Forensic and Legal Psychology Psychological Science Applied to Law 3rd edition Costanzo Test Bank

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1. The following are valid reasons for police to prefer confessions to other types of evidence. Which one is NOT valid?
   A) Confessions make gathering other evidence less critical.
   B) Juries almost always convict defendants who have confessed to committing a crime.
   C) Confessions mean the person is guilty of the crime they confessed to committing.
   D) Lengthy trials can be avoided because a confession is likely to lead to a plea deal.

2. In the case of *Colorado v. Connelly* (1986), Supreme Court Justice Brennan opined that _____ is the strongest piece of evidence in a trial.
   A) an eyewitness testimony
   B) scientific evidence
   C) a confession
   D) the defendant's prior record

3. Studies show that when jurors clearly understand that the confession was coerced, they:
   A) are still more likely to convict the defendant.
   B) discount the confession and tend to acquit the defendant.
   C) take more time to deliberate and sometimes don't reach a verdict.
   D) are more likely to break the rules and talk to the press.

4. The fundamental attribution error, or the tendency to attribute other people's behavior to dispositional traits rather than situational pressures, is evident in the following pattern of thinking:
   A) Colin often lies but he was coerced to say the truth about what he saw and he did.
   B) The weather was terrible and so the burglar decided not to use the fire escape.
   C) Matthias was very tired and that is why he has quit the competition mid-way through.
   D) The robber stumbled because he was clumsy and not because the road was slippery.

5. What was traditionally called "the third degree" refers to:
   A) interrogation tactics that included direct physical violence.
   B) interrogation tactics that used purely psychological means of coercion.
   C) the good cop–bad cop approach.
   D) having three officers present during an interrogation.

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6. The ruling by a judge that a confession is inadmissible in court because it was coerced is:
   A) common.
   B) illegal.
   C) rare.
   D) poor.

7. Confessions can be currently ruled inadmissible in the United States for the following reasons, EXCEPT:
   A) lying by the police during interrogations.
   B) promises of lenient sentences.
   C) the use of physical force and threats of violence.
   D) sleep or food deprivation.

8. Miranda rights are intended to notify the suspect of the following constitutional rights, EXCEPT for the right to:
   A) remain silent.
   B) have an attorney present.
   C) have an attorney provided.
   D) remain in custody.

9. The MAIN goal of applying the Reid technique during interrogations is to:
   A) make the suspect feel guilty about the crime he committed.
   B) offer the suspect some face-saving excuses for the crime.
   C) elicit a full confession from the suspect.
   D) find out more information about the crime.

10. Which of the following is NOT an example of an exculpatory scenario?
    A) "Did you plan this, or did it just happen on the spur of the moment?"
    B) "Was this your own idea or did someone talk you into it?"
    C) "I'm sure you took the money to help your family, right?"
    D) "Have you done this type of thing before?"

11. According to the text, the most significant individual vulnerability in cases involving false confessions is:
    A) mental illness.
    B) youth.
    C) old age.
    D) physical disability.

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12. If a suspect falsely claims to have committed the crime to cover up an affair, she would be making an:
    A) instrumental-coerced confession.
    B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
    C) internalized-coerced confession.
    D) internalized-voluntary confession.

13. After a long interrogation, an innocent suspect comes to believe he has committed a crime despite having no memory of doing so. His interrogators have told him that he must have either "blacked out" during the commission of the crime or "repressed" his memory because the experience was so traumatic. His subsequent confession would be classified as an:
    A) instrumental-coerced confession.
    B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
    C) internalized-coerced confession.
    D) internalized-voluntary confession.

14. Chapter 2 presents several potential solutions to the problem of false confessions. Which of the following is NOT one of these solutions?
    A) Video recording of interrogations.
    B) Retraining all police personnel on interrogation procedures.
    C) Setting time limits on interrogations.
    D) Including expert testimony on interrogations and confessions.

