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CHAPTER 1
Thinking Critically about Crime

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not included as a key component of the classic definition of criminology?
a. the breaking of laws
b. society's reaction to the breaking of laws
*c the effect on the victim of the breaking of laws
d. the making of laws

2. What is crime?
*a. behavior that is prohibited by laws and has prescribed punishments
b. any behavior that is violent
c. standards of behavior intended to harm society and individuals
d. any behavior that is immoral

3. Who proposed the classic definition of criminology?
a. Robert Merton
b. Dennis Rader
c. Terrie Moffitt
*d. Edwin Sutherland

4. What is deviance?
a. standards of behavior intended to harm society and individuals
b. behavior that is prohibited by laws and has prescribed punishments
*c. behaviors that violate cultural norms, rules, or laws
d. any behavior that is violent

5. Which type of law governs private rights and settles disputes between citizens?
a. criminal
*b. civil
c. political
d. social

6. This type of law is most important to ensuring that society is orderly and citizens feel safe.
*a. criminal
b. civil
c. political
d. social

7. Which of the following is not a common social reaction to crime?
a. fear
b. disgust
c. fascination

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*d. All the answers are correct.

8. Which of the following is not a key reason why most members of society have a distorted or biased view of serial murderers?
a. Serial killings are sensational.
b. Our culture encourages the creation of instant celebrities.
c. The globalization of the media means that all offenses are locally reported.
*d. Most people know someone who has been a victim of a serial killer.

9. What does the interdisciplinary nature of criminology refer to?
a. the effect of crime on all levels of society
*b. the fact that criminology draws on other academic disciplines
c. the effect of crime on politics
d. the development of criminology as a professional academic discipline

10. These forces control how crime is defined and how criminal law works.
a. psychological
b. social
*c. political
d. biological

11. Which of the following fields of study would apply to an attempt to understand how an offender determines that the reward obtained from selling drugs is worth the risk of getting caught by the police?
*a. economics
b. law
c. political science
d. biology

12. These standards of behavior are intended to harm society and individuals.
a. pro-social
b. civil
*c. antisocial
d. social

13. Because laws are made by people to control people, what are criminologists interested in?
a. how laws are made
b. what activities laws control
c. who laws control
*d. All the answers are correct.

14. Which of the following fields of study would apply to an attempt to determine if offenders are in some way physically different from non-offenders?
a. political science
b. sociology
*c. biology

d. economics

15. This field emerged to improve our understanding of the social problem of crime.
a. sociology
*b. criminology
c. criminal justice
d. penology

16. This field emerged to improve our understanding of the social mechanisms for dealing with crime.
a. sociology
b. criminology
*c. criminal justice
d. penology

17. What does recidivism refer to?
a. the ability of the criminal justice system to deter individuals from breaking the law
*b. repeat offending
c. how offenders are punished
d. removing offenders from the criminal justice system prior to formal processing
Answer: b

18. Recidivism may be measured by all but which of the following?
a. rate of re-arrest
b. rate of reconviction
c. rate of re-incarceration
*d. rate of release on probation

19. This theory focuses on ways to make lawbreaking so unattractive that offenders will decide not to break the law anymore.
*a. deterrence
b. social disorganization
c. labeling
d. strain

20. What does "empirical validity" mean in terms of theory?
*a. that a tool is measuring what it is designed to measure
b. that a theory explains a range of behavior
c. the economical use of words
d. that a theory is based on an ideology

21. A crime-prevention program that focuses on improving schools and providing jobs in a neighborhood so residents will be more invested in the community and less likely to break the law would be based on which of the following theories?
a. deterrence theory
*b. social disorganization theory

c. labeling theory
d. strain theory

22. Which would labeling theory claim?
a. If the consequences of breaking the law are sufficiently unattractive, people will not do it any more.
b. Neighborhoods with transient, low-skilled, and alienated residents tend to have more crime.
*c. Identifying someone as an offender may damage his or her prospects for employment, emotional relationships, and so on.
d. Juveniles who are never fully integrated into society are more likely to have criminal careers as adults.

23. Which of the following questions would be most likely to be asked by a criminologist, as opposed to a criminal justice practitioner?
a. How can we prevent an offender from recidivating?
b. How can we ensure inmate safety in a juvenile detention facility?
*c. Why do some offenders begin breaking the law early in life whereas others do not begin breaking the law until much later?
d. What can we do to ensure greater professionalism among correctional staff?

