



Medieval Crime and Punishment circa 1000 to 1500

<p><u>Key dates and events in English History</u></p> <p>1066 – Norman invasion of England. William of Normandy becomes king.</p> <p>1215 – The Magna Carta is signed.</p> <p>1215 – Pope bans Trial by Ordeal (ends in England in 1219).</p> <p>1348 – The first Black Death.</p> <p>1381 – The peasants Revolt.</p>	<p><u>Key dates in crime and punishment history</u></p> <p>1086 – Domesday Book records taxes.</p> <p>1164 – Constitutions of Clarendon (cut power of the church).</p> <p>1165 – Assize of Clarendon (centralised power with the king).</p> <p>1195 – Knights appointed constables.</p> <p>1351 – Statute of Labourers banned peasants from looking for anew jobs.</p> <p>1361 – Justices of the Peace Act allowed to hear minor cases.</p>	<p><u>Law enforcement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hue and cry • Hundreds • Tithings • Parish Constables • Coroners introduced (1194) 	<p><u>Drivers / causes of change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community under the Anglo-Saxons. • Power of the monarchy under William I (Conqueror / Duke of Normandy). • Church.
<p><u>Crimes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crimes against person (e.g. murder) • Crimes against property (e.g. theft) • Moral crimes • Treason • Forest Laws (1072 - 30% - Royal Forests) 		<p><u>Punishments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Saxon - Wergild / botgeld / maiming or mutilation / flogging / fines / hanging / beheading. • Normans – Capital and corporal punishment became more common as a form of control / deterrent. • Murdrum fine introduced by Normans (collective fine for Anglo-Saxons if Norman Lord was killed). 	
		<p><u>Trial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Saxons use local courts and trial by ordeal. • Normans introduce Trial by combat. • Benefit of the Clergy (Psalm 51 / Neck verse). • Royal Courts – v- church Courts • Trial by ordeal ends by order of the Pope (1215). 	

Early Modern 1500 to 1700

<p><u>Key dates and events in English History</u></p> <p>1485 – Battle of Bosworth Field (start of the Tudors). 1517 – Martin Luther starts Protestantism. 1536 – Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII. 1559 – Settlement of Religion under Elizabeth I. 1605 – Gunpowder Plot. 1642-49 – English Civil War. 1660 – Royal Society established in London leading to improvements in science and technology.</p>	<p><u>Key dates in crime and punishment history</u></p> <p>1494 – Vagabonds and Beggars Act. 1542 – Witchcraft Act. 1547 – Vagrancy Act. 1559 – Act of Uniformity – Creates Church of England. 1597 – Act for Relief of the Poor (deserving and undeserving poor). 1601 – Poor Law – Parish relief for deserving poor. 1671 – Game Act. More moral laws passed banning drinking, playing games 1690 – Excise duty extended to salt.</p>	<p><u>Law enforcement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watchmen introduced – male volunteers. • Town constables – respected, employed. • Hue and cry still used in rural areas. • 1645- Matthew Hopkins becomes Witch-Finder General. • 1690 – Mounted customs officers introduced. 	<p><u>Drivers / causes of change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralisation of power and control was made under the Tudors to ensure rebellion didn't happen. • Church became less important and Benefit of the Clergy ended 1576 and Sanctuary in 1623. • Economy becomes a factor.
<p><u>Crimes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crimes against person (e.g. murder). • Crimes against property (e.g. theft). • Moral crimes. • Treason. • Heresy. • Witchcraft • Vagrancy and vagabondage. 		<p><u>Punishments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fines, pillories and stock still used. • 1603 – Transportation to America begins (50 to 80 thousand transported). • 1606 – Guy Fawkes hung, drawn and quartered. • 1688, there were 50 capital offences – the starts of the Bloody Code. 	
	<p><u>Trial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1576 – Churches could no longer try criminal cases under Benefit of Clergy. • 1623 – Sanctuary abolished. 		

