



Crime and Punishment

Year 4 Knowledge Organiser History Spring 2025

Key Vocabulary

deterrent
 highwaymen
 jury
 ordeal
 treason
 victim
 humiliation
 judge
 trial
 execution

The Romans	The Vikings	The Plantagenets	The Stuarts	The Victorians				
43	450	793	1066	1154	1485	1603	1704	1837
The Anglo-Saxons		The Normans		The Tudors		The Georgians		

Romans' Rule

Roman laws, written around 450 BC, were called the 'Twelve Tables'. Not following these rules was a crime. Punishments were severe to **deter** people from not following them. People could pay to have their punishment lessened. **Judges** and **juries** were used to decide if someone was guilty or not guilty. There were lots of serious crimes such as murder, and less serious crimes, such as stealing. The worst crime, **treason**, was punishable by being thrown to the lions.



Key Knowledge

Victorians Villains

The Victorians looked for alternative ways to hanging people for committing crimes. Many prisons were built in order to prevent people committing further crimes. Life in prison was very tough. Prisoners had to do very physically demanding tasks. These included:

- the treadwheel - using the steps on a huge wooden and iron wheel to move it
- shot drill - lifting a heavy iron cannonball
- the crank - machinery that victims turned 10,000 times a day

Anglo-Saxon Justice System

Anglo-Saxon people accused of a crime had a **trial**. If a decision as to whether the person was guilty or not guilty could not be made, a **trial** by **ordeal** would take place. It is thought that God would decide if they were guilty or not by the outcome of the **ordeal**. There were no prisons to send criminals to so punishments acted as huge **deterrents** and were often very brutal including stoning, whipping and hanging.

The Highway Man: Hero or Villain?



The most famous highwayman was Dick Turpin. He was born in Essex in 1705. On the run from London, he lived under the name of John Palmer in York. He was captured and hung in 1739.

Tudor Torture

To **deter** people from committing crimes, the Tudors came up with even more terrifying punishments, including public **executions**. Public **humiliations** were common. The scold's bridle was worn for gossiping; the rack used to stretch out the **victim's** body for **treason**; and the dunking stool to find out if someone was a witch.