



TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that which is learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The ultimate passing score for each examination is determined by the school. The school is provided with a recommended passing score established by a national committee of college faculty who teach this course. The DSST program is approved by the American Council on Education (ACE), and the ACE provides both a recommended passing score and a recommended number of credits that could be awarded to successful students. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution from which they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

Criminal Justice Exam Content Outline

- I. Criminal Behavior – 15%**
 - A. Defining crime
 - B. Crime in the United States
 - C. Theories of crime
 - D. Types of crime
 - E. Measurement of crime
 - F. Juvenile delinquency
- II. Criminal Justice System – 25%**
 - A. Historical origins and legal foundations
 - B. Due process
 - C. Criminal justice agencies

III. Police – 20%

- A. History and organization
- B. Societal role and function
- C. Issues and trends
- D. Occupational characteristics

IV. Court System – 20%

- A. History of the court system
- B. Organization and structure
- C. Adult court systems
- D. Juvenile court
- E. Pretrial, trial and post-trial processes
- F. Sentencing issues and trends

V. Corrections – 20%

- A. History of corrections
- B. Purpose
- C. Intermediate sanctions
- D. Adult prison systems
- E. Juvenile correction alternatives
- F. Capital punishment
- G. Prison organization
- H. Inmate characteristics
- I. Issues and trends

REFERENCES

The following references were used to create exam questions and may be useful as study materials. You are not allowed to use these references in the testing center.

1. *Criminal Justice*, Eighth Edition, 2007, James Inciardi, McGraw-Hill, Two Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10121, books.mcgraw-hill.com.
2. *The American System of Criminal Justice*, 11th Edition, 2007, George F. Cole and Christopher E. Smith, Wadsworth Publishing/ Thomson, 10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, www.wadsworth.com.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. You may want to review these samples for the type of questions that may appear on the exam.

1. The three major divisions of the criminal justice system are
 - A. police, defense, and prosecution
 - B. courts, prosecution, and police
 - C. prosecution, defense, and courts
 - D. police, courts, and corrections
2. Which of the following crimes against a person does society consider to be the most serious?
 - A. Manslaughter
 - B. Assault
 - C. Murder
 - D. Rape
3. The juvenile court in the United States is based on the doctrine of
 - A. *habeas corpus*
 - B. *parens patriae*
 - C. *nolo contendere*
 - D. *modus operandi*
4. In the United States, which of the following types of correctional institutions typically has the poorest physical facilities and services?
 - A. County jail
 - B. Halfway house
 - C. State prison
 - D. Federal prison
5. All of the following are characteristics of criminal acts EXCEPT
 - A. criminal intent
 - B. insanity
 - C. harm to a person
 - D. criminal capacity

Answers to sample questions: 1-D; 2-C; 3-B; 4-A; 5-B.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST test development process and has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Criminal Justice
Level	Upper-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Source	ACE Commission on Education Credit and Credentials

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

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