

Knowledge Organiser – Crime and Justice

Key Term	Definition
Crime	An act against the law
Guilty	The jury has decided they believe beyond reasonable doubt that this person has committed the crime.
Not Guilty	The jury has decided there is reasonable doubt that this person committed the crime
Evidence	The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid
Witness	People who observed an event
Jury	Body of people (typically twelve in number) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court.
Miscarriage of Justice	A failure of a court or judicial system to attain the ends of justice, especially one which results in the conviction of an innocent person.
Capital Punishment	Authorised killing of a person because of the crimes they have committed.



Implications of having a criminal record...

1. It may make it difficult to get employment or do volunteer work.
2. You may find it difficult to travel to certain countries.
3. If you commit another crime you may receive a harsher punishment.

Different types of evidence

1. Finger Prints - This is a great way of being able to tell if a suspect has held a weapon, or has climbed into a property, for example. However, what if they were wearing gloves? What if they happened to have held the weapon but another person used it? All fingerprints can tell us is that the person may have been involved at the scene or with an object at some point, but not when or for what purpose
2. DNA - If a suspect has left a hair at the scene of a crime, or their blood, it can easily be DNA tested to see if it matches up with someone on the National DNA Database or that of a new suspect in custody. But what if a suspect's DNA got there accidentally? We call fingerprinting and DNA evidence, forensics. Although this is the most modern and scientific way of matching suspects to crimes, it is not foolproof and there have been cases of innocent people being convicted on the basis of forensic evidence which has been brought into doubt
3. Identity Parades - If a witness has seen a crime being committed or is the victim of a crime they may be asked to identify the offender. These days the police conduct a video identity parade. The police show the witness a video containing the face of the suspect and eight other similar looking people. The witness will see a close up of each person "face on" and looking to the side

NAME: Clerk
It's my role to...
 Maintain the court records, make sure witnesses and jury members take the oath correctly, tell the defendant what he has been accused of and ask whether he pleads guilty or not guilty.

NAME: Judge
It's my role to...
 Guide the jury on the law and make sure things are going fairly.



NAME: Usher
It's my role to...
 Make sure the courtroom is ready for the case to start and to make sure the witnesses are called to the court on time so that proceedings run as smoothly as possible.

Capital Punishment/Death Penalty

Argument in favour of the death penalty	Arguments against the death penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If someone murders someone else, they have given up their human rights, including the one to stay alive themselves▪ The punishment should 'fit the crime' - if you have killed someone, you should be killed too▪ Giving a killer the death sentence will stop them - and others - doing it again▪ The very small chance of executing the wrong person is balanced by the benefits to society of putting off other murderers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The death penalty goes against our most basic human right - the right to life▪ Being killed by lethal injection or being electrocuted is not always smooth and painless, sometimes it causes a painful death▪ No-one has ever proven with numbers that killing murderers stops other people committing similar crimes▪ Mistakes are sometimes made in the law - what if someone is killed who is actually innocent?

