Criminal Justice in America 11th edition Cole Test Bank

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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

Chapter 01 - The Criminal Justice System

1. What are the three primary goals of the American criminal justice system?
   a. Arresting criminals, prosecuting cases, and imposing sentences.
   b. Investigating crimes, gathering evidence, and conducting trials.
   c. Protecting victims, deterring offenders, and rehabilitating criminals.
   d. Doing justice, controlling crime, and preventing crime.

ANSWER: d

2. How does the goal of doing justice serve as the foundation for the criminal justice system?
   a. It ensures that all offenders receive a proportionate punishment for their crimes.
   b. It provides the basis for rules, procedures, and institutions that protect individual rights.
   c. It guarantees that every case will be heard by a judge in a court of law.
   d. It focuses primarily on reducing crime rates through efficient processing.

ANSWER: b

3. What distinguishes *mala in se* crimes from *mala prohibita* crimes?
   a. *Mala in se* crimes involve violence against persons, while *mala prohibita* crimes are property offenses.
   b. *Mala in se* crimes are wrong in themselves while, *mala prohibita* are not necessarily wrong in themselves.
   c. *Mala in se* crimes carry longer sentences, while *mala prohibita* crimes have shorter penalties.
   d. *Mala in se* crimes are federal offenses, while *mala prohibita* crimes are state offenses.

ANSWER: b

4. A police department is implementing a new patrol strategy based on research showing it reduces burglary rates by 30 percent while maintaining constitutional protections. This approach best demonstrates which concept?
   a. Crime control models that prioritize efficiency over individual rights.
   b. Evidence-based practices that advance criminal justice goals effectively.
   c. Traditional policing methods that rely on officer experience and intuition.
   d. Community policing strategies that focus on building neighborhood relationships.

ANSWER: b

5. What is the key feature that defines federalism in the American criminal justice system?
   a. Local governments have complete independence from state oversight.
   b. Power is divided between central (national) and regional (state) governments.
   c. Federal agencies handle all serious crimes while states manage minor offenses.
   d. A single national authority controls all law enforcement agencies.

ANSWER: b

6. Why has federal involvement in criminal justice expanded since the 1960s?
   a. State governments requested federal assistance due to budget constraints.
   b. Criminal activities increasingly cross state borders and involve national security concerns.
   c. The Constitution was amended to give federal agencies more police powers.
   d. Local police departments were disbanded and replaced with federal agencies.

ANSWER: b

7. What powers does the national government have in criminal justice?

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a. Management of all correctional facilities, including local jails.
b. Direct supervision of state courts and local prosecutors.
c. Complete authority over all police departments in the United States.
d. Enforcement of federal criminal laws defined by Congress.

ANSWER: d

8. A drug trafficking organization operates across five states, using the internet to coordinate sales and money laundering through multiple banks. Which level of government would be most appropriate to investigate this case?
a. State governments working independently in their jurisdictions.
b. Local police departments in each affected city.
c. Federal agencies due to interstate and technological components.
d. County sheriffs coordinating through regional agreements.

ANSWER: c

9. What defines a system in the context of criminal justice?
a. A hierarchical structure with one agency controlling all others.
b. A collection of unrelated agencies that work on similar problems.
c. A complex whole made up of interdependent parts directed toward goals.
d. A single organization that operates independently from other agencies.

ANSWER: c

10. How does the concept of exchange relationships function within the criminal justice system?
a. Higher-level agencies command lower-level agencies to follow orders.
b. Agencies compete against each other to achieve the best outcomes.
c. Officials transfer resources and cooperation to achieve individual goals.
d. Each agency operates independently without needing assistance from others.

ANSWER: c

11. What are the three primary subsystems of the criminal justice system?
a. Investigation, prosecution, and punishment.
b. Police, courts, and corrections.
c. Federal, state, and local agencies.
d. Prevention, enforcement, and rehabilitation.

ANSWER: b

12. When a police department increases arrests by 40 percent, how might this decision affect other parts of the criminal justice system?
a. The change will improve efficiency throughout the other system components.
b. Other agencies will automatically receive additional funding to handle the increase.
c. The police department will experience the most significant changes in workload and resources.
d. Courts, prosecutors, and corrections will face increased caseloads and resource demands.

ANSWER: d

13. What are the four major characteristics of the criminal justice system?

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a. Investigation, arrest, prosecution, and sentencing.
b. Prevention, deterrence, punishment, and rehabilitation.
c. Discretion, resource dependence, sequential tasks, and filtering.
d. Federal oversight, state control, local implementation, and judicial review.

ANSWER: c

14. Why is discretion considered both beneficial and potentially problematic in criminal justice?
a. It allows for individualized outcomes but may lead to inconsistent or biased decisions.
b. It speeds up case processing but always results in harsher punishments.
c. It ensures equal treatment but makes the system too rigid to function effectively.
d. It reduces costs for agencies but eliminates the need for legal procedures.

ANSWER: a

15. What does the filtering process accomplish in the criminal justice system?
a. It screens out some cases while advancing others to the next decision level.
b. It ensures that all arrested individuals receive identical treatment.
c. It prevents any case from being dismissed once charges are filed.
d. It guarantees that every reported violent crime results in a conviction.

ANSWER: a

16. A prosecutor decides not to file charges against a first-time shoplifter, instead referring them to a diversion program. This decision best illustrates which characteristic of the criminal justice system?
a. Filtering that automatically removes minor cases from the system.
b. Discretion allowing individualized decisions based on case circumstances.
c. Resource dependence requiring efficient use of limited prosecutorial resources.
d. Sequential tasks ensuring proper order of criminal justice procedures.

ANSWER: b

17. What are the four main duties of police agencies?
a. Investigating crimes, gathering evidence, interrogating suspects, and writing reports.
b. Arresting suspects, filing charges, conducting trials, and imposing sentences.
c. Keeping peace, apprehending violators, preventing crime, and providing social services.
d. Patrolling neighborhoods, responding to calls, directing traffic, and issuing citations.

