

1 Crime and Criminology

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The academic discipline of criminology uses scientific methods to study the _____ of criminal behavior.

- a. nature, extent, cause, and control
- b. history, economics, and control
- c. prevalence, placement, and reduction
- d. economics, politics, and policies

ANS: A REF: 4 OBJ: 1

2. Because criminologists are influenced by many disciplines (e.g., sociology, psychology, political science, natural sciences), the field of criminology is considered:

- a. comprehensive.
- b. international.
- c. concentrated.
- d. interdisciplinary.

ANS: D REF: 4 OBJ: 1

3. Marvin Wolfgang's 1958 study, *Patterns in Criminal Homicide* is an example of which subarea of the criminological enterprise?

- a. developing theories of crime causation
- b. understanding and describing criminal behavior
- c. criminal statistics/crime measurement
- d. sociology of law

ANS: B REF: 7 OBJ: 2

4. Gathering valid crime data, devising new research methods, and measuring crime patterns and trends fall under the _____ subarea of the criminological enterprise.

- a. victimology
- c. theory construction

- b. penology/sentencing/corrections d. criminal statistics

ANS: D REF: 8 OBJ: 2

5. Criminologists interested in computing criminal statistics focus on creating ____ and ____ measurements of criminal behavior.

- a. tactical, strategic c. legal, positivist
b. valid, reliable d. current, applicable

ANS: B REF: 4 OBJ: 2

6. Caesar Beccaria, in the 1700s, was one of the first scholars to develop a systematic understanding of why people commit crime. Beccaria believed in the concept of _____, the idea that people want to achieve pleasure and avoid pain.

- a. determinism c. positivism
b. utilitarianism d. Marxism

ANS: B REF: 9 OBJ: 3

7. "Let the punishment fit the crime" refers to which criminological school of thought?

- a. positivist criminology c. classical criminology
b. developmental criminology d. sociological criminology

ANS: C REF: 9 OBJ: 3

8. The "father of criminology" and the man who referred to offenders as "born criminals" was:

- a. Lombroso. c. Durkheim.
b. Comte. d. Glueck.

ANS: A REF: 11 OBJ: 3

9. The _____ was a group of urban sociologists who examined how neighborhood conditions, such as poverty levels, influenced crime rates. Their sociological vision transformed into social structure theory.

- a. Philadelphia School
- b. Seattle School
- c. Chicago School
- d. New York School

ANS: C REF: 11 OBJ: 3

10. Individuals interact with various people, organizations, institutions and social norms as they mature and develop. This process is referred to as:

- a. integration.
- b. socialization.
- c. assimilation.
- d. civilization.

ANS: B REF: 12 OBJ: 3

11. The writings of Karl Marx have had a great impact on _____, which faults the economic system for producing the conditions that lead to high crime rates.

- a. classical criminology
- b. positivist criminology
- c. developmental criminology
- d. critical criminology

ANS: D REF: 12 OBJ: 3

12. According to the structural perspective, crime rates are a function of _____ forces such as neighborhood conditions, cultural factors, and norm conflict.

- a. situational
- b. internal
- c. political
- d. ecological

ANS: D REF: 14 OBJ: 3

13. According to the biological/psychological perspective, which type of forces account for crime?

- a. internal
- b. political
- c. ecological
- d. situational

ANS: A REF: 14 OBJ: 3

14. A deviant act becomes a crime when it is deemed socially harmful or dangerous:

- a. and is defined, challenged, and banned under common law.
- b. and is defined, stigmatized, and banned under procedural law.
- c. and is defined, prohibited, and punished under criminal law.
- d. and is defined, prohibited, and punished under civil law.

ANS: C REF: 14 OBJ: 4

15. Which of the following situations reflects an act of deviance as opposed to a crime?

- a. a thief who steals an unlocked automobile
- b. a passerby who observes a person drowning and does not offer aid
- c. a person who withdraws from family after joining a religious cult
- d. a man who rapes a woman

ANS: B REF: 14 OBJ: 4

16. In the 1930s, Harry Anslinger, then head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, launched a successful effort to criminalize marijuana which had been legal until that time. Which concept of crime does Anslinger's moral crusade reflect?

