

Criminal Justice Fundamentals

Exam Information	Description
Exam number 571 Items 33 National Career Cluster Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Certification available Yes	The Criminal Justice Fundamentals industry certification exam assesses learners on three components of the criminal justice system: Police, Courts, and Corrections, and their place in American society.

Exam Blueprint and Performance Skills

Standard	Percentage of exam score
1. U.S. Criminal Justice System Functions	10%
2. History of Criminal Justice System	10%
3. Law Enforcement	21%
4. Judicial Components	28%
5. Corrections	26%
6. Career Readiness	5%

*Includes performance skill evaluation

Standard 1 - U.S. Criminal Justice System Functions

Candidates will be able to identify and describe the basic functions of the United States criminal justice system.

Objective 1 Candidates will study and describe aspects of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to Criminal Justice.

Objective 2 Candidates will explore and distinguish the three components (police, courts, and corrections) of the criminal justice system.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 2 - History Of Criminal Justice System

Candidates will examine and discuss the history of crime, data, and the goals of the criminal justice system to present day.

Objective 1 Candidates will examine the history of crime in the United States and its effect on the laws that have been created.

1. War on crime (prohibition, etc.)
2. War on drugs
3. War on terror
4. Cybercrime
5. Civil Rights
6. Human trafficking

Objective 2 Candidates will distinguish between the different types of crimes, how they are reported, and how crime statistics influence criminal justice policies and programs.

1. Property crimes
2. Crimes against persons
3. Public order crimes
4. Hate crimes
5. Organized crime

Objective 3 Candidates will compare and contrast the evolution of individual rights vs. ensuring public order.

Standard 3 - Law Enforcement

Candidates will examine the Law Enforcement component of the criminal justice system.

Objective 1 Candidates will examine the purpose and function of the Police and their role in society.

Objective 2 Candidates will identify the legal aspects of policing.

1. Roles and responsibility of police officers.
2. Police ethics and abuse of power.
3. Laws regarding search and seizure.
4. Laws of detainment and arrest.
5. Interviews and interrogation of suspects.

Objective 3 Candidates will investigate and identify a current issue within the criminal justice system.

Standard 4 - Judicial Components

Candidates will examine the Judicial components of the criminal justice system.

Objective 1 Candidates will distinguish between state courts, federal courts, and the U.S. Supreme court.

1. General
2. Limited
3. Appellate

Objective 2 Candidates will identify the courtroom work groups and the function of a criminal trial.

1. Judge
2. Prosecutor
3. Defense attorney
4. Jury
5. Suspect/victim
6. Stages of trial

Objective 4 Candidates will describe the criminal sanctions imposed upon a person convicted of a crime.

1. Goals of punishment
2. Retribution
3. Incapacitation
4. Deterrence
5. Rehabilitation
6. Restoration

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document.

Standard 5 - Corrections

Candidates will examine the Corrections component of the criminal justice system.

Objective 1 Candidates will distinguish between probation and parole.

Objective 2 Candidates will identify the different goals of the adult and juvenile justice systems.

Objective 3 Candidates will explore the history of incarceration and differentiate between the jail and prison systems.

1. Jail
2. Prison
3. Prison life
4. Women
5. Juveniles
6. Death row

Objective 4 Candidates will examine and discuss prisoner rehabilitation, reentry, and recidivism.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 6 - Career Readiness

Candidates will understand the importance of career readiness skills as it relates to the workplace and outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework – Level 1.

Objective 1 Understand and demonstrate the attitude of cooperation.

1. Develop awareness of cultural diversity and equality issues.
2. Demonstrate effective communication with others.
3. Apply team skills to a group project.
4. Identify and apply conflict resolution skills.

Objective 2 Understand and demonstrate the ability to be resourceful and innovative.

1. Discover self-motivation techniques and establish short-term goals.
2. Measure/modify short-term goals.
3. Review a professional journal and develop a three- to five-minute presentation.

Objective 3 Plan for your future career.

1. Complete a self-assessment and identify individual learning styles.
2. Define future occupations.
3. Identify the components of an employment portfolio.
4. List proficiency in program competencies.
5. Complete a survey for employment opportunities.
6. Create a job application.
7. Assemble your employment portfolio.
8. Employability skills: evaluate program comprehension.

Objective 4 Understand and demonstrate the ability to manage a project.

1. Apply team skills to a group project.
2. Observe and critique a meeting.
3. Demonstrate business meeting skills.
4. Explore supervisory and management roles in an organization.
5. Identify and apply conflict resolution skills.
6. Demonstrate evaluation skills.
7. Manage a project and evaluate others.

Performance Skills Evaluation

Exam name: Criminal Justice Fundamentals

Candidate Name: _____

Performance assessments may be completed and evaluated any time before the certification is issued. The following performance skills can be used in connection with the associated standards and exam. The evaluator will function as the subject matter expert to determine if the candidate meets the skills requirements with a Yes/No for passing.

Standard 4 – Judicial Components

- Candidates will investigate and discuss both sides of a current criminal justice issue of interest and provide recommendations within a presentation. Topic to be instructor approved. Presentations must include:
 - Introduction to the topic.
 - Main points of issue.
 - Three or more sources cited and referenced for each side of the issue.
 - Findings
 - Recommendations/conclusion
 - Reflection
 - Presentation format is up to the instructor. (PPT, Google slides, video, oral, etc.)
- Candidates will participate in the proceedings of a trial. Options could include:
 - View a criminal trial (in-person, virtual)
 - Mock trial

Pass:

Standard 5 – Corrections

- Tour a correctional facility (in-person or virtual), then design a prison system and defend your position on the design. (Could be done individually or a group) Design must include:
 - Location
 - Level of security
 - Gender
 - Capacity/# of cells
 - Staffing
 - Goals (rehabilitation, drug treatment, education, life skills, etc.)

Pass:

Evaluator Name:

Date:
