

ETS Major Field Test Criminal Justice Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which focal concern refers to the idea of control over one's life and destiny among individuals in lower-class subcultures?**
 - A. Fate**
 - B. Autonomy**
 - C. Smartness**
 - D. Toughness**
- 2. What does the mark system allow prisoners to do?**
 - A. Earn credits towards early release for good behavior**
 - B. Reduce their sentence through financial penalties**
 - C. Obtain additional privileges through family visits**
 - D. Enhance their educational qualifications while incarcerated**
- 3. What does Amendment II guarantee?**
 - A. The right to keep and bear arms for security of a state**
 - B. The freedom of assembly and association**
 - C. The right to free speech and expression**
 - D. The prohibition of quartering soldiers**
- 4. What characterizes the political era of policing?**
 - A. Focus on integrating police with the community**
 - B. Close ties between law enforcement and public officials**
 - C. Commitment to upholding the letter of the law**
 - D. Service style policing in wealthy neighborhoods**
- 5. What is the purpose of a "three strike law"?**
 - A. To encourage rehabilitation for first-time offenders**
 - B. To impose harsher sentences after multiple offenses**
 - C. To provide opportunities for early release**
 - D. To promote restorative justice**
- 6. What does the term 'double jeopardy' refer to?**
 - A. The right to avoid civil and criminal trials**
 - B. The prohibition against being tried for the same crime twice**
 - C. The right to confront witnesses in a trial**
 - D. The requirement for a public trial**

- 7. Which of the following is an example of a procedural defense?**
- A. Direct evidence of a crime**
 - B. Double jeopardy**
 - C. Witness testimony**
 - D. Circumstantial evidence**
- 8. Which of the following is a condition that can lead to parole?**
- A. Completion of a mandatory minimum sentence**
 - B. Demonstration of good behavior while in prison**
 - C. Payment of restitution to victims**
 - D. Request by a victim for release**
- 9. What is a stated belief in phrenology regarding personality traits?**
- A. They are entirely learned behaviors.**
 - B. They are unrelated to physical features.**
 - C. They can be determined by skull shape.**
 - D. They are influenced by environmental factors alone.**
- 10. Which mode of adaptation signifies someone who substitutes their own goals for those established by society?**
- A. Ritualist**
 - B. Retreatist**
 - C. Rebel**
 - D. Innovator**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. Which focal concern refers to the idea of control over one's life and destiny among individuals in lower-class subcultures?

A. Fate

B. Autonomy

C. Smartness

D. Toughness

The correct choice, autonomy, reflects the notion of control over one's life and destiny, especially within lower-class subcultures. Autonomy is fundamentally about the ability of individuals to make choices and exert influence over their own circumstances, which is a critical aspect of self-determination. In the context of lower-class subcultures, individuals often face systemic barriers that can limit their perceived control over life outcomes. Thus, autonomy encompasses the struggles and aspirations for agency in navigating these limitations. The other concepts, while relevant in different contexts, do not encapsulate this particular focus on individual control as directly as autonomy does. Fate typically refers to destiny determined by external forces, smartness pertains to intelligence or cunning as a survival strategy, and toughness relates to resilience or strength in confronting challenges. Each of these concepts addresses different aspects of behavior and social dynamics but does not specifically address the idea of individual control as well as autonomy does.

2. What does the mark system allow prisoners to do?

A. Earn credits towards early release for good behavior

B. Reduce their sentence through financial penalties

C. Obtain additional privileges through family visits

D. Enhance their educational qualifications while incarcerated

The mark system allows prisoners to earn credits towards early release for good behavior by providing a structured system where inmates can accumulate a certain number of "marks" or points. These marks are awarded based on various positive behaviors and participation in rehabilitation programs. The underlying principle of the mark system is to incentivize good conduct and engagement with rehabilitative opportunities, thereby encouraging prisoners to adhere to the rules and contribute positively to the correctional environment. By achieving a designated number of these marks, inmates can qualify for early release or reduced supervision upon re-entry to society. This approach not only seeks to motivate inmates to improve their behavior but also aims to reduce overcrowding in prisons by facilitating the timely reintegration of low-risk individuals into the community.

