Assess the individual and situational explanations debate with reference to the prevention of crime. [15]

**Intro**

Prevention of crime focuses on individual explanations of behaviour, such as crime being due to personality, brain activity (Raine), genes (Gottesman), as well as situational explanations, such as being brought up in poverty (Farringdon and West) or in an area of disorder (Broken Windows theory – Wilson and Kelling).

**Paragraph 1**

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| --- | --- |
| Point | A strength of taking a situational explanation of crime, in order to prevent it is that it is environmentally deterministic |
| Explanation | This is a helpful because it suggests that the place itself will determine whether crime occurs there … |
| Example | This is seen in the **Wilson and Kelling’s research** when **…** |
| Conclusion | This is helpful for people to help prevent crime because … |
| Challenge | However, the environment does not always determine behaviour as some people will commit crime wherever they are, due to their own personalities. |

**Paragraph 2**

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| Point | However, a weakness of taking a situational explanation of crime, in order to prevent it, is that it will not always be fully effective. |
| Explanation | This is a problem because … |
| Example | This is seen in the **study …** |
| Conclusion | This causes a problem when trying to discover how to prevent crime effectively because … |
| Challenge | However, adjusting the environment can be generally effective and is a simple approach to take in order to prevent crime from occurring. |

**Paragraph 3**

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| Point | Conversely, a strength of taking an individual explanation of crime, in order to prevent it is that it considers the root cause of the behaviour first. |
| Explanation | This is a helpful because |
| Example | This is seen in the **research by …** when **…** |
| Conclusion | This is helpful for people to help prevent crime because … |

**OR Paragraph 4**

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| Point | A weakness of taking an individual explanation of crime is that it is too holistic to be able to provide a universal strategy to reduce crime. |
| Explanation | This is a problem because spending time to identify why each person commits a crime will be too lengthy and will delay the prevention of crime. |
| Example | This is seen in the research into the MAOA gene by Caspi, which suggests that having the gene AND having being exposed to abuse as a child correlates with criminal behaviour. This means that to prevent crime a number of interventions have to take place, such as genetic counselling, which is impractical to do. |
| Conclusion | This causes a problem when trying to discover how to prevent crime effectively because it requires considerable analysis of individuals before generating a range of strategies. |