Introduction

Peregrine Academic Services, the higher education division of Peregrine Global Services, provides assessment services for performing direct assessment of learning outcomes for several academic disciplines. The online exams are used to evaluate retained student knowledge in relation to the academic program's learning outcomes.

This document outlines the **Criminal Justice** assessment service, including the supplemental **Sociology** topic, for associate and bachelor academic degree levels.

This assessment service is designed for use by U.S.-based schools and programs.

Validity and Reliability

Peregrine Academic Services places a high priority on ensuring the validity and reliability of the assessment services. These practices begin at the design stage and continue through beta-testing, and with ongoing regularly scheduled quality reviews. A summary of these approaches is provided at the end of this document. For additional information regarding the reliability process, please refer to the following peer-reviewed article:

> Oedekoven, O. O., Napolitano, M., Lemmon, J., & Zaiontz, C. (2019). Determining test bank reliability. *Transnational Journal of Business, 4*(Summer), 63-74.

Testing Process

The exams include 10 questions for each exam topic. Each exam is unique as questions are selected at random from the test bank of over 200 questions per topic. Institutions select the topics to be included in the exam to align with the learning outcomes and program curriculum.

Available Exam Topics

The specific topics for this assessment service that are available for use with a customized assessment are:

Criminal Justice Topics

- Administration of Justice
- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminological Theory
- Ethics and Diversity
- Homeland Security
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Adjudication
- Law Enforcement

Sociology Topics

- Application and Sociological Practice
- Crime, Law, and Deviance
- Inequalities and Stratification
- Social Change
- Theory and Knowledge
- Research Methods

Contact our team at Info@PeregrineGlobal.com for more information.

Subjects and Example Questions

The following pages include the specific subjects included with the topics along with example questions for the topic. These specific questions have been inactivated within the test bank and are shown in this document only to illustrate the types of questions that are presented to learners.

Test bank questions are written and proofed by terminally degreed, subject matter experts from accredited institutions who have teaching experience with the specific discipline. The criteria for a test bank question include:

- Test questions may be questions or (incomplete) statements.

- All multiple-choice format with 4 possible responses and only one correct response.

- All responses must be plausible and not misleading.

- "All of the Above" (or similar) or "None of the Above" or "A & C" responses are not used.

- All incorrect responses are assigned Response Distractors:

Response Distractor	Student's response indicates they…
Fact-based error	…do not know the fact(s).
Concept-based error	…misunderstood the concept.
Conclusion-base error	…reached an incorrect conclusion.
Interpretation-based error	…incorrectly interpreted the question.
Calculation-based error	…made an error with a math-related calculation.

Criminal Justice Topics

Administration of Justice

Subjects

- **Comparative Criminal Justice**
- **Contemporary Criminal Justice System**
- **Major Systems of Social Control**
- **Personnel Management**

Example Questions

Contemporary criminal justice is known for several eras or periods encompassing different philosophies. Known for its connection to the Wickersham Commission, the _____ era was a significant driving force in the modernization of criminal justice practices.

A. community

B. political

C. reform

D. statutory

Correct Response: C

Management in a criminal justice agency is most closely associated with _____ .

A. a police sergeant

B. small group leadership

C. one-on-one direction

D. day-to-day operations of various parts of an organization

Correct Response: D

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Corrections

Subjects

- **Carceral Facilities (Jails/Prisons)**
- **Community-based Corrections**
- **History and Correctional Philosophies**
- **Practice and Legal Environment**

Example Questions

The matching of offenders to institutions that have the physical security and staff resources to prevent escapes and control inmate behaviors is called ___.

A. risk need assessment

B. security classification

C. program assessment

D. risk/program classification

Correct Response: B

Jails are expected to provide a(n) _____ acceptable environment.

A. lawsuit-free

B. danger-free

C. inhumanely

D. constitutionally

Correct Response: D

Courts

Subjects

- **Federal and State**

- **History**

- **Lower Courts**

- **US Supreme Court**

Example Questions

_____ is not a legal element of a crime.

A. Harm

B. A guilty act

C. A guilty mind

D. A guilty conscience

Correct Response: D

The party that is unsatisfied with the verdict of a lower court and files an appeal in a higher court is known as the _____.

A. complainant

B. affiant

C. appellant

D. appellee

Correct Response: C

Criminological Theory

Subjects

- Nature and Causes of Crime

- Offenders

- Typologies

- Victims

Example Questions

According to the most common interpretations, which element is the least important to deterrence?

A. fortitude

B. celerity

C. obfuscation

D. severity

Correct Response: D

In criminology, the term macro level means _____.