ANSWER: c

18. What defines a dual court system in the United States?
a. Criminal courts and civil courts operating in the same jurisdiction.
b. Federal judges and state judges sharing authority over the same cases.
c. Trial courts and appellate courts handling different types of cases.
d. A separate judicial system for each state, plus a national system.

ANSWER: d

19. What are the major types of correctional facilities and programs?
a. Adult facilities, juvenile facilities, probation offices, and mental health institutions with drug abuse treatment.

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b. Federal prisons, state prisons, and local jails offering education.
c. Prisons, jails, probation, parole, community treatment, and counseling.
d. Maximum security, medium security, and minimum security institutions with skills training.

ANSWER: c

20. How do the 13 steps of the criminal justice process demonstrate the system's sequential nature?
a. Steps can be completed in any order depending on agency preferences.
b. Each step must be completed before the next one can begin.
c. All steps occur simultaneously to ensure efficient case processing.
d. Only the first and last steps are mandatory for all cases.

ANSWER: b

21. What does the criminal justice wedding cake model demonstrate?
a. The system processes cases in strict chronological order of occurrence.
b. All criminal cases receive identical treatment throughout the system.
c. Only the most serious cases deserve attention from criminal justice officials.
d. Different cases receive different treatment based on severity and resources.

ANSWER: d

22. How do the crime-control model and due process model differ in their primary emphasis?
a. Crime-control focuses on rehabilitation, while due process focuses on punishment.
b. Crime-control prioritizes victim rights, while due process prioritizes offender rights.
c. Crime-control supports jury trials, while due process supports bench trials.
d. Crime-control emphasizes efficiency, while due process emphasizes reliability.

ANSWER: d

23. Which layer of the wedding cake model represents the largest number of criminal cases, if the top of the cake is layer 1 and the bottom of the cake is layer 4?
a. Layer 2 consisting of serious felonies with lengthy prison sentences.
b. Layer 3 consisting of lesser felonies with moderate sentences.
c. Layer 1 consisting of celebrated cases with extensive media coverage.
d. Layer 4 consisting of misdemeanors processed quickly through lower courts.

ANSWER: d

24. A celebrity is charged with assault and hires a team of expensive defense attorneys who challenge every piece of evidence and request numerous hearings. This case would most likely be classified in which layer of the wedding cake model?
a. Layer 2 because assault is considered a serious violent crime.
b. Layer 1 due to the high-profile defendant and extensive legal resources.
c. Layer 3 since the defendant has no prior criminal record.
d. Layer 4 because assault cases are typically processed quickly.

ANSWER: b

25. What is the difference between disparity and discrimination in criminal justice?

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a. Disparity occurs in sentencing, while discrimination occurs only during arrests.
b. Disparity is a difference that may have legitimate explanations, while discrimination is differential treatment based on race.
c. Disparity affects individuals, while discrimination affects entire communities.
d. Disparity involves intentional bias, while discrimination involves accidental differences.

ANSWER: b

26. What does research evidence reveal about the claim that racial disparities exist because certain groups commit more crimes?
a. Research confirms this pattern exists, but only in urban areas.
b. Research shows that this explanation is not supported by available evidence.
c. Research indicates this is true only for violent crimes.
d. Research strongly supports this explanation for observed disparities.

ANSWER: b

27. What is implicit bias in the context of criminal justice decision-making?
a. Unconsciously associating individuals with stereotyped characteristics of demographic groups.
b. Openly expressed prejudicial attitudes toward specific racial groups.
c. Statistical differences in crime rates between various communities based on race and ethnicity.
d. Intentional policies designed to treat different groups unequally.

ANSWER: a

28. Research shows that Black drivers are stopped more frequently than White drivers, but searches of White drivers are more likely to find contraband. What does this pattern suggest about police decision-making?
a. White drivers are better at concealing evidence during traffic stops.
b. Police are more effective at investigating crimes involving White suspects.
c. Police training is more effective in predominantly White communities.
d. Black drivers are more likely to be stopped without sufficient justification for searches.

ANSWER: d

29. How do evidence-based practices differ from traditional approaches to criminal justice policy-making?
a. They eliminate the need for discretionary decision-making by officials.
b. They rely on research studies rather than customary practices.
c. They focus exclusively on cost reduction rather than effectiveness.
d. They prioritize public opinion over professional expertise.

ANSWER: b

30. How did the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks change the role of federal law enforcement agencies?
a. They were disbanded and replaced with new military-style organizations.
b. They became responsible for all criminal investigations involving violence.
c. They shifted focus to terrorism and cybercrimes while reducing traditional law enforcement.
d. They gained complete authority over all state and local police departments.

ANSWER: c

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31. A defense attorney agrees to encourage a guilty plea in exchange for the prosecutor recommending a reduced sentence. This scenario best illustrates which systems concept?

a. Independent decision-making without external influence.
b. Hierarchical command structure with clear lines of authority.
c. Competitive dynamics between opposing organizations.
d. Exchange relationships involving mutual transfer of resources.

ANSWER: d

32. Why must criminal justice agencies maintain good relationships with elected officials and the public?

a. They generate their own revenue through fines and asset forfeitures.
b. They depend on external sources for funding and political support.
c. They need volunteers to supplement their professional staff.
d. They are required by law to collaborate with other institutions.

ANSWER: b

33. During a preliminary hearing, a judge determines there is insufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution. What happens to the case at this point?

a. The case is transferred to a different court for review.
b. The case is dismissed and the defendant is released.
c. The case is sent back to the police for additional investigation.
d. The case automatically proceeds to trial with a jury.

ANSWER: b

34. A prosecutor offers a plea bargain that reduces charges from armed robbery to simple theft in exchange for a guilty plea. This approach most closely reflects which model of criminal justice?

a. Due process model.
b. Crime-control model.
c. Rehabilitation model.
d. Restorative justice model.

