

**Department of Justice, Law and Society**  
**Master' Comprehensive Examination**  
**Justice and Public Policy**  
**Summer 2005**

**Instructions:** Answer any two of the following six questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law and other sources. Label each answer by topic and number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages.

**Corrections:**

1. One of the most important figures in the prison community is the correctional officer. Officers can be, among other things, agents of human service or custodial repression. Describe and analyze the role or roles played by correctional officers. If you were a prison reformer, what would you suggest be done to encourage correctional officers to make a contribution to the humane operation of contemporary prisons?
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.

**Policing:**

1. Combating crime is a traditional function of police. More recently, policy makers and critics of the traditional role of police have insisted that police must deal with more than just crime. They argue that an additional important police function is dealing with the effects of crime, especially the fear of crime and the resultant quality of life of citizens. If you were asked to advise the police chief of a medium-sized police department concerning the justifications for expanding the police role and implementation of this additional function, what would you advise? Be sure to cite the relevant conceptual and empirical literature when answering this question.
2. In his classic examination of the police role (*Justice without Trial*) Jerome Skolnick (1966) argued that although the general public typically expects the police to restore and/or maintain order, rule of law doctrines require that the police rely on formal processes that conform to legal

principals. Skolnick concludes therefore that requiring the police to adhere to rule of law requirements may compromise their ability to maintain public order in neighborhoods, creating a role conflict between the “law” and “order” functions of the police. In what ways might rule of law requirements impede the abilities of the police to establish and maintain order in communities? How might the police use the threat of law in order to achieve public order? When answering this question, you may want to consider contexts such as police practices during interrogations, the police response to domestic violence, and order maintenance (i.e., “broken windows”) policing.

**Justice and Public Policy:**

1. Many legislatures have passed “three strikes and you’re out” laws to deal with crime and the public’s fear of crime. What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of such laws? What research evidence supports these arguments?
2. What are the dominant theories of the purpose of criminal sanctions? What empirical research supports each of those theories? Which of the theories have been used to justify current trends in sentencing policy in the United States?