

Self Check Answers Chapter 13

13.1 Self Check

1. What are the three components of police-community relations?
Police-community relations are based on three equal components:
 1. Public relations
 2. Community service
 3. Community participation
2. How can police improve public relations and community relations?
They can demonstrate their abilities and resources and publicize them whenever possible. They can continually improve their communication skills with the public and refine their knowledge of police procedures.

13.2 Self Check

1. What can an officer do to stop himself or herself from stereotyping others?
First the officer needs to be aware that he or she is behaving in a way that suggests stereotyping. Sometimes, a person has to be made aware of the behavior by others and be told why it is a problem. Next, he or she has to be aware of when the behavior occurs and begin to work on the emotions and thought patterns that lead to stereotyping. Gradually, the behavior will change.
2. What can happen when the public detects prejudice in a police officer?
They will increasingly distrust the officer and, by extension, his or her department. They may begin to fear the police and stop cooperating with officers or reporting crimes. In any event, such a situation will seriously undermine police-community relations.

13.3 Self Check

1. Why are traffic stops less likely to cause citizen dissatisfaction than incidents involving the use of force?
Traffic stops do not involve a loss of liberty or any physical interaction. Also, traffic offenses and penalties are relatively minor.
2. How could police use force against suspects in a less offensive manner?
They could avoid using force except when necessary to subdue violent or uncooperative suspects. They could avoid using force merely to show authority or power.

13.4 Self Check

1. What is progressive discipline?
Progressive discipline is a type of officer discipline that calls for increasing the severity of punishments as an officer's transgressions become more frequent.
2. What is the role of independent monitors?
Independent monitors are public representatives who have the power to review and comment publicly on police agency performance.

13.5 Self Check

1. Which behavior do you think is most important in building police-community relations?
You can choose from trust, respect, communication, accountability, or freedom from fear.
2. Which component of the cultural awareness program do you feel is most important, and why?
Rigorous self-assessment is necessary because police must understand what they need to change about themselves, while it is also necessary to assess the needs of community.