

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master' Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Spring 2006

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. Crime declined through most of the 1990s. Some authorities attribute much of this decline to the police. To what extent do the police deserve this credit? What light does research shed on this question? What factors outside of policing explain the decline? How might the police make (or how have they made) use of those factors? Please cite the relevant literature in addressing these issues.

2. Police legitimacy suffers either when police are viewed as ineffective or when they are viewed as corrupt or overly aggressive. Why is police legitimacy important? What are the consequences of lapses in legitimacy? What tools are available for police executives and other public officials to deal with each major type of lapse? How have the tools been used in the past? Please reference cite the relevant literature in addressing these issues.

Justice and Public Policy:

1. Choose two (2) of the crime control strategies discussed in Wilson and Petersilia's volume, *Crime* (e.g., the police, the physical environment, prosecution and sentencing, prisons, community corrections), and discuss how these strategies address (or fail to address) some of the possible causes of crime discussed in this volume or other leading works in the field. Finally, propose adjustments to these crime control strategies that could enhance our ability to tackle the causes of crime as we understand it today.
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?