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Organized Crime, 7e (Lyman/Potter)

Chapter 2 Theories of Organized Criminal Behavior

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1) One of the most widely held theories of organized crime today is known as the _____. 1) _____
A) deterrence theory B) alien conspiracy theory
C) rational choice theory D) life course theory

2) According to the alien conspiracy theory, U.S. organized crime is made up of 25 or so Italian- dominated crime _____, also known as La Cosa Nostra. 2) _____
A) businesses B) families C) mobs D) syndicates

3) Some theorists believe that regardless of the reason for committing crime, the decision to do so is a _____ made after weighing the benefits and consequences of the action. 3) _____
A) logical guess B) self- defeating choice
C) rational choice D) haphazard decision

4) _____ first emerged in the mid- eighteenth century and was originally referred to as classical theory. 4) _____
A) Learning theory B) Deterrence theory
C) Alien conspiracy theory D) Rational choice theory

5) _____ holds that crime can be thwarted by the threat of punishment. 5) _____
A) Subculture theory B) Learning theory
C) General deterrence theory D) Life course theory

6) Persons with _____ have a history of poor social interaction and have been described as being "weak and ineffective, lacking energy, passive and nice but totally inadequate." 6) _____
A) separation anxiety B) dependent personality
C) antisocial tendencies D) psychosocial skills

7) Miller (1958) argues that participation in _____ often provides a training ground for future organized crime participants. 7) _____
A) youth gangs B) group work C) prison D) gang rapes

8) Sutherland viewed _____ as a product of socialization in which criminals are guided by many of the same principles that guide law- abiding people. 8) _____
A) prior bad acts B) differential association
C) juvenile delinquency D) criminal discipline

9) Some researchers link _____ to social conditions prevalent in neighborhoods. 9) _____
A) antisocial personality B) sociopath personality
C) deterrence conspiracy D) criminality

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10) _____ suggests that the inequality between communities where the poor and the rich live in proximity to one another creates a general feeling of anger, hostility, and social injustice on the part of inner- city inhabitants. 10) _____

A) Relative deprivation B) Stratification
C) Anomie D) Cultural transmission

11) An extension of the _____ theory explains that ethnic succession develops as one group replaces the other in crime, while the earlier group moves on to respectability along with legitimate social status and livelihood. 11) _____

A) learning B) queer ladder
C) anomie D) alien conspiracy

12) According to Merton's _____ theory, aberrant behavior can be viewed as a symptom of the dissociation between "culturally defined aspirations and socially structured means." 12) _____

A) learning B) differential opportunity
C) anomie D) subculture

13) _____ relegates some people to environments in which they experience a sense of strain. 13) _____

A) Antisocial personality B) Differential association
C) Socioeconomic stratification D) Dependent personality

14) _____ posits that many lower- class male adolescents experience a sense of desperation surrounding the belief that their position in the economic structure is relatively fixed and immutable. 14) _____

A) Differential opportunity B) Cultural deprivation
C) Community sanctions D) Ethnic succession

15) Smith (1980) has proposed a(n) _____ theory, which explains that organized crime exists because the legitimate marketplace leaves many people unserved or unsatisfied, who are potential customers. 15) _____

A) customer B) enterprise C) marketplace D) organizational

16) A good example of the enterprise theory at work occurred during Prohibition when the passage of the _____ restricted manufacturing and distributing of alcoholic beverages, but demand for the product remained virtually unchanged. 16) _____

A) Prohibition Act in 1922 B) Volstead Act in 1920
C) Presidential Crackdown in 1925 D) Wickersham Act in 1923

17) At the heart of enterprise theory (Smith 1980) is the hallmark of _____, the law of supply and demand, which the illicit drug trade can illustrate. 17) _____

A) economics B) cultural expression
C) free taxation D) legitimate business

18) Empirical evidence strongly suggests that the pattern of _____ in organized crime resembles what has variously been called a network, a partnership, or a patron—client relationship. 18) _____

A) economics B) association C) trust D) enterprise

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19) Reuter (1983) found gambling and loan- sharking industries in New York to be populated by _____ with no organization and having a monopoly or market hegemony and no central control or coordination. 19) _____

