

Chapter 01: Introduction to Organized Crime

Multiple Choice

1. According to Abadinsky, which variable best distinguishes organized crime from conventional crime?

- a. organization
- b. communication
- c. economics
- d. persistent use of violence

ANSWER: a

2. According to this book's definition of organized crime, which of the following is NOT a major characteristic used to define organized crime?

- a. has political goals
- b. hierarchical
- c. governed by explicit rules and regulations
- d. monopolistic

ANSWER: a

3. According to Abadinsky, which of the following motivates traditional organized crime groups?

- a. social doctrine
- b. political beliefs
- c. ideological concerns
- d. economic gain

ANSWER: d

4. An organized crime group has a vertical power structure with at least three permanent ranks. This statement describes which major attribute of organized crime?

- a. the ideological attribute
- b. the hierarchical attribute
- c. governed by explicit rules and regulations attribute
- d. the monopolistic attribute

ANSWER: b

5. An organized crime group dislikes competition. This statement best describes which attribute of organized crime?

- a. the violence attribute
- b. the organizational attribute
- c. the kinship attribute
- d. the monopolistic attribute

ANSWER: d

6. According to the text, in a bureaucracy, positions are assigned on what basis?

- a. politics
- b. competence
- c. education level attained
- d. resource availability

ANSWER: b

7. All bureaucracies are _____ organizations sharing a number of attributes (e.g., a hierarchy, division of labor, extensive written rules and regulations).

- a. profit-focused
- b. kinship-based
- c. rational
- d. geographically restricted

ANSWER: c

8. For an organized crime group, bureaucratic structure has some deficiencies. Which of the following is an example of such a deficiency?

- a. compartmentalization
- b. organizing street level members into cells
- c. allowing street members to know only the members of their cell
- d. responsibilities carried out in an impersonal manner

ANSWER: d

9. Which of the following is NOT a feature of bureaucracies?

- a. a complicated hierarchy
- b. extensive division of labor
- c. equality of membership
- d. extensive written rules and regulations

ANSWER: c

10. Which of the following is NOT considered to one of the three major bureaucratic levels of an organized crime group?

- a. Controller
- b. Cells
- c. Compartmentalizers
- d. Central command

ANSWER: c

11. Franchising provides a form of _____ by reputation, encouraging networking that facilitates cooperation between criminals that might not otherwise occur.

- a. familiarity
- b. veracity
- c. credentialing
- d. strength

ANSWER: c

12. With respect to organized crime, a franchise essentially provides:

- a. a sense of entitlement and credentials.
- b. a rank assignment within the organization.
- c. a guaranteed return on investment.
- d. a sense of safety and security.

ANSWER: a

13. Some criminal organizations use _____ to confirm membership, such as the death head emblem of the Hell's Angels.

- a. membership cards
- b. trademarks
- c. criminal "birth certificates"
- d. souvenirs

ANSWER: b

14. Credentialing by reputation:

- a. encourages networking.
- b. facilitates cooperation between criminals.
- c. promotes business relationships.
- d. encourages networking, facilitates cooperation between criminals, and promotes business relationships.

ANSWER: d

15. Which of the following is said to serve to promote business relationships between criminals who do not enjoy a history of interaction?

- a. franchising
- b. structuring
- c. credentialing
- d. joint venturing

ANSWER: c

16. A criminal network has places where participants congregate or "hang out" or places that welcome their patronage. According to the text, these hangouts are referred to as:

- a. points of convergence.
- b. working class bars.
- c. elite night clubs.
- d. trade associations.

ANSWER: a

17. Which of the following is true of today's criminal networks?

- a. They are fluid, forming new alliances with other networks around the world.
- b. They are fluid, but form new alliances only within their own country.
- c. They are rigid, avoiding new alliances with other networks.

d. They are fluid, but form new alliances only with their own ethnic group.

ANSWER: a

18. A criminal network typically functions within a subcultural environment, often referred to as a(n) _____ whose affiliates range from actual members of criminal groups to persons with marginal employment (e.g., bouncers, professional gamblers).

- a. clandestine society
- b. posse
- c. secret fraternity
- d. underworld

ANSWER: d

19. Criminal subcultures require a third party who can construct a “social bridge” between persons with complementary resources and interests. This third party person is often referred to as a what?

