Chapter 1: The Investigation of Crime

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following was a communication provided by the perpetrators to the police in the Beltway Snipers case?

a. “Roses are red”

b. “I am God”

c. “God is great”

d. “Man am I”

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1-1: Discuss the evidence in the Beltway Sniper investigation and explain how John Muhammad and John Malvo were identified as the perpetrators.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: From the Case File: The Investigation of the Washington D.C., Beltway Snipers

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Key evidence in the Beltway Snipers case that ultimately led to the identification of the perpetrators was \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. fingerprints

b. computer database match

c. DNA

d. eyewitness identification

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1-1: Discuss the evidence in the Beltway Sniper investigation and explain how John Muhammad and John Malvo were identified as the perpetrators.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: From the Case File: The Investigation of the Washington D.C., Beltway Snipers

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Which is NOT one of the most common activities performed in investigations?

a. searching for witnesses and victims

b. interviewing witnesses and victims

c. reading and writing reports

d. patrolling in the community and being on the lookout for crimes

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Stings, decoys, undercover fencing operations, and stakeouts are types of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. undercover investigations

b. reactive investigations

c. initial investigations

d. follow-up investigations

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1-7: Identify the major undercover strategies (stings, decoys, undercover fencing operations).

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Undercover Investigations

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. According to the information theory as it applies to the criminal investigation process, \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. computer technology must be incorporated into criminal investigations

b. the criminal investigation process resembles a battle between the police and the perpetrator over crime-related information

c. all statements made to the media concerning ongoing investigations should come from one designated police official

d. a case screening model should be used in the investigation process in order for the consideration of irrelevant case information

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1-8: Discuss criminal investigations as a battle, as a puzzle, and as a game.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation as a Battle

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. What factor is not a reason why the police solve so “few” crimes?

a. the structure of most crimes

b. the nature of the police response (reactive)

c. police powers limited by law

d. offenders get better committing crimes without being detected

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-10: Describe the extent to which various crimes are solved by the police and explain the reasons why more crimes are not solved.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminal Investigations and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. What is the process of collecting crime-related information in order to reach certain goals?

a. reactive process

b. proactive process

c. criminal investigation

d. case screening

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. When investigating crimes like homicide, robbery, and rape, what type of investigation is typically being conducted?

a. sting

b. proactive

c. reactive

d. forensic

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-5: Identify two different types of criminal investigations (reactive, proactive).

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Reactive Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Which of the following is NOT a stage to reactive criminal investigations?

a. the discovery of the crime and the police response

b. the preliminary or initial investigation

c. The follow-up investigation

d. the adjudication of the defendant

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-6: Define the four stages of the reactive criminal investigation process.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Reactive Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Which of the following is NOT an undercover strategy?

a. sting

b. surveillance

c. front operation

d. decoy

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-7: Identify the major undercover strategies (stings, decoys, undercover fencing operations).

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Undercover Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Why do cases drop out as they progress through the criminal justice system?

a. Some crimes are not reported to or solved by the police.

b. Some crimes are not a police matter.

c. Some crimes are too unimportant to invest time in them.

d. Some crimes would take too long to solve so police decide not to try to solve. them

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1-10: Describe the extent to which various crimes are solved by the police and explain the reasons why more crimes are not solved.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. What are solvability factors?

a. the requirements needed to solve a case

b. the particulars of a case that increase the likelihood of that case being solved

c. the particulars of a case that need to be presented in court

d. the requirements needed to initiate an investigation of a case

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1-5: Identify two different types of criminal investigations (reactive, proactive).

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reactive Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. What is the *ultimate* goal of the criminal investigation process?

a. to reduce crime

b. to solve a crime

c. to convict a perpetrator

d. to satisfy the victim

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1-3: Identify the goals of the criminal investigation process.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. In what situation can a follow-up investigation be conducted?

a. a case not solved during the initial investigation that was screened for solvability factors

b. a case where questionable police actions occurred during the initial investigation

c. a case solved in the initial investigation but the victim was not satisfied with its results

d. a case where police think the wrong person was convicted

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1-6: Define the four stages of the reactive criminal investigation process.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reactive Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. What are the factors police supervisors consider when making the screening decision?

a. the seriousness of the crime

b. the evidence available

c. the number of offenses committed by the perpetrator

d. both the seriousness of the crime and the evidence available

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-6: Define the four stages of the reactive criminal investigation process.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Reactive Investigations

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. A decoy is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the monitoring of a person and the activities in which they participate

b. compelling a person to commit a crime that he or she was not predisposed to committing

c. when an investigator presents an opportunity to attract an offender to commit a crime

d. when an investigator poses as someone willing to participate in an illicit transaction

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-7: Identify the major undercover strategies (stings, decoys, undercover fencing operations).

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Undercover Investigations

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Which of the following is NOT true about confirmation bias?

a. the tendency of people to pay the most attention to information that confirms what they already believe to be true

b. a potential mental error or pitfall made by investigators

c. when all evidence confirms the guilt of a person

d. the tendency of people to pay little attention to information that is contrary to what they already believe to be true

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-9: Explain the role of luck, logic, and inference in criminal investigations and the associated pitfalls.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Mental Mistakes in Criminal Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. What is NOT an example of a mental mistake made in an investigation?

a. the existence of coincidences

b. investigators putting too much trust in unreliable evidence

c. the difficulty of changing one’s mind once it’s been made

d. investigators trust DNA tests

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-9: Explain the role of luck, logic, and inference in criminal investigations and the associated pitfalls.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Mental Mistakes in Criminal Investigations

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. Which is NOT a technique for investigators to avoid mental errors or pitfalls?

a. Keep an open mind about the possibilities of the crime and who committed it.

b. Avoid getting personally invested in a theory about the crime.

c. Be receptive to competing ideas and evidence.

d. Follow the rule that the first person you suspected probably always was the offender.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-9: Explain the role of luck, logic, and inference in criminal investigations and the associated pitfalls.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Mental Mistakes in Criminal Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. What cases are most likely NOT to be solved by the police due to a lack of evidence available?

a. burglaries

b. homicides

c. assaults

d. rape

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1-10: Describe the extent to which various crimes are solved by the police and explain the reasons why more crimes are not solved.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigations and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. All of the following can be seen as problems with evidence in criminal investigations EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. insufficient amount of information is available to follow-up on

b. evidence can be false

c. investigators cannot be sure if a crime was committed

d. investigators might not know initially that this information could be useful for the case

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-4: Discuss the three major problems with evidence in criminal investigations.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Hard

22. Which of the following examples does NOT explain criminal investigations as a Game?

a. The culprit drops his cigarette at the crime scene and therefore leaves his DNA behind.

b. Someone commits a burglary and forgets to erase fingerprints at the crime scene.

c. A subject does not see the surveillance cameras at a parking lot where he stole a car.

d. The subject was able to remove all evidence from the crime scene.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-8: Discuss criminal investigations as a battle, as a puzzle, and as a game.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigations as a Game

Difficulty Level: Hard

23. Why can criminal investigations be seen like a puzzle?

a. It can always be solved if you just take enough time.

b. Because criminal investigations are a game.

c. Criminal investigations should be fun to solve.

d. There are a lot of pieces which need to be put together in order to solve the investigation.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-8: Discuss criminal investigations as a battle, as a puzzle, and as a game.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminal Investigations as a Puzzle

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. According to the text, why do people NOT report crimes?

a. “personal or private matter”

b. “not important enough”

c. “personal or private matter” and “not important enough”

d. “don’t trust the police”

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-9: Explain the role of luck, logic, and inference in criminal investigations and the associated pitfalls.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. A reactive criminal investigation does NOT involve \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. accidental discoveries

b. the collection of evidence

c. decision making and judgments

d. the search for new crimes in communities

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium

# True/False

1. The fact that the police usually have to react to the report of a crime may help explain the inability of the police to solve more crimes.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-10: Describe the extent to which various crimes are solved by the police and explain the reasons why more crimes are not solved.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Identifying the perpetrator is basically the same thing as apprehending the perpetrator.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Luck and good fortune are rarely present in successful criminal investigations.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-9: Explain the role of luck, logic, and inference in criminal investigations and the associated pitfalls.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Role of Chance, Accident and Discovery in Criminal Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Criminal evidence can also be thought of as crime-related information.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. According to the entrapment theory, the criminal investigation process resembles a battle between the police and the perpetrator over crime-related information.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-5: Identify the major undercover strategies.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Undercover Investigations

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. All criminal evidence depends on scientific analysis in order to be meaningful and useful.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Forensicscience refers to the field of scientific study that addresses legal questions.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. The source of all evidence is the perpetrator, according to the information theory.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-8: Discuss criminal investigations as a battle, as a puzzle, and as a game.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation as a Battle

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. It is uncommon for investigators of one crime to discover information leading to another case being solved.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-9: Explain the role of luck, logic, and inference in criminal investigations and the associated pitfalls.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Role of Chance, Accident, and Discovery in Criminal Investigations

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. *CSI* accurately portrays the reality of criminal investigations.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Medium

# Essay

1. Identify and discuss the three potential problems with evidence in criminal investigations.

Ans: Investigators may not know the relevance of the information at the time of collection or if it is even related to the case at hand. Also, the police may be overwhelmed with too much information that they cannot adequately collect, manage, and follow-up on every tip. Lastly, the evidence obtained may not be accurate, like with eyewitness identifications that are persuasive yet problematic.

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Identify and discuss the three goals associated with the criminal investigation process.

Ans: The three goals associated with the criminal investigation process are to solve the crime, to provide evidence in support of a conviction in court, and to provide a level of service to satisfy the victim(s). Students should explain what is needed to solve a crime (crime occurrence, identified perpetrator, and apprehended perpetrator). Students should also note the police’s responsibility to obtain evidence to present to the prosecutor. Lastly, students should explain the importance of public perceptions of the police in discussing the last goal of the criminal investigation process.

Learning Objective: 1-2: Identify the goals of the criminal investigation process

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension.

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. In order to solve a crime, what objectives need to be met?

Ans: In order to solve a crime, investigators must determine that a crime occurred, identify a perpetrator, and apprehend that perpetrator.

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Explain why criminal investigation is so critical to the functioning of the entire criminal justice system.

Ans: All three parts of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections) work to reduce crime through incapacitation or deterrence, but each also has its own specialized function. If one is not functioning properly, then the rest of the system cannot do its job. As criminal investigation is so early in the process, it is critical that the police identify and apprehend perpetrators, so the courts can adjudicate and corrections can punish.

Learning Objective: 1-2: Define criminal investigation, criminal evidence, and forensic science.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation, Evidence, and Forensic Science Defined

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Explain why law enforcement agencies do not solve more crimes than they do. What could be done to improve police success in this regard?

Ans: Law enforcement solves so “few” crimes because of the nature and structure of the crimes, the reactive nature of the police, the police’s responsibility for following laws when collecting evidence, resource constraints under which the police must operate, and the mistakes made by investigators that can cause offenders to get away with their crimes. Students must provide some suggestions to improve police success such as increasing the use of proactive strategies to policing or allocating resources in such a way that they go to proven effective crime-solving tools.

Learning Objective: 1-10: Describe the extent to which various crimes are solved by the police and explain the reasons why more crimes are not solved.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Criminal Investigation and the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium