

Y5 - Crime & Punishment

A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066: changes in an aspect of social history



Period of History	Examples of punishments	Other key information
Medieval Britain (1066-1485)	Public executions Scold's Bridle Drunkards' cloak Ducking stool Pillory Stocks	Common law for the whole country was created and judges and juries were introduced. No police force—justice in the Middle Ages down to communities playing their part so they would not become the next victim of crime. Theft most serious crime at this time— anyone stealing goods worth 12p or over could be hanged. Petty crimes dominated— theft of goods worth less than 12p; getting into debt; doing minor harm to property. Rich & powerful had more influence over the justice system; inequality 1 in 4 people tried found guilty— juries felt punishments harsh; judges were local people; famine cause great poverty. Castles and forts were used as early prisons - they held people accused of crimes while they waited for their trial.
Early Modern period (1500-1800)	public executions trials by ordeal flogging whipping pillory stocks branding slavery	Vagrancy was a common crime - poor people in wealthy areas were often accused of vagrancy. Rise in smuggling and poaching Heresy became a crime and was punishable by being burned to death. Witchcraft was also considered a crime and was punishable by death. Public executions became more popular to deter others from doing the same. Highwaymen became greater threats during this period in history - this was because trade was increasing and wealthy people increasingly travelled the roads. The number of crimes punishable by death was over 200 - this became known as the Bloody Code. 1787— First transportation of criminals to Australia
19th Century including: Victorian Britain (1837-1901)	Imprisonment Hard labour Transportation	Victorians grew increasingly angry at public executions often for what would be considered minor crimes. This led to the use of prisons as a form of punishment rather than being used as holding places for criminals while they awaited trial. One form of punishment in prison was hard labour - people had to carry out physically demanding tasks., e.g. treadmill, crank, picking oakum Isolation and silent system used within prisons. Both public executions and transportation to Australia ceased in 1868.
Modern Britain (1901— present day)	Imprisonment Fines Community service	The last executions in the UK were by hanging, and took place in 1964, prior to finally being abolished in 1969. Rise in car crime, football hooliganism, race and hate crimes, illegal drugs and cyber crime. Technology developed to identify criminals—DNA, finger print analysis, blood groups, data storage, CCTV. Crime prevention strategies are used more prevalently.

Vocabulary

Bloody Code— The name given to the system of crimes and punishments in force in England during the 18th and early 19th centuries that resulted in the death penalty for offences that would today be considered minor. It was established in 1723.

Capital punishment—The legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for a crime.

Corporal punishment— Punishments intended to cause physical pain to a person. Examples include the use of whipping, stocks and pillory and branding.

Cyber— Used to describe a person, thing, or idea as part of the computer and information age.

Deterrence—The use of punishment for criminal activity, intended to discourage a person from committing the crime again

Fines— A penalty that requires the convicted person to pay a sum of money fixed by law after an offense has been committed.

Gallows— A structure, typically of two uprights and a crosspiece, for the hanging of criminals.

Heretic—A belief or action which seriously disagrees with the principles of a particular religion, especially Christian.

Highwayman— A man, typically on horseback, who held up travellers at gunpoint in order to rob them.

Homicide—The killing of one person by another.

Hooliganism— Violent or rowdy behaviour by troublemakers, typically in a gang.

Justice— The act of being just and fair. The principle that people receive that which they deserve.

Law enforcement— The police or other officials who stop crime or catch criminals.

Medieval— Medieval Britain is the time period between 1066, when the Saxon kingdom was overthrown by the Norman conquest, and 1485 after Henry VII's victory at the Battle of Bosworth which was the start of the Early Modern period.

Middle Ages— The period of European history from about 500AD, after the collapse of the Roman Empire, to 1400-1500AD- the beginning of Early Modern Europe.

Poaching— The act of hunting on land that is not owned by the individual.

Reform— Making changes to improve something that is wrong, corrupt or unsatisfactory.

Smuggling— Smuggling is the illegal trade in goods to avoid paying customs duties and taxes. Smugglers brought goods into a country without paying these duties and so could sell them at a cheaper price compared to traders who had paid the duty.

Transportation— The action or practice of transporting convicts to a settlement separate from the general population in a remote location, e.g. Australia

Trial—A formal examination of evidence by a judge, before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a criminal case.

Vagrancy— The condition of homelessness without regular employment or income.

Witchcraft— The use of magic powers, black magic and spells that can be seen to help or particularly harm a person.

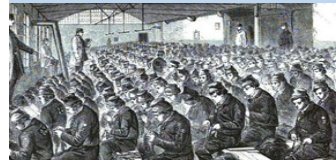


Gallows



Prison— Treadmill

Picking oakum in silent system



Stocks

