

Chapter 2 – Causes of Crime

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A school of criminology that holds that wrongdoers act as if they weigh the possible benefits of criminal or delinquent activity against the expected costs of being apprehended is called _____.
- a. classical criminology
 - b. utilitarianism
 - c. positivism
 - d. social process theory

ANS: A

REF: 24

LO: 2

2. Which of the following are used to determinate the nature of the relationship between genetics and criminal behavior?
- a. Frontal lobe
 - b. Twin studies
 - c. Neurotransmitter studies
 - d. Neurophysiology studies

ANS: B

REF: 26

LO: 2

3. Which of the following is the hormone that is primarily associated with criminal offending?
- a. estrogen
 - b. testosterone
 - c. serotonin
 - d. endocrine

ANS: B

REF: 27

LO: 2

4. Which of the following is NOT a neurotransmitter that has been linked to crime?
- a. testosterone
 - b. norepinephrine
 - c. serotonin
 - d. dopamine

ANS: A

REF: 27

LO: 2

5. According to Freud, the abstract system that interacts in the brain to “learn” the expectations of family and society and also acts as the conscience for an individual is called the:
- a. id
 - b. ego
 - c. superego
 - d. oral

ANS: C

REF: 29

LO: 2

6. _____ is the science of living organisms, including their structure, function, growth, and origin.
- a. Biology
 - b. Psychology
 - c. Criminology
 - d. Genetics

ANS: A

REF: 26

LO: 2

7. Which of the following elements is NOT discussed as an important component of social disorganization theory?
- a. Disorganized zones exhibit higher rates of crime.
 - b. Those who are labeled as criminals will exhibit more criminal behavior.
 - c. The value of role models with hope for the future.
 - d. Crime is largely a product of unfavorable conditions in certain communities.

ANS: B

REF: 30-31

LO: 2

8. The school of criminology that considers criminal behavior to be the predictable result of a person’s interaction with his or her environment is called _____.
- a. strain theory
 - b. social disorganization theory
 - c. social process theory
 - d. the Chicago School

ANS: C

REF: 32

LO: 3

9. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, _____ make up the largest racial and ethnic group of a category of illegal drug users.

- a. Whites
- b. African Americans
- c. American Indians
- d. Hispanics

ANS: C

REF: 37

LO: 4

10. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, most drug users fall in which age category?

- a. 12-17
- b. 18-25
- c. 26-29
- d. 30 and older

ANS: B

REF: 37

LO: 4

11. In research conducted by Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin in *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*, what percent of juveniles did the researchers find to be chronic offenders, or career criminals, responsible for a disproportionate amount of the violent crime?

- a. 1
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 10

ANS: C

REF: 39

LO: 5

12. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, most drug users:

- a. use marijuana only
- b. use a drug other than marijuana
- c. use marijuana and some other drug
- d. use marijuana and injectable drugs

ANS: A

REF: 37

LO: 4

13. Which of the following is a process through which researchers test the accuracy of a hypothesis?
- a. theory
 - b. pontificating
 - c. prediction
 - d. scientific method

ANS: D

REF: 23

LO: 1

14. Which of the following is a proposition that can be tested by researchers or observers to determine if it is valid?
- a. theory
 - b. corroboration
 - c. hypothesis
 - d. verification

ANS: C

REF: 23

LO: 1

15. _____ between two variables is when they tend to vary together; where _____, in contrast, means that one variable is responsible for the change in another variable.
- a. correlation; theory
 - b. correlation; causation
 - c. causation; correlation
 - d. causation; hypothesizing

ANS: B

REF: 23

LO: 1

16. Who is known as the “father of criminology?”
- a. Cesare Lombroso
 - b. Jeremy Bentham
 - c. James Q. Wilson
 - d. Cesare Beccaria

ANS: A

REF: 25

LO: 2

17. Cesare Beccaria criticized existing systems of criminal law as irrational and argued that criminal laws, to be just, should reflect three truths; which of the following is not one of the three truths discussed in the book?
- a. All decisions, including the decision to commit a crime, are the result of rational choice.
 - b. Fear of punishment can have a deterrent effect on the choice to commit crime.
 - c. The more swift and certain punishment is, the more effective it will be in controlling crime.
 - d. Laws should be shared through word of mouth.

