**CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN MODERN BRITAIN 1900 – PRESENT DAY**

**Criminal Activity**

There was a big increase in crime from the 1950s to 1995. Since then, the overall crime rate has slowly declined. New technology has helped to create new types of crime, such as driving offences. Race Crime and drug crime have also emerged as new types of crime. There are also new opportunities for old crimes, including new forms of theft and smuggling.

**Methods used to enforce the law**

Finger printing was introduced in 1901 and, more recently, the use of DNA samples has helped the police to investigate crimes and track down criminals. The use of radios and cars has allowed the police to respond more quickly to events. Specialist units within the police force concentrate on different types of crime. At a local community level, **Neighbourhood Watch** developed to encourage communities to work together to help deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Methods used to punish criminals**

Fines are the most widely used punishment, especially for driving offences. Prisons are used for more serious crimes and for repeat offenders and different types of prison have developed such as **open prisons** and **young offenders’ institutions**. Debate has continued over the purpose and effectiveness of prisons. Since the 1990s, electronic tagging has been used as a way of monitoring a criminal’s movements and as an alternative to prison. The death penalty was abolished in 1965.

During the 20th Century, changing social attitudes have meant that the law has changed, especially in the 1960s. Many activities that were formerly considered crimes were decriminalised and some activities were newly defined as crimes.

Complete the table with information about each of the Acts of Parliament;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1967 Sexual Offences Act |  |
| 1968 Abortion Act |  |
| 1968 Race Relations Act |  |
| 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act |  |
| 1976 Domestic Violence Act |  |
| 2005 Terrorism Act |  |
| 2006 Racial and Religious Hatred Act |  |
| 2015 Modern Slavery Act |  |

What is meant by the term ‘**hate crime’?**

What is ‘**homophobia**’?

Smuggling and Poaching are two examples of ‘social crimes’ from the past. Give 2 examples of social crimes of the present day;

1

2

Some crimes of today are simply new versions of old crimes. For each of the examples below, give an explanation of the way in which the crime was carried out both in the past and nowadays;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CRIME | PAST | PRESENT |
| Terrorism |  |  |
| Fraud |  |  |
| Theft |  |  |
| Extortion |  |  |

**DEVELOPMENTS IN POLICING SINCE 1900;**

Women were first recruited to the police force in the 1920s. What types of role were they given?

In 1947 the Police Training College was set up. How had new recruits learnt the job previously?

New technology has been used both to solve and to prevent crime. Give examples of each;

Police departments have become increasingly specialised. Give three examples of police units that specialise in particular areas;

1

2

3

Dog units were set up in the 1940s and dogs are used for many different tasks. What jobs are dogs used for? (Solve the anagrams)

sgurd tuo ffins dnif sevisolpxe acrkt dna tccah minircsla

raeshc ssiinmg rof snoserp liopce eht esenecrp nestrnehtg

What is Special Branch?

CRIME PREVENTION

Police forces have increasingly focussed on preventing crime. They offer advice to the public about keeping themselves and their property safe. Give 3 examples of places the police might visit to speak to the public;

1

2

3

They also make risk and threat assessments, working with MI5, the security service.

The police are supported by the PCSO. Explain what the PCSO are;

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (complete the paragraph)

The first Neighbourhood watch was set up in \_\_\_\_\_\_ and is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of local people who raise awareness about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and encourage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to keep an eye on each other’s’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

*property crime neighbours 1982 committee*

The scheme was introduced as part of a reduction of the role of the state and to encourage the role and responsibility of individuals. ‘Active citizenship’ is another term for this.

Define *active citizenship*

**CHANGES IN PUNISHMENT 1900 – PRESENT DAY**

Since Anglo-Saxon times, execution had been considered a valid form of ultimate punishment. However, its use decreased from the beginning of the 19th century and by the 1830s the only capital crimes were murder and treason. Throughout the 19th century, politicians had attempted to end the death penalty but failed.

In the 20th century, attitudes to crime and criminals were changing and during the second half of the 20th century the death penalty was abolished.

From 1908 to 1999 the law has been changed to reduce and finally abolish the use of the death penalty.

In 1963, the ‘**age of criminal responsibility’** was raised to 10 years old. What does this mean?

During the 1950s there were three particularly controversial executions. Find out what happened and underline or highlight the part of the story that led to public opposition of the use of the death penalty.

|  |
| --- |
| Timothy Evans 1950 |
|  |
| Derek Bentley 1953 |
|  |
| Ruth Ellis 1955 |
|  |

During the 20th and into the 21st centuries, the use of prison as punishment has continued to increase. The cost of keeping a prisoner in prison is estimated at £40,000 per year and rates of reoffending (recidivism) are high. The effectiveness of prison as a punishment is, therefore, frequently a matter of discussion and debate. Other punishments have been developed as prison populations have soared and overcrowding has become a problem.

Complete the following table with a description of each of the different alternatives to prison;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) |  |
| Community Service |  |
| Drug and alcohol treatment programmes |  |
| Electronic Tagging |  |

SPECIALISED TREATMENT OF YOUNG OFFENDERS

During this time period, the treatment of young offenders has changed, affected by the changing social attitudes of the time.

**Borstals**

Named after the village in Kent where the first one was set up in 1902

Why was it thought necessary to keep the young convicts away from older criminals?

What was the main focus of borstals?

What replaced borstal in 1982?

The post-war Labour government introduced many social reforms, including The Criminal Justice Act 1948. Give two reforms that were made in this Act;

1

2

The Children and Young Persons Acts of 1963 and 1969 made several changes to the system. What were these changes?

**Case Study;** Conscientious Objectors in the First and Second World Wars.

The 1916 Military Service Act introduced ‘conscription’ for the first time in the UK. Explain what ‘conscription’ is;

The Military Service Act made provision for people who did not want to join the armed forces. There was a clause called the ‘conscience clause’ which allowed men to ask for exemption on the grounds of conscience or belief.

**During World War One** there were people who refused to fight on grounds of their beliefs. They were known as Conscientious Objectors (CO). There were two types of CO. Explain what each type was;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Absolutist | Alternativist |
|  |  |

Give three ways in which COs were treated;

1

2

3

Why were they treated like this?

What kind of work were COs offered **during World War Two?**

Who were the ‘Peace Pledge Union’?

What was the public attitude to COs during World War Two?

**Case Study;** THE DEREK BENTLY CASE AND THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Why was the hanging of Derek Bentley controversial?

What does **‘joint enterprise’** mean?

What is the plea of **‘diminished responsibility’**?

What did the Homicide Act 1957 say?

What was changed in 1965 and 1969?