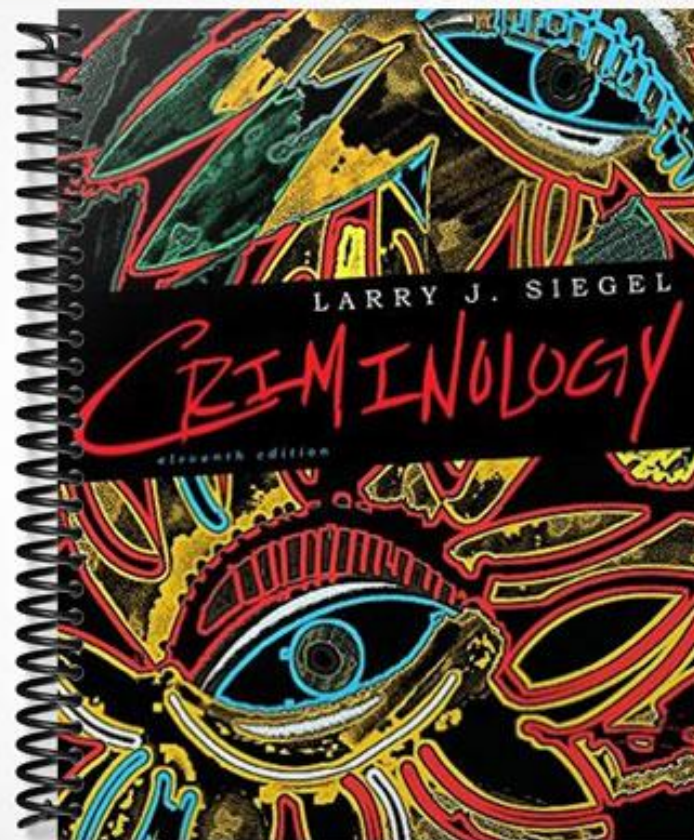


TEST BANK



CHAPTER TWO: The Nature and Extent of Crime

Test Bank

COMPLETION

1. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's _____ is the best known and most widely cited source of official criminal statistics.
ANS: Uniform Crime Report REF: 30 OBJ: 1
2. _____ refers to the process of selecting for study a limited number of subjects who are representative of entire groups sharing similar characteristics.
ANS: Sampling REF: 35 OBJ: 2
3. The most important and widely used victim survey is the _____.
ANS: National Crime Victimization Survey REF: 35 OBJ: 1
4. The Monitoring the Future study is a type of _____ and is considered one of the national standards for measuring substance abuse and other crime trends among American teens.
ANS: self report survey REF: 36 OBJ: 1
5. _____ involves observing, over time, a group of people who share a like characteristic.
ANS: cohort research REF: 39 OBJ: 2
6. Both violent and property crimes rates have _____ in recent years.
ANS: declined REF: 43 OBJ: 3
7. Most reported crimes occur during _____ months
ANS: summer REF: 48 OBJ: 3
8. The majority of murders involve firearms, and most of these weapons are _____.
ANS: handguns REF: 48 OBJ: 3
9. _____ crimes result from rage, frustration, and anger.
ANS: Expressive REF: 50 OBJ: 6
10. _____ is the process by which individuals reduce the frequency of their offending behavior as they age.
ANS: Aging out REF: 52 OBJ: 7

11. The view that women who commit crimes have biological and psychological traits similar to men is known as the_____. .
ANS: masculinity hypothesis REF: 53 OBJ: 8
12. Female criminality is sometimes masked because criminal justice authorities who are reluctant to take action against a woman. This reluctance is known as the_____.
ANS: chivalry hypothesis REF: 53 OBJ: 8
13. As the percentage of minorities in the population increases, so too does the amount of social control that police direct at minority group members. This is known as the_____.
ANS: racial threat hypothesis REF: 55 OBJ: 8
14. Persistent offenders are referred to as _____ or _____.
ANS: career criminals; chronic offenders REF:61 OBJ: 9
15. The _____ phenomenon indicates that those who begin their delinquent careers early and who commit serious violent crimes throughout adolescence are the most likely to persist in crime as adults.
ANS: continuity of crime REF: 62 OBJ: 10

