

EMCC Criminal Justice Test 2 Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What does CompStat primarily focus on in policing?**
 - A. Community engagement strategies**
 - B. Financial management of police resources**
 - C. Geographical crime analysis**
 - D. Officer training and development**
- 2. A significant portion of a police officer's time is spent on which of the following?**
 - A. A. Waiting for incoming calls that report crime**
 - B. B. Making arrests and writing reports**
 - C. C. Handling minor disturbances, service calls, and administrative duties**
 - D. D. Investigating crime and making arrests**
- 3. Which of the following best describes evidence?**
 - A. Statements made by witnesses only**
 - B. Any information presented in court to support or refute a case**
 - C. Legal arguments made by attorneys**
 - D. Only physical objects presented during a trial**
- 4. Which US Supreme Court case deemed the use of deadly force against an unarmed and nondangerous fleeing felon an illegal seizure of their person under the Fourth Amendment?**
 - A. Tennessee v. Garner**
 - B. Graham v. Conner**
 - C. Gregg v. Georgia**
 - D. US v. Weeks**
- 5. Which court proceeding is typically held before a trial?**
 - A. Sentencing hearing**
 - B. Arraignment**
 - C. Preliminary hearing**
 - D. Appeal process**

- 6. Which model focuses on repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior?**
- A. Retributive justice**
 - B. Restorative justice**
 - C. Distributive justice**
 - D. Procedural justice**
- 7. What is the purpose of criminal profiling?**
- A. To assist attorneys in legal arguments**
 - B. To analyze a criminal's psychological and behavioral patterns to aid law enforcement**
 - C. To identify potential jurors**
 - D. To establish sentencing guidelines**
- 8. Which of the following is not a notable achievement by police in the 1990s?**
- A. A new internal review of discipline was implemented**
 - B. The intellectual caliber of police increased**
 - C. Police applied empirical data to decision making**
 - D. Police became more diverse in race and gender**
- 9. The idea that aggressive policing makes criminals more worried about getting caught and therefore less likely to commit crime is known as?**
- A. A. Decreasing arrests model**
 - B. B. Deterrent effect**
 - C. C. Order maintenance**
 - D. D. Broken window model**
- 10. What fundamental principle does the "three strikes law" illustrate?**
- A. Rehabilitation of offenders**
 - B. Mandatory sentencing for serious offenses**
 - C. Elimination of parole for serious crimes**
 - D. Reduction of judicial discretion in sentencing**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What does CompStat primarily focus on in policing?

- A. Community engagement strategies**
- B. Financial management of police resources**
- C. Geographical crime analysis**
- D. Officer training and development**

CompStat primarily focuses on geographical crime analysis, which is crucial for understanding crime patterns and trends in specific areas. This management system uses real-time data collection and analysis to identify where criminal activity is concentrated, allowing law enforcement agencies to allocate resources more effectively and develop targeted strategies for crime reduction. By mapping crime incidents and analyzing the underlying factors contributing to those patterns, police departments can respond more proactively rather than reactively to crime. This geographical focus enables more strategic deployment of officers and serves as a basis for community discussions about safety and prevention efforts. While the other options present valuable aspects of policing, such as community engagement, financial management, and officer training, they are not the primary emphasis of CompStat. Instead, CompStat's core aim is to leverage data analysis to reduce crime through informed decision-making grounded in geography-focused insights.

2. A significant portion of a police officer's time is spent on which of the following?

- A. A. Waiting for incoming calls that report crime**
- B. B. Making arrests and writing reports**
- C. C. Handling minor disturbances, service calls, and administrative duties**
- D. D. Investigating crime and making arrests**

The correct choice highlights an important aspect of a police officer's daily responsibilities. A significant portion of a police officer's time is indeed spent on handling minor disturbances, service calls, and administrative duties. This reflects the reality that a lot of police work goes beyond just making arrests or investigating serious crimes. Both minor disturbances and service calls can encompass a wide range of incidents, from noise complaints to assisting citizens with various issues. Additionally, administrative duties, such as filling out paperwork and entering data into databases, are critical for maintaining accurate records and ensuring that the department runs smoothly. These tasks can often take up more time than the dramatic aspects of police work frequently portrayed in media. While making arrests and investigating crimes are crucial parts of policing, they typically represent a smaller percentage of an officer's overall activities compared to service and administrative tasks. This choice aligns with the reality of police work, where community-oriented activities and routine duties form the bulk of an officer's role in fostering public safety and maintaining order.

