

University of Florida
Criminology, Law and Society
Crime & Justice Area Comprehensive Examination
February 2, 2008

Instructions: Choose three (3) of the seven questions listed below 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.

1. Identify and discuss the significance of three (3) major works (classic or current) you consider to be pivotal to the development of corrections research.
2. Compare and contrast the pluralistic conflict, structural Marxist and instrumental Marxist models of the formation of law and its implementation in the criminal justice system. Include in your essay a discussion of the major works and authors that you believe best represent each of the models and evaluate the relative validity of the models.
3. Crime continues to decrease nationally and in most states. Write an essay in which you document these changes and explain why the decreases have or have not occurred. Be sure to relate your explanations to criminal justice research and theory.
4. There has been a longstanding concern with race and criminal justice decision-making and scholarly research on this topic goes back at least 75 years. Considerable attention has been devoted to the issue of race differentials or discrimination at several phases of criminal and/or juvenile justice processing. As a criminologist, evaluate the problem in the U.S. of race and criminal justice processing? Write an essay which clearly defines the issue, reviews the empirical literature, critiques that literature, and provides an outline of what you believe are the most important unanswered questions in this area of research.
5. The state of Florida is experiencing growth in its prison population to the point that overcrowding has become a problem. The Governor has asked for your advice on how to address this issue without jeopardizing public safety or increasing costs. What would you recommend? Be sure to be specific and to connect your recommendations to existing research.
6. You have been asked by a community planning team to recommend policies or practices that would plausibly reduce violent behavior among adolescents. The team understands that certain risk and protective factors measured throughout the life course predict later violent behavior and they wish to adopt strategies to reduce the levels of these risk factors. They also understand that violent behavior has individual, family, and community level causes. In your essay, summarize these risk and protective factors and recommend an array of policies

or practices the community can adopt to address these risk factors.

7. That the American criminal/juvenile justice system incorporates elements of a number of different legal philosophies is not lost on anyone familiar our laws polices and practices. Some would argue that they are not only different but that they are often completely incompatible. There are, for example, always elements of a retributive philosophy as evidenced in punitive sanctions. Restitutive and/or correctional/rehabilitative philosophies are present too or at least they are not far in the background and can be exercised under the broad discretion of system professionals. Imagine that you are advising officials of a new government in a country that has just emerged from monarchical rule. These officials want to know whether they should adopt of the American model of criminal and juvenile justice and why. Write an essay that clearly indicates what the research from academic criminology tells us about the strengths and weaknesses of each of these justice models. In the end, what would you advise your colleagues forming a new government to do?