

Revision Summary Sheet – The Legal System

Legal Representative	A lawyer/individual with legal training who represents their clients in court	Judge	
Tribunal		Juror	
Sanction		Retribution	Making sure that an offender is punished in a way that satisfies the victim , and his/her family and friends. The criminal is “made to suffer” for what they have done.
Reform		Rehabilitation	Helping an offender to fit back into the community. This may include treatment for alcohol or drug problems, help getting a job or assistance with housing.
Independent Police Complaints commission (IPPC)	A public organisation independent of the Government and the police. The IPPC is responsible for dealing with complaints made against the police forces in England and Wales.	European Economic Area (EEA)	A free trade area created in 1994 by an agreement between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (excluding Switzerland) and the European Union. Citizens of the EEA countries had the right to work in any other EEA country <i>*this may change as a result of Brexit</i>
Restorative Justice	The offender makes peace with the victim and makes up for any loss or damage.	Youth Offending Team (YOT)	These teams work with young people who have offended and supervise any community sentences that they have. They look into the background of a young person and try to help them stay away from crime.
Civic Duty	The responsibilities a citizen has to their community	Ombudsman	An independent service that provides dispute resolution for businesses supplying services in areas such as communications, energy, property, law, financial services and copyright licensing.
Perjury	When a person has taken an oath as a witness, or their interpreter, deliberately makes a false statement in a court or tribunal	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)	An organisation independent of the Government that has responsibility for monitoring standards in police forces reporting to the public.

The **purpose of the police** service is to uphold the law fairly and firmly; to prevent crime; to pursue and bring to justice those who break the law; to keep the Queen's peace; to protect, help and reassure the community; and to be seen to do this with integrity, common sense and sound judgement. Police are trained to know both their rights and responsibilities.

Police Responsibilities	Police Rights	Citizens Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold the law, protect human life and keep the peace. • Record any offence brought to their attention. • Be polite ad treat people with respect. • Tell people their name and the station which they are based. • Obey the law themselves. • Follow the codes of practice for dealing with citizens. • Inform citizens of their rights when stopped, searched, arrested or charged. • Make accurate statements as witnesses in court. • Use reasonable force only as a last resort. • Avoid any form of discrimination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect cooperation from citizens. • Stop any one in a public space and ask the to account for their actions. • Stop and search people who they reasonably suspect may have committed or be about to commit a crime. • Arrest someone who is committing/has committed/is about to commit a criminal offence. • Use reasonable force to stop, search and arrest people • Enter premises without permission to save a life, to deal with/prevent a crime. • Charge someone with committing a criminal offence if there is enough evidence. • Detain someone for up to 24hrs without charge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obey the law • Not to obstruct the police • Not attempt to destroy evidence • Cooperate with legal advisers.

Citizens' rights

- fair treatment, according to the law and without discrimination
- receive an explanation before any search is carried out
- receive the names and contact details of officers carrying out searches
- to be searched in private by an officer of the same sex if the search involves more than removing outer clothing such as a coat or jacket
- be asked for permission by the police to search property unless a search warrant has been issued
- receive a reason if arrested
- when arrested, not to be interviewed until taken to a police station
- be advised about rights and cautioned before a formal interview

- inform someone if arrested
- receive food, have breaks and receive medical help while with the police
- receive legal advice if arrested
- have an 'appropriate adult', usually a parent, present at the interview if under 18 or with learning difficulties
- be able to read the police codes of practice
- remain silent or to refuse to answer some questions
- read, check and sign or withdraw any statement made to the police
- not usually be detained for more than 24 hours without being charged
- receive an official custody record when released.

Dealing with changing patterns of crime.	Managing limited funds	Supporting vulnerable people	Responding to higher levels of public security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crimes such as theft, burglary and robbery have decreased but sexual offences, human trafficking and slavery are increasing. • Crimes such as fraud can now be committed on such a massive scale, at speed, from overseas and by offenders unknown to the victim. • Changes in the type of crime being committed reflect changes in technology. Modern Criminals are more likely to use a computer to hack into peoples bank accounts than a crowbar to open a safe 	In a world of cost reductions for all public services, the UK's 45 police forces must manage resources carefully.	People are living longer and, as they get older, they are often more vulnerable to exploitation. People with mental health problems are more likely to be cared for in the community than in the past. The police now have a major role supporting health and social service teams as they respond to the needs of mentally disturbed people.	The police are more accountable than ever before. Police forces are required to explain their actions to their elected Police and Crime Commissioner, the general public, HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate Constabulary), The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPPC) and the media.

Citizen action

Working as a special constable

The special constabulary is a force of unpaid, trained volunteers who work with and support their local police.

'Specials', as special constables are known, come from all walks of life. They all volunteer for a minimum of four hours a week and are an important link between the regular (full-time) police and the local community. People who work as special constables usually have another paid job outside the police service and come from a wide range of backgrounds.

