

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Spring 2011

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.

1. Discuss the capacity of police to address violent crime problems, including gun and gang violence, in their communities. Which police practices are effective in preventing and controlling crime? Which are ineffective? Which might generate unintended and unwanted consequences? Discuss the relevant theory and research evidence to support your arguments and conclusions.
2. Describe the various “pains of imprisonment” examined in the body of research on the psychological and other effects of imprisonment. How does stress shape the prison experience? Does suffering in prison influence the prospects for rehabilitation in contemporary prisons?
3. Discuss the development of community policing. What were the reasons for its introduction? Using the relevant research, including scholarly articles and empirical studies, outline the key features of community policing and assess its effectiveness as a policing style. What have been its notable successes and failures, and what challenges lie ahead?
4. Do women and men experience incarceration differently? Describe any differences associated with gender and analyze their significance for understanding and reforming prisons. Describe shared experiences that transcend gender, and analyze their significance for understanding and reforming prisons.

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1. Legal philosophers have long debated the question, what is law? What are some of the definitions of "law" mentioned in the "Law and Society" reading list? When can it be said that a society has a legal system or legal order (as opposed to some other type of order such as one based on religious authority, moral principles, or emergent social norms)? This question is not only of theoretical interest but also of political and economic interest, as countries seek to transition from the rule of power or privilege to the rule of law. What are the essential features and distinctive characteristics of a society committed to the rule of law, and what are some basic functions law plays in such a society?
2. Mainstream legal theories present law as a constraint on government, while critics emphasize the use of law by the powerful as a way of maintaining current power relations. Which of these views most accurately reflects the role of law in the contemporary U.S.? Consider the views of theorists on each side of the issue.
3. The duty to obey the law can be explained in terms of either coercive threat or moral obligation. Both of these options have a number of shortcomings. With reference to the theorists represented on the reading list, discuss the limits to the duty to obey the law.
4. What is a constitution, and what is meant by constitutionalism? What are the functions and roles that constitutions typically play in a legal system? What is the place and role of the constitution in the American legal system? What is the basis of the authority attached to the U.S. Constitution? What are some other types of legal authority in the American legal system, and what is their relationship to and how do they interact with the Constitution?

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Terrorism and Security Policy
Spring 2011

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.

1. How has terrorism been defined? How might different definitions of terrorism alter responses to questions about how to prevent terrorism and how to respond to it when acts are not prevented? Might some federal, state, or local agencies or non-governmental organizations have reason to prefer some definitions of terrorism over others? Give an example or two.
2. What research approaches appear to be most promising for understanding the nature and sources of terrorism and learning about the effectiveness of alternative strategies for preventing and responding to it?
3. To what extent does criminological theory and empirical evidence help us to understand the sources of terrorism? To what extent does criminology and conventional criminal justice research fail to help? What disciplines outside of criminology offer complementary approaches to understanding terrorism?
4. There is a considerable literature on the prevention of crime, both short-term and long-term interventions. Which strategies for preventing and responding to crime apply to terrorism? Explain.