

Chapter 2: Understanding White-Collar Crime

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. What did E.A. Ross believe was the most dangerous factor about the “white-collar criminaloid?”
- a. Individually and as collectively they create more economic losses than the average street criminal.
 - b. They engage in criminal acts under the cover of responsibility.
 - c. Their crimes in the workplace were not being taken as seriously as traditional street crimes in the early 1900’s.
 - d. They are rarely caught and prosecuted.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What idea was Sutherland initially trying to call attention to when he defined white-collar crime in 1949?
- a. Crimes are committed by individuals of high social and economic classes.
 - b. More economic losses occur due to white-collar crime than traditional crime.
 - c. White-collar crime losses can be diminished with the proper research and development of prevention strategies.
 - d. White-collar crime would only get worse without intervention.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Which criticism occurs when two people come to different conclusions about whether an incident is a white-collar crime?
- a. cognitive ambiguity
 - b. policy ambiguity
 - c. conceptual ambiguity
 - d. Legal ambiguity

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. What did criminologists argue to be the result of conceptual ambiguity in regards to Sutherland's definition of white-collar crime?

- a. The term was in turn used vaguely by other scholars and authorities.
- b. The public could not grasp the idea of white-collar crime.
- c. The definition did not reflect reality.
- d. Criminologists viewed white-collar crime as similar to traditional crime.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. In regards to methodological ambiguity, what was Sutherland's research on white-collar crime specifically criticized for?

- a. His research was conducted in a manner that met standards and guidelines at the time.
- b. His research focused too much on the lower class, while his definition focused more on the upper class.
- c. His research was not strong enough or specific enough on which to base any laws.
- d. His research did not offer any methods for preventing crime in the workplace.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Which type of criticism against Sutherland's definition of white-collar crime was said to have created a "disconnect" between those studying white-collar crime and those responding to white-collar crime?

- a. Legal ambiguity
- b. Methodological ambiguity
- c. Conceptual ambiguity
- d. Policy ambiguity

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. What was Sutherland's response to the criticism he faced concerning his definition of white-collar crime?

- a. He was trying to call attention to an area of crime previously overlooked.
- b. The concept of white-collar crime was the same as traditional crime.
- c. The traditional theories of criminal behavior needed to be discarded.
- d. White-collar crime was growing rapidly and needed to be identified.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. In *Criminal Behavior Systems*, how did Clinard and Quinney divide white-collar crime into two types of separate crime in the 1970s?

- a. Corporate crime as crimes by the corporation and occupational crime as crimes against the corporation.
- b. Occupational crime as crimes by the corporation and corporate crime as crimes against the corporation.
- c. White-collar crime as moral or ethical violations and white-collar crime as violations of criminal or civil law.
- d. Organizational crimes by corporations and state authority crimes by the government.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. What was the effect of Clinard and Quinney's research on white-collar crime in the 1970s and 1980s?

- a. A final definition of white-collar crime was finally agreed upon.
- b. Flawed white-collar crime prevention strategies were developed.
- c. Research on white-collar crime conducted by other criminologists increased.
- d. Research on white-collar crime conducted by other criminologists decreased.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. An angry employee who destroys company records after being fired, is an example of what variation of white-collar crime?

- a. violations of civil law
- b. violations of criminal law
- c. moral violations
- d. violations of regulatory laws

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. A restaurant that fails to follow health and cleanliness standards is an example of what variation of white-collar crime?

- a. violations of civil law
- b. violations of criminal law
- c. workplace deviance
- d. violations of regulatory laws

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. When Exxon Valdez crashed his ship, causing extreme damage to the environment and resulting in billions of dollars in fines, what variation of white-collar crime is this an example of?

- a. violations of regulatory laws
- b. moral or ethical violations
- c. violations of civil law
- d. social harm

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. An employee taking a sick day when they are not actually sick is an example of what variation of white-collar crime?

- a. social harm
- b. moral or ethical violations
- c. workplace deviance
- d. violations of regulatory laws

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. The definition of white-collar crime as 'definitions socially constructed by businesses' relates to what aspect of occupational crimes?

- a. Some businesses may consider white-collar crimes against them an internal rather than criminal matter.
- b. Individual companies or businesses might define on their own what behaviors they believe to be improper.
- c. A company or business may decide to view only low-level employee offenses as criminal.
- d. Many companies might regard working with law enforcement bad for business.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Which of the following lists a difference between white-collar crime as a government definition and white-collar crime as a research definition?