Once special constables have completed their training, they have the same powers as regular officers and wear a similar uniform.

People become special constables for different reasons, including to:

- give something back to their community
- learn new skills and gain valuable experience
- enjoy a new personal challenge
- gain experience of the police force before applying to join as a regular officer.

Qualifications needed to become a special constable.

- No formal educational qualifications are needed but applicants must pass a literacy test.
- A clear personal record without criminal convictions or police cautions.
- The physical and mental ability to perform police duties (but there are no minimum or maximum height requirements.)
- Citizenship of a country in the EEA, including the UK or indefinite right to remain as a UK resident.
- Positive security clearance and reference checks.

Figure 3.4 Special constables' duties



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Carry out foot patrols |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Assist at the scene of accidents, fights or fires |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Enforce road safety initiatives |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Conduct house-to-house enquiries |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provide security at major events |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Present evidence in court |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tackle anti-social behaviour |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tackle alcohol-related incidents |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Spend time at local schools educating young people about crime reduction and community safety |

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Citizen action

Keeping the police accountable: the work of Police and Crime Commissioners

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are elected representatives, often nominated by the main political parties, whose job is to make sure the police are answerable to the communities they serve.

PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective police service that meets the needs of the whole community efficiently.

PCCs are responsible for working with local chief constables and their team of senior officers to decide:

- how the area is policed
- how the police budget should be spent
- the amount of council tax that should be charged for the police
- the type of information residents should receive about what the local police are doing.

PCC elections are held every four years.

Everyone aged eighteen or over has the right to vote. In the first PCC elections (2012), only 15.1 per cent of people voted. Many electors didn't know what a PCC was and most had heard little about the election candidates. Voter turnout increased to 27% in 2016.

Once elected a PCC works full-time in the role and appoints a small team to help. They do not become part of their local police force, they remain independent and have the power to remove the chief constable if the agreed policing targets are not met.

They spend much of their time visiting different parts of their area consulting residents about crime and policing issues. The public can contact their local PCC to make a suggestion or complaint about local policing.

During 2016 PCCs started to take responsibility for local fire and rescue services. The transferring of control of fire services from local authorities to PCCs aims to increase efficiency, save money and encourage greater cooperation between the 2 emergency services.

The Role of Legal Representatives:

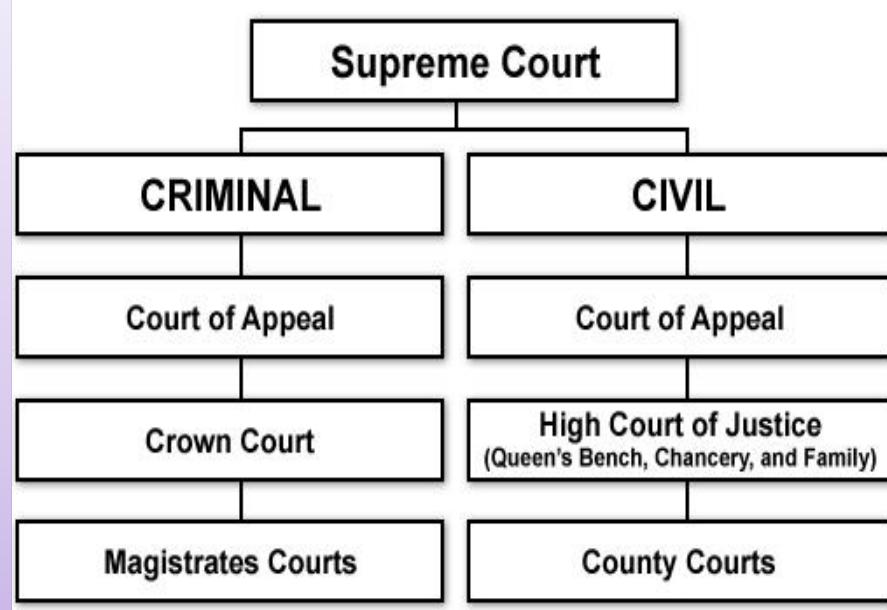
- People have a right to free legal advice if they are questioned at the police station, or if they make a claim through the civil justice system they can get legal advice.
- In criminal cases, trained lawyers prepare cases. Lawyers work on behalf of the Crown to prosecute the accused person against the charges brought against them
- In Civil cases lawyers support either the people making the claim (claimants) or the person opposing the claim (respondent).
- Solicitors usually help prepare cases but may also represent their clients in the lower courts. Barristers often assisted by solicitors, usually represent clients in the higher courts.

- Citizens wanting professional legal representation usually go to a solicitor but it is also possible to go to a barrister directly.
- Citizens needing legal advice often find it useful to start by visiting websites of organisations such as *Citizens Advice* or *Which?* (The Consumers' Association). Citizens have a right to legal aid to cover their legal expenses in some cases.
- Citizens have the right to represent themselves as defendants in a criminal case, and as claimants or respondents in a Civil case .

