

**University of Florida  
Criminology, Law and Society  
Crime & Justice Area Comprehensive Examination  
April 12, 2008**

Instructions: You will be answering a total of three (3) of the seven questions listed below. First, you must answer either question 1 **or** question 2. Then, from the remaining five questions, you are to choose two (2) additional questions to answer.

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.

**REQUIRED QUESTION: Answer either question 1 or question 2:**

1. Select an area, problem, or coherent set of issues of research and/or application in deviant, delinquent, or criminal behavior which you believe is important in the criminological literature. Critically review the state of the empirical and applied knowledge in that area and indicate what areas of further work you feel hold promise of advancing our knowledge.

**OR**

2. Select a topic of contemporary interest in criminal justice policy related to police, courts or corrections and write a review essay on that topic that provides an overview of the nature and significance of that topic for social policy and offer some criminological insights or observations that help inform the understanding or evaluation of the policy issue.

**FROM THE REMAINING FIVE QUESTIONS (#3 through #7), YOU ARE TO CHOOSE TWO (2) MORE TO ANSWER:**

3. Select an area of research problem in criminal/juvenile justice, corrections, or law enforcement which you believe is or will become an important future topic in criminology. Review the relevant literature on that problem being sure to identify the key issues in the study of and the state of knowledge about the selected topic at this time. Also, indicate what further work should be done on it in the future.

4. Assume you have been asked to contribute a state-of-the-field essay in an edited book or an encyclopedia entry on some area or sub-area of criminology. Write an essay on that area that includes why you think it is relevant or significant, a review of the state of knowledge and research in the area, and suggestions on what further research is most needed to advance our knowledge in that area.

5. Assume you have been assigned to teach an undergraduate survey course on criminology (i.e., CCJ 3024). How would you organize the course? What topics would you cover? Would you include social control and public policy as topics? If so, how would you incorporate them into the course? Indicate generally how you would approach the subject, what issues you would emphasize, and the literature you would draw on for your lectures or assigned readings for students.

6. In one form or another, mandatory minimums, three strikes polices, and so forth, have been cast as a useful crime-reducing strategy among certain criminal justice officials. Review the literature on whether these policies are effective and indicate to your state's governor whether he or she should employ or eliminate such strategies.

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.