ANS: D

REF: 24

LO: 2

18. The updated version of classical criminology, that holds that at any given moment, a person can choose between committing a crime and not committing it, is known as?
- a. biological theory
 - b. rational choice theory
 - c. strain theory
 - d. control theory

ANS: B

REF: 25

LO: 2

19. The scientific study of mental processes and behavior is called _____.
- a. genetics
 - b. biology
 - c. psychology
 - d. anomie

ANS: C

REF: 26

LO: 2

20. The study of crime as it is related to social structure is NOT tied to which of the following theory?
- a. labeling theory
 - b. cultural deviance theory
 - c. social disorganization theory
 - d. strain theory

ANS: A

REF: 25

LO: 2

21. A series of theories that assume that all individuals have the potential for criminal behavior, but are restrained by the damage that such actions would do to their relationships with family, friends, and members of the community are called:
- a. learning theories
 - b. labeling theories
 - c. control theories
 - d. conflict theories

ANS: C

REF: 34

LO: 3

22. The _____ theory holds that criminal laws are designed by those in power (the rich) to help them keep power at the expense of those who do not have power (the poor).
- a. psychoanalytic
 - b. social structural
 - c. social conflict
 - d. social reality of crime

ANS: D

REF: 35

LO: 2

23. An approach to drug addiction that treats drug abuse as a mental illness is called the _____ model of addiction.
- a. medical
 - b. biological
 - c. criminal
 - d. psychological

ANS: A

REF: 38

LO: 4

24. Which of the following is NOT one of the criticisms of the use of criminology in the criminal justice system?
- a. Criminology has not done enough to make our country a safer place.
 - b. Researchers know less today about “what works” in criminology than at any other time in our nation’s history.
 - c. That some are trying to understand crime rather than trying to reduce it.
 - d. Some practitioners argue that too much of the research done by criminologists is

inaccessible to them.

ANS: B

REF: 39

LO: 5

25. Psychologists at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research released data in 2003 showing that exposure to high levels of televised violence erodes a natural aversion to violence and increases aggressive behavior among young children; this is a type of _____ theory.
- a. learning
 - b. labeling
 - c. control
 - d. conflict

ANS: A

REF: 33

LO: 3

TRUE/FALSE

1. A theory is an explanation of a happening or circumstance that is based on observation, experimentation, and reasoning.

ANS: T

REF: 23

LO: 1

2. Some adoption studies show that fraternal twins are considerably more likely to exhibit similar criminal behavior than identical twins.

ANS: F

REF: 27

LO: 2

3. Freud believed that, on an unconscious level, all humans have criminal tendencies and that each of us is continually struggling against these tendencies.

ANS: T

REF: 29

LO: 2

4. Labeling theory suggests the hypothesis that delinquents and criminals must be taught both the practical and emotional skills necessary to participate in illegal activity.

ANS: F

REF: 32

LO: 3

5. Social conflict theories are a school of criminology that views criminal behavior as the result of class conflict.

ANS: T

REF: 34

LO: 3

6. Research has shown that a small group of juvenile offenders was responsible for a

disproportionate amount of crime attributed to a large group of young males.

ANS: T

REF: 39

LO: 5

7. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, most drug users are male?

ANS: T

REF: 37

LO: 4

8. Classical criminology is a school of thought that sees criminal and delinquent behavior as the result of biological, psychological, and social forces.

ANS: F

REF: 25

LO: 2

9. Causation between two variables means that they tend to vary together.

ANS: F

REF: 23

LO: 1

10. A sound theory supported by the scientific method proves that a prediction will be correct.

ANS: F

REF: 24

LO: 1

COMPLETION

1. A _____ is a possible explanation for an observed occurrence that can be tested by further investigation.

ANS: hypothesis

REF: 23

LO: 1

2. _____ psychology is a branch of psychology that studies how people's thoughts and behaviors are influenced by the presence of others.

ANS: Social

REF: 29

LO: 2

3. _____ is the scientific study of crime and the causes of criminal behavior.

