

## Theory

### **Question 1**

There are significant gender differences in criminal involvement. What are the current trends and understanding on this topic with regard to various types of offending, patterns, and official data arrest reports across the sexes? Using a theory of criminology, address the gender gap in offending and use theory to address why this disparity exists. Why are males more criminally involved than females in different types of crimes? Are the causes of female crime similar to or different from the causes of male crime? Support your rationale proposed in detail with propositions, assumptions, and tenets from the theoretical framework and backed up by empirical cites and support from the extant literature of your theory of choice.

### **Question 2**

Most criminological theories are founded on basic assumptions about the relationship between individuals and society. One position depicts individuals as largely passive, responding to factors (micro-level, macro-level, and possibly constitutional) that are beyond the individual's control. Another position emphasizes human agency and depicts individuals as active agents operating on their environment. Select two theoretical perspectives to illustrate these contrasting positions. Explain how the logic of each perspective reflects a particular view of human agency, external constraint (structure), or both. Make sure your answer is evidence-based, drawing from the literatures relevant to both theories that you select.

Policy:

### **Question 1**

Recently states and the federal government have shifted attention toward the problems associated with offender reentry and reintegration. What should a policy on offender reentry and reintegration “look like?” In your answer, (1) give an overview of how crime policy has contributed to the mass incarceration of offenders; (2) present your proposed policy suggestions based on relevant theoretical and empirical evidence; and (3) conclude your proposal with suggestions of how we can avoid the mistakes as discussed in (1).

### **Question 2**

For the past few years, state and local governments have sought ways to deal with increasing budget deficits and in some cases have proposed cutting police officers, corrections officers and other criminal justice-related budget items. In an effort to be fiscally responsible but also increase public safety, the Mayor of Dallas has asked you to create a policy proposal based on “what works, what doesn’t and what’s promising.” Citing theoretical and empirical evidence, develop a comprehensive crime policy plan for one area of criminal justice—police, courts, or corrections—but keep in mind how changes in one agency may affect others.

## Data/Methods

### **Question 1**

You are interested in studying racial disproportionality among American prison inmates. You believe that African Americans are disproportionately represented in prisons due to decisions made by judges and parole boards that place minorities (particularly African Americans) at a disadvantage. Draft a short proposal (only research and analytical design--NOTE: detail on the literature immediately surrounding this topic is not required) for a study that would systematically test your hypothesis/es. Include FIVE main sections in your response:

- 1) Outline of your hypotheses and/or research questions,
- 2) Study Participants/Data Collection,
- 3) Measures,
- 4) Analytical Procedure/s,
- 5) Study limitations.

### **Question 2**

Suppose you are asked to evaluate a delinquency treatment program, and you attempt to use some kind of experimental or quasi-experimental design. What could you do to deal with the following problems?

- a. You are unable to do random assignment of subjects
- b. You lose cases from the experimental group due to drop-outs from the program.
- c. You have nonequivalent control and experimental groups
- d. You are concerned about regression artifacts since juveniles selected for the treatment program tend to have a more extended criminal record.
- e. Events occurring between the beginning of the treatment program and the posttest could have produced the observed outcome in the absence of the treatment program.