

# Locked Away

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

## CHECK COMPREHENSION

- 1. According to the article, one factor contributing to the rise in U.S. crime rates in the 1980s was**

  - a record-high national unemployment rate.
  - the growth of large cities.
  - the widespread use of crack cocaine.
  - none of the above
- 2. Which statement describes three-strikes laws?**

  - Offenders with three drug convictions are forced into rehabilitation programs.
  - Most offenders with three convictions automatically receive long sentences.
  - Offenders are sentenced to three years in prison for each nonviolent drug conviction they receive.
  - Convicts whose offenses involve drugs, weapons, and the threat of force receive mandatory life sentences.
- 3. Based on the article, the call for sentencing reform can best be described as having**

  - growing bipartisan support.
  - serious international repercussions.
  - support at the state level but not at the federal level.
  - all of the above
- 4. What is a main reason that some lawmakers are calling for sentencing reform now?**

  - The violent crime rate is at an all-time high.
  - New forensic evidence is calling into question many drug convictions from the past three decades.
  - Crack cocaine is making a resurgence in the U.S.
  - It costs the federal government billions of dollars a year to run federal prisons.

## ANALYZE THE TEXT

- 5. The author's main purpose in this article is**

  - to explain why some people want to reform get-tough-on-crime laws.
  - to analyze why violent crime is rising.
  - to compare U.S. drug-sentencing laws with those of other countries.
  - to explore why U.S. prison systems are inefficient.
- 6. In this article, you can infer that *draconian* means**

  - poorly planned.
  - racially biased.
  - excessively harsh or severe.
  - developing slowly and methodically.
- 7. Which conclusion can you draw from President Obama's remark that "we have to consider whether this is the smartest way for us to both control crime and rehabilitate individuals"?**

  - He thinks drug sentences need to be tougher.
  - He doubts the effectiveness of mandatory-minimum drug sentences.
  - He questions the accuracy of recent crime statistics.
  - He thinks that providing rehabilitation is more important than controlling crime.
- 8. In the article, former prisoner Anthony Papa says, "It is time for the healing to begin." To Papa, an example of healing would probably be**

  - ending mandatory sentences for drug offenses.
  - providing job skills to drug offenders in prison.
  - releasing drug offenders who've served long terms.
  - all of the above

## IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- 9. Do you think tough punishments serve as a deterrent to other potential criminals? Why or why not?**
- 10. What kind of support, if any, should prisoners receive upon being released back into society? Explain.**