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Chapter 2: Theories of Victimization

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. Prosecutors began to establish victim-assistance programs during the _____.
A. 1950s
B. 1930s
C. 1970s
D. These have always been a part of the CJ system.
Ans: C

2. The emergence of agencies such as rape crisis centers developed in response to the perceived need for which of the following?
A. sexual assault prevention efforts
B. increased community awareness
C. decreased pain that victims of crime experience
D. all of these are correct
Ans: D

3. Which of the following pieces of legislation provides support for criminal justice researchers studying issues related to intimate partner violence?
A. Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights
B. Child Abuse Victims' Bill of Rights
C. Violence Against Women Act
D. Crime Victim's Rights Act
Ans: C

4. Core rights of victims include _____.
A. right to attend criminal justice proceedings
B. right to apply for compensation
C. right to protection from intimidation and harassment
D. all of these are correct
Ans: D

5. Reasons why a victim might choose not to report their victimization to the police include all except _____.
A. societal embarrassment
B. the belief that nothing could be done
C. the belief that it was not serious and a personal matter
D. employment jeopardy
Ans: D

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6. Victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence tend to seek help from all of the following except _____.
A. police
B. family
C. mental health services
D. friends
Ans: A

7. If a rape victim dresses provocatively, she deserved to be raped. This statement is an example of _____.
A. secondary victimization
B. overt traumatization
C. victim blaming
D. stigmatization
Ans: C

8. Which of the following refers to the practices whereby the responsing of the crime is diffused from the offender and blame is shifted to the victim?
A. secondary victimization
B. overt traumatization
C. victim blaming
D. primary victimization
Ans: C

9. Which of the following refers to the practice whereby victims of crime feel traumatized by the official response to their victimization by the criminal justice system?
A. primary victimization
B. secondary victimization
C. direct victimization
D. indirect victimization
Ans: B

10. _____ networks act as a support system for victims to seek professional help and to make an official crime report.
A. Formal
B. Informal
C. Legal
D. Private
Ans: B

11. An attack who is killed in self-defense is an example of a
A. victim who alone is guilty.
B. innocent victim.
C. imaginary victim.
D. voluntary victim.

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Ans: A

12. Which of the following are considered negative consequences of victim blaming?
A. Victim blaming assumes that people are able to change the environment in which they live.
B. Victim blaming assumes that only innocent victims are true victims.
C. Victim blaming creates a false sense of security about the risks of crime.
D. all of these are correct
Ans: D

13. According to Mendelsohn, victims of random and unprecipitated crime are _____.
A. innocent victims
B. victims with minor guilt
C. natural victims
D. not victims at all
Ans: A

14. Mendelsohn focused on _____.
A. influence of guilt and responsibility of victims
B. offender innocence
C. victim risk factors
D. male dominant behaviors
Ans: A

15. Who of the following focused on how personal factors influence risk factors for victimization?
A. Mendelsohn
B. Agnew
C. Cohen and Felson
D. von Hentig
Ans: D

16. Which of the following is not true regarding the just world hypothesis?
A. The concept posits that people deserve what comes to them.
B. It allows people to distinguish themselves from the identity of victimhood.
C. It implies that there are no true victims.
D. It leads to an increased support of rape myths.
Ans: C

17. The just world hypothesis may lead to all of the following except _____.
A. impact on future reporting trends.
B. increased support of rape myths.
C. decreased crime reporting.
D. increased support for victims.
Ans: D

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18. Researchers have suggested that which two theories should be combined to investigate victimization risks in general?
A. just world hypothesis and general strain theory
B. routine activities theory and lifestyle theory
C. lifestyle theory and feminist pathways perspective
D. general strain theory and routine activities theory
Ans: B

19. Which of the following is true about lifestyle theory?
A. It was developed to explore the risks of victimization from personal crimes.
B. It suggests that risky lifestyles decrease the risk for victimization.
C. It was developed to explore the risks of victimization from property crimes.
D. It suggests that risky lifestyles increase the risk for offending.
Ans: A

20. Hans von Hentig looked at which of the following personal factors when researching influences risk factors for victimization.
A. biological
B. psychological
C. sociological
D. all of these are correct
Ans: D

21. The feminist pathways perspective suggests _____.
A. a continuum of victimization
B. a cycle of victimization and offending
C. A life free of victimization increases the likelihood of offending.
D. Pathways do not exist for women.
Ans: B

