Introduction-

Why do we want to classify people as normal or abnormal?

Many different concepts of abnormality have been put forward. (It remains difficult for mental health professionals to agree on who is abnormal enough to require treatment). Some of the different interpretations of abnormality will be discussed below.

* Conclusion- In practice we use a combination of criteria to decide who will benefit from being classified as abnormal.
* Abnormality is an elusive concept. It does not always conform to statistical or normative criteria for abnormality, and varies between cultures. Researchers such as Szasz (1960) have argued that abnormality is a socially constructed concept that allows people who show different, unusual or disturbing behaviour (to the rest of society), to be labeled and treated differently from others (confined, controlled and persecuted).

Simply present the concept-One concept of abnormality/one definition of abnormality

Explain what the point of having the concept is used (ie why is it important).

Then say why this concept is not a completely valid explanation of abnormality

Don’t just use notes from the grid for statistical abnormality. Use the term normal distribution

Maladaptiveness-evaluations not well explained in terms of the social group

Mental illness: What is the difference between a mental disorder and a psychological disorder? I know it is in the booklet but hard to get a clear distinction

Order seems to work well: statistical (example IQ), deviation from norms (homosexuality) maladaptiveness (OCD, extreme sport), suffering and distress, (addiction) jahoda