Chapter 1: The Context and Consequences of Theory

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. Each year the FBI publishes the \_\_\_\_\_\_ in which it lists the numbers of various crimes that have become known to the nation’s police departments.

A. Uniform Crime Reports

B. Self-Report Survey

C. Universal Crime Report

D. National Crime Report

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Which of the following is not included in the Uniform Crime Reports “Crime Index?”

A. murder

B. assault

C. drug offenses

D. rape

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is a study in which citizens are asked whether they have been victimized.

A. Universal Crime Report

B. National Crime Report

C. National Crime Victimization Survey

D. Uniform Crime Report

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Lawlessness in \_\_\_\_\_\_ surpasses that in other industrialized nations.

A. England

B. the United States

C. Canada

D. Italy

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ crime is especially prominent in the United States.

A. Property

B. Drug

C. Traffic

D. Violent/lethal

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehensive

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Most people have developed their own \_\_\_\_\_\_ of criminal behavior.

A. penalties

B. experiments

C. laws

D. theories

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Theory in Social Context

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Sally has been burglarized by someone who is homeless. She then begins to think poverty is a cause of crime. This is an example of how Sally’s \_\_\_\_\_\_ have/has shaped the way she has come to think about crime.

A. social experiences

B. stereotypes

C. media consumption

D. peers

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Theory in Social Context

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Americans’ views on crime have \_\_\_\_\_\_ since the settlers first landed on the nation’s shores.

A. changed

B. become less harsh

C. become more lenient

D. stayed the same

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Theory in Social Context

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Support for criminal justice policies eventually will collapse if the \_\_\_\_\_\_ on which they are based no longer makes sense.

A. data

B. theory

C. community

D. research

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Theory and Policy: Ideas Have Consequences

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. The fact that criminal justice policies have changed over time is a product of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ in society.

A. personalities

B. individuals

C. times

D. transformations

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Theory and Policy: Ideas Have Consequences

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ school emphasized the role of the rational human being who weighed costs and benefits.

A. positivist

B. Chicago

C. classical

D. New York

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ school sought to collect data in order to scientifically study criminals.

A. positivist

B. Chicago

C. classical

D. New York

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Which of the following theory is not considered one of the three mainstream theories of criminology?

A. differential association theory

B. anomie–strain theory

C. labeling theory

D. control theory

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. \_\_\_\_\_\_ suggests that the criminal justice system and its approaches to solving crime actually can increase crime rather than reduce it.

A. Conflict theory

B. Classical theory

C. Labeling theory

D. Functionalist theory

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Turmoil and the Rise of Critical Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. \_\_\_\_\_\_ explanations of crime argue that the answer to crime rests largely in harsher sanctions.

A. Left

B. Conservative

C. Liberal

D. Independent

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. \_\_\_\_\_\_ argues that crime is best understood as an “event” that involves not only a motivated offender, but also the “opportunity” to break the law.

A. Strain theory

B. Routine activities theory

C. Conflict theory

D. Differential association theory

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Which of the following theories brings biological thinking into criminology?

A. biosocial

B. conflict

C. labeling

D. environmental

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the 21st Century

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Jimmy had a mother who abused him as a child. When he went to school, he did poorly academically and was often treated poorly by teachers. He is now 31 years old and in trouble. Which theory would take all of the information provided into account when determining why Jimmy has engaged in criminal behavior?

A. biosocial

B. routine activities

C. developmental criminology

D. infant criminology

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the 21st Century

Difficulty Level: Hard

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_ theorists would argue that the United States has greater levels of lawlessness due to its embracement of capitalistic ideals.

A. Biosocial

B. Conflict

C. Labeling

D. Environmental

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Turmoil and the Rise of Critical Theories

Difficulty Level: Hard

20. In which decade did new criminologies emerge claiming that crime was due to the faults of individuals?

A. 1960

B. 1970

C. 1980

D. 1990

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. \_\_\_\_\_\_ examines how controls influence criminal behavior.

A. Control

B. Conflict

C. Environmental

D. Classical

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. \_\_\_\_\_\_ perspective has led to the “gendering of criminology” in the United States and Britain.

A. Masculinity

B. Gendered

C. Women-focused

D. Feminist

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Turmoil and the Rise of Critical Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

23. \_\_\_\_\_\_ theories see crime as a choice shaped by the perceived costs and benefits.

A. Feminist

B. Control

C. Perpetual deterrence

D. Labeling

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Easy

24. \_\_\_\_\_\_ explore how crime occurs when individuals learned cultural definitions supportive of illegal conduct.

A. Differential association theories

B. Anomie–strain theories

C. Labeling theories

D. Control theories

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. Theories of \_\_\_\_\_\_ could be used to explain crimes committed by CEOs and politicians.

A. white-collar crime

B. blue-collar crime

C. elitists

D. professionals

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Turmoil and the Rise of Critical Theories

Difficulty Level: Hard

# True/False

1. Crime is a serious matter and therefore does require scientific study and understanding.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Many citizens do not report crimes against them to the police.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Crime rates across the United States are similar.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Most people’s opinions about crime are drawn from sustained study of the topic.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Theories are mere empty ruminations and have no consequences in the real world.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Theory and Policy: Ideas Have Consequences

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. As theories of crime change, so do criminal justice policies.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Theory and Policy: Ideas Have Consequences

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. It is acceptable to decontextualize criminological theory.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Context, Theory, and Policy: Plan of the Book

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Feminist thought has led to the gendering of criminology.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Turmoil and the Rise of Critical Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Although criminological theory historically has focused on what motivates people to commit crime, it has not systematically studied how variations in the opportunity to offend affect the amount and distribution of criminality in American society.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. According to labeling theory, the key to understanding crime is in studying how people develop into offenders and how they escape from their lives of crime.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the 21st Century

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Differential association theory focuses on reducing opportunities for crime within a particular situation.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Theory construction is a human enterprise.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conclusion

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Conservative theories argue that society is too soft on crime and punishes criminals too harshly.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. The three mainstream theories call for the overthrow of the current social order.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. The FBI publishes the Uniform Crime Reports.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

# Essay

1. Compare the different ways in which we obtain crime statistics. Why is it important that we use multiple methods of obtaining crime statistics?

