



Let's talk about crime and punishment

1. Look at the following list of crimes. Which crimes are most common in your country?

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| • assault/battery | • drug | • hooliganism |
| • drug possession | • trafficking/distribution | • vandalism |
| • theft | • drink-driving | • domestic violence |
| • arson | • forgery | • rape |
| • bribery | • fraud | • murder |
| • piracy | • shoplifting | • manslaughter |
| • cybercrime | • tax evasion | |

Would you add any other crimes to this list?

2. Are the police in your country effective at enforcing the law and catching criminals?

3. Which of the following forms of punishment are used in your country? What are the pros and cons of each type of punishment?

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| • a fine | • imprisonment | • house arrest | • capital punishment |
| • community service | • corporal punishment | • life sentence | |

4. Here are some ideas concerning prisons from around the world. What do you think of each of them?

Inmates at Brazil prison pedal for electricity- and their freedom. By pedalling the prison's exercise bikes, the inmates charge a battery that's used to power 10 street lamps along the town's riverside promenade. For every three eight-hour days they spend on the bikes, inmates get one day shaved off their sentences.

In some countries it is common practice to use 'creative punishment' whose aim is to make the offender realise the gravity of their misdeeds or experience the same grief as their victim. Examples of creative punishment might be for a drink-driver to spend a day at a morgue looking at victims of drink-driving car accidents or spend a few days working at a hospital, taking care of car accident casualties.

The maximum security prison in Halden, Norway, features a separate chalet-style house where prisoners can receive visits from family members and stay with them for 24 hours. The house has a small kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a living room with a dining table, a sofa and a television, as well as an outside play area with toys.

5. Is a jury present in criminal trials in your country? Do you think the opinion of the jury makes the verdict more objective?
6. Is juvenile delinquency a common problem? What crimes do young people commit? How are they punished?
7. Is the judicial system in your country efficient and can people count on a fair court trial?
8. Do harsher punishments deter crime?
9. Do you think schools in your country do a good job teaching students to be law-abiding?
10. Have you ever witnessed a crime or been to a court of law? Talk about your experience.

