Crime and Punishment c.1250 to present

Crime and Punishment

Urbanisation, poverty, technology, beliefs & attitudes, and the government are all factors and reasons explaining changes and continuities in crime, as well as attitudes to crime. Consider these factors when writing your answers in the exam.

This is split into four time periods: Medieval (1250-1500), Early Modern (1500-1750), Industrial (1750-1900), and the Modern period (1900 - now).

Medieval Period: Crime

In the 13th century,

- There were crimes of different kinds - crimes against property (theft, burglary, arson, robbery) and against a person (homicide, treason).

- Serious crimes were known as felonies and ranged from murder to stealing more than 12 pennies of goods (as a result of a law passed in 1275).

- Petty crimes involved limited harm to a person or property, and included stealing less than 12 pennies worth of goods.

- There were a high number of homicides during the medieval period. Suicide, homicide in self-defence, murder, and accidental homicide were all classed under homicide.

In the 14th century,

- Over half of medieval homicides stemmed from simple arguments, records suggest.

- Crimes were also caused by hunger; theft was worst at harvest times when there were full fields.

- Suicide was a crime because the Church thought that only God could decide when someone died, possibly explaining the high homicide rates (since suicide was classed under homicide).

- Scolding involved the use of offensive and abusive language in public.

- Vagrancy became a problem after the Black Death in the 1340s, because the shortage of workers caused men to leave their manors and become vagrants

to wander the country for better pay somewhere else.

In the 15th century:

- Outlaw gangs that were caught could be pardoned by the king if they promised to serve in his army overseas.

- Bad behaviour included sinful behaviour like playing football and dice and gambling, or shaving on Sundays.

- In the 1351 Act of Parliament, treason was defined. Treason crimes included counterfeiting coins or women disobeying husbands.

- There were many crimes against authority. In the last years of the 15th century, many lords built up private armies against rival lords to take their land.

Considering the factors that explain continuities and changes in crime and punishment:

- High rate of homicides in the Medieval Period because of government (the Church considered suicide a crime).
- Poverty - in the 14th century, many crimes were caused by hunger.

etc.

Medieval Period: Policing

The king was in charge of keeping the 'King's Peace'. In 1285, King Edward I passed the Statute of Winchester, which shaped law enforcement for centuries. The Statue of Winchester reformed the system of watchmen (organised groups of men to deter criminal activity and provide law enforcement) of the Ordinance of 1252, and revived the jurisdiction of local courts. It also raised the requirement for hue and cry. A full-time police force would've been too expensive.

The Sheriff was the king's agent in each county and would be a powerful lord working without pay, giving him great status. Some fines that were paid would come the Sheriff's way. The property of convicted murderers would go to the Sheriff and crown. The Sheriff worked closely with coroners and chief constables.

The chief constable was appointed annually to supervise law and order in their area. They were wealthy farmers, who got local status from their job. Their main duty was to ensure every free man was ready to fight for the king if needed.

The parish constable was appointed annually and took turns in each parish whilst keeping their main job. From 1383, the parish had to ensure they practised archery

every Sunday and ensure his village always responded properly to crime.

Adult men were broken into groups of 10, called tithings. If one of them broke the law, the others would have to bring him to court. Whenever a crime occurred, the victim would have to call for a hue and cry, so everyone in earshot could search for the criminal.

Courts

Royal courts dealt with the most serious cases. Jurors were taken from the criminal's own area and judges from this court also travelled to counties to try cases.

Beginning in 1361, Justices of the Peace were appointed by the king, and there were three to four in each county. After 1388. they judged cases in their own courts four times a year in quarter sessions, and were unpaid but educated and wealthy.

Church courts had laws and courts based on Christian principles, but the Church dealt with some offences directly. You could be put on trial for adultery, homosexuality, gambling, scolding, etc.

Manor courts dealt with most crime and their main task was to run the Lord's land and deal with offences by villeins, judging that any petty crimes affected the whole community. Each manor had its own local laws.

