

Y4 History Knowledge Organiser—Crime and Punishment



Key Knowledge

Learn these key facts—key points in red

The Roman Justice System



The Twelve Tables—These were a set of laws in Ancient Rome that guaranteed formal rights and laws for all citizens. They were inscribed on bronze and displayed in the forum. The government at the time was a republic, known as the SPQR (the Senate and the People of Rome), which meant people were able to elect and vote for their leaders.

Anglo Saxon Justice System

Tithings— These were made up of ten men who were all responsible for each other's behaviour. If a man in that tithing committed a crime then it was the responsibility of the other men to bring him to court or face punishments themselves.

Hue and Cry— When a criminal was needed to be found the whole village would be called upon to help find them.

Wergild—A payment system used to settle disputes between the criminal and the victim or the victim's family. It would be paid if someone was killed and the amount depended on how important the victim was.



Trials—The jury would decide if the defendant was innocent or guilty and decide the punishments. A defendant could choose an oath keeper to swear their innocence. If a decision could not be reached there would be a trial by ordeal to go through to decide guilt. The defendant could choose the ordeal (Cold water, Hot Water or Iron Bar). The Anglo Saxons believed that God would then decide their fate.

Tudor Justice System

Crimes—These included Witchcraft, Begging, Fighting, Gossiping, Stealing and Murder.



Punishments—Public executions, including beheading and hanging. These were popular with the public, with people queueing to attend. Other punishments included; Flogging, The Ducking Stool, The Stocks, The Pillory, The Brank, Branding and The Rack.

The Star Chamber- A type of court that was set up to hear cases of treason. It was feared as there were no jury, witnesses or possibility of appealing. The punishment for treason would be death by a gruesome method to dissuade anyone else from committing the crime. The Tudor monarchs were very concerned about people trying to steal their crown.



Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Word	Definition
Judge	A judge is a person who is in charge of a court of law.
Jury	A jury is a group of people who decide the answer to a question in a court room. Usually, this question is whether a person is guilty or innocent of committing a crime.
The Twelve Tables	A set of laws in Ancient Rome that were formalised for fairness.
Defendant	A person accused of committing a crime.
Exile	When a person is forced to leave their own country
Victim	A person who is hurt, damaged or killed because on the actions of someone or something.
Burglary	the entering of a building as a trespasser, and then stealing or attempting to steal from it .
Monarch	A hereditary ruler who reigns over a country or empire.
Justice system	The criminal justice system is a system of organisations that protects citizens and ensures justice is served when a crime is committed.
Treason	The crime of betraying your country.
The Star Chamber	A court during Tudor times that heard cases of treason.
Witness	An observer who sees an event happening such as a crime.
Vagrancy	A way of life in which someone moves a lot from place to place because they have no permanent home or job, and have to ask for or steal things in order to live.



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Highwaymen—Robbery was common in the 18th Century, often happening on the streets approaching London. **Highwaymen were robbers on horseback and worked alone or in small groups.** They usually targets stagecoaches and were armed and masked. They were believed courteous (being armed meant people handed over their valuables without the need for violence), however there were still reports of them attacking their victims.

Dick Turpin—**The most famous Highwayman was Dick Turpin.** He turned to highway robbery in Lincolnshire with his partner Tom King. After shooting his associate, he fled Yorkshire and changed his name. He was caught in 1789 and jailed for theft, but when they discovered his real identity he was hanged in York.



Bow Street Runners—**They were the first professional police force organised by Henry Fielding in 1749.** They would end up solving crimes until 1849 when the Metropolitan Police was founded, setting up the foundations of modern policing. They were a paid police force with the intention of preventing and fighting crime.



Elizabeth Fry - **Instrumental in prison reform in the early 1800s.** She was a religious woman who believed that poor people only committed crimes because they had to. She visited Newgate Prison and was appalled by the conditions of the inmates there. She provided warm clothes and bedding, separated the men and women and taught skills to help them gain work.



Victorian Prisons—Prison in Victoria Britain was the means by which 90% of serious offenders were punished. **Several systems were tried during this time including the Separate System, the Silent System and 'Hard Bed, Hard Board, Hard Labour'.** By the turn of the 20th century, people were saying the regime was inhumane.