24. What do white-collar offenses involve?
a. some form of violent behavior
b. offenses committed by middle-class offenders
*c. the offender's place of employment or business
d. offenses which cannot result in incarceration

25. According to criminological research, which group comprises most offenders in the United States?
*a. young white males
b. young black males
c. older black males
d. young females

26. Who developed strain theory?
a. Terrie Moffitt
b. Edwin Sutherland
*c. Robert Merton
d. Steve W. Stephens

27. According to strain theory, what is strain similar to?
*a. stress
b. labeling
c. social conflict
d. deterrence

28. According to Merton, some crime occurs because people feel worthless if they cannot meet

this goal of American society.
a. getting a college education
*b. amassing material wealth
c. getting elected to public office
d. having a job

29. A major proposition of this theory is that crime is learned through the frequency, duration, priority, and intensity of interactions with significant people who provide definitions favorable to the violation of law.
a. strain theory
b. labeling theory
c. conflict theory
*d. differential association theory

30. What do conflict theorists consider to be at the root of most crime?
a. the bad choices of individuals
b. disorganized neighborhoods
c. genetics
*d. impoverishment

31. This type of crime consists of violent offenses and common property-related offenses such as theft, vandalism, and arson.
a. white-collar crime
b. civil crime
c. statistical crime
*d. street crime

32. Traditionally, which of the following offenses has the criminal justice system treated most leniently?
a. burglary
b. robbery
c. theft
*d. white-collar crime

33. According to conflict theorists, which is the defining difference between the treatment of street offenders and white-collar offenders?
a. the violent nature of most street crime
*b. the lifestyle and social class of white-collar offenders
c. the admiration police officers have for some street offenders
d. the sex and race of street offenders

34. What can the development of criminological theory be used to do?
a. develop policies to prevent crime
b. diminish the effect of crime on victims
c. construct a just response to crime
*d. all of the above

35. This is a statement or set of statements that explains a concept and that has withstood repeated tests and can be used to make inferences about other concepts.
*a. theory
b. strain
c. criminal law
d. legislation

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. List and explain the three elements of Edwin Sutherland's classic definition of criminology. Why is each element important?

2. Explain why society's reaction to the breaking of laws is so complex. Do you think public interest in crime, even among people who have never personally been victimized, is a good thing? Explain your view.

3. Explain the similarities and differences between criminology and criminal justice. Do you think they are two separate disciplines that overlap or two aspects of the same field of study? Explain your opinion.

4. Explain why white-collar offenders tend to be more treated more leniently than street-crime offenders. Do you agree or disagree with way the criminal justice system has treated white-collar offenders? Explain your views. Why has our treatment of white-collar offenders changed in recent years?

5. Deterrence theory, labeling theory, and social disorganization theory all have the potential to reduce recidivism. For each of these theories, describe a social program based on the theory and explain how it would be expected to reduce recidivism.

CHAPTER 2
Measuring Crime

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following provides an exact count of how many criminal offenses have occurred in the United States?
a. Uniform Crime Reports
b. National Crime Victimization Survey
c. National Incident-based Reporting System
*d. No crime measurement system provides an exact count of offenses.

2. What does the dark figure of crime refer to?
a. the amount of crime that is committed after dark
*b. the unknown amount of crime
c. the total number of offenses committed annually
d. criminal offenses that are never solved

3. Why may a criminal offense not be reported?
a. failure to recognize it as an offense
b. lack of faith in the system
c. lack of insurance
*d. All of the above are reasons that a criminal offense may not be reported.

4. In which survey does the number of reported violent offenses tend to be higher?
a. Uniform Crime Reports
*b. National Crime Victimization Survey
c. National Incident-based Reporting System
d. self-report surveys

5. UCR crime statistics tend to agree in _____ with those recorded by the National Crime Victimization Survey.
a. volume
b. amount
*c. pattern
d. total numbers

6. In self-report studies of juveniles, the groups of juveniles who fall into categories that the justice system most often designates as “delinquent” tend to self-report _____ delinquent activities than groups of juveniles who do not fall into these categories.
*a. more
b. significantly less
c. slightly less
d. equal amounts of

7. Which of the following is not one of the three major government efforts to measure crime in

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the United States?
*a. National Self-Report Survey Program
b. Uniform Crime Reports
c. National Crime Victimization Survey
d. National Incident-based Reporting System

8. The purpose of this survey is to provide information about victims, offenders, and unreported crime.
a. UCR
b. NIBRS
*c. NCVS
d. Monitoring the Future study

