Test Bank for Essentials of Criminal Justice 11th Siegel

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TRUE/FALSE

1 : The consensus view of crime believes that criminal law is structured to reflect the preferences and opinions of people who hold social power.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

2 : The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) have conflicting views on whether the number of violent victimizations in 2015 increased compared to 2014.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

3 : The crime rate in the United States has been steadily increasing over the past 20 years.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

4 : The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) provides information on the personal characteristics of offenders, such as attitudes, values, and beliefs, that is not available from any other sources.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

5 : The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) requires local police agencies to provide a brief account of each incident and arrest, including the incident, victim, and offender information.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

6 : While there are differences in how crime data portrays information, the crime patterns and trends the data shows are often similar.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

7 : Research shows that immigrants are much more crime prone than the general population, so that as the number of immigrants increases, per capita crime rates increase dramatically.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

8 : Teenage gang members are responsible for a large proportion of all violent offenses

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committed during the adolescent years.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

9 : The availability of legalized abortion is one factor that could play a role in declining crime rates.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

10 : Crime rates are highest in the winter months when criminals can prey on victims with few other witnesses around to catch them.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

11 : Deteriorating neighborhoods attract law violators; this phenomenon is known as the relative deprivation hypothesis.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

12 : Larceny is the most common offense for which elderly females are arrested.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

13 : Chronic offenders are serious and persistent offenders who are responsible for a small portion of a serious criminal behavior.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

14 : Arrest and punishment is the most effective way to deter chronic offenders from committing further crimes.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

15 : Self-report studies target the dark figure of crime that would not be reflected in official statistics.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

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16 : Young people face a much higher rate of victimization than older people, especially before the age of 25.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

17 : Someones likelihood to be victimized is not affected by whether or not they are married.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

18 : One reason anticrime advocates are against gun ownership is that offenders of any crime are more likely to possess a gun than nonoffenders.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

19 : Short-term economic conditions usually do not affect criminals who are typically unemployed or underemployed.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

20 : Cultural deviance theory purports that subcultural values are handed down from one generation to the next and the young people who reject this subculture and its values are more likely to join gangs and violate the law.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

21 : One factor that may influence the link between crime and the mentally ill is that people with severe mental illness are more at risk of victimization and victimization has been linked to increased propensity to commit a crime.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

22 : It is possible that the link between crime and mental illness is spurious: that is, both mental illness and criminal behavior may be the result of some other, independent variable.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

23 : According to social structure theory, an offender goes through a careful decision-making process, weighing the consequences and benefits of their actions before engaging in criminal

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behavior.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

24 : According to biosocial theory, elements of the environment interact with biological factors to influence behavior.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

25 : Biosocial theory would look at bipolar disorder and whether it has a role in causing criminal behavior.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

MULTIPLE CHOICE

26 : According to this view of crime, criminal law is a set of rules, codified by state authorities, that express norms, goals, and values of the vast majority of society.
A : Conflict view
B : Consensus view
C : Interactionist view
D : Moral entrepreneur

Correct Answer : B

27 : The law is the instrument that enables the wealthy to maintain their position of power and to control the behavior of those who oppose their ideas. Which view of crime would agree with this statement?
A : Conflict view
B : Interactionist view
C : Moral entrepreneur
D : Consensus view

Correct Answer : A

28 : Which view of crime suggests that criminal law is structured to reflect the preferences and opinions of people who hold social power in a particular legal jurisdiction?
A : Moral entrepreneur
B : Conflict view
C : Consensus view
D : Interactionist view

Correct Answer : D

29 : Moral entrepreneurs, people who wage moral crusades to control criminal law, fit into which

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view of crime?
A : Interactionist view
B : Conflict view
C : Consensus view
D : All of the above

Correct Answer : A

30 : Which of the following is not a reason why victims fail to report serious crimes to the police?
A : Victims may consider the crime trivial or unimportant.
B : Victims fear reprisals from an offenders friends or family.
C : Victims do not trust the police or have little confidence in their ability.
D : Victims do not know how to contact the police or how to report the crime.

