

Exam

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.**

- 1) In the 1830s, major East Coast US cities: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) Saw a major drop in violent crime.  
B) Saw a slight drop in crime committed by women.  
C) Were plagued by mob violence.  
D) Were plagued by juvenile delinquency.
- 2) Democratic theory suggests that: 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) Policy decisions by public officials should reflect public opinion.  
B) Courts should base their sentencing on public opinion.  
C) Democratic countries have higher crime rates than dictatorships.  
D) Whenever possible, police should hold public meetings on policy decisions.
- 3) Which of the following is one of the reasons many people may have an unrealistic view of crime? 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) Media overdramatization B) Lack of access to crime data  
C) Poor FBI crime data D) Inaccurate textbooks
- 4) When the media suddenly overemphasizes even a small number of crimes, it may create the impression of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) Crime valley B) Deviance cluster  
C) Crime wave D) Deviance surge
- 5) Media overreporting of crime tends to focus on: 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) Homicide B) Arson C) Robbery D) Kidnapping
- 6) Which of the following are overrepresented in television and news reports regarding crime? 6) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) African-Americans and Latinos B) Whites and Latinos  
C) Women and youths D) African-Americans and the elderly
- 7) Approximately what percentage of youths is arrested annually for violent crime? 7) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) 5 B) 18 C) 31 D) 1
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ are those who might be considered innocent, or having been "in the wrong place at the wrong time." 8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- A) Tactical victims B) Tentative targets  
C) Fatal targets D) Virtuous victims
- 9) In regards to media coverage, which of the following has been identified as contributing to providing the public with a misleading picture of the crime problem? 9) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) Reporters adequately presenting both sides of the story  
B) Reporters tending to utilize expert opinion for background presented in the crime story  
C) Reporters failing to provide the social and/or historical context for the information presented in the crime story  
D) Reporters accounting for changes in the population
- 10) Which of the following is an effect of media coverage? 10) \_\_\_\_\_  
A) A decrease in democratic influence on public policy

- B) A decreased public fear of crime
- C) A greater public concern for addressing the root causes of crime such as poverty
- D) Greater public ignorance of actual crime trends

11) While its use was actually declining in the 1980s, news stories about \_\_\_\_\_ gave the public the impression that it had become an epidemic. 11) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Marijuana use
- B) Crack cocaine use
- C) Juvenile DUI/D) Gun-related crime

12) In general, which of the following gets the least amount of media coverage? 12) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Sexual assault
- B) Armed robbery
- C) White-collar crime
- D) Homicide

13) Which of the following is a structural factor that contributes to fear of crime? 13) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Low levels of social integration
- B) High number of television news programs
- C) Higher income levels
- D) Homogenous neighborhoods

14) Which of the following structural factors contributes to an increased fear of crime in big cities? 14) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) A high proportion of elderly
- B) A high percentage of White citizens
- C) A high proportion of people of color
- D) A high percentage of teenagers

15) Which of the following helps explain a higher fear of crime among African-Americans and Latinos? 15) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) African-Americans and Latinos are more likely to live in large cities.
- B) Whites are less likely to go out at night.
- C) African-Americans and Latinos are more likely to live in rural areas.
- D) Whites are more likely to install security systems.

16) Which of the following groups has the greatest fear of "walking alone at night"? 16) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) White men
- B) African-American men
- C) Asian women
- D) Latina women

17) Which of the following is a consequence of fear of crime? 17) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) The building of more prisons
- B) Greater spending on public schools
- C) An increase in military spending
- D) Decreased sentences for drug crimes

18) In general, \_\_\_\_\_ tend to hold more punitive views than others. 18) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Minorities
- B) Religious fundamentalists
- C) Women
- D) Juveniles

19) Based on the following characteristics, who would most likely support the use of the death penalty? 19) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Older, Latino male
- B) Younger, Latina female
- C) Older, conservative White male
- D) Younger, African-American female

