

Option 10: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present *and* Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city

Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present

The process of change

- In studying the content defined below in strands 1 and 2, students should understand how key features in the development of crime and punishment were linked with the key features of society in Britain in the periods studied.
- They should develop an understanding of the nature and process of change. This will involve understanding patterns of change, trends and turning points, and the influence of factors inhibiting or encouraging change within periods and across the theme. The key factors are:
 - attitudes in society
 - individuals and institutions (Church and government)
 - science and technology.
- They should also understand how factors worked together to bring about particular developments at particular times.
- The selected case studies in strand 3 of each period exemplify, in context, the elements defined in strands 1 and 2. They provide opportunities to explore the operation of the key factors and to make detailed comparisons over time.

Re-formatting of 'process of change' section

We have put the factors into a bullet pointed list to make them more prominent.

c1000–c1500: Crime and punishment in medieval England

1 Nature and changing definitions of criminal activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crimes against the person, property and authority, including poaching as an example of 'social' crime.• Changing definitions of crime as a result of the Norman Conquest, including William I's Forest Laws.
2 The nature of law enforcement and punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of the authorities and local communities in law enforcement in Anglo-Saxon, Norman and later medieval England, including tithings, the hue and cry, and the parish constable.• The emphasis on deterrence and retribution, the use of fines, corporal and capital punishment. The use and end of the Saxon Wergild.
3 Case study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The influence of the Church on crime and punishment in the early thirteenth century: the significance of Sanctuary and Benefit of Clergy; the use of trial by ordeal and reasons for its ending.

Crime and punishment in medieval England

No changes.

c1500–c1700: Crime and punishment in early modern England

1 Nature and changing definitions of criminal activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuity and change in the nature of crimes against the person, property and authority, including heresy and treason.• New definitions of crime in the sixteenth century: vagabondage and witchcraft.
2 The nature of law enforcement and punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of the authorities and local communities in law enforcement, including town watchmen.• The continued use of corporal and capital punishment; the introduction of transportation and the start of the Bloody Code.
3 Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gunpowder Plotters, 1605: their crimes and punishment.• Key individual: Matthew Hopkins and the witch-hunts of 1645–47. The reasons for their intensity; the punishment of those convicted.

Crime and punishment in early modern England

No changes.

c1700–c1900: Crime and punishment in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain

1 Nature and changing definitions of criminal activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuity and change in the nature of crimes against the person, property and authority, including highway robbery, poaching and smuggling.• Changing definitions of crime exemplified in the ending of witchcraft prosecutions and treatment of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.
2 The nature of law enforcement and punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of the authorities and local communities in law enforcement, including the work of the Fielding brothers. The development of police forces and the beginning of CID.• Changing views on the purpose of punishment. The use and ending of transportation, public execution and the Bloody Code. Prison reform, including the influence of John Howard and Elizabeth Fry.
3 Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pentonville prison in the mid nineteenth century: reasons for its construction; the strengths and weaknesses of the separate system in operation.• Key individual: Robert Peel – his contribution to penal reform and to the development of the Metropolitan Police Force.

Crime and punishment in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain

No changes.

c1900–present: Crime and punishment in modern Britain

1 Nature and changing definitions of criminal activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuity and change in the nature of crimes against the person, property and authority, including new forms of theft and smuggling.• Changing definitions of crime, including driving offences, race crimes and drug crimes.
2 The nature of law enforcement and punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of the authorities and local communities in law enforcement, including the development of Neighbourhood Watch. Changes within the police force: increasing specialisation, use of science and technology and the move towards prevention.• The abolition of the death penalty; changes to prisons, including the development of open prisons and specialised treatment of young offenders; the development of non-custodial alternatives to prison.
3 Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The treatment of Conscientious Objectors in the First and Second World Wars.• The Derek Bentley case: its significance for the abolition of the death penalty.

Crime and punishment in modern Britain

No changes.

Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city

The historic environment

1 Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city

- The local context of Whitechapel. The problems of housing and overcrowding. Attempts to improve housing: the Peabody Estate. Provision for the poor in the Whitechapel workhouses. ~~The lack of employment opportunities and level of poverty.~~ Links between the environment and crime. ~~the significance of~~ Life in Whitechapel as an inner city area of poverty and discontent ~~and crime.~~
- The inhabitants of Whitechapel. The lack of employment opportunities and level of poverty. The prevalence of lodging houses and pubs creating a fluctuating population without ties to the community. The impact of changing patterns of migration: the settlement of migrants from Ireland and Eastern Europe, and the increase in Jewish migration during the 1880s. ~~The growth of socialism and anarchism in Whitechapel.~~
- The organisation of policing in Whitechapel. The role of the 'beat constable'. The work of H division and the difficulties of policing the slum area of Whitechapel, the rookeries, alleys and courts. Problems of policing caused by crime and antisocial behaviour: alcohol, prostitution, protection rackets, gangs, violent demonstrations and attacks on Jewish people. ~~The Whitechapel Vigilance Committee.~~
- Investigative policing in Whitechapel: developments in techniques of detective investigation, including the use of sketches, photographs and interviews; problems caused by the need for cooperation between the Metropolitan Police, the City of London Police and Scotland Yard. Dealing with the crimes of Jack the Ripper and the added problems caused by the media reporting of the 'Ripper' murders. The Whitechapel Vigilance Committee.
- The national and regional context: the working of the Metropolitan Police, the quality of police recruits, ~~the role of the 'beat constable'.~~ The development of CID, the role of the Home Secretary and of Sir Charles Warren, public attitudes towards the police.

Whitechapel

Bullet point 1

1. We have moved '*the lack of employment opportunities and level of poverty*' to bp2 as it fits better there.
2. We have replaced '*the significance of*' with '*life in*', which makes clearer that the focus is on the place and people (which is echoed in bp2).
3. We have removed '*and crime*' from the end of the bullet point because this is unnecessary duplication (this idea is expressed already in the previous sentence).

Bullet point 2

1. We have added '*The inhabitants of Whitechapel.*' This does not add any content, but it acts as a heading that summarises the bullet point as a whole.
2. As noted above, '*lack of employment opportunities and level of poverty*' has been moved here from bp1.
3. We have removed '*The growth of socialism and anarchism*'. Schools could still cover these as part of the broader coverage of '*discontent*' in bp1, but students will not be expected to have any detailed understanding of socialism and anarchism in these years.

Bullet points 3–5

1. We have moved '*the role of the beat constable*' from bp5 to bp3 as it fits better there.
2. We have added '*of policing*' to '*problems*' in bp3 to make explicit that this is the focus of study, and added '*crime and antisocial behaviour*'. This does not add content, but it is a useful term that collectively summarises what follows.
3. We have moved '*Whitechapel Vigilance Committee*' from bp3 to bp4 as it fits better there.

2 Knowledge, selection and use of sources for historical enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of local sources relevant to the period and issue, e.g. housing and employment records, council records and census returns, Charles Booth's survey, workhouse records, local police records, coroners' reports, photographs and London newspapers. • Knowledge of national sources relevant to the period and issue, e.g. national newspapers, records of crimes and police investigations, Old Bailey records of trials and Punch cartoons. • Recognition of the strengths and weaknesses of different types of source for specific enquiries. • Framing of questions relevant to the pursuit of a specific enquiry. • Selection of appropriate sources for specific investigations.
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