

Chapter 2—The Nature of Crime

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. According to the _____ view of crime, behaviors that become crimes are essentially harmful to a majority of citizens and therefore there is general agreement regarding which behaviors need to be controlled.
- A. Conflict
 - B. Interactionist
 - C. Consensus
 - D. Constructionist

ANS: C REF: p. 41 OBJ: 1

2. Which of the following crimes is **not** included in the Uniform Crime Report's list of Part I or index crimes?
- A. Criminal homicide
 - B. Motor vehicle theft
 - C. Simple assault
 - D. Arson

ANS: C REF: p. 49 OBJ: 3

3. Which of the following is a public order crime?
- A. Prostitution
 - B. Embezzlement
 - C. Domestic violence
 - D. Hate speech

ANS: A REF: p. 45-46 OBJ: 2

4. Since 1995, the number of arrests for prostitution has:
- A. Increased significantly
 - B. Decreased
 - C. Remained stable
 - D. Increased slightly

ANS: B REF: p. 46 OBJ: 2

5. Which of the following is considered official crime data collected by the FBI?
- A. National Crime Victimization Survey
 - B. Self-report surveys
 - C. Uniform Crime Report
 - D. Bureau of Justice Statistics

ANS: C REF: p. 48-49 OBJ: 3

6. Which crime listed below is **not** reported in Part I or Part II of the offense section of the UCR?
- A. Drug offenses
 - B. Traffic violations
 - C. Liquor law violations
 - D. Sex offenses

ANS: B REF: p. 49 OBJ:3

7. A spree killer:
- A. is motivated by the quest for drug profits and street power
 - B. Kills many victims in a single violent outburst
 - C. Spreads their murderous outburst over a few days or weeks
 - D. Kills over a long period of time but typically assume a “normal” identity between murders

ANS: C REF: p. 44 OBJ: 2

8. The UCR indicates that police clear slightly more than _____ percent of all reported Part I crimes each year?
- A. 20
 - B. 35
 - C. 50
 - D. 65

ANS: A REF: p. 49 OBJ: 3

9. Which data source relies on a multi-stage sample of housing units to collect information about citizen's encounters with criminals?
- A. National Crime Victimization Survey
 - B. Uniform Crime Report
 - C. Monitoring the Future Survey
 - D. National Incident-Based Reporting System

ANS: A REF: p. 52-53 OBJ: 3

10. One of the most important sources of self-report data is the _____ study, conducted annually using approximately 2,500 high school seniors.
- A. Monitoring the Future
 - B. Juvenile Arrest
 - C. National Center for Information about Crime
 - D. Juvenile Social Survey

ANS: A REF: p. 55 OBJ: 3

11. Which of the following is **not** a problem associated with the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)?
- A. Over-reporting due to victim's misrepresentation of events
 - B. Incomplete acts are lumped together with completed acts
 - C. Underreporting stemming from the embarrassment of reporting crime
 - D. Sampling errors which produce a group of respondents who do not represent the nation as a whole

ANS: B REF: p. 54-55 OBJ: 3

12. Which type of study provides information on the personal characteristics of offenders such as their attitudes, values, beliefs, and psychological profiles?
- A. NIBRS
 - B. UCR
 - C. Self-report studies
 - D. Victimization surveys

ANS: C REF: p. 57 OBJ: 3

13. Self-report surveys are conducted most often on which of the following groups?
- A. Juveniles
 - B. Death row inmates
 - C. Prisoners
 - D. Police officers

ANS: A REF: p. 55 OBJ: 3

14. When are most crimes reported?
- A. March
 - B. July
 - C. September
 - D. November

ANS: B REF: p. 65 OBJ: 7

15. Which of the following is **false** regarding alternative crime measures?
- A. Cohort data involves observing over time a group of people who share certain characteristics.
 - B. Meta-analysis involves gathering data from a number of previous studies.
 - C. Sometimes criminologists conduct controlled experiments to collect data on the cause of crime.
 - D. Data mining create graphical representations of the spatial geography of crime.