Lawyers working on criminal cases are often asked why they are willing to defend people charged with criminal offences. Without legal representation for accused people, our criminal justice would be very unfair. For Justice to be done, defendants have the right to legal advice and assistance. Remember that not everyone who faces criminal charges is guilty. If those accused of criminal activity did not get legal support there would be many more innocent people in prison. Without skilled legal advice and representation, defendants might struggle to put their case across convincingly. Juries must base their decision on the evidence presented in the court case, however they are unlikely to believe a defence that is poorly argued.

A defence lawyers responsibilities in a criminal case:

- support their client in police interviews.
- Gather information about the crime, or alleged crime, looking for anything that could assist their client's case.
- Study the charges made against their client in detail.
- Interview any possible defence witnesses and prepare them for a court appearance.
- Advise their client whether they should plead guilty to the charge (or to a lesser offence) or to plead innocence.
- Arrange for their client to be represented in court
- Discuss the case with their client as it progresses through the court advising a change of plea if necessary.
- If their client is found guilty, argue on their behalf for a reasonable punishment.



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Crown Court

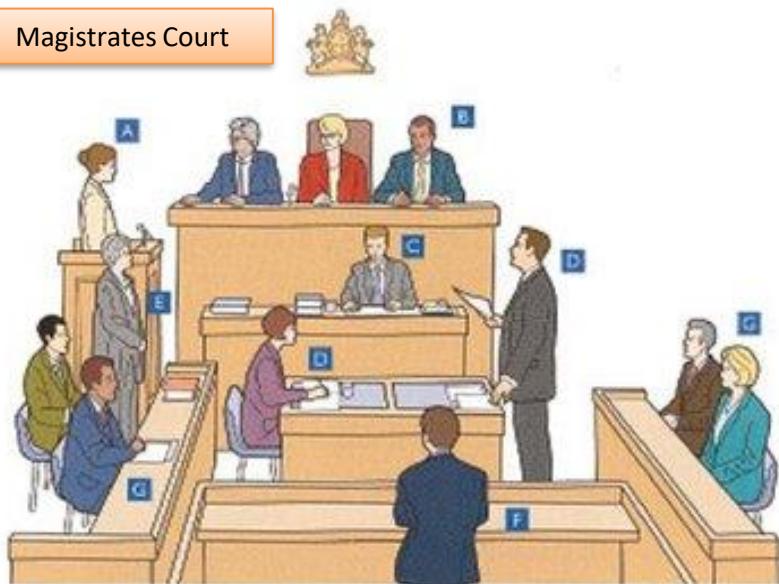


Key:

- A The Witness
- B The Judge
- C Clerk of the Court
- D Lawyers for the Prosecution and the defence
- E Members of the Jury
- F The Defendant

<https://leics.police.uk/advice-and-information/victims-witnesses/have-you-witnessed-crime-or-anti-social-behaviour/whos-who-crown-court>

Magistrates Court

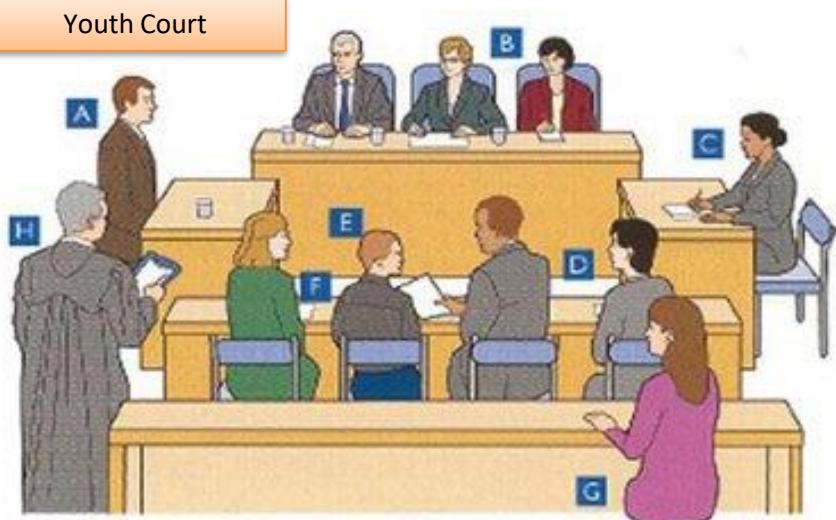


Key:

- A The Witness
- B The Magistrates
- C Clerk of the Court
- D Lawyers for the Prosecution and the defence
- E Court Usher
- F The Defendant
- G Others

<https://leics.police.uk/advice-and-information/victims-witnesses/have-you-witnessed-crime-or-anti-social-behaviour/whos-who-magistrates-court>

Youth Court



Key:

- A The Witness
- B The Judge
- C Clerk of the Court
- D Lawyers for the Prosecution and the defence
- E Members of the Jury
- F The Defendant

