LEARNDIGITALPH · FREE REVIEWER

Criminology Board Exam Reviewer 2027

20 practice questions with answer key and explanations

These questions are original practice items, not actual exam items. LearnDigitalPH is independent and is not affiliated with or endorsed by Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) — Professional Regulatory Board of Criminology. Exam facts checked as of October 2026: always confirm with the official agency.

Passing score: Weighted average of 75% with no grade below 60% in any subject

---

CRIMINAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE

1. Pedro shot Juan in the chest intending to kill him. The wound was mortal, and Juan survived only because of timely surgery. What crime did Pedro commit?

A. Frustrated homicide
B. Attempted homicide
C. Consummated homicide
D. Physical injuries only

CRIMINAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE

2. In self-defense, which element is indispensable, such that without it there can be no complete or incomplete self-defense?

A. Reasonable necessity of the means employed
B. Lack of sufficient provocation on the part of the person defending himself
C. Unlawful aggression on the part of the victim
D. The presence of a witness to the attack

CRIMINAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE

3. Under the 1987 Constitution, the rights of a person under custodial investigation to remain silent and to have counsel may be waived only if the waiver is:

A. Made orally before the investigating officer
B. In writing and made in the presence of counsel
C. In writing and signed before a barangay official
D. Recorded on video by the arresting team

CRIMINAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE

4. What quantum of evidence is required to convict an accused in a criminal case?

A. Preponderance of evidence
B. Substantial evidence
C. Clear and convincing evidence
D. Proof beyond reasonable doubt

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

5. Under the Constitution and RA 6975 as amended by RA 8551, which agency exercises administrative control and operational supervision over the Philippine National Police?

A. Department of Justice
B. Commission on Human Rights
C. National Police Commission
D. Armed Forces of the Philippines

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

6. Which patrol method gives officers the most direct, face-to-face contact with the community and is best for building police-community relations?

A. Foot patrol
B. Automobile patrol
C. Helicopter patrol
D. Marine patrol

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

7. In physical security planning, what is considered the first line of defense of a protected facility?

A. Locks on the vault or safe
B. Guards stationed at posts inside the main building
C. Alarm systems on interior doors
D. Perimeter barriers like fences and walls

CRIME DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION

8. The three tools of criminal investigation, often called the 'three I's', are:

A. Identification, inspection, and indictment
B. Information, interrogation, and instrumentation
C. Intelligence, interview, and incarceration
D. Inquiry, investigation, and intervention

CRIME DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION

9. Under Section 21 of RA 9165 as amended by RA 10640, the physical inventory and photographing of seized drugs must be done in the presence of the accused (or his representative or counsel) and which other witnesses?

A. An elected public official and a National Prosecution Service or media representative
B. Any two barangay tanods or residents living near the place of arrest
C. A representative of the PDEA and a priest, pastor, or other religious leader
D. The arresting officer's commanding officer and one other officer from the seizing unit

CRIME DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION

10. The purplish-red discoloration on the lowest (dependent) parts of a dead body, caused by blood settling due to gravity, is called:

A. Rigor mortis
B. Algor mortis
C. Livor mortis
D. Cadaveric spasm

CRIME DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION

11. A fire involving burning magnesium shavings in a machine shop is classified as what class of fire?

A. Class A
B. Class D
C. Class B
D. Class C

FORENSIC SCIENCE

12. Which fingerprint pattern type is the most common in the general population?

A. Whorl
B. Arch
C. Accidental
D. Loop

FORENSIC SCIENCE

13. In a polygraph, which component records changes in the electrical resistance (conductance) of the skin?

A. Pneumograph
B. Cardiosphygmograph
C. Galvanograph
D. Kymograph

FORENSIC SCIENCE

14. In firearms identification, the raised portions of the bore between the grooves of a rifled barrel are called:

A. Lands
B. Grooves
C. Chambers
D. Breech faces

CRIMINOLOGY

15. Which criminologist, known as the 'Father of Modern Criminology', proposed the idea of the 'born criminal' marked by atavistic physical traits?

A. Cesare Beccaria
B. Jeremy Bentham
C. Emile Durkheim
D. Cesare Lombroso

CRIMINOLOGY

16. Under Robert Merton's strain theory, a person who accepts society's goal of wealth but uses illegal means such as theft or fraud to achieve it shows which mode of adaptation?

A. Conformity
B. Innovation
C. Ritualism
D. Retreatism

CRIMINOLOGY

17. Under RA 9344 as amended by RA 10630, a child who was 14 years old when he committed theft is:

A. Exempt from criminal liability but subject to an intervention program

B. Criminally liable if he acted with discernment

C. Criminally liable but entitled to a privileged mitigating circumstance

D. Automatically committed to a regular jail

CRIMINOLOGY

18. A city with a population of 250,000 recorded 500 index crimes in one year. What is its crime rate per 100,000 population?