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Criminologists conduct research to:
a. measure the nature and extent of criminal behavior
b. meet requirements set forth by state legislatures
c. gain recognition as criminologists
d. meet requirements set forth by the federal government
ANS: A REF: 30 OBJ: 1
2. The best known and most important source of official crime data is:
a. the Uniform Crime Report
b. the National Crime Victimization Survey
c. the Annual Self-Report Survey
d. the Monitoring the Future Study
ANS: A REF: 30 OBJ: 1
3. Part I crimes are also referred to as ____ and include: murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and ____.
a. indices, embezzlement
b. indices, arson
c. index crimes, arson
d. index crimes, embezzlement
ANS: C REF: 30 OBJ: 1

4. When researchers want a survey to focus on a particular group of people or to be representative of all members of society they conduct:
- a. self-report research
 - b. cross-sectional research
 - c. aggregate data research
 - d. experimental research
- ANS: B REF: 35 OBJ: 1
5. A research approach that asks participants to describe their recent and lifetime criminal activity is termed:
- a. field observation
 - b. cross-sectional research
 - c. a self-report survey
 - d. meta-analysis
- ANS: C REF: 36 OBJ: 1
6. What is a cohort?
- a. a group of people who share a like characteristic
 - b. a group of people who have been identified as offenders
 - c. a group of people who have been identified as “aging out”
 - d. a group of people who share the same living environment
- ANS: A REF: 39 OBJ: 1
7. Observing a group of people who share a like characteristic, over time, is termed:
- a. sampling
 - b. cross-sectional research
 - c. meta-analysis
 - d. cohort research
- ANS: D REF: 39 OBJ: 1
8. If criminologists want to see the direct effect of one factor on another, they conduct:
- a. experimental research
 - b. aggregate data research
 - c. cohort research
 - d. survey research
- ANS: A REF: 40 OBJ: 1
9. Many times it is difficult to randomly select subjects or manipulate conditions of a study. When this occurs, criminologists must rely on what type of design?
- a. quasi-experimental
 - b. retrospective cohort
 - c. cross-sectional
 - d. observational
- ANS: A REF: 40 OBJ: 1
10. Although differences between the UCR and the NCVS abound, the greatest distinction between the two has to do with:
- a. The ability of the NCVS to identify crimes committed against those under the age of twelve

- b. The ability of the UCR to identify the social dimension of fear
- c. The ability of the UCR to measure unreported crime
- d. The ability of the NCVS to measure unreported crime

ANS: D REF: 38 OBJ: 1

11. Meta-analysis involves gathering data from:
- a. the social environment
 - b. juveniles
 - c. a cohort
 - d. previous studies

ANS: D REF: 41 OBJ: 1

12. The UCR uses all but which of the following methods to express crime data?
- a. number of crimes reported to the police and arrests made
 - b. crime rates per 100,000 people
 - c. changes in the number and rate of crime over time
 - d. number of crime cleared

ANS: D REF: 31 OBJ: 1

13. Validity issues impact the UCR. Which of the following represents a validity concern/s for this data collection method?
- a. reporting practices
 - b. methodological problems
 - c. reporting practices and law enforcement practices
 - d. reporting practices, methodological problems, and law enforcement practices

ANS: D REF: 32-34 OBJ: 2

14. The “missing cases” phenomenon is a validity concern for which type of crime measurement?
- a. quasi-experimental research
 - b. the UCR
 - c. self-report studies
 - d. meta-analysis

ANS: C REF: 37 OBJ: 2

15. According to the NCVS, reported victimizations have:
- a. declined significantly during the past 30 years
 - b. increased significantly during the past 30 years
 - c. remained stable during the past 30 years
 - d. have fluctuated annually during the past 30 years

ANS: A REF: 42 OBJ: 3

16. What is known about the trend in property crime rates?
- a. Like the violent crime rate, the property crime rate has increased slightly.
 - b. Like the violent crime rate, the property crime rate has decreased.
 - c. The violent crime rate and property crime rate have remained equally stable.

d. The violent crime rate has decreased while the property crime rate has increased.

