

Criminal Justice Exit Exam Study Guide

Criminal Justice System Components

1. *Three Main Components:* Law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

Crimes

1. *Crimes Against Property:* Larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, burglary.
2. *Crimes Against Persons:* Rape, assault, murder.
3. *Crime Classification*
 - *Felony:* Serious crime, punishable by more than one year in prison.
 - *Misdemeanor:* Less serious crime, punishable by less than a year in jail.
 - *Infraction:* Minor violation, such as a traffic offense.
4. Crimes and elements:
 - *Robbery:* Theft involving force or fear.
 - *Burglary:* Unlawful entry with intent to commit a crime.
 - *First-degree Murder:* Premeditated killing.
 - *Assault:* Intentionally causing harm or fear of harm.
5. Crime Data and Analysis
 - Define the dark figure of crime and its implications.
 - Assess the accuracy of crime statistics.
 - Define crime analysis and its role in law enforcement.
 - Explain how crime statistics help deploy law enforcement resources effectively.
 - Identify how crime statistics aid in crime prevention strategies.
 - Differentiate between the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

Warrants and Legal Documents

1. *Search Warrant:* Court document allowing a search of property.
2. *Arrest Warrant:* Court document authorizing an arrest.
3. *Affidavit:* A sworn statement used to obtain a warrant.

Juvenile Justice System

- *Adjudication Hearing:* Equivalent to a trial for juveniles.

Courtroom Procedures

1. *Arraignment:* Defendant enters a plea.
2. *Burden of Proof:*
 - *Criminal Cases:* Beyond a reasonable doubt.
 - *Civil Cases:* Preponderance of the evidence.
3. *Hung Jury:* Jury unable to reach a verdict.
4. *Verdict:* Decision by the jury.
5. *Indictment:* Formal charge issued by a grand jury.

Law Enforcement and Policing

1. Identify the higher rates of issues faced by police compared to other professions (Divorce, Suicide, Stress, Alcoholism).
2. Define racial profiling and understand its implications.
3. Describe the different levels of law enforcement jurisdiction (Municipal, County, State, and Federal).
4. Law Enforcement Hiring Process:
 1. Steps include civil service exams, background checks, interviews, and psychological evaluations.
 2. Field Training Officer (FTO) program follows academy training.
5. *Frisk*: Pat-down search for weapons or contraband.
6. *Appeal*: Request for a higher court to review a case.
7. *Stare Decisis*: Legal principle of following precedents.
8. *Discovery*: Exchange of evidence before trial.
9. *Plea Bargaining*: Negotiating charges in exchange for a guilty plea.
10. Policing Strategies:
 1. *Community-Oriented Policing*: Building ties with the community.
 2. *Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP)*: Risk-based policing guided by intelligence.
 3. *Problem-Oriented Policing*: Identifying and addressing specific crime issues.
 4. *COMSTAT*: Data-driven crime control management.
11. Legal Standards for Law Enforcement:
 1. *Reasonable Suspicion*: Needed for traffic stops and pat-downs. Based on specific facts and inferences.
 2. *Probable Cause*: Required for search warrants, arrests, and vehicle searches. Supported by factual evidence.
 3. Beyond a reasonable doubt- level of evidence required to prove someone guilty of a crime
12. Understand the role of community relations in effective policing.
13. Evaluate the importance of police accountability and transparency in maintaining public trust.
14. Identify concerns associated with police body cameras.
15. Explain the implications of being recorded while performing law enforcement duties.
16. Assess how social media affects law enforcement perceptions.
17. Recognize key lessons learned from protests and civil unrest.
18. Vehicle pursuit- Factors include department policy, public safety, weather, and justification for the pursuit.

Criminal Investigations:

1. *Locard's Exchange Principle*: Every crime leaves trace evidence.
2. *Common Investigator Duties*: Interviewing witnesses, reviewing records, writing reports.

Corrections Approximate the number of incarcerated Americans.

1. *Locard's Exchange Principle*: Every crime leaves trace evidence.
2. *Common Investigator Duties*: Interviewing witnesses, reviewing records, writing reports.
3. Identify the most frequently applied form of criminal sanction (probation).
4. Define and understand the purpose of a writ of habeas corpus.
5. *Parole*: Supervised release before completing a prison sentence.
6. *Probation*: Alternative to incarceration where the offender is supervised in the community.
7. *Goals of Corrections*: Rehabilitation, deterrence, retribution.
8. *New Generation Jail Design*: Pod design.
9. *Supermax Prisons*: High-security prisons for dangerous inmates.
10. *Technical Violations*: Breaches of parole or probation conditions.
11. Sentencing Factors:
 - *Aggravating Factors*: Increase severity (e.g., use of a weapon, prior offenses).
 - *Mitigating Factors*: Reduce severity (e.g., lack of prior record, remorse).

Constitutional Rights and Amendments

1. Understand the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of due process.
2. Recognize which amendment prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures (Fourth Amendment).
3. Identify which amendment protects against forced self-incrimination (Fifth Amendment).
4. Determine the amendment ensuring protection against cruel and unusual punishment (Eighth Amendment).
5. Identify the amendment that guarantees the right to an attorney (Sixth Amendment).
6. Explain the right to a speedy trial and the amendment that guarantees it (Sixth Amendment).
7. Understand which amendment prohibits excessive bail (Eighth Amendment).
8. Recognize which amendment prevents double jeopardy (Fifth Amendment).
9. *Exclusionary Rule*: Prevents evidence obtained illegally from being used in trial.
10. *Preliminary Hearing*: Determines if there is enough evidence to proceed with a trial.
11. *Grand Jury*: A group that reviews evidence to decide whether to indict a suspect.
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Report Writing and Documentation

1. Identify writing errors in investigative reports (spelling, grammar, missing details).
2. List essential elements in an investigative report (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How).
3. Recognize factual errors in report writing (e.g., "smelled like beer" without further explanation).
4. Explain consequences of poor investigative report writing (credibility, case dismissal, job termination).
5. Describe best practices for law enforcement narrative writing (third person, past tense, active voice, chronological order).

Criminological Theories and Concepts

1. Define broken windows theory and its implications.
2. Differentiate criminology from other social sciences.
3. Recognize key areas criminologists study (sociological, biological, psychological foundations of crime causation).

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Cases

1. Understand the importance of *Miranda v. Arizona* (Miranda rights).
2. Explain the significance of *In re Gault* (juvenile due process rights).
3. Describe *Terry v. Ohio* and its impact on stop-and-frisk policies.
4. Understand *Tennessee v. Garner* and its role in use-of-force policies.
5. Recognize *Mapp v. Ohio* and the exclusionary rule.
6. Explain *Gideon v. Wainwright* and the right to an attorney.
7. Define *Riley v. California* and its implications for digital privacy.
8. Describe *Roper v. Simmons* and its impact on capital punishment for juveniles.
9. Explain *Graham v. Florida* and life sentences for juveniles.
10. Understand *Salinas v. Texas* and self-incrimination.
11. Recognize *United States v. Leon* and the good-faith exception.

Ethics and Professional Conduct

1. Define police corruption and its consequences.
2. Identify ethical responses to misconduct (e.g., theft during an alarm check, excessive force).
3. Understand the implications of gratuities and potential conflicts of interest.
4. Define police code of silence and its ethical impact.
5. Differentiate between police brutality and proper use of force.