



Do Now

Lesson 3 and 4: Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



In summer 2024, riots erupted in UK cities after misinformation was circulated regarding the tragic deaths of three young girls. The rioters attacked hotels housing asylum seekers, and also attacked the police, shops and public buildings in the surrounding areas.

Discuss: What would possess groups of people to do such a thing?



What do you think we mean when we talk about mob mentality?

When we talk about mob mentality, I think what we mean is...


Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



Learning outcomes:

Explain and correctly identify why people engage in mob activity and think using a mob mentality.

Describe how social media can contribute to the spread of misinformation and influence extremist views.



Mob mentality – Mob mentality is when people adjust their personal views to fit the group they're in, they feel a part of, or they are surrounded by.

Criminal behaviour - any illegal action contrary to societal norms and values.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6grEbomhdwk>

Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



Riots, racist attacks and looting have followed a mass stabbing in Southport on 29 July, in which three children were killed. The attacker was falsely alleged on social media to be a Muslim asylum seeker.

The first riot started in Southport and later many protests and riots spread across the country - even to Northern Ireland.

Far-right groups have spread misinformation online, fanning the flames and inciting further riots across the UK. The rioters have been opposed by counter-protesters – including Stand Up to Racism, anti-fascist and anti-racist groups and local Muslims, who have vastly outnumbered the rioters.

By 5 August, a total of 378 arrests had been made since the riots began, and the first court hearings were held on a range of charges including violent disorder, assault on an emergency worker, and burglary, with some defendants pleading guilty.



Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



Before we get started analysing the criminality and mob thinking behind the far-right riots, let's just remind ourselves what we mean by far-right by finding together on our political compass, on the next slide.

Remember:

There are many ways of showing a political compass, showing basic left, right and extremist ideology. This example uses the horseshoe shape and is quite a simplified version.



Much detail could be added to this (as it's a very complex subject), but this version will be useful for our tasks today.

Your character, achievements and kindness to others is the most important thing about you.

There can be good ideas from moderate left or moderate right.

Your character, achievements and work ethic is the most important thing about you.

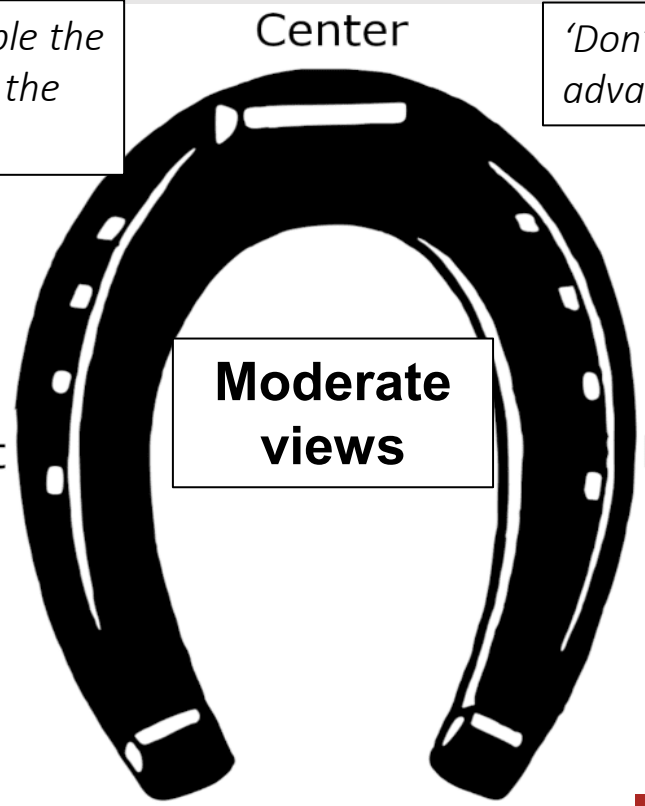


'Give people the benefit of the doubt.'

'Don't get taken advantage of.'



BELONG CARE ASPIRE SUCCEED



Progressivism.

Tradition.

Open more borders

Close more borders

Left

Right

'We live in a hierarchy of oppression. It's society's fault if you don't succeed.'

'People on benefits need the most help.'

'People on benefits are taking taxpayers' money'

'Your success or failure is no one's responsibility but your own.'



Communism

Far Left

Far Right



Fascism

Extremism

Wealth should be distributed equally, no matter your status.

Your group identity defines you not your achievements.
Ideology is more important than facts or evidence.

Wealth should stay with those who earned it or inherited it.

Belong - Care - Aspire - Succeed

Using your political horseshoe, we'll now look at some statements.

Some of the statements were from people who were involved in the far-right riots. Some of the statements come from people who were not involved at all, and may have moderate views, and some came from counter-protesters (people with *usually* left-wing views, who came out to protect their communities from thugs).

Read the statements and in your booklets draw a line from the statement to the group.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0V46nzHCcbc>

Task One :

'Everyone has a right to practice their religion in peace. We will stand together and protect this mosque.'

I agree we need less immigration, but we should never attack others or damage property.