ANS: B REF: 43 OBJ: 3

17. When comparing self-report surveys to the UCR and NCVS,
- a. there is less crime occurring than reported
 - b. the measures demonstrate a similar amount of crime occurring
 - c. the crime problem is greater than UCR and NCVS report
 - d. there is a reduction in self-reported crime, but an increase in reported crimes

ANS: C REF: 46 OBJ: 3

18. According to Zimring and Hawkins, what is the single most significant factor separating the crime problem in the United States from the rest of the developed world?
- a. lack of social opportunities
 - b. handguns and associated lethal violence
 - c. poverty
 - d. illegal immigrants

ANS: C REF: 48 OBJ: 3

19. The phrase “the ecology of crime” refers to such factors as:
- a. gender and age
 - b. social class and economics
 - c. race and ethnicity
 - d. season and climate

ANS: D REF: 48 OBJ: 4

20. Self-report data supports the notion that _____ may account for the lower-class's overrepresentation in official statistics and the prison population.
- a. people who engage in drug abuse, especially crack
 - b. those who have easy access to handguns
 - c. law enforcement practices
 - d. people who are immigrants

ANS: C REF: 50 OBJ: 4

21. The most recent research dispute the _____ hypothesis and suggests the great bulk of youth crime is a solo act.
- a. co-offending
 - b. age-crime
 - c. masculinity
 - d. chivalry

ANS: A REF: 52 OBJ: 4

22. A crime, in general, is most likely to occur under which set of conditions?
- a. on an August day with a temperature of 80 degrees
 - b. on a July day with a temperature of 98 degrees
 - c. on an April day with a temperature of 78 degrees
 - d. on a November day with a temperature of 67 degrees

ANS: A REF: 48 OBJ: 4,5

23. Crime rates may be higher:
- a. on the first day of the month
 - b. on the fifteenth day of the month
 - c. at the end of the month
 - d. crime is consistent throughout the month
- ANS: A REF: 48 OBJ: 4, 5
24. The highest crime rate is found in which regions of the country?
- a. north and south
 - b. south and west
 - c. east and south
 - d. west and north
- ANS: B REF: 48 OBJ: 5
25. The relationship between class and crime is an important one for criminological theory. The weight of recent evidence seems to suggest that serious, official crime is more prevalent:
- a. among the lower class
 - b. among the upper class
 - c. among the middle class
 - d. across both the middle and lower class
- ANS: A REF: 49-50 OBJ: 6
26. How is age correlated with crime?
- a. Age is not correlated with crime – anyone can commit crime.
 - b. Middle aged males, 30-45, commit the most crime.
 - c. Age is inversely related to crime – younger people commit more crime
 - d. Age is correlated with crime only if referring to males.
- ANS: C REF: 52 OBJ: 4, 7
27. _____ are associated with those living in poverty who engage in disproportionate amounts of rape and assault as a means of expressing their rage, frustration, and anger against society.
- a. instrumental crimes
 - b. expressive crimes
 - c. index crimes
 - d. strict-liability crimes
- ANS: B REF: 50 OBJ: 4, 6
28. Those unable to obtain desired goods and services through conventional means may consequently resort to theft and other illegal activities. These activities are known as:
- a. instrumental crimes
 - b. expressive crimes
 - c. index crimes
 - d. strict-liability crimes
- ANS: A REF: 50 OBJ: 4, 7

