

College Admission

Criminal-Justice
DSST Criminal Justice Exam (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests)

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Question: 1

The three most-often performed tasks of the typical police officer are

- A. Patrols, investigations, and administrative tasks.
- B. Motor patrols, foot patrols, and detective work.
- C. Public relations, patrols, and community outreach.
- D. All of the above.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Studies of the time spent by the average police officer indicate that patrols, investigation, and administrative tasks occupy the largest part of a police officer's time. Some police officers are averse to paper work and other administrative tasks, but well-organized and well-documented paperwork aids in the prosecution of criminal offenses. All of the elements are important but "a" is the best answer.

Question: 2

Which of the following activities is not a function or purpose of police patrolling?

- A. Creating a visible police presence which in itself can be a deterrent to crime.
- B. Responding to initial crime complaints and gathering relevant information and evidence.
- C. Using police discretion in determining an appropriate course of action with regard to illegal activity.
- D. Testifying in court against an accused person.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Police are often sent to patrol specific areas for specific reasons. Patrols may be focused on known "trouble spots," for example. In such case, the visible presence of a police officer can help curtail criminal activity. Should crimes occur, patrolling police may investigate to obtain vital information. Police must use discretion in determining the proper course of action to follow based on the evidence that has been gathered. "D" is the correct answer; giving testimony as a court witness is sometimes a result of patrolling, but it is never the purpose of a patrol.

Question: 3

In modern times—for a variety of reasons—the traditional criminal punishments of incarceration have given way to

- A. House arrest, electronic monitoring, and various forms of "accelerated rehabilitation" programs for youthful and first time offenders.
- B. Transferring criminal offenders to military service.
- C. Community service sentencing and chain gangs.
- D. Public court apologies and seeking forgiveness from crime victims.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option "c" is half right, but "chain gangs" are no longer part of the penal system. There was a time when criminal offenders were offered the chance to serve in the military instead of serving a prison sentence, but today's military does not want criminals in its ranks, making answer "b" a poor choice. While public apologies seem to be in vogue, they are an irrelevant part of the punishment system. The best answer is "a."

Question: 4

"He seemed to be the most nervous person in the crowd when I approached, so I arrested him," said the officer to the prosecuting attorney. Such an arrest would be questionable and likely to be void under the legal guidelines of

- A. Parents patria.
- B. Probable cause.
- C. Nolo contender.
- D. The Fifth Amendment and self-incrimination.

Answer: B

Explanation:

A police officer needs "probable cause" to arrest someone; just because someone looked like "the most nervous person in the crowd" is not probable cause. Even if other evidence turns up later against that same person, the police are very likely to be judged to have made a "false arrest" when the defense attorney raises objections as to the reasons for the arrest.

Question: 5

Ahmad Jones is brought before a District Magistrate to be arraigned on charges of drunk driving. The magistrate had a nephew who was killed by a drunk driver, and she has little compassion for people who drink and drive. The defendant is found guilty and the magistrate sentences Ahmad to dig a hole in the local cemetery for another victim of a drunk driving accident. This sentence would likely be overturned due to

- A. the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution
- B. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S Constitution.
- C. the Fourth Amendment to the U.S Constitution

D. the Sixth Amendment

Answer: A

Explanation:

There are certain constitutional amendments which particularly impact upon criminal procedure and it behooves every police officer to be familiar with them. The Eighth Amendment protects citizens from "cruel and unusual punishment" that the magistrate has ordered. The Sixth Amendment has to do with rights to a speedy and fair trial, the Fifth with protections against self-incrimination, and the Fourth with illegal search and seizure.

Question: 6

The Constitutional Amendment that granted equal protections under US laws to all US citizens regardless of nationality, race, or religious beliefs and has important implications for police officers is the

- A. the Fifth Amendment
- B. the Fourth Amendment
- C. the Sixth Amendment
- D. the Fourteenth Amendment

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Fourteenth Amendment dates back to the period following the Civil War when it was necessary to guarantee to African Americans the same legal protections that applied to Caucasians. The Fourteenth Amendment provides these guarantees in matters of criminal procedure. Choice "d" is the correct answer, and it is important to note that respect for the civil liberties of all citizens is an important aspect of police power and authority.

Consider the following statements to answer Question 07:

- I. Female police officers are less aggressive than male officers; therefore, they are better able to control volatile situations verbally.
- II. Female police officers create an officer safety problem in most police departments.
- III. Female officers have a more positive attitude toward community policing than male officers do.
- IV. The percentage of both male and female college graduates among police officers is much higher today than in years past.

Question: 7

With regard to gender in police hiring, which of the following statements is true?

- A. I and II
- B. I, III, and IV
- C. III and IV

D. IV only

Answer: C

Explanation:

An existing study shows that the number of college graduates among police officers has risen from 20 percent in the 1960s to 65 percent in 1988. With regard to I and II, it should not surprise you that statistics show that the slight differences between male and female officers are not statistically significant. However, female officers are shown in studies to have a more positive attitude toward community policing than do their male counterparts.

Question: 8

Research on police officer behavior is likely to focus on

- A. Use of force and the discharge of firearms.
- B. Detection activities, service activities, the number of arrests and citations, and the use of force.
- C. The number of hours spent on patrol, firearms training, and an officer's level of education.
- D. Attitudes toward policing, attitudes toward the community, and attitudes toward the court system.

Answer: B

Explanation:

All police department require high standards of hygiene and conduct so that's not likely to be a large research area. The number of hours spent on patrol might be studied locally but it's not an issue of national concern. Attitudes are important but studies show that the attitudes mentioned here affect police efficacy only slightly. The best answer is 'b' Detection activities, service activities, the number of arrests and citations, and the use of force are the area's most often studied in research on police conduct and behavior.

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