

## Canada’s Correctional System

### *Answer Key*

1. What are the different security levels of correctional institutions? How are offenders placed in the appropriate security level?
  - minimum, medium, and maximum security levels
  - offenders are placed at the appropriate security level after an intake assessment
  - information from police officers, courts, and victims is used, along with information from the offender’s family, employers, and psychologists
2. Describe differences between maximum, medium, and minimum security institutions.
  - Maximum: barbed wire fences, armed correctional officers, more surveillance, stricter schedules
  - Medium: barbed wire fences, scheduled programs for work or education, inmates have more responsibilities (i.e. managing money credits, may prepare meals)
  - Minimum: no barbed wire, inmates live in units with 7-8 others, more freedom of movement and socialization, participation in programs but less scheduled , more responsibility for inmates
3. How are principles of rehabilitation integrated into the corrections process?
  - A correctional plan is developed after the intake assessment - the plan includes specific rehabilitation activities and programs for the inmate’s needs (i.e. substance abuse counselling or anger management )
  - participation is mandatory
  - There are also specific programs for Aboriginal people and for women
4. What educational and career training opportunities exist in correctional institutions?
  - Educational programs include Adult Basic Education (up to Gr. 10 equivalent), secondary education (up to Gr. 12 with diploma), and post-secondary education
  - Vocation education programs are designed to provide specific skills training for specific jobs (i.e. welding, hairdressing, electronics)
  - Programs to teach employment skills such as critical thinking and problem solving
5. What is restorative justice?
  - a process that focused on addressing the harm caused to victims and the community by the offender
  - voluntary participation by victim(s) and community members
  - processes include victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing, sentencing circles, and surrogate victim-offender mediation



- focus on healing for all parties

6. What measures exist to reintegrated paroled offenders into society? How is risk assessed?

- First, there is a case review by a parole board. This parole hearing examines the offender’s behaviour during incarceration, their taking of responsibility for their actions, programs they participated in, and the release plan
- Conditional release - a structured program with different conditions and supervision orders depending on the circumstances of the case

Source: Correctional Service Canada <https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/educational-resources/005005-0001-eng.shtml>

Modules Referenced: The Correctional Process, Conditional Release, Helping the Offender, From Offender to Responsible Citizen: Learning for Life, and A Program for Every Inmate: Meeting Specific Needs