29. According to the _____ hypothesis, the criminality of females is masked because of the generally benevolent and protective attitude toward women in our society.
- a. masculinity
 - b. chivalry
 - c. feminist
 - d. proximity
- ANS: B REF: 53 OBJ: 8
30. What theory or hypothesis focused attention on the social and economic role of women in society and its relationship to female crime rates?
- a. gender theory
 - b. the masculinity hypothesis
 - c. the chivalry hypothesis
 - d. liberal feminist theory
- ANS: B REF: 53 OBJ: 8
31. While the “emancipation of women” has had relatively little influence on female crime rates, there has been an increase in the number of females arrested. According to Steffensmeier’s research, what might account for this increase?
- a. demands of the women’s movement to treat females equally
 - b. the greater willingness of police to arrest females
 - c. the dramatic increase in the number of women engaging in prostitution
 - d. a demographic bulge of females in the crime-prone age group
- ANS: B REF: 54 OBJ: 8
32. All but which of the following explanations might account for the variance between male and female crime rates?
- a. Females are socialized to be less aggressive than males.
 - b. Females are more likely to than males to respond to anger with feelings of depression, anxiety, fear or shame.
 - c. Females are more likely than males to attempt to negotiate when faced with conflict.
 - d. Females are supervised less by their parents than males.
- ANS: D REF: 53-54 OBJ: 8
33. Official arrest records indicate that African Americans are arrested at a higher rate than members of other racial groups. Self-report data:
- a. exhibit the same finding
 - b. show no difference between arrest rates of African Americans and other racial groups
 - c. indicate no difference between arrest rates but only if considering female arrests
 - d. suggest arrest rate differences are an artifact of justice system bias
- ANS: D REF: 55 OBJ: 8
34. Institutional racism undermines faith in social and political institutions and weakens confidence in the justice system. According to _____, as the percentage of African Americans in the population increases so too does the amount of social control that police direct at blacks.
- a. police density theory
 - b. police threat theory

- c. racial density theory
- d. racial threat theory

ANS: D REF: 55 OBJ: 8

35. Which of the following statements is not a potential explanation for the marked increase in crimes committed by females?
- a. Police willingness to arrest girls for minor crimes
 - b. Police are making more arrests for crimes which occur at school and in the home
 - c. Police are more likely to use their discretion to help females.
 - d. Police are attempting to be "gender neutral".

ANS: C REF: 54 OBJ: 4, 8

36. Official crime data indicate that minority group members are involved in a disproportionate share of criminal activity. Which of the following does not explain race-based differences in the crime rate?
- a. Social control efforts of the police and courts
 - b. The history of racial discrimination in the US
 - c. Disparity in the social and economic structure of society
 - d. Individuals in the US without documentation

ANS: D REF: 60 OBJ: 4, 8

37. According to Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin's cohort study, what percentage of chronic offenders was responsible for a significant proportion of all serious crime?
- a. 6%
 - b. 12%
 - c. 15%
 - d. 21%

ANS: A REF: 61 OBJ: 9

38. Which of the following sets of factors would not predict chronic offending?
- a. parental supervision, average grades, average school attendance
 - b. skipping school, criminal family members, stealing pattern of behavior
 - c. poor grades, poor parental supervision, gang association
 - d. school suspensions, documented child abuse, runaway pattern of behavior

ANS: A REF: 62 OBJ: 10

39. One of the most important findings from cohort studies is the concept of persistence or the continuity of crime. Who is most likely to persist in a criminal career?
- a. juveniles who committed a single serious offense at an early age
 - b. juveniles who started their delinquent careers early and who committed serious violent crime during adolescence
 - c. adolescents arrested between the ages of 15 and 17 who committed a single serious offense
 - d. adolescents, regardless of age, who served time in a juvenile detention facility

ANS: B REF: 62 OBJ: 10

40. Chronic offenders have become a central focus of crime control policy. Sentencing policies, such as “three strikes” legislation are designed to incapacitate chronic offenders for long periods of time without hope of probation or parole. Why is this?
- a. Longer sentences allow for extended treatment within correctional institutions.
 - b. Crime data indicate an increased number of chronic offenders in the population.
 - c. Research indicates chronic offenders will desist from committing future crimes if incarcerated for longer periods of time.
 - d. Most chronic offenders repeat their criminal acts after their correctional release.
- ANS: D REF: 63 OBJ: 10

TRUE/FALSE

1. Most self-report surveys focus on juvenile delinquency and youth crime.
ANS: T REF: 38 OBJ: 1
2. Self-report surveys can provide information on the personal characteristics of offenders, such as their attitudes, values, beliefs, and psychological profiles.
ANS: T REF: 36 OBJ: 1
3. Longitudinal or cohort research involves observing a group of people, who share like characteristics, over a period of time.
ANS: T REF: 39 OBJ: 1
4. The Uniform Crime Report reports serious violent crimes and federal crimes.
ANS: F REF: 34 OBJ: 1
5. The Bureau of Justice Statistics compiles the Uniform Crime Report.
ANS: F REF: 35 OBJ: 1
6. Violent crimes are more likely to be solved than property crimes because police devote more resources to these more serious acts.
ANS: T REF: 32 OBJ: 1
7. The “missing cases phenomenon” is a validity concern present within the Uniform Crime Report.
ANS: F REF: 37 OBJ: 2
8. Monitoring the Future (MTF) data indicate that the number of people who break the law is far greater than the number projected by official statistics.
ANS: T REF: 37 OBJ: 1, 2
9. Among the factors that influence crime trends are the availability of legalized abortion, firearms, and quality health care.
ANS: T REF: 44-45 OBJ: 4

