

When in history was the worst time to be a criminal?

Year	1066	1285 - 1361	1494	1534	1542	1605.	1649	1718	1829	1816:	1969	1986
Key Event	Norman invasion. New laws. Harsher punishments.	Role of sheriff expanded.. Justices of the Peace appointed.	Homelessness becomes a crime. Punished by 3 days and nights in stocks.	Henry VII's Break with Rome. Heresy & treason now common crimes	Witchcraft is made a crime - punishable by death.	Gunpowder Plot. Catholics plotted against protestant James I	Charles I executed. Rise of puritanism.	Transportation of criminals is legalised.	Metropolitan Police Act. Watchman & constables replaced by police.	First state prison opened at Millbank.	Abolition of the death penalty.	Use of DNA in a criminal investigation

Key Vocabulary—Crime & Punishment.

Benefit of Clergy:	More lenient punishments for those able to read the bible.
Collective responsibility:	Everyone in the community is responsible for reducing crime and catching criminals.
Crime:	An activity that breaks the law.
Death Penalty:	Killing of a criminal as a lawful punishment.
Heresy:	Having religious beliefs different to the official religion of the country.
Hue & Cry:	A loud cry to chase and catch a criminal.
Justice:	Treating people in a fair way.
Maiming:	Cutting off a limb.
Posse Comitatus:	Sheriff leads a group of men in pursuit of a suspected criminal.
Rehabilitation:	Changing behaviour of criminals so they do not commit further crimes.
Sanctuary:	Staying in church buildings to avoid trial and punishment.
Tithings:	Group of 12 men who had responsibility for each other.
Transportation:	Criminals sent to other countries to work for free.
Treason:	A crime against the monarch/ government.
Trial by Combat:	A fight to prove guilt or innocence.
Trial by Ordeal:	Used when courts couldn't decide guilt - decision left to God.
Wergild:	Money paid to the family of a person killed/ hurt.

Famous People and Places:



William the Conqueror:

A mighty French noble and able battle commander, William conquered England in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. He made changes to law and order as he tried to secure his new throne.

Henry VIII:



He chose to break away from Rome and the Catholic religion - to raise money and to help him get an heir. As a result, the Tudor period is a time of religious turmoil - many cases of heresy were tried and resulted in execution.



Guy Fawkes:

Converted to Catholicism despite it being a crime during Elizabeth I's reign. Led a group of 12 other Catholics in an attempt to murder James I by blowing up parliament. He was sentenced to death by being hung, drawn and quartered.



Robert Peel:

Whilst working as the Home Secretary, Robert Peel oversaw significant reform of prisons and created the Metropolitan Police - the term 'bobbies' come from his name.



Elizabeth Fry.

Supported in her efforts by Queen Victoria, Elizabeth Fry was a major driving force behind new laws to make the treatment of prisoners better - both in the debtors' prisons and the transportation ships.

Linking crime and punishment to social, religious, political and cultural changes...

Period:	Anglo-Saxons 5 th Century to 1066.	Normans/ Later Medieval 1066 onwards.	Tudors 1485 to 1603 Stuarts: 1603 to 1714	18 th Century.	19 th Century: Industrial Britain/ Victorian Britain	20 th /21 st Century.
Political/ Religious Changes:	Country divided into shires and these were split into hundreds.	William 1 needed to assert authority in country - many new laws made. King's authority began to increase.	Religious uncertainty - Catholics vs Protestants. 1642 to 1651 Civil war. Power of church reduced. 1649: Charles I executed - Puritan Oliver Cromwell takes control.	King had less power. Rise of influential landowners and MPs.		Democratic society. Monarch now holds symbolic position.
Social changes:	Population - 2 million. 90% of people live in small rural communities.	Population was starting to increase. Poverty starting to become an issue.	Population growth - more people living in towns. Significant levels of poverty seen. Rise of the printing press. Witchcraft accusations.		More people moving into towns and cities for work. Overcrowding/ social unrest. Unemployment. More people wanted the right to vote.	Impact of WWI and WWII. Technology changes - led to new crimes. Changing attitudes - equality
Typical crimes:	Petty theft & violence.	Petty theft & violence. Poaching - Forest Laws.	Rise in crimes related to poverty: begging, poaching, smuggling. Witchcraft. Crimes against authority (treason) - 1605 Gunpowder Plot. 1649: laws to enforce Puritan ideas	Rise of social crimes - directed at the rich & their property: poaching, smuggling, highwaymen.	Incidents of theft and violence increased. Riots more common. Damage to property.	Protests, violence, damage to property - suffrage. Car theft. Cybercrime. Terrorism. Crimes - race, religion, gender.
Prevention/ detection/ trial	Tithings Hue & Cry Shire Reeve took people to court. Hundreds courts/ Shire Courts/ Royal Court.	Church courts introduced - moral crimes [trial by ordeal]. Trial by combat became popular. 1361 - Justices of Peace appointed by King. 1285 - Sheriff can form a posse. Prisons for people awaiting trial.	Town constables appointed. Watchmen patrolled streets. 'Thief Takers'.	Harsh punishments to deter crime. 1754: Bow Street Runners (forerunner of police force).	1829: Metropolitan Police Act - watchmen and constables replaced by police. Magistrates given more powers.	Magistrates' Court. Crown Court. Court of Appeal.
Punishments:	Wergild - compensation. Maiming Humiliation - stocks. No prisons.	Wergild ends - fines paid to King. Murdrum fine. Capital punishment increased (hanging). Maiming. More minor crimes - whipping, stocks. Church Courts - more lenient [Benefit of Clergy].	Treason - hung, drawn & quartered. Heresy - Burnt at stake. 81 executions in Henry VIII reign and 283 in Mary's. Poor - branded and whipped. 1542 - Witchcraft became punishable by death.	200+ crimes punishable by death. 1718: Transportation legalised. 1787: transportation of criminals to Australia. Large prison population - debtors.	Development of prisons - to punish not just detain. 1816: First state prison - Millbank. 1842: Pentonville prison opened. 1820s - Prison Reform	Abolition of the death penalty 1969. Prison service - aim to rehabilitate/ educate. Open prisons. ASBOs. Community service. Tagging. Restorative Justice.



164,000 convicts were sent to Australia on 806 ships.



In 1688, 50 crimes attracted the death penalty. By 1815, this had risen to 215. Why?



Millbank, the first state prison, opened in 1816. Held convicts serving 5 to 10 years and was a substitute for transportation.