Medieval Britain

Crime

Treason
Crime of plotting against your monarch or country was defined, included a woman killing her husband. Counterfeiting coins.

Vagrancy
When people wandered from place to place in search of work.

Scolding
Using offensive or abusive speech in public - 1350 onwards became a crime applied mainly to women.

Outlaw
Gangs of robbers were most feared, as travellers were ambushed, houses robbed and villages threatened with burning if valuables not given. Gang members were often outlaws, on the run after being accused of committing crimes in own villages.

Heresy
Spreading beliefs not allowed by the church became a crime.

Immoral behaviour and beliefs
Laws passed against dice, football and other games, church believed they encouraged idleness. Moral crimes included shaving beards on Sundays and committing acts of homosexuality.

Medieval C&P 1250-1500

Society: ‘Hierarchical’ with the king at the top and peasants at the bottom. Everyone knew their place in society.

Food and famine: Farming was important for food and work - if the harvest failed there would be famine.
1348 Black Death disrupted farming as millions died and the land was left unfarmed.

Life and leisure: Church calendar dictated way of life – Sundays were rest days, also Saints’ days. Fairs and sports on feast days and holidays. People drank beer as water unsafe. Most people were illiterate.

Landownership: Land was the basis of power – provided food and wealth. England divided into ‘counties’ or ‘shires’ – each shire ruled by a sheriff – shires divided into ‘hundreds’ - hundreds then divided into parishes. Communities were small and everyone knew each other, strangers were easily spotted.

Technology: Most work done by hand with tools such as axes, hammers and spades. Communication by word of mouth - priest could read and write so kept records. 1476 – England’s first printing press in London.

War and rebellion: A peaceful society depended on each person or group showing loyalty to those above. Occasional rebellion from lords against king - 1381 Peasants’ Revolt and 1455-1487 Wars of Roses meant people were familiar with bloodshed and violence.

The church: Catholic country and many churches were richly decorated. Church taught that God cared about his people on earth - God would forgive people their sins if they followed honest lives - sinners would be punished in hell - not all priests led holy lives.

Homes and possessions: Peasants’ houses were simple wooden structures with walls of hardened mud, no glass windows but wooden shutters - wealthier homes in the towns were similar - people had few belongings.

The majority of crimes in this period were non-violent, theft being the most common crime. 1315-1321 was the great famine, following a succession of bad harvests. The crime rate increased due to debt and hunger, this was reflected in the changing nature of crimes towards the end of the medieval period.

Serious Crime

- Murder
- Stealing expensive goods (12d. +)
- Suicide – the church taught that only God could decide when a person’s life should end

Petty Crime

- Stealing goods worth less than 12d
- Getting into debt
- Limited harm to person or property

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**Law Enforcement**

**King:** in overall charge – kept the ‘king’s peace’

**Sheriff:** King’s chief law enforcer in each county. Had an armed posse to help him. Often took a share of property of convicted.

**Chief constable of the hundred:** Supervised law and order in their area. Made sure every free man aged 15-60 was ready to take up arms to support the king.

**Parish constable:** Ensured his parish could supply armed men when needed. Powers to arrest suspicious strangers.

**People/Hue and cry:** Adult men were grouped into ‘tithings.’ If one broke the law the others had to bring him to court. Victims of crime called the ‘hue and cry’ – all those within earshot had to stop what they were doing and help.

**Towns:** Watchmen patrolled the town streets at night - suspicious individuals were arrested and handed over to constables, it was an unpopular job

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**Royal Courts:** Heard the most serious criminal cases - overseen by a judge - jurors were drawn from criminal's own area

**Justices of the Peace (JPs):** Existed from 1361 and an important change as took over the hundred courts (courts run by the county sheriff) - appointed by the king (2 or 3 in each county) - 1388 onwards quarter sessions were held every 3 months (4 times a year)

**Manor Courts:** From 1250, took over work of the hundred courts - dealt with most crimes in England – petty crimes, thefts, land disputes, fights and debts - run by the lord or his steward and wealthy villagers made up the jury - each manor had their own local laws - began to lose influence 1500 onwards

