

1. Describe some common types of false confessions, reasons behind them, and police tactics that lead to a higher incidence of false confessions.
2. What has been the U.S. Supreme Court's position on the use of deception by police during interrogations? How does the use of this technique compare with the use of deception during interrogations in other countries, such as England and Wales? What are some worrisome moral implications of the use of deception by police during interrogations?
3. What are some possible reforms that can be implemented in police interrogation procedures to reduce the risk of false confessions?

Answer Key

1. Main points:

- People falsely confess when they are tired and confused, believe the police interrogators' lies about the strong evidence against them, are young and naïve, or want to end the interrogation and sort out things later.
- Police in the United States use the Reid technique to make suspects feel isolated, a sense of loss of control, and convinced that police are sure of their guilt.
- Police offer exculpatory scenarios to suspects to get them to choose between an understandable, excusable, or even honorable reason for committing the crime and an immoral or depraved reason, while never considering the option of innocence.

2. Main points:

- In the United States, police are allowed to use a wide range of creative ploys and lies when interrogating suspects. Short of promising the suspect a reduced sentence, police can lie about the existence of physical evidence, eyewitness testimony, expert opinions, polygraph tests, etc.
- In England and Wales, the PACE act was passed that prohibits police from deceiving suspects and mandates the necessity of recording interrogations. Despite the reduced trickery by police, the rate of confessions elicited during interrogations remains the same.
- If it permissible for police to lie during interrogations, they may feel it is acceptable to lying in other contexts, such as on the witness stand. This could undermine public confidence in the police and people's willingness to cooperate with police voluntarily.

3. Main points:

Experts suggested the following remedies to reduce false confessions:

- video recording of interrogations (including recordings from different angles and from the suspect's perspective),
- time limits on interrogations,
- having adult guardians present during the interrogation of minors or other vulnerable suspects, and
- having experts testify in court about interrogation techniques and false confessions.

1. The ultimate goal of questioning suspects is to:
 - A) elicit a confession.
 - B) define parameters for search.
 - C) determine best search techniques.
 - D) provide a basis for DNA analysis.

2. According to the textbook, police prefer a confession because:
 - A) interrogators have a chance to practice their skills.
 - B) confessions save time.
 - C) confessions guarantee a conviction in court.
 - D) suspects are relieved after admitting to crime.

3. According to research studies described in the text, mock jurors who reported that they disregarded the confession as clearly coerced were _____ likely to convict the defendant.
 - A) somewhat less
 - B) significantly less
 - C) still more
 - D) not more

4. Research by Kassin and his colleagues has shown that even when _____ had no problem recognizing that a confession was coerced, they still voted _____ more often.
 - A) police; not guilty
 - B) jurors; not guilty
 - C) police; guilty
 - D) jurors; guilty

5. Research shows that:
 - A) it is easy for jurors to discount or ignore a confession when told it is false.
 - B) it is very difficult for jurors to discount a confession, even when told it is false.
 - C) jurors can forget the confession if told by the judge that it is false.
 - D) None of the above statements are true.

6. According to studies, which form of evidence is most incriminating (likely to lead to conviction)?
 - A) Eyewitness testimony.
 - B) Expert testimony.
 - C) Confession.
 - D) DNA analysis.

7. When a confession exists, juries _____ come back with a conviction.
- A) never
 - B) seldom
 - C) sometimes
 - D) very often
8. The tendency to attribute others' behavior to dispositional causes such as personality is referred to as:
- A) fundamental attribution error.
 - B) functional fixedness.
 - C) frustration–aggression hypothesis.
 - D) false memory syndrome.
9. Even though a _____ may rule that a confession is inadmissible because it was coerced, such rulings are _____.
- A) jury; common
 - B) judge; common
 - C) jury; rare
 - D) judge; rare
10. Research in the field of social psychology has discovered that people tend to _____ the impact of situational forces, and this process is responsible for believing that suspects in police custody would _____ to the crime they did not commit.
- A) overestimate; confess
 - B) overestimate; not confess
 - C) disregard; confess
 - D) disregard; not confess
11. During interrogation of a suspect, openly physical brutality was _____ prior to 1930.
- A) rarely used
 - B) sometimes approved
 - C) generally avoided
 - D) frequently used

12. After the publication of the *Report on Lawlessness in Law Enforcement* in 1931, changes in legislation resulted in the move from _____ physical abuse to _____ forms of abuse.
- A) overt; covert
 - B) covert; overt
 - C) simple; complex
 - D) complex; simple
13. Beginning in the 1960s, confessions have been generally ruled inadmissible if they resulted from the following forms of coercion EXCEPT:
- A) physical abuse or threats of violence.
 - B) depriving the suspect of sleep and food.
 - C) vague promises of leniency at sentencing.
 - D) explicit promises of immunity from prosecution.
14. A robbery suspect is apprehended and being read his Miranda rights by the police woman arresting him. The suspect is most likely to _____ his Miranda rights.
- A) exercise
 - B) waive
 - C) remember
 - D) enjoy
15. All of the following are possible explanations for waiving the Miranda rights, EXCEPT:
- A) the suspect may not understand his or her rights clearly.
 - B) people are used to signing waivers or various kinds.
 - C) police are very careful in explaining to suspects their rights.
 - D) people do not want to create an impression they are guilty.
16. Daniela was _____ and she waived her Miranda rights during arrest, and decided to tell the police her side of the story without waiting for an attorney. The most likely reason she did that is because she has _____.
- A) innocent; nothing to hide
 - B) guilty; something to hide
 - C) guilty; no reason to worry
 - D) afraid; no reason to worry