9. Who collects UCR data?
a. Department of Homeland Security
*b. Federal Bureau of Investigation
c. Bureau of Justice Statistics
d. Census Bureau

10. These issues refer to the rules and principles that govern how research is performed.
*a. methodological
b. validity
c. cohort
d. clearance

11. Which of the following is not one of the seven offenses originally measured by the UCR?
a. rape
b. robbery
*c. arson
d. motor vehicle theft

12. What does a clearance involve?
*a. closure of an offense by arrest or other means
b. clearing a crime scene of unnecessary observers
c. convicting an offender
d. bringing a suspect to trial

13. This UCR rule states that in an incident involving multiple offenses, only the most serious offense is officially recorded.
a. crime rate
b. taxonomy
c. voluntary participation
*d. hierarchy

14. If you were the victim of multiple criminal offenses during a single incident, which one would be reported in the UCR?

a. aggravated assault
b. motor vehicle theft
c. rape
*d. murder

15. The computation of a crime rate involves dividing the estimated number of offenses in a jurisdiction by this.
*a. that jurisdiction's population
b. the total population of the United States
c. the average population of all cities in a given state
d. the number of street crimes

16. If two cities have equal numbers of offenses, which would have the highest crime rate?
a. the city with the larger geographical area
b. the city with the smaller geographical area
c. the city with the larger population
*d. the city with the smaller population

17. Which of the following is not a significant limitation of the UCR?
a. It records only offenses that are reported to the police.
b. It is focused on street crime.
*c. It excludes series incidents.
d. Its data are incomplete.

18. The UCR provides a reasonably good picture of this type of crime.
a. white-collar
*b. street
c. environmental
d. organized

19. A police department may over-report offenses to the UCR in order to do this.
a. present a better crime rate
*b. obtain more funding
c. improve the picture of the work it does
d. make the jurisdiction appear safer
Answer: b

20. Which of the following is most characteristic of law enforcement agencies that do not submit data to the UCR?
a. They serve an urban area.
b. They are located in the Northwestern part of the United States.
c. They are large agencies.
*d. They are located in states without state UCR programs.
Answer: d

21. The National Incident-Based Reporting System was designed as an improvement upon this

survey.
a. National Self-Report Survey Program
*b. Uniform Crime Reports
c. National Crime Victimization Survey
d. Monitoring the Future Survey
Answer: b

22. What percentage of the U.S. population is covered by the NIBRS?
a. 18
*b. 29
c. 53
d. 78
Answer: b

23. The elimination of the hierarchy rule in the NIBRS may result in this.
*a. an apparent artificial increase in a jurisdiction's crime rate.
b. fewer incentives for departments to participate in data collection.
c. a decrease in accurate estimates of the dark figure of crime.
d. less information about offenses that are reported to the police.
Answer: a

24. This survey is conducted annually by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.
a. National Self-Report Survey Program
b. Uniform Crime Reports
*c. National Crime Victimization Survey
d. National Incident-based Reporting System
Answer: c

25. Which of the following is included in the NCVS?
a. offenses committed against children under the age of 12
b. offenses committed against commercial or business establishments
c. homicides
*d. rapes and sexual assaults
Answer: d

26. This is abuse that occurs between two people in a spousal, domestic, or romantic relationship.
a. acquaintance violence
*b. intimate-partner violence
c. infrequent-personal violence
d. stranger assault
Answer: b

27. Most of the problems with the NCVS are related to this.
*a. under-reporting of victimization
b. over-reporting of victimization

c. the omission of series incidents
d. the failure of the victims to report offenses to the police
Answer: a

28. This survey focus(es) on obtaining information from individuals about any illegal activities they have committed.
a. Uniform Crime Reports
*b. self-report studies
c. National Crime Victimization Survey
d. National Incident-based Reporting System
Answer: b

29. Which of the following is not a goal of self-report studies?
a. to test theories about the causes of crime
b. to establish the prevalence and incidence of crime and delinquency within specific populations
*c. to better understand the reasons why victims fail to report offenses to the police
d. to find out what activities or attitudes correlate with lawbreaking
Answer: c

30. Self-report studies are considered to be a better source of information on this type of crime than police or victimization data.
a. violent
b. white-collar
c. property
*d. victimless
Answer: d

31. Self-report studies have contributed to our understanding of issues such as _____, which involves committing increasingly serious offenses.
a. versatility
b. intermittency
c. age of onset
*d. escalation
Answer: d

