Origins of the Sociology of Crime and Deviance

Crime has always been with us but different historical periods have had different ways of analysing and responding to crime. This video begins with a brief look at the origins of

the study of crime in the 18th Century. Although there won’t be questions on this in the exam, it helps put the subject in its historical and social context, whilst bringing a sense

of continuity to the subject and helping place changes in focus and ‘new’ developments

into a wider context. As the video says, ideas go in and out of fashion and some of the newest ideas on crime prevention are similar to ideas from the 19th Century! In order to clarify this historical perspective for students we identify three key influences of early sociology: classical criminology positivism

 Durkheim.