<https://leics.police.uk/advice-and-information/victims-witnesses/have-you-witnessed-crime-or-anti-social-behaviour/whos-who-youth-court>

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Criminal Courts				Civil Courts		
Crown	Magistrate s	Youth Courts	Court of appeal	County Courts	Family Law Courts	Tribunals
Serious offences like robbery are sent to a Crown Court from a Magistrates court. In a Crown court a judge and jury listen to the evidence. The Jury decides if the defendant is guilty. The judge advises the jury on points of law, makes sure that the trial is fair and decides on the sentence taking into account any previous offences – if any.	Criminal cases start in the Magistrate's court. The less serious may be tried and sentenced there, especially if the accused person pleads guilty. Magistrates are trained people who listen to the evidence and decide how to deal with the defendant. They usually sit as a bench of three.	<p>Young people under the age of 18 have a right to special support in the justice system. During a police interview, they are entitled to be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. If convicted, they are not normally sent to an adult prison. Courts have a legal duty to safeguard young people and prevent them from re-offending.</p> <p>Serious offenders will have their cases heard in a Crown court and not a Youth court.</p> <p>Either 3 magistrates or a district judge "sit" in a youth court. There is no jury and parents/carers must accompany people under 16. Sentences include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sentences • Detention and Training orders carried out in secure centres for your people as an alternative to prison. 	<p>Defendants unhappy with the decisions made in a Magistrates Court are able to appeal to a Crown Court.</p> <p>Appeals from the Crown Court generally go to the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>Upper tribunals can hear appeals against the decisions of local tribunals. Appeals are heard by experienced judges.</p> <p>Appeals against decisions of a County Court are held in the High Court. Permission to appeal is only given if there is a chance that the verdict was wrong or if the trial was unfair because correct procedure was not followed.</p>	<p>Most Civil cases are heard in either County courts, Family Law courts or tribunals. However some cases are heard in a magistrates court.</p> <p>There are numerous County Courts or "Small claims courts" covering England and Wales. They cover civil matters such as financial or housing disputes, family issues, personal injury and breach of contract. Most cases are brought by people attempting to recover debts or trying to gain reasonable compensation for a breach of contract, replacement or repair of faulty items.</p> <p>For small claims (a value of less than £10,000) court proceedings can take place using written evidence online without the need to attend a court hearing. If there is a need to go to court then both parties have to present their case to the judge. They can either represent themselves, pay for a barrister/solicitor, or ask a relative/advice worker but permission must be given by the court for this type of representation to take place.</p> <p>This type of hearing usually takes place in the judges room or a court room</p>		
					<p>Family matters are dealt with in the Family Division of the High Court, by district judges in County Courts and in specialist Magistrate's Court known as Family Proceedings courts. Family Courts deal with issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some aspects of domestic violence where a person needs protecting from their abuser. • Divorce • Financial support for children after divorce or relationship breakdown • Disputes between parents over the upbringing of children. • Adoption (to give full parental rights and duties to adoptive parent) <p>Most are private cases seeking a judgement in their favour. But they also hear public cases where a local authority or the NSPCC are seeking a judgement to protect children</p>	<p>Around 130 different types of tribunal deal with approximately 1 million cases per year – more than any other part of the justice system. Tribunals resolve disputes connected with issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Immigration • Mental health • Criminal injury. <p>They are an informal and relatively quick way of settling disputes. They are normally Lay people with particular knowledge and experience to make fair decisions. The panel usually has 3 members one of whom has legal training and is the chair person. Tribunals have some similarities with normal courts of law as claimants and respondents are asked to give evidence under oath. Lying can be considered to be perjury and will be punished through a criminal court.</p>

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STEP 1 Letter or email to complain

Sometimes all that is needed is a properly written complaint. State clearly why you are unhappy and describe the remedy you think would be fair (including payment of your losses and expenses). End with what will happen if you do not get a reply. (Businesses usually give information on their websites about how to complain or will provide copies of their complaint procedure.)

STEP 2 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

If you have been unable to settle with the business, you can use an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) scheme instead of court action. ADR schemes use a mediator or **ombudsman** to help you and the business reach a solution. You may have to pay a fee for using the scheme, but this is usually refunded if you are successful.

STEP 4 Remedy or compensation

If your claim is successful, you should receive the agreed money or remedy. If the respondent does not do what has been agreed or ordered by the court, the judgement can be enforced.

Citizen action

Membership of a tribunal

Most tribunal hearings are chaired by legally qualified tribunal judges but they often sit with two people (members) who are not lawyers but who do have practical and specialist knowhow to help them decide a case. For example, an employment tribunal may include one member with employer experience and one member with employee experience.

Members listen to the evidence, and may question both sides in the dispute (claimant and respondent) as well as any witnesses. Tribunal members take an equal part in making decisions but are advised on points of law by the legally qualified chairman.

