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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST)

SN498

Criminal Justice

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST) **SN498**, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, **SN498**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are the three main components of the American criminal justice system? (Choose three.)

- ☒ **A** Police
- ☒ **B** Courts
- ☒ **C** Corrections
- ☐ **D** Legislature
- ☐ **E** Media

ANSWER A • B • C

WHY The American criminal justice system is traditionally described as having three main components: police (law enforcement), courts (the adjudication component), and corrections (the component responsible for carrying out sentences). The legislature makes laws but is not generally described as a component of the criminal justice system itself, and the media is not a component of the system.

QUESTION 2

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are recognized sources of criminal law in the United States? (Choose three.)

- ☒ **A** Constitutional law
- ☒ **B** Statutory law
- ☒ **C** Case law (judicial precedent)
- ☐ **D** Customary tribal law
- ☐ **E** Corporate policy

ANSWER A • B • C

WHY The major sources of criminal law in the United States are constitutional law (which sets limits on what can be criminalized and on criminal procedures), statutory law (laws enacted by legislatures), and case law (judicial interpretations that establish precedent). Customary tribal law and corporate policy are not recognized sources of U.S. criminal law.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Substantive criminal law is best defined as the body of law that:

- ☐ A Specifies the procedures that police must follow during an arrest.
- ☒ B Defines crimes and sets the punishments that may be imposed for them.
- ☐ C Regulates the rules of evidence used in criminal trials.
- ☐ D Governs the selection and conduct of jurors.

ANSWER B

WHY Substantive criminal law defines what conduct is considered criminal and prescribes the penalties for such conduct. Procedural law, by contrast, governs how criminal cases are processed, including arrest procedures, rules of evidence, and jury selection.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

In criminal law, the term mens rea refers to:

- ☐ A The physical act of committing a crime.
- ☒ B The mental state or intent required to commit a crime.
- ☐ C The relationship between the act and the resulting harm.
- ☐ D The legal justification for an otherwise criminal act.

ANSWER B

WHY Mens rea is Latin for 'guilty mind' and refers to the mental state or intent required to establish criminal liability. Common mens rea categories include purpose, knowledge, recklessness, and negligence. Actus reus refers to the physical act, and concurrence refers to the connection between the act and the mental state.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

A crime that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year is generally classified as a:

- ☐ A Misdemeanor
- ☒ B Felony
- ☐ C Infraction
- ☐ D Petty offense

ANSWER B

WHY In most U.S. jurisdictions, a felony is defined as a crime punishable by death or by imprisonment in a state or federal prison for more than one year. Misdemeanors are typically punishable by less than one year in jail, while infractions and petty offenses usually carry no jail time.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is a primary function of the police in the American criminal justice system?

- ☐ A Sentencing offenders convicted of crimes
- ☒ B Apprehending suspects and enforcing the law
- ☐ C Administering correctional facilities
- ☐ D Determining the guilt or innocence of defendants

ANSWER B

WHY The primary function of the police is to enforce the law, maintain public order, and apprehend persons suspected of committing crimes. Sentencing is performed by judges, administering correctional facilities is the function of corrections agencies, and determining guilt or innocence is the responsibility of the courts (and ultimately juries in many cases).

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

A defendant who is brought before a magistrate shortly after arrest for the purpose of being informed of the charges and of certain constitutional rights is participating in which stage of the criminal process?

- ☐ A Arraignment
- ☒ B Initial appearance
- ☐ C Preliminary hearing
- ☐ D Sentencing

ANSWER B

WHY The initial appearance is typically the first step after arrest, at which the defendant is informed of the charges, advised of constitutional rights such as the right to counsel, and informed about bail. An arraignment occurs later, at which the defendant enters a formal plea. A preliminary hearing determines whether there is probable cause to proceed to trial, and sentencing occurs after conviction.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

The primary duty of a prosecutor in the American criminal justice system is to:

- ☐ A Defend individuals accused of crimes
- ☒ B Represent the state in pursuing criminal charges
- ☐ C Preside over court proceedings and rule on objections
- ☐ D Appoint defense counsel for indigent defendants

ANSWER B

WHY The prosecutor represents the government (state or federal) and is responsible for bringing criminal charges and presenting the case against the accused. Defense attorneys represent the accused, judges preside over proceedings, and defense counsel for indigent defendants is typically appointed by the court.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

Which purpose of criminal punishment is based on the idea that offenders should be punished because they deserve it, in proportion to the harm they caused?

- ☐ A Deterrence
- ☐ B Incapacitation
- ☒ C Retribution
- ☐ D Rehabilitation

ANSWER C

WHY Retribution is the justification for punishment based on the moral idea that offenders deserve to be punished in proportion to the harm they caused. Deterrence aims to discourage future crime, incapacitation seeks to protect society by removing offenders from the community, and rehabilitation focuses on reforming offenders so they can return to society as law-abiding citizens.