Correct Answer : D

31 : Which of the following crimes is not included on the list of Part I crimes documented by the UCR?
A : Simple assault
B : Arson
C : Motor vehicle theft
D : Larceny

Correct Answer : A

32 : What source of criminal statistics is the most cited?
A : Uniform Crime Reports
B : National Crime Victimization Survey
C : Self-report surveys
D : National Incident-Based Reporting System

Correct Answer : A

33 : Crime rates are likely to decrease as:
A : the proportion of teens in a population increases.
B : there is an increase in drug use.
C : the media shows more violence and people become bored by it.
D : the number of immigrants in a population increases.

Correct Answer : D

34 : Which of the following is a problem associated with the validity of the UCR?
A : No federal crimes are reported.
B : If an offender commits multiple crimes, only the most serious are recorded.
C : Reports are voluntary and vary in accuracy.
D : Crime rates per 50,000 people are computed.

Correct Answer : B

35 : Which of the following is not one of the three methods used to express crime data in the UCR?
A : Number of crimes reported to the police and arrests made
B : Data from Monitoring the Future collected every two years

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C : Year over year percentage changes in the number of crimes
D : Crime rate per 100,000 people

Correct Answer : B

36 : The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is slated to replace which type of reporting crime data?
A : National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
B : Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)
C : Self-report surveys
D : Monitoring the Future study

Correct Answer : B

37 : What data source relies on a sample of households to collect information about the frequency of crime victimization and the characteristics of victims?
A : Monitoring the Future Survey
B : NCVS
C : National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
D : UCR

Correct Answer : B

38 : Which of the following is not a problem associated with the NCVS?
A : Inability to record the personal criminal activity of those interviewed
B : Overreporting due to the victims misrepresentations of events
C : Incomplete acts are lumped together with completed ones.
D : Underreporting stemming from the embarrassment of reporting crime

Correct Answer : C

39 : The NCVS does not ask participants to report on which of the following crimes?
A : Assault
B : Murder
C : Rape
D : Robbery

Correct Answer : B

40 : Which source of crime data prefers the use of interviews and questionnaires for high school students?
A : Observational
B : Victimization
C : Self-report
D : Official

Correct Answer : C

41 : What type of study is the best measure of unreported crimes?
A : Victimization surveys
B : Prison data
C : Self-report studies
D : Official records

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Correct Answer : C

42 : What term is used to describe the practice of stopping and searching minorities without probable cause?
A : Racial profiling
B : Racial threat hypothesis
C : Institutional racism
D : Social conflict theory

Correct Answer : A

43 : Most reported crimes occur during which season?
A : Winter
B : Summer
C : Spring
D : Fall

Correct Answer : B

44 : Since 1993, the rate of violent victimization has declined by about _____ percent.
A : 20
B : 40
C : 60
D : 80

Correct Answer : D

45 : If Monitoring the Future data is accurate, high school students commit nearly _____ robberies per year.
A : 50,000
B : 75,000
C : 150,000
D : 200,000

Correct Answer : D

46 : According to the Monitoring the Future study, approximately ____ percent of teenagers report hurting someone badly enough that the victim needed medical care?
A : 1
B : 5
C : 10
D : 20

Correct Answer : C

47 : The greater the proportion of ____ in the population, the higher the crime rate and the greater the number of persistent offenders.
A : middle-aged women
B : young women
C : middle-aged men
D : young men

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Correct Answer : D

48 : Which regions of the country usually have significantly higher rates of crime?
A : The Midwest and New England
B : The West and the South
C : The Midwest and the South
D : New England and the West

Correct Answer : B

49 : Males account for ____ percent of all arrests for serious violent crimes.
A : 50
B : 60
C : 70
D : 80