10. Most reported crimes occur during the warm summer months of July and August.
ANS: T REF: 48 OBJ: 5
11. Instrumental crimes are committed by those who are unable to obtain desired goods and services through conventional means.
ANS: T REF: 50 OBJ: 6
12. The true relationship between class and crime is difficult to determine because economic conditions and social opportunities may obscure effects.
ANS: T REF: 50 OBJ: 6
13. Most criminologists agree that crime peaks when a person reaches middle-age and declines rapidly thereafter.
ANS: F REF: 52 OBJ: 7
14. In the 1970s, liberal feminist theory focused attention on the social and economic role of women in society and its relationship to female crime rates.
ANS: T REF: 54 OBJ: 8
15. Official crime data indicate that minority group members are involved in a disproportionate share of serious criminal activity.
ANS: T REF: 55 OBJ: 8

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Describe how the Uniform Crime Report is compiled and the validity concerns associated with this method of measuring crime.

ANS:

- The FBI compiles part I/index crimes reported on a monthly basis by local law enforcement departments and the number of arrests made by police agencies.
- Part I crimes: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft.
- The UCR uses three methods to express crime data: number of crimes, crime rates, and changes in rate over crime over time.
- Validity issues include: reporting practices, law enforcement practices and methodological issues.

REF: 30-34 OBJ: 1, 2

2. Describe how the National Crime Victimization Survey is compiled and the validity concerns associated with this method of measuring crime.

ANS:

- U.S. Census Bureau personnel interview household members age 12 or older in a nationally representative sample of households twice annually.
- The NCVS collects information on crimes suffered by individuals and households, whether or not those crimes were reported to law enforcement.

- Validity issues include: over-reporting, under-reporting, sampling errors, and inadequate question format.

REF: 35-36 OBJ: 1, 2

3. What is self-report data? Discuss the use and accuracy of self-report data.

ANS:

- Self-report surveys ask individuals to describe, in detail, their recent and lifetime participation in criminal activity, as well as questions about attitudes, values, and behaviors.
- Self-reports are generally given anonymously in groups, so that the people being surveyed are assured that their responses will remain private and confidential.
- Most self-report studies have focused on juvenile delinquency and youth crime and may contain trivial offenses
- The accuracy of self-reports is dependent upon people's recollection, and the fact that some people may exaggerate their criminal acts, forget some of them, or be confused about what is being asked, and "missing cases".
- Additionally, asking subjects about their past behavior may capture more serious crimes but miss minor criminal acts

REF: 36-38 OBJ: 1, 2

4. Discuss the use of experiments in criminology/criminal justice research. What are the elements of a true experiment? How do criminologists overcome missing elements? What is the feasibility of experimental research in the field?

ANS:

- True experiments usually have three elements: (1) random selection of subjects, (2) a control or comparison group, and (3) an experimental condition.
- Because it is sometimes impossible to randomly select subjects or manipulate conditions criminologists may be forced to rely on what is known as a quasi-experimental design.
- True criminological experiments are relatively rare because they are difficult and expensive to conduct; they involve manipulating subjects' lives, which can cause ethical and legal roadblocks; and they require long follow-up periods to verify results.

REF: 40 OBJ: 1, 2

5. Discuss the overall crime trend for violent and property crimes in the United States according to the UCR and NCVS. What, if any, difference is there between the UCR, NCVS and self report findings with regard to the overall crime problem.

ANS:

- Since 1991, the number of crimes and victimizations reported has been in decline.
- Self-report results appear to be more stable than the UCR and NCVS data indicate, and have shown there has not been any visible reduction in self-reported criminality.
- It should be noted that if self-report data, such as MTF, are accurate, the crime problem is much greater than FBI and NCVS data would lead us to believe.

REF: 41-43; 46 OBJ: 3

6. Identify and discuss five various factors that explain crime trends.

ANS:

- Age: the crime rate follows the proportion of teens in the population.
- Immigration has a suppressor effect on crime; immigrants are less crime prone than the general population, so that as the number of immigrants increase per capita crime rates decline.
- Economy: little correlation between these indicators of economic prosperity and crime rates
- Abortion: evidence that the recent drop in the crime rate is linked to the availability of legalized abortion. This link may be due to selective abortion and/or improved child-rearing or environmental circumstances
- The availability of firearms may influence the crime rate: as the number of guns in the population increases so too violent crime rates.
- Gang members are responsible for a large proportion of all violent offenses committed during the adolescent years.
- Drug use: Some experts tie increases in the violent crime rate between 1985 and 1993 to the crack epidemic.
- Violent media may influence the direction of crime rates
- Medical technology: quality of healthcare may have decreased murder rates.
- Justice Policy: both law enforcement practices that target “quality of life” crimes and tough laws imposing lengthy prison terms on drug dealers and repeat offenders can affect crime rates
- Social and Cultural change: new opportunities for offending open as a result of changes in the technological or social environment.
- The overabundance and declining prices of merchandise and target hardening efforts decrease criminal opportunities; while accessible, small, portable electronics may increase the likelihood.

REF: 44-45 OBJ: 4

7. Discuss what is meant by the phrase “the ecology of crime.” Explain how crime rates are impacted by each factor.

ANS:

- The "ecology of crime" posits that patterns in the crime rate seem to be linked to temporal and ecological factors, such as day, season and climate, temperature, and region.
- Day, season and climate: Most crimes occur during the warm summer months of July and August; Murders and robberies occur frequently during December and January; Crime rates are higher on the first day of the month.
- Temperature: Association between temperature and crime resembles an inverted U-curve; Crime rates rise with rising temperatures; Crime rates decline around 85 degrees.
- Regional differences: Large urban areas have the highest violence rates; Exceptions to this trend are large transient or seasonal populations; Western and southern states have consistently higher crime rates than Midwest and northeast

REF: 48 OBJ: 5

8. Discuss the diverging views between crime and the economy

ANS:

- Bad economy means higher crime rates. When the economy turns down, people who are underemployed or unemployed will become motivated to commit property crimes to obtain desperately needed resources.
- Good economy means higher crime rates. A good economy requires that more people be hired, including teens. Unfortunately, kids with after-school jobs are more likely to engage in antisocial activities.
- Bad economy means lower crime rate. During an economic downturn, unemployed parents are at home to supervise children and guard their possessions.
- Crime and the economy are unrelated. It is also possible that the state of the economy and crime rates are unrelated.

REF: 49 OBJ: 6

9. Discuss the age-crime connection. Who, in general, is most likely to commit a crime? When would they commit it? Why?

ANS:

- There is general agreement that age is inversely related to criminality.
- Regardless of economic status, marital status, race, sex, and so on, younger people commit crime more often than their older peers.
- As a general rule, the peak age for property crime is believed to be 16, and for violence 18.
- Reasons for the increase of crime occurrence in adolescence include: a reduction in supervision, an increase in social and academic demands, peer-oriented social world, desire for adult privileges, reduced ability to cope legitimately, discounting the future, impatience, and unwilling/inability to delay gratification.

REF: 52 OBJ: 7

10. What factors influence the gender differences in the crime rate?

ANS:

- Socialization and development: , girls are socialized to be less aggressive than boys and are supervised more closely by parents.
- Male perceptions of power, their ability to have freedom and hang with their friends, helped explain the gender differences in crime and delinquency.
- Girls are usually taught—directly or indirectly—to respond to provocation by feeling anxious and depressed, whereas boys are encouraged to retaliate.
- Cognitive differences may impact male and female antisocial behaviors.
- Females are more empathetic and more concerned with relationship and feeling issues and more likely to negotiate; while boys are expected to be tough and aggressive and act out similarly.

REF: 53-54 OBJ: 10