A) brothels B) pimps C) dealers D) small operators

20) According to the enterprise model, criminal _____ come into existence and are profitable because of strong public demand for their goods and services. 20) _____

A) acts B) enterprises C) forces D) lawyers

21) Warren (1973) defines _____ as "that combination of social units and systems which perform the major social functions having locality relevance" (p. 9). 21) _____

A) business B) gang C) community D) Mafia

22) _____ provides opportunities for collaborating with labor management in efforts to gain control of unions and their pension funds. 22) _____

A) Political alliance B) Drug trafficking
C) Racketeering D) Gambling

23) The _____ function is helpful in explaining why organized crime is NOT regarded as an inherent evil in all communities. 23) _____

A) legitimate B) acceptance C) familial D) socialization

24) Understanding the _____ function of a community is necessary to understanding its accommodations to organized crime. 24) _____

A) community B) corruption C) social control D) familial

25) Hills (1969) proposes that _____ policies are adopted as an effort to accommodate illegal interests. 25) _____

A) transmission B) tolerance C) enterprise D) patron

TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.

26) Six families are said to dominate Salt Lake City: the Gerchiso, Colombo, Lucchese, Bonanno, Genovese, and Gambino families, each named after its founder. 26) _____

27) The classical school of criminology views organized crime members as possessing free will and as being able to make rational decisions regarding their involvement in crime and wrongdoing. 27) _____

28) Special deterrence theory holds that penalties for criminal acts should be sufficiently severe that convicted criminals will never repeat their acts. 28) _____

29) Sociopaths rarely appear to have a pleasant personality and usually have a below- average level of intelligence. 29) _____

30) Impulsivity is not one of the personality traits most likely to be possessed by an individual with sociopathic personality disorder. 30) _____

31) As a rule, individuals with dependent personality are unable to control their anger, frustration, and hostility. 31) _____

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32) According to Sutherland (1973), criminal behavior is learned as a result of associations with others. 32) _____

33) Suttles (1968) proposes that a "strong sense of history" is not an important factor in the development process from participation in juvenile crime to organized crime (p. 111). 33) _____

34) Cultural transmission suggests that patterns of criminal apprenticeship relative to Chicago youth gangs occurred in the community. 34) _____

35) Taylor et al. (1973) disagree with the assertion that when opportunities to succeed are distributed unequally, consequential results include the adoption of illegitimate means of obtaining success associated with definitions of the American Dream. 35) _____

36) Culture conflict theory is essentially a clash between the social mores of the middle class and the conduct norms of other groups. 36) _____

37) Proponents of drug legalization refer to the enterprise theory by arguing that legalized drugs would put those who sell them out of business and thus would significantly reduce the ranks of organized crime. 37) _____

38) According to alien conspiracy theory, empirical evidence strongly suggests that the internal structure of criminal enterprises is extremely fluid, with little control or direction from a central authority. 38) _____

39) The problem with organized crime groups is they rarely seek profitable and safe investments. 39) _____

40) Chambliss (1978) reported that distinctions between organized crime and legitimate businesses in Seattle were nearly impossible to discern. 40) _____

41) Organized crime has never provided lucrative services to businesspeople in any community. 41) _____

42) Whyte (1961) reported that gambling operations often provide employment in legitimate business settings. 42) _____

43) Numerous jobs are associated with illegitimate sides of the production and distribution of pornography, but there are still no legitimate jobs. 43) _____

44) Although empirical studies of organized crime have not specifically set out to evaluate these socialization processes, all have reflected on community socialization functions. 44) _____

45) Community members involved in illegal transactions perceive themselves as victims and consequently are likely to initiate complaints regarding them. 45) _____

SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

46) Almost a century of criminal investigations, public hearings, and studies by presidential commissions have produced conflicting information regarding the existence of the Italian American group known as the _____. 46) _____

47) _____ is a key to the alien conspiracy theory of the organized crime phenomenon. 47) _____

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48) Cesare Beccaria espoused the idea that the _____ should fit the crime. 48) _____

49) Some theorists believe that crime can be reduced through the use of _____. 49) _____

50) The term _____ can be defined as a phenomenon of behavior that is governed by one's emotions and thoughts and that controls the manner in which a person views life events and makes personal choices. 50) _____