22. Fear of crime can lead to all of the following except for
A. decreased self-worth.
B. decreased self-esteem.
C. increased anxiety.
D. increase sense of security.
Ans: D

23. Victims' rights are referenced in state laws and constitutions in _____ states.
A. 25
B. 35
C. 45
D. 50
Ans: C

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24. Cohen and Felson's routine activity theory suggests that the likelihood of a criminal act occurs with all of the following except for
A. someone who is interested in pursuing a criminal action
B. potential victim "available" to be victimized
C. absence of someone or something that would deter the offender form making contact with the victim
D. gender plays a role in how factors influence victimization risk.
Ans: D

25. _____ theory relates to the patterns of one's everyday activities to the potential for victimization.
A. Gender
B. Lifestyle
C. Pathway
D. Trauma
Ans: B

26. In a cycle of _____, young girls often run away from home in an attempt to escape from an abusive situation.
A. victimization and offending
B. feminism
C. pathways
D. lifesytle
Ans: A

27. _____ research draws upon the historical context of women's and girls' lives to relate how events and traumas affect their likelihood to engage in crime.
A. Routine activities
B. Victim responsibility
C. Feminist pathways perspective
D. Criminal justice
Ans: C

28. Mendelsoh's "imaginary victim" is defined as a_____.
A. victim mistakenly believes he or she has been victimized
B. victim believes that he or she was victimized by a ghost
C. victim who provokes another to commit the crime
D. victim who is solely responsible for the crime
Ans: A

29. Mendelsoh's "voluntary victim" is defined as _____.
A. victim mistakenly believes he or she has been victimized
B. victim and offender are equally responsible for the crime
C. victim who provokes another to commit the crime
D. victim who is solely responsible for the crime
Ans: B

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30. Mendelsoh's "innocent victim" is defined as _____.
A. victim mistakenly believes he or she has been victimized
B. victim and offender are equally responsible for the crime
C. victim who provokes another to commit the crime
D. victim has no responsibility for the crime
Ans: D

31. Mendelsoh's "victim who alone is guilty" is defined as _____.
A. victim mistakenly believes he or she has been victimized
B. victim and offender are equally responsible for the crime
C. victim who is solely responsible for his or her own victimization
D. victim has no responsibility for the crime
Ans: C

32. The _____, holds that people get what they deserve, is a form of victim blaming.
A. real world hypothesis
B. just world hypothesis
C. ordinary world hypothesis
D. old world hypothesis
Ans: B

33. Gendered _____ to specific crime types such as rape may explain the gendered fear of crime.
A. socialization
B. victimization
C. routine
D. offending
Ans: A

34. Which of the following cases was used as an example of the just world hypothesis?
A. Andrea Yates
B. Kobe Bryant
C. Damien Echols
D. Benjamin Mendelsohn
Ans: B

35. A victim who is more guilty than the offender is a victim who _____.
A. mistakenly believes he or she has been victimized
B. who is solely responsible for his or her own victimization
C. precipitates crime with carelessness
D. provokes or induces another to commit crime
Ans: D

36. Which of the following border towns is notoriously known for femicide?
A. Tijuana

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B. Ciudad Juarez
C. Nogales
D. Mexicali
Ans: B

37. The cases of femicide amongst border towns involve significant acts of _____ crime.
A. sexual
B. property
C. white-collar
D. hate
Ans: A

38. Which of the following explanations was identified in the text as an explanation for the murders of women in border towns?
A. human trafficking
B. gender-based discrimination
C. presence of serial killing
D. drug trafficking
Ans: B

39. Ariel Castro pled guilty for all of the following rimes except for _____.
A. kidnapping
B. murder
C. rape
D. child endangerment
Ans: B

40. Phillip Garrido, the abducter and abuser of Jaycee Dugard, had which of the following convictions on his record?
A. sex offending
B. murder
C. robbery
D. arson
Ans: A

True/False

1. Attempts to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution on victims' rights have been successful.
Ans: F

2. Victims' rights are referenced in state laws and constitutions in all 50 states.
Ans: T

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3. The Kobe Bryant rape case led to decreased reporting of sexual assault.
Ans: T