Medieval Juries were selected from the same parish, and used their knowledge of the person's character and past background to reach a verdict.

In verdicts, for each type of crime, over half accused were found not guilty, except for treason. Verdicts were lenient and let the accused go free in serious cases.

Medieval Period: Punishment

All fines from manor courts went to the Lord. Church courts imposed fines for sins and kept the money. Kings received fines from quarter sessions.

Public humiliation was also used; manor courts sometimes forced scolding women to sit in public on a cucking stool. Public humiliation also included the stocks and pillory or confessing sins aloud.

Prisons weren't used as punishment for serious crimes but a prisoner awaiting trial may spend months in a gaol. Imprisonment was often used for debtors, forgers, offenders not paying fines, and people falsely accusing others. Gaols were rough

and unhealthy, and prisoners had to buy their own bedding, food, and drink. Poor prisoners often begged outside the gaol.

All executions were public to act as a deterrent and to show that justice had been served. Hanging was used for murder, theft, burglary, and robbery. However, over 80% of hangings were for non-violent crimes. Hanging, drawing, and quartering was done for high treason and counterfeiting. Being burned alive was done for pretty treason and heresy. Other punishments included being thrown from cliffs at Dover and being tied to a rock at sea in the Scily Isles.

Criminals used methods to escape punishment, for example seeking sanctuaty in churches or cathedrals, having powerful friends, refusing to plead guilty or not guilty (which sent them back to the gaol), buying a pardon from the king, becoming a king's approver, or claiming benefit of clergy (only for priests).

Early Modern Period: Crime

Vagrancy

Vagrancy was caused by unemployment rising sharply due to economic problems, rural depopulation (people moving towards cities to find work, but failing to do so, resulting in begging), and poverty. Poverty rose due to inflation, population growth, and changes in industry and farming.

There were three types of vagrants - the deserving poor (poor due to circumstances beyond control), the poor by misfortune (were fit but had to beg until they could better their circumstances), and the idle and work-shy (were fit but chose not to work).

People were worried about vagrancy, fearing it based on the assumption that all vagrants were dangerous and carried disease. The Elizabethan Poor Laws of 1598 and 1601 punished beggars, making it the parish's duty to take care of the poor.

The number of beggars rose in the 16th century due to the closure of monasteries (1536-41), the monasteries being support for the poor; and population increase pressuring food supply and jobs, and inflation causing prices to rise faster than wages, as well as landowners keeping sheep instead of growing crops, which reduced the need for workers.

Begging was treated harshly due to it being costly to support them in their communities, the acts of charity not being enough to meet the rising demand from the poor, and the large numbers of beggars seeming to threaten a society where people were expected to know their place in the community.

Heresy

Heretics were regarded as committing treason for not accepting the official religion. Heretics put on trial were given an opportunity to recant: if they did recant, they would only be imprisoned; if they did not recant, they would be put to death.

The Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 involved 30,000 pilgrims in a religious protest against Henry VIII, with 178 individuals in total being executed for the event. Elizabeth I tortured Catholics to some degree and made herself Supreme Governer rather than the Head of the Church of England.

Under Henry VIII (1509-1547), 81 were executed for heresy and under Mary I (1553-58), 280 were executed for heresy. However, during Edward VI (1547-53), only 2 were executed, and during Elizabeth I (1558-1603), only 4 were executed.

The Marian Persecution involved Mary I trying to restore England to Catholicism and publicly burning heretics so it would act as a deterrent and stop people from refusing Catholicism. She earned the name 'Bloody Mary'. Poor people as well as rich high-ranking clergyman like Nicholas Ridley who was Bishop of London and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Gloucester, two of the Oxford Martyrs, on 16 October 1555.

Treason

The Gunpowder Plot in 1605 involved a group of provincial Catholic men (led by Robert Catesby) trying to assassinate the King James I during the state opening of Parliament, and seize his daughter Elizabeth, raising her as a Catholic. However the plot was discovered before it happened, and all who were involved were punished.

