

PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEGAL Corrections-Officer

Corrections Officer Certification Exam

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Question: 1

Which of the following is most important for preventing riots or other disturbances?

- A. Regularly practicing a well-planned crisis intervention plan
- B. Regular group talks given to inmates by the warden or other authority figures
- C. Consistent enforcement of rules and regulations
- D. Fast and detailed reporting of inmate infractions

Answer: C

Explanation:

There are many factors that go into maintaining a calm and safe environment in a correctional institution, and one of the most important is that rules and regulations must be consistently enforced. Laxity, favoritism and other forms of inconsistency can lead to anger and resentment and should be avoided at all costs.

Question: 2

Are inmates allowed to smoke?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. They may smoke in their cells, but not in common areas.
- D. The answer varies by jurisdiction.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Rules about cigarette smoking and other tobacco use vary by jurisdiction. Until not long ago, virtually all jails and prisons in the United States allowed inmates (and staff) to smoke. Concerns about rising health care costs for both smokers and non-smokers led many states to ban smoking in correctional institutions, starting a few decades ago. More than half of the 50 states currently ban smoking and that number is expected to keep rising.

Question: 3

It is important for correction officers to become friendly with inmates because it promotes understanding and mutual respect.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: B

Explanation:

Staff members must NOT become friendly with inmates (or members of their families), but should always strive to maintain a professional distance between themselves and inmates. This is not to suggest that correction workers should not care about the welfare of inmates; they should. However, they should not become friendly with them because doing so can cause substantial conflicts of interest.

Question: 4

Which of the following is NOT a valid method of rewarding or punishing inmates?

- A. Solitary confinement
- B. Time off for good behavior
- C. Loss of inmate privileges
- D. Blocking mail from an inmate's attorney

Answer: D

Explanation:

Inmates have a right to communicate with their attorneys, and correctional institutions may not block mail to or from an inmate's lawyer. Doing so would be an unconstitutional form of punishment. The other choices are all valid methods for rewarding or punishing inmates.

Question: 5

While making rounds, you recognize a new inmate as a friend from high school you later lost contact with. You have not seen him in nearly 10 years.

What should you do?

- A. Nothing, as this sort of thing happens from time to time
- B. Notify your supervisor
- C. Acknowledge the inmate in some way
- D. Offer to show him how to stay out of trouble

Answer: B

Explanation:

If you come across an inmate you know while working in corrections, you should immediately inform your direct supervisor. This includes close relatives,

distant relatives, current friends, friends you have not seen for years, friends you have had a falling out with, former co-workers, and all other past and present acquaintances. The potential for a conflict of interest is high in a situation like this, and failing to notify your supervisor immediately could lead to disciplinary action.

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