**Church Courts:** Dealt with crimes that were considered un-Christian – immoral priests, homosexuality, swearing, gambling and failure to attend church - priests heard the evidence and passed judgement- no juries

**Medieval Juries:** Selected from the same parish or hundred - used prior knowledge of accused to reach their verdict - judge followed juries’ verdicts - trials usually lasted about 20 minutes

**Verdicts:** ‘Guilty’ or ‘Not Guilty’ - many juries were lenient - often let the accused go free, especially women

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**Medieval C&P 1250-1500**

**Punishments**

**Serious Crimes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punishment</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hanging</strong></td>
<td>Rope placed around the neck and criminal slowly strangled. Punishment for murder, rape, theft of goods 12d.+, burglary and robbery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hanging, drawing and quartering</strong></td>
<td>Criminal hanged then taken down whilst still alive. Intestines cut out and/or genitals quartered – body cut into pieces. Punishment for high treason (plotting to kill the king) and counterfeiting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Burning</strong></td>
<td>Criminal usually tied to a wooden post surrounded by wood, bonfire then lit. Punishment for petty treason (wife killing husband or servant their master) and heresy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Petty Crimes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punishment</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fines</strong></td>
<td>Payment of money – those who oversaw each level of court kept the financial proceeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public humiliation</strong></td>
<td>Cucking stool – forced to sit on a wooden seat in public. Stocks (sitting) and pillories (standing) – criminals would have rotten fruit and vegetables thrown at them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imprisonment</strong></td>
<td>Those awaiting trial would be imprisoned – used to punish debtors and forgers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Avoiding punishment**