ANSWER: b

35. A study finds that White defendants receive probation 60 percent of the time for drug possession, while Black defendants receive probation 35 percent of the time for the same offense. This pattern most likely represents which phenomenon?

a. Appropriate consideration of community impact factors.
b. Random variation in judicial decision-making patterns.
c. Discrimination based on race rather than legal factors.
d. Legitimate disparity based on different criminal histories.

ANSWER: c

36. What role do citizens play in crime prevention according to the criminal justice system's goals?

a. Citizens should leave all crime prevention activities to professional law enforcement.
b. Citizens have no responsibility for crime prevention beyond reporting crimes.
c. Citizens must actively participate through commonsense measures and community engagement.

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d. Citizens are only responsible for preventing crimes against their own person or property.

ANSWER: c

37. Why might jurisdictional conflicts arise between federal and state law enforcement agencies investigating the same crime?

a. Both levels may have legitimate authority when crimes violate multiple laws.
b. Federal agencies lack the authority to operate within state boundaries.
c. Federal agencies always have superior authority over state agencies.
d. State agencies are prohibited from investigating federal crimes.

ANSWER: a

38. How does technology development affect the criminal justice system as a whole?

a. Technology eliminates the need for human decision-making in criminal justice.
b. Technology reduces costs but has no impact on system effectiveness.
c. Technology only impacts police investigations and has no effect on other components.
d. Technology creates both opportunities and challenges that affect all system components.

ANSWER: d

39. How does the sequential nature of criminal justice decision-making create interdependence among system actors?

a. Sequential processing eliminates the need for communication between agencies.
b. Each actor can make decisions independently without considering the others.
c. Only the final decision-maker has any real influence on case outcomes.
d. Decisions at each stage directly affect the workload and options of subsequent actors.

ANSWER: d

40. Why do most people under correctional supervision serve their sentences in the community rather than in institutions?

a. Community supervision is always more effective at preventing future crimes.
b. Prisons and jails are reserved exclusively for violent offenders not eligible for community supervision.
c. Laws require that all first-time offenders receive community supervision.
d. Probation and parole programs cost less and serve more people than incarceration.

ANSWER: d

41. What does the wedding cake model reveal about public perceptions of criminal justice?

a. The public accurately understands how most cases are processed.
b. Media attention to Layer 1 cases creates unrealistic expectations about typical processing.
c. Media coverage focuses appropriately on the most common types of cases.
d. The public correctly assumes all cases receive equal treatment.

ANSWER: b

42. How might societal racial bias influence criminal justice outcomes even when individual officials do not intend to discriminate?

a. Societal bias only affects police officers and not other criminal justice actors.
b. Societal bias has no impact on individual decision-making in criminal justice.
c. Implicit bias from societal stereotypes can unconsciously affect official decisions.

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d. Only explicit bias by individual officials can create discriminatory outcomes.

ANSWER: c

43. A police chief implements a new patrol strategy based on research showing it reduces robberies while respecting constitutional rights. Six months later, robbery rates drop 25 percent with no increase in complaints. This scenario best demonstrates which criminal justice goal?

a. Controlling crime through evidence-based practices that maintain fairness.

b. Reducing costs by implementing more efficient administrative procedures.

c. Doing justice by ensuring all criminals receive maximum punishment.

d. Preventing crime by eliminating all criminal opportunities in the community.

ANSWER: a

44. A cybercriminal uses computers in three different states to steal credit card information and transfer money to overseas accounts. Which level of government would be most appropriate to investigate this case?

a. Local police should investigate since the crimes occurred in specific cities.

b. State governments should handle it since most victims are state residents.

c. The federal government should lead due to interstate and international elements.

d. All levels should investigate independently to maximize effectiveness.

ANSWER: c

45. A county reduces its jail capacity by 30 percent due to budget cuts. How might this decision affect other parts of the local criminal justice system?

a. Courts will automatically process cases faster to accommodate the change.

b. The change will have no impact on other system components.

c. Only the corrections department will need to adjust its operations.

d. Police may arrest fewer people, and prosecutors may offer more plea bargains.

ANSWER: d

46. A judge decides to sentence a first-time drug offender to treatment rather than prison, considering the defendant's family situation and employment history. This decision best illustrates which system characteristic?

a. Discretion allowing individualized decisions based on specific circumstances.

b. Resource dependence requiring consideration of available treatment programs.

c. Sequential tasks ensuring proper order of criminal justice procedures.

d. Filtering that automatically removes certain cases from the system.

ANSWER: a

47. Why might a prosecutor choose to present a case to a grand jury rather than filing charges directly?

a. Grand juries can impose sentences while prosecutors cannot.

b. Grand juries are required for all felony cases in every jurisdiction.

c. Grand juries work faster than direct filing procedures.

d. Grand juries provide additional review for controversial or high-profile cases.

ANSWER: d

48. A defendant insists on going to trial despite facing overwhelming evidence and a favorable plea offer because they believe the prosecution must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. This approach most closely reflects which model?

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a. Rehabilitation model.
b. Deterrence model.
c. Crime-control model.
d. Due process model.

ANSWER: d

49. Research shows that crack cocaine users receive harsher sentences than powder cocaine users, despite the drugs being chemically similar. If crack is used more by racial and ethnic minorities and powder by White substance users, what does this suggest?
a. The policy demonstrates effective evidence-based sentencing practices.
b. The policy may reflect societal racial bias embedded in the legal system.
c. The sentencing difference reflects legitimate concerns about drug potency.
d. The difference is justified by different patterns of criminal behavior.

ANSWER: b

50. Why must the goal of controlling crime be balanced with adherence to law?
a. Legal constraints prevent police from using the most effective investigative methods.
b. Officials must follow proper procedures to maintain legitimacy and protect rights.
c. Some legal procedures slow down the system and reduce efficiency, and can be ignored.
d. Adherence to law is only required in the most serious criminal cases.

ANSWER: b

51. What percentage of criminal justice employees work for local governments?
a. About half of all criminal justice employees.
b. Nearly two-thirds of all criminal justice employees.
c. Approximately one-third of all criminal justice employees.
d. Less than one-quarter of all criminal justice employees.