ANS: D REF: p. 58 OBJ: 3

16. What is the name of the effect that the values held by the baby boomers will influence the behavior of all citizens, even crime-prone teens?
- A. Apathy
 - B. Contagion
 - C. Permissive
 - D. Relative

ANS: B REF: p. 64 OBJ: 6

17. In which season do the greatest numbers of reported crimes occur?
- A. Summer
 - B. Fall
 - C. Spring
 - D. Winter

ANS: A REF: p. 65 OBJ: 6

18. Which of the following crimes are exceptions to the warm-weather crime trend?
- A. Burglary and motor vehicle theft
 - B. Murder and robbery
 - C. Kidnapping and larceny
 - D. Burglary and arson

ANS: B REF: p. 65 OBJ: 6

19. Which of the following is **false** regarding international crime trends?
- A. Many nations, especially those experiencing social or economic upheaval, have murder rates much higher than the United States.
 - B. Violence against women is related to economic hardship and the social status of women.
 - C. Middle Eastern nations have significantly higher rates of robbery than the United States.
 - D. There are a number of countries which have higher rates of vehicle theft than the United States.

ANS: C REF: p. 61 OBJ: 8

20. Which country has the highest homicide rate?
- A. Brazil
 - B. United States
 - C. Canada
 - D. Germany

ANS: A REF: p. 60 OBJ: 8

21. Which region of the United States has the highest property and violent crime rates?

- A. Northeast
- B. Midwest
- C. South
- D. Northwest

ANS: C REF: p. 65 OBJ:6

22. Which of the following is **false**?

- A. Teenagers have extremely high crime rates, whereas seniors rarely commit crimes.
- B. Immigration is negatively associated with homicides and drug-related homicides specifically.
- C. There is a clear and established relationship between the economy and crime.
- D. There is evidence that the recent drop in the crime rate can be attributed to the availability of legalized abortion

ANS: C REF: p. 66-70 OBJ: 7

23. The peak age for property crime is 16, and the peak age for violent crime is:

- A. 16
- B. 18
- C. 21
- D. 25

ANS: B REF: p. 70 OBJ: 7

24. Which of the following is **not** an explanation regarding gender differences in the crime rate?

- A. Males are stronger and better able to commit violence.
- B. Hormones make men more aggressive.
- C. Girls are socialized to be less aggressive.
- D. Girls are granted greater personal freedom.

ANS: D REF: p. 72 OBJ: 7

25. Which statement regarding the relationship between age and crime is **true**?

- A. Elderly males are predominantly arrested for alcohol-related matters such as public drunkenness and drunk driving.
- B. There is no relationship between age and crime.
- C. Age is positively related to criminality.
- D. The elderly make up less than 1% of all arrests.

ANS: A REF: p. 70 OBJ: 7

26. Which of the following is true about the relationship between age and crime?
- A. Kids who are persistent offenders begin committing crime in their adolescence.
 - B. Kids who are persistent offenders continue a stable pattern of offending activities during late adolescence.
 - C. Kids who are persistent offenders begin a rapid acceleration of crime in adulthood.
 - D. Early starters tend to commit more crime and are more likely to continue to be involved in criminality over a longer period of crime.

ANS: D REF: p. 70-71 OBJ: 7

27. Early criminologists pointed to _____ differences between males and females to explain the differences in crime rates.
- A. Emotional
 - B. Physical
 - C. Psychological
 - D. emotional, physical, and psychological

ANS: D REF: p. 71 OBJ: 7

28. African Americans make up about 12 percent of the general population, yet account for approximately _____ percent of violent crime arrests.
- A. 10
 - B. 25
 - C. 40
 - D. 60

ANS: C REF: p. 72-73 OBJ: 7

29. Minority group members are more likely to be formally _____ than European Americans.
- A. Stopped
 - B. Arrested
 - C. Stopped and searched
 - D. Stopped, searched and arrested.

ANS: D REF: p. 73 OBJ: 7

30. In the landmark study *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*, researchers found that the “chronic 6%” of offenders committed approximately _____ percent of all offenses?
- A. 5
 - B. 30
 - C. 50
 - D. 75

ANS: C REF: p. 75 OBJ: 10

31. Which laws require that convicted felons spend a significant portion of their sentence behind bars?
- A. Three-strike laws
 - B. Habitual offender laws
 - C. Mandatory sentencing laws
 - D. Truth-in-Sentencing laws

ANS: D REF: p. 75 OBJ: 10

32. According to Wolfgang, a chronic offender is one who has been arrested five or more times before the age of:
- A. 12
 - B. 18
 - C. 21
 - D. 30

