

DSST® CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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. The exam covers criminal behavior, police, the court system, sentencing issues, adult prison systems, and juvenile correction alternatives.

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

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
- 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

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. *Criminal Justice*, 8th Edition, 2007, McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 0-07-312820-1, Two Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10121 (www.books.mcgraw-hill.com).
2. *The American System of Criminal Justice*, 11th Edition, 2007, Wadsworth/Thomson, ISBN: 0-495-00601-7, 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. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at www.getcollegetcredit.com/testprep.

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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

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- 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

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	Six (6) semester hours
Minimum Score	400
Source	American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service

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