Correct Answer : D

50 : African Americans make up about 13 percent of the population but account for what percent of Part I violent crime arrests?
A : 22 percent
B : 28 percent
C : 30 percent
D : 36 percent

Correct Answer : D

51 : In what time and place is a violent crime most likely to occur?
A : After 6:00 p.m. in an open, public area
B : Before 6:00 p.m. in a rural setting
C : Mid-morning in an open, public area
D : Late afternoon in an alley

Correct Answer : A

52 : Which of the following statements about the agecrime relationship is false?
A : Young people are part of a youth culture that favors risk-taking and behaviors that may involve law violation.
B : Youths have unlimited access to their parents money.
C : Youths are psychologically immature.
D : Youths are aware the juvenile justice system is less punitive than the adult system.

Correct Answer : B

53 : Which of the following characteristics does not increase ones likelihood of victimization?
A : Being male
B : Being young
C : Being married
D : Living in a large urban area

Correct Answer : C

54 : Which of the following is false regarding the victimoffender relationship?

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A : There is no racial pattern in single-offender robberies.
B : Women are more likely than men to be victimized by an acquaintance.
C : Most crimes are committed by a single offender.
D : Minorities are the offenders in a majority of single-offender rapes and assaults.

Correct Answer : D

55 : Weighing the consequences and benefits of committing a crime is the foundation of _____ theory.
A : social process
B : routine activities
C : social structure
D : rational choice

Correct Answer : D

56 : The culture of poverty is part of which theoretical perspective?
A : Social structure theory
B : Psychological theory
C : Social process theory
D : Rational choice theory

Correct Answer : A

57 : According to ____ theory, economic and political forces operate in society as the fundamental causes of criminality.
A : social conflict
B : developmental
C : social process
D : trajectory

Correct Answer : A

58 : Which view of crime suggests that individuals learn crime from close and intimate relationships, so kids with delinquent friends get locked into that way of life?
A : Social reaction theory
B : Social control theory
C : Social structure theory
D : Social learning theory

Correct Answer : D

59 : ____ theory maintains that everyone has the potential to become criminal.
A : Social structure
B : Social learning
C : Social control
D : Social reaction

Correct Answer : C

60 : ____ theory focuses on the economic and political forces operating in a society and views these forces as the fundamental causes of criminality.
A : Conflict

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B : Social control
C : Developmental
D : Social structure

Correct Answer : A

61 : ____ theory recognizes that as people mature, the factors that influence their behavior change.
A : Social structure
B : Developmental
C : Psychological
D : Social process

Correct Answer : B

62 : Which theory would advocate against the use of the sex offender registry for low-level offenders due to the stigma such a registry would create?
A : Social structure theory
B : Social reaction theory
C : Social control theory
D : Social learning theory

Correct Answer : B

63 : In a study entitled Delinquency in a Birth Cohort, researchers found that chronic offenders:
A : are more likely to continue criminality if they are female.
B : make up a small percentage of repeat offenders.
C : are deterred from further criminality if arrested during youth chronic offending.
D : commit the most violent acts of all criminals.

Correct Answer : B

64 : John was born into a family that didnt have very much money, and he saw that his parents struggled to put food on the table. As he grew up, he found school boring despite being smart, so he dropped out. He was always impulsive and the process of finding a job took too long. John recently found out that he is going to be a father and wants to provide the best opportunity for his child that he can. To support himself and his unborn child, he gets involved in selling pain pills and he is arrested in a sting operation. Johns view of what crime is and how its defined would fit best with which view?
A : Conflict view
B : Consensus view
C : Social force view
D : Interactionist view

Correct Answer : A

65 : John was born into a family that didnt have very much money, and he saw that his parents struggled to put food on the table. As he grew up, he found school boring despite being smart, so he dropped out. He was always impulsive and the process of finding a job took too long. John recently found out that he is going to be a father and wants to provide the best opportunity for his child that he can. To support himself and his unborn child, he gets involved in selling pain pills and he is arrested in a sting operation. The judge believes drugs have harmed Johns neighborhood over the years and that punishing John will help control his actions in the future.

