



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

HPL

Year 8 Terms 1 & 2 : Introduction to Criminology and Law

<p>What I need to know</p> <p>What is defined as crime?</p> <p>Why do people commit crime?</p> <p>What happens when someone is accused of a crime?</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p><u>Crime – the term used to describe behaviour which is against the criminal law. Crime is law-breaking behaviour.</u></p>
<p>Student reference point</p> <p>Definitions of crime have changed over time and vary according to the country that you live in. This has led some sociologists to suggest that crime is socially constructed</p> <p>What counts as criminal behaviour thus varies depending on what the laws of a society deem to be illegal. What is legal in one country may not be legal in another</p> <p>Psychologists and Sociologists classify the reasons that people commit crime under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Psychological reasons<input type="radio"/> Social reasons<input type="radio"/> Environmental reasons <p>The Criminal Justice System</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The person is arrested and accused of a crime.2. The police gather evidence to show that the person has committed a crime.3. A person accused of a crime may be given bail (which means they are released for a time) or held on remand (kept in prison until their trial)).4. The person is put on trial. The jury hear evidence from the prosecution (who tries to prove that the person is guilty) and the defence (who tries to show that the person is not guilty).5. The judge who is in charge of the trial makes sure it is fair and runs smoothly. They sum up the case at the end of the trial to help the jury make their decision.6. A jury of 12 members of the public make a decision on whether the person is guilty based on evidence from the trial. If they are found innocent they are freed. If they are found guilty they are convicted of the crime.7. The person is sentenced or given a punishment for their crime by a judge.8. Some people who are found guilty may want to appeal against the verdict and ask for another trial at an appeal court. <p>What is the purpose of punishment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Deter (put off) the criminal from committing crime again. Punishments that aim to deter may be very scary or unpleasant.<input type="radio"/> Protect the public/ Show that the government has enough power to keep the public safe<input type="radio"/> Punish the offender fairly and appropriately so they don't offend again.<input type="radio"/> Encourage the offender to make amends or pay compensation for their crime;<input type="radio"/> Revenge or retribution for the victim or their families<input type="radio"/> Rehabilitation: help the criminal learn new skills or help them with mental health problems so that they have a new start and don't offend again	

What are the alternative punishments to prison for criminals?

- Fines (to be paid to the taxation system)
- Community service (unpaid work which benefits the community for example scrubbing off graffiti)
- Community sentence (a criminal does not go to prison but has to meet regularly with a probation officer who checks up on them and provides support or is given a curfew so that they cannot leave the house at certain times).
- Unpaid work (for example working in a charity shop which gives work experience, skills and confidence to seek paid work)
- Compensation (pay money to the victim)
- Compulsory training or support courses (for example on driving skills or attending anger management sessions)

Challenge question:

Why is a fair trial an important part of Democracy?

Why is it important to consider inclusion in the criminal justice system?

Is prison an effective form of punishment?

Suggested reading:

Usborne Law for Beginners, Rose Hall