

Test out your knowledge of Crime and Punishment

1. Who was the first recognised 'boss' of organized crime?
2. 'Clip around the ear' refers to: (a) a haircut which was popular in the 1950s; (b) an electronic tracking device used by sheep farmers; or (c) a reprimand by a police officer?
3. How many ordinary magistrates (what used to be called 'lay magistrates') are essential for there to be a properly constituted magistrates' court?: (a) one; (b) two; (c) five.
4. What is or was 'spouting': (a) arguing the toss in public; (b) bleeding from a knife wound; or (c) a form of distraction burglary in which the victim is asked to fill a bottle or can with water for a passer-by.
5. In what year did Bow Street Magistrates' Court open its doors for the first time?: (a) 1724; (b) 1739; or (c) 1741.
6. What is the minimum number to which a criminal trial jury can fall before the proceedings must be abandoned?: (a) seven; (b) eight; (c) nine.
7. True or false?: The Cato Street Conspiracy involved a scam in which a racehorse was switched by painting another horse black.
8. The first Statute regulating magistrates was passed in: (a) 1189; (b) 1351; (c) 1361; or (d) 1724.
9. The Association for the for the Improvement of Female Prisoners was first suggested by: (a) Joseph Rowntree; (b) John Cadbury; (c) Elizabeth Fry; (d) Stephen Fry; (e) the makers of Fry's Balsam?
10. Where was Tyburn Tree located?: (a) Trafalgar Square; (b) Marble Arch; (c) Sherwood Forest; (d) The New Forest.
11. How much is the victims' surcharge: (a) £12.50; (b) £15; (c) £25; or (d) £30
12. Which Home Secretary attended the Siege of Sydney Street: (a) Lord Sidmouth; (b) Winston Churchill; (c) Kenneth Baker; (d) James Callaghan.
13. Where is the national Police Memorial: (a) near The Mall; (b) outside the Libyan Embassy?; (c) off Trafalgar Square; (d) in Regents Park; or (e) outside Scotland Yard.
14. Who was Fanny Adams?: (a) the first women governor of an Holloway Prison; (b) a murder victim; or (c) the last women to suffer capital punishment before Ruth Ellis?

15. What is a bucket shop?: (a) one selling domestic utensils under licence; (b) one set up by way of a fraudulent deception with the intention of fleeing once monies have been received; or (c) Ned Kelly's milliner?
16. Which King of England wrote a treatise on witchcraft and demons? (a) Alfred the Great; (b) Richard III; (c) James I.
17. Who famously said 'prison works'?: (a) John Howard; (b) Michael Howard; (c) Frankie Howard; (e) Howard Hughes.
18. The 'black flag' is or was: (a) flown over a prison when a sentence of capital punishment had been carried out; (b) the traditional symbol of Islam; (c) used by pirates, especially in the West Indies; (d) the name of an American Punk Rock band of the 1970s; (e) a pennant used by insurgents and revolutionaries from time to time?
19. Under which Statute can a witness insist on making an affirmation rather than giving sworn testimony from the witness box?: (a) the Act of Allegiance 1289; (b) Oaths Act 1978; (c) Oaths Act 2009.
20. The only person in the UK to survive capital punishment because the trap failed to open on three consecutive occasions is: (a) John Thomas; (b) John Murray; or (c) John Lee.
21. Fingerprinting classification systems were first devised by: (a) the Home Office; (b) Special Branch; (c) the Metropolitan Police Service; (d) Indian Police Service.
22. A famous case of English law involving cannibalism on the High Seas in order to survive is that of: (a) Dudley and Peters; (b) Lichfield and Dudley; (c) Dudley and Moore; or (d) Dudley and Stevens.
23. Taser is: (a) a brand name; (b) originally the acronym for Target And Stop Every Robber; (c) the name of its inventor.
24. The breathalyser was introduced in: (a) 1962; (b) 1967; or (c) 1984,
25. True or false: English law enforcement sometimes adopts the policy: (a) three strikes and you're out; (b) two strikes, etc.; or (c) one strike, etc.

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Answers

1. Jonathan Wild (1682-1725). He was eventually hanged at Tyburn.
2. (c) Reputedly in the early-mid 20th century police officers would sometimes assault young offenders by hitting them around the head 'up a dark alley'. The term is now used metaphorically, mainly with regard to youngsters.
3. (b), exceptionally (a) where matters are reserved to 'a single justice'. Also, a district judge (magistrates' court can sit alone) but he or she is not an 'ordinary magistrate', so (a) is the correct answer. The term 'lay magistrate is now discouraged by the Ministry of Justice.
4. (a) Historically, it was a form of public debate-cum-entertainment in taverns and the like, often engaged in by lawyers and would-be politicians.
5. (b) and Bow Street court closed its doors in 2007.
6. (c).
7. False – It was an attempt to blow up the Prime Minister and Cabinet, in 1820
8. (c) The Justices of the Peace Act 1361, parts of which remain in force.
9. (c) Elizabeth Fry in 1817
10. (b) Close to Marble Arch as it now is.
11. (b) £15 (as of 2009)
12. (b) Winston Churchill in 1910.
13. (a) just off the Mall, as campaigned for by the film director Michael Winner.
14. (b) Fanny Addams, a girl of eight years, was murdered by a solicitor's clerk in 1812 at Alton, Hampshire - giving rise the term 'sweet Fanny Adams' (or 'sweet FA' for short).
15. (b)
16. (c) James I in 1604, entitled 'Demonologie'.
17. (b) Michael Howard MP when Home Secretary in the early 1990s,
18. All of these are correct. As to (c), the Black Flag was often an alternative to the Jolly Roger.

19. (b) The other two do not exist.
20. John Lee at Exeter Prison in 1885. He was also known as 'John Babbacombe Lee'. His sentence was commuted to one of life imprisonment and after his release he disappeared after emigrating to the New World. One explanation is that the boards softened in inclement weather so as to spread when stood upon, making springing the with someone stood on it trap impossible. There are other rare instance from around the world, including in 2009 in the USA when after three attempts to find a vein for a lethal injection the execution was abandoned.
21. (c) under Commissioner Edward Henry around 1900.
22. (d) After being sentenced to death there was a public outcry and the sentences on Dudley and Stevens were commuted to six months apiece.
23. (a)
24. (b)
25. (b) or possibly (c). Explanation: (a) is the USA version under which imprisonment follows automatically for a third (listed) offence. (b) represents English law; (c) represents the zero tolerance approach of some law enforcement agencies who prosecute the first-time someone is caught rather than consider a caution or other forms of diversion from prosecution.

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