1. Run away
2. Seek sanctuary in a church
3. Powerful friends
4. Refuse to plead
5. Hope for a friendly jury
6. Buy a pardon from the king
7. Join the king’s army
8. Be pregnant (women)
9. Claim benefit of clergy
10. Become a king’s approver
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Modern Britain</th>
<th>Early Modern C&amp;P 1500-1750</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growing population and urbanisation:</strong> 1550-1650 population doubled from 2.4 million to 4.1 million. Most people continued to live and work in the countryside. 1750 – 20% of population lived in towns. London = largest and busiest city in Europe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime dramatically increased mid-16th-mid 17th centuries, particularly amongst the poor. Vagrancy, witchcraft, smuggling and highway robbery emerged as new crimes. In Elizabethan England (1558-1603) printed pamphlets and leaflets sensationalised crime and gangs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Growing inequalities between rich and poor:</strong> More prosperous but still inequality. Population growth: food prices increased, wages fell and unemployment. 1590s = harvest failure so people moved to towns for work.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vagrancy</strong> Caused by failed harvests and fall in demand for cloth. Those living in poverty = no choice - leave their village and become vagrants. Sensationalised by printed press – accused of committing thefts, assaults and murders. Reality – few vagrants were criminals; many travelled alone or in twos or threes, desperate for work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel:</strong> People began to move in search of work - drovers herded cattle and sheep - carriers to cloth to the towns. 1600s – start of road-building, used by stagecoaches to transport goods and people - normal for people to travel with valuables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moral Crime</strong> Growing Puritan beliefs - moral crimes: drinking, swearing, sexual immorality, not attending church, scolding in public</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Technological change – the printing press:</strong> transformed people’s lives and multiple copies of books and pamphlets could be made quickly and cheaply. Growth in literacy – people could read local and national news and be more informed. 1641 onwards – broadsheets first emerged 1750 = 4 daily newspapers in London and 30 in different towns across the country.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Witchcraft</strong> Medieval times = few cases of witchcraft. 1500-1650 widespread belief in magic and the devil giving powers to witches through familiars (spirits in the form of small animals which fed on witch’s blood.) Usually single elderly women who quarrelled with a rich villager. Accusations of causing harm – death of animal or sickness of a child. C16th / 17th harsh new laws against witchcraft introduced. Witchcraft trials increased: famines of 1580’s and 1590s; chaos of Civil War – Puritan areas. Early 18th century – witchcraft trials decreased - new scientific ideas about the world emerged.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Religious changes and Puritans:</strong> 1530s onwards = Protestant Reformation brought religious change. People had to follow official state religion chosen by the monarch (Protestantism). Late 1500s Puritans emerged – tried to enforce higher standards of behaviour sinful acts condemned - drinking, gambling, dancing, swearing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growing power of the state (government):</strong> Under Tudor monarchs (1485-1603) the power of the state grew - Henry VIII insisted on “Your Majesty”. Parliament introduced new laws - people’s lives more closely controlled by the government.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Power of the landowners in the countryside:</strong> Landowners played important part running the country - in each county landowners were MPs, JPs and enforced the law. 1660 onwards as king had limited power, large landowners more powerful.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civil War 1642-1648 King vs Parliament:</strong> disagreement over ruling of England, King defeated and executed January 1649 people suffered as battles fought across the country – thousands killed. England a republic, Oliver Cromwell and Puritans governed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smuggling</strong> Smugglers secretly brought goods into the country without paying high taxes. Smuggling gangs would bring these goods across the Channel and landers would bring them ashore on small boats - included respectable people who disliked paying taxes and poor people who could earn money through smuggling.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Highway Robbery</strong> C17th / 18th roads were built and travel increased. Wealthy were targets as they often carried their money and jewellery with them as no banks. Highway robbers later portrayed as romantic gentleman thieves, in reality they were often brutal thugs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuity from the Medieval period</td>
<td>Change from the Medieval period</td>
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<tr>
<td>- No police force – communities continued to police themselves.</td>
<td>- Watchmen – patrolled the streets and arrested drunks, vagabonds and criminals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Prosecutions – decision to prosecute someone was made by individuals.</td>
<td>- JPs role extended – an important change – dealt with criminals at petty sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hue and Cry – continued to be raised by the local constables and the people were expected to join in.</td>
<td>- Decline of office of sheriff, manorial courts and church courts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Law enforcement – administered by unpaid and amateur officials such as JPs, constables and churchwardens.</td>
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**Type of offences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assizes</th>
<th>Organised/administered</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Serious crimes/capital offences - murder, manslaughter, highways robbery, burglary, grand larceny (stealing goods 12d.+), witchcraft and rape.</td>
<td>- Country divided into 6 circuits - Each circuit visited by 2 judges twice a year. - Dealt with ‘capital offences’ which carried the death penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Sessions</td>
<td>- Less serious crimes – petty theft - Extra powers – licensing ale houses, regulating local sports and arresting vagrants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Sessions</td>
<td>- Drunkenness and minor violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manorial Courts</td>
<td>- Played an important role in controlling behaviour of tenants on individual manors: - Let their animals stray - Stole wood from the common - argued with neighbours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Courts</td>
<td>- Played an important role monitoring Christian behaviour: - church attendance - sexual offences - drunk on Sunday - swearing at neighbours</td>
</tr>
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**Public Humiliation:**

- Public Humiliation: Became widespread as crimes such a vagrancy increased.
- Pillory: offender’s head and arms were put in wooden frame and they were pelted with rotten food, stones and excrement - used for those who traded unfairly or committed sexual offences
- Stocks: arms and feet were placed in heavy pieces of wood and locked in position - people were pelted with rotten food, spat on, insulted or kicked
- Scold’s bridle: a heavy iron frame locked onto a woman’s head, a projecting spike pressed down on the tongue
- Cucking stool: disorderly women, scolds and dishonest tradesmen were paraded around on a cucking stool
- Ducking stool: offender tied to a chair and repeatedly lowered into a river or pond, used on suspected witches