51) Experts suggest that how to become criminals and how to deal emotionally with the consequences of such activity are _____. 51) _____

52) According to Sutherland (1973), people learn the specifics of _____, such as specialized techniques, attitudes, justifications, and rationalization. 52) _____

53) According to ethnic _____, Jews replaced the Irish in crime, Italians replaced the Jews, and blacks, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, and Colombians are now replacing the Italians. 53) _____

54) Cultural _____ theories assume that slum dwellers violate the law because they belong to a unique subculture that exists in lower- class areas. 54) _____

55) Enterprise theory explains that _____ enterprises involve both legitimate business and some types of criminal activity. 55) _____

56) As a result of functioning in a _____ environment, criminal enterprises avoid complex technology and stay small in size with little organizational complexity, formality (i.e., formal rules, procedures, chains of command) is lacking, and the organizations are based on mutual understandings and a relatively discrete and concise set of operating procedures. 56) _____

57) The Pennsylvania _____ Commission (1980: 227—230) provides evidence of laundering operations involving banks, beer distributorships, car dealerships, bars, and nightclubs. 57) _____

58) Organized crime's _____ services provide businesses with potent weapons for harassing competitors or securing favorable employee contracts. 58) _____

59) Numerous case studies have reported instances of local legitimate businesspeople openly engaging in _____ with reputed organized crime figures, particularly in the trucking, construction, mining, and banking industries. 59) _____

60) Research shows that community _____ groups shape modes of adaptation to social conditions. 60) _____

ESSAY. Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

61) Explain deterrence theory and its effectiveness.

62) Name at least seven personality traits of sociopathic personality disorder.

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63) Explain Sutherland's principles of differential association.

64) How does Warren (1973) define community and what are the five major community functions having locality relevance?

65) What is the socialization function?

66) Of all the theories mentioned in chapter 2, which one might tie in the most to suicide? Give your reasoning.

67) What can be done to ensure that local police officers do not become organized criminals?

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1) B
2) B
3) C
4) D
5) C
6) B
7) A
8) B
9) D
10) A
11) B
12) C
13) C
14) A
15) B
16) B
17) A
18) B
19) D
20) B
21) C
22) C
23) D
24) C
25) B
26) FALSE
27) TRUE
28) TRUE
29) FALSE
30) FALSE
31) TRUE
32) TRUE
33) FALSE
34) TRUE
35) FALSE
36) TRUE
37) TRUE
38) FALSE
39) FALSE
40) TRUE
41) FALSE
42) TRUE
43) FALSE
44) TRUE
45) FALSE
46) Mafia
47) Ethnicity
48) punishment
49) deterrents
50) personality

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51) learned
52) criminality
53) succession
54) deviance
55) economic
56) hostile
57) Crime
58) racketeering
59) partnerships
60) reference
61) Some theorists believe that crime can be reduced through the use of deterrents. The goal of deterrence, crime prevention, is based on the assumption that criminals or potential criminals will think carefully before committing a crime if the likelihood of getting caught and/or the fear of swift and severe punishment is present. As a rule, deterrents to crime are both general and specific in nature.

General deterrence theory holds that crime can be thwarted by the threat of punishment. If people fear that they will be arrested, they will choose not to commit the criminal act. Capital punishment is an example of general deterrence. Although evidence indicates the contrary, the purpose of capital punishment is to discourage people from committing crime, because they fear that the state will put them to death.

Special deterrence theory holds that penalties for criminal acts should be sufficiently severe that convicted criminals will never repeat their acts. For example, if a person arrested on a first- time marijuana possession charge is sentenced to spend 60 days in a boot camp designed for first- time offenders, the punishment is to convince him or her that the price for possessing marijuana is not worth the pleasure of using it.

Although the effectiveness of deterrence is highly debatable and not supported by empirical evidence, some experts suggest that it can be effective. For example, Wilson (1975: 494) points out that most crimes are committed by a small number of people. Because some components of the criminal justice system, such as courts and corrections, embrace treatment instead of punishment, criminals are more willing to risk getting caught. He argues that if the expected cost of committing crime goes up without a corresponding increase in the expected benefits, would- be criminals will commit fewer crimes.

