Essay Question

**Perceptions of the seriousness of youth crime can influence the punishment given. Discuss this assertion and give your own opinion. Compare your answer to the notes provided on the next page.**

### Abstract A

Trends in the seriousness of youth crime in Canada from 1984 to 2011 are assessed by analysing changes over time in the mix of offences for which young people have been reported by police as chargeable. Four indicators of seriousness are used: Statistics Canada crime seriousness weights, the proportion of youth accused of an indictable offence, a fivefold classification of offences; and a selection of high volume offences. All four analyses clearly indicate a substantial downward trend over the period in the overall seriousness of police-reported youth crime. The decline in seriousness is mainly due to a very large decrease in the proportion of youth accused of the serious offence of break and enter and a correspondingly large increase in the proportion accused of the minor offences of common assault, cannabis possession, and offences against the administration of justice. The proportion of chargeable youth accused of major offences against the person has increased substantially relative to its level in 1984, but it remains low compared to property and other offenders. Thus, reported youth crime in Canada has become proportionally more violent but less serious overall.

### Abstract B

Trends in the seriousness of youth crime in Canada from 1984 to 2011 are assessed by analysing changes over time in the mix of offences for which young people have been reported by police as chargeable. Four indicators of seriousness are used: Statistics Canada crime seriousness weights, the proportion of youth accused of an indictable offence, a fivefold classification of offences; and a selection of high volume offences. All four analyses clearly indicate a substantial downward trend over the period in the overall seriousness of police-reported youth crime. The decline in seriousness is mainly due to a very large decrease in the proportion of youth accused of the serious offence of break and enter and a correspondingly large increase in the proportion accused of the minor offences of common assault, cannabis possession, and offences against the administration of justice. The proportion of chargeable youth accused of major offences against the person has increased substantially relative to its level in 1984, but it remains low compared to property and other offenders. Thus, reported youth crime in Canada has become proportionally more violent but less serious overall.

### Abstract C

Drawing on analysis of youth crime and antisocial behaviour reduction policies and a qualitative study of sports-based interventions (SBIs) in England, the article considers three ways in which SBI staff, managers, partners, and participants suggest projects contribute to youth crime reduction: encouraging young people’s “self-transformation” through the development of supportive and mentoring relationships (changing people), providing alternative activities and “sanctioned” spaces (changing environments), and influencing the ways in which transgressive behaviour is dealt with by criminal justice agencies through multiagency relationships and partnerships (changing responses). Arguments developed in the criminological literature on the community governance of youth are applied to the interpretation of these findings to interrogate and expand current understandings of the role played by SBIs within broader strategies for governing young people and the professionals working with them.

### Answers

**Perceptions of the seriousness of youth crime can influence the punishment given. Discuss this assertion and give your own opinion.**

*For this essay the student would need to show how peoples’ views about crime affect the punishment they receive. They have to decide whether there is a link or not.*

**This essay questions as students to look at whether musical education**

**(1) Most Relevant = Abstract B**

The journal article will focus on both peoples’ perceptions of different types of crime and punishments they should get for those crimes.

**(2) Abstract A**

The journal article will show how the seriousness of different crimes might be measured. However, there is no link made between seriousness of a crime and punishment.

**(3) Least Relevant = Abstract A**

This journal article will focus on the use of sport as a solution to youth crime. It does not discuss different types of crime or punishments.