- a. The government has a broader definition, while researchers have a narrower definition to better measure and study crime.
- b. Researchers have a broader definition of white-collar crime, while the government has a narrower definition to prevent offenders from getting away with their crimes in court.
- c. The government definition is simpler for the public to understand, whereas the research definition is more complex in nature.
- d. The research definition is more complex in nature so other criminologists can easily grasp the concept and the government definition is more complex in nature.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Which of the following is **not** a variety of white-collar crime as described by criminologist Gary Green?

- a. organizational occupational crimes
- b. societal occupational crimes
- c. state authority occupational crimes
- d. individual occupational crimes

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. What are the two factors that make it difficult to measure the extent of white-collar crime?

- a. Victims don't report it and the concept of white-collar crime is ambiguous.
- b. Victims don't report it and the government definition of white-collar crime varies too much from the research definition.
- c. The concept of white-collar crime is too ambiguous and the government definition of white-collar crime varies too much from the research definition.
- d. The government definition of white-collar crime varies too much from the research definition and there is disagreement about how to go about measuring the extent of white-collar crime.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Which of the following is not a problem with the statistics published by the National Incident Based Reporting System?

- a. Not everyone agrees that the crimes are white-collar crimes.
- b. Many cases are only reported to regulatory agencies, not law enforcement.
- c. The research definition of white-collar crime that is used to conduct studies does not agree with the definition used to collect statistics.
- d. Not all victims report the crimes.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. A successful company being forced out of business due to employee theft over a long period of time is which consequence of white-collar crime?

- a. secondary societal economic loss
- b. physical harm
- c. individual economic loss
- d. emotional consequences

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-4: Compare and contrast the consequences of white-collar crime and traditional crime

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. What did Sutherland define as the "most general" characteristic of white-collar crime?

- a. violation of trust
- b. large number of victims
- c. large economic loss
- d. violation of natural law

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-4: Compare and contrast the consequences of white-collar crime and traditional crime

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. Which consequence of white-collar crime is believed to have greater weight than the economic losses?

- a. diminished faith in free economy
- b. erosion of public morality
- c. loss of confidence in political institutions, processes, and leaders
- d. mistrust of the offender

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-4: Compare and contrast the consequences of white-collar crime and traditional crime

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. What was one of Benson and Choi's conclusions regarding the characteristics of white-collar offenders?

- a. Offenders follow demonstrated patterns of offenses.
- b. They come from all racial and ethnic groups.
- c. Offenders are usually experiencing instability in their family life.
- d. They began engaging in white-collar crime early in their lives.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-6: Evaluate how researchers have defined the characteristics of the white-collar criminal.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Characteristics of White-Collar Offenders

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. What does the warning light syndrome refer to?

- a. The fact that an outbreak of white-collar crime in an area can send a message to a community that something needs to be fixed.
- b. The idea that individuals can learn how to follow the rules by watching other people get caught breaking them.
- c. The idea that society becomes stronger after experiencing white-collar crime.
- d. The idea that the crime will bring different groups of individuals together in response to fight the crime.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-4: Compare and contrast the consequences of white-collar crime and traditional crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Which of the following is one of the goals of the National White-Collar Crime Center?

- a. provide training to those investigating white-collar crime
- b. assist law enforcement in apprehending white-collar offenders
- c. investigate cases of white-collar crime independently from authorities
- d. provide economic support to victims of white-collar crime

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. Research on public attitudes and white-collar crime have drawn which conclusion about how the public views these crimes?

- a. White-collar crime is not viewed as seriously as traditional crime.
- b. The public supports long prison sentences for offenders.
- c. People believe white-collar crimes have greater moral than economic costs.
- d. The public sees white-collar crime as a violent offense.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-5: Describe the methods used by researchers to understand public attitudes about white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Public Attitudes Toward White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. One of the criticisms Sutherland received for his work with white-collar crime was the notion that his research had methodological ambiguity, which in effect meant that his research did not accurately reflect reality.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Criminologists Clinard and Quinney built on Sutherland's work and divided white-collar crime into two types: corporate crime and organizational crime.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. White-collar crime as a violation of trust is the idea that offenders violate natural law and the ethical principles of a particular culture, subculture, or group.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Investors sharing information about stocks is an example of white-collar crime as a violation of criminal law.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Government definitions of white-collar crime tend to be broader in nature than research definitions of white-collar crime.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. One of the main factors that makes the extent of white-collar crime so difficult to measure is that many offenders are not caught.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Experts believe that official data supplied by the government on white-collar crime greatly underestimates the extent to which it occurs.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. One reason white-collar crime statistics published by the UCR are disputed by many criminologists is because many of the crimes included in the statistics occur outside the scope of employment.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. One of the positive consequences of white-collar crime is boundary maintenance, which refers to the fact that outbreaks of white-collar crime send a message to communities or businesses that something is wrong and needs to be fixed.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2-4: Compare and contrast the consequences of white-collar crime and traditional crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. A study on the characteristics of white-collar offenders concluded that they have families, are mostly college-educated, are connected to their communities, and commit crimes later in life.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2-6: Evaluate how researchers have defined the characteristics of white-collar offenders.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. Describe one of the types of criticism that Sutherland's work with white-collar crime was met with.

