

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Book: An Overview of Issues in Criminological Theory

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. One of the main criticisms of the Uniform Crime Report is that it _____.
a. takes in too much data
b. does not examine violent crimes
c. does not get at the dark figure or crime
d. does not collect information from law enforcement agencies

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Theory is defined as _____.
a. philosophical renderings about why a phenomenon happens
b. an untested idea about why something happens
c. a legal examination of a particular event
d. concepts that are linked together by a series of statements to (help) explain why an event occurs

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Criminology, and How Does It Differ from Other Examinations of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Murder is a good example of an act that is considered _____.
a. *mala prohibita*
b. *mala in se*
c. *mala dominant*
d. *mala insane*

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: What Is Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Exceeding the speed limit in a school zone is a good example of a _____ act.
a. *mala prohibita*
b. *mala in se*
c. *mala dominant*
d. *mala insane*

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: What Is Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. The _____ perspective assumes that individuals have free will.

- a. positive school
- b. classical school
- c. conflict
- d. control

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: How Are Criminological Theories Classified? The Major Theoretical Paradigms

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The _____ perspective assumes that individuals are passive subjects of determinism.

- a. positive school
- b. classical school
- c. conflict
- d. control

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: How Are Criminological Theories Classified? The Major Theoretical Paradigms

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. When researchers use aggregate statistics to study crime they are doing _____ analysis.

- a. consensual
- b. conflict
- c. macro-level
- d. micro-level

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Additional Ways to Classify Criminological Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. If a theory explains a phenomenon in the simplest way possible, then this theory is _____.

- a. testable
- b. wide in scope
- c. parsimonious
- d. logically consistent

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theory
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. _____ is the extent to which a theoretical model is supported by scientific research.
- a. Empirical validity
 - b. Testability
 - c. Scope
 - d. Logical consistency

Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. If the relationship between X and Y is causal, then X would be considered the _____ variable.
- a. explanatory
 - b. predictor
 - c. demographic
 - d. theoretical

Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Criteria for Determining Causality
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. The Uniform Crime Report is generated annually by the _____.
- a. DEA
 - b. FBI
 - c. ATF
 - d. BJS

Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. The UCR's Part 1 offenses are also referred to as _____.
- a. non-index crimes
 - b. non-violent crimes
 - c. index crimes
 - d. victimless crimes

Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. The data reported by the National Crime Victimization Survey is based on the number of crimes per 1,000 _____ per year.

- a. persons
- b. households
- c. voters
- d. law enforcement officers

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The National Crime Victimization Survey

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Based on past trends, criminal activity tends to increase during the _____ season.

- a. winter
- b. spring
- c. fall
- d. summer

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Rates of Crime According to Time of Day and Time of Year

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. The shopping center parking lot in Some City, Texas has high levels of motor vehicle theft. This parking lot, then, would be referred to by law enforcement as a/an _____.

- a. impact area
- b. hot spot
- c. neglected area
- d. target area

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Regional and City Differences

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Across demographic categories, the highest rates of victimization AND offending are among _____.

- a. women
- b. Hispanics
- c. Blacks/African-Americans
- d. the teen-age population

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Rates of Crime According to Race/Ethnicity

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. According to the latest estimates, about _____ of the index offenses are not reported to police

- a. 10–20%
- b. 25–35%
- c. 50–60%
- d. 70–80%

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. According to the positive school, three factors that determine individual behavior include _____.

- a. IQ, economics, and age
- b. IQ, age, and peer influence
- c. economics, age, and peer influence
- d. economics, IQ, and peer influence

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: How Are Criminological Theories Classified? The Major Theoretical Paradigms

Difficulty Level: Hard

19. _____ theory assumes that all individuals have a predisposition to be greedy, selfish, and violent (i.e., individuals are born 'bad').

- a. Control
- b. Conflict
- c. Deviance
- d. Legalistic

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Additional Ways to Classify Criminological Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. _____ is perhaps one of the most important characteristics used in determining how good a theory is at explaining a given phenomenon.

- a. Scope
- b. Parsimony
- c. Testability
- d. Logical consistency

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. _____ data are primarily collected by independent academic scientists or think tank agencies.

- a. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports

- b. The National Crime Victimization Survey
- c. Self-report
- d. Arrest

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Measures of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. Lombroso's initial claim that tattoos were one way to identify born criminals violates which criteria of causality?

- a. covariation
- b. correlation
- c. spuriousness
- d. temporal ordering

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. When an increase in X leads to an increase in Y, this is referred to as a/an _____.

- a. negative correlation
- b. positive correlation
- c. upward correlation
- d. absence of correlation

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criteria for Determining Causality

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. _____ is the oldest and most used measure of crime rates in the United States.

- a. The National Crime Victimization Survey
- b. The National Incident Based Reporting System
- c. The Uniform Crime Report
- d. The Census Report

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. According to the text, _____ would NOT be a good example of a hot spot.

- a. fast food restaurants
- b. tattoo parlors
- c. check-cashing businesses
- d. churches

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Regional and City Differences
Difficulty Level: Medium

26. In the early 1600s, those who committed crime were typically _____.
a. banished from society or shunned
b. put to death
c. made to pay restitution
d. stoned

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Rates of Crime According to Population Density
Difficulty Level: Medium

27. Perhaps the most important way that crime and victimization tends to cluster in groups is by _____.
a. race/ethnicity
b. religion
c. age
d. region

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Rates of Crime According to Age and Gender
Difficulty Level: Easy

28. Across categories of race/ethnicity, _____ are the most victimized.
a. African Americans
b. Native Americans
c. Hispanic Americans
d. Asian Americans

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Rates of Crime According to Race/Ethnicity
Difficulty Level: Easy

29. The three criteria that are needed to show causality are temporal ordering, covariation, and _____.
a. accounting for spuriousness
b. correlation
c. parsimony
d. scope

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criteria for Determining Causality
Difficulty Level: Medium

30. The number of U.S. homicides increased during the 1920s and 1930s. Many criminologists and historians contribute this to _____.