- a. the consensus view of crime
- b. the conflict view of crime
- c. the interactionist view of crime
- d. the legalistic view of crime

ANS: C REF: 15-17 OBJ: 4, 5

17. Which concept of crime implies that crimes are behaviors that *all* members of society consider to be repugnant, be they rich and powerful or poor and powerless?

- a. the consensus view of crime
- b. the conflict view of crime
- c. the interactionist view of crime
- d. the legalistic view of crime

ANS: A REF: 17 OBJ: 5

18. Which view of crime sees society as a collection of diverse groups who are in a constant and continuing struggle to gain political power in order to advance their economic or social situation?

- a. the consensus view of crime
- b. the conflict view of crime
- c. the interactionist view of crime
- d. the legalistic view of crime

ANS: B REF: 17 OBJ: 5

19. *Male in se* crimes such as murder and rape reflect which view of crime?

- a. the consensus view of crime
- b. the conflict view of crime
- c. the interactionist view of crime
- d. the legalistic view of crime

ANS: A REF: 17, 19 OBJ: 5, 6

20. While criminologists may adhere to the consensus, conflict, or interactionist view of crime, it is the _____ that defines crimes and their punishments.

- a. Mosaic Code
- b. Code of Hammurabi
- c. moral code
- d. written code

ANS: D REF: 17, 23 OBJ: 6

21. Which of the following is *not* a legitimate social goal of the criminal law?

- a. enforcing social control
- b. encouraging revenge
- c. expressing public opinion and morality
- d. deterring criminal behavior

ANS: B REF: 19-20 OBJ: 7

22. *Mala prohibitum* crimes, such as traffic offenses and gambling violations, change according to social conditions and attitudes. Criminal law is used to codify these changes, reflecting which purpose of law?

- a. enforcing social control
- b. creating equity
- c. expressing public opinion and morality
- d. maintaining social order

ANS: C REF: 19 OBJ: 7

23. The American legal system is a direct descendent of:

- a. Roman appellate law.
- b. British appellate law.
- c. British common law.
- d. Roman common law.

ANS: C REF: 19 OBJ: 8

24. The most famous set of written laws of the ancient world was a code based on punishment via physical retaliation, "an eye for an eye," but the severity of punishment was dependent on one's class standing. This code was known as:

- a. the Code of Hammurabi.
- b. the Mosaic Code.
- c. the Judeo-Christian Code
- d. the Code of the Israelites

ANS: A REF: 18 OBJ: 8

25. Under common law, if a royal judge successfully applied a ruling in a number of different cases and published that ruling in order that other judges could apply the ruling in their subsequent decisions, the ruling would become:

- a. a precedent.
- b. a royal order.
- c. statutory law.
- d. a key decision.

ANS: A REF: 19 OBJ: 8

26. Which of the following offenses would be classified as a felony?

- a. petty larceny
- b. assault and battery
- c. burglary
- d. disturbing the peace

ANS: C REF: 19 OBJ: 8, 9

27. Which of the following offenses would be classified as a misdemeanor?

- a. rape
- b. unarmed assault
- c. murder
- d. burglary

ANS: B REF: 19 OBJ: 9

28. Criminologist Ida Dupont argues that it is not enough that criminological research do no harm to subjects. What else does Dupont suggest criminological research should do?

- a. Criminological research should lead to prestige and status for the researcher.
- b. Criminological research should result in financial gain for the researcher.
- c. Criminological research should result in financial gain for research subjects.
- d. Criminological research should be empowering and directly useful to research subjects.

ANS: D REF: 22 OBJ: 10

29. Why must criminologists be ethical in their research?

- a. Because criminologists may face a jail sentence if they are not.
- b. Because criminologists are moral entrepreneurs.
- c. Because the lives of millions of people may be influenced by their research.
- d. Because criminologists are seeking political power.