Ans: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes the Uniform Crime Reports in which it lists the numbers of various crimes that have become known (mostly through reports by citizens) to the nation’s police departments. Victimization surveys examine people about their experience of being a victim. It is important to have both types as many people do not report crime to the police.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. How does criminality in the United States compare to criminality in other industrialized Western nations?

Ans: For most forms of crime (e.g., property, assault), Americans’ involvement is similar to that of other industrialized Western societies. But for lethal violence, the United Sates is a clear outlier among highly developed nations.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. How do people develop their opinions about crime and criminality? Specifically, how have your views of crime been developed?

Ans: Attitudes about crime, as well as about other social issues, can come from a variety of sources--parents, church sermons, how crime is depicted on television, whether one has had family members or friends who have turned to crime, whether one has experimented with criminal activity oneself or perhaps been victimized, and so on. In short, social experiences shape the ways in which people come to think about crime.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Theory in Social Context

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Explain the relationship between theory and policy. Give a specific example of how a theory informed policy.

Ans: Different theories suggest different ways of reducing crime. Depending on what is proposed as the cause of illegal behavior, certain criminal justice policies and practices will seem reasonable, others will seem irrational and perhaps dangerously irresponsible. As theories of crime change, so do criminal justice policies.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Theory and Policy: Ideas Have Consequences

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Explain the distribution of crime across the United States. How does theory help us explain the distribution of crime?

Ans: Crime is not evenly distributed within the United States. As Blumstein (2000) noted, in 1996 only “ten cities (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, New Orleans, Baltimore, Houston, [and] Dallas, in order of decreasing numbers of homicides) accounted for fully one quarter of all the nation’s homicides” (p. 36). Striking differences in criminality are also found within communities, and even across blocks located within the same neighborhood (Weisburd, Groff, & Yang, 2012). Theories help by identifying the causes of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Compare the criminologist’s theory of crime and the average individual’s theory of crime. Which is more empirically sound and why?

Ans: The average individual’s opinions about crime are drawn less from sustained thought and more from the implicit understandings that they have come to embrace during their lives. Criminologists have taken the time to read extensively on crime, have sifted through existing research studies, and have arrived at informed assessments of why laws are disregarded. Criminologists’ theories are more empirically sound because they are based on research.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Theory in Social Context

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. How has theory changed with the social context? Give an example from the chapter.

Ans: Social context plays a critical role in nourishing certain ways of theorizing about crime. If the prevailing social context changes and people begin to experience life differently, then there will be a corresponding shift in the way in which they see their world and the people in it. Previous theories of crime will lose their appeal, and other perspectives will increasingly make sense to larger numbers of people. Note that all of this can take place--and, indeed, usually does take place--without systematic analysis of whether the old theory actually was wrong or whether the new theory represents an improvement. Could use any of the theories with support evidence as their example.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Theory in Social Context

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Explain how the social context of the mid-1960s led to the rise of conflict theories.

Ans: Starting in the mid-1960s, however, scholars increasingly sought to identify how conflict and power were inextricably involved in the production of crime and in the inequities found in the criminal justice system. They were influenced by the changing context of American society. During the 1960s and into the 1970s, the United States experienced contentious movements to achieve civil rights and women’s rights. Americans witnessed riots in the street, major political figures assassinated, widespread protests over the Vietnam War culminating with students shot down at Kent State University, and political corruption highlighted most poignantly by the Watergate scandal. These events sensitized a generation of criminologists to social and criminal injustices that compromised the American dream’s promise of equality for all and that led to the abuse of state power. Given this jaundiced view of American society, the new brand of theorizing that they developed was called critical criminology.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Turmoil and the Rise of Critical Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Why are anomie–strain theories, differential association theories, and control theories considered mainstream theories?

Ans: These three theories are sometimes called mainstream criminology. For more than 80 years, they have occupied the center of American criminology. In the aftermath of World War II, they were particularly dominant.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Inventing Criminology: Mainstream Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Describe the theories that arose during the conservative era. What about the social climate of the time that gave rise to these theories?

Ans: Deterrence, rational choice, broken windows, moral poverty, routine activity, environmental--rejecting mainstream and critical criminology. America turned to the political right during the Reagan and Bush years of the 1980s and beyond. During this time, new criminologies emerged claiming that crime was due not to the faults in society but rather to the faults of individuals. To at least some degree, these explanations may be seen as attempts to revitalize--dressed in new language and with more sophisticated evidence--the models of crime that were popular a century ago. These theories vary in their scientific merit, but they are consistent in suggesting that the answer to crime rests largely in harsher sanctions--especially the expanded use of imprisonment--against offenders. In this sense, these theories are best considered *conservative* explanations of crime.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Criminological Theory in the Conservative Era

Difficulty Level: Medium