**Prisons:**

- Less common form of punishment
- Still mainly used to hold those in debt or awaiting execution
- 1531 Gaol Act – forced JPs to build prisons where needed
- Bridewells (houses of correction) a new form of punishment - introduced to help tackle the vagrancy problem - prisoners were forced to work or were punished if they refused to do so
- 1609 Vagabond Act forced JPs in every county to build a bridewell

**Bloody Code:**

- Increased capital offences as people were hanged for minor crimes
- Introduced 1688 to 1820 – the threat of hanging was intended to be a strong deterrent
- No police force to protect property so MPs used their parliamentary power to pass to frighten people into obeying the law
- 1723 Black Act made poaching deer, rabbit and fish a capital offence
- By 1820 = 200 capital offences (compared to 50 in 1688), most were for crimes against property
- However, number of hanging decreased; assize judges often unwilling to pass a sentence of hanging for minor crimes
Industrial Britain

**Growing population and Industrialisation:** From 1750, population rocketed: 1750 = 6 million 1850 = 21 million 1900 = 37 million. Mass migration of people from the countryside to towns in search of jobs.

**Urbanisation:** Growth of cities – Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds and Manchester - by 1850, more people lived in towns and cities than rural areas - lodging houses provided temporary accommodation for families moving to cities.

**Growing inequalities between rich and poor:** Industrialisation brought wealth to some but poverty to others - upper and Middle classes moved out of town centres to suburbs - working classes crowded into terraced houses and back-to-backs near the factories.

**Poverty – rural and urban:** Life was grim for the urban poor; families lived in back-to-back houses that were overcrowded and insanitary - rural labourers continued to live in poverty; often forced to eat turnips from the fields, unemployment forced many to the towns in search of work - no government benefits at this time so people struggled to survive.

**Railways:** Network of railways built across Britain during 1830s and 1840s. navvies (mostly Irish) blasted the tunnels, laid the lines and moved the earth. By 1850, most major towns and cities were connected by rail. People and goods were moved quickly and cheaply across the country. Coach and canals companies went into decline.

**Growing literacy:** Churches and charities schooled the poor. 1870 Forster’s Education Act made schooling compulsory for all to age 10. Demand for newspapers grew as more people could read and write. Newspapers vital for growth of working class political consciousness - people demanded reform to living and working conditions.

**Growth of Democracy:** Until 1832, 5% of the population could vote. 1832 Great Reform Act enfranchised middle class men and larger towns had MPs. 1867 Second Reform Act enfranchised skilled working class men. 1884 Third Reform Act enfranchised more working class men; 2/3 could not vote.

**Alcohol:** During the 19th century, pubs played a major part in the lives of the working class - escape from the despair of the slums - drunkenness led to violence and caused misery in many working class families. Temperance Movement formed to persuade people to stop drinking alcohol.

### Industrial C&P 1750-1900

**Crime**

Industial Revolution had a huge impact on types of crime – many of which were new. 1750-1850 – crime rates increased, 1850 onwards – crime rates fell. New ideas emerged about the causes of crime, such as poverty, bad moral habits or physical features.

- **Why did crime increase?**
  - 1750 \(\rightarrow\) effects of industrial revolution
  - Increase in population, growth in trade and urbanisation led to a rise in crime
  - 1815 \(\rightarrow\) end of Napoleonic Wars saw a sharp increase in crime as thousands of soldiers returned home to face rising prices.
  - Urbanisation - overcrowded lodging houses (often temporary accommodation) and crowded alleyways contributed to increasing crime rates.
  - Therefore, most crime was opportunistic (unplanned)

- **How did crime change?**
  - Petty theft remained the most common crime – from factories and houses – much of this was opportunistic
  - Prostitution remained the most common crime for women
  - New crimes:
    - Fare-dodging on the railways
    - Vandalism (on the railways)
    - Failing to send children to school 1870
    - Stealing water from standpipes (in many cities, water was owned by private companies)
  - Violent crimes and murder rates remained low – around 10%

### Causes of Crime

**Radical thinkers**
- John Glyde – genuine concern for the poor - blamed poverty - poor environment the poor lived in - slum children had little education

