

English essay
Theme “Law & Order”

Title: “Crime & Punishment”

Hand in deadline: Monday 3rd February 2025 (midnight)

Format: “Times New Roman” font – font size 12 - 1,5 spacing between lines.

Context:

We’ve covered the required reading in your Topic Books contained within the theme of “Law & Order”, discussed and done different exercises to help you understand the many ethical and moral questions within this theme

In “*Let him have it, Chris*”, we’ve touched upon the rights and wrongs of convicting young people, first time offenders, as well as raising the question of punishment for those with a decreased mental capacity. Furthermore, this (and other texts) raised questions about the death penalty; further explored in more gruesome detail in “*Dead Man Walking*”.

In “*A Smack & A Cuddle*”, we talked about the rights and wrongs of smacking children, both by parents, but also in schools. A lesser crime of sorts, but an important ethical and moral dilemma to contemplate.

“*Life Behind Bars*” and “*Chain Gangs*” also gave us insight into the harsh reality of *doing time* in US jails and further consequences of one’s criminal actions.

The short story “*The Case for the Defence*” illustrated the difficulty of proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt, giving an example of a crime committed by one twin, casting doubt on who the real perpetrator of a crime would be, ultimately leading to, a rather unfair, but nonetheless complete exoneration.

Essay assignment

Using the required reading on pp. 35-65 as inspiration,
give your general opinion on the topic of “Crime & Punishment”.

You **must** include your thoughts about the **death penalty**.
Possibly argue that a punishment such as “life in prison”
is a more suitable and humane form of punishment.
or argue why you believe that this is not the case.

Feel free to also explore some thoughts on whether or not prisons are good places for reform.

Is it a good idea to collect all criminals in one building, violent and non-violent alike?

Would we be better served trying to find other ways to “reform” criminals?

Discuss.