ANSWER: b

52. What is plea bargaining as an example of exchange relationships in criminal justice?
a. A cooperative agreement where each party gains something they need.
b. A hierarchical decision imposed by judges on attorneys.
c. An administrative procedure that eliminates the need for trials.
d. A competitive process where attorneys try to win at all costs.

ANSWER: a

53. How does the filtering process affect public perceptions of criminal justice effectiveness?
a. It emphasizes that police are ineffective at solving crimes.
b. It proves that most criminals escape punishment for their crimes.
c. It demonstrates that the system successfully processes all reported crimes.
d. It may create negative perceptions due to misunderstanding of case attrition.

ANSWER: d

54. What is the purpose of bail in the criminal justice process?

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a. To punish defendants before they are convicted of crimes.
b. To permit release while ensuring defendants return for court hearings.
c. To determine whether defendants are guilty of the charges.
d. To generate revenue for the court system through fees.

ANSWER: b

55. Why do Layer 2 cases in the wedding cake model often proceed to trial rather than plea bargaining?
a. Judges require trials for all violent crimes regardless of circumstances.
b. Prosecutors are unwilling to offer attractive plea deals for serious crimes.
c. Defendants in serious cases always have better attorneys.
d. Media attention makes plea bargaining impossible in these cases.

ANSWER: b

56. What does research reveal about the relationship between race and criminal behavior?
a. Race determines which types of crimes individuals are likely to commit.
b. Criminal behavior is equally distributed across all racial groups.
c. Race is a direct cause of criminal behavior in certain demographic groups.
d. Race itself is not a cause of criminal behavior; social contexts matter more.

ANSWER: d

57. What argument justifies the use of discretion in criminal justice decision-making?
a. Discretion ensures that all similar cases receive identical treatment.
b. Discretion allows for consideration of individual circumstances.
c. Discretion eliminates the need for formal legal procedures.
d. Discretion reduces the workload of criminal justice officials.

ANSWER: b

58. How does the creation of the Department of Homeland Security reflect changes in federal criminal justice priorities?
a. It transferred all criminal justice authority from the states to the federal government.
b. It eliminated the need for traditional law enforcement agencies.
c. It consolidated agencies to focus on terrorism and national security threats.
d. It created a single national police force with broad powers.

ANSWER: c

59. A police department implements new technology that allows officers to complete reports faster, reducing time spent on paperwork by 40 percent. How might this change affect the broader criminal justice system?
a. Courts and corrections will automatically process cases faster.
b. Officers may have more time for patrol and investigation activities.
c. The change will have no impact on other system components.
d. Only the police department will benefit from increased efficiency.

ANSWER: b

60. A city council reduces the police budget by 20 percent during an economic downturn. This situation best demonstrates which characteristic of the criminal justice system?

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a. Sequential tasks requiring a specific order of operations.
b. Discretion in how agencies allocate their resources.
c. Filtering that reduces the number of cases processed.
d. Resource dependence on external political decision-makers.

ANSWER: d

61. Why do most criminal cases result in guilty pleas rather than trials?
a. Plea bargaining offers benefits to prosecutors, defendants, and defense attorneys.
b. Judges require guilty pleas to manage their heavy caseloads.
c. Trials are too time-consuming and expensive for most defendants to afford.
d. Defendants are usually guilty and prefer to admit their crimes.

ANSWER: a

62. A prosecutor routinely offers standard plea deals to speed case processing, rarely conducting thorough investigations of individual circumstances. This approach most closely reflects which model?
a. Due process model.
b. Crime-control model.
c. Rehabilitation model.
d. Restorative justice model.

ANSWER: b

63. A police officer stops a well-dressed Black businessman walking in an affluent neighborhood and demands identification, claiming the man 'looks suspicious.' This scenario most likely illustrates which phenomenon?
a. Legitimate police investigation based on observed criminal behavior.
b. Racial profiling based on stereotyped assumptions rather than specific actions.
c. Standard procedure for identifying potential witnesses to crimes.
d. Appropriate community policing to prevent crime in the neighborhood.

ANSWER: b

64. How does the deterrent effect contribute to crime prevention in the criminal justice system?
a. It guarantees that all criminals will be caught and punished.
b. It focuses exclusively on rehabilitating people who have already committed crimes.
c. It provides examples that may discourage others from committing wrongful acts.
d. It eliminates all opportunities for people to commit crimes.

ANSWER: c

65. A state legalizes marijuana for medical use while federal law still prohibits it. This situation demonstrates which aspect of federalism?
a. Federal agencies must enforce state laws within state boundaries.
b. Potential conflicts can arise between different levels of government authority.
c. Federal law automatically overrides all conflicting state laws.
d. States have no authority to create laws that differ from federal statutes.

ANSWER: b

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66. What does it mean that the criminal justice system is a 'human system'?
    a. The system operates with perfect efficiency and coordination, like a coordinated community.
    b. Only highly trained professionals work in criminal justice agencies.
    c. It involves individual actors that make mistakes and agencies that don't always cooperate.
    d. Technology has eliminated all human error from criminal justice processes.

ANSWER: c

67. Which officials exercise discretion in the criminal justice system?
    a. Discretion is limited to law enforcement agencies and does not extend to courts.
    b. Only federal officials have discretionary power in criminal justice decisions.
    c. Police officers, prosecutors, judges, and parole boards all exercise discretion.
    d. Only police officers and judges have discretionary authority.

ANSWER: c

68. A defendant pleads not guilty at arraignment and the case is scheduled for trial. However, two weeks before trial, the defendant changes their plea to guilty in exchange for a reduced sentence. At which step does this plea change occur?
    a. During the trial phase after jury selection begins.
    b. At sentencing after the defendant has been convicted.
    c. During the arraignment process when pleas are initially entered.
    d. As part of plea bargaining that can occur at various stages.

ANSWER: d

69. What percentage of criminal cases typically go to trial according to the wedding cake model?
    a. Approximately 50 percent of all criminal cases.
    b. Nearly all cases in Layers 1 and 2 of the wedding cake.
    c. Fewer than 10 percent of criminal cases.
    d. About 25 percent of serious felony cases.