'Diversity is a strength'

'STOP THE BOATS! SEND THEM BACK'

Change should be enacted democratically, through lobbying MPs and, if necessary, peaceful, lawful protest.

'Well Tommy Robinson said...'

'The killer was a black Muslim! They're all the same!'

'RACIST CHANTING'

'We have two-tier policing. Look, none of the counter protesters are being arrested.'

There are economic reasons for less immigration, but actually illegal immigration makes up a very small part of migration overall.'



Far- right rioters	Moderates or those who stayed at home	Left-leaning counter-protesters

'Everyone has a right to practice their religion in peace. We will stand together and protect this mosque.'

'STOP THE BOATS!'
'SEND THEM BACK'

'Well Tommy Robinson said...'

'Nans against fascism'

Change should be enacted democratically, through lobbying MPs and, if necessary, peaceful, lawful protest.

'Diversity is a strength'

Draw an arrow from the statement to relevant group

Far Right Rioters

Moderates or those who stayed at home

Left Leaning Counter Protestors

'**RACIST CHANTING**'

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'The killer was a black Muslim! They're all the same!'

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Far- right rioters

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Left-leaning counter- protesters

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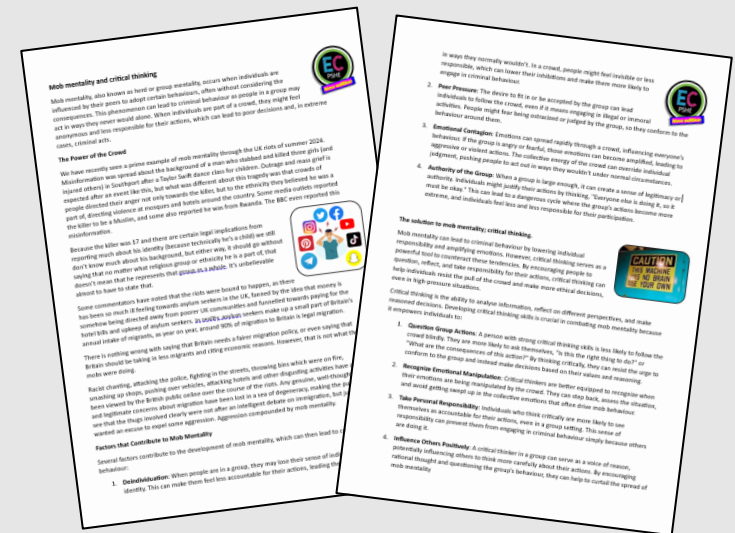
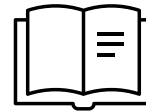
Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



Mob mentality by its very nature of curtailing the thinking of an individual can easily breed and spread criminal activity.

Read your information sheets now to find out more about the link between the two.

THORNDEN THREE GUIDED READING
Follow the text in your booklets



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Mob mentality, also known as herd or group mentality, occurs when individuals are influenced by their peers to adopt certain behaviours, often without considering the consequences. This phenomenon can lead to criminal behaviour as people in a group may act in ways they never would alone. When individuals are part of a crowd, they might feel anonymous and less responsible for their actions, which can lead to poor decisions and, in extreme cases, criminal acts.

The Power of the Crowd

We have recently seen a prime example of mob mentality through the UK riots of summer 2024. Misinformation was spread about the background of a man who stabbed and killed three girls (and injured others) in Southport after a Taylor Swift dance class for children. Outrage and mass grief is expected after an event like this, but what was different about this tragedy was that crowds of people directed their anger not only towards the killer, but to the ethnicity they believed he was a part of, directing violence at mosques and hotels around the country. Some media outlets reported the killer to be a Muslim, and some also reported he was from Rwanda. The BBC even reported this misinformation.

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Some commentators have noted that the riots were bound to happen, as there has been so much ill feeling towards asylum seekers in the UK, fanned by the idea that money is somehow being directed away from poorer UK communities and funnelled towards paying for the hotel bills and upkeep of asylum seekers. In reality, asylum seekers make up a small part of Britain's annual intake of migrants, as year on year, around 90% of migration to Britain is legal migration.

There is nothing wrong with saying that Britain needs a fairer migration policy, or even saying that Britain should be taking in less migrants and citing economic reasons. However, that is not what the mobs were doing.

Racist chanting, attacking the police, fighting in the streets, throwing bins which were on fire, smashing up shops, pushing over vehicles, attacking hotels and other disgusting activities have all been viewed by the British public online over the course of the riots. Any genuine, well-thought out and legitimate concerns about migration have been lost in a sea of degeneracy, making the public see that the thugs involved clearly were not after an intelligent debate on immigration, but just wanted an excuse to expel some aggression. Aggression compounded by mob mentality.

