



Crime and Punishment



Key Vocabulary

Jury	A group of people who listen to all the evidence and decide if someone is guilty.
Judge	A person who is in charge of a serious trial and decides what punishment a criminal gets.
Trial	A meeting where all the evidence about whether someone is guilty of a crime is read out and a decision is made.
Lawyer	A person who tries to persuade the jury that a person did or didn't commit a crime.
Magistrate	A person who is in charge of a trial that's not as serious.
Transportation	A punishment that meant being sent to live in America or Australia and work really hard.
Pillory	A punishment that meant being put in stocks so people could throw things at you.
Deterrence	The action of discouraging crime through installing doubt or a fear of consequences.
DNA profiling	From 1984, it identified someone from a crime scene through body fluids.
Gallows	A wooden structure with steps leading to a platform where criminals would be hung in front of an audience.
Justice	For someone to have fair treatment for their behaviour.



Romans – Society was made up of the very rich but also very poor slaves. This resulted in conflict and therefore crime. As slavery was legal, running away from an owner was considered a crime. Sellers would lie to customers and give them less (fraud) and large crowds would gather to spectate often resulting in riots. Major crimes would be punished by crucifixion, sent to fight in arenas or having molten lead poured down your throats.

Anglo Saxons – Britain was not ruled by one person and the Anglo-Saxons were not united. They invaded as many different tribes and each took over different parts of Britain. The Anglo-Saxons didn't have prisons. People found guilty of crimes were either executed or punished with fines. If they ran away, they became 'outlaws' and anyone could hunt them down – unless they hid in a church. The fine for breaking into someone's home was five shillings (25p), paid to the home-owner. For minor crimes like stealing, a nose or a hand might be cut off.

Tudors – Large gaps between rich and poor meant crime was very common. Public executions were huge events with families, food stalls and people queuing for hours to get a good spot. These included beheadings, hangings, burning, pressings and boiling alive. Begging without a license would mean you would be whipped out of the town and theft resulted in having a limb chopped off.

Victorians – Anyone accused of a crime would be put in a 'lock-up' until they could see a magistrate who would decide whether they could be released or if they needed to be sentenced by a judge. Court rooms were created where victim and the accused could defend themselves and the death penalty became less common with a limited number of hangings. A police force was introduced in 1829. Public executions ended in 1868 and jails were built to try to prevent people re-offending, although many were sent out to the Empire to serve sentences abroad.

New Millennium / Modern Times – Crime ranges from physical (theft, assault, drink and drugs etc) to digital crime (fraud). Prisons now work hard to help rehabilitate people so that they do not re-offend and technological advances have meant catching criminals can be used by identifying finger prints and DNA.