- a. parlayer
- b. broker
- c. remunerator
- d. joiner

ANSWER: b

20. Which of the following major events, intertwined with the rapid expansion of global markets, provided a greater opportunity for transnational organized crime to flourish throughout the world?

- a. World War II
- b. the collapse of the Soviet Union
- c. the Gulf War
- d. the 1960s democratizing of Latin America

ANSWER: b

21. _____ organized crime refers to self-perpetuating criminal organizations that operate across national boundaries.

- a. State-sponsored
- b. Transnational
- c. Global
- d. Multinational

ANSWER: b

22. _____ is defined as terrorist acts carried out by groups directly or indirectly involved in cultivating, manufacturing, transporting, or distributing illegal drugs.

- a. Prescribed terrorism
- b. Narcoterrorism
- c. Cyberterrorism
- d. Postal terrorism

ANSWER: b

23. The differences between terrorist organizations and organized crimes groups rest upon:

- a. means and ends.
- b. tactics.
- c. organizational structure.
- d. means and ends, tactics, and organizational structure.

ANSWER: a

24. Many traditional organized crime groups are politically quite _____ and tend to be supportive of their host governments.

- a. neutral
- b. liberal
- c. conservative
- d. detached

ANSWER: c

True / False

25. There is no generally accepted definition of organized crime.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

26. Organized crime is self-perpetuating.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

27. Members of organized crime view themselves as conventional members of society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

28. A criminal organization structured along bureaucratic lines has no significant inherent weaknesses.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

29. Franchise provides a sense of entitlement and credentials that enable the possessor to engage in criminal activity knowing that he will be supported and protected by the franchisor.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

30. Points of convergence are meeting places that provide opportunity for organized criminals to enhance their interests.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

31. Migration, legal or illegal, broadens the reach of existing criminal networks.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

32. Terrorists are state-sponsored actors whose intention is to intimidate an audience only within their immediate country of origin.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

33. Based on recent history, terrorists seem never to imitate organized criminal behavior that they witness, largely because their techniques and mission have no significant crossover or connections.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

34. Both terrorist groups and criminal organizations use compartmentalization.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

Completion

35. The goals of an organized crime group are _____ and _____.

ANSWER: money, power

36. _____ is a type of bureaucratic structure that organizes persons at the operational/street level into cells whose members know only the people in their same cell.

ANSWER: Compartmentalization

37. The _____ is an individual who is responsible for overall operations of several criminal cells within a region, and in this role reports directly to the central command of the operation via the Internet or cell phone.

ANSWER: controller

38. In a bureaucracy, positions are assigned on the basis of _____.

ANSWER: competence

39. A criminal network typically functions within a subcultural environment often referred to as a(n) _____.

ANSWER: underworld

40. Organizational affiliation provides a form of _____ by reputation, facilitating cooperation between criminals.

ANSWER: credentialing

41. A criminal network has points of _____ where participants congregate.

ANSWER: convergence

42. In a criminal network, the “third person” who serves as a “social bridge” is often referred to as a(n) _____.

ANSWER: broker

43. Unlike organized crime, terrorism is inherently _____.

ANSWER: political

44. As opposed to organized crime, _____ is inherently political, and as such it is relative to one’s political view.

ANSWER: terrorism

Essay

45. State the eight attributes of organized crime, and describe each.

ANSWER: 1. Absence of political goals: The goals of an organized crime group are money and power, NOT social doctrine, political beliefs, or ideological concerns. 2. Is hierarchical: The structure is vertical with at least three permanent ranks. 3. Has a limited or exclusive membership: Qualifications may include ethnic background, kinship, race, criminal record, or similar considerations. Membership usually requires a sponsor. 4. Constitutes a unique subculture: They view themselves as distinct from conventional society. 5. Perpetuates itself: The organization is designed to persist through time, beyond the life of

the current membership.6. Exhibits a willingness to use illegal violence: Violence is an available and accepted resource, not restricted by ethical considerations, but controlled only by practical limitations.7. Is monopolistic: The group strives for hegemony over a geographic area or "industry," legal or illegal.8. Is governed by explicit rules and regulations: The group has rules and regulations that members are expected to obey.

