

# Arizona State University (ASU) CRJ230 Introduction to Policing Exam 1 Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



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## Questions

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1. What is the significance of the War on Drugs in policing?
  - A. It has decreased community trust in law enforcement.
  - B. It has shaped law enforcement priority, practices, and community relationships concerning drug-related offenses.
  - C. It has eliminated drug-related crime entirely.
  - D. It has created new funding opportunities for police departments.
2. Which aspect of policing involves political influence in appointments and support?
  - A. Professional standards
  - B. Patronage
  - C. Accountability
  - D. Community representation
3. What is COMPSTAT primarily associated with in policing?
  - A. Community Engagement
  - B. Performance Evaluation
  - C. Statistical Crime Control
  - D. Accountability Through Reporting
4. Which group among police officers typically values aggressive policing techniques?
  - A. Traditionals
  - B. Moderns
  - C. Moderates
  - D. Progressives
5. Which of the following best describes 'career development' in police work?
  - A. Promotion within the ranks
  - B. A lifelong series of activities contributing to career success
  - C. Transitioning to a less demanding role
  - D. Seeking specialized training

6. What is meant by traffic enforcement?
- A. Policing activities focused on regulating vehicle operation on the roads
  - B. Surveillance of pedestrian areas for safety concerns
  - C. Monitoring fraud in vehicle registrations
  - D. Investigating accidents post-occurrence
7. Which action involves replacing specialized police units with officers familiar with their neighborhoods?
- A. Delayerize
  - B. Decentralize
  - C. Despecialize
  - D. Democratize
8. What term is used for collaborative efforts among officers from various ranks?
- A. Horizontal Cliques
  - B. Task Force
  - C. Ranking Officials
  - D. Command Unit
9. Who is responsible for overseeing and evaluating a new police officer's performance after training?
- A. Academy Instructor
  - B. Training Officer
  - C. Field Training Officer (FTO)
  - D. Police Chief
10. What does "decentralization of police departments" refer to?
- A. Centralizing functions to a state level
  - B. Distributing functions to local levels for community engagement
  - C. Eliminating local police departments entirely
  - D. Increasing federal oversight of police functions

## Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. B

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## Explanations

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## 1. What is the significance of the War on Drugs in policing?

- A. It has decreased community trust in law enforcement.
- B. It has shaped law enforcement priority, practices, and community relationships concerning drug-related offenses.
- C. It has eliminated drug-related crime entirely.
- D. It has created new funding opportunities for police departments.

The significance of the War on Drugs in policing is particularly profound in how it has shaped law enforcement priorities, practices, and community relationships surrounding drug-related offenses. During the War on Drugs, which began in the 1980s, law enforcement agencies adopted aggressive strategies aimed at reducing drug-related crime. This included increased patrols, the establishment of specialized drug units, and the implementation of tough-on-crime policies that prioritized arrests for drug offenses. These changes not only defined the roles and functions of police officers but also transformed interactions between the police and the communities they serve. For instance, communities heavily impacted by drug policies often experienced heightened police presence and scrutiny, which could lead to strained relationships with law enforcement. Understanding these dynamics is crucial, as the War on Drugs has led to broader societal implications, including discussions about systemic racism, the impacts of incarceration on communities, and debates about alternative approaches to drug use and addiction. The other choices, while touching on aspects related to the War on Drugs, do not fully capture its overarching significance in shaping policing practices and community dynamics.

## 2. Which aspect of policing involves political influence in appointments and support?

- A. Professional standards
- B. Patronage
- C. Accountability
- D. Community representation

Patronage is the aspect of policing that specifically involves political influence concerning appointments and support. This practice refers to the system where individuals are appointed to positions based on their political connections rather than their qualifications or merits. In many cases, this can lead to a police force that is aligned with the interests of those in power, which can impact the impartiality and efficacy of law enforcement. In a patronage system, officials may benefit from the support of political leaders, which can skew hiring and promotion practices to favor loyalty over skill. This type of influence can affect not only the composition of the police force but also its priorities and procedures, potentially resulting in a focus on serving the interests of political figures rather than the community at large. Understanding patronage is crucial in discussions about police integrity and the need for reform in law enforcement practices to promote accountability and professionalism.

