Criminal Justice CPC-based COMP Exam Summary:

Undergraduate Level

Peregrine Academic Services provides a range of online comprehensive exams for performing direct assessment in a range of academic disciplines.

This document focuses on the Criminal Justice Common Professional Component (CPC) based comprehensive exam for associate and bachelors level students.

The exam is designed for use by US-based schools and programs.

The undergraduate test bank of questions is used for both associate and bachelors levels because:
   a) The questions are associated with foundational knowledge levels.
   b) Using the same test bank for both associate and bachelors level testing is an accreditation/articulation requirement for undergraduate transfer students completing a degree program at the associate level and continuing forward with a bachelors program.
   c) For an Associate Degree CPC-based COMP Exam, the institution’s staff select which CPC Topics best align with learning outcomes and the program curriculum (usually 4-6).

The exams contains 10 questions for each CPC topic and each exam is unique as questions are selected at random from the test bank of over a hundred questions per topic.

This document provides information on:
   - Topic areas and Subjects covered within each.
   - Example questions.

The Topics are:
   Administration of Justice
   Corrections
   Courts
   Criminological Theory
   Ethics and Diversity
   Homeland Security
   Juvenile Justice
   Law Adjudication
   Law Enforcement
   Research and Analytical Skills
**Topic: Administration of Justice**

**Subjects**
- Comparative Criminal Justice
- Contemporary Criminal Justice System
- Major Systems of Social Control
- Personnel Management

**Example Questions**

Contemporary criminal justice is known for several eras or periods encompassing different philosophies. Known for its connection to the Wickersham Commission the _________ era was a significant driving force in the modernization of criminal justice practices.

A. community  
B. political  
C. reform  
D. statutory

**Correct Response:** C

Management in a criminal justice agency is most closely associated with___________.

A. a police sergeant  
B. small group leadership  
C. one-on-one direction  
D. day-to-day operations of various parts of an organization

**Correct Response:** D
**Topic: Corrections**

**Subjects**
- Carceral Facilities (Jails/Prisons)
- Community-based Corrections
- History and Correctional Philosophies
- Practice and Legal Environment

**Example Questions**

The matching of offenders to institutions that have the physical security and staff resources to prevent escapes and control inmate behaviors is called__________.

A. risk need assessment  
B. security classification  
C. program assessment  
D. risk/program classification

**Correct Response: B**

Jails are expected to provide a(n) ____________ acceptable environment.

A. lawsuit-free  
B. danger-free  
C. inhumanely  
D. constitutionally

**Correct Response: D**
Topic: Courts

Subjects
- Federal and State
- History
- Lower Courts
- US Supreme Court

Example Questions

__________________ is not a legal element of a crime.

A. Harm  
B. A guilty act  
C. Concurrence  
D. A guilty mind  
E. A guilty conscience

Correct Response: E

The party that is unsatisfied with the verdict of a lower court and files an appeal in a higher court is known as the _________________.

A. complainant  
B. affiant  
C. appellant  
D. appellee  
E. respondent

Correct Response: C
**Topic: Criminological Theory**

**Subjects**
- Nature and Causes of Crime
- Offenders
- Typologies
- Victims

**Example Questions**

According to the most common interpretations, which element is the least important to deterrence?

A. fortitude
B. celerity
C. obfuscation
D. severity
E. certainty

**Correct Response: D**

In criminology, the term macro level means _________________.

A. a theory that explains crime at the individual level of analysis
B. a theory that explains crime at the community or societal level of analysis
C. a theory that circumscribes another theory
D. a theory that supplants another theory
E. a theory about the process of theorizing

**Correct Response: B**
**Topic: Ethics and Diversity**

**Subjects**
- Deontological and Teleological Ethics
- Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice
- Ethical Decision-Making and Problem Solving
- Ethics in Criminal Justice (Personal, Situation, Professional)

**Example Questions**

A major pitfall that criminal justice professionals face in working within diverse communities is ________________.

A. focusing too much on differences  
B. failing to focus on differences rather than the law  
C. relying too heavily on training rather than authentic cultural dialog  
D. failing to ensure that officers of the same ethnicity deal with community members  
E. failing to overlook infractions of the law when the law is culturally biased  

**Correct Response: A**

The idea that taking insignificant gratuities such as a free cup of coffee may lead to more severe forms of corruption later on is referred to as the ________________.

A. spiral of moral decay  
B. slippery slope  
C. incivilities thesis  
D. bad apple theory  
E. the yawning gap  

**Correct Response: B**
**Topic: Homeland Security**

**Subjects**
- History
- International Enforcement Effort
- Legislation and Case Law
- National Enforcement Efforts

**Example Questions**

__________ has the highest per capita imprisonment rate in the world.

A. Russian federation  
B. China  
C. Kazakhstan  
D. United States  

**Correct Response: D**

The motives for international terrorists are often centered around furthering ones __________.

A. religious objectives  
B. laws  
C. personal attitudes  
D. freedom of expression  

**Correct Response: A**
**Topic: Juvenile Justice**

**Subjects**
- Case Law
- Corrections
- Family Violence
- History

**Example Questions**

The formal pronouncement of judgment and punishment on the juvenile who engaged in the conduct charged is known as ______.
  A. arraignment  
  B. disposition  
  C. adjudication  
  D. sentencing

**Correct Response: B**

Delinquent behavior is based on the belief that children below a certain age are incapable of ____________, thus they are presumed to be unaware of the full consequences for what they do.
  A. actus reus  
  B. mens reus  
  C. rationalization  
  D. justification

**Correct Response: B**
**Topic: Law Adjudication**

**Subjects**
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedures
- Defense
- Prosecution

**Example Questions**

Pretrial proceedings in the federal district courts and trials in federal misdemeanors are often handled by __________________ who are appointed by federal district judges.

A. magistrate judges  
B. referees  
C. special controllers  
D. special counsel  
E. justice of the peace

**Correct Response: A**

Evidence that is obtained by law enforcement because of other illegally obtained evidence is prohibited in criminal court by the _______________ doctrine.

A. inevitable discovery  
B. plain view  
C. best evidence  
D. fruit of poisonous tree  
E. exclusionary rule

**Correct Response: D**
**Topic: Law Enforcement**

**Subjects**
- Case Law
- History
- Police Organization and Subculture
- Practice (Local, State, Federal)

**Example Questions**

When the courts create a new interpretation of an existing law it is referred to as _________.

A. statutory law  
B. civil law  
C. case law  
D. stare decisis

**Correct Response: C**

Accusations against the police that include favoritism, corruption, and laziness are often made by the community when they______.

A. are afraid of the police  
B. lost faith in the fairness of the criminal justice system  
C. when they feel that the criminal justice system is doing a good job  
D. when someone has been arrested

**Correct Response: B**
**Topic: Research and Analytical Skills**

**Subjects**
- Quantitative Methods in Conducting Criminal Justice Research
- Quantitative Methods in Analyzing Criminal Justice Research
- Qualitative Methods in Conducting Criminal Justice Research
- Qualitative Methods in Analyzing Criminal Justice Research

**Example Questions**

Inductive reasoning can best be defined as ______________.

A. reasoning that moves from a general theory to specific observations
B. reasoning that is internally consistent and based on quantitative analysis
C. reasoning that moves from specific cases to general theories
D. reasoning that is ethically sound
E. reasoning based on grounded theory

**Correct Response: C**

Researchers call a variable that theoretically has an infinite number of possible values between any two specific measurements ______________.

A. an independent variable
B. a dependent variable
C. a discrete variable
D. a continuous variable
E. a placebo

**Correct Response: D**