3. Which of the following best describes evidence?

- A. Statements made by witnesses only
- B. Any information presented in court to support or refute a case**
- C. Legal arguments made by attorneys
- D. Only physical objects presented during a trial

The definition of evidence encompasses a broad range of materials and information that contribute to the legal process. The correct answer accurately states that evidence includes any information presented in court that supports or refutes a case. This can entail various forms of evidence, including witness testimonies, physical objects, documents, expert opinions, and any relevant data that aids in establishing the facts of a case. Understanding evidence is crucial within the criminal justice system, as it plays a pivotal role in determining the outcome of trials. By including all forms of information presented in court, the answer recognizes that evidence is not limited to one specific type, such as only physical items or witness statements. Instead, it encompasses a comprehensive array of elements that work together to influence legal decisions. In contrast, other options focus on more narrow aspects of what constitutes evidence. By emphasizing only witness statements, legal arguments, or physical objects, these choices fail to capture the inclusive nature of evidence within court proceedings. The correct choice highlights the essential role that diverse pieces of information play in supporting justice and legal arguments, making it a fundamental concept in criminal law.

4. Which US Supreme Court case deemed the use of deadly force against an unarmed and nondangerous fleeing felon an illegal seizure of their person under the Fourth Amendment?

- A. Tennessee v. Garner**
- B. Graham v. Conner
- C. Gregg v. Georgia
- D. US v. Weeks

The selection of the case involving Tennessee v. Garner aligns perfectly with the legal principle regarding the use of deadly force. In this landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled that law enforcement officers cannot use deadly force against a fleeing felon unless the suspect poses an immediate threat to the officer or others. This ruling stems from an examination of the Fourth Amendment, which protects individuals against unreasonable searches and seizures. The court emphasized that using lethal force against an unarmed and nondangerous individual constitutes an unreasonable seizure, thereby violating their constitutional rights. By establishing this precedent, the ruling in Tennessee v. Garner has significant implications for police practices, ensuring that officers are held to high standards concerning the use of force, particularly in situations where the individual poses no immediate threat to others. The case is often cited in discussions about police use of force and the constitutional protections afforded to individuals under the Fourth Amendment. This understanding is key for students and practitioners in criminal justice as it highlights the balance between law enforcement authority and individual rights.

5. Which court proceeding is typically held before a trial?

- A. Sentencing hearing**
- B. Arraignment**
- C. Preliminary hearing**
- D. Appeal process**

The correct answer is arraignment, which is a crucial court proceeding that occurs after a defendant has been charged with a crime and typically before the trial begins. During an arraignment, the defendant is formally read the charges and is asked to enter a plea—such as guilty, not guilty, or no contest. This step is essential as it ensures that the defendant understands the charges against them and allows them an opportunity to respond. The arraignment also sets the stage for further legal proceedings, as it may lead to discussions about bail and the scheduling of future hearings or trial dates. It is a foundational element of the judicial process in a criminal case, emphasizing the defendant's rights and the obligation of the court to inform them of their charges. Other proceedings mentioned, such as a sentencing hearing, occur after a trial has concluded (if a conviction takes place) and involve the court determining the appropriate punishment. A preliminary hearing is primarily intended to assess whether there is enough evidence to proceed to trial, but it occurs after an arrest and before arraignment in many cases. The appeal process follows after a trial has concluded and cannot occur until a verdict has been reached, making it unrelated to pre-trial proceedings.

6. Which model focuses on repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior?

- A. Retributive justice**
- B. Restorative justice**
- C. Distributive justice**
- D. Procedural justice**

Restorative justice is a model that specifically aims at addressing the harm caused by criminal behavior. It emphasizes repairing relationships and restoring trust within the community by engaging all stakeholders. This approach prioritizes the needs of the victims, offenders, and the community rather than solely focusing on punishment. Through dialogue and collaboration, restorative justice allows for the acknowledgment of harm, encourages responsibility from the offenders, and seeks to provide support for victims to heal. In contrast to this, retributive justice is rooted in the idea of punishment, focusing largely on making the offender suffer for their actions rather than repairing the harm done. Distributive justice deals with the allocation of resources and fairness in distribution, while procedural justice emphasizes the fairness in processes and procedures used in legal systems—neither of which address the specific concept of repairing harm caused by criminal actions. This distinct focus on harm repair and community involvement is what sets restorative justice apart.