A. 50

B. 500

C. 200

D. 2,000

CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION

19. Which agency has jurisdiction over district, city and municipal jails in the Philippines?

A. Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)

B. Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)

C. Parole and Probation Administration of the DOJ

D. Provincial government

CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION

20. Under PD 968 as amended by RA 10707, which offender is disqualified from applying for probation?

A. One sentenced to imprisonment of exactly one year and one day

B. A first-time offender convicted of a light felony

C. One who has only been fined

D. One sentenced to a maximum prison term of over six years

Answer key and explanations

1. A. Frustrated homicide
Under Art. 6 of the RPC, a felony is frustrated when the offender performs all acts of execution but the result does not follow for causes independent of his will. The wound was mortal and only surgery saved Juan. A non-mortal wound would be attempted.

2. C. Unlawful aggression on the part of the victim
Unlawful aggression is the foundation of self-defense. If there is no unlawful aggression, there is nothing to repel, so neither complete nor incomplete self-defense can exist.

3. B. In writing and made in the presence of counsel
Article III, Section 12(1) of the Constitution states these rights cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel. A waiver made any other way is invalid.

4. D. Proof beyond reasonable doubt
The Rules on Evidence require proof beyond reasonable doubt for conviction. Preponderance applies to civil cases, and substantial evidence to administrative cases.

5. C. National Police Commission
The Constitution provides for one police force, national in scope and civilian in character, administered and controlled by a national police commission. RA 6975 as amended gives NAPOLCOM administrative control and operational supervision over the PNP.

6. A. Foot patrol
Foot patrol lets officers talk with residents and observe closely. It covers less ground than mobile patrol, but it builds familiarity and trust in the neighborhood.

7. D. Perimeter barriers like fences and walls
Physical security is layered. The perimeter barrier is the first line, the building exterior is the second, and interior controls such as vaults, safes and locks are the last line.

8. B. Information, interrogation, and instrumentation
Investigators gather information from people and records, question suspects and witnesses (interrogation and interview), and apply science and equipment to physical evidence (instrumentation).

9. A. An elected public official and a National Prosecution Service or media representative
RA 10640 amended Section 21 to require an elected public official AND a representative of the National Prosecution Service OR the media, done immediately after seizure. This protects the chain of custody.

10. C. Livor mortis
Livor mortis (post-mortem lividity) is the pooling of blood in dependent parts. Rigor mortis is stiffening of muscles, algor mortis is cooling of the body, and cadaveric spasm is instant rigidity at the moment of death.

11. B. Class D
Class D fires involve combustible metals such as magnesium, sodium and titanium. Class A is ordinary combustibles, Class B is flammable liquids and gases, and Class C is energized electrical equipment.

12. D. Loop
Loops make up roughly 60 to 65 percent of all fingerprint patterns, whorls about 30 to 35 percent, and arches only about 5 percent.

13. C. Galvanograph
The galvanograph measures electrodermal response through the skin. The pneumograph records breathing, and the cardiosphygmograph records blood pressure and pulse.

14. A. Lands

Rifling is cut into the bore as spiral grooves. The uncut, raised spaces between them are the lands. Both leave impressions on a fired bullet that help match it to a specific firearm.

15. D. Cesare Lombroso

Lombroso, leader of the Italian Positivist School, argued that some criminals were biological throwbacks (atavism). Beccaria and Bentham belong to the Classical School.

16. B. Innovation

Innovation means accepting cultural goals but rejecting legitimate means. Ritualism is the reverse (rejecting goals, keeping means), and retreatism rejects both.

17. A. Exempt from criminal liability but subject to an intervention program

A child 15 years old or below at the time of the offense is exempt from criminal liability, but he is placed in an appropriate intervention program. Discernment matters only for children above 15 but below 18.

18. C. 200

Crime rate = (number of crimes ÷ population) × 100,000 = (500 ÷ 250,000) × 100,000 = 0.002 × 100,000 = 200 per 100,000. Always divide by the population first, then scale up.

19. B. Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)

Under RA 6975, the BJMP under the DILG supervises district, city and municipal jails. BuCor handles national prisoners, and provincial jails are run by provincial governments.

20. D. One sentenced to a maximum prison term of over six years

The Probation Law disqualifies those sentenced to a maximum term of imprisonment of more than six years. So a sentence of exactly six years can still be probationable, if no other disqualification applies. The law also lists other grounds.

Keep practicing online

Take this test timed and get a score per subject, then try the two full mock exams:
https://www.learndigitalph.com/reviewers/criminologist-licensure