

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Law and Society
Summer, 2013

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. In his classic study, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Max Weber concluded: "Since asceticism undertook to remodel the world and to work out its ideals in the world, material good have gained an increasing and finally inexorable power over the lives of men as at no previous period in history." How did Weber understand the causal relationship between Protestant asceticism and the rise of capitalism? What did he regard as distinctive about the Calvinist conception of calling compared to other Christian understanding of a religious vocation? How did Weber see Protestantism contributing to a broader rationalization process and what in his view does this process entail? In focusing on changes in religious belief and practice, did he dismiss material factors, such as technological innovation, as unimportant? How did he support his interpretive case empirically? That is, what sort of evidence did he use? Evaluate the strength and weaknesses of his approach.
2. If legal traditions continue to weigh heavily upon present legal practice and jurisprudence, then surely part of the task of legal theory is to lift that burden: to show that, because most forms of oppression have been constructed, they can be deconstructed. Keeping in mind the ways in which legal theory both legitimizes and critiques the liberal Rule of Law, what are the major features of progressive legal theory, critical legal theory, feminist legal theory, and critical race theory and how and why are they significant to legal and political debates concerning race, gender, and socio-economic status before the law? In short, what is at stake in legal theory and to what extent does it have practical and principled application (within the US) in relation to one of the following contemporary legal, political, and social issues: affirmative action; marriage equality; immigration reform; reproductive rights; or the balancing of privacy and security within a National Security State?
3. It is sometimes said that we are all legal realists now. What does this expression mean, and why would the writer believe it true? Based on the works you have read, do you agree?
4. Do citizens ever have a right, duty, or obligation to resist their civil rulers? If so, when and under what circumstances? If so, what is the scope of and limitations on this right, duty, or obligation? Be sure to reference any works on the reading list that address these questions.

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Terrorism and National Security
Summer, 2013

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. Are the causes of domestic terrorism different from the causes of transnational terrorism? Offer definitions of each, an argument for or against their differences, and what this means for the study of terrorism and how policy makers should deal with each.
2. What are the five greatest threats to US national security today? Rank order them and offer an explanation for the approximate effort that the government should spend dealing with each.
3. Revelations about the NSA's PRISM program to gather information from U.S. citizens raise serious questions about the trade-offs between liberty and security. However, questions also exist about whether such programs actually make the country more secure. Given what you know of how current terrorist threats manifest and the various counterterrorism approaches to dealing with them, do you believe programs such as PRISM contribute to security? What parameters or guidelines do you believe should inform decisions about how to balance liberty with security?
4. In what ways can academia contribute to combating the threat from homegrown terrorism? Please focus on practical applications for your answer.

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Summer, 2013

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. Though urban violence has decreased in many US cities, some continue to struggle with outbreaks of gang and gun related violence. The capacity of American police departments to address these issues has been diminished, in part, due to shrinking budgets and fewer officers on the streets. Thus there is a strong push for police agencies to rely on smarter, more innovative policing strategies that do not rely so heavily on flooding the streets with officers. Give at least two examples of police innovations that can be deployed to address urban violence problems and provide research evidence on the effectiveness of these approaches.
2. Select any two major theories of crime and present and discuss their major elements. Based upon the theories, what policy implications emerge from them. That is, what policy programs would/could be instituted to reduce crime if the theories are correct about what causes crime? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
3. 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 cite the relevant literature in addressing these issues.
4. America leads the Western world in rates of execution and imprisonment. By western standards, our sentences are long and the conditions of confinement in our prisons are harsh. Reflecting on facts such as these, one authority has said that "The United States has a punishment system that no one would knowingly have built from the ground up. It is often unjust, it is unduly severe, it wasteful, and it does enormous damage to the lives of black Americans." Evaluate these claims, and explain how we came to have an arguably dysfunctional system of punishment.