ANS: B REF: p. 74-75 OBJ: 10

33. Which view of crime promotes that there is a class struggle between the rich and the poor?
- A. Conflict
 - B. Interactionist
 - C. Consensus
 - D. Constructionist

ANS: A REF: p. 41 OBJ: 1

34. Which view of crime contends that there are moral entrepreneurs who want to control behaviors they view as immoral or wrong?
- A. Conflict
 - B. Interactionist
 - C. Consensus
 - D. Constructionist

ANS: B REF: p. 41 OBJ: 1

35. Which view of crime contends that the definition of crime is subjective?
- A. Conflict
 - B. Interactionist
 - C. Consensus
 - D. Constructionist

ANS: B REF: p. 41 OBJ: 1

36. Today, modern gangs seem to be motivated by:

- A. Drug profits
- B. Emotional involvement
- C. Expressive violence
- D. Neighborhood turf wars

ANS: A REF: p. 44 OBJ: 2

37. The Columbine High School killers are considered which type of multiple murderers?

- A. Mass
- B. Spree
- C. Serial
- D. Transitional

ANS: A REF: p. 44 OBJ: 2

38. Who is most likely to be the victim of a hate crime?

- A. Gay men
- B. Gay women
- C. African Americans
- D. Vagrants

ANS: C REF: p. 445 OBJ: 2

39. What is most suspected of being involved in half of all U.S. murder, suicides, and accidental deaths?

- A. Alcohol
- B. Drugs
- C. Domestic violence
- D. Racial tensions

ANS: A REF: p. 46 OBJ: 2

40. Which of the following is considered a corporate crime?

- A. Bribery
- B. Forgery
- C. Thwarting competition
- D. Murder of a competitor's business owner

ANS: C REF: p. 47 OBJ: 2

SCENARIO BASED

NARRBEGIN: CASE 2.1

Your local police department is concerned with this year's most recent crime statistics. The police chief meets with city officials and his higher ranking police personnel. They meet to discuss potential policies and procedures in order to reduce the crime rates in their city. NARREND

41. The police chief believes that the department needs to focus on crimes like prostitution and drug abuse because the two are interconnected and he believes both are linked to more serious crimes. Drug use and prostitution are examples of:
- A. Economic crimes
 - B. Property crimes
 - C. Public order crimes
 - D. Violent crimes

ANS: C REF: p. 45 OBJ: 2
NARR: CASE 2.1

42. The mayor is more concerned with violent crimes. She believes that when people hear that her city has experienced an increase in violent crimes they will no longer come to visit. Since the city is a city on the beach, she is concerned that the most recent crime statistics will cause a decrease in tourism revenues. If the mayor is most concerned with violent crimes, what crime is she not concerned with?
- A. Murder
 - B. Rape
 - C. Prostitution
 - D. Robbery

ANS: C REF: p. 44 OBJ: 2
NARR: CASE 2.1

43. One higher ranking police captain believes that the increase in instrumental crimes is the problem. Which of the following is an example of an instrumental crime?
- A. A young man who shoots the cashier of a convenience store that he is attempting to rob.
 - B. A drunken husband who shoots his wife during a late night fight.
 - C. A parent who strikes his child with a belt.
 - D. An alcoholic who commits a DUI and kills a child who is attempting to cross the street.

ANS: A REF: p. 44 OBJ: 2
NARR: CASE 2.1

44. One improvement that the police chief is pleased with is the fact that over 45% of all of the cities' Part I crimes have resulted in arrest. When an offender is arrested and charged with a crime the offense is considered:
- A. adjudicated
 - B. cleared
 - C. disposed
 - D. finished

ANS: B REF: p. 49 OBJ: 3
NARR: CASE 2.1

NARRBEGIN: CASE 2.2

Mr. and Mrs. Jones receive a survey that asks them about information on crimes that they have suffered. They are asked a series of questions to assess if they individually have been victims of crime but also if their household has been victimized. NARREND

45. What crime would they not be questioned about?
- A. aggravated assault
 - B. burglary
 - C. murder
 - D. sexual assault

ANS: C REF: p. 53 OBJ: 3
NARR: CASE 2.2

46. What is the name of the survey that Mr. and Mrs. Jones are taking part in?
- A. NIBRS
 - B. NCVS
 - C. self-report surveys
 - D. UCR

ANS: B REF: p. 52-53 OBJ: 3
NARR: CASE 2.2

47. What would be a weakness in the results of the survey that Mr. and Mrs. Jones are participating in?
- A. It does not include crimes not reported to the police.
 - B. It relies on the honesty of the offenders.
 - C. It relies on victim's memory and honesty.
 - D. It only uses crime data for victims over the age of 21.