32. Why are self-report studies frequently carried out with youths?
a. Youths are more concerned about social standing.
b. Youths are more cautious about admitting to serious criminal offenses.
*c. Youths are more likely to tell the truth about themselves.
d. Youths are more aware of how they appear to the interviewers.
Answer: c

33. The first published self-report study uncovered the relationship between this and delinquency.
a. gender
*b. social class

c. race
d. ethnicity
Answer: b

34. This refers to the consistency of a study, or how successfully the study can be repeated and provide similar results.
a. convergence
*b. reliability
c. longitudinal
d. validity
Answer: b

35. If a large proportion of respondents in a self-report study do not tell the truth in their responses, this quality of the study is questionable.
a. convergence
b. reliability
c. longitudinal
*d. validity
Answer: d

36. The study included a genetic component to determine whether there is a connection between the MAOA gene and aggressive behavior.
a. National Youth Survey
*b. National Youth Survey Family Study
c. Monitoring the Future
d. National Survey on Drug Use and Health
Answer: b

37. What is a group of people who share statistical or demographic characteristics called?
*a. a cohort
b. a set
c. a gang
d. a peer
Answer: a

38. This type of study follows respondents throughout much of their life.
*a. longitudinal
b. cross-sectional
c. self-report
d. cohort
Answer: a

39. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health is an example of this type of study.
a. longitudinal
*b. cross-sectional
c. self-report

d. cohort
Answer: b

40. Which of the following sources of crime data provides information obtained from police records?
a. NCVS
b. Monitoring the Future
*c. NIBRS
d. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health
Answer: c

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Explain how the NCVS and self-report studies help increase our understanding of the true extent of the dark figure of crime.

2. Compare and contrast the UCR and NIBRS. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each. Which do you consider to be a better measure of crime and why?

3. Compare and contrast the NCVS, which surveys victims, and self-report studies, which survey offenders. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each. Which do you think is more accurate and why?

4. Which of the three main opinions regarding the phenomena of convergence and divergence between the UCR and the NCVS do you most agree with? Explain your opinion.

5. Explain why many self-report studies are carried out with youths. How could some of the problems involved with using adults be handled?

CHAPTER 3
Victims of Crime

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What philosophy does the term *lex talionis* refer to?
a. a crime victim as an innocent
*b. an eye for an eye
c. victimology
d. the need to compensate victims for losses due to crime
Answer: b

2. What is the study of the various types of harm people suffer as a result of crime called?
a. victim-impact
*b. victimology
c. criminal justice
d. restorative justice
Answer: b

3. Which of the following do not directly assist crime victims?
a. police officers
b. attorneys
*c. victimologists
d. mental health professionals
Answer: c

4. Which is a criticism of the study of victimization?
*a. It encourages a culture of victimhood.
b. There are too many victims.
c. Victims do not need restitution.
d. Not all crimes have victims.
Answer: a

5. Which of the following sources of data does not record much information on the effect of crime on victims?
*a. Uniform Crime Reports
b. National Crime Victimization Survey
c. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
d. National Violent Death Reporting System
Answer: a

6. Which is not true about the National Crime Victimization Survey?
a. It collects statistics on non-fatal violent and property victimizations against people age 12 and older.
*b. It looks at the entire U.S. population.
c. It measures rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, household

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burglary, motor vehicle theft, and personal theft.
d. It records offenses that are both reported and not reported to police.
Answer: b

7. Which is true according to the NCVS?
a. Males have a higher rate of violent victimization than females.
b. Females have a higher rate of violent victimization than males.
*c. It is impossible to separately measure victimization rates of males and females.
d. Males and females have equal victimization rates.
Answer: c

8. Which person is most likely to be a crime victim?
*a. a 23-year-old
b. a 43-year-old
c. a 63-year-old
d. an 83-year-old
Answer: a

9.Which person is most likely to be afraid of crime?
a. a 23-year-old
b. a 43-year-old
c. a 63-year-old
*d. an 83-year-old
Answer: d

10. Which of the following property offenses is most likely to be reported to the police?
a. burglary
b. larceny/theft
*c. motor vehicle theft
d. arson
Answer: c

11. Which of these establishes and enforces the rights of crime victims in federal criminal proceedings by allowing victims to be heard at public proceedings about offender release, pleas, or sentencing?
a. Crime Victims' Rights Act
b. Victims of Crime Justice Act
*c. The Justice for All Act
d. Anti-Crime Act
Answer: c

12. Which is not one of the four major property victimizations typified by the FBI?
a. burglary
b. larceny-theft
c. motor vehicle theft
*d. robbery