

Key vocabulary:

- Evil** – Immoral, bad or wicked.
- Suffering** – Undergoing pain, distress or hardship
- Natural evil** – Evil caused by nature
- Moral evil** – Evil caused by human beings
- Utilitarianism** – A type of ethics meaning the most good for the most people.
- Crime** – Something that is punishable by law.
- Court** – Where crimes are judged and sentences are given

PSHE
Year 7
Spring 1: The Law

Victory Vals



Natural suffering

Deliberate suffering

Accidental suffering

When someone plans to bring suffering upon themselves or others.

Suffering which occurs through misfortune that is not natural.

Suffering that comes from nature. For example, flood and famine.

What is Parliament?

I'm a Member of Parliament. The UK Parliament is in London in a big building next to the River Thames. The famous clock tower has an enormous bell that has the nickname Big Ben.

Parliament is where Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the House of Lords (Baronesses and Lords) work to make new laws and discuss important topics. Once a year, the Queen visits Parliament for a grand ceremony called the State Opening of Parliament.

The great stink
In the past, there used to be a terrible stink in London as 100,000 people used to live up in the air. Once it was so smelly in Parliament that everyone had to leave the building.



How do you become an MP or a Lord?

The United Kingdom is split up in to 650 different areas called constituencies. Each constituency has an MP who looks after the interests of the people who live there. People who want to be an MP can put their names forward to be elected.

People over the age of 18 then get to vote in an election for the person they like best or think will do the best job. The person who gets the most votes in each area becomes the MP for that constituency.

Lords come from many different backgrounds. They are chosen because they are experts in subjects like education or science. For example, I'm Lord Wellness and I'm a doctor.

What's a peer? Have a look!
There are about 740 Members of the House of Lords, and about 100 are women. If the man and woman, you might expect the woman to be Lady, but actually they are called Baronesses. Members of the House of Lords are often called peers.

Find out the name of your local MP
MPs have a link at www.parliament.uk



Who's in charge?

Most of the MPs and Lords are members of a political party, which is a group of people who have similar thoughts about how the country should be run. The leader of the political party that has the support of the most MPs after the election becomes the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and a team of about 100 MPs and Lords run the country, and come up with most of the ideas for new laws. This group of people is called the government. All the other MPs and Lords of Parliament have to make sure that the laws the government suggests are going to work.

My government will ban Froggipops!

What's in the cupboard?
One of the most important parts of the government is the Cabinet. Even though it sounds as if it's the Prime Minister's favourite group of friends, it's really a group of about 20 MPs and Lords. Each one is in charge of particular things like education or the health service.



Parliament: the law-making factory

LAW-MAKING MACHINE

Any idea for a new law has to be brought to Parliament. A law tells us what we must and must not do. Laws keep us safe and help our lives go smoothly.

A lot of thought goes into making and changing laws because they affect everyone in the country. For example, sometimes laws are passed to make sure the ingredients in our food and drink are safe. At Parliament, ideas for new laws are called Bills. MPs and Lords always check Bills very carefully.

A bit of a squeeze
There are 650 MPs in the parliament, but there are only 200 seats in the main meeting room, which is called the House of Commons chamber. So when they go in there to make important decisions, some of them have to stand up.

John: Customer: Have you got frog's legs?
Walter: No, I always walk like this.



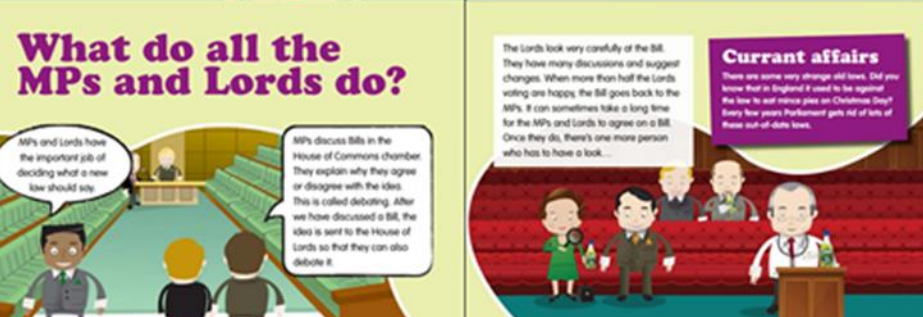
What do all the MPs and Lords do?

MPs and Lords have the important job of deciding what a new law should say.

MPs discuss Bills in the House of Commons Chamber. They explain why they agree or disagree with the idea. This is called debating. After we have discussed a Bill, the idea is sent to the House of Lords so that they can also debate it.

The Lords look very carefully of the Bill. They have many discussions and suggest changes. When more than half the Lords voting are happy, the Bill goes back to the MPs. It can sometimes take a long time for the MPs and Lords to agree on a Bill. Once they do, there's one more person who has to have a look...

Current affairs
There are some very strange old laws. Did you know that in England it used to be against the law to eat mince pies on Christmas Day? Every few years Parliament gets rid of lots of these sort-of-obsolete laws.



...and then it's the Queen's turn

Once Parliament has agreed that a Bill is going to make a good law, it's the Queen's job to sign the Bill. This turns it into an Act of Parliament, known as a law. This is how almost every law in the country gets made.

Woolf Maram.

Anyone for tea?
The Queen's regular meetings with the Prime Minister traditionally take place on Monday mornings in the Queen's Audience Room at Buckingham Palace. Since the coronation in 1952, there have been 71 different Prime Ministers.





