

Department of Justice, Law and Society
Master's Comprehensive Examination
Justice and Public Policy
Summer, 2012

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. Please summarize the existing state of knowledge on the capacity of police in a democratic society to influence crime. What practices have been shown to work? What practices don't work? Please be sure to cite the most relevant research.

2. Compare and contrast the experiences of men and women in prison, drawing on the ethnographic reporting of Erin George and Victor Hassine, as well as the empirical research on gender and prison adjustment.

3. Some scholars have attributed problems such as use of excessive force and corruption among law enforcement agents to the "police culture." What are some of the characteristics of police culture, and how might it lead to excessive use of force? Is community policing likely to change police culture and remedy some of its problems? Please cite the relevant literature in answering these questions.

4. Please explain the basic propositions of general strain theory, and discuss some of the important methodological issues related to testing it pointed out by Agnew in his chapter in *Taking Stock*.

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Terrorism and Security Policy
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Question #1: What is the most compelling explanation for suicide terrorism? Compare and contrast the most prominent theories highlighting where they converge and diverge. Be sure to cite the relevant research.

Question #2: Is terrorism a rational act? Why or why not? Discuss the debate over the issue and take a stand. What are the implications for policy either way? Be sure to cite the relevant research.

Question #3: There is a considerable literature on the causes and prevention of crime, both short-term and long-term interventions. Which strategies for preventing and responding to crime from this literature apply to terrorism? Explain. Be sure to cite the relevant research.

Question #4: Compare and contrast the roles of policing and counterterrorism. How do they overlap? How do they differ? How might one borrow from the other? Be sure to cite the relevant research.