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The judges view of the criminal justice system is likely the _____ view.
A : crime control
B : due process
C : interactionist
D : consensus

Correct Answer : D

66 : John was born into a family that didnt have very much money, and he saw that his parents struggled to put food on the table. As he grew up, he found school boring despite being smart, so he dropped out. He was always impulsive and the process of finding a job took too long. John recently found out that he is going to be a father and wants to provide the best opportunity for his child that he can. To support himself and his unborn child, he gets involved in selling pain pills and he is arrested in a sting operation. Johns actions could be the result of having a difficult family life, deciding to drop out of school, and seeing others turn to alternate means for money. Which theory would support this view as a cause for his crime?
A : Life course theory
B : Developmental theory
C : Social process theory
D : Biosocial theory

Correct Answer : C

67 : Andrew has decided that he is going to rob a bank to pay off his debts after losing his job. He buys a gun from a kid who lives in an economically depressed section of town, but he doesnt ask where the gun came from. On the day of the robbery, Andrew decides that he will shoot at the ceiling inside the bank to get everyones attention. But as he shoots, the bullet ricochets and strikes a bank teller. The teller dies instantly, and in the process of Andrews getaway, he drops his gun. The hierarchy rule would apply to Andrews situation. To which reporting mechanism does this rule apply?
A : NIBRS
B : Self-report survey
C : UCR
D : NCVS

Correct Answer : C

68 : How will the majority of Andrews crimes be categorized?
A : Part I
B : Part II
C : Part III
D : Part IV

Correct Answer : A

69 : Andrew has decided that he is going to rob a bank to pay off his debts after losing his job. He buys a gun from a kid who lives in an economically depressed section of town, but he doesnt ask where the gun came from. On the day of the robbery, Andrew decides that he will shoot at the ceiling inside the bank to get everyones attention. But as he shoots, the bullet ricochets and strikes a bank teller. The teller dies instantly, and in the process of Andrews getaway, he drops his gun. Andrews decision to rob a bank as a better means of paying back his debts would fall under the _____.
A : personality theory

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B : social learning theory
C : cognitive theory
D : rational choice theory

Correct Answer : D

70 : June is 80 years old and is terrified of having her home burglarized or becoming a victim of some other crime, so she tries not to leave the house. She has never been a victim of crime but is aware that her neighborhood may not be as safe as it used to be. One afternoon when she does decide to leave the house, her home is burglarized and her television is stolen. June decides not to report the burglary to the police because she feels that the break-in was her fault. Which crime measurement tool would most likely account for Junes situation?
A : NIBRS
B : Self-report study
C : UCR
D : NCVS

Correct Answer : D

71 : June is 80 years old and is terrified of having her home burglarized or becoming a victim of some other crime, so she tries not to leave the house. She has never been a victim of crime but is aware that her neighborhood may not be as safe as it used to be. One afternoon when she does decide to leave the house, her home is burglarized and her television is stolen. After the burglary, June is ever more fearful of her neighbors and the crime that goes on in her community. What victim pattern best supports her fears?
A : Repeat victimization
B : Victimoffender relationships
C : Age
D : Marital status

Correct Answer : A

FILL IN THE BLANK

72 : _____, in its simplest form, is a violation of criminal law.

Correct Answer : Crime

73 : _____ are people who wage crusades to control criminal law so that it reflects their own personal values.

Correct Answer : Moral entrepreneurs

74 : _____ are the ties that people have to family, peers, social institutions, and significant others.

Correct Answer : Social bonds

75 : Data from the UCR is published in an annual volume that serves as the nations _____.

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Correct Answer : official crime statistics

76 : Murder, forcible rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, and _____ make up the FBIs Part I crimes.