ANS: Criminology

REF: 22

LO: 1

4. Strain theory has its roots in the concept of _____, which results when social change throws behavioral norms into flux, leading to a weakening of social controls and an increase in deviant behavior.

ANS: anomie

REF: 32

LO: 2

5. _____ is when a relationship in which a change in one measurement or behavior creates a recognizable change in another measurement or behavior

ANS: Cause

REF: 23

LO: 1

6. _____ is when the relationship between two measurements or behaviors tend to move in the same direction.

ANS: correlation

REF: 22

LO: 1

7. _____ drugs have chemicals that affect the brain, causing changes in emotions, perceptions, and behavior.

ANS: Psychoactive

REF: 36

LO: 4

8. _____ is the study of how certain traits or qualities are transmitted from parents to their offspring.

ANS: Genetics

REF: 26

LO: 2

9. An approach to ethical reasoning in which the “correct” decision is the one that results in the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people affected by that decision is called _____.

ANS: utilitarianism

REF: 24

LO: 2

10. _____ are chemical substances that control certain cellular and bodily functions such as growth and reproduction.

ANS: Hormones

REF: 27

LO: 2

ESSAY

1. Contrast positivism with classical criminology and give an example of a theory that exists in each category.

ANS:

- Classical criminology is a school of criminology based on the belief that individuals have free will to engage in any behavior, including criminal behavior
- For example, utilitarianism fall under the purview of classical criminology
- Positivism is a school of thought in the social sciences that see criminal and delinquent behavior as the result of biological, psychological, and social forces. Because wrongdoers are driven to deviancy by external factors, they should not be punished but treated to lessen the influence of those factors
- For example, biological, psychological, and sociological theories fall under the purview of positivism.

REF: 24-25

LO: 2

2. Explain the goals Bentham suggested should be behind all punishment.

- To prevent all crime.
- When it cannot prevent crime, to ensure that a criminal will commit a lesser crime to avoid a harsher punishment.
- To give the criminal an incentive not to harm others in the pursuit of crime.
- To prevent crime at the least possible cost to society.

REF: 26

LO: 2

3. Identify and explain the three neurotransmitters that seem to be particularly related to aggressive behavior and how they interact with the brain to result in aggression.

ANS:

- Serotonin, which regulates moods, appetite, and memory.
- Norepinephrine, which regulates sleeping cycles and controls how we respond to anxiety, fear, and stress.
- Dopamine, which regulates perceptions of pleasure and reward.
- Researchers have established that under certain circumstances, low levels of serotonin and high levels of norepinephrine are correlated with aggressive behavior.

REF: 28

LO: 2

4. Contrast the medical model of addiction with the criminal model of addiction.

ANS:

- The medical model of addiction is an approach to drug addiction that treats drug abuse as a mental illness
- Those who believe in the medical model of addiction advocate treating addiction as a disease and hold that society should not punish addicts but rather attempt to rehabilitate them, as would be done for any other unhealthy person
- The criminal model of addiction is an approach to drug abuse that treats illegal drug use as a criminal act
- The criminal justice system tends to favor the criminal model of addiction over the medical model, as this model holds that drug abusers and addicts endanger society with their behavior and should be punished the same as any other persons who commit crimes that are not drug related

REF: 38

LO: 4

5. Briefly list and explain the three branches of social process theories. Explain how one of the theories might be used to explain the crime of theft.

ANS:

- Learning theory is the hypothesis that delinquents and criminals must be taught both the practical and emotional skills necessary to participate in illegal activity (Example: a child watches his mother steal from the convenience store every day and so starts to steal from the store himself when he visits)
- Control theories are a series of theories that assume that all individuals have the potential for criminal behavior, but are restrained by the damage that such actions would do to their relationships with family, friends, and members of the community (Example: a child does not steal at school even though he really wants the Nike's his locker mate just received as a present because he is fearful he will be caught and will get in trouble by parents)
- Labeling theories support the hypothesis that society creates crime and criminals by labeling certain behavior and certain people as deviant (Example: a teacher thinks a child is stealing things from other students at school, once the child realizes this and is talked to about this, he begins to steal since others think he is labeled as such already)

REF: 32-33

LO: 3