A. a theory that explains crime at the individual level of analysis

B. a theory that explains crime at the community or societal level of analysis

C. a theory that circumscribes another theory

D. a theory that supplants another theory

Correct Response: B

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Ethics and Diversity

Subjects

- Deontological and Teleological Ethics

- Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice

- Ethical Decision-Making and Problem Solving

- Ethics in Criminal Justice (Personal, Situational, Professional)

Example Questions

A major pitfall that criminal justice professionals face in working within diverse communities is _____.

    A. focusing too much on differences

    B. failing to focus on differences rather than the law

    C. relying too heavily on training rather than authentic cultural dialog

    D. failing to ensure that officers of the same ethnicity deal with community members

Correct Response: A

The idea that taking insignificant gratuities such as a free cup of coffee may lead to more severe forms of corruption later is referred to as the _____.

    A. spiral of moral decay

    B. slippery slope

    C. incivilities thesis

    D. bad apple theory

Correct Response: B

Homeland Security

Subjects

- History

- International Enforcement Effort

- Legislation and Case Law

- National Enforcement Efforts

Example Questions

_____ has the highest per capita imprisonment rate in the world.

A. Russian federation

B. China

C. Kazakhstan

D. United States

Correct Response: D

The motives for international terrorists are often centered around furthering ones _____.

A. religious objectives

B. laws

C. personal attitudes

D. freedom of expression

Correct Response: A

Juvenile Justice

Subjects

- **Case Law**

- **Corrections**

- **Family Violence**

- **History**

Example Questions

The formal pronouncement of judgment and punishment on the juvenile who engaged in the conduct charged is known as _____.

    A. arraignment

    B. disposition

    C. adjudication

    D. sentencing

  Correct Response: B

Delinquent behavior is based on the belief that children below a certain age are incapable of _____. Thus, they are presumed unaware of the full consequences of what they do.

    A. actus reus

    B. mens reus

    C. rationalization

    D. justification

  Correct Response: B

Law Adjudication

Subjects

- **Criminal Law**

- **Criminal Procedures**

- **Defense**

- **Prosecution**

Example Questions

Pretrial proceedings in the federal district courts and trials in federal misdemeanors are often handled by _____, who are appointed by federal district judges.

    A. magistrate judges

    B. special controllers

    C. special counsel

    D. justice of the peace

Correct Response: A

Evidence that is obtained by law enforcement because of other illegally obtained evidence is prohibited in criminal court by the _____ doctrine.

    A. Inevitable discovery

    B. Plain view

    C. Fruit of poisonous tree

    D. Exclusionary rule

Correct Response: C

Law Enforcement

Subjects

- **Case Law**

- **History**

- **Police Organization and Subculture**

- **Practice (Local, State, Federal)**

Example Questions

When the courts create a new interpretation of an existing law it is referred to as _____.

    A. statutory law

    B. civil law

    C. case law

    D. stare decisis

Correct Response: C

Accusations against the police that include favoritism, corruption, and laziness are often made by the community when they _____.

    A. are afraid of the police

    B. lost faith in the fairness of the criminal justice system

    C. when they feel that the criminal justice system is doing a good job

    D. when someone has been arrested

Correct Response: B

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Research and Analytical Skills

Subjects

- **Qualitative Methods in Analyzing Criminal Justice Research**

- **Qualitative Methods in Conducting Criminal Justice Research**

- **Quantitative Methods in Analyzing Criminal Justice Research**

- **Quantitative Methods in Conducting Criminal Justice Research**

Example Questions

Inductive reasoning can best be defined as _____.

A. reasoning that moves from a general theory to specific observations

B. reasoning that is internally consistent and based on quantitative analysis

C. reasoning that moves from specific cases to general theories

D. reasoning that is ethically sound

Correct Response: C

Researchers call a variable that theoretically has an infinite number of possible values between any two specific measurements _____.

A. an independent variable

B. a dependent variable

C. a discrete variable

D. a continuous variable

Correct Response: D

Sociology Topics

Application and Sociological Practice

Subjects

- **Applied Sociology / Evaluation Research** (Questions related to evaluation research, methods used to evaluate policy, and research findings to make accurate judgments on social issues)

- **Policy Analysis** (Questions related to demonstration of understanding policies that impact the human condition, analysis of how local, state, and federal laws and initiatives impact social life and human survival, methods for analyzing public policy, issues with measurement and methods, and steps of policy analysis)

- **Social Welfare** (Questions related to understanding Social Darwinist opinions versus Marxian models of social welfare, who receives welfare, the impact of social welfare programs, the history of welfare, and identifying types of welfare)

- **Sociological Practice** (Questions related to multidimensional applications of sociology, identifying and defining public sociology, and differentiating sociology from other fields of practice, such as anthropology)

Example Questions

Which type of social policy is concerned with the interconnectivity within a social system?

- A. functionalism
- B. symbolic interactionism
- C. social Darwinism
- D. Marxism

Correct Response: A

Trying to design a better society would be called _____ in applied sociology.