ANSWER: c

70. How do voting restrictions for people with felony records potentially perpetuate racial disparities?
    a. They disproportionately affect minorities who are overrepresented in the justice system.
    b. They only affect people convicted of violent crimes.
    c. They are automatically removed after people complete their sentences.
    d. They apply equally to all people regardless of race or ethnicity.

ANSWER: a

71. A community implements a neighborhood watch program where residents report suspicious activities and install security cameras. This initiative primarily supports which criminal justice goal?
    a. Reducing costs by shifting responsibility from police to civilians.
    b. Preventing crime through citizen participation and deterrent measures.
    c. Controlling crime by increasing arrests and prosecutions.
    d. Doing justice by ensuring fair treatment of all community members.

ANSWER: b

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72. How might economic downturns affect the relationship between federal and state criminal justice operations?
a. Federal agencies automatically provide additional funding to struggling states.
b. Economic conditions have no impact on criminal justice operations.
c. Local agencies may request more federal assistance due to budget constraints.
d. States gain more authority over federal agencies during financial crises.

ANSWER: c

73. A state legislature passes a law requiring mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. How might this change affect different parts of the criminal justice system?
a. Police, prosecutors, courts, and corrections will all face increased workloads.
b. The change will reduce crime without affecting system operations.
c. Defense attorneys will no longer be needed for drug cases.
d. Only judges will be affected by the new sentencing requirements.

ANSWER: a

74. A police chief decides to focus limited patrol resources on high-crime areas rather than providing equal coverage throughout the city. This decision best illustrates which system characteristic?
a. Filtering that removes cases from the system.
b. Resource dependence on external funding sources.
c. Discretion in allocating limited resources to achieve goals.
d. Sequential tasks requiring a specific order of operations.

ANSWER: c

75. Why do police officers spend the least amount of their time on crime-fighting activities?
a. Crime-fighting requires specialized training that most officers lack.
b. Crime-fighting activities are too dangerous for regular patrol officers.
c. Crime-fighting is the responsibility of other agencies, not the police.
d. Police have multiple duties, including peacekeeping and social services.

ANSWER: d

76. What are the three primary goals of the American criminal justice system?

ANSWER: The three primary goals are: (1) doing justice - ensuring fairness and equity in treatment of people drawn into the system while upholding individual rights and punishing those who violate the law; (2) controlling crime - arresting, prosecuting, convicting, and punishing those who disobey the law while following proper legal procedures; and (3) preventing crime - deterring criminal behavior through law enforcement actions, technological advances, and citizen participation in crime prevention measures.

77. How do evidence-based practices contribute to achieving the goals of the criminal justice system?

ANSWER: Evidence-based practices contribute by using research studies and objectively obtained data to guide policy development and implementation. Rather than relying on beliefs or customary approaches, these practices help criminal justice agencies develop more effective and cost-efficient methods for doing justice, controlling crime, and preventing crime. They ensure that resources are allocated to approaches that have been scientifically proven to work, leading to better outcomes in achieving the system's fundamental goals.

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78. What are the primary responsibilities of federal criminal justice agencies?

ANSWER: Federal criminal justice agencies are responsible for enforcing laws defined by Congress, investigating crimes that cross state borders, handling matters of national concern such as terrorism and cybercrime, and pursuing transnational criminals. Key federal agencies include the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Secret Service. Since 9/11, federal agencies have shifted greater attention to antiterrorism efforts, and preventing terrorist attacks remains the FBI's top priority.

79. How does the concept of exchange relationships function in plea bargaining between prosecutors and defense attorneys?

ANSWER: In plea bargaining, exchange relationships involve mutual transfers of resources where each party achieves goals it cannot accomplish alone. The prosecutor gains a quick, sure conviction while avoiding the time and uncertainty of trial. The defendant achieves a shorter sentence or reduced charges. The defense attorney can move efficiently to the next case. This cooperation promotes each participant's goals through negotiated agreements rather than adversarial trials.

80. What are the four major characteristics of the criminal justice system?

ANSWER: The four major characteristics are: (1) discretion - officials' freedom to act according to their own judgment at all levels of the process; (2) resource dependence - agencies depend on other entities for funding and must maintain good relations with political decision makers and the public; (3) sequential tasks - decisions are made in a specific sequence where each stage depends on previous decisions; and (4) filtering - a screening process where cases are either advanced or removed from the system at various stages.

81. Why is discretion considered both necessary and potentially problematic in the criminal justice system?

ANSWER: Discretion is necessary because the system lacks resources to treat every case identically, and officials believe it permits greater justice than rigid rules would produce. It allows for individualized responses to unique circumstances. However, discretion is potentially problematic because it can lead to unequal treatment of similar cases, may be influenced by personal biases, and can result in unethical or illegal conduct by officials when not properly supervised or guided by professional standards.

82. What are the four major duties of police agencies?

ANSWER: The four major duties are: (1) keeping the peace - protecting rights and persons in situations ranging from street conflicts to domestic disputes; (2) apprehending violators and combating crime - the task most associated with police work though it accounts for only a small portion of police time; (3) preventing crime - educating the public about crime threats and reducing situations where crimes are likely to occur; and (4) providing social services - recovering stolen property, directing traffic, giving emergency medical aid, and helping people in various non-criminal situations.

83. In a real-world scenario where a person is arrested for burglary, what are the first five steps they would experience in the criminal justice process?

ANSWER: The first five steps would be: (1) Investigation - police gather evidence about the burglary and identify the suspect; (2) Arrest - police physically take the person into custody based on sufficient evidence; (3) Booking - the suspect is transported to a police station, fingerprinted, photographed, questioned, and informed of rights including right to counsel; (4) Charging - the prosecutor reviews

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the case and decides whether to file formal charges; and (5) Initial appearance - the suspect appears before a judge to be informed of charges, advised of rights, and have bail set or be released on recognizance.

