

Department of Justice, Law and Criminology
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Spring, 2014

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 the examination.

1. Condemned prisoners are typically housed on death rows, settings that have been described as human warehouses. What do we know about the effects of life on death row, and what does that knowledge tell us about 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?
2. A body of research evidence has developed with regard to which police strategies are most effective in addressing violent crime. Based on this evidence, which strategies are thought to be most effective for reducing violent crime in communities? Which strategies are thought to be least effective? Draw on recent theory and research in crafting your response.
3. The year is 2021. You emerge from the rubble of nuclear war to discover that the criminal justice system has been demolished. At first you are disoriented, then depressed, but soon you realize, "This is my big chance to make a difference in the field!" Immediately, you set to work framing a new paradigm for the handling of offenders, drawing on your detailed knowledge of evidence and theory relating to policing, courts, or corrections. You pick one area, and then state your case for reform. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
4. Select the criminological theory that you think best addresses crime in the streets and discuss how this theory would direct public criminal justice policy. Be specific in your linkage between the theory and public policy. That is, given the theory here is the specific public policy and program. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.