## Roles and Functions of Private Security

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principles of LPSCS</td>
<td>This lesson provides students with an overview of the skills necessary for a career in private security.</td>
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### Unit V
Private Security

### Essential Question
What is the role of private security in today’s world?

### TEKS
§130.292(c) (11)(A)(B)(C)

### Prior Student Learning
None

### Estimated Time
2 to 4 hours

### Key Points

I. Careers in private security
   A. The U.S. Department of Labor (2008) predicts employment of private security personnel to grow 18 percent in the next 10 years due to
      1. Heightened security concerns
      2. Increased litigation
      3. A growing need to protect confidential information and property
      4. The proliferation of internet crime such as identity theft, spamming, and email harassment
   B. Diverse opportunities within private security exist:
      1. Investigators
         a) Must be able to deal with people and collect evidence
         b) Must be able to work well under pressure
      2. Security technicians – must have a working knowledge of technology
      3. Protective specialists – need specialized knowledge in protective tactics
      4. Gaming surveillance officers
         a) Serve as security agents for casinos
         b) Need keen observation skills to detect irregular activities such as cheating or theft
      5. Manager or administrator
         a) Need the ability to make policy decisions

### Engage
Have students research, present, and/or discuss in class the present-day role of private security and how private security has changed since the 1970s. Students may present the conclusions of their research describing the career in a chronological-historical order. Use the Writing Rubric, Presentation Rubric and Discussion Rubric as needed for assessment.
b) Need to consult and advise
   c) Responsible for personnel administration
6. Patrol officers – protect against illegal activity including
   a) Fire
   b) Theft
   c) Vandalism
   d) Terrorism
7. Loss prevention and risk management specialists

C. Qualifications for employment
   1. No formal requirements for most private detective and investigator jobs
   2. Minimum age of 18; minimum age for armed positions is 21
   3. High school degree or equivalent is usually required; college degree preferred
   4. Courses in criminal justice, police studies, and security administration are helpful for aspiring security officers

II. History of private security in the U.S.
   A. Since the beginning of recorded history, people have used private security measures to protect themselves
      1. Personal weapons
      2. Barriers such as walls, gates, and moats around homes or villages
      3. Guards and watchmen
   B. Since the American Revolution, private security firms have played an integral role in the defense of the nation
   C. Outside of night watch patrols imported from England, no formal security agencies existed in the U.S. until New York established the first policing agency in 1783
   D. Private security agencies have moved beyond simply protecting property to
      1. Maintaining order
      2. Investigating crimes
      3. Making arrests in public spaces
   E. The line between what is public and private property, and who is responsible for policing public and private space, is becoming blurred
   F. Policing – or making societies safe – is no longer carried out exclusively by governments

III. The relationship between private security and public safety agencies
   A. Studies show that private security companies employ about 2 million officers in the U.S. as compared to the less than 700,000 sworn law enforcement officers (Roberson & Birzer)
   B. Private and public police forces share a common goal of protecting the public; however, the two industries have not cooperated to a
great extent

C. To protect the U.S. effectively, law enforcement and private security must work collaboratively because neither possesses the necessary resources to do the job alone.

D. If society did not have the services of private security, the police would be overwhelmed with the many tasks routinely performed by private security professionals in:
   1. Malls
   2. Hospitals
   3. Construction sites
   4. Supermarkets
   5. Manufacturing plants
   6. Private home alarm maintenance

E. The private security industry plays an invaluable role in the prevention and detection of crime.

F. While the actual amount of crime prevented by private security is not known, it is believed to be immense.

G. Although not common enough, public and private cooperation does occur, taking many forms ranging from national- to local-level operational partnerships.

H. Police turned airport security checkpoints over to private security when the staffing burden grew too great.

I. Private security is a key element in protecting our homeland from terrorist acts because the private sector owns 85 percent of the nation’s infrastructure.

J. The nation’s defense industry has cooperated with private security, leading to the creation of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS International) in 1955, and the National Association of Security Companies (NACSO).

K. Obstacles to public-private partnerships include:
   1. The difficulty of information sharing because of trust issues:
      a) Corporations don’t feel they receive timely information from police.
      b) They fear information they give to the police may end up in the news.
      c) Police fear the corporate sector may not treat law enforcement information discreetly.
   2. Lack of respect for private security among law enforcement officers.
   3. Training differentials.
   4. Competition.

Activities
1. Have students interview (as individuals, partners, or groups) a local security manager about his or her opinion of the future of private security. Use the Individual Work Rubric for assessment.
2. Have students research the different areas private security protects (other than private property) and how they may associate with public safety agencies. Have students present their results either as essays or presentations. The Writing Rubric or Presentation Rubric may be used for assessment.

Assessments
Roles and Functions of Security Systems Exam and Key
Roles and Functions of Security Systems Quiz and Key
Discussion Rubric
Individual Work Rubric
Presentation Rubric
Research Rubric
Writing Rubric

Materials
Roles and Functions of Security Systems computer-based presentation
Informational materials about Private Security Agencies (i.e. flyers, bulletins job announcements etc.)

Resources

Accommodations for Learning Differences
For reinforcement, the student will define and illustrate key terms and training activities in a journal. Use the Individual Work Rubric for assessment.

For enrichment
1. Students may pre-read summarized versions of Private Security Officer jobs, and review their training programs and general qualifications for employment.
2. Students may research the number of individual employees in private security, illustrate how it exceeds the number of police officers in the United States, and discuss whether or not they constitute a potential resource to assist law enforcement agencies in fulfilling their mission. Use the Research Rubric for assessment.