4. A belief in the just world hypothesis leads to an increased support of rape myths.
Ans: T

5. The media can perpetuate victim blaming.
Ans: T

6. Cohen and Felson's theory was created to dicuss victimization in property crimes.
Ans: T

7. The media portray a distorted view of the criminal justice system.
Ans: T

8. Victims play an important role in the criminal justice process.
Ans: T

9. According to von Hentig's theory, victimization of women can only be explained by their gender.
Ans: F

10. Victim blaming creates a false sense of security about the risks of crime.
Ans: T

11. Under the pathways perspective, criminal offending may be a survival technique.
Ans: T

12. The routine activities theory has also been used to look at cybercrimes.
Ans: T

13. In a cycle of victimization and offending, young girls often run away from home in an attempt to escape from an abusive situation.
Ans: T

14. Many abusers use a woman's illegal immigration status as a threat ot ensure compliance.
Ans: T

15. The media's protraty of crime often leads to an overexaggeration of violent crime in society.
Ans: T

Essay

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1. Explain how victim blaming impacts a victim's decision to report their victimization. Give an example.
Ans: The stigma and negative experiences linked to victim blaming, such as shame, and so on, and often influence victim's decisions to not report victimization. Victim blaming can also be internalized, leading the victim to blame themselves for their own victimization and, in many cases, shift the responsibility away from the offender. An example would be the Kobe Bryant case that resulted in victim blaming and lower reports of victimization due to the prevalence of the media.

2. Compare and contrast routine activities theory and lifestyle theory.
Ans: The routine activities theory suggests that the likelihood of a criminal act and likelihood of victimization occurs with the convergence of three essential components: an offender, a potential victim, and an absence of a guardian. The lifestyle theory is similar to the routine activities theory in that it seeks to relate the patterns of one's everyday activities to the potential for victimization. The difference between the two theories is that the routine activities theory was designed to explain victimization from property crimes. Lifestyle theory, on the other hand, was developed to explore the risks of victimization from personal crimes.

3. Discuss the relationship between victimization and offending as described by the feminist pathways perspective.
Ans: According to the feminist pathways perspective, the relationship between victimization and offending is a cycle. A history of abuse in young females leaves to a propensity to engage in certain types of delinquency (running away from home, truancy, etc.). In their attempt to get away from their abusive homes, young girls turn to criminal behaviors as a mechanism to survive.

4. Discuss the fear of victimization perpetuated by the media.
Ans: Most Americans do not have direct experience with the criminal justice system, instead the images of crime that they are aware of are generetated by the mass media outlets. Unfortunately, the mass media presents a distorted view of the criminal justice system that often leads to the overexaggeration of violent crime in society. As peoples consumption of media increases, so does their fear about crime. Actual crime rates are not usually taken into consideration.

5. Identify and discuss one of Mendelsohn's categories of victims.
Ans: The first category is the innocent victim. This distinction is unique in Mendelsohn's s typology, as it is the only classification that does not have any responsibility for the crime attributed to the victim. As the name suggests, an innocent victim is someone who is victimized by a random and unprecipitated crime, such as a school shooting. Unlike the other categories in Mendelsohn's typology, the innocent victim is one with no responsibility in his victimization. In contrast, the other five categories sign a degree of blame or responsibility to the victim. Mendelsohn's second category is the victim with minor guilt. In this case, victimization occurs as a result of one's carelessness or ignorance. The victim with minor guilt is someone who, if she had given better thought or care to her safety, would not have been a victim of a crime. For instance, someone

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who was in the wrong place at the wrong time or one who places herself in dangerous areas where she is at risk of potential victimization is characterized as a victim with minor guilt. An example of this is a case of a victim who is walking alone down the street in a high-crime area and is robbed. Mendelsohn's third category is a victim who is equally as guilty as the offender. This victim is some one who shares the responsibility of the crime with the offender by deliberately placing himself or herself in harm's way. An example of this classification is the individual who seeks out the services of a sex worker, only to contract a sexually transmitted infection as a result of their interaction. The fourth category represents the case whereby the victim is deemed "more guilty" than the offender. This is a "victim" who is provoked by others to engage in criminal activity. An example of this category is one who kills a current or former intimate partner following a history of abuse. The fifth category is a victim who is solely responsible for the harm that comes to him or her. These individuals are considered to be the "most guilty" of victims as they engaged in an act that was likely to lead to injury on their part. Examples of the most guilty victim include a suicide bomber who engages in an act that results in his or her death, or when a would-be attacker is killed by another in an act of self-defense. Mendelsohn's final category is the imaginary victim. This is an individual who, as a result of some mental disease or defect, believes that he or she has been victimized by someone or something, when in reality this person has not been victimized.

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