

Chapter 01: Criminal Justice Today

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is true regarding deviance?

- a. Deviance is an objective concept that all members of society agree upon.
- b. Deviance is another term used to describe all criminal activity.
- c. Deviance is behavior that is considered to go against the norms established by society.
- d. Deviance is always considered criminal in nature.

ANSWER: c

2. An act that violates criminal law and is punishable by criminal sanctions is known as

a. _____

- a. crime.
- b. felony.
- c. tort.
- d. deviant.

ANSWER: a

3. The consensus model is a criminal justice model in which:

- a. the content of criminal law is determined by the groups that hold economic, political, and social power in a community.
- b. a majority of citizens in society agree on what activities should be outlawed and punished as crimes.
- c. specific social groups determine which deviant behaviors are to be defined as criminal.
- d. the primary focus of law is to protect the individual from the power of government.

ANSWER: b

4. Which of the following is NOT one of the key elements of the integrated definition of crime?

- a. Punishable under criminal law, as determined by the majority of a society or, in some cases, a powerful minority
- b. Considered an offense against society as a whole and prosecuted by public officials, not by victims and their relatives or friends
- c. Punishable by statutorily determined sanctions that bring about the loss of personal freedom or life
- d. Considered an offense against an individual, but prosecuted by the state

ANSWER: d

5. The two main purposes of American criminal justice system is to maintain justice and

- a. rehabilitate offenders.
- b. incarcerate criminals.
- c. arrest criminals.
- d. protect society.

ANSWER: d

6. Federalism refers to:

- a. a system of government dominated by an all-powerful federal government.
- b. a system of checks and balances within the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
- c. a system of government in which states are independent and self-governing.
- d. a sharing of government powers by federal and state authorities.

ANSWER: d

7. Which of the following is NOT considered an express power?

- a. The power to coin money
- b. Police powers
- c. The power to raise an army
- d. The power to regulate interstate commerce

ANSWER: b

8. Police powers allow states to enact laws necessary to protect the of their citizens.

- a. health
- b. morals
- c. safety
- d. all of these

ANSWER: d

9. What level of law enforcement shares responsibilities between counties and municipalities?

- a. Federal
- b. Local
- c. National
- d. State

ANSWER: b

10. Most law enforcement officers in the United States work at which governmental level?

- a. Local
- b. Private
- c. State
- d. Federal

ANSWER: a

11. The United States has a court system where the power is segregated between the federal government and individual state governments.

- a. dual
- b. primary
- c. single
- d. tertiary

ANSWER: a

12. Once the court system convicts and sentences an offender, she or he is delegated to the system in order to carry out his or her sentence.

- a. corrections
- b. management
- c. supervision
- d. treatment

ANSWER: a

13. The most common correctional treatment, which allows the offender to return to the community and remain under the supervision of the agent of the court, is_____

- a. house arrest.
- b. intensive supervised probation.
- c. parole.
- d. probation.

ANSWER: d

14. Those convicted of misdemeanor offenses with relatively short sentences, as well as those awaiting trial or transfer, are primarily housed in_____

- a. jails.
- b. halfway houses.
- c. prisons.
- d. treatment facilities.

ANSWER: a

15. primarily house those convicted of felony offenses that require longer periods of incarceration.

- a. Jails
- b. Halfway houses
- c. Prisons
- d. Treatment facilities

ANSWER: c

16. The most frequent type of release from prison is _____, in which an inmate, after serving part of his or her sentence in a correctional facility, is allowed to serve the rest of the term in the community.

- a. boot camp
- b. parole
- c. treatment facility
- d. probation

ANSWER: b

17. Which of the following is NOT considered a community-based corrections treatment

option?

- a. Halfway houses
- b. Jail
- c. Residential centers
- d. Work release

ANSWER: b

18. The ability to choose between and among alternative courses of action is known as _____

- a. choice.
- b. control.
- c. discretion.
- d. power.