3. What does Amendment II guarantee?

- A. The right to keep and bear arms for security of a state**
- B. The freedom of assembly and association**
- C. The right to free speech and expression**
- D. The prohibition of quartering soldiers**

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, often referred to as Amendment II, guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. This provision is understood to ensure that citizens have the ability to possess weapons for purposes such as self-defense and the defense of their state. The historical context of this amendment is rooted in the experiences of the founding fathers, particularly their concerns about tyranny and the need for a well-regulated militia to secure the state. The language of the amendment emphasizes not only individual rights but also the importance of a regulated militia, suggesting a balance between personal liberty and collective security. This foundational principle has led to extensive legal and political discussions regarding gun rights and regulations in contemporary America. Understanding this guarantees the relevance of the Second Amendment and its ongoing impact on American society and law. The other options refer to different rights outlined in other amendments or broader principles in American law: the right to free speech and expression, the freedom of assembly and association, and the prohibition of quartering soldiers are all protected under various amendments but are not linked to the Second Amendment. Thus, recognizing that Amendment II specifically addresses the right to bear arms highlights its unique and significant role in American constitutional rights.

4. What characterizes the political era of policing?

- A. Focus on integrating police with the community**
- B. Close ties between law enforcement and public officials**
- C. Commitment to upholding the letter of the law**
- D. Service style policing in wealthy neighborhoods**

The political era of policing is primarily characterized by the close ties between law enforcement and public officials. During this time, which spanned from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, police departments often operated under significant influence from local politicians. This relationship typically involved political leaders exerting control over policing practices, where police officers were appointed and promoted based on political connections rather than merit. This affiliation often led to issues such as corruption and inefficiency, as law enforcement agencies could prioritize the interests of political figures over the safety and well-being of the community. Public officials often relied on police to maintain their power and control over neighborhoods, resulting in a policing approach that was heavily intertwined with political objectives. The notion of integrating police with the community is more associated with later eras of policing, particularly community policing strategies that emerged in response to the issues of the political era. Similarly, the commitment to upholding the law reflects a more modern perspective on law enforcement's role and responsibilities that shifted significantly after the political era. Lastly, service style policing in wealthy neighborhoods is not specific to this era; rather, it represents a broader approach to policing that can be found within various historical contexts and is not a defining trait of the political era.

5. What is the purpose of a "three strike law"?

- A. To encourage rehabilitation for first-time offenders
- B. To impose harsher sentences after multiple offenses**
- C. To provide opportunities for early release
- D. To promote restorative justice

The purpose of a "three strike law" is to impose harsher sentences on individuals who have been convicted of multiple felonies, specifically after their third felony conviction. This legislative approach aims to deter repeat offenders by establishing mandatory minimum sentences, often leading to life sentences after the third conviction. The "three strike law" was designed in part to address concerns about violent crime and recidivism, reflecting a policy decision that emphasizes punishment over rehabilitation for those who have demonstrated a pattern of criminal behavior. In this context, the law is based on the belief that habitual offenders pose a greater risk to public safety, and thus, more severe penalties are warranted for those who repeatedly engage in criminal activity. This law has been controversial, as critics argue it can lead to excessively harsh sentences for non-violent offenses and highlights issues around the effectiveness of deterrence versus rehabilitation. However, the core function remains solidly focused on escalating legal consequences for repeated criminal actions.

6. What does the term 'double jeopardy' refer to?

- A. The right to avoid civil and criminal trials
- B. The prohibition against being tried for the same crime twice**
- C. The right to confront witnesses in a trial
- D. The requirement for a public trial

The term 'double jeopardy' specifically refers to the constitutional protection that prohibits an individual from being tried twice for the same offense once a verdict has been reached in a criminal case. This principle is rooted in the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution, which ensures that an accused person does not face the anxiety and potential penalties of being subjected to multiple prosecutions for the same act. Once a jury has delivered a verdict, be it guilty or not guilty, that verdict is intended to be final regarding that particular charge, thus safeguarding individuals from the continual threat of legal action for the same alleged crime. This protection is seen as a fundamental right, reinforcing the idea that once the judicial process has spoken, it should not be reopened for the same circumstances, promoting fairness and stability in the legal system. The other options, while they each address important elements of the rights afforded to individuals in a legal context, do not encapsulate the specific definition and implications of double jeopardy. For example, avoiding civil and criminal trials, confronting witnesses, and ensuring public trials speak to different aspects of legal rights, but do not define or relate to the concept of being tried multiple times for the same crime.