20) Which of the following groups has a more negative view of police? 20) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Women
- B) African-Americans and Latinos
- C) Whites
- D) Native Americans

21) Of the following, which is an area with general agreement among all groups? 21) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Crime seriousness    B) Views about crime spending  
C) Perceptions of criminal injustice    D) Punitiveness

22) When given an option, Americans tend to prefer:    22) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) The use of boot camps for juvenile offenders  
B) An increase in the application of the death penalty  
C) Incarceration as the primary sentencing option  
D) Criminal justice spending on prevention and treatment

23) One theme stands out among public beliefs about crime and criminal justice. Which of the following statements reflects that theme?    23) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Americans are most divided in opinion depending upon the state in which they live.  
B) Americans do not allow news articles to shape their opinions.  
C) Americans are divided along the lines of race and ethnicity, social class, gender and age.  
D) Americans have almost universal agreement about the criminal justice system.

24) Which of the following groups has often been the subject of distorted treatment in media coverage?    24) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) White males    B) Homeless  
C) Racial and ethnic minorities    D) Wealthy women

25) While they are least likely to be victims of crime, \_\_\_\_\_ have a high fear of crime.    25) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Women    B) African-Americans  
C) Elderly    D) Juveniles

**TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.**

26) The media tends to overdramatize crime.    26) \_\_\_\_\_

27) Most arrests eventually end with the accused going to a jury trial.    27) \_\_\_\_\_

28) The saying, "if it bleeds it leads" suggests the media overreports violent crime.    28) \_\_\_\_\_

29) Juveniles commit more crime than adults.    29) \_\_\_\_\_

30) Crime victims come from all walks of life.    30) \_\_\_\_\_

31) Most violent crime is committed by friends or intimates.    31) \_\_\_\_\_

32) The public often thinks crime is rising when it is actually falling.    32) \_\_\_\_\_

33) The media often obscure the underlying causes of crime.    33) \_\_\_\_\_

34) The media overreports on white-collar crime.    34) \_\_\_\_\_

35) The media reinforces negative stereotypes about whites' criminal tendencies.    35) \_\_\_\_\_

36) Fear of crime is generally lower in dilapidated neighborhoods.    36) \_\_\_\_\_

37) People in rural areas are more afraid to walk alone at night than urban dwellers.    37) \_\_\_\_\_

38) Fear of crime strengthens social ties within a community.    38) \_\_\_\_\_

39) Most demographic subgroups generally agree on crime seriousness. 39) \_\_\_\_\_

40) Whites are more likely to have a negative experience with police. 40) \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.**

41) Criminal \_\_\_\_\_ may contribute to tension between minorities and the police. 41) \_\_\_\_\_

42) Democratic theory suggests decisions by public officials should reflect public \_\_\_\_\_. 42) \_\_\_\_\_

43) The media overdramatizes crime through crime \_\_\_\_\_. 43) \_\_\_\_\_

44) 1.5 to 2.5 million \_\_\_\_\_ are reported missing each year. 44) \_\_\_\_\_

45) News media gives more attention to who they deem innocent or \_\_\_\_\_ victims. 45) \_\_\_\_\_

46) Overreporting violent offenses raises the public's \_\_\_\_\_ of crime. 46) \_\_\_\_\_

47) Watching \_\_\_\_\_ may increase fear of crime. 47) \_\_\_\_\_

48) Individual \_\_\_\_\_ include demographic variables such as age, gender and race impact a person's fear of crime.  
48) \_\_\_\_\_

49) \_\_\_\_\_ factors, that impact fear of crime, focus on community characteristics such as the living conditions of neighborhoods. 49) \_\_\_\_\_

50) How "tough on crime" the public is can be a measure of \_\_\_\_\_. 50) \_\_\_\_\_

**MATCHING. Choose the item in column 2 that best matches each item in column 1.**

Match the key words or phrases with the associated phrase.

