

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION:
CRIMINOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY (POA)
AUGUST, 2016**

There are two questions on this exam. You have **three and a half hours** to answer **both** questions. Use headings to keep your answers organized. Save your document frequently to avoid any information loss. Note that the two questions below are not related and they require independent answers.

QUESTION 1

Select two *specific* theories from the list of twelve below. For **each** of the selected theories, answer the following questions:

- a) What are the central tenets, assumptions, and propositions of the theory?
- b) What are some of the limitations of the theory and how can one modify the theory to better capitalize on its strengths and address some of these limitations?

Social Disorganization and Crime	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shaw and McKay's Theory of Juvenile Delinquency 2. Sampson's Collective Efficacy Theory
Anomie/Strain Theories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Merton's Strain Theory 4. Cohen's Delinquent Boys 5. Agnew's General Strain Theory
Environmental Criminology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Cohen and Felson's Routine Activity Theory 7. Clarke's Situational Crime Prevention
Control Theories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Hirschi's Social Bond Theory
Learning Theories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Akers's Social Learning Theory 10. Anderson's Code of the Street
Life Course Theories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Moffitt's Life-Course-Persistent/Adolescent-Limited Theory 12. Laub and Sampson's Theory of Persistent Offending and Desistance from Crime

QUESTION 2

You have been asked to join a multi-disciplinary team of scholars who will advise a congressional committee on an area of concern of your choosing. Write a succinct briefing for the committee that draws on a crime theory to explain this area of concern. Additionally, propose a policy that can be implemented to address the area of concern. Organize your paper by using the following headings:

1. Problem Statement (i.e. define the area of concern)
2. Theoretical Framework (i.e. discuss the theory you are using to explain this area of concern)
3. Proposed Policy (note: the policy recommendation must be based on the theoretical perspective discussed above). Detail the mechanisms of how the proposed policy will be implemented, what would be the barriers to its implementation, what would be expected outcomes, and how will the effectiveness of the proposed policy be evaluated.

Important! Your choice of theory in this section should be different from what you used in Question 1.