Correct Answer : aggravated assault

77 : Criticisms of UCR data include _____ of the victims and law enforcement.

Correct Answer : reporting practices

78 : The _____ is one who has serious and persistent brushes with the law and whose behavior may be excessively violent and destructive.

Correct Answer : career criminal

79 : _____ question large groups of high school students about their participation in criminal or delinquent acts.

Correct Answer : Self-report surveys

80 : The _____ states that as the poverty of minorities in the population increases, so too does the amount of social control that the public directs at those minority group members.

Correct Answer : racial threat hypothesis

81 : When the disadvantaged and affluent live in close proximity, social differences are magnified, causing the less affluent resident to experience a feeling of _____.

Correct Answer : relative deprivation

82 : The notion that deteriorating neighborhoods attracts law violators is referred to as the _____ hypothesis.

Correct Answer : broken windows

83 : Modern _____ theories of crime believe that elements of the environment interact with biological factors to control and influence behavior.

Correct Answer : biosocial

84 : According to _____ theory, disruptions in lifes major transitions can be destructive and ultimately can promote criminality.

Correct Answer : developmental

85 : Mainstream criminologists focus on crimes of the poor, but conflict criminologists focus their attention on the law violations of the _____.

Correct Answer : powerful

86 : _____theory says that children learn delinquent behaviors from close

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relationships.

Correct Answer : Social learning

87 : According to the _____, some people encounter problems during their early development that cause an imbalance in their personality.

Correct Answer : psychodynamic view

88 : The practice of police targeting minority groups they believe to be more engaged in criminal activity is known as _____.

Correct Answer : racial profiling

89 : Conduct disorder is discussed as a precursor of long-term chronic offending in _____ theory.

Correct Answer : biosocial

90 : A culture of poverty is discussed as an element of _____ theory.

Correct Answer : social structure

ESSAY

91 : Explain the advantages and disadvantages of three significant methods used to measure the nature and extent of crime. Do you think any method is better than the others? How could you use all three in concert with each other?

Correct Answer : The UCR is the best known and most widely cited source of aggregate criminal statistics. It tallies and annually publishes a number of reported offenses by city, county, standard metropolitan statistical area, and geographical divisions of the United States. It also shows numbers and characteristics of individuals arrested for Part I and non-index Part II crimes, except traffic violations. It is not an accurate measure of crime on its own as it uses the hierarchy rule, where it takes the most serious offense of every group of crime reported. It also records only reported crimes and might not form an accurate estimate of all crimes across the country. The NCVS asks crime victims about their encounters with criminals. It is the most important and widely used victim survey and is considered largely unbiased and provides a good estimate of crime. However, validity issues include overreporting, underreporting, inability to record personal criminal activity of those interviewed, sampling errors, and inadequate question format. Self-report surveys allow participants to reveal information about their violations and have focused mostly on juvenile delinquency and youth crime. Critics suggest that it is unreasonable to expect people to candidly admit illegal acts, that some people forget, exaggerate, or are confused about illegal acts, and that serious chronic offenders are unlikely to participate or be truthful. Because each method takes a different angle and captures different types of crime, the three could be taken together to form a more comprehensive picture of crime trends than one on its own. Student answers will vary if they think any methods are better than others.

92 : Elaborate the three views on defining crime. Discuss how and why some behaviors become illegal and are considered crimes, while others remain noncriminal, according to each view.

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Which of these views do you think fits best with our current system? Give a specific example of a situation that illustrates your argument.

