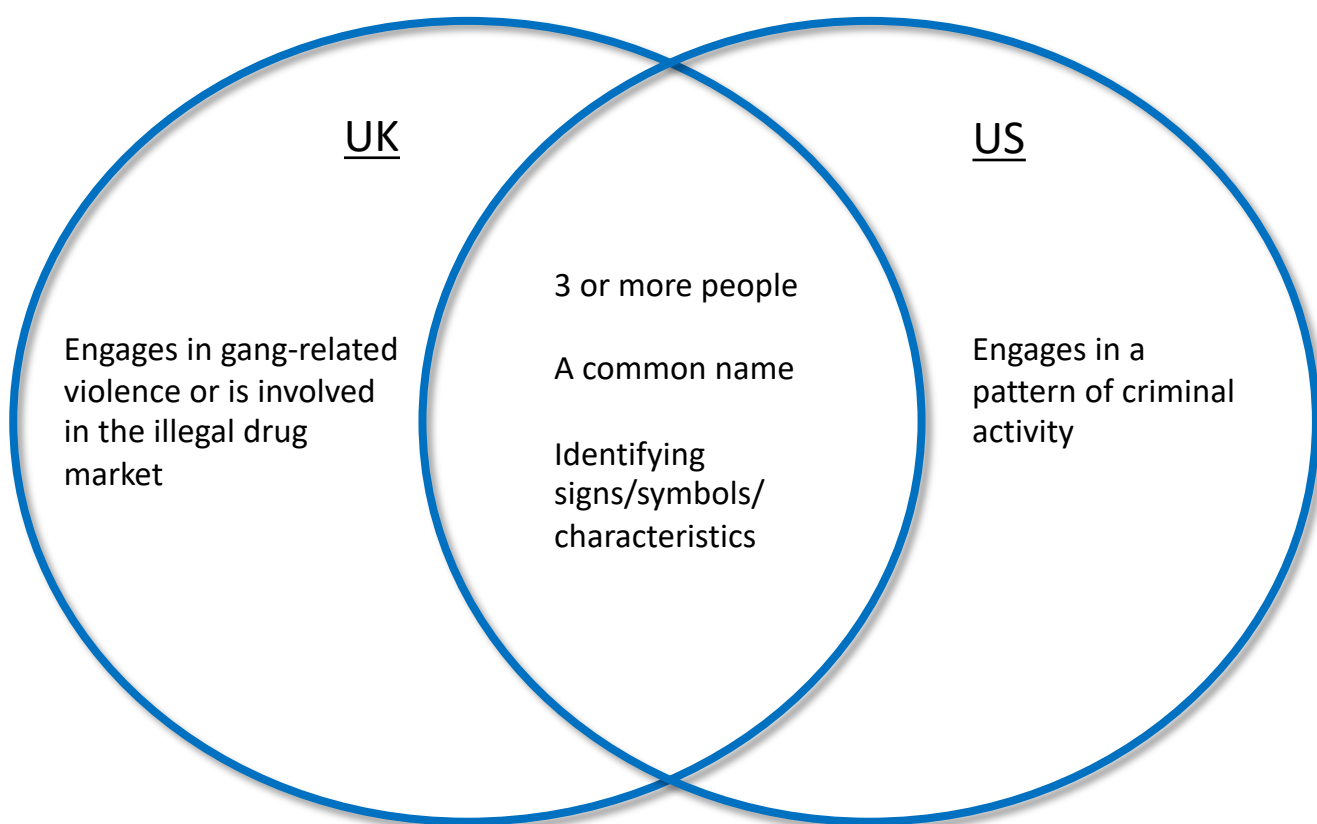
## Resource Two Model Answers



**Answers** 4. What is meant by social and cultural isolation?  
The separation of minority groups from the larger population in terms of social equality and opportunities.

5. Complete the Venn diagram below:

Legal definitions of street gangs



# Resource Three

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 1.**

(Open to interpretation of student/creative exercise. However, a model answer would look something like the following)

#### **TV Show - Top Boy**

Minority youth are portrayed as:

'Hoodies'

'Thugs'

'Criminals'

'Drug addicts'

'School drop-outs'

'Poor'

### **Activity 2.**

(Open to interpretation of student/creative exercise. However, a model answer would critique the three articles, using what has been learned from the resource as the backbone of the review. The reflection questions should be clearly answered, either under headings or within the text.)