ANS: C REF: 21 OBJ: 10

30. Which of the following situations raises an ethical issue for criminologists?

- a. studying only poor, minority subjects while ignoring white-collar criminals
- b. using a mail survey instead of face-to-face interviews
- c. publishing findings in a public journal
- d. studying a juvenile rehabilitation program that does not include counseling

ANS: A REF: 21 OBJ: 10

TRUE/FALSE

1. Criminology is an academic discipline that uses scientific methods to study the nature, extent, cause, and control of criminal behavior.

ANS: T REF: 4 OBJ: 1

2. The criminological enterprise sub-area of victimology is concerned with specific criminal behavior systems such as white-collar crime and violent crime.

ANS: F REF: 8 OBJ: 2

3. The mid-eighteenth century belief stressing that the relationship between crime and punishment should be balanced and fair can be traced to Cesare Beccaria.

ANS: T REF: 9 OBJ: 3

4. Use of the scientific method to conduct research in an objective, universal, and culture free fashion is an element of classical criminology.

ANS: F REF: 10 OBJ: 3

5. Chicago School sociologists argued that social forces operating in urban areas created a crime-promoting environment; some areas were "natural areas" for crime.

ANS: T REF: 11-12 OBJ: 3

6. Critical criminologists contend that society's economic system plays a significant role in producing criminal behavior.

ANS: T REF: 12, 14 OBJ: 3

7. The juvenile delinquency research of Eleanor and Sheldon Glueck (in the 1940s and 50s) profoundly influenced criminology and formed the basis for today's trait theory.

ANS: F REF: 12, 14 OBJ: 3

8. A crime becomes a deviant act when it is deemed by lawmakers as socially harmful or dangerous.

ANS: F REF: 14 OBJ: 4

9. According to the conflict view of crime, criminal laws are viewed as acts created to protect the haves from the have-nots.

ANS: T REF: 14, 23 OBJ: 5

10. The consensus view of crime suggests that the definition of crime reflects the preferences and opinions of people who hold social power in a particular legal jurisdiction.

ANS: F REF: 17 OBJ: 5

11. The term "criminal law" refers to the written code that defines crimes and their punishments.

ANS: T REF: 17 OBJ: 6

12. The social control function of criminal law is tied to its sanctioning power to punish offenders.

ANS: T REF: 19 OBJ: 7

13. Under common law, if a new rule was successfully applied in a number of different cases, it would become a precedent.

ANS: T REF: 19 OBJ: 8

14. The distinction between whether a crime is classified as a felony or misdemeanor is based upon the age of the individual committing the crime.

ANS: F REF: 19 OBJ: 9

15. Over the past decades, it has been shown that criminological research has been influenced by government funding linked to topics the government wants researched and topics the government wishes to avoid.

ANS: T REF: 21 OBJ: 10

ESSAY

1. Explain what it means to say that criminology is an interdisciplinary science. Identify and provide examples of the included academic disciplines and how these disciplines are reflected in criminology.

REF: 4 OBJ: 1

2. Identify and discuss the various sub-areas that comprise the criminological enterprise.

REF: 4-8 OBJ: 2

3. While Lombroso's version of strict biological determinism is no longer taken seriously, discuss the evolution of Lombroso's biological determinism and its relationship to contemporary biosocial theory.

REF: 11, 13 OBJ: 3

4. Discuss the defining elements of positivist criminology. How do these elements contrast with the basic elements of classical criminology?

REF: 9-11 OBJ: 3

5. How does critical criminology differ from social structure theory? How are elements of these two schools of criminological thought connected?

REF: 13-14 OBJ: 3

6. Discuss the difference between behaviors that are deviant versus behaviors that are criminal.

REF: 14-16 OBJ: 4

7. Compare the consensus, conflict and interactionist views of crime and how each would explain harsher penalties for street crimes.

REF: 17-18 OBJ: 5

8. By outlawing criminal behavior, the government expects to achieve a number of social goals. Discuss the various purposes served by the criminal law.

REF: 19-20 OBJ: 7

9. Providing examples for each, discuss the difference between felony and misdemeanor crimes.

REF: 19 OBJ: 9

10. Identify and explain the three ethical issues that impact criminological research.

REF: 21-22 OBJ: 10