

Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminology Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. Crimes that are considered “an act which is not inherently immoral, but becomes so because its commission is expressly forbidden by positive law” are called _____.

- a. *mala in se*
- b. *mala prohibita*
- c. illegal
- d. civil wrongs

Ans: B

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Crimes that are considered “an act inherently and essentially evil, that is immoral in its nature and injurious in its consequence, without any regard to the fact of its being noticed or punished by the law of the state” are called _____.

- a. *mala in se*
- b. *mala prohibita*
- c. illegal
- d. civil wrongs

Ans: A

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Prostitution is illegal in most jurisdictions in the United States. However, prostitution is legal, and licensed, in most counties of Nevada. This would be considered _____.

- a. *mala in se*
- b. *mala prohibita*
- c. illegal
- d. civil wrongs

Ans: B

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What Is a Crime?
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. _____ are not necessarily against the law but are considered atypical and may be deemed immoral rather than illegal.

- a. *mala in se*
- b. *mala prohibita*
- c. deviant acts
- d. civil wrongs

Ans: C

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What Is a Crime?
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. The following definition of criminology was developed by _____: The body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon, which includes the process of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting toward the breaking of laws.

- a. Hirschi
- b. Gottfredson
- c. Durkheim
- d. Sutherland

Ans: D

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. _____ often refers to the various criminal justice agencies and institutions (e.g., police, courts, and corrections) that are interrelated and work together toward common goals.

- a. Victimology
- b. Restorative justice
- c. Criminal Justice
- d. None of these

Ans: C

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. A _____ of crime views the formal system of laws, as well as the enforcement of those laws, as incorporating societal norms for which there is a broad normative consensus.

- a. conflict perspective
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. consensus perspective
- d. none of these

Ans: C

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. The _____ maintains that there is conflict between various societal groups with different interests, and it is often resolved when the group in power achieves control.

- a. conflict perspective
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. consensus perspective
- d. none of these

Ans: C

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. The structure of the criminal justice system is often presented as:

- a. police and corrections
- b. police and courts
- c. police, courts, and corrections
- d. police, victims, and courts

Ans: C

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. _____ are also designated as lower courts and they do not have power that extends to the overall administration of justice; thus, they do not try felony cases and do not have appellate authority.

- a. Courts of limited jurisdiction
- b. Courts of general jurisdiction

- c. Courts of appellate jurisdiction
- d. The Supreme Court

Ans: A

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Courts

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. _____ are also designated as major trial courts. They have the power and authority to try and decide any case, including appeals from a lower court.

- a. Courts of limited jurisdiction
- b. Courts of general jurisdiction
- c. Courts of appellate jurisdiction
- d. The Supreme Court

Ans: B

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Courts

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. _____ are also designated as appeals courts. They are limited in their jurisdiction decisions on matters of appeal from lower courts and trial courts.

- a. Courts of limited jurisdiction
- b. Courts of general jurisdiction
- c. Courts of appellate jurisdiction
- d. The Supreme Court

Ans: C

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Courts

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. According to conflict perspective, conflict is often resolved when the group in power achieves _____.

- a. control
- b. rank
- c. order
- d. status

Ans: A

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. The general purpose of the criminal justice system includes all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. control crime
- b. prevent crime
- c. community support
- d. provide and maintain justice

Ans: C

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. The term *criminal justice* often refers to all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. corrections
- b. investigations
- c. police
- d. courts

Ans: B

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. The term *criminology* was first coined by _____.

- a. Raffaele Garafalo
- b. Paul Topinard
- c. Edwin Sutherland
- d. Joanne Belknap

Ans: A

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. The federal court system is a three-tiered model including all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. U.S. claims court
- b. U.S. Supreme Court
- c. U.S. district courts

d. U.S. courts of appeals

Ans: A

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Courts

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. In 2002, President George W. Bush created the _____ in an effort to protect and defend the United States from terrorist threats.

- a. Drug Enforcement Administration
- b. Department of Homeland Security
- c. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- d. U.S. Secret Service

Ans: B

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Law Enforcement

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. The primary objective of processing juveniles was to determine _____.

- a. guilt
- b. innocence
- c. what was in the best interest of the child
- d. if their parents had any responsibility

Ans: C

Learning Objective: Identify some of the key distinguishing features of the juvenile justice system compared with the adult criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Juvenile Justice System

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. _____ is generally reserved for those convicted of more serious crimes with longer sentences who may be housed in a supermax, maximum, medium, or minimum security prison, based on security concerns.

- a. Jail
- b. Probation
- c. Parole
- d. Prison

Ans: D

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Corrections

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. _____ is a criterion of causality that requires a change in a predictor variable (X) to be consistently associated with some change in the explanatory variable (Y).

- a. Causation
- b. Spuriousness
- c. Validity
- d. Correlation

Ans: D

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Three Requirements for Determining Causality

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. _____ is a relatively new area of criminology.

- a. Policing
- b. Victimology
- c. Research methods
- d. None of these

Ans: B

Learning Objective: Identify key concepts associated with victimology.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Victimology

Difficulty Level: Easy

23. _____ is given by the state/government, and restitution is given by the offender (typically as part of the sentence given).

