



Criminal Justice Exit Exam

Content Review Handout

I. Criminal Justice System Overview

- Structure and function of the criminal justice system
- Law enforcement, courts, and corrections as interdependent components
- Purpose of criminal law
- Differences between criminal and civil law

II. Law Enforcement Authority and Responsibilities

- Jurisdiction and limits of authority
- Police discretion
- Patrol functions and response duties
- Police power and lawful use of force

III. Constitutional Law and Individual Rights

- Fourth Amendment protections
- Fifth Amendment protections
- Sixth Amendment rights
- Due process requirements
- Custodial interrogation standards

IV. Searches, Seizures, and Arrests

- Probable cause and reasonable suspicion
- Consensual encounters
- Investigatory stops
- Arrest requirements
- Search warrants
- Warrant requirements and specificity
- Exceptions to the warrant requirement
- Stop-and-frisk limitations

V. Evidence and Criminal Investigation

- Physical evidence
- Direct and circumstantial evidence
- Testimonial evidence
- Admissibility of evidence
- Exclusionary rule
- Derivative evidence
- Chain of custody
- Crime scene preservation
- Role of forensic science

VI. Court System and Trial Process

- Trial courts and appellate courts
- Bench trials and jury trials
- Roles of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and juries
- Grand jury function
- Burden of proof
- Standards of proof

VII. Pretrial Procedures and Legal Documents

- Purpose of bail
- Preliminary hearings
- Warrants
- Affidavits
- Subpoenas
- Citations
- Plea bargaining

VIII. Corrections and Sentencing

- Goals of punishment
- Incarceration
- Community-based sanctions
- Probation
- Parole
- Federal corrections administration

IX. Community Policing and Law Enforcement Practices

- Community-oriented policing
- Community partnerships
- Problem-solving strategies
- Law enforcement databases and information systems

X. Juvenile Justice

- Purpose of the juvenile justice system
- Differences between juvenile and adult courts
- Privacy and public access
- Emphasis on rehabilitation

XI. Legal Terminology and Core Concepts

- Actus reus
- Mens rea
- Burden of proof
- Standards of proof
- Double jeopardy
- Hearsay
- Witness confrontation rights