

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers topics such as criminal behavior, law enforcement, criminal justice system, corrections and the court system.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

Form Codes: SS498, ST498, SY498, SZ498

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent: Criminal Justice

Level: Lower-level baccalaureate

Amount of Credit: 3 Semester Hours

Minimum Score: 400

Source: www.acenet.edu

EXAM 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.

I. Criminal Behavior – 15%

- a. Defining crime (i.e., what is crime, accepted definitions of crime)
- b. Types of crime (e.g., felonies, misdemeanors)
- c. Juvenile delinquency (i.e., emergence, risk factors, causation)
- d. Measurement of crime and delinquency (e.g., Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), evaluation, survey data, research data, methods of data)
- e. Crime in the United States (i.e., rate, trends)
- f. Theories of crime

II. Criminal Justice System – 25%

- a. Historical origins and legal foundations (i.e., statutory, common law, case law, procedural and substantive law etc.)
- b. Crime control model versus due process model
- c. Criminal justice agencies (i.e., law enforcement, courts and corrections)

III. Law Enforcement – 20%

- a. History of policing
- b. Types of law enforcement agencies
- c. Law enforcement roles and responsibilities (e.g. use of discretion, integrity, community safety)
- d. Issues and trends in policing (e.g., Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), subculture and demographics (e.g., race, gender, age etc.))

IV. Court System – 20%

- a. History of the court system
- b. Organization, structure and levels of the court system

- c. Adult and Juvenile court systems
- d. Pretrial, trial and post-trial processes (e.g., bail, plea bargaining, prosecutorial discretion, judicial discretion, diversion, waiver, jury, and verdict)
- e. Sentencing options and trends

V. Corrections – 20%

- a. History of corrections
- b. Philosophies of punishment (e.g., rehabilitation, restoration, deterrence, incapacitation, retribution)
- c. Intermediate status (i.e., probation, parole)
- d. Adult prison facilities (i.e., administration and overcrowding)
- e. Juvenile correctional facilities (i.e., types, functions, and controversies)
- f. Capital punishment (e.g., legal process, controversies)
- g. Inmate characteristics (i.e., subculture, gangs and demographics)
- h. Issues and trends (i.e., inmate rights, security, healthcare, privatization and wrongful conviction)

REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles or textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference more than one textbook on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should begin by checking textbook content against the content outline provided before selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:

1. Cole, George F; Smith, Christopher E; DeJong, Christina (2019). The American System of Criminal Justice. 16th Edition, Cengage Learning.
2. Worrall, John; Siegel, Larry (2019). Essentials of Criminal Justice. 11th Edition, Cengage Learning.
3. Fradella, Henry; Neubauer, David W (2019). America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System. 13th Edition, Cengage Learning.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. The following are samples of the types 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

Answers to sample questions:

1-D; 2-C; 3-B; 4-A