However, some historians suggest they may have been framed so the King had an excuse to persecute Catholics. This is because no tunnel under parliament was found, and the government controlled gunpowder supply, yet the plotters had 36 barrels!

Smuggling

Smuggling increased, because the foreign wars required money to be raised through extra taxation and doubling taxes on both foreign and domestic goods, causing the living costs to rise, so there was a bigger need for smuggling. Smuggling was also appealing to low-paid individuals who could earn up to six times their daily wage in one night. Smuggling was also made easy because there weren't enough customs officers to patrol the coastline properly.

Many people didn't see smuggling as a crime and that it was an acceptable way to avoid taxation. However, the government passed laws to combat smuggling - the Hovering Act 1718, making it illegal for small vessels to wait within six miles of the coast and introduced transportation as a punishment; and the Act of Indemnity 1736, which introduced the death penalty for injuring officers in the course of their duty, and heavy fines for bribery, and gave a free pardon to a smuggler who gave out the names of other smugglers. However, these laws were hard to enforce due to the widespread nature of smuggling and because of threats, magistrates were afraid to convict smuggling.

Several people were involved in smuggling operations:

- Venturer - an investor putting up the initial money to finance the operation.
- Spotsman - responsible for bringing the ship full of goods to the right section of the coast
- Lander - arranged tub boats to pick up the cargo and organise ponies and carts to carry the goods on land
- Tubmen and batsmen - tubmen did heavy lifting and batsmen confronted any official trying to shut down the operation.

Highway Robbery

Highway robbery was on the rise. There were more opportunities for robbers to ambush travellers because of the quiet country roads and increased travelling (due to the population increase and the building of coach inns), as well as the development of roads. There was limited banking, so people carried their valuables and handguns were easy to find. There was a lack of law enforcement.

Highway robbery also declined because the growth of cities like London meant roads were being replaced by buildings. Bank notes were easily traced, which made highway robbery harder. Areas around London had better law enforcement, manned tailgates made it harder for highwaymen to stay unnoticed, and Justices of the Peace refused to license taverns popular with highwaymen.

Footpads attacked on foot and specialised in robbing pedestrians who couldn't escape as easily as those on horses.

Richard Turpin (1705-39) was a notorious highwayman alongside his partner Tom King and a £100 reward for their capture was offered. In May 1737 Turpin escaped an attack wherein King was shot, fleeing to Yorkshire under a pseudonym, until he was caught and hanged in 1739 on 7 April.

Witchcraft

In 1542 witchcraft was a crime during the period known as the Reformation. The last trial for witchcraft occurred in 1717 and by 1736 it was no longer considered a crime.

Economic problems like inflation of food prices and poverty caused people to blame someone so they could gain money from witch accusations. It was easy to eliminate people with withcraft accusations. Religion was also widespread - belief in Hell and the Devil - and would accuse people of being witches if things went wrong. Superstition was also widespread and there was a lack of scientific knowledge. These all caused the increase in witchcraft.

In 1597, James I wrote "Daemonologie" detailing how to spot a witch - if they didn't know the Lord's Prayer, if they had a "familiar" or a "witch's mark" etc. This would have increased the belief in witchcraft.

The Witchfinder General Matthew Hopkins was the most effective witch-hunter in England, mainly working in the north east and beginning in 1644 and retiring in 1647. He was responsible for the deaths of almost 300 women, and would get £1 for each witch he successfully accused. It has been estimated that all the English witch trials between the 15th-18th centuries resulted in about 500 executions for witchcraft, so Matthew Hopkins contributed to about 60% of those executions, more than all the previous witch-hunters in England in the previous 160 years.

Early Modern Period: Policing

The Assizes were the main courts dealing with serious offences. By 1550 the country was split into six circuits and the judges were sennt out to hold assize courts twice a year.

