

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT TODAY

EXAM STUDY GUIDE

1. Every law enforcement agency's powers, responsibilities, and accountability is determined by its jurisdiction.
2. Jurisdiction refers to the geographical limits such as the municipality, county, or state in which officers of the agency are empowered to perform their duties.
3. Jurisdiction also refers to the legitimate duties that the department can perform.
4. Some enforcement agencies have a small geographical jurisdiction but a large number of legitimate duties the agency must perform.
5. The geographical jurisdiction of the municipal police officer ends at the city limits for example.
6. The legal jurisdiction of the FBI is limited to federal laws mandated by Congress.
7. One of the most distinctive characteristics of policing in the American criminal justice system since its inception has been decentralization.
8. Each police agency is autonomous; it has its own chief administrator, and has its own headquarters, develops its own operational guidelines and regulations, has its own jurisdiction to police, is responsible for training standards and facilities, designs its retirement plan, salary scales, and has its own unique uniform, badge and identification card.
9. Describing American law enforcement and its structure is difficult because law enforcement agencies are so diverse.
10. Altogether, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels protect life and property while serving their respective publics.
11. At the state level, there are highway patrols, bureaus of narcotic enforcement, park rangers, watercraft officers, departments of corrections, parole departments and departments of fish and game.
12. At the federal level, there are about 50 law enforcement agencies with about six well known to the public.
13. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Secret Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are three of the better-known agencies.
14. The U.S. Marshals Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and the Customs Service are also well known federal law enforcement agencies.
15. Because of the diverse law enforcement agencies and their jurisdictional responsibilities, explaining the law enforcement mandate and its execution in the United States is difficult.
16. Law enforcement in America is fragmented, locally controlled, limited in authority, structurally and functionally different.
17. Virtually no two police agencies in America are structured alike or function in the same way.
18. Police officers themselves are young and old; full-time and part-time; rural, urban, and suburban; generalists and specialists; paid and volunteer.
19. The sheriff's office is historically the oldest local policing authority in the United States.
20. Since the founding of the United States, the Office of the Sheriff has been the primary local law enforcement agency.
21. Traditionally, the sheriff has provided countywide police services outside cities and towns.
22. Today, some cities contract with the sheriff for police services within their cities rather than establish their own city police department due to budget constraints.
23. Today, most sheriffs are elected to 4-year terms. Campaigning, political affiliation, and public appeal are some of the characteristics important in an election.
24. Prior to 1992, no woman had ever been elected to the position of sheriff in the United States. The first two were elected in 1992; the first was Jackie Barrett in Fulton County, Georgia.
25. The geographical jurisdiction of the sheriff is all the area located within the physical boundaries of the county.
26. The sheriff is generally designated as the chief law enforcement officer of the county since the sheriff has countywide jurisdiction.
27. The chief law enforcement officer of the state is the state attorney general and the chief law enforcement officer of the United States is the United States attorney general.
28. The sheriff is the head of the department and is empowered to appoint officers to help carry out the duties of their office.
29. Deputy sheriffs are selected based on competitive examinations that test job knowledge, skills, and abilities.
30. Each state has mandated minimum training requirements for law enforcement officers.
31. The deputy sheriff wears a different uniform than local police within their county making it easier to distinguish the two departments.
32. The sheriff and his/her deputies are empowered to enforce the laws of the county and state, and to engage in preventative patrol.

33. The sheriff perform functions that range from investigation of crimes to supervision of sentenced offenders.
34. The sheriff's department is the law enforcement agency used by the state court system to perform many civil process services such as serving warrants, summons, and papers of the court.
35. Sheriff's departments frequently operate the county jail, that houses hundreds and even thousands of prisoners, depending on the particular county.
36. The municipal police force is the most local and visible representation of government in the community.
37. Each incorporated town or city in the United States has the power to establish its own police department and laws.
38. Typically, the size of the municipal police department increases as the population of the city increases.
39. The largest United States police department is the New York PD
40. The geographical jurisdiction of the municipal police officer is limited to the city limits.
41. Once outside his or her municipal jurisdiction, a local police officer's powers to arrest and search, may not be recognized or may be limited.
42. While the geographical jurisdiction of municipal police officers is limited compared to county, state, and federal agents, their legal jurisdiction is the most comprehensive of all police agencies.
43. Municipal police officers have the authority to enforce both city and state laws.
44. The chief administrative officer of the police department is usually called the chief of police.
45. The second-in-command of the police department is usually called the deputy chief or assistant chief.
46. Promotions among other ranks and the hiring of new police officers for the department are usually accomplished through competitive civil service exams.
47. "Non-sworn" personnel of the police department, such as secretaries, office workers, and technicians, are referred to as "civilian" employees.
48. Police departments have a system of military-style ranks with a chain of command from officer to chief.
49. Detective services include the investigation of crimes such as fraud, burglary, arson, and homicide.
50. Larger departments allow for specialization among detectives, including: juvenile officers, vice squad (gambling and prostitution), narcotics officers, homicide investigators, S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons And Tactics)
51. Municipal police are responsible for a wide variety of services with3 of the the most commonly demanded being:
traffic law enforcement, traffic accident investigation, property crime investigation,
52. Municipal police agencies also perform a number of non-crime-fighting services such as mediation of disputes.
53. Each police department will divide the geographical area for which they are responsible into small units that may be called: beats or precincts.
54. Each geographical unit is given an identifying name or number relating to its location, natural boundaries, or its place in the community.
55. Organizational structure is also shaped by time. Days typically are divided into three 8-hour shifts, and rookies typically are assigned evenings or "graveyard," the 10 P.M. to 6 A.M. shift.
56. There are over sixty state law enforcement agencies, which can be classified under one of three categories: highway patrol, state police, and state investigative departments.
57. Established as a paramilitary unit in 1835, the Texas Rangers is the nation's oldest state-level law enforcement organization.
58. The state highway patrol and state police are under the command of the executive branch of the state government.
59. The chief executive officer of the state's highway patrol agency is normally called a "commissioner" or "director."
60. He or she usually receives his or her appointment from the governor of the state.
61. The legal jurisdiction for these agencies are directed at enforcing the traffic laws and promoting safety on the interstate highways and secondary roads of the state.
62. Some of the other functions of the highway patrol include: rendering assistance to stranded motorists, investigating traffic collisions, and enforcing commercial vehicle regulations.
63. State police agencies have law enforcement powers similar to the municipal police. They are authorized to conduct criminal investigations, perform routine patrol activities and also provide police services.
64. State police focus on the investigation of statewide crimes. Those involving drugs and narcotics, crimes that occur in more than one jurisdiction such as a mobile crime ring, organized crime, or serial murder.
65. State police can also have jurisdiction for investigation of crimes where the municipal or county police may appear to be biased such as police involved shootings or traffic collisions involving patrol vehicles.

66. The president, with the approval of the Senate, appoints the chief executive officers of the various federal law enforcement agencies.

There are three major differences exist between federal law enforcement and the local and state police agencies.

67. First, federal agencies such as the FBI, operate across the entire nation and have agents abroad.
68. Second, federal police agencies do not as a rule, have the peacekeeping or order maintenance duties typical in local policing.
69. Third, some federal law enforcement agencies have extremely narrow jurisdictions.
70. The title for the head of a federal law enforcement agency is "director."
71. Directors are not appointed to a term with a specified time limit, but like chiefs of police they serve at the pleasure of the President of the United States.
72. The legal jurisdiction of each federal agency is determined by legislation and executive orders.
73. Local and state police agencies do not have jurisdiction to enforce federal laws on military and Indian reservations.
74. Military police are military personnel with special training and jurisdiction to provide law enforcement services on military bases and installations.
75. Indian reservations are considered sovereign territories, where local and state police have no jurisdiction.
76. Each Indian reservation has the legal authority to establish its own tribal police to provide police services.
77. The legal jurisdiction of the various federal law enforcement and investigative agencies is limited to the enforcement of federal laws.
78. Federal agencies categorize their personnel with arrest and firearms authority into one of six categories according to their primary area of duty in the area of: criminal investigations, court operations, security and dignitary protection.
79. Today duties of the FBI include: investigations into organized crime, bribery, white-collar crime, public corruption, civil rights violations, bank robbery, kidnapping, air piracy, terrorism, foreign counterintelligence,
80. The NCIC is the nation's largest databank of computerized criminal information on wanted felons, (paroled) felons, and stolen items such as automobiles, boats, guns, and securities.
81. The largest agency under the Department of the Treasury is the United States Customs Service.
82. One responsibility of this agency is to guard the nation's borders against the smuggling of contraband into the country.
83. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Intelligence Division, is an armed law enforcement agency.
84. The primary function of the IRS Intelligence Division is the investigation of tax fraud and tax evasion.
85. Its agents investigate what is best described as "white collar" crime and organized crime.
86. In addition the IRS audit individual tax returns.
87. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. (BATF) is currently most active in the investigation of firearms violations, illegal explosives, and avoidance of tobacco taxes.
88. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) jurisdiction includes investigations of drug trafficking organizations in the United States as well as in foreign countries.
89. The DEA conducts internal audits of manufacturers and retail outlets of prescription drugs.
90. The DEA is the only federal law enforcement agency whose sole mission is to combat drug trafficking.
91. U.S. Secret Service was created on July 5, 1865 and is responsible for: protecting the president, vice president, presidential family members and former presidents, investigating counterfeiting and financial institution fraud, protection of foreign dignitaries, the investigation of money laundering and forgery involving government checks.
92. United States Marshals Service was created on July 1, 1870, and has responsibility for: criminal investigations and court operations, attending to ministerial duties in the federal courts, and serving criminal and civil warrants and subpoena's at the direction of federal courts, transporting and managing federal prisoners, and has responsibility for operating the federal witness protection program.

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS): (List four responsibilities)

93. enforces federal immigration laws,
94. detain illegal aliens for investigation and possible deportation when necessary,
95. prevent illegal entry of non U.S. citizens into the United States,
96. grants visa's into the United States.