

Southam College History Department
Crime and Punishment revision guide – Q5

Question 5 is the narrative / extended writing question. It could cover any of the key themes across the unit and your answer needs to cover all 4 time periods.

The best answers focus on CHANGE and CONTINUITY over time.

How to be successful in **Question 5** on the Crime and Punishment paper

5 steps to success for Question 5...

Step 1

- Identify the TOPIC of the question

Step 2

- Identify relevant examples for each time period

Step 3

- Follow the 4 paragraph and conclusion structure

Step 4

- Make sure you add links to the question for each paragraph

Step 5

- Include clear judgements about CHANGE and CONTINUITY over time in the conclusion - scale and extent of change over time

Aiming high with Question 5...

	AO1 (a=B) 6 marks	AO2 – 10 marks	
Range of examples for every time period, equal for each paragraph	I have included a very strong range of knowledge and information – precise and accurate examples.	5 – 6	I have structured my narrative well to show I understand the whole chronology and the process of change over time.
	I have included a good range of supporting information and knowledge.	3 – 4	I have used clear paragraphs to cover the whole chronology. Good comments on change over time.
	I have included a greater range of information.	2	I have covered some of the chronology and started to comment on change over time.
	I have included some historical info / detail.	1	I have not covered all the time periods. No comment on change.
			10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
			Cover all 4 time periods
			Clear judgements about CHANGE
			Comment on SCALE and EXTENT of CHANGE. Compare change BETWEEN time periods

There are only so many questions that can actually be asked for Q5 – the specific wording may well change, but there is a limit to the topics that it could cover. If you plan generic answers and are well prepared, this will be excellent preparation for any Q5 in the exam... just make sure you tweak your overall plan to suit the specific wording of the question!

Potential question topic areas:

- Types / nature of crime, 500 – present day
- Causes of crime, 500 – present day
- Methods of law enforcement / catching criminals (policing), 500 – present day
- Success of methods of law enforcement / catching criminals (policing), 500 – present day
- Types of punishment, 500 – present day
- Purpose of punishment, 500 – present day
- Attitudes to crime and punishment, 500 – present day

Structure advice – Q5

P1 = Medieval period.

Include relevant examples about the topic of the question.

Comment on level of change / continuity within this time period.

P2 – Early Modern period.

Include relevant examples about the topic of the question.

Comment on level of change since the Medieval period. What has changed? How much? Has anything stayed the same? Include a judgement about scale / extent of change.

P3 – Industrial period.

Include relevant examples about the topic of the question.

Comment on level of change – since the Early Modern period, and since the Medieval period. What has changed? How much? Has anything stayed the same? Include a judgement about scale / extent of change.

P4 – Modern period.

Include relevant examples about the topic of the question.

Comment on level of change – since the Industrial period, and since the Medieval period. What has changed? How much? Has anything stayed the same? Include a judgement about scale / extent of change.

Conclusion – summarise comments on change and continuity. How much has changed? When did the most change happen? How significant have these changes been? Has the pace of change always been consistent? How much has stayed the same?

Text in RED = grade 4/5 answer

Text in GREEN = additions to reach grade 9

Topic of question = CAUSES OF CRIME

First time period introduced

Outline how the **causes of crime** has changed from c.500 to the present day.

The main cause of crime in the Medieval period was poverty. The majority of people lived poor lifestyles in rural communities and relied on subsistence farming to live. This led to 75% of crime being theft. Other causes of crime included the Norman Conquest and feudal system – when the Normans invaded they added new laws, which caused new crimes, for example the Forest Laws. Other crimes were caused by the feudal system structure, e.g. it was a crime to not use the bread ovens belonging to the Lord of the Manor, or to leave a manor to live elsewhere without the Lord's permission. It was also thought that the harsh and violent lifestyles that people led caused a high rate of violent crime (approx. 20%).

Range of examples, linked to the TOPIC of the q'n

Identifies CONTINUITY

Poverty continued to be a significant cause of crime in the Early Modern period. At this time there was a large increase in vagrancy, caused by an increase in poverty.

Second time period introduced

Identifies CHANGES

A new cause of crime was religious change. The Break with Rome and Protestant Reformation started in Henry VIII's reign led to changes in the law regarding heresy and an increase in this as a crime. Political change also caused crime in the time period – a key example of this would be treason. Religious change and political turbulence were sometimes linked as causes of crime, for example in the Gunpowder Plot where treason was committed, but with religious causes. There was some change between the Medieval and Early Modern periods, but not as much as in later time periods.

Range of examples, linked to the TOPIC of the q'n

Summarises scale / extent of CHANGE

There was huge change in the causes of crime in the Industrial period.

