

# **SECURITY EDUCATION**

**for**

# **JSS ONE**



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<b>CHAPTER ONE: MEANING OF COMMON CRIMES</b>	<b>43</b>
Definition of Common Crimes .....	43
List of Common Crimes .....	43
Objective and Structure Questions.....	45
<b>CHAPTER TWO: CAUSES OF COMMON CRIMES</b>	<b>46</b>
Effects of Common Crimes .....	46
Objective and Structure Questions.....	49
<b>CHAPTER THREE: PREVENTION OF COMMON</b>	

## **CRIMES**

Security Agencies in Nigeria

Objective and Structure Questions

50

52

53



# Chapter 1

## MEANING OF COMMON CRIMES

### Objectives

At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

1. Define common crimes.
2. Identify common crimes.

Common crimes are punishable under common laws of a country unlike crimes specified by statutes. Common crimes are generally those punishable by fine, penalty, forfeiture or imprisonment.

The under listed can be classified as common crimes:

- a) **Armed Robbery** - This is an act of dispossessing people of their belongings through the use of ammunition like cutlass, guns, etc. Example robbing of bank through the use of guns.
- b) **Murder** - This is an act of killing a person intentionally. E.g. Husband that kills his wife commits murder.
- c) **Theft** - This describes crime of taking something that belongs to someone else and keeping it.
- d) **Battering** - (i.e. husband beating his wife)
- e) **Forgery** - This is an illegal copy of a document or altering figures to suit ones illicit desire.
- f) **Embezzlement** - This is an act of diverting public funds for private use. When money that is meant for

the generality of people or citizens of a country is used for private and selfish reason, this is an embezzlement.

- g) **Frauds** - This is the crime of getting money from people through deceitful means.
- h) **Kidnapping** - This is forceful taking away of people while ransom or money is demanded in exchange.
- i) **Rape** - This is a crime of using force to have carnal knowledge of the opposite sex.
- j) **Manslaughter** - This is the crime of killing someone unintentionally. This could be a gross mistake that leads to the loss of life.
- k) **Public Nuisance** - is an act of creating unrest or causing unnecessary troubles in the public. This infringes on the right of others of peaceful co-existence.
- l) **Contempt of Court** - This is an illegal act of flagrant disobedience or lack of respect to the rules of a law court.
- m) **Obstructing the Course of Justice** - This is an illegal act or crime of preventing the rule of law to take its proper course.
- n) **Treason** - It is a crime of lack of loyalty to a country in which its citizen cooperate with enemy or make attempt to subvert the government of that country.
- o) **Trade in fake and expired drugs** - is a crime of buying and selling of fake and expired medicines for the use of innocent people. This has led to the death of many innocent people that used these drugs gullibly.



## Chapter 2

### CAUSES OF COMMON CRIMES



#### Objectives

At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

1. State the causes of common crimes.
2. Explain the factors that aid common crimes.

As discussed in earlier chapter, common crimes are offences punishable under common laws of a state. Listed below are causes of common crimes:

- (a) **FAMILY BACKGROUND:** Wrong upbringing of a child can lead him to crime. When children are left on their own without parental guidance and supervision they may fall into wrong hands and consequently take to criminal acts.
- (b) **POVERTY:** Poverty is a situation of lack and deprivation which can make people to do wrong things in order to make end meet. Hunger and deprivation can also lead someone without strong will into crime.
- (c) **PEER INFLUENCE:** This is another equally important cause of common crimes. Peer influence can lead promising youths into rape, drug addiction, armed robbery and other social vices.
- (d) **GREEDINESS** among Government officials can also

p) **Prison break** - It is a crime in which prisoners or inmates break away before conviction by law court or before completing their jail terms.

q) **Drug trafficking** - This is an illegal trade which involves carrying contraband drugs within and across the borders of a country.

#### OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Acts that are harmful to individuals, community and the country is known as \_\_\_\_\_. (a) cyber crime (b) common crime (c) illegal deeds (d) yahoo.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ involves diverting public funds for private use. (a) money transfer (b) open finance (c) embezzlement
  3. Common crimes at times are punishable by (a) imprisonment (b) applause (c) retirement (d) community effort.
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ means forcefully having carnal knowledge of an individual of the opposite sex. (a) carnality (b) romance (c) sodomy (d) rape.
  5. Transporting hard drugs from one country to another is known as \_\_\_\_\_. (a) drug trafficking (b) drug abuse (c) drug retailing (d) all of the above.
1. Define common crimes.
  2. List and explain FIVE common crimes.

#### STRUCTURED QUESTIONS



lead to embezzlement, fraud, forgery and theft.

(e) **UNCONTROLLED ANGER AND EMOTION** can lead somebody to commit common crimes such as murder, assault and wife battering. There had been cases of husbands beating their wives to death as a result of uncontrolled anger.

(f) **POROUS BORDER:** The wide expanse of the country's porous borders is another cause of common crimes. These borders have been entry and exit points for criminals and gun runners. Small arms and light weapons which aids crimes are brought into the country in large quantity through porous borders.

(g) **THE CULTURE** of get-rich-quick based on greed, which pervades our society today is a major cause of common crime. It is often fashionable to see Government officials stealing millions of naira and also youths talking of millions of naira even when they are still in School.

(h) **UNEMPLOYMENT:** Idle hands they say is the devil's workshop. As a result of the prevalent unemployment, school leavers and graduates who are not employed often take to crime in other to make ends meet. Also those who are underemployed resort to stealing and embezzlement to survive.

(i) **The Nigerian civil war of 1967-1970** is another major cause of crime in the country for two reasons:

1) Criminals were able to buy or steal weapons from the military which they use for armed robbery operations.

2) Some demobilized and unemployed soldiers who had no means of survival after the war were lured into using their military skills and weapons for criminal purposes.

### **EFFECTS OF COMMON CRIMES**

#### **ON INDIVIDUAL:**

- i. Loss of lives and properties
- ii. Emotional trauma by a raped person
- iii. Fear in the mind of individuals as a result of insecurity caused by crimes
- iv. Individuals spend fortune in providing security for themselves and their homes.
- v. There is mutual suspicion among citizens

#### **ON THE COUNTRY:**

- i. There will be general insecurity in the country.
- ii. The country will be viewed as an unsafe country and other countries will warn their nationals not to travel there.
- iii. Funds that could have been used to provide infrastructure for the country will be used to fight crimes.
- iv. Economic activities will be disrupted generally
- v. Citizens generally may not have trust and confidence in their leaders which may lead to civic disobedience.
- vi. Government will be spending a lot of money on arresting, prosecuting and maintaining criminals in prison.



## OBJECTIVES QUESTIONS

1. \_\_\_\_\_ may lead youths into crime.  
(a) unemployment (b) education (c) fashion  
(d) none of the above.
2. A situation of lack and deprivation is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) anger (b) poverty (c) right denial (d) laziness.
3. Armed robbers that are foreigners may enter a country is the \_\_\_\_\_ is porous. (a) gate (b) exit  
(c) border  
(d) governor.
4. The Nigerian Civil war took place between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 1967/1970 (b) 1980/1987  
(c) 1960/1966 (d) 1963/1966.
5. When there is \_\_\_\_\_, fear will rule the mind of citizens.  
(a) election (b) common wealth (c) citizenship  
(d) insecurity.

## STRUCTURED QUESTIONS

1. Enumerate 5 causes of common crimes in Nigeria.
2. How does common crime affects citizen of Nigeria.
3. What are the effects of common crimes on the country.

## Chapter 3

### PREVENTION OF COMMON CRIMES



#### Objectives

At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

Explain ways of preventing common crimes such as:

- a) Ways of relating with security agents.
- b) Role of school and neighbourhood authorities in crime prevention.
- c) Avoiding criminal behaviours.

