Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Crime and Criminology

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. When criminologists study \_\_\_\_\_\_, they study individuals who commit harmful acts, regardless of the legal status of those acts.

A. crime

B. criminology

C. criminality

D. law

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Beyond Social Construction: The Stationary Core Crimes

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Identify which of the following is an intentional act of commission or omission contrary to the law; criminality is a property of individuals that signals the willingness to commit those and other harmful acts?

A. criminality

B. crime

C. criminology

D. deviance

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. The Supreme Court invalidated anti-flag burning statutes as unconstitutional in which of the following cases?

A. Texas v. Johnson

B. Lawrence v. Texas

C. Bowers v. Hardwick

D. Mapp v. Ohio

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime as a Moving Target

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to the range of the theory and thus range of the hypotheses that can be derived from it.

A. Predictive accuracy

B. Simplicity

C. Predictive scope

D. Expansion

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Identify from the following, which is an example of an indirect cost of crime.

A. maintenance costs of jails and prisons

B. salaries of law enforcement personnel

C. the purchase of police cars

D. the expense of private surveillance and security devices

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Crime as a Subcategory of Social Harms

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Criminologists who are inclined to believe that the underlying cause of crime is capitalism are identified with which theory?

A. atavist

B. Marxist

C. positivist

D. classical

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_ school of thought emphasizes human rationality and free will in its explanations of criminal behavior.

A. Biosocial

B. Classical

C. Positivist

D. Psychological

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. To claim two factors are correlated means:

A. One of the factors causes changes to the other.

B. The two factors vary together.

C. They compose a theory of crime.

D. They have been socially constructed.

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Role of Theory in Criminology

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Which of the following criteria does not help us differentiate between real crimes and those which are arbitrary and socially constructed?

A. consensus

B. harm

C. severity

D. circumstantiality

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Modern criminology really began to take shape with the increasing faith among intellectuals that science could provide answers for everything. This identifies with which school of thought?

A. ideological

B. positivist

C. progressive

D. Renaissance

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Thomas Sowell posited that two contrasting visions have shaped thoughts about human nature throughout history, and these visions are in constant conflict with each other. Believers in this particular vision view human activities as constrained by an innate human nature that is self-centered and largely unalterable.

A. classical vision

B. constrained vision

C. phrenological vision

D. unconstrained vision

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analytical

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. Secondarily, Thomas Sowell claims believers in this particular vision deny an innate human nature, viewing human activities as formed anew in each different culture.

A. classical vision

B. constrained vision

C. phrenological vision

D. unconstrained vision

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Analytical

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

13. One major development in the theoretical approach to criminology was the idea of involuntary causes of crime as being \_\_\_\_\_\_; calling into question the legal doctrines of criminal responsibility.

A. precursors

B. determined

C. effectual

D. accidental

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analytical

Answer Location: Two Torpid Centuries—With Exceptions

Difficulty Level: Hard

14. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ vision also believes that human nature is perfectible, a view scoffed at by those who profess the opposing view.

A. classical vision

B. constrained vision

C. phrenological vision

D. unconstrained vision

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analytical

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

15. The biggest impact during the modern criminology period was made by Cesare Lombroso’s theory of \_\_\_\_\_\_ or the born criminal.

A. atavism

B. ideal types

C. phrenology

D. somatotypes

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. The Progressive Era, ushered in new \_\_\_\_\_\_ ideologies and new ways of thinking about crime.

A. biological

B. psychological

C. social

D. theological

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Identify which of these are specific statements about the relationships that we expect to find between and among factors.

A. theories

B. hypotheses

C. educated guesses

D. formulations

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Identify which term below best describes a way of looking at the world, a general emotional picture of how things should be.

A. theory

B. ideology

C. vision

D. analysis

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is simply a course of action designed to solve some problem that has been selected from among alternative courses of action.

A. Law

B. Mores

C. Policy

D. Guidelines

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Connecting Criminological Theory and Social Policy

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. The name for this period of time means rebirth and refers to the rediscovery of the thinking traditions of the ancient Greeks.

