

Department of Justice, Law and Criminology
Master's Comprehensive Examination
[Justice and Public Policy]
June 26, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any **two** of the following four questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law, and/or other sources. Label each answer by number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages. You have three hours in which to complete this examination.

1. The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing recently issued its interim report to President Barack Obama. Among the recommendations were several that focused on the need for American police to embrace the concepts of procedural justice and legitimacy. Please define these two terms and outline the research evidence on their effects. In your response, make sure to summarize the implications of procedural justice and legitimacy for why people obey the law and why people choose to defy the law.
2. After leaving prison, ex-offenders tend to have tangential connections to households, political rights, and the labor market. If you were the person in charge of getting prisoners ready to re-enter society, how would you prepare your current prison population for reintegration.
3. In the 1970s criminologists were providing primarily "bad news" about criminal justice interventions. "Nothing works" was a common refrain of criminologists at the time. However, by the late 1990s a very different tone could be found in criminological circles. Indeed, in the Maryland Report, it was found that about two thirds of the studies examined reported a positive crime prevention outcome. What do you think accounts for the dramatic changes in what criminological research in these two periods tell us about criminal justice interventions? Please focus your answer on one area of criminal justice.
4. The sentence of "life without the possibility of parole" (LWOP) is sometimes referred to as "America's other death penalty." Assess the validity of this claim in light of the empirical literature on punishment. Should LWOP replace the death penalty? Should these punishments co-exist as examples of extreme sanctions? Explain your answer.

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[Terrorism and Security Policy]
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1. Is terrorism a distinct form of political violence? Or is it simply one tactic among many used by groups and individuals that perpetuate political violence? Support your answer with evidence from the relevant literature.
2. What are the threats that emanate from the growth of the so-called Islamic State? Which ones should be a top priority for the US government? Keeping academic research in mind, explain how to counter these threats.
3. What data provide the basis for our knowledge of terrorism? How valid and reliable are those data? Please cite the relevant literature to support your response.
4. What role should targeted killings play in US counterterrorism efforts? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the use of this counterterrorism tactic, drawing on the literature. Then select one terrorist group that poses a threat to the US and discuss whether targeted strikes should be part of the US government strategy against it.