7. What is the purpose of criminal profiling?

- A. To assist attorneys in legal arguments**
- B. To analyze a criminal's psychological and behavioral patterns to aid law enforcement**
- C. To identify potential jurors**
- D. To establish sentencing guidelines**

The purpose of criminal profiling is to analyze a criminal's psychological and behavioral patterns in order to aid law enforcement in apprehending offenders. This method involves examining various aspects of the crime scene, victimology, and offender behavior to create a profile that helps investigators predict the type of person who may have committed the crime. By understanding the motivations, personality traits, and predictable behaviors of criminals, law enforcement agencies can narrow down suspects and develop effective investigation strategies. Criminal profiling is particularly useful in cases involving serial crimes or complex criminal behavior, as it provides insights that might not be immediately evident through traditional investigative techniques. It can guide interviews, inform tactical decisions, and assist in resource allocation, making it a critical tool in modern criminal investigations.

8. Which of the following is not a notable achievement by police in the 1990s?

- A. A new internal review of discipline was implemented**
- B. The intellectual caliber of police increased**
- C. Police applied empirical data to decision making**
- D. Police became more diverse in race and gender**

The notion that a new internal review of discipline was implemented is actually a notable achievement from the 1990s. During this period, many police departments began reforming their disciplinary procedures and focusing on accountability to enhance public trust and ensure fair treatment of officers and the communities they serve. This move aimed to address systemic issues and improve the integrity of law enforcement agencies. The intellectual caliber of police increased refers to the educational and training advancements made within police departments, as there was a growing emphasis on professional development and higher educational requirements for recruits. This shift reflects a broader trend in law enforcement that recognizes the need for a more educated and skilled workforce to address complex societal issues. The application of empirical data to decision-making highlights a significant evolution in policing strategies during the 1990s, as many departments embraced data-driven approaches. This included the adoption of technologies and statistical analyses, which allowed police departments to better allocate resources and understand crime patterns. Police diversity in race and gender was also pursued actively, as many departments enacted policies aimed at recruiting and retaining a workforce that better represented the communities they served. Efforts toward diversification were driven by recognition of the importance of having police forces that reflect the demographics of the population. Thus, while a new internal review of discipline was

9. The idea that aggressive policing makes criminals more worried about getting caught and therefore less likely to commit crime is known as?

A. A. Decreasing arrests model

B. B. Deterrent effect

C. C. Order maintenance

D. D. Broken window model

The concept that aggressive policing can induce a level of fear among potential criminals, making them think twice about their actions due to the increased likelihood of being caught, is referred to as the deterrent effect. This theory is grounded in the understanding of how certain consequences, such as heightened police presence and proactive law enforcement practices, can reduce crime rates by instilling a fear of apprehension. When individuals perceive a higher risk of arrest, they may reconsider engaging in criminal behavior. This deterrent effect operates on the principle that the fear of punishment can act as a significant motivator for individuals to refrain from committing crimes. By demonstrating a zero-tolerance approach, law enforcement aims to create an environment where the costs of criminal behavior outweigh any potential benefits. The other options, while related to policing strategies and crime prevention, do not specifically focus on the psychological and behavioral aspects of deterring crime through the fear of arrest, which is the essence of the deterrent effect.

10. What fundamental principle does the "three strikes law" illustrate?

A. Rehabilitation of offenders

B. Mandatory sentencing for serious offenses

C. Elimination of parole for serious crimes

D. Reduction of judicial discretion in sentencing

The "three strikes law" illustrates the principle of mandatory sentencing for serious offenses. This law is designed to impose harsher sentences on individuals who are convicted of three or more serious crimes, often felonies. Essentially, after a third offense, the law mandates a significant and automated increase in prison time, regardless of the circumstances of the crime or the individual's background. This principle reflects a shift in the criminal justice system that prioritizes uniformity in sentencing for repeat offenders to deter future crime and to enhance public safety. It moves away from discretion in the sentencing process and places an emphasis on the number of strikes against an individual, ensuring that repeat offenders face predetermined and severe penalties. The law aims to prevent recidivism by removing the possibility of lighter sentences and offering a more rigid framework for dealing with those who repeatedly violate the law.