46. State the attributes of a bureaucracy and discuss how a criminal organization may find it necessary to adopt some or all of those attributes.

ANSWER: Bureaucracies are rational organizations sharing a number of attributes, including a complicated hierarchy, extensive division of labor, positions assigned on the basis of competence, responsibilities carried out in an impersonal manner, extensive written rules and regulations, and communication from the top of the hierarchy to persons on the bottom via a chain of command. When an organization expands its business and membership, and engages in large-scale tasks, it needs a bureaucratic structure.

47. Please list and explain three possible inherent weaknesses that may prove to be problematic for an organized crime group that is structured along bureaucratic lines.

ANSWER: Here are some possible answers: • Communication from top management to operational-level personnel can be intercepted by law enforcement. The communication structure is vulnerable, especially in the case of international organizations operating in the United States. Written records are vulnerable as well. • A bureaucratic criminal organization is endangered if it is infiltrated at the upper levels. • Sometimes the organization's leader is so important that, if he is removed (e.g., through death or incarceration), the entire organization is weakened or even collapses. • A bureaucracy is based on expertise, not on personal ties. This fact makes betrayal more likely than in a more personal organization.

48. Please define and then explain why so called "points of convergence" are so important to organized crime groups.

ANSWER: A criminal network has points of convergence where participants congregate, "hangouts," places that welcome their patronage—bars, restaurants, social clubs, nightclubs, gyms—that may be owned or under the control of criminal entrepreneurs. Some locations may cater to a particular subculture, such as a "biker bar." While they serve primarily as places for socialization, hangouts provide opportunity to advance business interests.

49. What is meant by a network and how are its features applied by organized crime groups?

ANSWER: A network consists of a collection of connected points or junctures; a criminal network typically functions within a subcultural environment—an "underworld"—whose habitués range from members of criminal groups to persons with marginal employment (e.g., bouncers at sex-oriented establishments, professional gamblers) to a variety of part- and full-time criminals with varying degrees of skill and success. A criminal network has points of convergence where participants congregate. Migration broadens the reach of existing criminal networks.

50. What is the role of a “broker” in organized crime?

ANSWER: The subculture contains gaps between persons with complementary resources and information. They require a third party or a “broker” who typically can fill the gap by constructing a “social bridge” by connecting otherwise isolated individuals or organizations. The role of the broker is enhanced if he/she is properly credentialed and can thereby provide an umbrella of protection and act a guarantor for a transaction.

51. In what ways have transnational criminal organizations taken advantage of our increasingly interconnected world to expand their illicit enterprises?

ANSWER: Unprecedented openness in trade, finance, travel, and communication has given rise to massive opportunities for criminal organizations. The traditional Mafia type organization, formerly linked to its territory, has expanded to include global market opportunities. The availability of advanced communication and financial transfer technologies has broadened and accelerated opportunities for transnational organized crime.

52. Explain how globalization has affected organized crime.

ANSWER: Globalization of organized crime created a nexus with terrorism, enabling mutually supportive activities. Today’s criminal networks are fluid, striking new alliances with other networks around the world and engaging in a wide range of illicit activities, including cybercrime and providing support for terrorism.

53. How is terrorism different from organized crime? Provide examples to support your answer.

ANSWER: Terrorism has ideological goals. It seeks to weaken or destroy a society. In contrast organized crime feeds on society and therefore seeks to preserve, not destroy it. For example, Al Qaeda destroyed the World Trade Center towers, with the objective of weakening the social fabric of the United States. The Italian-American Mafia would not have done such a thing, because it would not gain the organization any money, and money is their object. On the other hand, terrorist organizations sometimes use organized crime groups and/or activities to generate money for their ideological purposes; and sometimes, terrorist groups morph into organized crime groups, finding the money more attractive than the ideology.

54. Discuss the relationship between terrorism and organized crime.

ANSWER: Organized crime and terrorism sometimes have mutually beneficial goals and activities. For example, trafficking routes—whether drugs, prostitution, weapons, or other—can be used to transport goods desired by terrorists or goods or services desired in the vice industries. All these activities generate money, rewarding organized criminals who are in it just for the money, providing weapons to terrorists, and smuggling terrorists into particular regions.