Crime prevention is an attempt by individuals and government to reduce or prevent crime and criminals. It refers specifically to efforts made by Government to reduce crime, enforce the law and maintain criminal justice. The following are ways of preventing common crimes in the society.

- (a) **RESPONSIBLE PARENTING:** Parents must be up to the task of giving their children good upbringing and relevant home training that will make them grow into responsible citizens rather than criminal element.
- (b) **HOT SPOT:** Places that are known to be areas of criminal activities should be well policed by law enforcement agents.
- (c) Law enforcement agents should respond to distress calls by citizens appropriately. This will help nip the crime in the bud before it goes out of hand.
- (d) **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT:** Youths who are the engine



room of national development should be orientated on the evils of taking to crime and also taught various skills that will make them self reliant rather than being idle as a result of joblessness.

- e) Selling alcoholic beverages and local gin in public places should be out rightly banned. This will reduce crime in the society, as crimes are perpetrated under the influence of alcohol.
- f) Religious institutions such as mosques and churches should inform their members the need to avoid criminal behaviours.
- g) Neighbourhood associations and law enforcement agencies must partner together towards preventing crime in the society. The police community relation committee should be well strengthen by relevant legal frame work. They should also be well funded by Government.
- h) Vocational subjects should be introduced into primary and secondary school curriculum. This will make school leavers job creators rather than job seekers and by extension reduce crime rate in the society.
- i) Citizens also owe it a duty to report crimes to relevant security agencies and to also assist them in the detection and arrest of criminals.
- j) Law enforcement agencies such as the Police, S.S.S, N.D.L.E.A, Custom, Immigration etc. must work together in their fight against crime and criminalities in the society.

(k) Also, serious and concerted efforts must be geared towards eradicating corruption and injustice in the country. The I.C.P.C, E.F.C.C, Judiciary and other relevant institutions must be truly independent. There must not be sacred cows in the corridors of power.

- (l) Measures must be put in place to ensure quick dispensation of justice. Accused persons must not be kept in prison custody for more than necessary.
- (m) Citizens must be continually sensitized on the need to be vigilant and conscious of their environment. Both print and electronic media should play well their role in this regard.
- (n) On the part of government, unemployed must be seriously tackled and curtailed. The private sector must be encouraged and supported to create jobs as government alone cannot create jobs for everybody. Improved electricity will also boost employment and increase productivity.
- o) All borders should be well manned to prevent the influx of criminals and arms into the country.

#### **SECURITY AGENCIES IN NIGERIA**

Below are list of security agencies involved in fighting and preventing crimes in the country

1. The Nigeria Police.
2. The Armed Forces:
  - (a) Navy;



- (b) Airforce;
- (c) Army.
- 3. Civil Defence Corps
- 4. Man O War.
- 5. Various States Security Outfits.
- 6. Vigilante groups.
- 7. State Security Service.
- 8. Custom Services.
- 9. Immigration.
- 10. Federal Road Safety Commission

### OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Citizens are expected to give relevant \_\_\_\_\_ to law enforcement agencies. (a) taxes (b) equipment (c) documents (d) information.
2. When parents perform their duties as expected, \_\_\_\_\_ will be drastically reduced. (a) lives (b) talks (c) crime. (d) governance.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ involves equipping youths with vocational skills. (a) youth information (b) youth empowerment. (c) youth education (d) youth renaissance.
4. One of the following is a para-military organisation.

5. (a) Police (b) Soldiers (c) Navy (d) Man O War.  
One of the underlisted agencies is established to fight corruption. (a) E.F.C.C. (b) N.D.L.E.A (c) I.N.E.C. (d) O.P.C.

### STRUCTURED QUESTIONS

1. How can government prevent common crimes in Nigeria?
2. In what ways can citizens help in curbing crimes in Nigeria?