- A. social work
- B. social engineering
- C. action sociology
- D. historical research

Correct Response: B

Crime, Law, and Deviance

Subjects

- **Criminology** (Questions related to basic criminological theories)

- **Juvenile Delinquency** (Questions related to the history of juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice, the differences between juvenile and adult systems, theories pertaining to youth, and unique challenges with juveniles)

- **Deviance** (Questions related to the relative and social construction of deviance, distinguishing crime and deviance, stigma and techniques for stigma management, and the key assumptions of the theories of social disorganization)

- **Penology / Corrections** (Questions related to the demographics of correctional populations, the impact of incarceration on the lives of inmates and families, reasons for incarceration, challenges with different types of inmates, and current trends regarding the use of supervision)

Example Questions

The model which views society as a struggle for power among diverse groups is the _____.

- A. Consensus model
- B. Conflict model
- C. More model
- D. Folkway model

Correct Response: B

_____ is the theory espoused by Cloward and Ohlin that views the lack of life chances in poor communities as a cause of social deviance.

- A. Anomic theory
- B. Differential reinforcement theory
- C. Differential change theory
- D. Differential opportunity

Correct Response: D

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Inequalities and Stratification

Subjects

- **Race** (Questions related to defining and distinguishing race and ethnicity, defining and applying racism, discrimination, and prejudice, the social construction of race and ethnicity, inequalities of race across various institutions, the socioeconomic impact of race in major social institutions, and data on major races relative to attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes)

- **Class** (Questions related to defining social class and identifying U.S. social classes, relating social class to race and gender, the impact of social class on aspects of human life, and lifestyles and attitudes of different classes)

- **Gender** (Questions related to sex and gender, the social construction of gender, gender identity and expression, the social and legal challenges for those embracing diverse gender roles, and how gender is related to inequalities)

- **Mobility** (Questions related to stratification and the U.S. systems that stratify, understanding stratification systems, standards of equality, social mobility, and research on social mobility and life satisfaction)

Example Questions

_____ has been the most severe method used throughout history for dealing with minorities.

- A. Genocide
- B. Segregation
- C. Cultural pluralism
- D. Assimilation

Correct Response: A

In the United States, which group owns more than 40% of all wealth?

- A. The poor
- B. The middle class
- C. The upper class
- D. The legislature

Correct Response: C

Social Change

Subjects

- **Collective Behavior / Social Movements** (Questions related to defining collective and mass behavior, identifying collective and mass behavior, applying theories of collective behavior, and development of social movements and their impact on collective behavior)

- **Public Policy** (Questions related to the importance and effects of public policy, identification of public policies, public policy development and the impact on social groups, and the effects of stratification on policy development)

- **Social Change** (Questions related to social change and social movements, theories of social movements and change, the stages of social movements, and the impact of key elements of social change of society)

- **Human Rights** (Questions related to human rights and its importance, and differentiating between political and economic systems and their effect on human rights)

Example Questions

_____ is a term that describes an event that leads to a collective response.

A. Mobilization

B. Social control

C. Precipitating factors

D. Structural conduciveness

Correct Response: C

Durkheim proposed that _____ is the mutual dependency that results in societies where people engage in specialized work.

A. socialism

B. communism

C. organic solidarity

D. mechanical solidarity

Correct Response: D

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Theory and Knowledge

Subjects

- **Social Thought on Human Behavior** (Questions related to the contributions of important sociologists, and how the development of the discipline of sociology corresponds to the evolution of social thought and modernity)

- **Socialization** (Questions related to socialization, agents of socialization, theories of socialization, and resocialization)

- **Social Conflict Theories** (Questions related to applying conflict theories to social issues, and the components of Marxism and critical criminology)

- **Developmental Theories** (Questions related to applying developmental theories to social issues, and assumptions of life course theories, latent trait theories, and trajectory theories)

- **Social Progress Theories** (Questions related to the history and components of social learning theory, social control theory, and labeling theory)

Example Questions

The term sociologists use for a small group such as a sports team or club that develops its own unique culture while remaining part of a larger culture is a(n) _____.

    A. subculture

    B. idioculture

    C. counterculture

    D. real culture

Correct Response: B

The term used by Cooley to describe how individuals develop a sense of self in reference to other people is _____.