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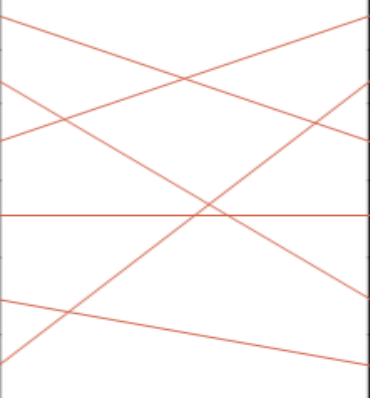
An idea for a law is called a Bill.

Bills can be introduced by any MP or Member of the House of Lords.

Bills are discussed and debated in detail in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They are considered carefully in order to make sure they will be effective. This is called 'scrutiny'.

Sometimes a Bill will move between the House of Commons and the House of Lords lots of times before it is agreed. When this happens it is known as 'ping-pong'!

If both Houses agree on a Bill, then it is signed by the Monarch. This is called 'Royal Assent' and the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament and part of the UK law.

Deterrence		Punishment should change the criminal
Protection		Punishment makes sure the law is respected
Reformation		Punishment should put people off committing crime
Retribution		Punishment should make the criminal pay for what they did wrong
Reparation		Punishment should protect society from criminals
Vindication		Punishment should compensate the victims of crime

Fines

- Fines are the most common criminal sentence. They're usually given for less serious crimes that don't merit a community or prison sentence, or in some circumstances fines are imposed as an alternative to a community sentence.
- How much someone is fined depends on the severity of the crime and the offender's ability to pay.

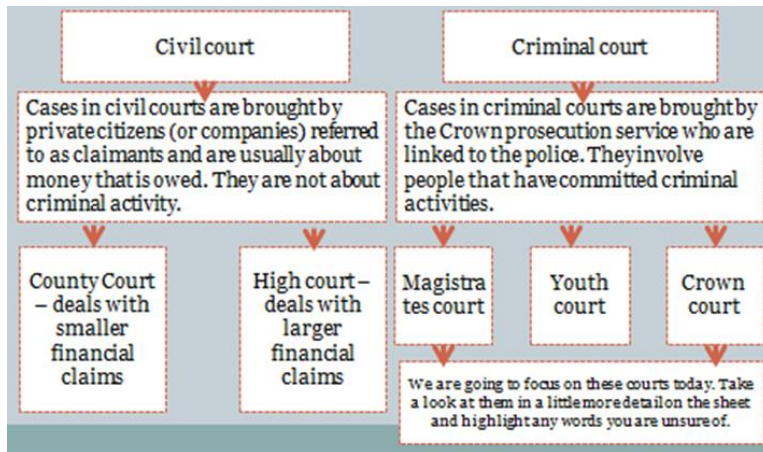
Community sentence

- Community sentences are imposed for offences which are too serious for a fine to be imposed but not so serious that a custodial sentence must be imposed.
- Community sentences place requirements on offenders that they must follow.
- An offender who receives a community sentence can be ordered to undertake one or more of the following requirements: complete between 40-300 hours of unpaid work, wear a electric tag to monitor where they are at all times, have meetings with a probation officer, complete a course e.g. treatment for alcohol addiction, stay in a certain area or be home by certain times.
- If an offender doesn't do as they have been told they can go back to court and end up going to prison.

Prison

- Prison sentences are handed down by a court when an offence is so serious that it is seen as the only suitable punishment.
- A prison sentence will also be given when the court believes the public must be protected from the offender.
- There are three different types of prison sentence:
 - Suspended sentence – Spent outside of a prison but with lots of restrictions.
 - Determinate sentence – The offender is given a prison sentence in years e.g. 6 years in prison. Half the time will be spent in prison and half outside with lots of restrictions.
 - Indeterminate sentence (including life sentences) – A minimum is given as to how long the person will spend in prison before a group of people can decide whether that person is allowed out. Poor behaviour in prison would mean the person would spend longer in prison.

ROLE	DEFINITION	COURT
Prosecution Lawyer/ Barrister/Advocate	Presents facts against the defendant to try and prove that the defendant committed the crime.	Both
Defence Lawyer/ Barrister/Advocate	Argues the defendant's case to try and clear the defendant of charges.	Both
Witness	Gives evidence to the court.	Both
Defendant	The person accused of the crime in court.	Both
Usher/Macer	Makes sure the the case runs smoothly and swears in witnesses. Ushers are called Macers in Scotland.	Both
Court Clerk	Helps with court administration.	Crown
Judge	Makes sure both sides present their case fully and fairly in accordance with the law.	Crown
Juror	Decides the verdict based on evidence.	Crown
Magistrate	A trained volunteer who hears cases in courts.	Magistrates'
Legal Advisor	Gives advice to magistrates regarding points of law.	Magistrates'



Magistrates' Court

- Virtually all criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court, and around 95% will be completed there.
- The more serious offences are passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing after the defendant has been found guilty in a magistrates' court, or for full trial with a judge and jury.
- Magistrates deal with three kinds of cases:
 - Summary offences. These are less serious cases, such as motoring offences and minor assaults.
 - Either-way offences. As the name implies, these can be dealt with either by magistrates or before a judge and jury at the Crown Court. Such offences include theft and handling stolen goods.
 - Indictable-only offences, such as murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery. These must be heard at a Crown Court.
- There are two main types of 'judges' that work in magistrates' courts:
 - District judges (Magistrates' courts) are full-time members of the judiciary who hear cases in magistrates' courts. They usually deal with the longer and more complex matters coming before the magistrates' courts.
 - Magistrates are trained, unpaid members of their local community, who work part-time and deal with less serious criminal cases, such as minor theft, criminal damage, public disorder and motoring offences.