Correct Answer : There are three main views in defining crime. The consensus view rests on the assumption that criminal law has a social control function and crimes are those that are essentially harmful to a majority of citizens and are prohibited by the existing criminal law. This means that the public has essentially reached a consensus on what constitutes crime. The conflict view states that crime is the outcome of class struggle between the rich and poor and the haves and have-nots, resulting in the criminal justice system becoming an instrument of social and economic repression. Finally, the interactionist view of criminal law is structured to reflect preferences and opinions of people who hold social power in particular legal jurisdictions. They are known as moral entrepreneurs and campaign to influence the law to reflect what they believe is immoral and wrong or merely eccentric. Student answers will vary on what best reflects our system, but they could consider issues like Occupy Wall Street (conflict theory) or marijuana legalization (either consensus or interactionist) to support their arguments.

93 : Consider why men commit more violent crimes, why African Americans are disproportionately arrested in the United States, and why lower-class neighborhoods are more likely to be afflicted by crime. What explanations for these situations do you find to be the most valid? Do these explanations relate to and influence each other?

Correct Answer : Official crime data indicates minority group members are involved in a disproportionate share of criminal activity. UCR arrest data consistently shows that males have much higher crime rate and commit more serious crimes than females. Crime rates are also highest in deprived, inner-city areas, and the level of poverty and social disorganization in an area can predict its crime rate. Reasons that men might commit more crimes than women include men are stronger and more aggressive, women are socialized to be less aggressive and have better verbal skills, and men have the personal freedom to commit crime. Reasons for the disproportionate number of African Americans being arrested can be explained by institutional racism. Reasons lower-class neighborhoods are more likely to be afflicted by crime include a lack of opportunities, disrupted family lives, socially disorganized neighborhoods, relative deprivation, and the broken window hypothesis. Students should consider intersections like the fact that minority groups tend to live in lower-class neighborhoods and that African American men seem to account for a majority of crime.

94 : Discuss the intersection of race, class, gender, and crime victimization. Are certain people more at risk of victimization than others when taking multiple factors into account?

Correct Answer : Official crime data indicates that African Americans are victimized at a higher rate than other racial groups, and they experience violent victimizations in particular. Men are more likely to be victims of robbery and aggravated assault, while women are more likely to be victims of sexual assault. Less affluent Americans are more likely to live in inner-city, urban areas that are crime prone. Take into account that the least affluent are most likely to be victims of violent crimes. It is also true that African Americans are more likely to live in inner-city areas. That means young African American men are more likely to have low incomes and be a high risk for violent crime. These intersections also suggest that non-affluent African American women are at a higher risk for sexual assault.

95 : Explain the reasons for violent crime using one of the theories elaborated in the text. Discuss why this theoretical explanation is the most useful for understanding violent crime. Describe a specific situation where you believe this theory applies.

Correct Answer : Answer will vary dramatically depending on student’s chosen theory.

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96 : Compare and contrast social structure theory, social process theory, and social conflict theory. Is there a situation in which all three theories could apply?

Correct Answer : Social structure theory attempts to explain crime using the premise “because they are poor.” It suggests that there is an economic bias in the crime rate and the burden of urban poverty results in the development of a culture of poverty. Social process theory attempts to explain crime by suggesting that offenders become socialized to committing crime. It states that people commit crime as a result of experiences they have while being socialized by various organizations, institutions, and processes of society. It also links family problems to crime as evidence that socialization, not social structure, is the key to understanding the onset of crime. Social conflict theory sees economic and political forces as the fundamental causes of criminality and that criminal law and the criminal justice system are vehicles for controlling poor members of society. All three theories focus on the gap between the rich and the poor and how societal structure is most likely to discriminate against the poor and drive them to crime. Each has a slightly different framework by which to explain those factors. There are situations in which all three theories could be applied—these will vary by student.

97 : What new concept did the Delinquency in a Birth Cohort study explore and how have its findings shaped justice policy?