### **Activity 3.**

- Prostitution
- Drug dealing
- 'Stick-up' robberies
- Theft
- Lookout/decoys
- Acts of violence



# Resource Three

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 4.**

A narrative used in politics and the media that demonises offenders as 'the threatening outcast, the fearsome stranger ... to excited popular fears and hostilities, and to promote support for state punishment'

### **Activity 5.**

(Open to interpretation of the student/creative exercise. However, a model answer would look something like the following):

I would identify the characters of the movie 'This is England' as gang members because they fit the definition given by the STEP Act (1988). They are a group of three or more persons who have a common identifying sign or symbol and collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity. The common sign/symbols are as following:

- Clothing style (Dr Marten boots etc.)
- Skinhead hairstyle

They also engage in a pattern of criminal activity which includes:

- Property damage
- Intimidation/threats
- Violence
- Theft
- Drug-related offences

# Resource Four

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 1.**

Aging/growing out of crime is an important push factor and increases the individual's desire to desist because of the many life experiences that occur during the aging process. Four of these factors are:

- Marriage
- Having a family
- Becoming more aware of mortality
- Death of loved ones

These all positively influence desistance and push gang members out of gangs and gang criminality. Marriage and having a family are push factors because of the responsibility and relationships involved. People tend to become more aware of their mortality as they age, meaning that they are more likely to desire desistance as the fear of death increased. Gang members will also experience the death of loved ones as they age which is significant factor into wanting to desist.

### **Activity 2.**

Religion is an important factor and related to transformation of identity, and social and emotional relationships. Finding (or changing) religion significantly transforms identities and allows gang members to create an identity for themselves that is based on their religious beliefs. Social and emotional relationships are also a factor of finding/changing religion because of the community/family aspect that people often find in gangs.

# Resource Four

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 3.**

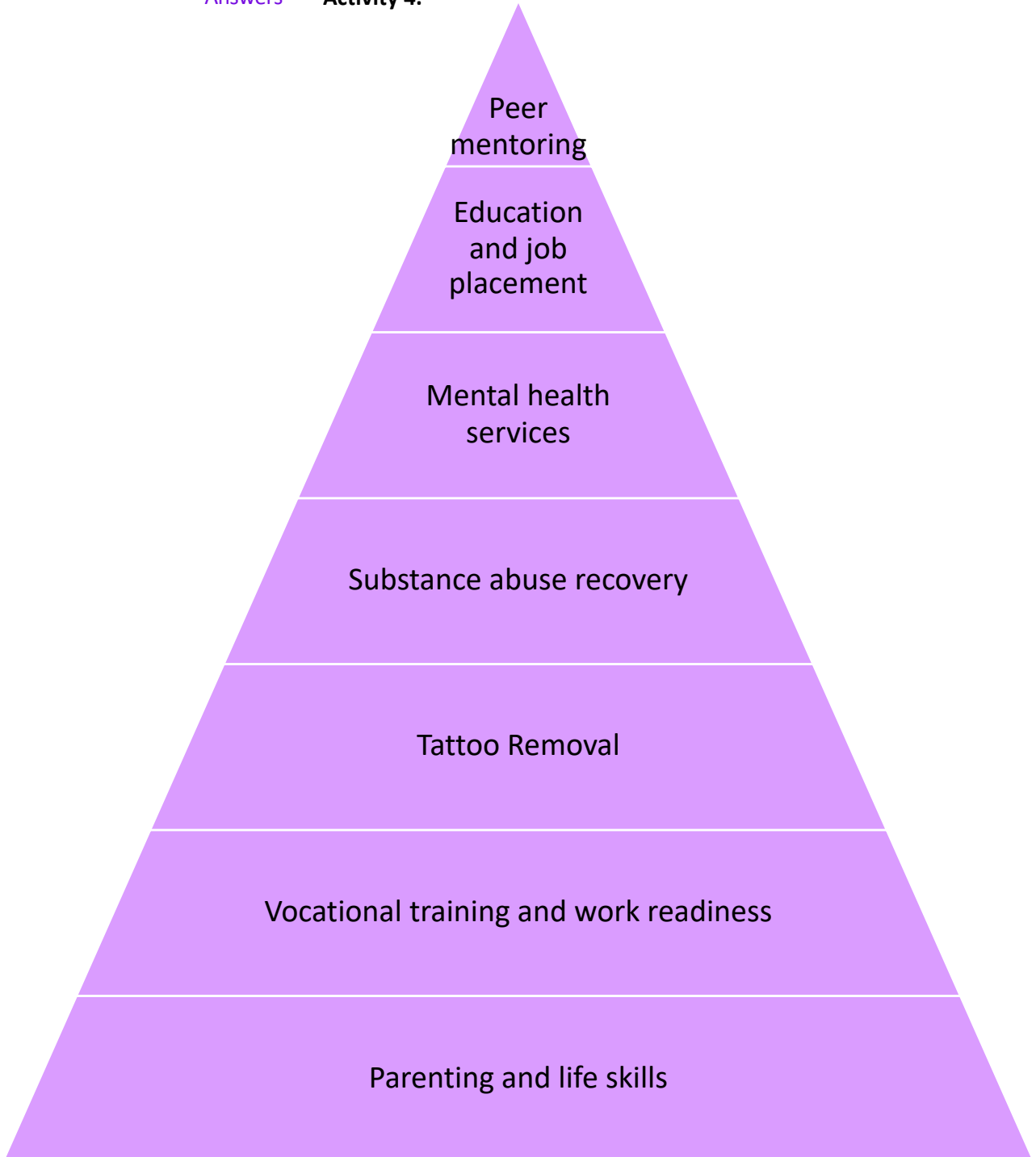
I would consider this successful desistance because, although the person has fallen back into the gang lifestyle, they have successfully quit once and are attempting to quit again. Desistance is a process rather than a singular act, and this often means periods of recidivism occur.