84. How does the criminal justice wedding cake model explain why different cases receive different treatment?

ANSWER: The wedding cake model shows that cases are treated differently based on their seriousness and the defendant's resources. Layer 1 consists of celebrated cases that receive extensive media attention and full adversarial trials. Layer 2 includes serious felonies with lengthy prison sentences. Layer 3 contains lesser felonies that are typically resolved through plea bargaining. Layer 4 represents misdemeanors that are processed quickly with minimal formality. The model demonstrates that time, attention, and resources devoted to cases depend on crime severity and defendant resources rather than uniform treatment.

85. What are the key differences between the crime-control model and the due process model in their approach to criminal justice?

ANSWER: The crime-control model emphasizes efficiency, speed, and finality in repressing crime, operating like an assembly line with informal procedures and early guilty pleas. It prioritizes controlling crime over protecting individual rights. The due process model emphasizes reliability, formal procedures, and protecting individual rights, operating like an obstacle course where the state must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. It prioritizes preventing wrongful convictions over efficient processing, even if some guilty defendants go free due to insufficient evidence.

86. What is the difference between disparity and discrimination in criminal justice?

ANSWER: Disparity is simply a difference between groups that may be explained by legitimate factors, such as young men being arrested more frequently because they commit more crimes. Discrimination occurs when groups are treated differently without regard to their behavior or qualifications, such as when people of color are routinely sentenced to prison regardless of their criminal history. Disparities can result from either fair practices (legitimate factors) or unfair practices (discrimination).

87. Why is the explanation that "people of color commit more crimes" not supported by research evidence?

ANSWER: Research shows that criminal behavior is prevalent throughout all segments of society. White people constituted nearly 70 percent of arrests for serious crimes in FBI statistics, and White individuals have higher rates of illegal drug use than Black and Hispanic individuals. Self-report studies show nearly every adult American has committed acts for which they could be jailed. Race itself is not a cause of criminal behavior; any apparent associations relate to subcategories within racial groups and certain categories of crimes that receive more law enforcement attention, such as street-level drug transactions in poor neighborhoods versus white-collar crimes.

88. How does the filtering process work in a real-world drug possession case from arrest to potential conviction?

ANSWER: The filtering process would screen the case at multiple stages: police might release the suspect if evidence is insufficient; prosecutors might dismiss charges if the search was illegal or evidence is weak; prosecutors might offer diversion to treatment instead of prosecution; the defendant might plead guilty to reduced charges through plea bargaining; a judge might dismiss charges due to procedural violations; or a jury might acquit if evidence doesn't prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt. At each stage, the case could be filtered out of the system or continue to the next level.

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Chapter 01 - The Criminal Justice System

89. What are the three primary subsystems of the criminal justice system, and how do they interact?

ANSWER: The three primary subsystems are police, courts, and corrections. They interact through sequential processing, where police investigate crimes and make arrests, then pass cases to courts for adjudication and sentencing, which then send convicted individuals to corrections for supervision or incarceration. Each subsystem depends on the others to achieve its goals - police need courts to process arrests, courts need police to provide evidence, and need corrections to carry out sentences, and corrections receives cases from court decisions.

90. How might implicit bias affect a police officer's decision-making during a traffic stop, and what training approaches could address this issue?

ANSWER: Implicit bias might cause an officer to unconsciously associate certain racial groups with criminality, leading to more frequent stops, longer detentions, more invasive searches, or quicker use of force based on stereotyped assumptions rather than actual behavior. Training approaches could include education about implicit bias and its effects, scenario-based training that highlights decision-making patterns, cultural competency training, de-escalation techniques, and regular review of stop and search data to identify patterns that might indicate biased policing practices.

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Instructor Manual

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Table of Contents

Purpose and Perspective of the Chapter **2**
What's New in This Chapter **2**
Chapter Objectives **3**
Chapter Outline **3**
Section 1-1: The Goals of Criminal Justice 3
Section 1-2: Criminal Justice in the Federal and State Systems 4
Section 1-3: Criminal Justice as a Social System 5
Section 1-4: Characteristics of the Criminal Justice System 6
Section 1-5: Operations of Criminal Justice Agencies 7
Section 1-6: The Flow of Decision Making in the Criminal Justice System 8
Section 1-7: Disparity and Discrimination 9
Standard Rubrics – Writing and Presentation **10**

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Purpose and Perspective of the Chapter

The purpose of this chapter is to introduce students to the fundamental structure, goals, and operations of the American criminal justice system. The chapter examines how criminal justice functions as an interconnected system of police, courts, and corrections agencies operating at federal, state, and local levels. Students will explore the three primary goals of criminal justice: doing justice, controlling crime, and preventing crime, while understanding how evidence-based practices guide policy development. The chapter analyzes key system characteristics, including discretion, resource dependence, sequential tasks, and filtering processes that shape case outcomes. Through examination of the criminal justice wedding cake model and comparison of crime-control versus due process approaches, students gain insight into how different cases receive varying treatment. Additionally, the chapter addresses critical issues of racial and ethnic disparities within the system, exploring potential explanations and examining evidence of discrimination. By understanding these foundational concepts, students develop the analytical framework necessary for comprehending the complexities and challenges facing contemporary criminal justice practice and policy.

What's New in This Chapter

The following elements are improvements in this chapter from the previous edition:

- New opening vignette featuring the case involving Luigi Mangione and the murder of United Healthcare's CEO Brian Thompson
- A new learning outcome has been added to emphasize the structure and functions of the criminal justice system and the challenges faced when there is involvement by different agencies and levels of government
- New information has been added to explain the social construction of perceptions of crime and justice, which augments the features "Myth & Reality in Criminal Justice"
- New insights are provided based on classical philosophy and social science as they apply to criminal justice
- Included updated information concerning a case of misconduct carried out by prominent criminal justice officials that was not available for the previous edition
- New and updated statistical data have been added to the chapter content
- Two brand new Career Connections features are included—one on how police officers spend their time and the other discussing forensic science work in criminal justice

[return to top]

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CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1-1 Describe the goals of the American criminal justice system.