15. In their studies, Lassiter and colleagues asked people to evaluate a confession from three camera angles: showing the suspect only, interrogator only, and both interrogator and suspect. It was found that:
    A) the camera angles had no effect on the evaluation of the confession's voluntariness.
    B) judges are immune to the camera-angle bias when evaluating confessions.
    C) in the equal-focus camera perspective, the confession was rated as much less coerced.
    D) in the suspect-only angle, the confession was rated as much less coerced.

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Answer Key

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. A
8. D
9. C
10. D
11. B
12. B
13. C
14. B
15. D

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1. Describe some common types of false confessions, likely reasons behind them, and typical police tactics that lead to a higher incidence of false confessions.

2. What is the situation with the use of deception by police during interrogations in the United States? How does the use of the Reid technique compare with the use of deception during interrogations in other countries, such as England and Wales? What are some worrisome moral implications of the use of deception by police during interrogations?

3. What are some possible reforms that can be implemented to improve police interrogation procedures and reduce the risk of false confessions?

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Answer Key

1. Main points:
   - People falsely confess when they are tired and confused, believe the police interrogators' lies about the strong evidence against them, are young and naive, or want to end the interrogation and sort things out later.
   - Police in the United States are allowed to lie to the suspect during the interrogation.
   - Police in the United States use the Reid technique to make the suspect feel isolated, create a sense of the loss of control, and convince the suspect that the interrogators are sure of his or her guilt.
   - Police offer exculpatory scenarios to suspects to get them to choose between an understandable, excusable, or even honorable reason for committing the crime and an immoral or depraved reason, while never considering the option of innocence.
2. Main points:
   - In the United States, police can use a wide range of creative ploys and lies when interrogating suspects. Short of promising the suspect a reduced sentence, police can lie about the existence of physical evidence, eyewitness testimony, expert opinions, polygraph test results, etc.
   - In England and Wales, the PACE Act was passed that prohibits police from deceiving suspects and mandates the necessity of recording interrogations. Despite the reduced trickery by police, the rate of confessions elicited during interrogations remains the same.
   - If it is permissible for police to lie during interrogations, they may feel it is acceptable to lie in other contexts, such as on the witness stand. Police's lying during interrogations can undermine public confidence in the police and people's willingness to cooperate with the police voluntarily.
3. Main points:
   Experts suggest the following remedies to reduce false confessions:
   - video recording of interrogations (including recordings from different angles and from the suspect's perspective),
   - setting time limits on interrogations,
   - having adult guardians present during the interrogation of minors or other vulnerable suspects, and
   - having experts testify in court about interrogation techniques and false confessions.

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1. The ultimate goal of questioning suspects is to:
   A) elicit a confession.
   B) define parameters for a search.
   C) determine the best interrogation techniques.
   D) provide a basis for the DNA analysis.

2. According to the textbook, police prefer a confession because:
   A) interrogators have a chance to practice their skills.
   B) confessions save time.
   C) confessions absolve guilt.
   D) suspects are released after admitting to a crime.

3. According to research studies described in the text, mock jurors who reported that they disregarded the confession as clearly coerced were _____ likely to convict the defendant.
   A) somewhat less
   B) significantly less
   C) still more
   D) not more

4. Research by Kassin and his colleagues has shown that even when _____ had no problem recognizing that a confession was coerced, they still voted _____ more often.
   A) police; not guilty
   B) jurors; not guilty
   C) police; guilty
   D) jurors; guilty

5. According to the text, research on jurors' perceptions of confessions shows that:
   A) it is easy for jurors to discount or ignore a confession when told it is false.
   B) it is very difficult for jurors to discount a confession, even when told it is false.
   C) jurors can forget the confession if told by the judge that it is false.
   D) None of the above statements are true.

6. According to studies, which form of evidence is the most incriminating one (likely to lead to a conviction)?
   A) Eyewitness testimony.
   B) Expert testimony.
   C) Confession.
   D) DNA analysis.