### 3. What is COMPSTAT primarily associated with in policing?

- A. Community Engagement
- B. Performance Evaluation
- C. Statistical Crime Control
- D. Accountability Through Reporting

COMPSTAT, which stands for "Computer Statistics," is primarily associated with accountability through reporting. This system was developed in the mid-1990s in the New York City Police Department and is designed to use data and statistics to improve policing efficiency and effectiveness. The primary purpose of COMPSTAT is to hold police departments accountable for crime reduction and public safety. It provides a structured framework for collecting and analyzing crime data, which allows law enforcement agencies to track trends, identify problem areas, and allocate resources more effectively. Through regular meetings and reports, police leaders can assess the performance of their officers and the overall effectiveness of policing strategies. By focusing on accountability, COMPSTAT empowers departments to respond quickly to crime patterns and community needs, thus reinforcing a culture of responsibility and data-informed decision-making within police organizations. This emphasis on performance and outcomes is what sets COMPSTAT apart as a critical tool in modern policing strategies.

### 4. Which group among police officers typically values aggressive policing techniques?

- A. Traditionals
- B. Moderns
- C. Moderates
- D. Progressives

The group typically associated with valuing aggressive policing techniques is the Traditionals. This faction of law enforcement tends to uphold conventional methods of policing, often emphasizing a tough-on-crime approach. Traditionals believe that such aggressive tactics are necessary to maintain order and control in society, particularly in high-crime areas. Their perspective aligns with a more classic view of policing, which prioritizes a visible and assertive presence to deter crime. In contrast, other groups like Moderns, Moderates, and Progressives often advocate for different approaches. Moderns may focus on community policing strategies that prioritize collaboration with community members to address underlying issues rather than relying solely on aggressive tactics. Moderates tend to balance both traditional and progressive views but may not emphasize aggression as a primary strategy. Progressives are likely to criticize aggressive policing techniques, advocating instead for reform, community engagement, and addressing systemic issues that contribute to crime. Thus, it is the Traditionals who are most closely aligned with the use of aggressive methods in policing.

5. Which of the following best describes 'career development' in police work?

- A. Promotion within the ranks
- B. A lifelong series of activities contributing to career success
- C. Transitioning to a less demanding role
- D. Seeking specialized training

Career development in police work encompasses a lifelong series of activities that contribute to an individual's success within their profession. This definition emphasizes the continuous nature of learning and growth, acknowledging that career advancement is not solely about moving up through ranks or obtaining promotions. Rather, it includes a combination of acquiring new skills, engaging in ongoing training, seeking mentorship, and adapting to new challenges throughout an officer's career. By focusing on a holistic approach to career development, officers can enhance their skill sets, adapt to changes in policing practices, and better serve their communities. This perspective supports the idea that professional development is a dynamic process, crucial for long-term success in policing, as it encourages officers to remain engaged, stay informed about advancements in the field, and participate in various learning opportunities that might emerge throughout their careers.

6. What is meant by traffic enforcement?

- A. Policing activities focused on regulating vehicle operation on the roads
- B. Surveillance of pedestrian areas for safety concerns
- C. Monitoring fraud in vehicle registrations
- D. Investigating accidents post-occurrence

Traffic enforcement refers specifically to policing activities that aim to regulate vehicle operation on the roads. This includes actions taken by law enforcement to ensure compliance with traffic laws and regulations, such as checking for speeding, running stop signs, and other violations that could lead to accidents or unsafe driving conditions. The primary goal of traffic enforcement is to enhance road safety for all users—drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and cyclists—while maintaining order on the roadways. By focusing on vehicle operation, traffic enforcement plays a crucial role in preventing accidents and fostering a culture of safe driving. It encompasses a range of proactive measures, such as conducting traffic stops, issuing citations, and engaging in public education about safe driving practices.