1-2 Identify the different responsibilities of federal and state criminal justice operations.

1-3 Analyze criminal justice from a systems perspective.

1-4 Explain the various characteristics of the criminal justice system.

1-5 Describe the main criminal justice agencies and the steps in the decision-making process for criminal cases.

1-6 Explain the criminal justice "wedding cake" concept as well as the due process and crime-control models.

1-7 Name the possible causes of racial disparities in criminal justice.

[return to top]

CHAPTER OUTLINE

SECTION 1-1: THE GOALS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Key Concepts

- The criminal justice system has three primary goals: doing justice (ensuring fairness and equity in treatment), controlling crime (arresting, prosecuting, and punishing offenders), and preventing crime (deterring future criminal behavior through enforcement and community efforts).
- Evidence-based practices involve using research and data to guide criminal justice policies and decisions rather than relying solely on beliefs, traditions, or political considerations.

Discussion Questions

- Which of the three goals of criminal justice do you believe should take priority when they conflict with each other, and how might this prioritization affect public safety and individual rights?
    - **Sample Response:** While all three goals are important, doing justice should take priority as it provides the foundation for public trust and legitimacy. Without fair processes, the system loses credibility and may actually undermine crime control and prevention efforts by alienating communities whose cooperation is essential.
- What are the potential benefits and challenges of implementing evidence-based practices in criminal justice, and why might some officials resist adopting research-supported approaches?

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- **Sample Response:** Evidence-based practices can improve effectiveness and cost-efficiency while reducing bias, but implementation faces challenges including resistance to change, resource constraints, and political pressures. Officials may resist because research findings sometimes contradict popular beliefs or established practices.

Teaching Tips

- Use real-world scenarios where goals conflict (e.g., releasing someone on bail vs. public safety concerns) to help students understand the complexity. Address misconceptions that being "tough on crime" always means being effective at reducing crime.
- Emphasize that evidence-based doesn't mean ignoring experience or judgment, but rather informing decisions with research. Discuss how the medical field successfully uses evidence-based approaches and draw parallels to criminal justice applications.

Section 1-2: Criminal Justice in the Federal and State Systems

Key Concepts

- The U.S. operates under federalism, where state governments handle most criminal justice functions while federal agencies focus on crimes that cross state borders, involve federal laws, or threaten national security.
- Since 9/11, federal agencies have shifted significant resources toward counterterrorism and cybercrime, changing the traditional roles and priorities of agencies like the FBI.

Discussion Questions

- How does the division of criminal justice responsibilities between federal and state governments create both advantages and potential problems for law enforcement effectiveness?
  - **Sample Response:** Federalism allows for local adaptation and prevents concentration of police power, but can create coordination challenges, jurisdictional disputes, and inconsistent enforcement. The system requires cooperation between levels to address crimes that span boundaries.
- What are the implications of federal law enforcement's increased focus on terrorism and cybercrime for traditional crime-fighting efforts at the local level?
  - **Sample Response:** The shift has reduced federal involvement in traditional crimes, placing greater responsibility on state and local agencies. This reallocation may create gaps in addressing complex crimes that require federal resources while potentially improving federal capabilities in emerging threat areas.

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Teaching Tips

- Use examples of crimes that involve both state and federal jurisdiction (like drug trafficking) to illustrate complexity. Address student misconceptions about there being one "head" federal law enforcement agency with unlimited authority.
- Discuss how resource allocation reflects policy priorities and societal concerns. Help students understand that law enforcement agencies must make strategic choices about where to focus limited resources based on perceived threats and public demands.

Section 1-3: Criminal Justice as a Social System

Key Concepts

- Criminal justice operates as an interdependent system where decisions and actions in one component (police, courts, corrections) directly affect the others, requiring coordination and cooperation to achieve system goals.
- Exchange relationships involve the mutual transfer of resources and cooperation between criminal justice actors, with plea bargaining being the most visible example of how participants achieve their individual goals through negotiation.

Discussion Questions

- How might a significant change in police arrest practices impact the courts and corrections systems, and what does this reveal about the interconnected nature of criminal justice?
    - **Sample Response:** Increased arrests would strain court resources, potentially leading to longer case processing times and pressure for more plea bargaining, while also increasing jail populations and correctional costs. This demonstrates how system components must adapt to changes in other parts to maintain functionality.
- Beyond plea bargaining, what other exchange relationships exist in the criminal justice system, and how do these relationships both facilitate and potentially compromise the pursuit of justice?
    - **Sample Response:** Examples include police-prosecutor cooperation in case preparation, judge-attorney relationships in scheduling, and corrections-parole board information sharing. While these relationships promote efficiency, they may also create informal networks that could disadvantage outsiders or lead to "going along to get along" mentalities.

Teaching Tips

- Use concrete examples like drug policy changes or new enforcement priorities to show system interdependence. Address the misconception that criminal justice is simply a linear assembly line by emphasizing feedback loops and mutual dependencies.

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- Help students identify exchange relationships they may not have considered, such as between defense attorneys and prosecutors or between different law enforcement agencies. Discuss both positive and potentially problematic aspects of these relationships.

SECTION 1-4: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Key Concepts

- Discretion allows criminal justice officials at every level to make decisions based on their judgment within legal boundaries, enabling individualized responses but also creating potential for inconsistency and bias.
- The filtering process means that cases are systematically screened out at each stage of the criminal justice process, with relatively few cases proceeding from initial crime report through to conviction and incarceration.

Discussion Questions

- In what situations might discretion be most beneficial to achieving justice, and when might it be most problematic or dangerous to fair treatment?
    - **Sample Response:** Discretion is beneficial when dealing with unique circumstances, first-time offenders, or situations requiring immediate decisions for public safety. It becomes problematic when influenced by bias, personal relationships, or when it creates significant disparities in treatment for similar cases.
- Does the filtering process represent an efficient use of limited resources or a failure to hold offenders accountable, and what factors should guide decisions about which cases to pursue?
    - **Sample Response:** The filtering process reflects both resource constraints and the need for sufficient evidence to proceed, representing efficient resource allocation rather than system failure. Decisions should be guided by evidence quality, case seriousness, public safety concerns, and available alternatives to prosecution.