Industrial Revolution 1700 to 1900

<p><u>Key dates and events in English History</u></p> <p>1776 – American war of Independence. 1789 – French Revolution. 1834-35 – Sir Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister.</p>	<p><u>Key dates in crime and punishment history</u></p> <p>1723 – Waltham Black Act makes poaching illegal. 1735 – Witchcraft Act. 1739-45 – Hawkhurst Gang control smuggling along the South East coast of England 1827 – Black Act repealed. 1834 – Tolpuddle Martyrs charged under naval mutiny law for forming a union. 1805 – Horse patrols set up by the fielding Brothers. 1829 – Metropolitan Police Act (police set up in London). 1835 – Municipal Corporations Act (Other towns could set up Police forces only 50% did). 1839 – Rural Constabulary Act (counties could set up police 67% did). 1842- Detective Department set up in London. 1856 – Police Act (forced all towns and counties to set up). 1878 – CID set up in London. 1884 – Special Branch set up to infiltrate terrorist organisations. 1894 – Mugshots introduced to identify suspects. 1895 – Recruits had to be between 21 and 25, able to read and write and taller than 5’9’.</p>	<p><u>Law enforcement</u></p> <p>1718 – Jonathan Wilde known as the Thief-Taker General. 1748 – Bow Street Runners introduced.</p>	<p><u>Drivers / causes of change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and technology. • Urbanisation of Britain’s population
<p><u>Crimes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedition. • Highway robbery. • Smuggling. • Poaching. 	<div data-bbox="1016 328 1308 769" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p><u>Punishments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1778-1868 – Transportation of criminals to Australia (Over 160,000). • 1810 - Bloody Code reaches 222 Capital crimes. • 1813 – Elizabeth Fry visits female prisoners in Newgate Prison. • Prisons now start to change and become about rehabilitation. • 1815 – Gaolers paid out of local taxes. • 1823 –Gaols Act (prisoners held in categories). • 1825 – Peel reduced Capital crimes by 100. • 1834 – Tolpuddle Martyrs transported to Australia. • 1839 Prisons Act. • 1842 – Pentonville Prison built. • 1850 – National prison Department takes charge of all prisons. • 1865 – Prisons Act emphasises retribution and all prisons had to follow rules. • 1868 – Capital Punishment Amendment Act ends public execution. 	
		<p><u>Trial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1823 – Judgement of Death Act gives judges power to reduce death penalty to transportation. 	

Modern

<p><u>Key dates and events in English History</u> 1914-18 - First World War. 1928 – Women gain the vote. 1939-45 – Second World War. 1945 onwards - Collapse of Empire.</p>	<p><u>Key dates in crime and punishment history</u> 1916 – Defence of the Realm Act introduced (conscription). 1939 – Emergency Powers Defence Act (Conscription introduced). 1967 – Sexual Offences Act. 1968 – Abortion Act. 1968 – Race Relations Act. 1971 – Misuse of Drugs Act. 1976 – Domestic Violence Act. 1991 – Law recognises rape within a marriage as a crime.</p>	<p><u>Law enforcement</u> 1930s – Police cars and radios introduced. 1946 – Fraud Squad set up. 1946 – Police dog unit set up in London. 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. 1960s – Police start using computerised systems. 1971 – Police Bomb Squad set up. 1980s – The Police National Computer system set up is capable of holding details on 25million people. 1982 – Neighbourhood Watch set up. 1988 – First convictions based on DNA. 1995 – National Automatic Fingerprint Identification system set up.</p>	<p><u>Drivers / causes of change</u> War /pacifism. Science and technology The death penalty ended due to miscarriages of justice e.g. Derek Bentley had severe learning difficulties. In November 1952, Bentley, and his sixteen-year-old companion, Chris Craig, were caught burgling a warehouse in London. Police officers climbed onto the roof to arrest them. PC Sidney Miles was immediately shot and killed by Craig who was then caught. Bentley and Craig were both charged with murder. Craig was under eighteen so too young to hang, but Bentley faced the death penalty. Bentley’s lawyer argued, “Let him have it” meant ‘hand over the gun’. There was also controversy over whether Bentley was fit to stand trial given his low intelligence. Despite not firing the fatal shot, Bentley was found guilty and sentenced to death, although the jury asked for mercy for him. On 28th January 1953, Bentley was hanged.</p>
<p><u>Crimes</u> Changing definitions of crime caused by social changes E.g. drink driving, drug misuse, Sexual offences Act etc.</p>	<div data-bbox="752 839 1326 1248" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><u>Trial</u> Very little change in the trial system.</p>	<p><u>Punishments</u> Punishment is now mainly about rehabilitation and deterrence is only used in extreme cases. 1902 – Holloway Prison for women opens. 1907 – Probation introduced. 1908 – Children’s Act ends hanging of under-16s. 1914 – Longer to pay fines before being sent to prison. 1916 - Conscientious Objectors given hard labour, unarmed front-line jobs etc. 1922 – Infanticide Act – mothers who kill newborns will not be executed. 1933 – Hanging of under-18s ends. 1933 – Open prisons introduced. 1939 – Conscientious objectors given reserved occupations. 1965 – End of capital punishment (repealed in 1990).</p>	