

STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

The purpose of the study guide is to familiarize yourself with the terms you will study in class. This study guide alone will not allow you to pass your exam. You must attend the prep-course.



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Disclaimer

Each study guide is unique and presents the information in a clear and condensed form to orient you to the material applicable to the exam. The materials cite various textbooks, journal articles and literature, including some found on websites.

We strongly encourage you to review and study these study guides, take the practice tests, and become familiar with the terms and concepts before stepping into class. Our goal is to help you attack the content by sharing these specific study tools and test-taking strategies with you, which have proven to be successful. You will need to attend and complete our preparation course in order to qualify for our money-back guarantee. The study guide and prep course, when used together, will best prepare you for the final exam.

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Instructions:

- Read the study guide.
- Print and complete the sample test. Correct your test and review the incorrect items.
- Attend class to ensure your money-back guarantee.

We look forward to helping you achieve your academic goals!

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Overview of the United States Criminal Justice System and Process

In the United States, there are different levels of the criminal justice system. They may be similar, but they are their own entities and differ by the jurisdictions that are in charge. ***The different jurisdictions are: city, county, state, federal, tribal government, or military installation.*** Each jurisdiction has different laws, agencies, and ways of managing the criminal justice process. There are typically five different parts of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, prosecution, defense, and court corrections.

The Role of Law Enforcement: Law enforcement officers take reports of crimes that happen in their areas. Officers investigate crimes and gather and protect evidence. Law enforcement officers may arrest offenders, give testimony during the court process, and conduct follow-up investigations if needed.

Prosecution: ***Prosecutors are lawyers who represent the state or federal government (not the victim)*** throughout the court process—from the first appearance of the accused in court until the accused is acquitted or sentenced. Prosecutors review the evidence brought to them by law enforcement to decide whether to file charges or to drop the case. Prosecutors present evidence in court, question witnesses, and decide (at any point after charges have been filed) whether to negotiate plea bargains with defendants. They have great discretion or freedom to make choices about how to prosecute the case. Victims may contact the prosecutor's office to find out which prosecutor is in charge of their case, to inform the prosecutor if the defense attorney has contacted the victim², and to seek other information about the case.

Defense Attorneys: ***Defense attorneys defend the accused against the government's case.*** They are either hired by the defendant or for defendants who cannot afford an attorney, they are assigned by the court. While the prosecutor represents the state, the defense attorney represents the defendant.

Courts: ***Courts are run by judges,*** whose role is to make sure the law is followed and to oversee what happens in court. They decide whether to release offenders before the trial. Judges accept or reject plea agreements, oversee trials, and sentence convicted offenders.

Corrections: ***Correction officers supervise convicted offenders when they are in jail, in prison, or in the community on probation or parole.*** In some communities, corrections officers prepare pre-sentencing reports with extensive

background information about the offender to help judges decide sentences. The job of corrections officers is to make sure the facilities that hold offenders are secure and safe. They oversee the day-to-day custody of inmates. They also oversee the release processes for inmates and sometimes notify victims of changes in the offenders' statuses. (National Center for Victims of Crime. 2008. VictimsofCrime.com)

Law Enforcement Systems in the United States

The Federal Law Enforcement System

There are fifty federal law enforcement agencies, and every agency is a part of the executive branch of the national government. The foremost agencies are:

1. **The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):** They are a Department of Justice agency that investigates over two hundred categories of federal crimes. ***The focus of the FBI in protecting the nation includes: terrorism, civil rights crime, white collar crimes, and violent crimes (e.g. bank robberies and kidnapping).*** They also focus on organized crime, which includes drug trafficking. They also help out other law enforcement agencies with their crime statistics, crime labs, fingerprint databases, and their training academy. Due to organized crime expanding, they have also gained more authority, which includes wiretapping, to help combat it.
2. **The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF):** ***This agency is a part of the Treasury Department. They investigate the criminal use of explosives and firearms.*** The ATF also focuses on criminal motorcycle gangs that break federal firearms, explosives, and drug trafficking laws.
3. **The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):** ***This agency is a part of the Department of Justice, and is in charge of all federal drug control laws.*** This agency investigates narcotic violators, seizes drugs, and arrests drug traffickers.
4. **The United States Marshals Service:** ***Marshals are in charge of capturing escaped federal prisoners and supervising those arrested.*** They also operate the U.S Federal Witness Protection Program. The U.S. Federal Witness Protection Program is where witnesses to those in federal trials get new identities and receive security. Marshals also offer protection to the members of the federal judiciary, except the U.S. Supreme Court, who has their own police force. There is also security for all federal courts.
5. **The Secret Service:** ***Mostly known as the protectors of the president and other officials of the federal government,*** but they are also responsible for capturing anyone counterfeiting U.S money.

6. **The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS):** *They are in charge of controlling the flow of immigrants into the U.S.* They patrol the U.S. borders and stop illegal immigrants from entering the country. The INS agents will deport any aliens who violate any U.S. naturalization laws.

Several law enforcement agencies send officers overseas. The number of officers stationed overseas has been increasing in response to the higher rates of drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism. There are American law enforcement officers in over 50 countries. (<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/more-subjects/criminal-justice/police-function/police-systems>)

State Police

State police agencies have jurisdiction statewide, and every state has their own police force, with the exception of Hawaii. ***There is no state police in Hawaii.*** The four counties in the state are each responsible for its own police force (<http://www.honolulu.gov/police/index.php?page=history>). The nation's largest state police force is the California Highway Patrol. State police agencies are in charge of some or all of the following jobs:

- Operating a crime lab
- Patrolling the state's highways
- Training municipal and county police
- Maintaining centralized crime records for the state
- Assisting local law enforcement organizations in criminal investigations (<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/more-subjects/criminal-justice/police-function/police-systems>)

County Police

The county sheriff is elected. Sheriffs are responsible for policing rural and unincorporated areas of more than 3,000 counties in the United States. ***The largest sheriff's office is the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department with over 11,000 full-time employees.*** There are more than 3,000 sheriffs' departments in the United States; 19 of those departments have only one employee, so the sheriffs' offices can vary greatly in size. The duties of a sheriff are:

- Law enforcement
- ***Court bailiffs***
- Correctional duties
- Prisoner transport to and from court
- Serving court papers

Municipal Police

“City police represent the largest number of agencies, employ most of the sworn officers, and shoulder the heaviest responsibility for dealing with violent crime. Mayors or city managers appoint the **chiefs** that head big city police departments. Departments vary in size and in the types of crimes that face them. ***The “Big Six” departments—New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, and Detroit—***deal with the most serious violent crimes. The New York Police Department employs more than 36,000 full-time officers. It confronts shootings, scandals, and corruption that make the national headlines. Most departments employ only a few people. In small departments, most calls to the police involve traffic violations and minor disturbances.”

<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/more-subjects/criminal-justice/police-function/police-systems>)

There are several types of local law enforcement agencies including:

- ***City Police Department***
- ***County Sheriff' offices***
- ***Transit Authority Police***
- ***School District Police***

- **Housing Authority Police**
- **District Attorneys' Office Investigators**
- **Airport police**
- **Harbor Police**
- **University Police**
- **Hospital Police**

(<http://www.golawenforcement.com/LawEnforcementAgencies.htm>)

Some of these local law enforcement agencies fall under special district police agencies. **A special district is defined by state law as “any agency of the state for local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries.”** It is a special district that is a separate local governmental agency that is formed to provide local services. Whenever taxes are not enough for cities and counties to provide all the services wanted by its citizens, these districts are formed to pay for them. Some special districts are fire protection, water districts, harbor districts, school districts, and open spaces. The advantage to special districts is it can link costs to the benefits the citizens will gain. These special districts are also responsive to their citizens and can tailor their services specifically to their demands.

(http://www.smcmad.org/what_is_special_district.htm)

Police Issues

Image: The perceptions are usually based on the personal interactions people may have. Studies have shown that people report positive feedback when the officer they had interactions with treated them fairly and respectfully. Their opinion wouldn't change even if they had been given a speeding ticket. When a person felt that they received the correct and just actions given by the law enforcement agency, they are more likely to comply in the future. Media also plays a part in the way the public has perceived the police, but not as much as personal experience. Being exposed to the media reports of police corruption or police brutalities will strongly influence a person's perspective of police being more prone to brutalities or misconducts. (<http://www.nij.gov/topics/law-enforcement/legitimacy/pages/perceptions.aspx>)

Professionalism: **“Professionalism, by definition, involves belonging to a profession and behaving in a way that is consistent with professional standards.** A profession is an occupation that requires extensive training, and

the study and mastery of specialized knowledge. It usually requires accreditation, certification or licensing. It has a specific code of ethics, and it holds its members accountable. Professionalism also means having an internal set of standards of performance and behavior. Professionals aspire to high ideals: altruism; honor and integrity; respect; excellence and scholarship; caring, compassion, and communication; leadership; and responsibility and accountability.” (Carter, Lycia.2006)

http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arc_h&article_id=971&issue_id=82006)

Subculture: “*A subculture is a group of individuals who generally share attitudes, perceptions, assumptions, values, beliefs, ways of living, and traditions.*” *Since police work has such unique experiences, the subculture that would become more dominant would be their work peers instead of their families.* In some instances, the line between constructive dedication and misguided allegiance can interfere with the main point of law enforcement. **A group of law officers who have shared many dangerous incidents may develop an even bigger attachment to one another.** They may develop the mentality that their way of handling certain situations is the right and only way to do them. These units may also feel superior to other members of law enforcement, and can lead to separating themselves from the rest of their agencies. The overall mission of law enforcement can be compromised by a lack of strong leadership, and the inability to see the lines blurred from misguided loyalty. (Martin, Rich, 2011. <http://leb.fbi.gov/2011/may/police-corruption-an-analytical-look-into-police-ethics>)

Women and Other Minorities in Policing: *The United States police departments must hire people without regard to race or gender.* “According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, racial and ethnic minorities in state and local agencies made up 23.6 percent of full-time sworn personnel in 2003, up from 14.6 percent in 1987. Women accounted for 11.3 percent of officers in 2003 up from 7.6 percent in 1987. While the numbers are increasing, the profession continues to seek greater representation of women and minorities in its ranks, and many agencies are actively and aggressively recruiting from these demographics. **For many agencies, particularly those serving large immigrant communities, the need for racial and ethnic minorities extends far beyond traditional groups.**”

(http://discoverpolicing.org/why_policing/?fa=diversity#sthash.7vaf8zDA.dpuf)

Practice Exam

1. Which of the following is not one of the different jurisdictions of the criminal justice system?
 - a. Tribal government
 - b. County
 - c. State
 - d. Monumental

2. _____ are lawyers who represent the state or federal government (not the victim).
 - a. Prosecutors
 - b. Defense attorneys
 - c. Courts
 - d. Law enforcers

3. _____ defend the accused against the government's case.
 - a. Prosecutors
 - b. Defense attorneys
 - c. Courts
 - d. Law enforcers

4. Who are the courts run by?
 - a. Prosecution
 - b. Defense attorneys
 - c. Judges
 - d. Bailiffs

5. _____ supervise convicted offenders when they are in jail, in prison, or in the community on probation or parole.
 - a. Prosecutors
 - b. Defense attorneys
 - c. Judges
 - d. Correction officers

6. The _____ focus on protecting the nation in the following: terrorism, civil rights crime, white collar crimes, and violent crimes like bank robberies and kidnapping.
 - a. FBI
 - b. ATF
 - c. DEA
 - d. None of the above

7. _____ is a part of the U.S. Treasury Department and investigates the criminal use of explosives and firearms.
 - a. The FBI
 - b. The ATF
 - c. The DEA
 - d. None of the above

8. _____ is a part of the U.S. Department of Justice and is in charge of all federal drug control laws.
 - a. The FBI
 - b. The ATF
 - c. The DEA
 - d. None of the above

9. _____ are in charge of capturing escaped federal prisoners, and supervising those arrested.
 - a. The United States Marshals
 - b. The Secret Service
 - c. The INS
 - d. None of the above

10. _____ are in charge of the witness protection program.
 - a. The United States Marshals
 - b. The Secret Service
 - c. The INS
 - d. None of the above

11. _____ is mostly known as the protectors of the president and other officials of the federal government.
 - a. The United States Marshals
 - b. The Secret Service
 - c. The INS
 - d. None of the above

12. The _____ are in charge of policing the flow of immigrants into the United States.
 - a. United States Marshals
 - b. The Secret Service
 - c. The INS
 - d. None of the above

13. There is no state police in the state of _____.
 - a. California
 - b. Nevada
 - c. New York
 - d. Hawaii

14. How does the county sheriff obtain its position?
 - a. Inherited
 - b. Elected
 - c. Promoted
 - d. Appointed

15. The largest sheriff's office is in _____ with over 11,000 full-time employees.
 - a. Los Angeles
 - b. New York
 - c. Miami
 - d. Seattle

16. What type of law enforcement can also serve as court bailiffs?
 - a. Municipal police
 - b. County sheriffs
 - c. Prosecutors
 - d. Judges

17. _____ represent the largest number of agencies, employ most of the sworn officers, and shoulder the heaviest responsibility for dealing with violent crime.
- The city police
 - The FBI
 - The secret service
 - None of the above
18. Which city is not included in the “Big Six” departments?
- New York
 - Los Angeles
 - Houston
 - Miami
19. A _____ is defined by state law as, “any agency of the state for local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries.”
- Sheriff’s office
 - Municipal court
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - Special district
20. Which of the following is not a type of local law enforcement agency?
- Harbor police
 - Airport police
 - Mall police
 - Hospital police
21. _____, by definition, involves belonging to a profession and behaving in a way that is consistent with professional standards.
- Image
 - Professionalism
 - Subculture
 - None of the above

22. _____ is a group of individuals who generally share attitudes, perceptions, assumptions, values, beliefs, ways of living, and traditions.
- Image
 - Professionalism
 - Subculture
 - None of the above
23. According to the subculture of police, police officers would find an even bigger attachment to one another and not their_____.
- Mentors
 - Families
 - Friends
 - None of the above
24. The United States police departments must hire people without regard to _____.
- Education
 - Race
 - Gender
 - Race or gender
25. Why does the need for racial and ethnic minorities for some agencies extend beyond traditional groups?
- They serve large immigrant communities
 - They have to meet a quota
 - They are more educated
 - They want to be more diverse

Answer Key

1. d) Monumental
2. a) Prosecution
3. b) Defense attorneys
4. c) Judges
5. d) Correction officers
6. a) FBI
7. b) ATF
8. a) FBI
9. a) United States Marshals
10. a) United States Marshals
11. b) The Secret Service
12. c) The INS
13. d) Hawaii
14. b) elected
15. a) Los Angeles
16. b) County Sheriffs
17. a) City Police
18. d) Miami
19. d) Special district
20. c) Mall police
21. b) Professionalism
22. c) Subculture
23. b) Family
24. d) Race or Gender
25. a) They serve large immigrant communities

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