

Introduction to Criminology: A Text/Reader - Section 01 – Introduction and Overview of Crime and Criminology

Introduction to Criminology: A Text/Reader
Section 1 – Introduction and Overview of Crime and Criminology

Multiple Choice

1. _____ is an interdisciplinary science that gathers and analyzes data on crime and criminal behavior.
- A. Criminology
 - B. Theory
 - C. Sociology
 - D. Law

Answer: A

2. Criminologists use what is known as the _____ to try to answer the questions they ask rather than simply speculate about the questions.
- A. Scientific procedure
 - B. Scientific method
 - C. Technique of natural science
 - D. Observational analysis

Answer: B

3. Universally condemned crimes are known as _____.
- A. *Mala in se*
 - B. *Mala prohibita*
 - C. *Actus reus*
 - D. *Mens rea*

Answer: A

4. Crimes that are time and culture bound are described as _____.
- A. *Mala in se*
 - B. *Mala prohibita*
 - C. *Actus reus*
 - D. *Mens rea*

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Answer: B

5. 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

Answer: C

6. A(n) _____ is as set of logically interconnected propositions explaining how phenomena are related.

- A. Theory
- B. Hypothesis
- C. Ideology
- D. Policy

Answer: A

7. _____ are specific statements about the relationships that we expect to find between and among factors.

- A. Theories
- B. Hypotheses
- C. Educated guesses
- D. Formulations

Answer: B

8. _____ is a way of looking at the world, a general emotional picture of “how things should be.”

- A. Theory
- B. Ideology
- C. Vision
- D. Analysis

Answer: B

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9. During the Progressive Era (from about 1890 to 1920), _____ became the primary disciplinary home of criminology.
- A. Biology
 - B. Psychology
 - C. Sociology
 - D. Theology

Answer: C

10. Driving twenty-six (26) miles per hour in an area where the speed limit is twenty-five (25) miles per hour would best be described as an act:
- A. *Mala in se*.
 - B. *Mala prohibita*.
 - C. Of overcriminalization.
 - D. Of felonious proportions.

Answer: B

11. Laws tend to:
- A. Remain relatively stable across cultures and through time.
 - B. Be stable across cultures, but fluctuate over time.
 - C. Vary across cultures, but within a particular society tend to be stable over time.
 - D. Vary by time and across different cultures.

Answer: D

12. The _____ school of thought emphasizes human rationality and free will in its explanations of criminal behavior.
- A. Biosocial
 - B. Classical
 - C. Positivist
 - D. Psychological

Answer: B

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13. Lombroso's theory of the "born criminal" was aligned with which school of thought?

- A. Biosocial
- B. Classical
- C. Positivist
- D. Psychological

Answer: C

14. Sociology became the "home discipline" for criminology during the _____ era.

- A. Civil Rights
- B. Industrial
- C. Progressive
- D. Renaissance

Answer: C

15. When two factors are *correlates*, it means that:

- 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.

Answer: B

16. According to Thomas Sowell's typology, those who have a/an _____ believe that human activities are restricted by an innate human nature that is self-centered and largely unalterable.

- A. Classical vision
- B. Constrained vision
- C. Phrenological vision
- D. Unconstrained vision

Answer: B

17. According to Thomas Sowell's typology, those who have a/an _____ vision deny an innate human nature, viewing human activities as formed anew in each different culture.

- A. Classical vision
- B. Constrained vision

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- C. Phrenological vision
- D. Unconstrained vision

Answer: D

18. According to John Hagan, which of the following criteria helps us differentiate between “real” crimes and those which are arbitrary and socially constructed?

- A. Consensus
- B. Harm
- C. Severity
- D. All of the Above

Answer: D

19. The belief that science can provide answers for everything is most characteristic of the _____ school of thought.

- A. Ideological
- B. Positivist
- C. Progressive
- D. Renaissance

Answer: B

20. Which of the following 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

Answer: D

21. _____ criminologists tend to believe that the only real cause of crime is capitalism.

- A. Atavist
- B. Marxist
- C. Positivist
- D. Classical

Answer: B

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22. The analysis of brain scans and DNA in order to better understand crime is the most representative of the _____ approach to criminology.

- A. Biosocial
- B. Classical
- C. Positivist
- D. Psychological

Answer: A

23. In the eyes of the law, a person reneging on a contract is handled as a _____ .

- A. Criminal violation.
- B. Private wrong.
- C. Social construction.
- D. Socially harmful act.

Answer: B

24. In assessing the merits of a theory, the most important criterion is _____ .

- A. Predictive accuracy
- B. Predictive scope
- C. Simplicity
- D. Falsifiability

Answer: A

25. Cesare Lombroso's concept of the "born criminal" is also known as his theory of _____ .

- A. Atavism
- B. Ideal types
- C. Phrenology
- D. Somatotypes

Answer: A

26. A theory's _____ is assessed by how much of the empirical world falls under its explanatory umbrella relative to other theories.

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- A. Predictive accuracy
- B. Predictive scope
- C. Simplicity
- D. Falsifiability

Answer: B

27. A theory is never entirely proven true, but it must have the quality of:

- A. Predictive accuracy.
- B. Predictive scope.
- C. Simplicity.
- D. Falsifiability.

Answer: D

True/False

1. True or False? Criminology is an interdisciplinary field.

Answer: True

2. True or False? What constitutes a crime can be defined in and out of existence by courts and legislators.

Answer: True

3. True or False? Criminality is a trait that is displayed by some individuals, but not by others.

Answer: False

4. True or False? While theories are interesting to consider, they are often impractical, as they tend to be used to explain phenomena in the absence of any solid, practical evidence.

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Answer: False

5. True or False? The unconstrained vision denies the existence of an innate human nature, instead holding that human nature is formed anew in each different culture.

Answer: True

6. True or False? Prostitution is an act that would be considered *mala in se*.

Answer: False

7. True or False? Questions of cause and effect should be answered at the same level of analysis at which they were posed.

Answer: True

8. True or False? A hypothesis is best described as a set of interconnected propositions that explain how phenomena are related.

Answer: False

9. True or False? “Criminality” is a legal term.

Answer: False

10. True or False? *Mala in se* crimes tend to arouse the most intense emotional responses, because they trigger a sense of threat to our survival.

Answer: True

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11. True or False? The classical school emphasizes the ability of science to provide answers for everything.

Answer: False

12. True or False? The 1990s and early 2000s witnessed a strong resurgence of critical theories of criminology, such as Marxism.

Answer: False

13. True or False? The harm caused by crime has proven easy to quantify.

Answer: False

14. True or False? The vast majority of socially harmful acts are regulated by criminal law.

Answer: False

15. True or False? The role of human judgment in determining what is categorized as “crime” renders the category arbitrary.

Answer: False

Short Answer

1. Explain the difference between *mala in se* and *mala prohibita*.

Answer: *Mala in se* crimes are considered “inherently bad,” while *mala prohibita* refers to crimes that are time and culture bound.

2. Briefly explain how the concept of “criminality” differs from legal definitions of who is “criminal.”

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Answer: Criminality is a clinical or scientific term that can be defined independently of legal definitions; it is essentially a trait which varies on a continuum.

3. Briefly contrast the *constrained vision* of human nature with the *unconstrained vision* of human nature.

Answer: Those with a constrained vision of human nature see human activities as constrained by an innate human nature that is self-centered and largely unalterable. Those with an unconstrained vision view human nature as being formed anew in each different culture, and perceive human nature to be perfectible.

4. Provide two examples of acts that would be considered *mala in se*.

Answer: Examples: Murder, rape, robbery.

5. Provide two examples of acts that would be considered *mala prohibita*.

Answer: Examples: Prostitution, drug dealing.

6. Briefly explain the concept of correlation. How do we know if two factors are correlates?

Answer: Correlates are factors that co-vary—when one variable changes, the other does as well. Correlation does not necessarily indicate causation.

7. Define “ideology.”

Answer: A way of looking at the world—a general emotional picture of “how things should be.”

8. Define “theory.”

Answer: A set of logically interconnected propositions explaining how phenomena are related and from which a number of hypotheses can be derived and tested. Theories help us make sense of seemingly unrelated facts and propositions.

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Essay

1. Explain the role that ideology plays in shaping criminological theory. Is it possible to formulate or evaluate theories without ideology playing a role? Defend your response.
2. Provide an overview of some of the major historical developments of criminological theory. Be sure to identify and describe at least three of the main eras or schools of thought from the history of criminology.
3. In criminological/sociological study, what are some of the limitations to defining “crime” as only those actions in violation of criminal law? Do you feel that criminologists should limit their study in this way? Support your response.
4. Discuss the significance of criminological theory in shaping criminal justice policies.