

E-RESOURCE CENTER

CRIMINAL JUSTICE 101

☐ Review Sheet for "Corrections" Unit

Instructions:

- Review the main ideas from the unit in the text.
- Test your understanding by completing the questions. If you want help answering the questions, go to exercise 3, "Prison life: survival in prison and the inmate code."

Prison Life

An offender arriving in prison to serve out his sentence will encounter two sets of rules for behavior: the formal rules established by the prison officials and the informal rules established by the inmates themselves. This informal prison code, also known as the prison subculture, is as much responsible for keeping order in the prison as the formal rules passed down from the prison staff. In many ways, this prison subculture mirrors criminal life from outside the prison, as reflected in the prison's inmate group allegiances, attitudes towards authority, and other views and attitudes, which the inmates adapt to their new lives. This informal code also has practical purposes; by fixing the social bonds among the prisoners and by creating an underground economy where items can be traded, the prisoners thus rely on each other as a way of coping with the harsh prison environment.

Describe five features of the inmate code:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.