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7. When a confession exists, juries _____ come back with a conviction.
   A) never
   B) seldom
   C) sometimes
   D) very often

8. The tendency to hold an individual's dispositional causes such as personality responsible for his or her behavior is referred to as the:
   A) fundamental attribution error.
   B) functional fixedness.
   C) frustration-aggression hypothesis.
   D) false memory syndrome.

9. Even though a _____ may rule that a confession is inadmissible because it was coerced, such rulings are _____.
   A) jury; common
   B) judge; common
   C) jury; rare
   D) judge; rare

10. Research in the field of social psychology has discovered that people tend to _____ the impact of situational forces, and this process is responsible for believing that suspects in police custody would _____ to a crime they did not commit.
   A) overestimate; confess
   B) overestimate; not confess
   C) disregard; confess
   D) disregard; not confess

11. Which of the following patterns of thinking demonstrates the fundamental attribution error, or the tendency to attribute other people's behavior to dispositional causes?
   A) “If the police believe the suspect is guilty, he is likely to be guilty if there are no other suspects.”
   B) “If the suspect were innocent, he would not have confessed to the crime he did not commit.”
   C) “If I were on a jury, I would convict a suspect who has confessed.”
   D) “If the suspect passed a polygraph test, he must be innocent.”

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12. During the interrogation of a suspect, openly physical brutality was _____ prior to 1930.
    A) rarely used
    B) sometimes approved
    C) generally avoided
    D) frequently used

13. After the publication of the *Report on Lawlessness in Law Enforcement* in 1931, legislative changes resulted in the move from _____ physical abuse to _____ forms of abuse.
    A) overt; covert
    B) covert; overt
    C) recorded; hidden
    D) hidden; recorded

14. Before the 1930s, an interrogator in the United States would be likely to use all of the following actions to elicit confessions, EXCEPT:
    A) beating a suspect.
    B) applying electric shocks.
    C) dragging a suspect by her hair.
    D) imprisoning the suspect's kids.

15. Between the 1930s and 1960s, an interrogator in the United States would be likely to use all of the following forms of coercion to elicit confessions, EXCEPT:
    A) sleep deprivation.
    B) withholding toilet privileges.
    C) direct physical violence.
    D) isolation in a cold, dark cell.

16. Since the 1960s and throughout the present time, an interrogator in the United States would be likely to use all of the following forms of coercion to elicit confessions, EXCEPT:
    A) lying to the suspect.
    B) promising lenient sentencing.
    C) using a police informer as a cellmate.
    D) assembling a phony lineup.

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17. In the United States, the following interrogation techniques are legal EXCEPT:
    A) telling the suspect that he will get a reduced sentence if he confesses to the crime.
    B) assembling a phony lineup and telling the suspect he was identified by a witness.
    C) holding the suspect in a cell without visitors or phone calls for 2 weeks.
    D) having a police informant pose as a cellmate and testify in court about the suspect.

18. After the *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) decision, all suspects must be informed of their so-called Miranda rights. These constitutional rights include all of the following, EXCEPT for the right to:
    A) remain silent.
    B) admit guilt.
    C) have an attorney present during questioning.
    D) have a court-appointed attorney provided for those who cannot afford their own attorney.

19. A robbery suspect is apprehended and being read his Miranda rights by the policewoman arresting him. The suspect is most likely to _____ his Miranda rights.
    A) exercise
    B) waive
    C) remember
    D) enjoy

20. All of the following are possible explanations for why suspects waive their Miranda rights, EXCEPT:
    A) the suspect may not understand his or her rights clearly.
    B) people are used to signing waivers of various kinds.
    C) police are very careful in explaining to suspects their rights.
    D) people do not want to create an impression they are guilty.