# Resource Four

## Model Answers



**Answers**    **Activity 4.**



# Resource Five

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 1.**

Unconscious/implicit bias training - teaching officers to understand and confront their unconscious biases regarding minority groups.

Lectures/presentations from successfully desisted ex-gang members to educate officers on the desistance process and gang experience.

Lectures/presentations about the Rampart scandal – outline what happened and how officers can learn from this and ensure it does not reoccur.

### **Activity 2.**

Active participation in a street gang: up to 1 year and 8 months

A 'serious' gang-related offence: up to 8 years

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### **Activity 3.**

'Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums'

This is controversial because it feeds into negative stereotypes about minority youth, youth in general and gang members because of the term 'street hoodlums'. This is dehumanising in nature and serves to 'other' gang members and youth.

### **Activity 4.**

- Prosecution for contempt of court
- A jail sentence of up to 6 months
- A fine (usually around \$1000).

# Resource Five

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 5.**

I think that Black and Hispanic people likely do make up a large number of street gangs due to factors leading to their gang membership including social and cultural isolation, racial segregation, racism etc. However, I do not think the CalGang statistics are reliable because they have been proven to be racially discriminatory and include Black children who could not possibly be active gang members. As well as this, I think the statistics are likely unreliable because minority youth are more likely to be stop and searched than their white counterparts and this is reflected in the data.

# Resource Six

## Model Answers



### Answers **Activity 1.**

A fine and/or a prison sentence

### **Activity 2.**

They would:

- Have increased police resources allocated to them
- Be at increased risk of stop-and-search
- Be at increased risk of arrest and prosecution
- Be subject to social media surveillance

### **Activity 3.**

Because changes to policy and legislation and anti-gang enforcement approaches such as increased police stop-and-searches mean that people are more likely to be found carrying a knife or bladed weapon. This means that the statistics show an increase in knife-carrying, leading to the alleged 'knife-crime epidemic'.

### **Activity 4.**

I do not think that increased stop-and-search practices are a useful gang intervention technique because it does not get to the social root of gang formation and membership and address the reasons people join gangs. As well as this, stop-and-search processes are rife with issues of racial profiling which only serves to increase minority youths distrust of police.



# Resource Six

## Model Answers

**Answers**    **Activity 5.**

They prohibit people from:

- Associating with certain people
- Visiting certain locations/areas
- Being on the street during 'curfew' hours

**Activity 6.**

Gang injunctions:

**Prevention**

**Intervention**

**Rehabilitation**

Gangs Matrix:

**Prevention**

**Intervention**

**Rehabilitation**

KCPOs:

**Prevention**

**Intervention**

**Rehabilitation**

Trident Gang Command:

**Prevention**

**Intervention**

**Rehabilitation**

The above are all intervention because they are all intervening in an existing issue rather than preventing it from occurring or providing assistance in the rehabilitation/reintegration process.



## Resource Six Model Answers



### Answers **Extension activity:**

After reviewing the literature, it appears that the breeding and use of 'dangerous dogs' is not a true indicator of gang membership and, in actuality, is rooted in stereotypes about gang members and certain breeds of dog. Although there is evidence that certain breeds of dog (such as Pit Bull Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers) have historically been used for profit through dog-fighting and so forth, there is little evidence to suggest that this should be used as an indicator of gang membership. The literature suggests that these breeds of dog have been stereotyped as 'dangerous' when actually they can be very good, non-dangerous pets. Hallsworth (2011) argues that dogs are actually the victims and it is humans who have created the stereotype of the 'dangerous dog'. As well as this, the literature finds that government policy and legislation changes have perpetuated the alleged connection between gangs and dangerous dogs. In conclusion, there is little evidence that the breeding and use of 'dangerous dogs' is a true indicator of gang membership and there are other, more appropriate, indicators that should be used when identifying gang members.



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