Ans: Answers could include:

- a. Conceptual ambiguity- the definition of white-collar crime was too loose and led to the term being used vaguely
- b. Empirical ambiguity- white-collar crime did not accurately reflect reality; poverty plays a role and the poor do commit more crimes
- c. Methodical ambiguity- definition focused on upper class, but his research focused on all classes, especially lower class
- d. Legal ambiguity- definition didn't list specific crimes people could be tried for
- e. Policy ambiguity- there is a disconnect between those studying white-collar crime and those developing prevention strategies

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Describe three of the eleven variations of white-collar crime.

Ans: Answers could include:

- a. White-collar crime as moral or ethical violations: when activities are defined as wrong because they violate the ethical principles of a particular culture, subculture, or group
- b. White-collar crime as violations of criminal law: criminally illegal behaviors
- c. White-collar crime as violations of civil law: corporate wrongdoing against consumers
- d. White-collar crime as violations of regulatory laws: acts that violate a particular occupation's regulatory laws
- e. White-collar crime as workplace deviance: workplace acts that violate the norms or standards of the workplace
- f. White-collar crime as definitions socially constructed by businesses: a particular company or business can define behaviors that it believes to be improper
- g. White-collar crime as social harm: acts that create forms of harm for various individuals
- h. White-collar crime as research definitions: researchers define white-collar crime in a way that allows them to reliably and validly measure the behavior
- i. White-collar crime as official government definitions: legal definitions government agencies use when dealing with crime
- j. White-collar crime as violations of trust: offenders use their positions of trust to promote the misconduct
- k. White-collar crimes as violations of occupational crimes: violations that occur during the course of occupational activity and are related to employment

Learning Objective: 2-2: Explain the contrasting modern definitions of white-collar crime and their key differences.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Modern Conceptualizations of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium"

3. List one the problems with white-collar crime statistics published by agencies like the UCR.

Ans: Answers could include:

- a. Not everyone would agree these are white-collar crimes
- b. The database was created for law enforcement and not for researchers
- c. Many cases are reported to regulatory agencies rather than law enforcement
- d. Some white-collar victims are unaware of their victimization,
- e. Shame may keep some victims from reporting their victimization

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Describe one of the positive consequences of white-collar crime.

Ans: Answer could include:

- a. Warning light syndrome- outbreaks of white-collar crime send a message that something needs to be fixed
- b. Boundary maintenance- some people learn the rules by watching others get caught breaking them
- c. Social change- society has grown stronger by surviving crime
- d. Community integration- different groups come together in response to crime

Learning Objective: 2-4: Compare and contrast the consequences of white-collar crime and traditional crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Consequences of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is the public's attitude toward white-collar offenders and do they take white-collar crime seriously?

Ans: Answer could include:

The public believes white-collar offenders should be punished, but they do not typically think of them as violent criminals. They also believe the higher the status of an offender, the more serious the offense. In terms of seriousness, the public has increasingly taken white-collar crime more seriously and they now believe it to be equal, or more, serious than traditional street crime.

Learning Objective: 2-5: Describe the methods used by researchers to understand public attitudes about white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Public Attitudes Toward White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Discuss the differences between corporate crimes and occupational crimes. Provide examples of each as support.

Ans: Answer should include:

- a. Corporate crime: committed by employees to benefit the corporations
- b. Occupational crime: violations of laws committed at work with the aim of benefitting the employee offender.

Learning Objective: 2-1: Describe the concerns expressed by early scholars about the white-collar-crime concept.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: White-Collar Crime: An Evolving Concept

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Why is the extent of white-collar crime difficult to measure?

Ans: Answer should include:

- a. Only one third of violations are reported
- b. Statistics gathered by surveys
- c. Cases reported by regulatory agencies and not law enforcement
- d. No agreement on what the definition of white-collar crime is
- e. Some victims are unaware of their victimization
- f. Some victims are ashamed of being victimized

Learning Objective: 2-3: Identify the factors that hinder researchers' ability to estimate the extent of white-collar crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Extent of White-Collar Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Discuss the differences between white-collar offenders and traditional offenders.

Ans: Answer should include:

- a. Age
- b. Gender/Ethnicity
- c. Employment
- d. Number of offenses

Learning Objective: 2-6: Evaluate how researchers have defined the characteristics of the white-collar criminal.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Characteristics of White-Collar Offenders

Difficulty Level: Medium