

FREE CLE CHEAT SHEET

5 Examiner Traps That Cost You Points

Five pairs the Criminologist Licensure Exam loves to confuse — and the one distinction that gets each one right. Plus a lightning round of quick traps.

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The exam tests differences, not facts.

The CLE rarely asks you to recall a fact in isolation. It asks you to tell two close things apart — and the wrong option is usually the one that sounds almost right. Learn these five pairs cold and you protect easy points across four subjects.

- ✓ **Read every option fully.** The trap is often true in general but wrong for the specific question — and always watch for “EXCEPT” and “NOT.”

1 Beccaria vs Lombroso

✗ **The trap:** “Lombroso founded the Classical School” / treating Lombroso as the father of the free-will, deterrence school.

✓ **The truth:** Cesare Beccaria leads the Classical school — free will, rational choice, deterrence, punishment that fits the crime. Cesare Lombroso is the Father of Modern Criminology and leads the Positivist school — the “born criminal,” atavism, biological determinism.

REMEMBER Beccaria = choice & deterrence (classical). Lombroso = born criminal (positivist).

2 Entrapment vs Instigation

✗ **The trap:** “A buy-bust is illegal entrapment, so the accused goes free.”

✓ **The truth:** Entrapment (e.g., a legitimate buy-bust) is lawful — the criminal intent already existed and police merely supplied the opportunity, so the accused is liable. Instigation is when the officer plants the idea and induces someone who otherwise wouldn't offend — an **absolutory cause**, and the accused is acquitted.

REMEMBER Entrapment = trap the willing (valid). Instigation = create the criminal (acquittal).

3 Pardon vs Amnesty

✗ **The trap:** “Pardon and amnesty are basically the same thing.”

✓ **The truth:** Pardon is granted by the President, to an individual, only after final conviction; it looks forward and does not, by itself, erase the crime or civil liability. Amnesty is for political offenses, granted to a class/group, needs the concurrence of Congress, and erases the offense itself — as if no crime was committed.

REMEMBER Pardon = one person, after conviction, President alone. Amnesty = a group, political crimes, needs Congress.

4 BuCor vs BJMP — who holds whom?

✗ **The trap:** mixing up which agency holds which convicts, and under which department.

✓ **The truth:** BuCor (Bureau of Corrections, under the DOJ) holds those sentenced to **more than 3 years** — the national penitentiary (New Bilibid); inmates are **PDL**. BJMP (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, under the DILG) holds those sentenced to **3 years and below**, plus detainees awaiting or undergoing trial. Provincial jails are run by the **provincial government**.

REMEMBER BuCor = DOJ, over 3 years. BJMP = DILG, 3 years and below.

5 The “outdated law” trap

✗ **The trap:** “Private security agencies are governed by RA 5487.”

✓ **The truth:** RA 5487 (1969) has been **repealed**. Private security is now governed by **RA 11917**, the Private Security Services Industry Act of **2022** (regulated by PNP-SOSIA). Older reviewers — and some recycled exam items — still cite RA 5487, so always confirm the law in force.

REMEMBER Laws get repealed. When an item hinges on a number, verify the current law.

LIGHTNING ROUND · QUICK TRAPS

- **“Father of fingerprints”?** There is no single father. **Sir Francis Galton** established their uniqueness & permanence and the loop/whorl/arch classification; the **Henry system** organised them for filing. Don't confuse with **Bertillon** = anthropometry.
- **Probation vs parole pioneers:** **John Augustus** = father of probation (US); **Alexander Maconochie** = father of parole (mark system); **Sir Walter Crofton** = the Irish system.
- **Murder vs homicide:** murder needs a **qualifying circumstance** (treachery/alevosia, evident premeditation...). Remove that circumstance and it becomes **homicide**.
- **Theft vs robbery:** theft = taking **without** violence or force; robbery = **with** violence/intimidation against persons or force upon things.
- **Minimum age of criminal responsibility** = **15** (RA 9344, am. RA 10630) — not 9, not 18. Above 15 but below 18 is liable only if he acted **with discernment**.

Win the pairs, protect the points.

These distinctions show up every cycle because they're easy to blur under pressure. Drill them until the difference is **automatic**. No reviewer can promise you a passing score — the work is yours — but the points hiding in these pairs are some of the easiest to keep.

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