21. Daniela was _____and she waived her Miranda rights during her arrest. She decided to tell the police her side of the story without waiting for an attorney. The most likely reason she did that is because she has _____.
    A) innocent; nothing to hide
    B) guilty; something to hide
    C) guilty; no reason to worry
    D) afraid; no reason to worry

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22. Kurt was arrested even though he was innocent. All of the following are likely reasons he waived his Miranda rights, EXCEPT:
    A) he felt he had nothing to hide.
    B) he did not want to seem uncooperative.
    C) this was the first time he heard about the right to remain silent.
    D) the police explained the Miranda rights in a quick, perfunctory tone.

23. According to the text, the current state of the criminal justice system in the United States makes all of the following very likely to happen, EXCEPT:
    A) police lie to suspects to elicit a confession.
    B) suspects are likely to waive their Miranda rights.
    C) judges rarely rule a confession to be coerced and therefore inadmissible in court.
    D) juries can often determine if the confession resulted from psychological coercion.

24. Utilization of a team approach to interrogation often takes the form of a _____ approach.
    A) tagging
    B) good cop–bad cop
    C) team spirit
    D) ambiguous interrogation

25. When the police utilize a good cop–bad cop approach, the suspect is likely to:
    A) clam up and not talk at all.
    B) insist he is innocent in front of both cops.
    C) confess to the good cop when alone with him.
    D) confess to the bad cop when alone with him.

26. Michelle is in custody and being interrogated. One of the police officers is being nice and tries to empathize with her while the other one glares at her and accuses her of having committed the crime because of her greed. The behavior of the police officers is an example of:
    A) providing a sense of control.
    B) convincing Michelle that there is no proof of her guilt.
    C) using a good cop–bad cop approach.
    D) establishing a sense of social isolation.

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27. Hugo is interrogated alone and told repeatedly that his guilt is corroborated by both physical evidence and eyewitness accounts. This approach most likely embodies the following strategy that the police used during Hugo's interrogation:
    A) sense of loss of control and entitlement.
    B) autonomous perspective and certainty of guilt.
    C) social isolation and certainty of guilt.
    D) loss of control and autonomous perspective.

28. Desiree has been sitting in the interrogation room for a while. She is not sure how long the interrogation can last or even if she can ask for food and water. She gets increasingly uncomfortable and worried. This situation illustrates which one of the four basic influence strategies inherent in the Reid technique?
    A) Loss of control.
    B) Exculpatory scenarios.
    C) Certainty of guilt.
    D) Minimization of culpability.

29. The Reid technique is _____ used by police in the United States when questioning suspects. Establishing a sense of loss of control as part of this technique makes suspects feel _____.
    A) rarely; vulnerable
    B) often; empowered
    C) rarely; empowered
    D) often; vulnerable

30. Police may use a variety of evidence ploys during interrogation. This is possible because:
    A) suspects get bored.
    B) police can lie during interrogation.
    C) interrogators like trying out new, creative approaches.
    D) police need to make sure the interrogation lasts a long time.

31. Jack was extremely uncomfortable with admitting to a crime against a minor so he kept denying any involvement. The interrogator has been very understanding and nice, and suggested that Jack had committed the crime without realizing the victim was a minor, since she looked so mature and acted like an adult. This situation illustrates a combination of which influence strategies inherent in the Reid technique?
    A) Loss of control and social isolation.
    B) Social isolation and certainty of guilt.
    C) Loss of control and minimization of culpability.
    D) Certainty of guilt and minimization of culpability.

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32. The purpose of exculpatory scenarios is to:
    A) exclude various possible reasons for the crime to have been committed.
    B) increase the probability of a confession through offering a justification for the actions.
    C) reduce confusing circumstances, so an admission of guilt is less likely.
    D) maximize the importance of the suspect's reasons for committing the crime.

33. Which of the following is NOT likely to lead to a false confession?
    A) Police intimidation.
    B) Police deception.
    C) Suspect's fatigue.
    D) Suspect's confidence.