A. bourgeois

B. classical

C. Huguenot

D. Renaissance

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Identify from below, that which demonstrates an example of a direct cost of crime.

A. protective devices

B. insurance costs

C. surveillance and security devices

D. salaries and benefits of law enforcement personnel

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Crime as a Subcategory of Social Harms

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. Crimes that are time and culture bound are described as:

A. mala in se

B. mala prohibita

C. mala inherente

D. mala exhibite

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Beyond Social Construction: The Stationary Core Crimes

Difficulty Level: Hard

23. In detecting causes of crime the first step is:

A. deriving a theory

B. testing a hypothesis

C. discovering correlates

D. determining the level of analysis

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Criminology?

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Criminologists call universally condemned crimes by the term:

A. mala in se

B. mala prohibita

C. mala inherente

D. mala exhibite

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Beyond Social Construction: The Stationary Core Crimes

Difficulty Level: Hard

25. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is a clinical or scientific term rather than a legal one, and it can be defined independently of legal definitions of crimes.

A. Forensic

B. Banality

C. Pathological

D. Criminality

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Medium

26. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is a property or characteristic of individuals that signals the willingness to commit harmful acts.

A. Forensic

B. Banality

C. Pathological

D. Criminality

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Medium

27. Criminologists have never uncovered a \_\_\_\_\_\_ (a factor that *must* be present for criminal behavior to occur and in the absence of which criminal behavior has never occurred).

A. necessary cause

B. remedial cause

C. sufficient cause

D. immediate cause

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Criminologists have never uncovered a \_\_\_\_\_\_ (a factor that is able to produce criminal behavior without being augmented by some other factor).

A. necessary cause

B. remedial cause

C. sufficient cause

D. immediate cause

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. \_\_\_\_\_\_ term means that while a theory is never proven true, it must have the quality of being disprovable.

A. Predictive accuracy

B. Level of analysis

C. Simplicity

D. Falsifiability

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Hard

30. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is the segment of the phenomenon that is measured and analyzed.

A. Predictive accuracy

B. Level of analysis

C. Simplicity

D. Falsifiability

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: How to Think About Theories

Difficulty Level: Hard

31. Theories can offer \_\_\_\_\_\_ (distant in time) explanations of crime and criminality.

A. proximate

B. ultimate

C. distal

D. chronologic

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: How to Think About Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

32. Theories can offer \_\_\_\_\_\_ (close in time) explanations of crime and criminality.

A. proximate

B. ultimate

C. distal

D. chronologic

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: How to Think About Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

33. \_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to a trait that is a combination of other continuously distributed traits such as low empathy and low self-control that signal the willingness to use force or fraud to deprive others of their lives or property for personal gain.

A. Forensic

B. Banality

C. Pathological

D. Criminality

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Medium

34. Correlations merely \_\_\_\_\_\_ causes; they do not demonstrate them.

A. highlight

B. anticipate

C. predict

D. suggest

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: How to Think About Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

35. Harmful acts can be placed on a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_ in terms of the seriousness of the harm involved.

A. strata

B. chart

C. plane

D. continuum

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime as a Subcategory of Social Harms

Difficulty Level: Easy

## True/False

1. The scientific method is a way of looking at the world; a general emotional picture of “how things should be.”

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Rather than becoming analytic in method, social science became primarily experimental.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Enlightenment, Criminology, and Justice

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Criminology is an interdisciplinary field.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. The first fully randomized controlled trial in American criminology appears to have been the Harvard-Bentham experiment.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Cambridge-Somerville

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Criminality is an identifiable trait that some people possess, and others do not.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The Enlightenment is associated with advances in mathematics, science, and the dignity and worth of the individual as exemplified by a concern for human rights.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. A hypothesis is best described as a set of interconnected propositions that explain how phenomena are related.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Criminality is the scientific study of crime and criminals.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminality

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Necessary cause is a term to describe a factor that is able to produce criminal behavior without being augmented by some other factor.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Sufficient cause is a term to describe how a factor must be present for criminal behavior to occur and in the absence of which criminal behavior has never occurred.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Simplicity states that if two competing theories are essentially equal in terms of the first two criteria, then the less complicated one is considered more “elegant.”