ANSWER: c

19. Discretion is defined as the ability to make operational decisions based on _____

- a. the law.
- b. personal judgment.
- c. trust.
- d. rational thinking.

ANSWER: b

20. Herbert Packer likened the idealized criminal justice system to a(n) _____

- a. sports team.
- b. assembly line.
- c. tangled bureaucracy.
- d. obstacle course.

ANSWER: b

21. Which of the following does not occur during the adjudication phase of the criminal justice process?

- a. Arrest
- b. Arraignment
- c. Criminal trial
- d. Verdict

ANSWER: a

22. During which step in the criminal justice process would the offender plead guilty to a criminal charge?

- a. Entry into the system
- b. Pretrial services
- c. Adjudication
- d. Sentencing and sanctions

ANSWER: c

23. Collectively the discretionary decisions made by criminal justice professionals are said to produce a(n) _____

- a. due process model.
- b. crime control model.
- c. formal criminal justice process.
- d. informal criminal justice process.

ANSWER: d

24. What is the ability to make operational decisions based on personal judgment instead of formal rules?

- a. Discretion
- b. Ethics
- c. Justice
- d. Morals

ANSWER: a

25. Which of the following is an example of a discretionary decision made by prosecutors?

- a. The decision to release an inmate on parole
- b. The decision to issue an arrest warrant
- c. The decision to convict a defendant
- d. The decision to reduce charges

ANSWER: d

26. What are the moral principles that govern a person's perception of right and wrong?

- a. Discretion
- b. Ethics
- c. Justice
- d. Laws

ANSWER: b

27. This model emphasizes that the individual is to be protected from the power of the government.

- a. Crime control model
- b. Due process model
- c. Consensus model
- d. Conservative model

ANSWER: b

28. This model emphasizes the right of society to be protected from crime and violent criminals.

- a. Crime control model
- b. Due process model
- c. Consensus model

d. Conflict model

ANSWER: a

29. _____ refer to methods to identify a person based on his or her unique physical characteristics, such as fingerprints or facial configuration.

- a. Biometrics
- b. Plyometrics
- c. Ballistics
- d. Forensics

ANSWER: a

True / False

30. The consensus model assumes that as people gather together to form a society, its members naturally come to a basic agreement with regard to shared norms and values.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

31. According to the conflict model, different segments of society have different value systems and shared norms and are engaged in a constant struggle to control society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

32. The two most common models of how society decides which acts are criminal are the crime control and due process models.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

33. Morals are principles of right and wrong behavior, as practiced by individuals or by society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

34. Deviance is an objective concept; society agrees on which behaviors should be criminalized.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

35. All deviant acts are criminal and all crimes are deviant.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

36. One of the two primary purposes of the criminal justice system is to attempt to rehabilitate offenders.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

37. The bulk of all police officers in the United States are employed at the federal level.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

38. In regard to law enforcement authority and investigative jurisdiction, there is no real difference between a state police system and a highway patrol system.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

39. The United States has a dual court system; that is, it has two independent judicial systems: the federal level and the state level.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

40. The most frequent type of release from a jail or prison is probation, in which an inmate, after serving part of his term in a correctional facility, is allowed to serve the rest of his term in the community.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

41. Probation is the most common correctional treatment used in the United States.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

42. The discretionary decisions made by criminal justice professionals are said to produce a formal criminal justice process that does not operate within the rigid confines of formal rules and laws.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

43. Intelligence-led policing is an example of an evidence-based practice that has shown some positive outcomes in regard to crime reduction efforts by certain police departments.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

44. The due process model focuses more on the rights of the accused through formal, legal restraints on the police, courts, and corrections.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

Completion

45. A(n) _____ is defined as wrong against society proclaimed by law and, if committed under certain circumstances, punishable by society.

ANSWER: crime

46. _____ is behavior that is considered to go against the norms established by society.

ANSWER: Deviance

47. The _____ model is a criminal justice model in which the content of criminal law is determined by the groups that hold economic, political, and social power in a community.

ANSWER: conflict

48. _____ is the quality of fairness that must exist in the processes designed to determine whether individuals are guilty of criminal wrongdoing.

ANSWER: Justice

49. The framers of the U.S. Constitution, fearful of tyranny and a too-powerful central government, chose the system of government known as _____, which calls for the separation of powers between the federal government and individual state governments.

ANSWER: federalism

50. The chief law enforcement officer of most counties is the _____.

ANSWER: county sheriff

51. The two levels of the U.S. dual court system are the and .

ANSWER: federal; state

52. Bloom's is the most common correctional treatment used in the United States.

ANSWER: Probation

53. are used to house those convicted of minor crimes with relatively short sentences and those who are awaiting trial.

ANSWER: Jails

54. is the ability of individuals in the criminal justice system to make operational decisions based on personal judgment instead of formal rules or official information.

ANSWER: Discretion

55. The criminal justice system relies on the discretion of individuals to offset the rigidity of criminal statutes and procedural rules.

ANSWER: informal

56. are the moral principles that govern a person's perception of right and wrong.

ANSWER: Ethics

57. The model places primacy on the right of the individual to be protected from the power of the government.

ANSWER: due process

58. _____ refer to specific approaches or strategies that have been extensively researched and shown consistently to produce the desired outcomes.

ANSWER: Evidence-based practices

59. is the use of threat of violence to achieve political objectives.

ANSWER: Terrorism

Essay

60. Describe the two most common models of how society determines which acts are criminal.

ANSWER: The consensus model assumes people gather together to form a society; its members naturally come to a basic agreement with regard to shared norms and values;

individuals deviating from established norms and values are considered to pose a threat to the well-being of society and must be sanctioned. The conflict model acknowledges different segments in society that are in constant struggle with each other for control of society; victorious groups exercise their power by codifying their value system into criminal laws.

61. Explain in detail the two main purposes of the American Criminal Justice System.

ANSWER: As its name implies, the explicit goal of the criminal justice system is to provide justice to all members of society. Because justice is a difficult concept to define, this goal can be challenging, if not impossible, to meet. Broadly stated, justice means that all individuals are equal before the law and that they are free from arbitrary arrest or seizure as defined by the law. In other words, the idea of justice is linked with the idea of fairness. Above all, we want our laws and the means by which they are carried out to be fair. The second major purpose is to protect society. In doing so, four unique goals must be carried out to achieve "protection of society." These are (1) to protect society from potential future crimes of the most dangerous or "risky" offenders; (2) to determine when an offense has been committed and provide the appropriate punishment for that offense; (3) to rehabilitate those offenders who have been punished so that it is safe to return them to the community; and (4) to support crime victims and, to the extent possible, return them to their precrime status.

62. Discuss the concept of federalism and how it affects the organization and structure of the criminal justice system.

ANSWER: Federalism is a form of government in which a written constitution provides for a division of powers between a central government and several regional governments. The national government has certain express powers including the power to coin money, raise an army, and regulate interstate commerce while other powers are left to the states, including police power, which allows states to enact whatever laws are necessary to protect the health, morals, safety, and welfare of their citizens. Federalism is displayed in law enforcement in that there are local, state, and federal agencies responsible for enforcing their respective laws. Either the federal courts or one of the state court systems will handle the processing of the case and the respective corrections system will handle the offender if found guilty of a crime.

63. Explain the difference between the informal and the formal criminal justice processes.

ANSWER: The formal criminal justice process operates like an assembly line or a series of routine operations focused on moving the offender through the system as quickly and efficiently as possible. These processes are rigid and are dictated by laws, regulations, and policies. In an informal criminal justice system, each step in the process is individualized to the offender and highly dependent on the use of discretion by those who work in the criminal justice system. In other words, the individual practitioner has the discretionary authority, in some but not all instances, to make a decision that impacts the outcome of a particular situation related to the justice process.

64. Contrast the crime control and due process models of criminal justice. In your opinion, which of the two best represents the ideal American criminal justice system, and

why? Be sure to fully explain your stance.

