

Criminal Justice Essentials

Criminal Justice · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. What is the primary purpose of the 'burden of proof' in a criminal trial?

- A) To prove the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt
- B) To establish the defendant's character
- C) To determine the length of the sentence
- D) To assess the cost of the trial

2. Which term describes the formal reading of criminal charges to a defendant in court?

- A) Indictment
- B) Arraignment
- C) Summons
- D) Verdict

3. What is the 'Miranda Warning' primarily designed to protect in the United States?

- A) The right to a speedy trial
- B) The right against self-incrimination
- C) The right to bear arms
- D) The right to bail

4. In a criminal justice context, what is 'recidivism'?

- A) The reduction of a prison sentence
- B) The process of appealing a verdict
- C) The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend
- D) The release of a prisoner on parole

5. Which branch of government is responsible for interpreting criminal laws?

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

6. What is a 'plea bargain'?

- A) A request for a new trial
- B) An agreement between defendant and prosecutor to resolve a case
- C) A judge's final decision on sentencing
- D) The dismissal of all charges

7. Which document outlines the fundamental rights of citizens in many democratic legal systems?

- A) A Constitution
- B) A subpoena
- C) A warrant
- D) A docket

8. What is the purpose of an 'expert witness' in a criminal trial?

- A) To provide character references for the accused
- B) To provide specialized scientific or professional knowledge
- C) To represent the interests of the victim
- D) To act as a secondary judge

9. What does the term 'habeas corpus' legally allow a person to do?

- A) Request a jury trial
- B) Appeal a sentence
- C) Challenge the legality of their imprisonment
- D) Demand a public defender

10. What is the 'adversarial system' of justice?

- A) A system where two opposing parties present their case to an impartial judge or jury
- B) A system where the judge leads the investigation
- C) A system where the victim decides the punishment
- D) A system with no legal representation

11. What is an 'indictment'?

- A) A written statement of the charges against a person issued by a grand jury
- B) The final ruling given by a judge
- C) The initial arrest report
- D) A formal apology from the defendant

12. Which of the following is considered a 'felony'?

- A) A minor traffic violation
- B) A serious crime typically punishable by more than one year in prison
- C) An act punishable only by a fine
- D) A civil dispute between neighbors

13. What is 'probation' in the criminal justice system?

- A) A period of supervision over an offender instead of incarceration
- B) The process of applying for a pardon
- C) A temporary release from jail for work
- D) The formal closing of a case

14. What is the primary role of a 'prosecutor' in a criminal case?

- A) To defend the accused
- B) To represent the state and seek justice
- C) To set the bail amount
- D) To preside over the court

15. What is a 'subpoena'?

- A) A court order requiring a person to appear and give testimony
- B) A document granting parole
- C) An authorization to search private property
- D) A summary of the trial proceedings

16. What does 'due process' ensure in the criminal justice system?

- A) That every defendant is found innocent
- B) That the government follows established legal procedures and respects individual rights
- C) That the victim determines the sentence
- D) That all trials are held in secret for protection

17. What is the 'exclusionary rule' in criminal law?

- A) It prevents evidence obtained illegally from being used in court
- B) It prevents certain people from serving on a jury
- C) It excludes the media from the courtroom
- D) It bars a defendant from testifying

18. Which of these is a common penalty for a 'misdemeanor'?

- A) Life imprisonment
- B) Capital punishment
- C) Fines or short-term jail sentences
- D) Loss of citizenship

19. What is a 'bail' hearing intended to determine?

- A) The guilt of the accused
- B) The likelihood that the defendant will return to court
- C) The severity of the crime
- D) The mental state of the judge

20. What is the 'jury's' primary role in a criminal trial?

- A) To interpret the law
- B) To determine the facts and reach a verdict
- C) To select the witnesses
- D) To decide the final sentence