

**Department of Justice, Law and Society**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
**Justice and Public Policy**  
**Spring, 2007**

**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.

**Justice and Public Policy:**

1. 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?
2. "Discretion" is a major issue in criminal justice. How do police, prosecutor and judicial discretion impact the fate of an offender? Would you impose restraints on the discretion of any of these groups? If so, how? If not, why not?

**Policing:**

3. Why do we have police? What are the alternatives? Who sets the agenda for police? How are they held accountable? Please cite the relevant literature in answering these questions.
4. Dealing with crime is one of the traditional functions of the police. Recently, policy makers and critics of the traditional police role are insisting that police deal with more than just crime. They suggest that an additional important police function is dealing with the effects of crime, such as the fear of crime and citizen satisfaction with police services. If you were asked to advise a chief of police of a medium-sized police department concerning justification for expanding the police role and implementation of this service function, what would you advise? Be sure to cite the relevant conceptual and empirical literature while answering this question.

## **Corrections:**

5. Describe the history and evolution of prisons for women. How do prisons for women and men differ? Are prisons a more or less appropriate option with female offenders than with male offenders? Are the re-entry problems of women different from those of men? Are re-entry problems experience by women more or less difficult than those of men?
  
6. 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?

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