ANSWER: The crime control model assumes that the criminal justice system is designed to protect the public from criminals. Thus, its most important function is to punish and repress criminal conduct. The due process model presumes that the accused are innocent and provides them with the most complete safeguards, usually within the court system

65. Western democracies such as Canada, Britain, Denmark, and Germany have criminal laws that punish public hate speech, including things that are said on the internet through social media outlets. The United States on the other hand, due in large part to our 1st Amendment regarding freedom of speech, does not prohibit this type of hate speech. In fact, at present, the United States does not criminalize public hate speech that “threatens” or “disrespects” members of any racial or ethnic group, as long as it is only speech and not actions. As a veteran U.S. Senator of twenty years, you are receiving pressure from members of your political party, and even more so your constituents from your home state to create a new federal law that allows law enforcement authorities to arrest any person who publically expresses support for violent terrorism, foreign or domestic, including those who use social media sites to condone violence or death towards any racial, ethnic, or religious group. As a Senator, will your co-sponsor the Bill? Why or why not? Please fully explain your answer.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

66. As Governor of the state of Texas, you are responsible for one of the largest states in the Union. Over the past two years, you have been receiving pressure from proponents and opponents regarding the legalization of marijuana in your state. Proponents of this trend, including the Superintendent of your state police, contend that society benefits when the criminal justice system is no longer required to expend scarce resources on arresting, trying, and incarcerating nonviolent marijuana users. Opponents on the other hand, including a majority of religious & spiritual leaders across the state, have bombarded your office with letters and phone calls that point to the negative consequences of liberalized marijuana laws. These include a dramatic increase in the number of Americans using the drug, including children, which has led to a concurrent rise in problems such as marijuana addiction and unnecessary and premature deaths due to driving under the influence of the drug. As Governor, do you actively attempt to encourage state leaders to pen a bill to legalize marijuana, or do you table the idea to wait and see how other states fare who have legalized marijuana? Please fully explain your stance.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

67. As a rookie police officer who just graduated field training, you have been assigned to a known high-crime area with an extremely high percentage of poor minority community members. As the youngest member of your unit, you have witnessed some of your fellow officers using racial slurs and unnecessary force when dealing with members of the community, including those who were stopped and questioned for no apparent reason. One night on the graveyard shift, you are advised of a traffic-stop that has escalated to a violent altercation between an officer and a suspect who meets the description of a person wanted for a strong-armed robbery. When you arrive on the scene, you witness three officers punching, kicking, and yelling derogatory things at the suspect. When you

scream at the officers to stop, one turns to you and says “mind your business, rookie.” As a rookie officer, seeing a possibly innocent person being harmed, what do you do? Please fully explain your answer.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

68. As a newly appointed Assistant District Attorney, you have been assigned to work on cases related to narcotics. After nearly 6 months on the job, you start to realize that your town has a major heroin issue on its hands. During the course of the last 6 months, you have sought extremely long jail and prison sentences for minor non-violent offenders, however you are starting to realize this may not be the best course of action for the offender, the criminal justice system, and more so, the community at large. As a young ADA who wields great discretionary authority on these types of cases, you are at a crossroads regarding how to proceed. Although you seek advice from the Chief Prosecutor, she informs you that it is your discretion on how you choose to handle these kinds of offenses. With minimal input from your boss, how will you continue to deal with these types of low-level offenders and why? Please fully explain.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

69. The United States leads the world in gun-related homicides, especially mass shootings. As a newly elected Senator from your home state, there is a current Bill on the Senate floor in which you need to cast your vote. The Bill specifically states that assault weapons will be banned throughout the country, meaning that no more weapons of this sort can be bought, sold, and now, even owned. If one is already in possession of an assault weapon, that citizen will be given 30 days to relinquish the firearm to local law enforcement, and in doing so, will be provided a federal voucher to be used as a tax deduction to cover the market value of the gun. As a Senator, who believes in 2nd Amendment rights, how would you vote and why? Please fully explain.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.