ANS: C REF: p. 56-57 OBJ: 5
NARR: CASE 2.2

NARRBEGIN: CASE 2.3

Mary is a student at a community college in New York. She is in the United States on a student visa that allows her to remain in the United States until she obtains her master's degree in biology. Mary is considering returning to her home country because she is concerned with the increase in crime at her college and surrounding area. Mary attempts to find information on the crime rates in her home town to compare to those in the city where she currently attends college. NARREND

48. Why will it be difficult for Mary to compare the crime rates in a U.S. city with her hometown of London, England?
- A. England does not have any crime statistics that are available to civilians.
 - B. There are differences in the way crime is measured.
 - C. England is a dictatorship and manipulates crime rates so their country appears to be safe.
 - D. Only solved cases are included in England's crime rates.

ANS: B REF: p. 60-61 OBJ: 8
NARR: CASE 2.3

49. After doing research on U.S. crime rates over the past few years, Mary is surprised to learn that:
- A. Over the past two decades violent crimes have been significantly increasing, but property crimes decreasing.
 - B. Over the past two decades property crimes have been significantly increasing, but violent crimes decreasing.
 - C. Over the past two decades both violent and property crimes have been significantly increasing.
 - D. Over the past two decades both violent and property crimes have been significantly decreasing.

ANS: D REF: p. 59 OBJ: 6
NARR: CASE 2.3

50. In the three years that Mary has been in the United States she was a crime victim once. A female acquaintance assaulted Mary while Mary was out celebrating her birthday at a local bar with some friends. The offender was drunk and became agitated when she thought that Mary took her seat. All of the following are true concerning female criminality except:
- A. Female sex hormones account for more aggressive female behavior.
 - B. Females are socialized to avoid being violent and aggressive.
 - C. Female criminals are troubled, alienated at home and pursue crime as a means of compensating for their disrupted personal lives.
 - D. Girls have been found to be superior to boys in verbal ability which enable them to diffuse conflict more easily.

ANS: A REF: p. 71-72 OBJ: 7
NARR: CASE 2.3

TRUE/FALSE

1. It is estimated that there are 75,000 gang members in the United States.

ANS: F REF: p. 66 OBJ: 2

2. UCR data captures all criminal violations.

ANS: F REF: p. 56 OBJ: 3

3. Apparent increases in crime rates in the UCR may actually reflect changes in the way the police record their data.

ANS: T REF: p. 56-57 OBJ: 3

4. The National Crime Victimization Survey and the UCR are the only methods of crime data collection used in the United States.

ANS: F REF: p. 48-56 OBJ: 3

5. The Monitoring the Future study is one of the most important sources of self-report data with regard to drugs.

ANS: T REF: p. 55 OBJ: 3

6. Violent crime in the United States has increased significantly since the early 1990s.

ANS: F REF: p. 59 OBJ: 6

7. There is evidence that reporting accuracy of self-report studies differs among racial, ethnic, and gender groups.

ANS: T REF: p. 56 OBJ: 3

8. Crime mapping can help law enforcement agencies increase the effectiveness of their patrol efforts.

ANS: T REF: p. 59 OBJ: 3

9. Children who have been exposed to a variety of personal and social problems at an early age are the most at risk to repeat offending.

