Chapter 8

Discussion Questions
1. Are police officers different from the general population? How? Why?
2. What are the different perspectives of police behavior and personality? Which perspective do you feel is most accurate?
3. What is a subculture? Do you believe that a police subculture exists?
4. How does the “us-them” police worldview affect the activities of a police officer? A department? How does it affect police-community relations?
5. What is stress? What are the causes of police stress? What are the effects of police stress? How can it be reduced in police organizations?
6. How should departments respond to officers’ abuse of drugs or alcohol?

Essay/Short Answer CHAP 8
1. Compare and contrast the three perspectives of police behavior as they are outlined in your text.
2. Discuss the types of police officers as outlined by Coates’ typology.
3. Discuss the police worldview and how this affects police-community relations.
4. Define and discuss police ethos. Include the three general observations outlined in your text.
5. Discuss the differences between police themes and ethos.
6. Discuss Swanton’s publicly initiated determinants of isolation.
7. List at least five of the nine postulates indicative of the “we-they” worldview.
8. Describe the nine possible factors that may contribute to police suicide.
9. Discuss the ways in which police officer stress can be reduced.
10. List at least four of the seven general sources of police stress, as identified by Carter. Describe at least two stressors for each source.

Chapter 9

Discussion Questions
1. What does “corruption” mean? Are all illegal activities corrupt activities? Are all corrupt activities illegal?
2. Should relationships between co-workers be prohibited in police departments? Why or why not?
3. What action should a supervisor take when he/she determines a subordinate is abusing alcohol? Drugs? Should the actions differ for the two? Why or why not?
4. What are some of the problems associated with police officers using drugs or alcohol?
5. What are gratuities? Should officers be prohibited from accepting gratuities? Why or why not? Should agencies have written policies regarding this practice?
6. What does “driving while black” mean? Do you believe it is a problem in America?
7. How do an officer’s personal values influence the way he/she enforces the law?
8. How should police officers that commit sex crimes, such as rape, be treated? Are they handled differently from other offenders? Why do fellow officers “cover” for these crimes?

Essay/Short Answer Chapter 9
1. Describe the “Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials” as it is presented in the text, and was adopted by the United Nations General assembly in 1979.
2. Discuss the primary difference between “police crimes” and crimes committed by police officers.
3. Define and distinguish between bribery and extortion.
4. Illegal use of narcotics presents a twofold problem for policing. Discuss both issues that administrators face.
5. Describe and contrast “grass-eaters” and “meat-eaters.”
6. Discuss the three elements that contribute to the occurrence of deviant behavior, according to Barker.
7. Discuss the three factors that influence illegal drug use.
8. What are the two forms that sexual harassment can take?
9. Define gratuities and discuss both sides of the debate regarding the acceptance of gratuities. Which side do you most agree with and why?
10. Describe the continuum of police sexual violence. What have studies revealed regarding this issue?
11. What is goldbricking? Why is it difficult to control and why is it problematic for police departments?
12. Define and discuss the issue of “driving while black.” What factors contribute to this issue?
13. Discuss the seven categories of police sexually motivated or sexual harassment behaviors, according to Sapp.
14. Discuss six of the eight inappropriate behaviors, identified by Sherman, that veteran officers teach rookies.
Chapter 10

Discussion Questions

1. Why has the number of lawsuits filed against the police increased over the past 25 years?
2. Some people argue that allowing citizens to sue the police is a positive legal step. What do you think about allowing citizens to sue the police?
3. How can police officers and their departments prevent liability litigation? What steps would you take to reduce police civil liability?
4. Do you believe that a liability suit would encourage reform in a police department? What changes do you believe would occur?
5. Do liability suits impact on police-community relations? How?
6. Should we limit the amount of damages awarded in liability cases? Why?
7. Should police officers involved in wrongful death actions also answer to criminal charges?

Essay/Short Answer Chapter 10

1. Discuss the financial cost factors of police civil liability.
2. Describe the Human Rights Watch statement regarding the three ways citizens pay for police misconduct.
3. Plaintiffs alleging false arrest must prove at least one of three factors. What are those three factors relating to false arrest?
4. Briefly discuss the three types of torts as they are presented in the text.
5. There are four elements needed to establish a case of negligence. List those four elements.
6. Identify and discuss four of the eight forms of negligence that are discussed in the text.
7. Discuss the most common defenses to negligence claims.
8. Briefly discuss what it means to act “under color of state law.”
9. Describe the options available to a citizen who believes that his/her constitutional rights have been violated by a police officer. What issues are relevant?
10. Describe the defenses available to police officers when they are confronted with a claim of liability under Section 1983.
11. List the nine ways that police can decrease the likelihood of civil suits.
12. What are the four factors considered by a court when an officer provides a “good faith” defense?
13. Explain the differences between a tort and a crime.
14. Why was the Civil Rights Act of 1871 enacted?

Chapter 11

Discussion Questions

1. What is community policing? How does it differ from traditional policing?
2. Why do minorities view police more negatively than white Americans?
3. In general, how do citizens view the police and how do the police view citizens? How do variables such as age, gender, socioeconomic class, and race affect these attitudes?
4. What are police-community relations, and how can the police best achieve a positive relationship with various elements within the jurisdiction it serves?
5. How would you improve police-community relations? Can community-oriented policing reduce the inherent conflict between the law enforcement and service roles of the police?

Essay/Short Answer Chapter 11

1. Discuss the benefits associated with good police and community relations.
2. Discuss the individual variables that are presented in the text and describe how they influence citizens’ perceptions of the police.
3. List and describe the four types of police-community relations programs as identified by Lee Brown.
4. Discuss the reasons for the change from police-community relations to crime prevention during the 1970s and 1980s.
5. Describe how neighborhood watch programs fit into the concept of community policing, include a discussion of the effectiveness and problems associated with these programs.
6. Discuss the role of privatized security in contemporary law enforcement. Include the three distinct types of services.
7. Discuss the philosophical dimension of community-oriented policing, including each of the three core ideas associated with community-oriented policing as they are presented in the text.
8. Discuss the strategic dimension of community-oriented policing as it is presented in the text.

Chapter 12

Discussion Questions
1. What is the nature of the drug problem in the United States? Is today’s drug problem any different or worse than the drug problem in the past?
2. What should be the primary goal or objective of local police departments with regard to drugs?
3. What is the relationship between drugs and crime? Do drugs cause crime, or do the drug laws cause crime?
4. Why is our society so afraid of drugs?
5. What would be the effects of legalization or decriminalization of marijuana? Cocaine? Heroin? Is the legalization of drugs the answer to our nation’s drug problem? Explain.
6. Is there irony in this country’s differing views of illegal drugs and its views of alcohol?

Essay/Short Answer

1. Discuss why it is difficult for researchers to obtain accurate estimates of drug usage in this country. In spite of the problems, what have they determined?
2. Discuss the relationship between drugs and crime. Include the three primary categories of violence as presented in the text.
3. Discuss interdiction, prevention, and treatment programs as components of the national drug strategy. Include a discussion of the effectiveness of each strategy.
4. Choose two of the criminal organizations that are discussed in the text and describe their characteristics and level of involvement in the illegal drug trade.
5. Describe the history and success of outlaw motorcycle gangs in drug trafficking.
6. Discuss the role youth street gangs in drug trafficking in the United States.
7. What are the primary enforcement strategies used by law enforcement in the United States? Are they effective?
8. Discuss law enforcement reaction to drugs and crime in public housing projects. Is this in any way discriminatory? Explain.

Essay/Short Answer Chapter 12

1. Discuss the ways in which researchers can make educated predictions about the future.
2. William Tafoya has made several predictions regarding the future of policing. Briefly discuss at least six of the predictions made.
3. Georgette Bennett has made six predictions that she terms “Crime Warps.” What are the predictions she has made?
4. Discuss the roles and functions of the police in post-modern society as they are presented in the text.
5. Discuss the role technology will play in the future of policing in America. Give examples of recent innovations and discuss how these will affect civil liberties.
6. Discuss the possible roles of video cameras in the future of law enforcement.
7. Discuss the future of police leadership as it is presented in the text.

Chapter 13
Discussion Questions

1. What changes do you think the future will bring to the area of law enforcement?
2. What role will technology play in crime scene investigation? Traffic monitoring? Calls for service? Dispatch? What problems do you foresee with these innovations?
3. Will our basic civil liberties and constitutional rights be infringed upon by the use of technology in law enforcement? Is that a fair price to pay?
4. Will changes in police technology change the police role? If so, how will the role of the police change?
5. Should the use of technology and the police access to information be controlled?
6. Do you foresee a DNA database containing information from all citizens? Do you foresee a fingerprint database?
7. Should the use of cameras be allowed for traffic enforcement? Should drivers be ticketed without being pulled over by police?

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