Quarter sessions were held four times a year, and all the Justices of the Peace in a county met up to try less serious offences and were also given more powers like fixing wages, licensing alehouses, arresting vagrants, etc.

In petty sessions small groups of Justices of the Peace met more regular in their local areas to deal with some types of petty crime.

Manorial courts involved villeins being tried for certain offences like letting their animals stray or stealing wood.

Church courts were active in the 16th and 17th centuries, enforcing church attendance and keeping up behaviour standards. They also dealt with crimes by clergymen and anyone could claim benefit of the clergy.

Individual communities were expected to police themselves, depending on local men who were appointed for a few years and unpaid. They also depended on tithings and the hue and cry. Law enforcement was flexible since they often knew the people they were dealing with and rarely appeared in court. Prosecutions often began with accusations from individuals.

Trial by jury was used for most offences. The Habeas Corpus Act passed in 1679 prevented authorities from keeping a person in prison indefinitely without charging them.

Early Modern Period: Punishment

In 1553 King Edward VI turned the Bridewell Royal Palace into a place to house homeless children and punish disorderly women. This marked a change in punishment - not focusing on retribution but on reforming criminals and turning them into useful citizens. Prisoners performed tasks like making coverings for beds. However after Edward's death Mary I and Elizabeth I used Bridewell for retribution.

Norwich established its own Bridewell in 1571. In the summer inmates worked from 5am to 8pm (15 hours) and in the winter from 6am to 7pm (13 hours). Any inmate refusing to work their hours was whipped. An Act in 1576 authorised the building of Bridewells all over the country.

Prisons were used to detain criminals and not punish them. Prisoners had to pay for food and accommodation. Some prisons included jailers who were criminals that had been pardoned, and had no income apart from what they received from prisoners.

The Reform of the Criminal Code 1823 is also known as the Bloody Code. In 1688, only 50 crimes were punishable by death, but this had risen to 225 by 1815 - it had quadrupled. Juries found offenders not guilty to avoid execution, since it was seen as too harsh a punishment, therefore criminals could get away with their crimes. Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel abolished the death penalty for more than 100 crimes in 1823, further reformed in 1832. The Punishment of Death Act reduced the number of capital crimes by two thirds. By 1861, only five capital crimes existed - murder, treason, espionage, arson in the royal dockyards, and piracy with violence.

The problem with executions was that criminals could be innocent, like Richard Lewis hanged in 1831 for murder that he didn't commit. They could also make victims seem like martyrs - Protestants during the Marian Persecution or Luddites.

The Bloody Code tells us that people thought it would act as a deterrent and believed that although innocent people could be hanged, it was the price to pay.

In the 1700s, only 40% of those who were sentenced were hanged. They were not seen as a deterrent anymore and juries avoided convicting people for minor crimes.

Punishment included public penance like publicly admitting their crime and apologising. Stocks were built in public places to humiliate the offender and the cucking/ducking stool was used to punish dishonest tradesmen, scolds, and disorderly women. The pillory was used for dishonest traders or people committing sexual offences, and were pelted with rotten food and excrement. The scold's bridle was used for women accused of scolding. Whipping and branding was used on vagrants. From 1572 it was law for vagrants above 14 to be whipped and burned through the ear with a hot iron.

Industrial Period: Crime

Crime increased during the Industrial Period due to economic problems, population increase, political unrest, and living/working conditions.

Towns grew during the Industrial Period and pull and push factors explain this. Push factors (reasons to leave) included the introduction of new farming methods meaning finding work in the countryside became increasingly difficult, many bad harvests and famines, and population increase, meaning there weren't enough jobs.

Pull factors - reasons to migrate - include factories being labour-intensive and needing large numbers of workers living by, higher wages in industry than agriculture, development of railways making transport easier, industrial work was all year while agricultural was seasonal; and young people in towns married earlier and had bigger families.

The Luddites were cloth workers who had lost their jobs due to machinery. They began attacking factories in Nottingham in 1812, spreading to Yorkshire and Lancashire. In April 1812 150 Luddites attacked a mill, killing its owner. This led to the government criminalising breaking machines. In 1813, 17 Luddites were executed, the others fined or transported.

