

100% Sheet Crime

Key Terms

Crime- An illegal act that can be punished by the law. The punishment you receive depends on the crime you have committed.

Law- the system of rules which a particular country has. Laws are created by the government and everyone must follow them. If you break the law you could be punished.

Magistrate's court- The courts in Britain that deal with less serious offences such as shoplifting or other non-violent offences.

Crown court- The courts in Britain that deal with the most serious crimes such as murder or other violent offences.

Prison- Where people who have been found guilty of a serious crime have to go. Only those who are over 21 go to prison.

Young Offender's Centre- Where people under the age of 21 go if they have committed a serious crime.

Offender- A person who has committed a crime.

Jury- 12 people who are selected at random to decide if someone has committed a crime. Juries are only at Crown court cases.

Different types of punishments

The type of punishment that you receive will be based on two things:

1. Your age when you committed the crime.
2. The seriousness of the crime that you have committed

If you are under 21

Why do people commit crime?

There are many reasons why people commit crime.

Some of the most common reasons for committing crime are: being poor, being bored, being influenced by friends and thinking that you are going to get away with it.

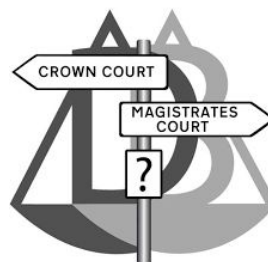
The most common types of crime that are committed are shoplifting, burglary and driving offences. People commit these crimes because they feel that no one will be physically hurt and they think that they will not be caught.

When people commit more **serious crimes** such as violent robbery or murder it is usually because they want to hurt someone and they are aware that there is a good chance that they will be caught.



Magistrate's Court vs. Crown Court

Magistrate's court	Crown Court
Three magistrates will decide if you are guilty of the offence that you have been charged with.	A jury of 12 people will decide if you are guilty of the offence that you have been charged with.
Only try relatively minor cases such as driving offences where no one has been hurt or vandalism.	Only serious cases are heard in Crown Court such as fighting where someone has been hurt.
Magistrates can only give a prison sentence of up to 6 months.	There is maximum sentence that can be given by a Crown court is Life which means 25 years,



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