**Conservative/traditional thinkers**
- Blamed crime on the bad moral habits of the poor - drunkenness and gambling - dismayed at number of pubs and alehouses in working class areas

**Biological/physical causes**
- New theories emerged in the 19th century: - Children born to criminal parents inherited criminal tendencies – that ‘bad genes’ were passed from parents to children.
- Criminals had different physical features such a different shaped heads, hands, colour of skin

**Temperance Movement**
- Became popular at this time - favoured complete abstinence from drinking alcohol - belief that the pubs and alehouses left the poor without money or food - poverty led to gambling, violence and prostitution.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Fielding</th>
<th>Robert Peel</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- First experiments in professional policing</td>
<td>- Due to rising crime rates 1800 → Bow Street Runners, constables and watchmen couldn’t cope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1754-1780 a magistrate at Bow Street Court, London</td>
<td>- 1829 Sir Robert Peel (Home Secretary) set up first Metropolitan Police force of 3000 men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1750s – organised groups of part-time constables who were paid to patrol London’s main streets and roads until midnight.</td>
<td>- ‘Peelers’ or ‘bobbies’ were armed with a truncheon and wore a uniform of dark blue tall hat and coat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1800 – 68 Bow Street runners</td>
<td>- Initially, people were opposed to the idea of a police force paid for out of public money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1773 - Hue and Cry published – weekly newspaper that detailed criminals and stolen property.</td>
<td>- - 1780s ‘new drop’ - execution by hanging brought inside the prison walls due to concern over rowdy behaviour prisoner died more quickly by being dropped through a trap door.</td>
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### Developments in Policing after 1829

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<tr>
<td>1835 Municipal Corporation Act</td>
<td>Allowed towns to set up a police force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839 Rural Constabulary Act</td>
<td>Allowed county magistrates to set up a police force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856 County and Borough Police Act</td>
<td>Created a national police force</td>
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<td>- 3 new Inspectors of Constabulary ensured local forces met national standards.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Government met 25% of funding for forces</td>
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</tbody>
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### Changing role of Police Officers

- Preventing crime – most important role:
- Removing drunks, vagrants and prostitutes from the streets
- Dealt with pubs that allowed Sunday drinking, gambling and illegal sports
- Prevent theft and violence
- CID (Criminal Investigation Department) founded 1878
- New technology helped crime detection:
  - photographing crime scenes 1880s
  - use of telegraph to relay information 1867
  - use of fingerprinting 1897

### Changing role of Courts

- Small developments
- Assizes and quarter sessions tried felons
- Petty session and magistrates continued to deal with minor offences
- Lawyers acted for both the prosecution and defence
- Trials were longer and more formal

### Capital Punishment

| Changes meant more humane forms of hanging and fewer executions: 1800-1809 = 871 people | 1830-1839 = 297 people |
| 1780s ‘new drop’ - execution by hanging brought inside the prison walls due to concern over rowdy behaviour prisoner died more quickly by being dropped through a trap door. | However, hanging took place on the roof so people could still witness them. |
| - 1872 ‘long drop’ calculated how much rope was needed to break the neck instantly, so death quick and painless | Peel’s reforms: Reduced the number of capital crimes; only murder and attempted murder punished by hanging. 1868 public executions made illegal |

### Transportation

- 1780s – Australia chosen: it was unknown - crime would be reduced - convicts provided labour
- May 1787 - first convicts transported to Australia
- Who – thieves and political prisoners (Tolpuddle Martyrs who wanted to form a trade union)
- Sentences = 7 or 14 years, or lifetime
- The Convict Colony
- Harsh conditions – convicts shackled and chained
- Hard labour – digging ditches, felling trees, planting crops, construction
- Harsh punishment – lashes with whip
- Change – arguments against transportation
- Harsh journey/working/living conditions
- Taxpayers supported convict’s family resented by Australia
- Ended 1868

### Prisons

After campaigns for change, the modern prison system was formed.

