

Knowledge Organiser – Crime & Punishment c.1250-present

TIME PERIODS

Medieval Britain
c. 1250-1500

Early Modern Britain
c.1500-c.1750

Industrial Britain
c. 1750-c.1900

Britain since c.1900

KEY FEATURES OF PERIOD

- Christian country
- Ruled by Kings
- People divided into 3 main groups: clergy, lords and everyone else (people who worked the land or traded).
- Bad harvests led to famine
- Black Death 1348
- Wars of the Roses 1455-1485

- The Reformation – religious turmoil & change
- England established colonies in N. America & developed transatlantic trade in slaves, metal goods, sugar & tobacco.
- Growing inequalities and divide between rich & poor.
- Civil War 1642-1648
- Printing press introduced into Britain

- Industrialisation
- Urbanisation
- Urban & rural poverty
- The British Empire
- Railways
- Growth of democracy
- The crimes of Jack the Ripper

- Digital technology
- Scientific advances
- 1948 Declaration of Human Rights
- Migration & diversity
- Urbanisation & wealth
- Government & welfare

CRIME

Scolding, vagrancy, outlaw gangs, bad behaviour, bad beliefs, treason, murder, heresy, theft.

Vagrancy, moral crimes e.g. drinking & swearing, witchcraft, highway robbery, smuggling, theft, murder

Most common crime = petty theft = 50-80% of all crimes committed
Crime rate rocketed in this period
Violent crime = rare = 10% of crime involved violence

Car crime, football hooliganism, illegal drugs, cyber crime & hate crime
The murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 and subsequent changes in the law.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The king, the sheriff, chief constables, parish constables, the people (tithings, hue and cry).
Church courts
Watchmen
Medieval juries

The people (tithings, hue and cry), Justices of the Peace & constables.
The assizes, the quarter sessions, petty sessions, manor courts, church courts.

The Bow Street Runners
1829 = the first professional police force set up by Robert Peel.

Crown Court
Forensic science, CCTV, computers to store data
Introduction of juvenile courts
Juries
Increased police specialisms e.g. counter-terrorism

PUNISHMENTS

- Fines
- Public humiliation
- Death
- Imprisonment

- Shaming & physical punishments e.g. stocks & pillory
- Capital punishment
- The Bloody Code
- Prisons & bridewells

- Number of capital offences declined.
- 1868, public executions were made illegal
- Transportation to N. America & Australis
- Prisons – Pentonville and the separate system, the silent system.

Abolition of the death penalty = 1964:
Derek Bentley case study
1948 Declaration of Human Rights
Changes in attitudes