

University of Florida
Criminology, Law and Society
Crime & Justice Area Comprehensive Examination
August 18, 2007

Instructions: Every student is **required** to answer both questions 1 & 2. Then choose one (1) of the five remaining questions listed below to answer. In the end you should have answered a total of three (3) questions. Be sure to place the number of the question you answer at the beginning of each answer. Also, be sure to place your unique, anonymous personal identification letter that you have been assigned in the header of every page of your answers. Number all pages of your answers sequentially.

1) Assume you have been asked to contribute a paper on some sub-area of criminology or on some type of criminal, delinquent, or deviant behavior to a special journal issue or to an edited volume of chapters for a criminological audience that will include some readers who are not specialized in the topic you have chosen. The editor has asked you to contribute a state-of-the-field essay on that topic. In your essay be sure to include the basic concepts and overview needed to inform the reader of the general knowledge on that sub-area or type of behavior, the principal hypotheses, and review the state of the major research. Be sure to indicate what further research is most needed to advance knowledge of the topic.

2) Select a major topic currently being debated (i.e., has at least two competing positions) in the field of criminology. After describing the topic, discuss the key issues on each side of the debate. Why is this debate occurring and does it benefit our understanding of the topic? What position do you take and why.

In addition answer **one** (1) of the following five (5) questions:

3) What is the deterrent effect, if any, of capital punishment and efficacy of the death penalty on the homicide rate? Support your answer with reference to relevant research and the state of knowledge in this area.

4) Herbert Packer makes the argument that most of the major debates in the criminal justice system can be reduced to a philosophical struggle between the principal objectives of achieving “crime control” while at the same time ensuring “due process” of law. This particular dilemma appears in many criminal justice policy debates. Explain the essence of the CC/DP debate and give examples of how simultaneously trying to achieve these two objectives often causes problems in the criminal justice system.

5) What are the major issues, questions, and approaches in feminist criminology? In your essay refer to and critically appraise the most important contributions in both contemporary and earlier literature and research in this area.

6) Crime prevention and control is the central concern of criminal justice and public policies and programs. Present and analyze a general or specific strategy, policy, or program that is already in place to treat, prevent or control criminal or delinquent behavior and: (1) write a description of it showing what procedures, steps, or activities are involved, what is the population to which it is directed, and what its major goals or objectives are; (2) describe the underlying theoretical and philosophical assumptions or perspectives on which it is based; and (3) critically review research evidence that shows the extent to which it has been effective.

7) What is the nature of the relationship between drug use/abuse and criminal/delinquent behavior? In your essay include attention at least to the issues of the causal direction, theoretical explanations, and empirical evidence of the relationship.