ANS: T REF: p. 76 OBJ: 10

10. The Philadelphia Birth Cohort study found that arrest and court experience did little to deter chronic offenders.

ANS: T REF: p. 75 OBJ: 10

11. The racial threat hypothesis contends that young minority males are a greater threat than young white males.

ANS: F REF: p. 73 OBJ: 7

12. Girls have better verbal skills and use them to diffuse conflict.

ANS: T REF: p. 72 OBJ: 7

13. Most boys are socialized to avoid being violent and aggressive.

ANS: F REF: p. 71 OBJ: 7

14. Victims report that their assailant was male in more than 95% of all violent personal crimes.

ANS: F REF: p. 71 OBJ: 7

15. Age is inversely related to criminality.

ANS: T REF: p. 70 OBJ: 7

16. One argument for higher crime rates in some regions of the country is related to the influx of immigrants.

ANS: T REF: p. 68 OBJ: 7

17. Homicide rates have been on the decline since the 1930s.

ANS: F REF: p. 59 OBJ: 6

18. There are approximately 100 million crimes reported to the police each year.

ANS: F REF: p. 59 OBJ: 6

19. Crimes such as murder and rape are cleared at higher rates than property crimes.

ANS: T REF: p. 49 OBJ: 3

20. The NIBRS includes all the offenses that occur in an incident, rather than only the most serious offense.

ANS: T REF: p. 52 OBJ: 4

COMPLETION

1. Immigrants have significantly _____ rates of incarceration than the average U.S. citizen.

ANS: lower REF: p. 69 OBJ: 8

2. Behaviors considered illegal because they run counter to existing moral standards are known as _____ crimes.

ANS: public order/victimless REF: p. 45-46 OBJ: 2

3. Part II crimes are all other crimes reported to the FBI excluding _____.

ANS: traffic violations REF: p. 49 OBJ: 3

4. A crime is said to be _____ when at least one person is arrested or charged with the commission of the offense.

ANS: cleared REF: p. 49 OBJ: 3

5. Murder, _____, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, and aggravated assault make up the FBI's Part I crimes.

ANS: forcible rape REF: p. OBJ: 3

6. The three major areas of concern with regard to the accuracy of UCR data are methodological practices, reporting practices, and _____ practices.

ANS: law enforcement REF: p. 51 OBJ: 3

7. The _____ is a redesign effort to the UCR that aims to provide more comprehensive and detailed crime statistics.

ANS: NIBRS REF: p. 52 OBJ: 4

8. The view that younger African American males are subject to greater police control when their numbers increase within the population is known as _____ theory.

ANS: racial threat REF: p. 73 OBJ: 7

9. _____ is the term commonly used to describe persistent repeat offenders who organize their lifestyle around criminality.

ANS: Career criminal/chronic offender REF: p. 74-75 OBJ: 10

10. Employee pilferage, bribery, commodities law violations, mail fraud, computer fraud, and embezzlement are examples of _____ crimes.

ANS: white collar REF: p. 47 OBJ: 2

11. _____ involves the criminal activity of people and organizations whose acknowledged purpose is economic gain through illegal enterprise.

ANS: Organized crime REF: p. 48 OBJ: 2

12. The _____ view of crime maintains that criminal law is created and enforced by those who hold political and economic power.

ANS: conflict REF: p. 41 OBJ: 1

13. People who wage campaigns to control behaviors they view as immoral or wrong are referred to as _____.

ANS: moral entrepreneurs REF: p. 41 OBJ: 1

14. _____ are criminal acts directed toward a particular person or members of a group because they share a discernible racial, ethnic, religious, or gender characteristic.

ANS: Hate crimes REF: p. 45 OBJ: 2

15. Self-report surveys indicate the use of _____ increased in the 1970s, leveled off in the 1980s, and then began to increase in the mid-1990s until 1997.

ANS: drugs and alcohol REF: p. 63 OBJ: 5

ESSAY

1. Discuss the three approaches to defining crime.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 41-43 OBJ: 1

2. Discuss the three main categories of crime.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 43-48 OBJ: 2

3. Compare and contrast the UCR, NCVS, and self-report surveys in terms of measuring crime trends.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 54-61 OBJ: 3, 4

4. Discuss the three main areas of concern for the validity of the Uniform Crime Report.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 51 OBJ: 5

5. Discuss the recent trends in violent and property crime in the United States. How do these compare to violent and property crime rates internationally?

ANS: answers will vary

REF: p. 59-61 OBJ: 6, 8

6. Discuss how the economy plays a role in crime rates.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 66 OBJ: 6, 7

7. How has legalized abortion helped to reduce crime rates?

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 66 OBJ: 7

8. Describe the relationship between gender and crime and the various theories that have been developed to explain this relationship.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 71-72 OBJ: 7

9. Discuss the Delinquency in A Birth cohort study and how its findings have shaped criminal justice policy.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 76 OBJ: 10

10. Compare three-strike laws with truth-in-sentencing laws.

ANS: answers will vary REF: p. 76 OBJ: 10