Correct Answer : The researchers—and Marvin Wolfgang in particular—in this study used official records to follow the criminal careers of almost 10,000 boys born in Philadelphia in 1945 until they reached age 18. They found the following:about two-thirds of the cohort never had contact with police authorities;about one-third had at least one contact with police during their adolescence;of the repeat offenders, a relatively small subgroup was arrested five times or more. These were chronic offenders who made up 6 percent of the total; and the chronic offenders were responsible for 5,305 arrests, or 51.9 percent of them. They committed 71 percent of the homicides, 73 percent of the rapes, 82 percent of the robberies, and 69 percent of the aggravated assaults.The chronic offender concept has had a great impact on the criminal justice system. If a small number of offenders commit almost all serious crimes, then it would have an appreciable influence on the crime rate. This thought pattern has been responsible for the get-tough laws designed to put habitual offenders behind bars for long periods of time. Later studies have shown that repeat offenders do exist.

98 : Consider all the different theories for explaining crime. Is there one in particular that you find more convincing than others? Why?

Correct Answer : Student answers will vary depending on which theory they discuss.

99 : Why is the NIBRS slated to replace the UCR in 2021? What improvements or changes does it make in the reporting process that are supposed to address the criticisms people have of the UCR?

Correct Answer : The NIBRS was the result of a five-year redesign effort to provide more comprehensive and detailed crime statistics. The UCR has some weaknesses in terms of the fact that it deals with a certain scope of crimes and some police departments classify similar crimes in different ways. The NIBRS requires local police agencies to provide at least a brief account of each incident and arrest. It also provides information on most of the criminal justice issues facing law enforcement today and captures whether the offender was suspected of using drugs/narcotics or alcohol during or shortly before the incident. This will make it possible to develop a national database on the nature of crime, victims, and criminals.

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100 : What are some of the factors that influence crime trends? Which do you think are the most significant or the most important to tackle and why?

Correct Answer : Students do not have to list all factors that influence crime trends, but the list is as follows: age structure, immigration, unemployment, abortion, gun availability, mental health treatment availability, gangs, drug use, media, medical technology, and justice policy. The essay should include a discussion of at least a few of these and what the most important ones are.

101 : What are some of the most common misconceptions about victims and victimizations? Why do you suppose these misconceptions exist and why do they continue to persist?

Correct Answer : Some common myths about victimization include that the elderly are the age group most vulnerable to criminals, that victims are largely attacked by strangers (“wrong place, wrong time”), and that most people report their victimization to the police. Some of these misconceptions are a result of social structure—older people are viewed as feeble, unable to take care of themselves, and at risk. We tend to think that most crimes are committed by strangers because it’s more comforting to think that crimes are committed by violent people you don’t know and that family and friends would never hurt you. Because many myths are shaped by the way we view the world or want to view the world, it’s difficult to change misconceptions.

102 : Consider racial patterns of crime and some recent issues facing society, like profiling Muslims for terrorism or the number of African Americans who are shot and killed by police. Do you think institutional racism influences these practices? What other crime patterns could come into play with these issues?

Correct Answer : Institutional racism could describe the practice of profiling Muslims and the police pulling over and arresting more African Americans. Students can consider other factors like gender and class, and how minority groups are more likely to be affected by multiple causes that lead to a rise in crime and how those interplay.

103 : How do biosocial and psychological theory agree and disagree? Do these theories somehow excuse criminals for their behavior? What actions could be taken or programs put into place to address the sources of this kind of criminal behavior?

Correct Answer : Both biosocial and psychological theory look at factors that could be beyond a person’s control—how their body and mind are wired to work from a young age. Biosocial theory includes looking at genetic factors and biochemical factors (like vitamin deficiency and hormonal imbalance), whereas psychological factors look less at a particular abnormality in a gene or neuron pathway and more at how atypical personalities and upbringings can contribute to a worldview that leads to crime. Both could seem to give excuses—that a hormonal imbalance or mental illness was the cause of crime and that it couldn’t be avoided. Both also offer a view that gives a direction for treatment. If a genetic factor is the cause for crime, we can identify the source of the gene and look for it in others. If a personality disorder or mental illness is to blame, then society should provide better programs to address those disorders and illnesses to prevent crime.

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