Third time period introduced

Range of examples, both CHANGES and CONTINUITIES

Industrialisation and urbanisation transformed life at this time which meant that the causes of crime changed a lot, too. As roads and trade developed, this caused more highway robbery. As working conditions changed and there was more reliance on machinery, this caused riots and protests. As the Empire and trade developed, this meant the government raised taxes, which resulted in more smuggling. There was also some continuity – poverty remained a large cause of crime (e.g. pickpocketing). Overall, the scale of change in the causes of crime was significant, when compared to the Medieval and Early Modern periods.

Summarises scale of CHANGE, compared to other time periods

Range of examples, both CHANGES and CONTINUITIES

Some causes of crime have continued from the Industrial to Modern periods.

Fourth time period introduced

Poverty was still a key cause of crime in the 20th century, however there have also been big changes. Two key changes that have caused crimes specific to the modern period are the car and the computer. As the law has changed in response to more people owning cars, new crimes have been created. The development of technology and the internet has meant that crime has become global and anonymous – this has caused new crimes (e.g. phishing) but also caused new ways to commit older crimes (e.g. identity fraud). Overall, the extent of change in the Modern period was great, especially when compared back to the Medieval period.

Conclusion that identifies the main areas of CHANGE and CONTINUITY. Links to time periods. Considers scale / extent of change.

Overall, there has been one key area of continuity on causes of crime across all time periods – poverty. The time period with the biggest changes was the Industrial period, both within this time period and compared to previous times. The biggest level of continuity occurred between the Medieval and Early Modern periods – although change did happen, the lifestyle of people generally stayed the same meaning the causes of crime were quite similar too.

Summarises scale of CHANGE, compared to other time periods

Revision activity – using the previous example as a guide, add labels to show how this answer reaches full marks

Topic of q'n – how effective policing was

Outline how the level of effectiveness of methods of enforcing law and order has changed from c.500 to the present day.

The effectiveness of methods of enforcing the law varied during the Medieval period. There was no national or regulated system meaning that different areas followed different variations of methods, which could lead to different levels of effectiveness. Individuals were responsible for law and order, e.g. Sheriffs, JPs (who later replaced Sheriffs), constables and watchmen. How effective they were depended on the person, however, if the Sheriff or JP lost their role this would be seen as a great social failure – this could have been motivation for them to do a good job, making them more effective. Community groups were also responsible for law and order, e.g. with a tithing and the hue & cry. Again, these could be very effective if everyone worked well together, but they did depend on everyone in a group taking part properly. Overall, Medieval methods had the potential to be effective, but this could vary.

This continued into the Early Modern period. JPs, constables and watchmen were still key features. Watchmen could be the least effective method as they were usually paid very little and therefore had little motivation to do well. They were often older men who were not physically capable of chasing after criminals. As with the Medieval period, the community still had responsibility for enforcing law and order so, as above, the effectiveness of this could vary depending on the people involved. Overall, the methods of enforcing the law from 500 – 1700 were not national / regulated systems and the people involved were often not paid (or paid very little). This meant that the effectiveness of these methods could be limited. However, these methods continued (with some, but little, change) for over a thousand years so the people at the time must have felt they were still suitable and effective for the small, rural communities they lived in.

There was huge change in society in the Industrial period, which meant that huge changes were needed in methods of enforcing law and order as the old methods were no longer effective in Industrial cities. The Bow Street Runners were effective in being proactive against crime, but this was only effective in that area. The Metropolitan Police were first established in 1829 – they were paid and trained, making them more effective, but only covered a 7 mile radius of London which limited how effective they could be across the rest of the city. This improved in 1839 and 1856 – by then there was a national police system which was regulated and inspected. This made the police more effective in enforcing the law. Other developments included the Detective Branch (making the police start to become more specialised) and early use of camera technology which both improved the effectiveness of methods of enforcing law and order. By the end of the Industrial period policing had become much more effective – it was now professional, organised, more efficient and national.

Methods of enforcing the law became more effective still in the modern period. As crime developed and used more technology, so did the police. Developments in science and tech (e.g. DNA, blood grouping, finger printing) made the police more accurate in their work and therefore more effective. Specialisms developed (e.g. homicide, fraud etc.) which also improved the effectiveness of the police. Developments in transport and communication have benefitted the police by making them more responsive to crime. However, there are still challenges to the effectiveness – the reputation of the police (following scandal in the 1980s especially) has been negative and affected their relationship with the public; this has limited their effectiveness at times.

Overall, the effectiveness of methods of enforcing law and order has greatly increased over time, due to developments in general society, science, tech, communication and transport. Changes in society have caused developments in policing, making the system more effective. There was most continuity in the Medieval and Early Modern periods, and then most change in the Industrial period. There are still problems in the modern period, but overall the level of effectiveness has increased across the period 500 – present day.