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Predictive scope states a theory has merit and is useful to the extent that it accurately predicts what is observed.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Predictive accuracy theory is never proven true, but it must have the quality of being falsifiable or disprovable.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. The level of analysis is the segment of the phenomenon that is measured and analyzed.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Constrained vision believes that human nature is perfectible.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Positivist theory denies the existence of an innate human nature; it views human nature as formed anew in each different culture.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. The Italian physician named Vasco da Gama, developed a theory of human personality called *physiognomy*.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Hypotheses are statements about relationships between and among factors we expect to find based on the logic of our theories.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. The Industrial Revolution brought with it more secular thinking regarding crime and criminality.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. The constrained vision maintains that there is an innate human nature that is self-centered and largely unalterable.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Easy

## Essay

1. Compare and contrast the main ideas of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.

Ans: The Enlightenment was the period approximately between 1650 and 1800. It might be said that the Renaissance provided a key to the human mind and the Enlightenment opened the door. Whereas the Renaissance is associated with advances in art, literature, music, and philosophy, the Enlightenment is associated with advances in mathematics, science, and the belief in the dignity and worth of the individual as exemplified by a concern for human rights.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: A Short History of Criminology

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Explain the relationship between theory and hypotheses.

Ans: A theory is a set of logically interconnected propositions explaining how phenomena are related and from which a number of hypotheses can be derived and tested. Theories should provide coherent explanations of the phenomena they address, they should correspond with the relevant empirical facts, and they should provide practical guidance for researchers looking for further facts. This guidance takes the form of a series of statements that can be logically deduced from the assertions of the theory. We called these statements hypotheses,which are statements about relationships between and among factors we expect to find based on the logic of our theories. Hypotheses and theories support one another, in the sense that theories provide the raw material (the ideas) for generating hypotheses, and hypotheses support or fail to support theories by exposing them to empirical testing.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Define and explain the nature of necessary cause and sufficient cause and distinguish between the two.

Ans: Theories are devised to explain how a number of different correlates may actually becausally related to crime and criminality rather than simply associated with them. We emphasize that when we talk of causes we do not mean that when *X* is present *Y* will occur in a completely prescribed way. We mean that when *X* is present, *Y* has a certain *probability* of occurring and perhaps only if *X* is present along with factors *A*, *B,* and *C*. In many ways, crime is like illness because there may be as many routes to becoming criminal as there are to becoming ill. In other words, criminologists have never uncovered a **necessary cause** (a factor that *must* be present for criminal behavior to occur and in the absence of which criminal behavior has never occurred) or a **sufficient cause** (a factor that is able to produce criminal behavior without being augmented by some other factor).

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Explain the difference between predictive accuracy and predictive scope.

Ans: *Predictive accuracy:* A theory has merit and is useful to the extent that it accurately predicts what is observed. That is, the theory has generated a large number of research hypotheses that have supported it. This is the most important criterion.

*Predictive scope*: The scope or range of the theory and thus the scope or range of the hypotheses that can be derived from it. That is, how much of the empirical world falls under the explanatory umbrella of Theory A compared to how much falls under Theory B.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: What Is Theory?

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Define the term ideology and explain how this relates to criminological theory.

Ans: Ideologyis a way of looking at the world; it is a general emotional picture of “how things should be.” This implies a selective interpretation and understanding of evidence that comes to our senses rather than an objective and rational evaluation of the evidence. Ideology forms, shapes, and colors our concepts of crime and its causes in ways that lead to a tendency to accept or reject new evidence according to how well or poorly it fits our ideology.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ideology in Criminological Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard