

Criminal Justice Essentials

Criminal Justice · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. What is the primary role of a grand jury in the criminal justice process?

- A) To determine the final guilt of the defendant
- B) To decide if there is enough evidence to charge a person with a crime
- C) To sentence individuals after a trial
- D) To represent the defendant in court

2. Which document protects the rights of individuals in the United States, including the right to a fair trial and protection against self-incrimination?

- A) The Declaration of Independence
- B) The Magna Carta
- C) The Bill of Rights
- D) The Civil Rights Act

3. In a criminal trial, what is the 'burden of proof' required to convict a defendant?

- A) Preponderance of the evidence
- B) Clear and convincing evidence
- C) Beyond a reasonable doubt
- D) Probable cause

4. What is the term for a crime that is considered less serious than a felony, typically punishable by fines or less than one year in jail?

- A) Misdemeanor
- B) Infraction
- C) Tort
- D) Indictment

5. What is the purpose of an 'arraignment' in a criminal case?

- A) To select a jury
- B) To present final arguments
- C) To hear the charges and enter a plea
- D) To appeal a verdict

6. What is the main function of the correctional system?

- A) To legislate new laws
- B) To prosecute suspects
- C) To supervise and rehabilitate individuals convicted of crimes
- D) To investigate unsolved crimes

7. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides the right to an attorney in criminal prosecutions?

- A) First Amendment
- B) Fourth Amendment
- C) Fifth Amendment
- D) Sixth Amendment

8. What does the term 'habeas corpus' literally mean in a legal context?

- A) You shall have the body
- B) The law of the land
- C) Guilty by association
- D) To testify under oath

9. Which law enforcement action requires 'probable cause' to be legally valid?

- A) Issuing a search warrant
- B) Conducting a traffic stop
- C) Questioning a witness
- D) Patrolling a neighborhood

10. What is a 'plea bargain' in the criminal justice system?

- A) A private deal between the judge and the victim
- B) A negotiated agreement where the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge
- C) An appeal filed after a conviction
- D) A public statement made by the prosecutor

11. Which branch of government is responsible for interpreting laws and determining if a defendant has violated them?

- A) Legislative
- B) Executive
- C) Judicial
- D) Administrative

12. What does the term 'recidivism' refer to in criminology?

- A) The process of erasing a criminal record
- B) The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend
- C) The severity of a prison sentence
- D) The selection process for jury members

13. What is the 'exclusionary rule' in legal proceedings?

- A) The right to exclude specific jurors
- B) The requirement that judges be impartial
- C) The rule that evidence obtained illegally cannot be used in court
- D) The exclusion of the public from certain trials

14. Which of the following is an example of an 'indictable offense'?

- A) Parking violation
- B) Littering
- C) Armed robbery
- D) Jaywalking

15. What is the function of an appellate court?

- A) To hear original evidence and testimony
- B) To determine if the law was applied correctly in a lower court trial
- C) To impose the death penalty
- D) To oversee police department budgets