- a. prohibition
- b. the Great Depression
- c. prohibition and Word War I
- d. the Great Depression and prohibition

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Do the Measures of Crime Show Regarding the Distribution of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

31. According to the author, the most important aspect of _____ is that it/they provide information about the social and psychological reasons people commit crime.

- a. the UCR
- b. the NCVS
- c. Census data
- d. self-report studies

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Self-Report Studies of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

32. _____ have had the highest crime rates in the last few decades.

- a. The south and the west
- b. The south and the east
- c. The west and the north
- d. The west and the east

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Regional and City Differences

Difficulty Level: Easy

33. The _____ perspective is considered the 'nonconflict' model.

- a. deviant
- b. legal
- c. consensual
- d. conflict

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Additional Ways to Classify Criminological Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

34. When an increase in employment (X) leads to a decrease in crime (Y), this is called a/an _____ association.

- a. linear

- b. unique
- c. positive
- d. negative

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criteria for Determining Causality

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. When a person perceives that an event occurred more recently than it actually did, this is referred to as _____.

- a. parsimony
- b. telescoping
- c. scoping
- d. spuriousness

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The National Crime Victimization Survey

Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. When a change in X causes a change in Y, this is referred to as spuriousness.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criteria for Determining Causality

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Overall, crime rates of males and of females do not differ greatly.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Rates of Crime according to Age and Gender

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Criminology is the scientific study of crime.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is Criminology, and How Does It Differ from Other Examinations of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. A good theory should be able to translate into realistic and useful practices.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Statutory rape is an index offense.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The NCVS is criticized because it does not collect data on homicide.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Measures of Crime

Difficulty Level: Hard

7. The UCR has been collecting data since 1900.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Measures of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Prohibition was an attempt by the government to prohibit individuals from buying firearms.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Do the Measures of Crime Show regarding the Distribution of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Some people will not report a crime to the police because they fear retaliation.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Crime rates in the U.S. have not changed at all since the early 1900s.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Do the Measures of Crime Show regarding the Distribution of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Perhaps the most chronic reason for failure to report crimes can be traced to the U.S. school system.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. Prior to Prohibition, gangsters had not held much power.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Do the Measures of Crime Show regarding the Distribution of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Testability refers to the extent to which a theory can be put through scientific testing.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. The consensus paradigm asserts the law is a tool those in power use to define what is crime and what is not crime.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Measures of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. The NCVS provides rates of crime as “crimes per 100,000 people per year.”

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Measures of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. The dark figure of crime refers to the crimes that go unreported to the police.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Measures of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. According to the author, the most important way to classify theories is in terms of their assumptions.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: How Are Criminological Theories Classified? The Major Theoretical Paradigms

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. The NCVS uses a scientifically selected random sample of households, therefore the results data is generalizable.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The National Crime Victimization Survey

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. A theory is an educated guess.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Criminology, and How Does It Differ from Other Explanations of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. It is possible for a behavior to be illegal but not deviant.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Is Crime?

Difficulty Level: Hard

Essay

1. Provide two to three ways that the UCR and NCVS are useful to criminologists.

Ans: The UCR and the NCVS provide data on crimes committed in the U.S. Thus, both are very useful in determining past patterns of various crimes, and in making predictions about future patterns of crime. Because of the different collection methods (one is an actual count, the other is based on a scientifically selected sample), criminologists are able to consider the dark figure of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Uniform Crime Report | The National Crime Victimization Survey

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Your classmate has asked you to explain what makes a good theory. What do you tell him/her? Be sure to include the characteristics of a good theory discussed in this chapter.

Ans: A theory is an explanation of how something works or why events occur. In order to ensure a theory is the best it can be, the following should be considered: scope, parsimony, logical consistency, empirical validity, testability and policy implications.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Characteristics of Good Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Think about how crime rates have increased and decreased over the last century. Identify one decade in which crime rates increased, and one decade in which crime rates decreased. How might you explain each of these trends, given the decade in which each occurred?

Ans: Answers will vary for this depending upon the decades selected. Generally, however, students should at least include economic patterns, wartime (or not), quality of data collection on crime, etc.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Do the Measures of Crime Show Regarding the Distribution of Crime?

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. What effect has the Baby Boom generation had on crime in the last 50 years?

Ans: Students should address the population shift that occurred with the Baby Boom generation. Specifically how this boom created a large group of 12–25 year olds--which is the age group that is considered the most crime-prone. This led to the development of new ideas about how to reduce crime among the younger generations, specifically.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Baby-Boom Effect

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Briefly explain the relationship between race and crime.

Ans: Students should stress the importance of the powerful vs. the powerless. Those with power are better able to create laws define certain behaviors/acts as illegal/criminal. These laws often criminalize the behaviors of the powerless. For race, then, it would be expected that the crime rates among the racial minority groups would be higher than that of the majority group. The most victimized racial group (Native Americans) and the racial group with the highest rate of offending (African Americans) could also be included.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Rates of Crime According to Race/Ethnicity

Difficulty Level: Medium