- John Howard ‘The State of Prisons’
- prisons be built near water supply
- prisoners have own cell
- adequate food and 2 clean shirts a week
- gaolers be paid

- Elizabeth Fry
  - reformed Newgate prison for women: education and readings from the Bible encouraged sewing and knitting
  - 1811 Millbank Prison built – failed
  - 1823 Gaols Act – separate cells
  - 1842 Pentonville Prison built

- Separate system prisoners kept apart from each other led to loneliness and mental breakdown
- Silent system prisoners not allowed to speak
- 1865 Prisons Act – hard labour, fare and board
## Britain Since 1900

### Continuing growth of cities and towns: 20th century – the poor lived in large estates in town centres or conurbations (cities merging with outlying towns), the rich and middle classes lived in the suburbs. Few people live and work on the land. By 2011, over 80% of the population lived in cities or large towns.

### Changing work and increased wealth: Following economic struggles of early 20th century, Britain prospered. Britain no longer a manufacturing society - making goods from scratch, but became a ‘consumer society’ – buying and selling goods. Many people own their own homes.


### Society and family/migration and diversity: Educational changes – more people go to university, but still difficult for poor and poorly qualified young men to find jobs. Women have more rights – build own careers and not have to stay at home. Children of single/unmarried parents no longer stigmatised. Same sex relationships more accepted. Immigration led to greater diversity but increased tensions.

### Transport and communication: Cars and aeroplanes allow people to travel further and more speedily. 1901 – first telegraph signal. 1985 – first mobile phones – now prolific use across society – mobile technology now allows people to communicate, take photos/videos, access e-mails etc. Computers and tablets – now widespread in the workplace and in homes.

### Science and technology: Developments in science and technology transformed many aspects of our lives. Research - antibiotics and DNA research eradicated fatal infections and diseases. 1950s – extension of national grid to provide electricity to people’s homes.

### Leisure and entertainment: 1930s = television broadcasting began, by the 1970s, most homes had a TV. Most homes can access films, programmes etc. via online streaming. Computer games became an enormous industry 1970s onwards.

### Religion/beliefs and attitudes: Fewer people attended church as century progressed, only 10% of population by 2000. Less reliance on the Bible; psychologists and sociologists offer explanations for human behaviour.

## Crime

### Changing nature of crime

- **Crime was not always reported to the police:** Before 1980, young troublemakers were dealt with by adults and some police constables by a ‘clip round the ear’.

- **Spike in some crimes:** The number of reported burglaries rose once insurance companies refused to pay out if the police had not been informed.

- **No longer crimes:** 1961 → suicide; 1967 → abortion; 1967 → homosexual acts

- **New crimes have been created:** 2007 smoking in enclosed spaces; 2015 smoking in cars with young children

### Recording crime: 1998-2002 changes made to the way police record crimes

### Changes in crime rates 1900-1955

- 1920s and 1930s = severe economic problems and widespread poverty, so crime rose as the police had to deal with strikes and public protests.

- WW2 – as people sheltered during the Blitz, opportunistic thieves looted houses and even stole jewellery and cash from bodies.

- 1945-1954 – stolen goods often sold on the black market - rationing continued.

### Changes in crime rates 1955-present day

- **Car crime**
  - 1967 → drink driving limits imposed, police used breathalysers
  - 1983 → drivers had to wear seat belts
  - 1992 → roadside speed cameras captured images of speeding cars

- **Football hooliganism**
  - Reached a peak in the 1970s and 1980s
  - 1985 - Liverpool fans rioted before the match with Juventus fans; a wall collapsed and 39, mostly Italians, died. CCTV within grounds to identify dangerous fans; stadiums are fitted with seats and fan movement is controlled.

- **Race, religion and hate crimes**
  - Gave greater protection to victims of crime based on their race, gender, religion or disability with Race Relations Act of 1965, 1968 and 1976

- **Illegal drugs**

- **Cyber crime**
  - 1990s emergence of internet led to new types of crime: illegal downloading, phishing (emails that trick people into revealing financial details) and cyber criminals who hack big businesses. 2015 – cyber crime included in Britain’s national crime statistics
**Law Enforcement**

**POLICE**
Changing attitudes - 1900-1970 – police were respected
1970 → public trust eroded; Fewer police on foot/‘the beat’, resent punishment of traffic offences, criticised for using force in crowd control, police corruption
Recruitment, training and pay: 1900 – police were often poor, working class white males with little education
1939 only 226 female officers, 2008 there were 37,000
1947 → police receive specific training
Community policing: Police Liaison Officers visit schools; schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch are encouraged.

**Weapons:**
1900-2000 truncheons only
2000 → weapons, pepper sprays, tasers
Range of work: 1993 survey – only 18% calls were crime-related

**NEW TECHNOLOGY**
Identification of criminals: 1901 - discovery of blood groups allowed police to narrow down suspects.
1902 – fingerprints first used to identify suspects
1984 – discovery that each person’s DNA is unique is used as key evidence in court

Communication and data storage: Mid 1960s → radios installed in patrol cars and portable radios used
Computers store huge amounts of data – DNA tests, fingerprinting and crime reports.
ANPR quickly checks a car’s registration
Surveillance: CCTV and cameras are central to police investigations; cameras on streets, in patrol cars and on officers’ uniforms.
Monitoring emails, text messages and internet searches has also increased.

**COURTS**
1971 Courts Act – the Crown Court replaced the assizes and quarter sessions.
Magistrates Courts try less serious cases
Ministry of Justice is in overall control of courts in England and Wales.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS): From 1986, the CPS took on the responsibility of bringing trials to court, rather than the police.

Women’s roles: 1919 → women allowed to serve on juries
1920 – Ada Summers became the first JP
Juvenile Courts: Introduced from 1908 – for criminal cases of children aged 7-16.
Juries: Since 1974, juries reflect breadth of society

**Corporal Punishment** - continued alongside prisons, eventually abolished.
- 1900 – whipping and beating was widely used as it was a quick, cheap and effective deterrent - More liberal-minded people argued that it was preferable to a brutal prison sentence.
- 1933 – corporal punishment ended for young offenders
- 1948 – ended as a punishment for all offenders
- 1962 – ended as a punishment for prisoners who misbehaved whilst in prison.

**Capital Punishment** - was abolished, in stages, as ideas became more liberal.
- 1908 - no one under the age of 16 could be executed
- 1953 – public outcry when 19 year old Derek Bentley, mental age 10, was hanged
- 1957 - death penalty ended for all murders except where a police officer was the victim, a gun was used or the person was resisting arrest.
- 1969 – Parliament permanently abolished the death penalty for all murders.
- Debate over the death penalty continues, particularly when grim murders occur.

**Prisons** - By 1900, reformers believed rehabilitation and education were the keys to improving society.

Imprisonment of young offenders
- 1902 – borstals set up for young offenders under the age of 21; emphasis on education, and skills that might lead to jobs
- 1988 – borstals replaced with young offender institutions.
- 1993 survey – only 18% calls were crime-related

**Prison reform**
- 1896 Broadmoor Hospital set up for prisoners who were mentally ill.
- 1922-1947 Alexander Paterson’s reforms: relaxation of silent system, education, paid, meaningful work.

**Alternative to Prisons**
- 1907 – Probation Service introduced for minor offenders
- 1967- parole system introduced to supervise prisoners released early
- 1972 - Community Service Orders introduced where offenders do a number of hours unpaid work for the community rather than go to prison.

**Victims**
Since 1990, the government introduced direct support for victims.
- Victim’s Charter sets out victim’s rights on support they should receive.
- Victim’s Personal Statement – victims now have the right to make a VPS explaining how the crime has affected them. Read aloud once a guilty victim has been reached.

**Victim's Charter** sets out victim's rights on support they should receive.
- 2000 truncheons only
- 2002 – police receive specific training
- 2008 there were 37,000

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