The Swing Riots, in 1830-31, involved gangs of protestors attacking the property of rich farmers, committing arson and smashing machinery. They were protestors angry about poverty. 481 were transported, 19 hanged, and hundreds imprisoned.

The Peterloo Massacre was a huge meeting on 16 August 1819 at St Peter's Field Manchester, with 60,000 people turning up to hear speeches about the right to vote. Local magistrates feared the crowd and sent armed soldiers to capture the speakers. In less than an hour, 11 were killed and 400 injured. The lead speaker Henry Hunt was jailed for 2 years.

The Rebecca Riots (1839-43) involved gangs of poor farmers dressing in womens' clothing as a disguise, attacking tollgates in southwest Wales, angry about changes to the Poor Law and high rents. In September 1843, Sarah Williams who was a gatekeeper was killed in an attack on 7 September.

Industrial Period: Policing

The Bow Street Runners were led by Sir John Fielding (magistrate at Bow Street in 1754) and Fielding organised groups of part-time constables paid to patrol London. By 1800 there were 68 members. In 1773 they started a weekly newspaper "The Hue and Cry" publishing information about crime.

Robert Peel in 1829 got the support of Parliament to set up the Metropolitan Police Force, with London being patrolled by 3,000 men.

The 1835 Municipal Corporations Act allowed towns across the country to set up a police force. The 1839 Constabulary Act allowed magistrates to set up a police force for their county. The 1856 County and Borough Police Act put local police under local control and introduced inspectors monitoring them to ensure they met national standards.

In 1842, detectives were first used. In 1878 Criminal Investigation Departments (CID) were set up. From the 1880s, detectives took photographs of crime scenes. In 1867, telegraphs were used to speed up communication and in 1897 fingerprinting was first used.

Industrial Period: Punishment

Prison reform

John Howard was the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1773, and supervised county jails. He visited prisons all over Europe, and his findings led to two Acts of Parliament removing jailers' fees and improving the prison system. He believed criminals should be reformed and that conditions should be improved to reduce disease.

Elizabeth Fry began a campaign to improve prison conditions for women and in 1817, formed the Association for the Improvement of Women Prisoners in Newgate. This caused prisons to change, like having female warders, new prison rules, and having prisoners do regular work, like knitting and needlework.

Sir G.O. Paul was the High Sheriff of Gloucester, and he campaigned about local prison conditions. He was allowed to build a new prison in Gloucester with high

walls for security; ventilation and hygiene facilities; and prisoners being separated into different areas. Soon, other prisons followed this example.

The 1864 Penal Servitude Act focused on retribution, not reform. At least three months of hard labour was included, and diets of bread and water and corporal punishment could be given for up to a month, and uncomfortable beds replaced hammocks.

The 1877 Prisons Act centralised the prison system so it could be controlled from one place.

Prison Systems

In the early 19th century two prison systems were introduced.

The separate system involved prisoners being kept in individual cells wherein they would work, pray, and sleep. Prisoners would only leave cells for religious services, as well as exercise. On these occasions prisoners wore masks so they couldn't see other prisoners. It was believed this system would break down prisoners so they would be ready to reform. However many people became insane and committed suicide.

The silent system involved prisoners being able to meet together in certain areas, but couldn't talk so they couldn't influence each other. Life was made unpleasant and boring so recidivism rates would fall.

The 1823 Jails Act reformed prisons by ensuring there were secure, sanitary accommodations and provided jailers with salaries, and focused on reformation. It introduced a system of reports, organising the prison system.

Development of Transportation

Convicts were transported because imprisonment had high costs, and people hoped that crime would be reduced by removing people from Britain. It was an alternative to hanging and as well as the prisoners working hard and learning skills, the workforce helped to develop the British Empire.