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62) According to the National Institute of Mental Health the following personality traits are identified as those most likely to be possessed by an individual with sociopathic personality disorder:
1. SUPERFICIAL CHARM—The tendency to be smooth & engaging.
2. GRANDIOSE SELF- WORTH—A grossly inflated view of one's abilities and self- worth.
3. NEED FOR STIMULATION or PRONENESS TO BOREDOM—An excessive need for novel and exciting stimulation.
4. PATHOLOGICAL LYING—Can be moderate or high.
5. MANIPULATIVENESS—The use of deceit and deception to cheat others for personal gain.
6. LACK OF REMORSE—A lack of feelings or concern for the losses, pain, and suffering of victims.
7. SHALLOW AFFECT—Emotional poverty or a limited range or depth of feelings.
8. LACK OF EMPATHY—A lack of feelings toward people in general.
9. PARASITIC LIFESTYLE—An intentional, manipulative, selfish, and exploitative financial dependence on others.
10. POOR BEHAVIORAL CONTROLS—Expressions of irritability and impatience.
11. PROMISCUOUS SEXUAL BEHAVIOR—A variety of brief, superficial relations, numerous affairs, and an indiscriminate selection of sexual partners.
12. EARLY BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS—A variety of behaviors prior to age 13, including lying, theft, cheating, vandalism, bullying, and sexual activity.
13. LACK OF REALISTIC, LONG- TERM GOALS—An inability or persistent failure to develop and execute long- term plans and goals.
14. IMPULSIVITY—The occurrence of behaviors that are unpremeditated and lack reflection or planning.
15. IRRESPONSIBILITY—Repeated failure to fulfill or honor obligations and commitments.
16. FAILURE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OWN ACTIONS—A failure to accept responsibility for one's actions.
17. MANY SHORT- TERM MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS—A lack of commitment to a long- term relationship.
18. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY—Behavior problems between the ages of 13–18; mostly behaviors that are crimes.
19. REVOCATION OF CONDITION RELEASE—A revocation of probation or other conditional release due to technical violations.
20. CRIMINAL VERSATILITY—A diversity of types of criminal offense.

63) According to Sutherland, criminals are not born but rather, those who adopt criminal lifestyles do so in the following ways:
1. Criminal behavior is learned.
2. The fundamental basis of learning criminal behavior is learned in intimate personal groups.
3. Criminal behavior is acquired through interaction with other persons in a process of communication.
4. The learning process includes the techniques of committing the crime and specific rationalizations and attitudes for criminal activity.
5. General attitudes regarding the respect (or lack of respect) for laws are reflected in attitudes toward criminal behavior.
6. A person becomes delinquent or criminal because of an excess of definitions favorable to violation of law over definitions unfavorable to violation of the law.
7. Differential association can vary in duration, frequency, and intensity.
8. The processes for learning criminal behavior parallel those of any other learning process.
9. Criminal behavior is an expression of general needs and values (as with noncriminal behavior), but is not explained by these needs and values.

People learn the specifics of criminality, such as specialized techniques, attitudes, justifications, and rationalization. Learning these specifics develops a favorable predisposition to criminal lifestyles.

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64) Warren (1973) defines community as "that combination of social units and systems which perform the major social functions having locality relevance" (p.9). This definition offers several constituent elements. First, it recognizes a community's organization of social activities, rather than geographic or legal boundaries. Second, it conceptualizes locality relevance dimensions of community in terms of access points to the social activities and functions necessary for daily living. Specifically, Warren identifies five major community functions having locality relevance:
1. Production—distribution—consumption
2. Socialization
3. Social control
4. Social participation
5. Mutual support

65) The socialization function is helpful in explaining why organized crime is not regarded as an inherent evil in all communities. Many years ago, Bell (1953) proposed that crime was an American way of life. He argued that the pioneers of American capitalism were not graduates of the Harvard Business School, but amassed fortunes by "shady speculations and considerable amounts of violence." Bell (1953) and Ianni (1974), among others, have argued that crime, particularly organized crime, offers avenues for social mobility, especially in communities where legitimate paths are either blocked or difficult to achieve.