State Education Standards
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education
§130.292. Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security (One-Half to One Credit).
   (11) The student identifies the roles and functions of private
security systems and agencies. The student is expected to:
(A) explain the career opportunities available in private security;
(B) discuss the history and importance of private security in the United States; and
(C) examine the relationship between private security and public safety agencies.

College and Career Readiness Standards
Cross-Disciplinary Standards
II. Foundational Skills
   C. Research across the curriculum
      1. Understand which topics or questions are to be investigated.
      2. Explore a research topic.
Roles and Functions of Security Systems Exam

Answer each question with a short essay (approximately 100 to 200 words).

1. Why has public policing not replaced private security?

2. What is the role of the private security industry in today’s world?

3. What are the two categories of private security services? How do they differ?

4. What is the future of private security?
Roles and Functions of Security Systems Exam Key

1. Private security and public police provide some of the same services and sometimes they even mirror each other, but there are distinct differences between them. The scopes of their duties are different and each has advantages and disadvantages. For example

- Private security and public police have their advantages and disadvantages. Private security companies have less restrictions placed upon them, thus they can focus and effectively carry out their contracted duties.

- Private security gets paid by performance and can negotiate salary. Also, private security has more technical equipment available to them—depending on the employer).

- The main disadvantages of private security personnel is lack of training, or updated training, and job retention; since they are contracted and based on performance they are more easily subjected to termination.

- Public police face a number of disadvantages; since they are salary employees they have less negotiation power and they do not get extra compensation for exceptional performance. Police are also hampered by restrictions, legal and political; they are understaffed and unable to access newer technology due to budget restraints and hiring limits. Police do have advantages in training/advance training and job retention.

2. In today’s world, U.S. industries and U.S. security are linked, and the public and private sectors must jointly address economic and security issues. For example

- Private security perform a number of roles, from executive protection and static security to training partner nations, to providing both ground and aviation logistics support, all in dangerous environments. In the future, private security firms will likely be called to support stability operations and peacekeeping efforts.

- Private security agencies have moved beyond simple protection of private property, for example they are engaged in maintaining order, investigating crimes, and making arrests in public spaces, and supporting homeland security efforts.

3. There are two categories of private security services: Proprietary or corporate security, and contract or private security firms. They differ in that corporate security refers to security departments that exist within businesses or corporations. Contract security firms, by contrast, sell services to the public, including businesses, homeowners, and banks.

4. The future of private security will show transformation from individualization to being combined in new ways that sometimes make it difficult to separate public from private. Thus, “multi-lateralization,” although an awkward term, is a more accurate way of describing what is happening to policing in the late twentieth century than privatization.
Roles and Functions of Security Systems Quiz

_____ 1. Which of the following are true about the private security industry?
   a. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts employment of private security personnel will grow in the next 10 years
   b. Many diverse opportunities exist within private security
   c. Becoming a private security professional requires meeting widely accepted, formal requirements
   d. Only a and b

_____ 2. Careers in private security
   a. Could include being an investigator but not a loss prevention specialist
   b. Include security technicians, protective specialists, surveillance officers, and patrol officers
   c. Are hard to find because the market is saturated
   d. None of the above

_____ 3. Private security in the U.S.
   a. Was nonexistent when the nation first started
   b. Grew out of unsuccessful attempts to create police forces
   c. Has been around from the beginning of the nation, and was the only means of protection for many years
   d. None of the above

_____ 4. Private security agencies
   a. Have moved beyond simply protecting property to maintaining order and investigating crimes
   b. Employ more people than law enforcement agencies
   c. Both a and b
   d. None of the above

_____ 5. While the actual amount of crime prevented by private security is not known
   a. We do know the amount of money saved by private security
   b. It is believed to be immense
   c. Both a and b
   d. None of the above

_____ 6. Private security is a key element in protecting our homeland from terrorism because
   a. The private sector owns 85 percent of the nation’s infrastructure
   b. Only nongovernment employees know who the terrorists really are
   c. The government is not concerned with protecting the U.S. from terrorism
   d. None of the above
7. Obstacles to public-private partnerships include
   a. Lack of trust in both directions
   b. Competition
   c. Different levels of training
   d. All of the above

8. To protect the U.S. effectively, law enforcement and private security must
   a. Work collaboratively because neither possesses the necessary resources to do
      the job alone
   b. Draw their lines of division clearly so that neither steps on the other’s toes
   c. Look the other direction when criminals break the law
   d. None of the above

9. Private and public policing forces share a common goal of protecting the public
   a. And they celebrate that fact by collaborating in most arenas
   b. But public policing forces do most of the security work because they have more
      manpower
   c. However, the two industries have not cooperated to a great extent
   d. None of the above

10. Employment of private security personnel is expected to grow because of
    a. Heightened security concerns
    b. Growing need to protect confidential information and property
    c. Proliferation of Internet crime
    d. All of the above
Roles and Functions of Security Systems Quiz Key

1. d
2. b
3. c
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**Total Points (32 pts.)**

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# Individual Work Rubric

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## Presentation Rubric

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### Research Rubric

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## Writing Rubric

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<td>The writer shows an understanding of sentence structure, paragraphing, and punctuation.</td>
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<td>All sources and references are clearly and accurately documented.</td>
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**Total Points (28 pts.)**

**Comments:**