Transportation occurred on a large scale from the departure of the First Fleet to Australia in 1787 until 1868. Jonathan Froward was a London merchant who earned £3 for each prisoner transported overseas. In April 1718, 27 men and women were sentenced to transportation.

Transportation meant that criminals could earn higher wages in Australia than in Britain, and that they could be used as free labour to build Australian infrastructure.

Modern Period: Crime

Problems with modern crime statistics

Some crimes were not reported to the police before 1980, and some crimes were only reported at certain times eg the number of reported burglaries rose when insurance companies refused to pay crime victims if the crime hadn't been reported. Some offences are no longer crimes (suicide in 1961, and abortion and homosexuality in 1967). Some new crimes have been created - smoking in public places (2007) and in cars with young children (2015)

Crime from 1900 to 1955

In the 1920s and 1930s Britain faced severe economic problems, leading to an increase in crime, with several strikes and protests.

In 1939, when WWII started, crime dropped initially, but after the Blitz in 1941-42, crime rose again, due to a rise in the black market (since rationing caused a decrease in items).

Impact of Motor Crime

Motor offences include not wearing a seatbelt (1983), using a hand-held mobile device (2003), not having insurance (1930), driving with excess alcohol in the blood (1925), parking violations (1960), and speeding (1902).

Harold Bater was one of the first Welsh drivers charged with speeding in 1902. The first speed limit of 30mph was introduced in 1934. In May 2012 a 11 year old schoolboy became Britain's youngest joyrider.

Football hooliganism

In 1923, the Wembley Cup Final between West Ham and the Bolton Wanderers was overcrowded, and 100 people were injured. Football hooliganism reappeared during the 1960s and was a problem by the end of the 20th century. In fact, the UK had a worldwide reputation for it, called the English Disease.

In the 1985 European Cup Final, Liverpool FC fans rioting led to 39 deaths of Juventus fans. This resulted in all English clubs being banned from European competitions until 1990, and Liverpool was banned for an additional year.

During the 1990s, authorities introduced measures to stop this violence with special police units.

The rise of computer crime

In May 2000, a 23 year old Filipino student launched the 'love bug' virus, crippling 55 million computers and causing 10 billion dollars in damage. A credit card fraud on the Internet cost taxpayers over 212 million dollars in 2006.

New crime has been created as a result of technology - copyright infringement (illegally downloading movies, music, etc), cyberterrorism (attacking the government for political objectives), spam (bulk mail for commercial purposes), hacking (unauthorised access to private records online), and phishing scams (using fake e-mails to trick people into revealing information).

Drug crime

In 1920 cocaine and opium were controlled substances. During WWI, people could buy cocaine to send to soldiers serving overseas, until this was banned in 1916. In the early 1960s, due to the increase in drug crime, the government imposed a ban on drugs. In 1971, the categories A-C listed illegal drugs. None of these methods seemed to work.

Threat of terrorism

Terrorism has grown due to beliefs in violent action, new technology (weaponry and improved communication makes it easier to organise attacks), and growth in fundamentalism.

On 21 December 1998, the Lockerbie Bombing of a flight from London to New York involved the plane exploding over Scotland, killing everyone on the plane and eleven people on the ground.

On 30 June 2007, a jeep was driven into Glasglow International Airport, injuring five people.

In May 2013, an off-duty soldier near the Woolwich Barracks was killed by extremists.

Modern Period: Policing

In 1900 there were 200 separate police forces in Britain, but a 1964 Act of Parliament merged many forces, so there are now only 43 police forces in England and Scotland. Since 2013 Scotland only has one police force.

By 2000, police force recruits could be male or female and needed to be educated. There were 226 policewomen in 1939, and 37,000 in 2008. In 1947, a National Police Training College was set up to provide starter training.

From 1900 until 2000, police never carried firearms. Truncheons have been used since the 1800s but officers now use pepperspray or tasers. Only five percent of all police officers are qualified to use firearms.