Members must have experience or background knowledge relevant to the work of the tribunal on which they sit. Tribunals advertise for new specialist members. People who apply need to have the right skills and knowledge to make fair and just decisions.

Members are almost all paid a fee and are expected to work at least fifteen days a year. Unless they have recently retired from full-time work, most members also have a regular job. Members usually serve for five years and then can have their appointment renewed if they have been reliable and effective.

Citizen action

Serving on a jury

Trial by jury can be traced back to the Magna Carta of 1215 which stated that a citizen has a right to 'the lawful judgment of his peers'.

Any citizen aged eighteen to seventy can serve on a jury. Each year 200,000 people are chosen to perform this **civic duty**. Names are randomly selected by computer. This ensures that jurors are fully representative of their community. People chosen for jury service have a legal responsibility to serve.

Most juries are used in the Crown Court, but some civil cases are also decided by jury. These include cases involving damage to a person's character or reputation.

Jury trials account for less than 1 per cent of all criminal trials because most cases are dealt with in a Magistrates' Court. Of those cases that do go to the Crown Court; two out of every three defendants plead guilty.

Citizen action

Being a lay magistrate

Most magistrates are lay magistrates (also called Justices of the Peace). Lay magistrates are unpaid volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations. They may be retired or unemployed. Magistrates do not have legal qualifications but do receive training.

Magistrates must be able to listen to all sides of a case and use their common sense to contribute to fair and reasonable decisions.

Lay magistrates usually sit in a group of three. One magistrate will have been trained to lead a discussion to resolve the case. Magistrates decide whether the defendant is guilty and what punishment to impose. They deal with a range of minor and straightforward criminal cases such as theft, criminal damage, public disorder and motoring offences. Magistrates also 'sit' in youth and family courts.

Advantages of leaving the justice system to the professionals



Lawyers are properly trained over many years. They know the law. Ordinary people do not. What they know comes from unrealistic crime programmes on television.



Professionals are experienced. It's their job. They work on legal issues every day and know their way around the system. If the professionals do make mistakes, people can always appeal against verdicts.



Judges are less likely to worry about their verdicts, feel intimidated or become emotional. They can usually tell if a defendant or witness is lying.



Ordinary people have busy lives. You can't expect people to do jury service well alongside their other commitments. The public's elected representatives in Parliament can make sure the system is just and fair.

Advantages of involving citizens in the justice system



The justice system should reflect the standards and values of the general public. Lawyers are often out of touch with the lives of ordinary people.



By getting involved, citizens can find out more about how the justice system really works.



Citizens can evaluate whether the law is being applied justly and fairly, see things that professionals might miss and expose injustices.



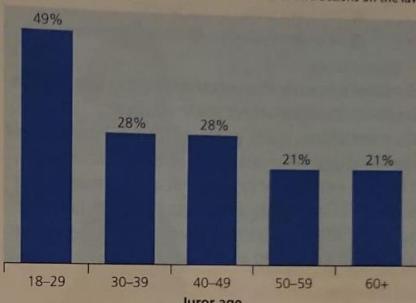
Citizens have the freshness and insights of those who are new to the system and have not become case-hardened or cynical like some professional lawyers.

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Q Do verdicts vary between courts?

A Differences exist in jury conviction rates between Crown Courts, but it is a myth that juries rarely convict at certain courts. All courts have a jury conviction rate of 53 per cent or higher. More research is needed about why courts in some parts of the country are more likely to convict. This could be linked to the quality of police evidence, the skills of prosecuting barristers or public attitudes to crime and justice in some parts of the country.

Figure 3.19 Age groups who fully understood oral instructions on the law



Q Do jurors understand judges' guidance on points of law?

A Judges often ask jurors to consider particular questions or points of law when making their verdict. Younger jurors (aged 18–29) were more likely to fully understand what the judge had told them. Only 21 per cent of jurors over 60 understood the judge's guidance.

Jurors also told researchers that they would like more guidance on how best to conduct their discussions in the jury room.

Q Are jurors influenced by media coverage of the crime at the time it took place?

A A trial usually takes place several months after the crime took place. Most jurors' memory of any media coverage had faded in this time. For those who did remember what they had read or seen, most said that it had not influenced their view of the defendant's guilt or innocence. Most of the remainder said the media reports had left them with the impression of guilt rather than innocence.

It is not possible to be sure of how much crime there is. The police record crimes that come to their attention. Unfortunately many crimes go unreported and, in some cases of fraud, people may not even realise that they have been victims of crime. The Crime survey for England and Wales gives the best indication of changing crime patterns by asking people whether they have been victims of crime. The results of this survey can be compared to previous years. Crime in the UK is falling overall similar to other European countries. However, criminal behaviour is also changing, giving the police new challenges.

Are juries fair?

Even though juries decide less than one per cent of all criminal cases in England and Wales, defendants in these cases are charged with the most serious criminal offences and face considerable loss of liberty. It is very important for jury decision-making to be fair so that people can have confidence in the criminal justice system. Opinion polls show strong public support for jury trials, but there are questions about whether juries act fairly.

The Ministry of Justice explored this question by commissioning an independent study into over 68,000 jury verdicts across all Crown Courts in England and Wales and involving 1,000 jurors.

The Ministry of Justice study, *Are juries fair?*, considered some concerns about jury trials:

Q Do all-white juries discriminate against black and minority ethnic (BME) defendants?

A Many people think that all-white juries discriminate against BME defendants, but the research found this was untrue. BME defendants are not more likely than white defendants to be found guilty by largely white juries. White defendants accused of racially motivated crimes are just as likely to be found guilty by all-white juries as by racially mixed juries.

Q Are juries less likely to convict defendants accused of serious offences such as murder and rape?

A There were no major differences in jury conviction rates based on the severity of the offence (defined by maximum sentence). Some people believe that juries are more likely to find an alleged rapist not guilty than guilty. Juries actually convict more often than they acquit in rape cases. Other serious offences (attempted murder, manslaughter, GBH) have lower jury conviction rates than rape.

Figure 3.18 Jury conviction rates by severity of offence

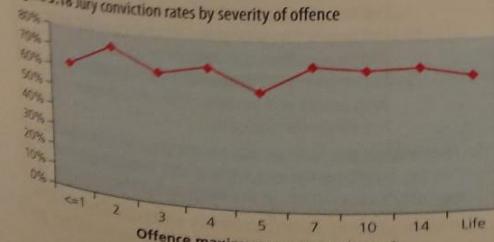
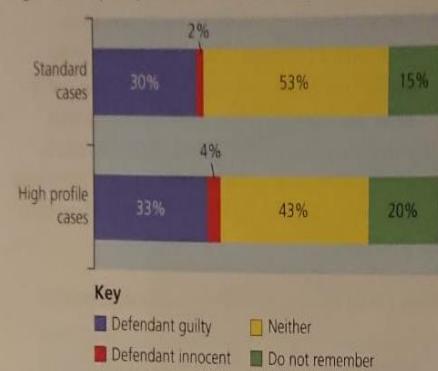


Table 3.1 Changing patterns of crime – using data from police recorded crime and from the Crime Survey of England and Wales, 2015

Offences	Percentage change from 2005	Reasons
Robbery	-64%*	Less alcohol consumption and drug addiction amongst young people. There is also some evidence that the removal of lead additives from petrol has led to less violent behaviour generally.
Possession of weapons	-46%	
Violence with injury	-41%	
Violence without injury	-59%	
Burglary of homes	-26%	Homes and cars are more secure. Stolen household items have relatively little value and can be traced more easily.
Burglary of businesses	-40%	
Vehicle theft	-50%	Smart phone and tablet ownership has given young people more to do. Greater likelihood of being caught acts as a deterrent.
Criminal damage	-46%	
Shoplifting	+16%	People's incomes have fallen and so more are tempted to steal from shops for the things they want.
Fraud	+43%	There are greater online opportunities for fraud. It is difficult for the police to detect fraud, so more people are trying it.
Rape	+109%	Easier access to pornography on the internet is leading to more violence against women. People are also more likely to report rapes because they have greater confidence that the police and courts will deal with cases effectively. Both these factors help to explain the increase.
Other sexual offences	+26%	The police have become more successful at detecting sex offenders by monitoring online activity. People are also more likely to report sex offences than in the past.
All crime	-34% (estimated)	Crime fell by one third overall from 2005 to 2015 but there was a 6% increase in recorded crime in the year to September 2015.

(*This means that there were 64 per cent fewer cases of robbery in 2015 than in 2005.)

Figure 3.20 Emphasis jurors recalled in media coverage



Q Do jurors search the internet during the case in ways that might affect their verdict?

A 38 per cent of jurors in high-profile cases used the internet to read coverage of their trial or to research details about the defendant. It might be expected that younger jurors would be more likely to look for information on the internet, but the research found that most jurors who said they looked for information on the internet (68 per cent) were over 30 years of age.

Overall findings:

- Juries are efficient. They reach a verdict more than 99 per cent of the time.
- Juries appear to decide cases on the evidence and the law.
- Juries convict on almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of all charges presented to them.