7. Which of the following is an example of a procedural defense?

- A. Direct evidence of a crime**
- B. Double jeopardy**
- C. Witness testimony**
- D. Circumstantial evidence**

A procedural defense refers to a legal strategy asserting that the defendant should be absolved of charges due to improper procedures or violations of constitutional rights during the legal process. Double jeopardy is an excellent example of a procedural defense because it protects an individual from being tried for the same crime after a valid acquittal or conviction. This principle is rooted in the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and invoking it can lead to the dismissal of charges if a defendant has already faced judgment for the same offense. In contrast, direct evidence, witness testimony, and circumstantial evidence are related to the factual elements of a case rather than procedural issues. They pertain to the information used to establish the guilt or innocence of a defendant, rather than arguing that the legal process was flawed. Thus, double jeopardy stands out as a clear illustration of a procedural defense within the choices provided.

8. Which of the following is a condition that can lead to parole?

- A. Completion of a mandatory minimum sentence**
- B. Demonstration of good behavior while in prison**
- C. Payment of restitution to victims**
- D. Request by a victim for release**

Demonstration of good behavior while in prison is a crucial factor that can lead to parole because it reflects the inmate's ability to conform to institutional rules and rehabilitation efforts. Parole boards often assess an inmate's conduct while incarcerated to determine their readiness to reintegrate into society. Good behavior may include participating in rehabilitation programs, not receiving disciplinary actions, and overall cooperation with prison staff. While completing a mandatory minimum sentence may satisfy a legal requirement for release, it alone does not guarantee eligibility for parole, as parole is typically discretionary and based on an assessment of the inmate's behavior and rehabilitation efforts. Payment of restitution to victims and requests by victims can influence aspects of parole hearings but are not direct conditions that ensure parole is granted, as the primary focus is often on the inmate's behavior and rehabilitation in prison.

9. What is a stated belief in phrenology regarding personality traits?

- A. They are entirely learned behaviors.**
- B. They are unrelated to physical features.**
- C. They can be determined by skull shape.**
- D. They are influenced by environmental factors alone.**

Phrenology, a now-discredited field of study, posited that the shape and contours of the human skull could provide insight into an individual's personality traits and mental faculties. The fundamental belief of phrenologists was that different areas of the brain corresponded to different characteristics or traits, and these areas could be inferred through the bumps and indentations on the skull. This premise suggested that by assessing the physical structure of a person's skull, one could gain insights into their personality, intelligence, and behavioral tendencies. Therefore, the notion that personality traits could be determined by skull shape is central to the concept of phrenology. In contrast, views that personality traits are solely learned behaviors, unrelated to physical features, or influenced only by environmental factors do not align with the key principles of phrenology, which specifically linked physical attributes, particularly the skull, to personality characteristics.

10. Which mode of adaptation signifies someone who substitutes their own goals for those established by society?

- A. Ritualist**
- B. Retreatist**
- C. Rebel**
- D. Innovator**

The mode of adaptation referred to in the question aligns with the concept of a rebel, who actively challenges and seeks to change the established societal goals and values rather than simply conforming to or retreating from them. Rebels reject the accepted means for achieving societal goals and, instead, substitute their own goals, which often aim at restructuring society or promoting a specific ideological agenda. Rebels not only oppose the existing norms but also aim for an alternative set of values that often contradict the mainstream beliefs. This critical stance distinguishes them from other modes of adaptation. For instance, innovators may accept societal goals but create new means to achieve them, while ritualists adhere to traditional means but abandon the goals altogether. Retreatists reject both societal goals and means, choosing to withdraw from societal expectations rather than replace them. Understanding the rebel's position informs discussions about social change, activism, and how individuals or groups seek to redefine societal values and norms in pursuit of their vision for a better society.