- a. Compensation
- b. Restorative justice
- c. Victim impact statements
- d. Restitution

Ans: A

Learning Objective: Identify key concepts associated with victimology

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Compensation and Restitution

Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

1. Some acts can move from being deemed deviant to being declared illegal, such as using a cell phone while driving or smoking cigarettes in public.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. There is one definition of what crime is, and it is the same in all countries.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. While most *mala in se* activities are also considered highly deviant, this is not necessarily the case for *mala prohibita* acts.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Criminology is the scientific study of crime.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Joanne Belknap states she prefers to use the term *crime processing*, *criminal processing*, and *criminal legal system*, given that "the processing of victims and offenders [is] anything but 'just.'"

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Several criminologists, such as Richard Quinney, William Chambliss, and Austin Turk, maintained that criminological theory has placed too much emphasis on explaining criminal behavior; rather, theory needs to shift this focus toward explaining criminal law.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The main goals of the criminal justice system are to control crime, to prevent crime, and to provide and maintain justice.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Law enforcement includes various organizational levels at the federal, state, and local levels.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Law Enforcement

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. An offender can be placed on probation, incarcerated, or transferred to some type of community-based corrections facility.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Corrections

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. There can be general and specific conditions of probation that an offender must comply with as the designated punishment.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Corrections

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. Almost all federal agencies have some police power, with the exception of the Postal Service and the Forest Service.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Law Enforcement

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. According to the text, journalists play a key role in examining crime by exploring what is happening in criminal justice and revealing injustices as well as new forms of crime.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?

Difficulty Level: Hard

13. The question "Why are some behaviors defined as criminal while others are not?" is considered part of the conflict perspective.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. The United States has one judicial system.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Courts

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Every court, not including the U.S. Supreme Court, is limited in terms of jurisdiction.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Courts

Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Give an example of a *mala in se* act and a *mala prohibita* act.

Ans: Murder; prostitution. Various examples.

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Criminology is not only the study of crime, but also what?

Ans: Reasons why people engage or don't engage in criminal behavior.

Learning Objective: Distinguish between criminology and criminal justice.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Criminology and Criminal Justice?

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. What are the two (2) models of state police departments?

Ans: State police and highway patrol.

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Law Enforcement

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. What is a judicial waiver?

Ans: The authority to waive juvenile court jurisdiction and transfer the case to criminal court.

Learning Objective: Identify some of the key distinguishing features of the juvenile justice system compared with the adult criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Juvenile Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Give an example of a deviant act that is not illegal.

Ans: Belching in public, coughing without covering your mouth, putting your elbows on the table at a meal, etc. Various examples.

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Give one (1) example of a specific condition that could be imposed upon an individual on probation.

Ans: House arrest, urine testing, methadone maintenance, vocational training, psychological or psychiatric treatment.

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Corrections
Difficulty Level: Hard

7. Give one (1) example of a general condition that could be imposed upon an individual on probation.

Ans: Offenders regularly reporting to their supervising officer, obeying the laws, submitting to searches, and not being in possession of firearms or using drugs.

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Corrections
Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Why is the U.S. judicial system referred to as a dual court system?

Ans: Separate but interrelated systems of federal and state courts.

Learning Objective: List and describe the three general components of the criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Courts
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Explain how some *mala prohibita* acts are not necessarily viewed as highly deviant.

Ans: Even though these acts may be considered illegal, they may not be deviant, as in the case with speeding or minor traffic violations. This is the case because many people engage in these acts and do not see them as necessarily wrong or deviant.

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: What Is a Crime?
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Explain what comparative criminology is and how it is used.

Ans: Comparative criminology is the study of crime across various cultures to identify similarities and differences in crime patterns. This is used to compare crime rates across nations and countries. This helps us determine the nature and extent of crime across different societies and different criminal justice systems.

Learning Objective: Identify the criteria that characterize a good theory.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Introduction to Comparative Criminology
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. According to several criminologists, we should shift focus from explaining criminal behavior to explaining criminal law. Do you believe this to be true? Why or why not?

Ans: Students should give original answers as to why we should focus on explaining criminal law. This may be along the lines of understanding processes by which certain behaviors and individuals are designated as criminal.

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Why is defining crime a difficult task? Give your definition of crime, and give two (2) examples to illustrate your definition.

Ans: Scholars disagree on what should be considered a crime; it could be anything that violates a law or that causes harm. Students will give their definition of crime and two examples to illustrate their point.

Learning Objective: Describe the various definitions of crime, including the difference between criminal behavior and deviant behavior.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Is a Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Explain the difference between consensus and conflict perspectives and how they relate to the formation of laws. How would each of these perspectives view the formation of a new law, such as a “no texting while driving” law?

Ans: Consensus perspective assumes virtually everyone is in agreement on the laws and therefore assumes no conflict in attitudes regarding the laws and rules of society. This perspective would view the formation of this new law as incorporating societal norms and that everyone agrees with the new law. Conflict perspective assumes most people disagree on what the law should be and that law is used as a tool by those in power to keep down other groups. This perspective would view the new law as a way to keep a group of the population down and that not everyone agrees with the new law.

Learning Objective: Determine whether a theory would be considered from a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Consensus and Conflict Perspectives of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. How is the concept of *parens patriae* related to the juvenile justice system? Why do we, as a nation, treat juveniles differently than adults?

Ans: We treat juveniles differently because they are different not only physically but psychologically as well. The term *parens patriae* means the parent of the country, recognizing the state has both the right and obligation to intervene on

behalf of and to protect its citizens who are impaired or have an impediment.
Because juveniles lack psychological maturity, they fall within these boundaries.

Learning Objective: Identify some of the key distinguishing features of the juvenile justice system compared with the adult criminal justice system.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Juvenile Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium