

Law: Culture Vulture Recommendations

Activity 1:

Part of criminal law is about sentencing or punishing offenders (i.e. people who have been found guilty of a crime). How much do you know already?

Follow the link below to access a video (How offenders are sentenced in England) produced by the Sentencing Council:

<https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/about-sentencing/>

As you watch the video consider the following:

1. How do judges and magistrates decide on a sentence?
2. What factors are taken into account?
3. What type of sentence are there?

Extension:

Watch the other two videos on the above link which describe in more detail the role of a magistrate and a Crown Court judge in sentencing.

Activity 2:

Try sentencing yourself on the Sentencing Council's You Be The Judge:

<http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/>

You Be The Judge puts you in the judge's seat. You will get to choose from 8 real life court cases, you will hear the facts of the case, and the aggravating and mitigating factors (i.e. things which make the offence more or less serious), then you will decide the sentence. Finally, you get to see how your sentence compares to the one handed out by the judge in the real case.

Activity 3:

Another part of Law is thinking about concepts like 'morality' and 'justice'. There are several ideas about what justice might mean – we will not all agree!

To help you to start thinking about 'morality' and 'justice' consider the famous Trolley Problem in the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yg16u_bziPE

Consider whether it would be 'just' or 'moral' to sacrifice the life of one person in order to save five people.

This is a thought experiment – there is no right or wrong answer.

Extension

Read about the famous real-life case of R v Dudley and Stephens in the link below. Do you think the men should have been found guilty of murder?

<http://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/cases/R-v-Dudley-and-Stephens.php>

Activity 4:

Have a look at the case of Sally Challen using the links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnfmFm-T5jA>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/07/sally-challen-will-not-face-retrial-for-killing-husband>

In 2011 Sally Challen was found guilty of murder. Challen's conviction was ultimately overturned at appeal and she walked free from prison in 2019 after pleading guilty to a lesser charge of manslaughter on the basis of diminished responsibility due to coercive control.

Coercive control has recently been the subject of a Coronation Street storyline – see:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52502409>

- What do you think about the Challen case?
- Do you think 9 years and 4 months was a suitable punishment for Challen or was the original punishment (i.e. a life sentence with a minimum of 22 years in prison) fair?

Activity 5:

Start to learn some of the key words we use in Law.

Go to Quizizz using the link below and then press 'play quiz'.

<https://quizizz.com/join/quiz/5e46629123cc38001ba55578/start?from=soloLinkShare&referrer=5a9e89b6a209d80019ce4e6e>

Don't worry about getting the questions wrong or right! The game will tell you the answers to check your understanding as you work your way through the quiz.

Activity 6:

Have a look at the newspaper articles below about Coronavirus and the Law:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52219930>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52567567>

In the Prime Minister's address to the nation on 10th May, he said that some workers in manufacturing and construction should be 'actively encouraged' to return to work as the lockdown restrictions are eased, but should people be forced to return to work even if they believe it's unsafe to do so?