Modern police encourage community policing and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

A police survey in 1993 found only 18% of calls to the police were crime related, and it takes 30% of police time to investigate crime. Police also acted as advisors and counsellors.

In 1901, it was discovered that people had different blood types. The police used this to identify criminals. In 1902, fingerprinting was first used to convict criminals - Harry Jackson. In 1984, scientist Alex Jeffreys discovered that everyone had unique DNA.

In 1891, police telephone boxes were first set up in Glasgow; blue boxes first appeared in London in 1929. Portable radios were first used in 1969. Using technology, officers can quickly check details and registration at a motor vehicle accident.

Police rely heavily on CCTV to monitor crowds and traffic. The BSIA estimates there are 5.9 million CCTV cameras in the UK, with 750,000 in places like schools and hospitals. In 2015, the police made over 700,000 requests to monitor emails, messages, and Internet searches.

Modern Court System

Since 1974, there are no property restrictions on juries. The government has tried to reduce the number of trials by jury due to being slow and expensive.

In 1986, the CPS took on the responsibility of bringing trials to court, weighing up evidence, dealing with witnesses, and prosecuting criminals.

In 1919, women were allowed to sit as jurors. The first female magistrate was Ada Summers in 1920. Now, women outnumber men as magistrates (in southern England, females make up more than 62% of magistrates).

In 1908, juvenile courts were set up to try children who were eight to sixteen years old.

In 1971, assize courts, local courts, and quarter sessions were discontinued, and replaced by 90 Crown Courts managed by the government.

Modern Period: Punishment

Ruth Ellis was convicted for the murder of her lover and hanged in 1955. Appeals made on her behalf in 2003 and 2010 failed.

Timothy Evans was hanged for murdering his daughter and wife in 1950, but it was later found that serial killer John Christie had killed them. Evans was pardoned 16 years later in 1966.

Derek Bentley was found guilty of being an accomplice in the murder of a police officer and hanged in 1953 but pardoned in 1998.

Corporal punishment

In 1914, the use of whipping was limited. An Act in 1948 banned whipping. From 1986, it was illegal to use corporal punishment on students in schools.

Imprisonment

Borstals were created with the purpose of being educational for juveniles, not retribution, though they had a rigid system with many rules. It used corporal punishment until 1962, and had a high recidivism rate. They were abolished in 1982. They were replaced by detention centres, then Young Offenders' Institutes. In YOIs, prisoners are educated 25 hours weekly to be taught skills and increase chances of employment when they're released. There are also Secure Childrens' Homes, Secure Training Centres, and Juvenile Prisons.

Open prisons were set up after WWII to prevent overcrowding and resettle prisoners into the community, as well as provide work opportunities and academic courses.

The prison system includes suggestions from Elizabeth Fry. Women now have their own same-sex prisons, with a variety of courses provided at Holloway Prison, London. However, there are no womens' prisoners in Wales, so women from North Wales are held in Liverpool.

Prisoners are divided into categories from A-D, which depend on their danger to society, the length of their sentence, and the crime they committed.

After the temporary 1965 Murder Act, the death penalty was permanently abolished in 1969.

Alternative methods to imprisonment

Suspended sentences have been used since 1967, and mean that the offender doesn't go to prison unless they re-offend, in which case they must serve the suspended sentence as well as the sentence for the other crime they committed.

Probation began in 1907, and the officer must follow a set of rules and keep in touch with their probation officer. Parole began in 1967, and means a prisoner is let out early if they have behaved well, and must follow the same rules as a probation. Parole must be recommended by prison staff and probation officers.

Community service was introduced in 1972, and means the offender must do hours of unpaid work for the community as punishment.

Electronic tagging was tested between 1995 and 1997, and a tracking device is fitted to the offender to ensure they obey rules of parole or probation.

Since 2010, the government has released new ideas on how to punish criminals - regular working hours in prisons, forcing criminals to make amends with the community and victims, and rewarding private providers for reduced recidivism rates. It is hoped that this will encourage the rehabilitation of criminals.