

NUMERICALLY KEYED COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT APPLY to your exam

1

Venkatesh can be used for a dynamic model most usefully, I think, to describe short term changes in violence in the public housing community, depending on whether rival gangs were fighting or not, or whether there was a feud or not.

2

Martinez model if used for a static model can support either of two ideas: this is why the Latino communities are lower than the African American ones; or, this is why the Latino communities' violence rates are less responsive to external shifts like the arrival of crack.

3

Size of relevant community for Venkatesh could be specified more clearly

4

Changes described for Garland are relevant but they are too "listy" and you do not give the reader a sense of what the broader transformation was; general terms like late modernity not used to encapsulate and organize the changes.

5

In using Venkatesh to argue that his model helps explain enduring differences between communities in their crime rates, the comparison is not clear, nor is the direction of the comparison clear. Does RTH have higher or lower crime rates compared to other types of communities, and if so what are those other communities?

6

Although you have given examples of how predictors → mediator or how mediator → crime a stronger answer would have described in general terms what the processes are that are involved. In general, you want to try and frame those processes at a general level first, and then give examples.

7

The point about a turning point is that an institutional involvement – marriage, fatherhood – may or may not lead to a change in direction or amount of criminal involvement. You only can identify a turning point in retrospect. Each institution does not affect all criminals similarly.

8

A stronger answer could have suggested that the following. The demolition of RTH, combined with the Federal crack down on gangs and drugs in Chicago, and the demise of crack gangs controlling entire neighborhoods in Chicago (see last few pages in V.), led to his being involved in a smaller gang in Roseland, probably with a less lucrative market. This combination of historical and local events could be seen as one big turning point leading to lesser involvement (beginning of desistance?). OR, ALTERNATIVELY, maybe it should be seen as a big local historic event, something that is not a turning point for one person, but that can and does affect numerous criminal careers. Stated differently, perhaps L&S ignore context. His later involvement in a relative's dry cleaning business and his starting and then folding his own barber shop sounds like decreased involvement in crime (further desistance). Was that due to aging, or to the earlier turning point? Or was that just aging out? Yes he still consults with the BKs but the implication is he is living substantially off of his "savings." If his "consulting" did not involve committing actual crimes, has he then terminated?

A stronger answer also could have talked about what he did prior to joining the gang – went to college on athletic scholarship, then worked a white collar job for two years.

A stronger answer could have talked about his promotion within the BKs which resulted in pulling him deeper into gang involved crime. L&S's theory says nothing about the **increasing draw of criminal activity over time** but rather seem to think that the appeal just lessens depending on age or involvement in other institutions.

9

The answer ends up waffling. It starts out saying, for example, LCC can be used, then later says LCC does not help us that much.

10

Key structural feature is the institutional imbalance.

11

Answer for one or more models needs to more clearly separate structural predictors from mediating concepts.

12

I interpret the structure of St. J's model very differently. With a primary focus on ecological disadvantage, what the rest of us would call non residential land use, he suggests that this element of structure creates certain behavioral patterns and target opportunities (the mediating concept) which then draw the offenders in.

13

I interpret the structure of the Martinez model differently. The key element of structure is a) enclavization [and b) traditional household structure and c) constant comparison to the country of origin if you want because of new immigrants arriving all the time]. The structure then leads to a mediating concept like social capital – can get job, sense of community. Which then leads to less crime.

14

The buffering idea is a moderating idea not a mediating idea. Please please please read: Baron, R. M., & Kenny, D. A. (1986). The moderator-mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: Conceptual, strategic and statistical considerations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51, 1173-1182.

15

You are conflating structure and culture here.

16

You are organizing the Martinez model such that city context becomes structure, and all features of the internal Latino communities – both elements of structure and culture – become part of the mediating concept. This is interesting and novel and defensible in some ways but ends up confusing cultural and structural features of the Latino communities.

17

The concepts you mention here are not the most salient ones in LCC. Although human agency is an important theme, the most salient concepts are turning points, desistance, termination.

18

Agree that JT's increased involvement in higher levels of the BKs made persistence more likely, but when you call it a turning point you are using TP in a different way than L&S – for them turning points were what got people OUT of criminal involvement, not more deeply into it.

19

Life course criminology (LCC) seeks to explain not just the differences between offenders and non offenders but more importantly the waxing and waning of criminal involvement of offenders over time, and/or the transitioning of offenders into non-offenders, and vice versa.

20

Your discussion suddenly introduces risk and protective factors, which are not part of LCC at all. Hmm...

21

The answer seems to emphasize what are perhaps better viewed as **themes** within LCC like agency and contextual dependence rather than specific concepts like desistance, termination, turning points, zig zag.