17. Utilization of a team approach to interrogation is often referred to as:
- A) tagging.
 - B) good cop-bad cop approach.
 - C) misunderstanding.
 - D) ambiguous interrogation.
18. Michelle is in custody and being interrogated. One of the police officers is being nice and tries to empathize with her while the other one glares at her and accuses her of committing the crime because of her greed. The behavior of the police officers is an example of:
- A) providing a sense of control.
 - B) convincing Michelle that there is no proof of her guilt.
 - C) playing “good cop–bad cop.”
 - D) establishing a sense of social isolation.
19. Miranda rights are intended to notify the suspect of the following rights EXCEPT for the right to:
- A) remain silent.
 - B) have an attorney present.
 - C) have an attorney provided.
 - D) remain in custody.
20. Hugo is interrogated alone and told repeatedly that his guilt is corroborated by both physical evidence and eyewitness accounts. This approach most likely embodies the following strategy used by police during Hugo's interrogation:
- A) sense of loss of control and entitlement.
 - B) autonomous perspective and certainty of guilt.
 - C) social isolation and certainty of guilt.
 - D) loss of control and autonomous perspective.
21. Police may use a variety of evidence ploys during interrogation. This is possible because:
- A) police cannot lie during interrogation.
 - B) police can lie during interrogation.
 - C) suspects can lie during interrogation.
 - D) suspects cannot lie during interrogation.

22. The purpose of exculpatory scenarios is to:
- A) provide various possible reasons for the crime to have been committed.
 - B) increase probability of admission of guilt through offering a justification for actions.
 - C) reduce confusing circumstances, so an admission of guilt is easier to produce.
 - D) maximize the importance of the suspect's reason for committing the crime.
23. The Reid technique is _____ used by police when questioning suspects. Establishing a sense of loss of control as part of this technique makes suspects feel _____.
- A) rarely; vulnerable
 - B) often; empowered
 - C) rarely; empowered
 - D) often; vulnerable
24. False confessions may occur as a result of:
- A) intimidation.
 - B) deception.
 - C) fatigue.
 - D) All of these may lead to false confessions.
25. Of all of the traits that can be defined as vulnerability to making a false confession, the most dangerous vulnerability is:
- A) youth.
 - B) mental illness.
 - C) low intelligence.
 - D) high aggression.
26. All of the following traits can be defined as vulnerability to making a false confession, EXCEPT:
- A) youth.
 - B) mental illness.
 - C) low intelligence.
 - D) high aggression.
27. According to the text, all of the following statements are true, EXCEPT:
- A) it may be impossible to know what percentage of all confessions are false.
 - B) studies prove that false confessions are extremely rare.
 - C) proven false confessions are only a small portion of all false confessions.
 - D) studies show that about 25% of wrongful convictions involve false confessions.

28. As a result of a long, drawn out interrogation process, Kathryn confessed to a crime knowing that she did not commit it. This type of confession is called an:
- A) authentic-voluntary confession.
 - B) instrumental-coerced confession.
 - C) authentic-coerced confession.
 - D) instrumental-voluntary confession.
29. Jeremy purposely confessed to a crime he did not commit to cover for his wife. This type of confession is referred to as an:
- A) instrumental-coerced confession.
 - B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
 - C) authentic-coerced confession.
 - D) authentic-voluntary confession.
30. All of the following is true about the use of torture in interrogations, EXCEPT:
- A) there is no direct research on the effectiveness of torture.
 - B) torture-based interrogations are likely to increase false confessions.
 - C) there is clear research evidence that torture leads to extracting useful information.
 - D) people who claim that “torture works” offer only anecdotal evidence to prove their point.
31. After an intense interrogation process, Matthew became convinced that he robbed the store. This form of false confession is called an:
- A) instrumental-voluntary confession.
 - B) instrumental-coerced confession.
 - C) authentic-voluntary confession.
 - D) authentic-coerced confession.
32. Jillian had often suffered from a delusional behavior disorder. When brought in for questioning, she quickly confessed to a crime that she had taken no part in. The term used for this type of false confession is an:
- A) instrumental-voluntary confession.
 - B) authentic-voluntary confession.
 - C) instrumental-coerced confession.
 - D) authentic-coerced confession.

33. In the United Kingdom, Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) was enacted to make it illegal to trick suspects or to lie for the purpose of coercing suspects to confess. Studies show that _____, suspects are _____ likely to admit guilt.
- A) along with the decline of pressure tactics and trickery; less
 - B) despite the decline of pressure tactics and trickery; just as
 - C) despite the decline of pressure tactics and trickery; more
 - D) along with the increase of pressure tactics and trickery; just as
34. Shane was involved in a highly charged court case. His job was to provide an overview of research to assist the jury in making a well-informed decision regarding the suspect, in particular, in regard to the suspect's confession. Shane was called in to serve in what capacity?
- A) Special contributor to the court.
 - B) Expert witness.
 - C) Crime scene investigator.
 - D) Clinical psychologist.

Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. D
10. D
11. D
12. A
13. C
14. B
15. C
16. A
17. B
18. C
19. D
20. C
21. B
22. B
23. D
24. D
25. A
26. D
27. B
28. B
29. B
30. C
31. D
32. B
33. B
34. B

1. All of the following are valid reasons for police to prefer confessions to other types of evidence. The only EXCEPTION is that:
 - A) confessions make gathering other evidence less critical.
 - B) juries almost always convict defendants who have confessed to committing a crime.
 - C) confessions mean the person is guilty of the crime they confessed to committing.
 - D) lengthy trials can be avoided because a confession is likely to lead to a plea deal.

2. In the case of *Colorado v. Connelly* (1986), Supreme Court Justice Brennan considered _____ to be the strongest piece of evidence in a trial.
 - A) eyewitness testimony
 - B) scientific evidence
 - C) a confession
 - D) the defendant's prior record

3. Studies show that when jurors clearly understand that the confession was coerced, they:
 - A) are still more likely to convict the defendant.
 - B) discount the confession and tend to acquit the defendant.
 - C) take more time to deliberate and sometimes don't reach a verdict.
 - D) break the rules and talk to the press.

4. The fundamental attribution error, or the tendency to attribute other people's behavior to dispositional forces rather than situational pressures, is evident in the following scenario:
 - A) Colin often lies and so it is surprising that he told the truth about stealing the bicycle.
 - B) The weather was terrible and so the burglar decided not to use the fire escape.
 - C) Matthias was very tired and that is why he has quit the competition mid-way through.
 - D) The robber stumbled because he was clumsy and not because the road was slippery.

5. What was traditionally called "the third degree" refers to:
 - A) interrogation tactics that included direct physical violence.
 - B) interrogation tactics that used purely psychological means of coercion.
 - C) the good cop–bad cop approach.
 - D) having three officers present during an interrogation.

6. The ruling by a judge that a confession is inadmissible because it was coerced is:
- A) common.
 - B) illegal.
 - C) rare.
 - D) poor.
7. Confessions are generally ruled inadmissible for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
- A) lying by the police during interrogations.
 - B) promises of lenient sentences.
 - C) the use of physical force and threats of violence.
 - D) sleep or food deprivation.
8. In the United States, all of the following interrogation techniques are legal EXCEPT:
- A) telling the suspect that he will get a reduced sentence if he confesses to the crime.
 - B) assembling a phony lineup and telling the suspect he was identified by a witness.
 - C) holding the suspect in a cell without visitors or phone calls for 16 days.
 - D) having an informant pose as an inmate to the suspect offering protection from other inmates for a confession.
9. The main goal of applying the Reid technique during interrogations is to:
- A) make suspect feel guilty about the crime he committed.
 - B) offer the suspect some possible excuses for the crime.
 - C) elicit a full confession from the suspect.
 - D) find out more information about the crime.
10. Which of the following is NOT an example of an exculpatory scenario?
- A) "Did you plan this, or did it just happen on the spur of the moment?"
 - B) "Was this your own idea or did someone talk you into it?"
 - C) "I'm sure you took the money to help your family."
 - D) "Have you done this type of thing before?"
11. According to researchers, the most significant individual vulnerability in cases involving false confessions is:
- A) mental illness.
 - B) youth.
 - C) old age.
 - D) physical disability.

12. If a man falsely claims to have committed a crime to cover up an affair, he would be making an:
- A) instrumental-coerced confession.
 - B) instrumental-voluntary confession.
 - C) authentic-coerced confession.
 - D) authentic-voluntary confession.
13. After a long interrogation, an innocent suspect comes to believe he has committed a crime despite having no memory of doing so. His interrogators have told him that he must have either "blacked out" during the commission of the crime or "repressed" his memory because the experience was so traumatic. His subsequent confession would be classified as an:
- A) instrumental-coerced false confession.
 - B) instrumental-voluntary false confession.
 - C) authentic-coerced false confession.
 - D) authentic-voluntary false confession.
14. Which of the following is NOT presented in Chapter 2 as a potential solution to the problem of false confessions?
- A) Video recording of interrogations.
 - B) Retraining police departments on interrogation procedures.
 - C) Setting time limits on interrogations.
 - D) Having expert testimony on interrogations and confessions.
15. Research by Lassiter and colleagues had people evaluate a confession from three camera angles: showing suspect only, interrogator only, and both interrogator and suspect. It was found that:
- A) the camera angles had no effect on the evaluation of the confession.
 - B) in the interrogator only angle, the confession was rated as much less coerced.
 - C) in the interrogator and suspect angle, the confession was rated as much less coerced.
 - D) in the suspect only angle, the confession was rated as much less coerced.

Answer Key

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. C
10. D
11. B
12. B
13. C
14. B
15. D