Comprehensive Exam in Crime, Law, and Deviance - Day Two

Answer question 1 and either 2 or 3.

1. There are 12 states in the United States that do not have the death penalty. There are always some citizens, however, who would like these states to adopt it. What social science evidence would you offer to a legislator to help him/her decide whether to adopt the death penalty? What goals of punishment should guide the decision and what does research say about how well the death penalty meets those goals?

2. Discuss the relevance of criminological theory and research for the administration of criminal justice. How are the two linked, and how should they be linked? What does criminological theory and research tell (or not tell) policy makers about: 1) crime prevention; and 2) correctional sanctioning, including both punishment and rehabilitation?

3. Discuss the causes/correlates and impacts of the incarceration boom in the United States. What fueled/facilitated the increase in the incarceration rate? What are the key consequences of the boom? Has it been effective? What are the longer term consequences of such heavy reliance on incarceration as a primary correctional strategy?