**Chapter 1—Multiple Choice Questions**

For each item, choose the response that is the *most* correct of the options listed.

1. A theory is tautological if it:

1. is not very useful
2. is not empirically validated
3. is true by definition
4. is internally inconsistent
5. is limited in scope

2. Theories in criminology do all of the following *except*:

1. help us understand how characteristics of *individuals* (e.g., personality factors, biological factors) are related to criminal behavior
2. offer insight into social structures and social processes that may account for differences in crime rates across *groups*
3. offer religious and philosophical perspectives on how we ought to view crime and criminals
4. provide bases for predictions about future trends and patterns of crime
5. provide guidance to policymakers who may wish to implement programs of crime prevention and control

3. According to Edwin Sutherland, criminology involves the study of:

1. how and why particular conduct comes to be defined as illegal
2. how laws are enforced by the criminal justice system
3. why people violate the law
4. scientific techniques of investigating crime
5. a, b, and c

4. “Macro” theories of criminal behavior focus on:

1. how multiple factors in combination contribute to criminal behavior
2. the role of physiological factors in crime
3. individual differences between offenders and nonoffenders
4. the impact on offenders of being labeled “criminal”
5. how characteristics of groups or societies affect crime rates

5. According to Akers and Sellers, the most important criterion for evaluating a theory is:

1. clarity
2. scope
3. testability
4. empirical validity
5. internal consistency

6. If a theory of crime causation is parsimonious, then:

1. it focuses on explaining a limited subset of criminal behavior (e.g., white-collar crime)
2. researchers will be able to agree on how to gather empirical evidence to test it
3. it offers clear and practical guidance for social policy
4. it relies on a few simple propositions rather than a complex set of statements
5. it has strong empirical support

7. The hallmark of a scientific theory is that:

1. it can be empirically verified
2. it can be empirically falsified
3. its concepts and propositions are stated as a tautology
4. its propositions have been derived deductively
5. its propositions have been derived inductively

8. A theory that focuses on the subjective perceptions and motivations of individuals is an example of what level of analysis?

1. micro
2. meso
3. structural
4. epidemiological
5. sociological

9. In evaluating the empirical validity of criminological theories, Akers and Sellers take the position that we should:

1. reject a theory until research has found it to be entirely correct
2. accept a theory until it encounters negative evidence
3. consider asking what degree of research support the theory has received
4. compare the amount of support that competing theories have received
5. both c and d

10. The “level of analysis” of a criminological theory refers to:

1. the depth of understanding we get from it regarding the feelings and motivations of criminal offenders
2. how complex the theory is as a set of concepts and propositions
3. the degree of empirical support that the theory has received
4. whether the theory focuses on individuals, groups, or societies in explaining criminal behavior
5. none of the above

11. If a theory of crime is empirically valid, then:

1. there will be no “negative cases,” i.e., cases that do not fit the pattern predicted by the theory
2. changes in criminal behavior will be correlated with changes in the explanatory variables identified by the theory
3. it will provide a more useful guide to social policy than a theory that is not empirically valid
4. a and c
5. b and c

12. In the traditional concept of causality, which of the following criteria must be met to establish that X is a cause of Y?

1. X must be a necessary condition, in the absence of which Y will not occur
2. X must be a sufficient condition, so that Y always occurs in the presence of X
3. changes in X must be correlated with changes in Y
4. changes in X must precede changes in Y
5. a and b

13. Sound policy and practice must:

1. be shown empirically to produce the intended outcome
2. meet ethical, legal, and moral standards
3. be only philosophically plausible
4. a and b
5. all of the above

14. According to Akers and Sellers, good, sound criminal justice and social policies designed to prevent or control crime that are derived from theories of criminal and delinquent behavior:

1. need only to make sense or be plausible from a theoretical point of view
2. must be shown through empirical evaluation that they are effective
3. must relate primarily to controllable variables in criminal justice system such as police practices
4. b and c only
5. all of the above

15. A tautological explanation is one that is:

1. true by definition
2. untestable
3. circular in reasoning
4. all of the above
5. b and c only

16. The better empirical tests of theories do all of the following *except*:

1. they do a good job of measuring the variables derived from the theory
2. they correctly specify the hypotheses about the relationships expected or predicted by the theory
3. they concentrate on one main concept of the theory to be measured
4. they use measures that correctly and reliably reflect the meaning of the concepts in the theory
5. none of the above