Teaching Tips

- Use scenarios involving police stops, prosecutorial charging decisions, or judicial sentencing to illustrate discretion in action. Address concerns about discretion leading to bias while explaining why completely rigid rules would be impractical and potentially unjust.
- Use Figure 1.3 to show the dramatic reduction in cases at each stage. Address student surprise at low conviction rates by explaining evidentiary requirements and the difference between crimes committed and crimes that can be proven in court.

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Section 1-5: Operations of Criminal Justice Agencies

Key Concepts

- Police agencies have four major duties beyond crime-fighting: keeping the peace, apprehending violators, preventing crime, and providing social services, with the latter consuming significant time and resources. Courts interpret law and are responsible for adjudication. Corrections agencies are responsible for executing sentences imposed by the courts.
- The 13-step criminal justice process from investigation through release involves sequential decision-making by different actors, with each step potentially filtering cases out of the system or moving them forward.

Discussion Questions

- Should police departments focus primarily on crime-fighting activities, or is their broader role in community service and peacekeeping equally important for public safety?
    - **Sample Response:** The broader role is essential because crime prevention and community trust often depend on police involvement in non-criminal matters. However, departments must balance these roles and ensure officers are properly trained for diverse responsibilities while maintaining core law enforcement capabilities.
- At which step in the criminal justice process do you think the greatest risk of error or injustice occurs, and what safeguards exist to minimize these risks?
    - **Sample Response:** Critical points include the initial police investigation (where evidence is gathered), prosecutorial charging decisions (which determine case trajectory), and plea bargaining (where most cases are resolved). Safeguards include constitutional protections, appellate review, and professional ethical standards, though their effectiveness varies.

Teaching Tips

- Challenge the common perception that police primarily fight crime by discussing how much time is spent on traffic enforcement, domestic disputes, and community service. Use the “Career Connections” feature to reinforce the reality of police work versus media portrayals.
- Walk through the Christopher Jones case study at the end of the chapter to illustrate how the process works in practice. Emphasize that while the steps appear linear, there can be significant variation and that cases can exit the system at multiple points.

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Section 1-6: The Flow of Decision Making in the Criminal Justice System

Key Concepts

- The wedding cake model demonstrates that not all cases receive equal treatment, with celebrated cases at the top receiving extensive resources and adversarial proceedings while routine cases at the bottom are processed quickly through plea bargaining.
- The crime-control model emphasizes efficiency and finality in processing cases to repress crime, while the due process model prioritizes careful procedures and rights protection to ensure reliable decisions and prevent wrongful convictions.

Discussion Questions

- Is it fair that some defendants receive more thorough legal proceedings than others based on the nature of their case or their resources, or should all cases be processed identically?
    - **Sample Response:** While equal treatment is an ideal, resource constraints and case complexity make some differentiation inevitable and potentially appropriate. The key is ensuring that basic rights are protected in all cases while allowing for more intensive proceedings when warranted by case significance or defendant resources.
- In what types of cases or circumstances might society benefit more from a crime-control approach versus a due process approach, and how can the system balance these competing values?
    - **Sample Response:** Crime-control approaches may be appropriate for routine cases with clear evidence and cooperative defendants, while due process protections become more critical in serious cases, when evidence is questionable, or when defendants lack resources. The challenge is maintaining constitutional minimums while allowing for efficient processing.

Teaching Tips

- Use high-profile cases students know about to illustrate Layer 1, then contrast with typical misdemeanor processing. Address student concerns about fairness by discussing resource constraints and the difference between equal treatment and identical treatment.
- Explain that these are “ideal types” and that real systems incorporate elements of both models. Use current events or policy debates to show how these different philosophies influence criminal justice reforms and public discussions about system effectiveness.

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Section 1-7: Disparity and Discrimination

Key Concepts

- Substantial evidence documents that Black, Hispanic, and Native American individuals are subjected to criminal justice system involvement at much higher rates than White Americans across all system components, from police stops through incarceration.
- Implicit bias involves unconscious stereotypes and assumptions that can influence decision-making without the decision-maker's awareness, potentially contributing to disparate treatment even among well-intentioned officials.

Discussion Questions

- What types of evidence would be most convincing in determining whether observed racial disparities result from differential criminal behavior versus discriminatory treatment by system actors?
    - **Sample Response:** The most convincing evidence would include controlled studies comparing treatment of similar cases across racial groups, analysis of stop and search rates relative to contraband found, and examination of sentencing patterns controlling for offense severity and criminal history. Self-report studies showing similar crime rates across groups also provide important context.
- If implicit bias affects decision-making unconsciously, what strategies might be most effective for reducing its impact on criminal justice outcomes?
    - **Sample Response:** Effective strategies include bias awareness training, structured decision-making tools that reduce subjective judgments, diverse hiring and leadership, community oversight, and data collection to identify patterns. However, training alone is insufficient without systemic changes and accountability mechanisms.

Teaching Tips

- Present statistical evidence clearly while acknowledging that correlation doesn't prove causation. Be prepared to address defensive reactions and emphasize that discussing disparities doesn't mean condemning all criminal justice professionals, but rather seeking to understand and improve system fairness.
- Distinguish between implicit bias and intentional discrimination while explaining how both can produce disparate outcomes. Use examples from other fields (like medicine) where implicit bias training has been implemented to show this is a broader societal issue, not unique to criminal justice.

[return to top]

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Standard Rubrics – Writing and Presentation

Editable rubrics are provided to support both the Writing Assignment and Connect It activities in MindTap. These rubrics are accessible through the Cengage Instructor Center at **www.cengage.com**. Instructors may customize the criteria to align with course objectives, departmental standards, or individual teaching preferences. Using these rubrics ensures consistency in evaluating student work and provides learners with clear expectations for writing quality and video assignment/presentation skills.

[return to top]

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