**Question one**

In October 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court certified California's prisons as unconstitutional – overcrowded, unsafe and prone to cause, not cure, recidivism. Responding to a federal injunction ordering California to reduce its prison population, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 109, the so-called Public Safety Realignment law. This law transferred authority for large numbers of convicted felons from the state prison and parole system to the state's 58 counties. In addition, the law required that newly convicted offenders who are deemed to be non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenders would be placed on probation or in local jails in lieu of being incarcerated in a state facility.

Supporters of this law argue that compared to the state, local counties are better positioned to rehabilitate inmates in jails and to bring offenders released on supervision closer to social service and mental health providers. Those who oppose the law argue that it compromises public safety and well-being by increasing fear among some California residents and that it will inevitably lead to an increase in some types of crimes.

Design a multi-methods study where you assess (1) whether the Public Safety Realignment law is associated with an increase in crime; and (2) whether or not some Californians feel less secure as a result of this legislation. In your answer, be sure to address the following issues:

1. What specific quantitative and qualitative research questions will your study address?
2. Sample:
   a. How will you select your sample?
3. Data collection:
   a. What data are you using?
   b. How are you collecting it?
   c. How will you gain access? (Think realistically about this)
4. Measurement Issues:
   a. What are you measuring?
   b. How are you measuring it?
5. What is/are the influences, predictors/independent variables, and outcome variables?
   a. How are they measured?
b. What contexts, processes or meanings will be assessed in the study?

6. Reliability/validity/non-response:
a. How are you assessing reliability and validity?
b. What are you doing to maximize reliability and validity?
c. Qualitatively, what strategies will you use to ensure your data are “accurate” or credible?
d. Qualitatively, what kinds of techniques will you use to ensure that your data are consistent?

7. Ethical issues
a. What ethical issues are raised in this research?
b. What special concerns might this study raise for an IRB?

8. Implications:
a. What are the implications of your study?

**Question two**

Many researchers believe that strong research designs incorporate both qualitative and quantitative methods. But each methodological approach works with different types of data and is based on somewhat distinct assumptions. Using your knowledge and understanding of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, address the following questions:
   a) What are the major differences in the **goals and design elements** of qualitative and quantitative methods? Be sure to use and accurately define key ideas and terms.
   b) What are the strengths and weakness of each approach?
   c) How do qualitative and qualitative research methods complement one another?