



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

'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.'

Wealth should be distributed equally, no matter your status.

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



Communism



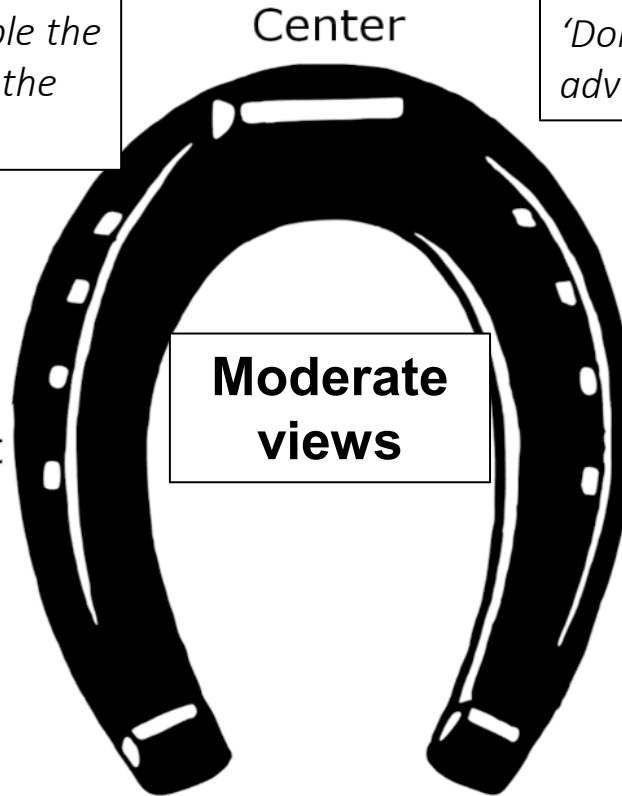
Fascism

Far Left Far Right

Extremism

Your group identity defines you not your achievements.

Ideology is more important than facts or evidence.



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=0V46nzHCc_b

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'**

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

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

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

'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
'The killer was a black Muslim! They're all the same!'	I agree we need less immigration, but we should never attack others or damage property.	'Everyone has a right to practice their religion in peace. We will stand together and protect this mosque'.
<i>'RACIST CHANTING'</i>	Change should enacted democratically, through lobbying MPs and, only, if necessary, peaceful, lawful protest.	'Diversity is a strength'
'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.'	'Nans against fascism'
'Well Tommy Robinson said....'		

Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



Why Do People Act Differently in a Crowd?

What is Mob Mentality?

Mob mentality occurs when people are influenced by a group to behave in ways they might never behave on their own.

When surrounded by others, people can sometimes stop thinking independently and instead follow the actions, emotions or beliefs of the crowd.

This can happen in many situations:

1. At protests
2. At sporting events
3. On social media
4. In friendship groups
5. During public disorder

Why Does It Happen?

Psychologists have identified several reasons:

1. Loss of Individual Responsibility

People may feel less accountable when surrounded by others.

2. Peer Pressure

Individuals often want to fit in and avoid being rejected by the group.

3. Strong Emotions

Fear, anger or excitement can spread quickly through a crowd.

4. "Everyone Else Is Doing It"

People may assume something is acceptable because others are doing it.

Discussion Question

Can you think of a time when someone might behave differently in a group compared to when they are alone?

Criminal behaviour and mob mentality



The Danger of Following the Crowd

History shows that people sometimes make poor decisions when they stop questioning what they are being told.

Misinformation, rumours and emotionally charged messages can spread quickly, particularly online. When people react without checking facts or thinking critically, situations can escalate and cause real harm.

The question is not:

"Would I ever join a violent crowd?"

The better question is:

"Would I always stop and think before following others?"

How Can We Avoid Mob Mentality?

Critical thinking helps us:

- ✓ Check whether information is true
- ✓ Consider different viewpoints
- ✓ Think about consequences
- ✓ Resist pressure from others
- ✓ Take responsibility for our own actions

A Good Critical Thinker Asks:

1. Is this information accurate?
2. Where did it come from?
3. Am I reacting emotionally?
4. Would I make the same choice if I was alone?
5. What could happen if everyone behaved this way?

Strong character is not about following the loudest voice in the crowd.

It is about having the confidence to think for yourself, make informed decisions and do what is right, even when others are doing something different.

Final Question

Why is critical thinking one of the most important skills young people can develop in the age of social media?

<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/>



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