51)

52)

53)

54)

55)

56)

57)

58)

crime myths

crime waves

democratic theory

fear of crime

news media

overdramatization

racial prejudice

sentencing preferences

A)

B)

C)

D)

when media suddenly devotes much attention to a small number of crimes creating a false impression that crime is rampant

influences society's cultural beliefs regarding value on human life and personal property, and affects penalties stipulated by legislators on crime

false beliefs concerning crime and criminal justice

community characteristics such as social integration, quality of living conditions, and various demographic variables in neighborhoods

51)

52)

53)

54)

55)

56)

57)

58)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

59)

seriousness of crime

60)

structural factors

E)

F)

exaggeration and misrepresentation of crime that influences public perspectives

resource that often portrays crimes in disproportionate ways that arouses public concern

59)

60)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

G) shows popular consensus perspectives on crime and society and indicates views in public punitiveness that may influence making policies

H) a growing body of research addressing the nature and sources of public attitudes about crime

I) policy decisions by public officials should reflect and consider public opinion

J) influences public opinion on punitiveness and crime on the basis of color

**ESSAY. Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.**

61) What do scholars mean when they suggest that the news media do, in fact, overdramatize crime?

62) Explain what structural factors are and what role they play in creating criminogenic environments.

63) Explain why people of different races, ages and social class may have different opinions about the police.

64) Watch a complete televised news cast. Keep track of the stories, and write a summary of your findings. How much time was spent on crime stories? Did you notice any myths being presented? Were the pieces presented in an objective manner?

65) Public punitiveness does impact the criminal justice system. Discuss why public punitiveness is important to the criminal justice system.

- 1) C
- 2) A
- 3) A
- 4) C
- 5) A
- 6) A
- 7) D
- 8) D
- 9) C
- 10) D
- 11) B
- 12) C
- 13) A
- 14) C
- 15) A
- 16) D
- 17) A
- 18) B
- 19) C
- 20) B
- 21) A
- 22) D
- 23) C
- 24) C
- 25) C
- 26) TRUE
- 27) FALSE
- 28) TRUE
- 29) FALSE
- 30) TRUE
- 31) TRUE
- 32) TRUE
- 33) TRUE
- 34) FALSE
- 35) FALSE
- 36) FALSE
- 37) FALSE
- 38) FALSE
- 39) TRUE
- 40) FALSE
- 41) Injustice
- 42) Opinion
- 43) Waves
- 44) Children
- 45) Virtuous
- 46) Fear
- 47) TV
- 48) Characteristics
- 49) Structural
- 50) Punitiveness

- 51) C
- 52) A
- 53) I
- 54) H
- 55) F
- 56) E
- 57) J
- 58) G
- 59) B
- 60) D

61) Scholars contend that the media often overdramatize crime by creating the impression of crime waves and focusing too much attention or over reporting on uncommon crimes such as serial killings. The media may also focus on racial and ethnic minorities, portray youth violence disproportionately, show the victims as virtuous, use value-laden language, present misleading data, neglect white-collar crime, and omit the historical or social context in the crime story.

62) Structural factors focuses on community characteristics such as the level of social integration (e.g., how well people know their neighbors), the quality of the living conditions of a neighborhood (e.g., are there many abandoned buildings), and the proportion of minorities. These areas, generally, have a high fear of crime.

63) African-Americans and Latinos are more likely than whites to have negative experiences with the police (e.g., being stopped or insulted by police). Second, they are also more likely to live in high-crime neighborhoods where police—citizen relations are contentious. Younger and poorer people also hold more negative views of police.

64) Answers will vary, but the responses should include many issues discussed in the first half of this chapter.

65) Answers will vary. Americans want punishment, as well as rehabilitation for criminals. There is variance regarding the length of punishment and capital punishment when comparing whites to minorities. Public opinion can be used to sway the politicians, prosecutors, judges, and legislature who all influence and determine sentences. Public support for harsher sentencing that is motivated by racial prejudice is inappropriate.