

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master' Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Fall 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. Today's prisons are more densely populated than ever before. Our prisons also hold a large and rapidly growing complement of drug offenders, many of them young black men serving long mandatory minimum sentences comparable to those for homicide. Consider the implications of our shifting prison population -- more drug offenders, more African Americans, and more long-termers generally, climbing what one observed called "a Mount Everest of time" -- for the nature and quality of life in the contemporary prison community.
2. Prisoner reentry is a major topic of concern these days. What does the research tell us about the transition from prison to the free world? How might we use this research to assist prisoners in successfully making the transition from prison to the free world?

Policing:

1. The exclusionary rule is a prominent feature of American criminal procedure. What is the exclusionary rule? What are its primary legal and policy bases? How does it affect police operations? What do critics of the rule argue? How do defenders of the rule respond? Jerome Skolnick has written: "The effects of the exclusionary rule and, in general, judicial controls over police behavior are . . . best understood when examined through the filter of police culture." What do you suppose he means by this?
2. The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 may have profound implications for the relationship between local and national security needs, and for the need to balance the preservation of both security and liberty. Several scholars have written that community and problem-oriented policing are no longer relevant as we enter into an era of increased police paramilitarization in response to terrorism threats. What is generally meant by "community-oriented" and "problem-oriented" policing? Please cite the relevant literature when providing definitions and descriptions. Are we in a new era of policing? Are community and problem-oriented policing compatible with policing terrorism? Please justify your answers with the appropriate research literature.

Justice and Public Policy:

1. Design a study that would provide a valid empirical test of how well jurors (a) understand and follow judges' instructions, (b) understand expert testimony, and (c) base their decisions on the evidence they heard. In your design, acknowledge work already done on these issues vis-a-vis jury behavior.
2. In recent years there has been some movement in the United States to privatize various components of the justice system such as prisons, law enforcement, and some courts. What are the main issues posed by such privatization, including social, political, and legal/constitutional issues?