Revision activity – turn this answer back into a plan. Break it down into key bullet points to see how it has been put together

Topic of q'n – purpose of punishment

Outline how the purpose of punishment has changed from c.500 to the present day.

The general purpose of punishment is always to reduce crime and this has continued across all time periods. In order to achieve this, the key purpose of punishment in the Medieval period was to REMOVE the criminal from society (meaning crime would reduce) or to DETER people from committing crime through humiliating criminals (hoping this would put other people off committing a crime). Capital punishment (execution) was used for the most serious crimes, which clearly removed the criminal, but as this also took place in public, it aimed to deter other people. Corporal punishment was used for lesser crimes (e.g. whipping, stocks, pillories, carting) and again, this would be carried out in public. The purpose of punishment stayed the same across the Medieval period.

There was continuity in the general purpose of punishment from the Medieval to the Early Modern period. Corporal punishment was still used for the same reasons / purpose as before. Capital punishment was still used in order to REMOVE the criminal, with punishment still being in public in order to DETER crime through humiliation. As heresy became more common (in Mary I's reign), burning at the stake was used as people believed this would cleanse the soul of the person (as well as providing an example to others). The Bloody Code started to develop in the Early Modern period – the increased use of the death sentence reflected attitudes to crime and punishment and government fears of social and political instability if crime grew. At this time, people still believed that a criminal couldn't change, so the punishments had no element of reform.

There is some continuity in purpose of punishment in the Industrial period. Capital punishment is still used to REMOVE the criminal, and prisons also had this purpose too. Harsh conditions in prison were also designed to DETER people from committing crime. However, it was now thought that public executions were not actually deterring crime so the death sentence was carried out in private. Corporal punishment was also moved to be in private, meaning the idea of public humiliation as a purpose of punishment was now limited. The Bloody Code had also been reformed in the 1820s so that execution was now only used for the most serious crimes – this reflected a change in attitudes to criminals and therefore a change in the purpose of punishment. There was now a belief that criminals could be reformed, meaning that capital punishment was seen as too harsh for many crimes. As an alternative, prisons were reformed with the idea that punishment could be used to REFORM criminals. Transportation was also used as a way of REFORMING, although both of these punishments continued with the purpose of REMOVING criminals from society. Overall, there was some continuity in the Industrial period, but with the significant change that REFORM of criminals was now a key purpose of punishment.

In the modern period, the purpose of punishment continued to be to REMOVE criminals and REFORM them (prisons were used for both these reasons). Alternatives to prison have been developed in the modern period which have brought back the idea of using punishment as RETRIBUTION and giving back to society – community service is a key example of this. This would often be in public, with hi-vis jackets meaning that the idea of DETERING people through public humiliation was again a part of punishment. Overall, the modern period shows a lot of continuity with previous periods in terms of the purpose of punishment. Public humiliation links to ideas of DETERING crime in the Medieval and Early Modern period, and REFORM links to developments in the Industrial period.

Overall, there has been a mix of change and continuity across all time periods regarding the purpose of punishment. The main feature of continuity has been the purpose of REMOVING criminals from society which has been consistent across all time periods. The main change has been the purpose of REFORM which was introduced in the Industrial period, but then continues into the Modern period. The greatest period of change was the Industrial period.

More possible example questions...

Outline how the **nature of crime** has changed from c.500 to the present day. [16]

[In your answer you should provide a written narrative discussing the main types of crime across the historical eras.]

Outline how **methods of enforcing law and order** have changed from c.500 to the present day. [16]

[In your answer you should provide a written narrative discussing the main types of law enforcement across the historical eras.]

Outline how **methods of punishment** have changed from c.500 to the present day. [16]

[In your answer you should provide a written narrative discussing the main types of punishment across the historical eras.]

Outline how **attitudes to crime and punishment** have changed from c.500 to the present day. [16]

[In your answer you should provide a written narrative discussing the main types of punishment across the historical eras.]

REMEMBER – you are also given up to 4 additional marks for SPaG.

Question 5 planning grid – using a grid like this will help you organise your knowledge and make sure you have examples for every time period for each theme / topic area. There is a copy of this grid on the History revision area on the Year 11 blog.

Potential q'n topic area	Core info – P1 = Saxon / Medieval period 500 – 1500 (6 th and 15 th centuries)	Core info – P2 = Early Modern period 1500 – 1700 (16 th and 17 th centuries)	Core info – P3 = Industrial period 1700 – 1900 (18 th and 19 th centuries)	Core info – P4 = Modern period 1900 – present (20 th and 21 st centuries)
Types of crime				
Causes of crime				
Methods of combating crime				
Success of combating crime				
Type of punishment				
Purpose of punishment				