    A. role taking

    B. the environment

    C. the anomic self

    D. the looking glass self

Correct Response: D

Research Methods

Subjects

- **Ethics in Research** (Questions related to examples of past unethical research, the correct guidelines and importance of ethics, the relation of value-free sociology, objectivity, and reactivity to research ethics, institutional review boards and their role in promoting research ethics, and ethical principles for conducting social science research)

- **Social Science Research** (Questions related to research methods and the research cycle, and distinguishing between causation and correlation)

- **Quantitative Research** (Questions related to quantitative research and research methods, how quantitative research is analyzed, the concepts of independent and dependent variables, and applying the concepts of validity, reliability, and generalization to quantitative research)

- **Qualitative Research** (Questions related to qualitative research and research methods, the benefits and pitfalls of different methods of qualitative research, and applying the concepts of validity, reliability, and generalization to qualitative research)

- **The Scientific Method** (Questions related to the steps of the scientific method, and the importance of using the scientific method)

Example Questions

The ethical problem with asking prisoners to participate in a sociological study stems from the need for _____.

- A. confidentiality
- B. professional and scientific responsibility
- C. value neutrality
- D. informed consent

Correct Response: D

Research Methods

Example Questions

It is important for the researcher to clearly state their purposes in an if-then statement known as their _____ before research begins.

A. problem

B. operational definitions

C. methodology

D. hypothesis

Correct Response: D

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Assessment Service Validity and Reliability

The programmatic assessment services provided by Peregrine Academic Services, the higher education division of Peregrine Global Services, are used to assess retained knowledge of students at various academic degree levels. Schools deploy these services to evaluate the effectiveness of their academic programs, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate program outcomes to external stakeholders.

Peregrine places a high priority on ensuring the validity and reliability of the assessment services. These practices begin at the design stage and continue through beta-testing, and with ongoing regularly scheduled quality reviews. The following outlines the approaches used to ensure ongoing validity and reliability.

> *Validity* refers to the extent to which the test banks and the services measure the phenomena under consideration.

> *Reliability* refers to the extent to which the exam results are repeatable and therefore data sets can be compared over time.

Design Features that Impact Validity and Reliability

The following features apply to all assessment services.

- Exam scoring is 100% objective using automated marking.

- Each exam viewed by a student is unique using a random selection of questions from the test bank in random topic order.

- Each exam has timed response periods for questions. When the user navigates away from the exam screen, the screen fades, a message appears informing the user that he/she has left the exam window and the questions are timed.

- Students are unable to copy/paste from the exam window.

- Abandoned exams are excluded from summary reports.

Ensuring Ongoing Validity and Reliability

Validity

To ensure test bank validity, the following measures were adopted when the initial test banks were created. The same principles are used with subsequent changes to the test banks.

- The specific accreditation or certification requirements related to learning outcomes evaluation were used to determine the topics and subjects for the test banks.

- Current teachings for each topic were considered regarding the foundational level of each test bank.

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- Exam questions were written and reviewed by academic professionals within each discipline. Similar subject matter experts are used with subsequent editing and for new questions.

- Each topic has questions designated for 4-8 subjects per topic to help ensure appropriate breadth of coverage and allow for specific learning outcomes measurement.

- Exam responses are either correct or incorrect, with only one possible right choice. Scores are determined by summarizing the percent correct: per subject, per topic, and by total score.

Reliability

Peregrine contracted with external experts to design a comprehensive and statistically sound approach to measuring assessment service reliability. A *Reliability Report* is generated for each assessment service for its scheduled periodic review. The report generates data for several reliability metrics and the data for each are compared with acceptability criteria to determine which test questions should be modified or replaced.

Subject matter experts in the field are then contracted to modify/replace the targeted questions. Hence, the assessment service is regularly reviewed and improved to ensure ongoing reliability.

Reliability is determined by measuring *Item Difficulty*, *Item Discrimination,* and *Question Interchangeability.*

Item Difficulty refers to the percentage of students who answer questions correctly. Data are generated by topic and for each question. The target Item Difficulty is 60 percent correct with an acceptable range of 35–80 percent.

Item Discrimination refers to how well a question distinguishes between those students with more knowledge (higher overall exam scores) from those with less knowledge. Two measures are used: *Discrimination Index* and *Point-Biserial Correlation*.

For a given question, the Discrimination Index compares the scores of students with high overall test scores with students with low overall test scores. The scale is -1 to +1, with higher values indicating that a given question better distinguishes between high and low performing students. A value of ≥ 0.20 is considered acceptable. Point-Biserial Correlation is equal to Pearson's Correlation Coefficient between the scores on the entire exam and the scores on a specific question. A score of ≥ 0.10 is considered acceptable. When assessing the quality of questions, both the Discrimination Index and the Point-Biserial Correlation Coefficient are reviewed.

Question Interchangeability refers to the ability to substitute a question in the test bank with another without significantly affecting the total score that an individual would receive on the exam. This is determined using Cohen's Effect Size *d* calculated based on a two-tailed *t*-test comparing the total score for all students who had that question in their exam versus the total score of the students who did not have that question in their exam. The scale is 0 - 1.0, and a score of < 0.20 is considered acceptable.