In addition to the dearth of legitimate success routes, some communities have specific conditions that make innovation more likely to result in criminal outcomes. Cohen (1965) argues that community reference groups shape modes of adaptation to social conditions. He suggests that in observing other people who have attained success by innovating, a sense of strain that helps shape future conformity develops. Other community members are influenced by reference groups' actions and means of success attainment (Cohen 1965). Patterns of criminal socialization probably have their origins in socioeconomic stratification that relegates some people to environments in which a sense of strain is experienced (Abadinsky 1981). Subsequent development patterns include identification and association with reference groups that innovated through criminal behavior.

66) Robert Merton's theory of anomie (also referred to as strain theory). Merton adapted a concept he borrowed from Emile Durkheim to analyze situations in which culture creates deviance and disunity. In Durkheim's usage, anomie referred to a situation in which cultural norms break down because of rapid change. Anomic suicide, for example, can occur during a major economic depression, when people aren't able to achieve the goals that they have learned to pursue, but it can also occur when the economy experiences a boom and suddenly the sky's the limit—people don't know how to limit their goals and be satisfied with their achievements.

Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist, introduced the concept of anomie in his book *The Division of Labor in Society*, published in 1893. He used anomie to describe a condition of deregulation that was occurring in society. This meant that rules on how people ought to behave with each other were breaking down and thus people did not know what to expect from one another. Anomie, simply defined, is a state where norms (expectations on behaviors) are confused, unclear, or not present. It is normlessness that leads to deviant behavior. In 1897, Durkheim used the term again in his study on suicide, referring to a morally deregulated condition. Durkheim was preoccupied with the effects of social change. He best illustrated his concept of anomie not in a discussion of crime but of suicide.

67) Police corruption manifests itself in a variety of ways, all of which require different types of anti- corruption interventions. Experience suggests that for anti- corruption strategies to be successful and comprehensive they need to be embedded in the broader framework of democratic institution- building. Such strategies usually integrate preventative approaches aimed at decreasing incentives for corruption with punitive approaches that increase the cost of engaging in corrupt practices.

Effective policing requires the combating of all forms of corruption in the performance of policing functions and the promotion of high standards of honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior for police officers and other employees of police forces/services.

It needs to start, of course, with a polygraph test and strict hiring requirements to assure honest police officers at the

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beginning of their careers. Then there must be quality controls put in place to continue to police the police. Police supervisors need to take citizens' complaints about anything. Besides being reactive, they need to have an extremely proactive philosophy to corruption prevention.

To guard against drug use by police officers, agencies need to do three types of drug screening: entry- level, random, and when a supervisor develops a reasonable suspicion of drug use. If a member refuses to take any one of the drug- screening tests, he or she should be considered to have failed the test. The penalty for failing a drug- screening test should be termination. There should be no counseling, no rehabilitation, and no second chance for illegal drugs. If you fail a test or refuse to take a test, your services should be terminated.

There should be integrity tests engineered by internal affairs (IA) that look like a situation a police officer might encounter any day on patrol. There should two types of tests: targeted and random. Targeted integrity tests would be appropriate when it is believed that an officer or a group of officers are engaged in some sort of serious misconduct or corruption. Internal affairs should set up a scenario that mimics what they believe the officers are doing.

Agencies should test every command throughout the city, seven days a week, and also test officers on a constant basis. They shouldn't reveal the exact number of integrity tests, to keep that information confidential, and should create the appearance of omnipresence.

Agencies should be proactive in prisoner- debriefing programs and ask prisoners about guns and drugs, and people committing crimes. The interviews should include questions about officers who may be corrupt, or officers who may be involved in misconduct.

Agencies should develop an enforcement program as part of a proactive approach to corruption control. IA investigators should target those offenses that have been traditionally corruption- prone. IA can concentrate efforts on those areas believed to be active narcotics locations, or areas where prostitutes may be congregating, where peddlers are known to be working, or where gambling activity is suspected.

Lastly, IA should work very closely with the local prosecutors, whether they are state or federal prosecutors, to work ou plea deals with cooperators who are willing to work in integrity operations, to help build cases against corrupt officers or officers who are committing serious misconduct.

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