7. Which action involves replacing specialized police units with officers familiar with their neighborhoods?

- A. Delayerize
- B. Decentralize
- C. Despecialize
- D. Democratize

The action of replacing specialized police units with officers who are more familiar with their neighborhoods is best described as despecialization. This approach emphasizes the importance of community engagement and understanding local context within policing practices. By shifting from specialized units—often focused on particular crime types—to a model where officers are well-acquainted with the communities they serve, the intent is to enhance trust and collaboration between law enforcement and residents. Despecialization fosters a more holistic approach to policing, aligning officers with community needs and promoting proactive problem-solving. When officers have a deeper understanding of their neighborhoods, they can address issues more effectively, leading to improved public safety outcomes and stronger community relations. This strategy also responds to the growing recognition within policing that addressing crime requires a nuanced understanding of social dynamics and local concerns, rather than solely focusing on enforcement tactics.

8. What term is used for collaborative efforts among officers from various ranks?

- A. Horizontal Cliques
- B. Task Force
- C. Ranking Officials
- D. Command Unit

The term "Task Force" refers to a collaborative effort that brings together police officers and personnel from various ranks and units to address specific issues or challenges within the community or law enforcement. This approach allows for a diverse range of expertise, perspectives, and resources, which enhances problem-solving capabilities and fosters communication among different ranks and divisions. Task forces are often formed to tackle complex problems such as organized crime, drug trafficking, or major events that require coordinated responses. In contrast, other terms such as horizontal cliques do not represent formal or structured collaborations but suggest informal groupings that may not encompass the formal cooperation seen in a task force. Ranking officials and command units tend to indicate specific hierarchies or organizational structures within a police department rather than collaborative efforts among officers from various ranks. Therefore, "Task Force" is the most appropriate term for describing the collaborative work of officers across different ranks.

9. Who is responsible for overseeing and evaluating a new police officer's performance after training?

- A. Academy Instructor
- B. Training Officer
- C. Field Training Officer (FTO)
- D. Police Chief

The Field Training Officer (FTO) plays a crucial role in the transition of a new police officer from the training academy to active duty. This individual is specifically designated to oversee and evaluate the new officer's performance during their practical field training. The FTO not only supervises the new officer but also provides guidance, mentoring, and real-time feedback, ensuring that the officer can apply the skills and knowledge acquired during their training in real-world situations. This process allows the new officer to adapt to the demands of police work, learn the nuances of departmental protocols, and become acclimated to the community they serve. The FTO is responsible for conducting evaluations and assessments throughout the training period, which typically lasts several months. Their mentorship is essential for shaping competent and effective law enforcement professionals. In contrast, an academy instructor primarily focuses on delivering theoretical training and skills instruction in a controlled environment before the officer heads to the field, while a training officer, without the specific designation of FTO, lacks the dedicated role assigned to ongoing evaluation and mentorship. The police chief is involved in overall department management and policy, but is not typically responsible for the day-to-day oversight of individual new officers.

10. What does "decentralization of police departments" refer to?

- A. Centralizing functions to a state level
- B. Distributing functions to local levels for community engagement
- C. Eliminating local police departments entirely
- D. Increasing federal oversight of police functions

Decentralization of police departments refers to the distribution of functions and responsibilities to local levels, allowing for greater community engagement and tailored policing strategies that address the specific needs of different communities. This approach encourages police departments to operate more independently from a centralized authority, thereby fostering stronger relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. By empowering local entities, decentralization enhances accountability and ensures that policing practices are more responsive to the varying demographics, challenges, and concerns unique to each area. This can help build trust and improve the overall effectiveness of policing efforts. The other options focus on centralization, elimination, or increased oversight, which are distinctly different concepts that do not align with the idea of decentralized policing.