

Department of Justice, Law and Criminology
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Summer, 2016

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any **two** of the following four questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law, and/or other sources. Label each answer by number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages. You have three hours in which to complete this examination.

1. According to some observers, the United States is currently experiencing a major crisis in police legitimacy. What is police legitimacy, why is it important, and what is its relationship with procedural justice? How are procedural justice and legitimacy associated with law-abiding or law-breaking behavior by the public? What does research suggest about how police legitimacy can be restored? Draw on research evidence in formulating your response.
2. Condemned prisoners have been described as "the living dead" who are, furthermore, "among the lowest of the dead." When they move about the prison, they are preceded by calls of "dead man coming" or, more famously, "dead man walking." What does it mean to say that condemned prisoners are "dead" before their executions and what is the significance of these pre-execution "deaths" for the justice of the death penalty? How are the executioners -- officials and line staff who carry out "death work" -- affected by the execution process and what does their experience tell us about the justice of the death penalty? Please cite the relevant literature in the field and the ideas of the authors cited in your answer.
3. The year is 2021. You emerge from the rubble of nuclear war to discover that the criminal justice system has been demolished. At first you are disoriented, then depressed, but soon you realize, "This is my big chance to make a difference in the field!" Immediately, you set to work framing a new paradigm for criminal justice, focusing on policing or corrections (your choice). Describe what your new approach to policing or corrections would be and justify why you selected that approach. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
4. Research suggests that most offending occurs during adolescence. Some individuals persist in offending into adulthood. Based on your readings, describe, in detail, three theories of why some individuals do not desist from offending? Has research supported these theories? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
5. The problem of selection is not merely an empirical issue, but a theoretical one as well. For instance, does exposure to strain increase the risk of criminality or are certain kinds of people at greater risk to experience strain? Discuss, in some detail, how selection impacts criminological theorizing in a broad sense and then, drawing from propositions and empirical tests of one theoretical perspective (e.g., social control/social disorganization, strain, social learning), assess how selection confounds causal inference.

Department of Justice, Law and Criminology
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Terrorism and Security Policy
Summer, 2016

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any **two** of the following four questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law, and/or other sources. Label each answer by number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages. You have three hours in which to complete this examination.

1. What is the nature of the threat to the US from Al-Qaeda and ISIS? Are the threats from each group different? Should the US use the same strategy with each or differentiate? Be sure to cite the relevant literature in answering this question.

2. Is terrorism a unique tactic, or is it just one tactic among many that groups use to achieve their political aims. Why does the difference between these two views matter for counter-terrorism? Be sure to cite the relevant literature in answering this question.

3. In a recent essay published in Foreign Policy (Jan 7, 2016), Olivier Roy reflected on two major 2015 attacks on Paris, arguing "the jihadi problem isn't about religion or politics; it's about generational revolt." He went on to say that we would do well to focus more on the problem of radicalization of the youth and less on Islam. What theories of terrorism are consistent with these claims? Which are inconsistent? What sort of evidence would support his claim? What sort of evidence would contradict it? If his thesis is correct, what are the implications for counterterrorism policy? If it is incorrect, what are the implications? Please cite the relevant literature in answering these questions.

5. You are an advisor to the incoming administration. The new President wants to know: how has Al-Qaida changed since the death of Usama bin Laden? What threat does the group pose to the US now? What does this tell us about targeted killings and what role targeting killings should have in the US counterterrorism strategy going forward? Be sure to cite the relevant literature in answering this question.