

**Department of Justice, Law and Criminology**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
***[Justice and Public Policy]***  
**October 16, 2015**

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. A significant body of research has emerged about what police can do to reduce crime in a democracy. With some American cities now experiencing increasing homicide rates, police chiefs are under pressure to put in place practices to reduce violent crime. Yet at the same time, police are under significant pressure to adopt kinder, gentler, and more community-oriented styles of policing. Is it possible for police to reduce crime while also relying on more community-oriented styles of policing, or are these two ideas incompatible? What kinds of strategies would you advise police leaders to adopt in the current policing environment? Please draw on relevant theories and research in answering these questions.

2. In his classic song, Nebraska, one of our most sagacious artists, Bruce Springstein, suggested that "Mister, there's just a meanness in this world". This would seem to suggest that there are identifiable processes (biological, psychological or even sociological) that generate criminogenic traits or a time-stable disposition to commit criminal acts. Describe a criminological theory which would be consistent with Springstein's view that there is "a meanness in this world", and then discuss the empirical support that such a theory currently enjoys.

3. A growing number of condemned prisoners have been exonerated and subsequently released from prison. Most were released after being confined for many years on restrictive death rows. What does their experience—on death row and upon release—tell us about the prison adjustment generally and the death penalty in particular?

4. An important source of law and order in the prison is the correctional officer. An important source of law and order in the free world is the police officer. Correctional or police officers can be, among other things, agents of service or repression. Describe and analyze the role or roles played by correctional officers *or* police officers in maintaining law and order in their respective domains. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.

**Department of Justice, Law and Criminology**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
***[Terrorism and Security Policy]***  
**October 16, 2015**

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. In an essay published in *Foreign Affairs* this year, "ISIS Is Not a Terrorist Group: Why Counterterrorism Won't Stop the Latest Jihadist Threat," Audrey Cronin argued in support of the title of her essay. What case can be made in support of her assertion? What case can be made against it? If ISIS is not a terrorist group, what label fits it better? In any case, what sort of policies do you think are best for dealing with ISIS? Cite the relevant literature in making your case.
  
2. What do we know about terrorism? What do we not know? Discuss evidence and arguments in support of your assertions, citing the relevant literature.
  
3. You are a counter-terrorism adviser to the President. What would you recommend as his top terrorism priority, al-Qaida or the Islamic State? Explain your rationale. Then, drawing from the academic literature, provide at least three policy recommendations about how to counter whichever group you deem to be the top priority. Be sure to cite your sources and use the academic literature to inform your answer.
  
4. Is terrorism somehow different or unique from other tactics used by groups engaged in political violence? Is it best understood as a distinct phenomenon? Or is it simply one tactic among many that groups choose to utilize? Use evidence from the literature to support your argument.