34. There are several vulnerabilities to making a false confession. The most dangerous vulnerability, according to the text, is:
    A) youth.
    B) mental illness.
    C) low intelligence.
    D) high aggression.

35. All of the following traits can be defined as vulnerabilities to making a false confession, EXCEPT:
    A) youth.
    B) mental illness.
    C) low intelligence.
    D) high aggression.

36. According to the text, all of the following statements about false confessions are true, EXCEPT:
    A) It may be impossible to know what percentage of all confessions are false.
    B) Studies prove that false confessions are extremely rare.
    C) Proven false confessions are only a small portion of all false confessions.
    D) Studies show that about a quarter of wrongful convictions involve false confessions.

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37. According to the text, there are several likely reasons that innocent suspects may admit to a crime they know they did not commit. Which one of the following is NOT such a reason?
    A) Interrogation exhaustion leads to mental short-sightedness and a strong desire to escape the room.
    B) It is hard for the suspect being interrogated to maintain focus on his long-term goals.
    C) Interrogation techniques are designed to help the suspect sustain self-regulation.
    D) Innocent people believe their innocence will be obvious to the judge and jury at trial.

38. Based on the text, the advantage of information-gathering techniques over accusatorial methods is that:
    A) both approaches increase the number of true confessions while information-gathering techniques reduce false confessions.
    B) both approaches increase the number of true confessions while accusatorial techniques reduce false confessions.
    C) information-gathering techniques can be used for the purposes of obtaining national-security intelligence while accusatorial techniques can only be used with domestic suspects.
    D) both approaches can be used for the purposes of obtaining national-security intelligence.

39. Because of a long, exhausting interrogation, Kathryn just wanted the questioning to stop, so she confessed to the crime knowing that she did not commit it. This type of confession is called an:
    A) instrumental-coerced confession.
    B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
    C) internalized-coerced confession.
    D) internalized-voluntary confession.

40. Jeremy purposely confessed to a crime he did not commit to cover up for his wife. This type of confession is referred to as an:
    A) instrumental-coerced confession.
    B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
    C) internalized-coerced confession.
    D) internalized-voluntary confession.

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41. After an intense interrogation process, Matthew became convinced that he robbed the store since all physical evidence pointed at him. This form of false confession is called an:
    A) instrumental-coerced confession.
    B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
    C) internalized-coerced confession.
    D) internalized-voluntary confession.

42. Jillian had often suffered from a delusional behavior disorder. When brought in for questioning, she started out by confessing to a crime that she had taken no part in. The term used for this type of false confession is an:
    A) instrumental-coerced confession.
    B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
    C) internalized-coerced confession.
    D) internalized-voluntary confession.

43. All of the following statements are true about the use of torture in interrogations, EXCEPT:
    A) there is no direct research on the effectiveness of torture.
    B) torture-based interrogations are likely to increase false confessions.
    C) there is clear research evidence that torture leads to extracting useful information.
    D) people who claim that "torture works" offer only anecdotal evidence to prove their point.

44. In the United Kingdom, the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act was enacted to make it illegal to trick suspects or to lie for the purpose of coercing suspects to confess. Studies show that _____ of pressure tactics and trickery, suspects are _____ likely to admit guilt.
    A) along with the decline; less
    B) despite the decline; just as
    C) despite the increase; more
    D) along with the increase; just as

45. Which one of the following statements about the video recording of interrogations is INCORRECT?
    A) Special contributor to the court.
    B) Expert witness.
    C) Crime scene investigator.
    D) Clinical researcher.

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Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. D
10. D
11. B
12. D
13. A
14. D
15. C
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. B
20. C
21. A
22. C
23. D
24. B
25. C
26. C
27. C
28. A
29. D
30. B
31. D
32. B
33. D
34. A
35. D
36. B
37. C
38. A
39. A
40. B
41. C
42. D
43. C
44. B

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45. B

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