Factors that Contribute to Mob Mentality

Several factors contribute to the development of mob mentality, which can then lead to criminal behaviour:

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1. **Deindividuation:** When people are in a group, they may lose their sense of individual identity. This can make them feel less accountable for their actions, leading them to behave in ways they normally wouldn't. In a crowd, people might feel invisible or less responsible, which can lower their inhibitions and make them more likely to engage in criminal behaviour.
2. **Peer Pressure:** The desire to fit in or be accepted by the group can lead individuals to follow the crowd, even if it means engaging in illegal or immoral activities. People might fear being ostracized or judged by the group, so they conform to the behaviour around them.
3. **Emotional Contagion:** Emotions can spread rapidly through a crowd, influencing everyone's behaviour. If the group is angry or fearful, those emotions can become amplified, leading to aggressive or violent actions. The collective energy of the crowd can override individual judgment, pushing people to act out in ways they wouldn't under normal circumstances.
4. **Authority of the Group:** When a group is large enough, it can create a sense of legitimacy or authority. Individuals might justify their actions by thinking, "Everyone else is doing it, so it must be okay." This can lead to a dangerous cycle where the group's actions become more extreme, and individuals feel less and less responsible for their participation.

The solution to mob mentality; critical thinking.

Mob mentality can lead to criminal behaviour by lowering individual responsibility and amplifying emotions. However, critical thinking serves as a powerful tool to counteract these tendencies. By encouraging people to question, reflect, and take responsibility for their actions, critical thinking can help individuals resist the pull of the crowd and make more ethical decisions, even in high-pressure situations.

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Critical thinking is the ability to analyse information, reflect on different perspectives, and make reasoned decisions. Developing critical thinking skills is crucial in combating mob mentality because it empowers individuals to:

- 1. Question Group Actions:** A person with strong critical thinking skills is less likely to follow the crowd blindly. They are more likely to ask themselves, "Is this the right thing to do?" or "What are the consequences of this action?" By thinking critically, they can resist the urge to conform to the group and instead make decisions based on their values and reasoning.
- 2. Recognize Emotional Manipulation:** Critical thinkers are better equipped to recognize when their emotions are being manipulated by the crowd. They can step back, assess the situation, and avoid getting swept up in the collective emotions that often drive mob behaviour.
- 3. Take Personal Responsibility:** Individuals who think critically are more likely to see themselves as accountable for their actions, even in a group setting. This sense of responsibility can prevent them from engaging in criminal behaviour simply because others are doing it.
- 4. Influence Others Positively:** A critical thinker in a group can serve as a voice of reason, potentially influencing others to think more carefully about their actions. By encouraging rational thought and questioning the group's behaviour, they can help to curtail the spread of mob mentality



1. What is mob mentality, and how does it influence individual behaviour?
2. What specific event in the UK is cited as an example of mob mentality in the text?
3. How did misinformation play a role in the UK riots of summer 2024?
4. Why is it important to consider the wider implications when deciding to report about the 17-year-old involved in the Southport tragedy?
5. What factors contribute to the development of mob mentality, according to the text?
6. How does deindividuation affect individual behaviour in a group setting?
7. Why might people engage in criminal behaviour as part of a crowd, even if they wouldn't do so alone?
8. How does critical thinking serve as a solution to mob mentality?
9. What are some key components of critical thinking that can help individuals resist mob mentality?
10. How can a critical thinker positively influence a group that is succumbing to mob mentality?

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq4ThBryX8c>

Aside from us focusing on the moral and societal reasons why joining in with mob criminality is wrong, it's worth us also noting how severely the government has dealt with the ringleaders of the 2024 riots. The new Labour government had to make a point of showing they would not tolerate mob violence – and wanted to set a precedence for being tough on anti-social behaviour. This has meant that the ringleaders have had lengthy prison sentences and were sentenced quickly.

An armchair thug who encouraged rioters to attack a hotel housing asylum seekers over social media has become the first person jailed for inciting **recent disorder across the UK** online.

Jordan Parlour, 28, admitted to publishing posts on **Facebook** last week which encouraged violence at a hotel in Leeds where 200 asylum seekers and refugees.

He was sentenced with 20 months behind bars in Leeds Crown Court this afternoon, after he wrote on **Facebook**: “Every man and their dog should be smashing f*** out Britannia Hotel.”



Jordan Parlour reportedly blew a raspberry as he left the courtroom (PA)



'There's no way to educate people who are inclined to act with a mob mentality. Some people are just born to be criminal thugs. There's nothing we can do to change those people's minds.'



FOR ARGUMENT

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

AGAINST ARGUMENT

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Need Support? You're Not Alone

If anything in today's lesson has affected you, or you want to talk to someone, there is help available.



Mental Health & Low Mood

YoungMinds – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>
Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com>
Mind – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

Talk to Someone

Your Tutor or Head of Year – We're here to help.
Wellbeing Team and School Nurse
Report a Concern on Satchel
Safeguarding Team with the Purple lanyards

Healthy Lifestyle

NHS Every Mind Matters – <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>
Change4Life – <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Apps That Can Help

Calm – For mindfulness and sleep.
Headspace – Meditation and stress relief.
Clear Fear – Manage anxiety (designed for young people).
MeeTwo – Anonymously talk to other teens, moderated by experts.

Eating Concerns

Beat Eating Disorders –
<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk>
NHS Live Well – Eating Disorders –
<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/>



Belong - Care - Aspire - Succeed