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Figure 3.23 Causes of crime

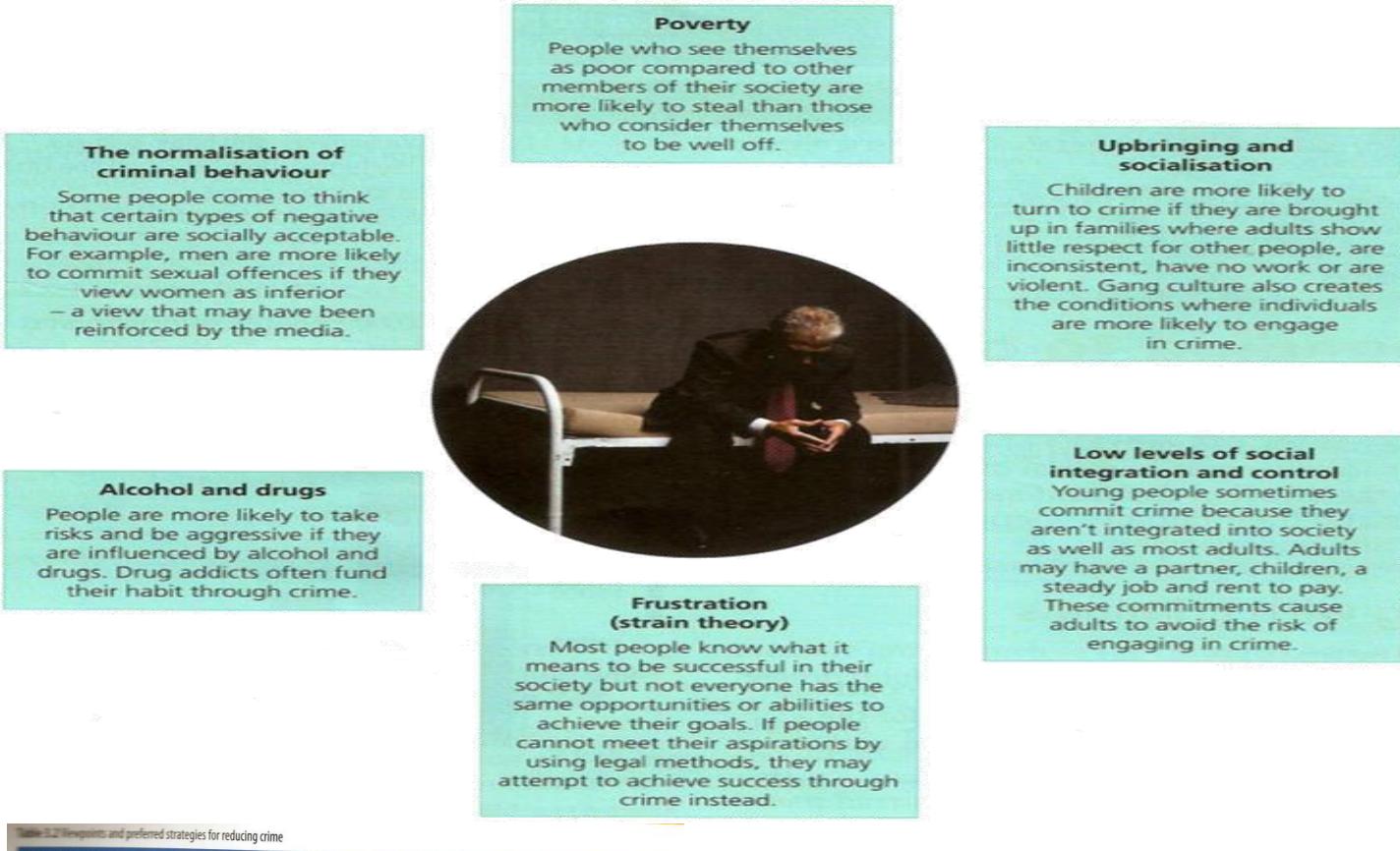


Table 3.2 Viewpoints and preferred strategies for reducing crime

Viewpoint on the causes of crime	Preferred crime reduction strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime is mainly a matter of personal choice. Poverty and poor examples set by parents do not automatically lead to criminal behaviour. Many people overcome these problems but others may need help to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure rules are clear and that there is a high risk of getting caught. Make punishments more severe. Help people overcome alcohol and drug dependency and psychological disorders. Make sure everyone has good educational opportunities. Outlaw discrimination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime is caused mainly by social conditions. Too many people are on the edge of society; unemployed or with low-wage jobs and in poor housing. These conditions encourage people to turn to crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve housing conditions. Tackle child poverty by increasing welfare support for poor families. Create more apprenticeships and jobs. Provide better opportunities for young people from poorer areas.

Table 3.4 Alternatives to prison

Restorative justice	This usually includes face-to-face contact between the offender and their victim. The offender hears about the impact of their crime and apologises to the victim. The offender may also compensate the victim in some way.
Community sentences	Community sentences include between 40 and 300 hours of unpaid work for the community's benefit such as removing graffiti or clearing litter. Community sentences may also include measures to help people stay out of trouble. These measures might include treatment for alcohol or drug dependency.
Electronic monitoring or 'tagging'	The offender must stay away from certain areas and/or be at home at certain times (usually at night).
Fine	Courts may ask offenders to pay a fine as an alternative to prison.
Suspended sentence	A prison sentence that the offender will not need to serve if they stay out of trouble for a time to help them stay out of trouble.

Prisoner facts

- 26 per cent of prisoners are from ethnic minority groups or are of mixed race. (12 per cent of the UK population belong to an ethnic minority group or are mixed race.)
- 20–30 percent of all offenders have learning or other difficulties that make it difficult for them to deal with police, courts or prisons.
- 24 per cent of prisoners had lived with foster parents or in a children's home, or had been taken into care at some point when they were a child.
- 29 per cent of prisoners had experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child. (53 per cent of women prisoners had experienced such abuse.)
- 41 per cent of prisoners had observed violence at home as a child.
- 37 per cent of prisoners had a family member who had been found guilty of a criminal offence.
- 59 per cent of prisoners reported regularly playing truant and 42 per cent had been permanently excluded from school.
- 61 per cent of prisoners stated that they were single when they came into custody.
- Around one-half of prisoners reported being in paid employment at some time in the year before custody. However, 13 per cent reported never having had a job.
- Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of prisoners had been in receipt of benefits at some point in the twelve months before coming into custody.
- 47 per cent of prisoners held no academic qualifications.
- 15 per cent of prisoners reported being homeless before custody.
- 64 per cent of prisoners had taken class A drugs and 22 per cent had drunk alcohol every day in the four weeks before custody.

(The Prison Reform Trust)



The effect of hate crime on victims

What is hate crime?

Hate crime is a crime against you, your friends, your family or your property because of your actual or presumed sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability, race or religion.

Hate crimes can take many forms, such as: physical and verbal attacks; vandalism and graffiti; cyber bullying; abusive text messaging and hate mail; offensive signs or gestures and threatening behaviour.

Effects on victims

Hate crime affects the individual in every area of their life, work, school and home. People who experience such crime may feel guilty, humiliated and too embarrassed to complain. Stress may lead to emotional symptoms such as a loss of self-confidence and self-esteem. More serious physical and mental health problems may develop, not only for the victim, but also for their whole family.

Don't let them get away with it

Hate crime is committed by people who do not care how much they hurt their victims. If they go unchallenged, they will continue to put others in danger. Report it so they can be caught before others suffer.

(Adapted from the Stop the Hate website: <http://www.stopthehate.org.uk/>)

Victims of a crime are often very severely affected by crime. Physical injury or loss of property can have a huge impact on the victim of the crime and their family. People can also be affected psychologically.

- Rape victims sometimes find it difficult to trust other people or to have satisfying sexual relationships.
- People whose homes are burgled sometimes can't bear to live there anymore.
- People who have been assaulted often no longer want to go out.

There are several national organisations that provide support for victims of crime. One of the most prominent is Victim Support, a charity that provides confidential emotional support and practical advice to victims of different types of crimes.

To protect society governments are having to spend more time and money protecting society than before. It is far more effective to prevent crime and to stop people from offending than to deal with it once it has happened. In the last 20 years there have been the following developments to help assist the police and act as a deterrent to possible offenders:

- **Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV)** – Town centres, sports stadia, shopping centres, main roads and motorways are just some places monitored 24 hrs a day. Many homes and businesses are also protected. As a result of CCTV crimes are more likely to be recorded and this evidence is increasingly important when suspects are prosecuted.
- **Monitoring mobile phones and internet use** – mobiles reveal their owners' location and movements as well as records of messages received and sent. Providing important evidence for the police. The government's intelligence services monitor people's use of electronic devices to identify possible conspiracy, enabling the police to disrupt terrorism/other serious criminal offences.
- **Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)** – each cell of our bodies contains a "genetic fingerprint" that can help to identify us. Hairs, flakes from skin, bloody, saliva and other bodily fluids left at a crime scene can match the offence to a particular individual. The National DNA database provides police with the most effective tool for the prevention and detection of crime since the development of fingerprint analysis over 100 years ago.

- **Improved Security** – Complex security makes burglary and car theft far less common. Cashless payments, fingertip or iris identification, property marking and tracking systems have all acted as a deterrent to potential offenders. Several organisations exist to prevent crime and deter criminal behaviour. These include:

- *National Crime Agency (NCA)* – set up in 2014 by the government to disrupt new types of organised crime e.g. cyber crime, fraud, illegal immigration and child exploitation.
- *Crimestoppers* – a national charity that encourages people to make contact anonymously to report crimes that have taken place or are being planned. This can be done without fear of intimidation or possible retaliation. They also give people information and advice to keep them safe and prevent crime.
- *Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)* – Part of the Government's National Crime Agency. They protect children from harm online and offline, directly through NCA-led operations and by working with local and international agencies. CEOP provides information/advice to schools and families on how to reduce the risk of online exploitation.
- *The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)* – operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as to professionals dealing with cases. FMU gives simple advice, helps victims prevent their unwanted spouse moving to the UK (reluctant sponsor cases), and, in extreme circumstances, rescues victims held against their will overseas.

