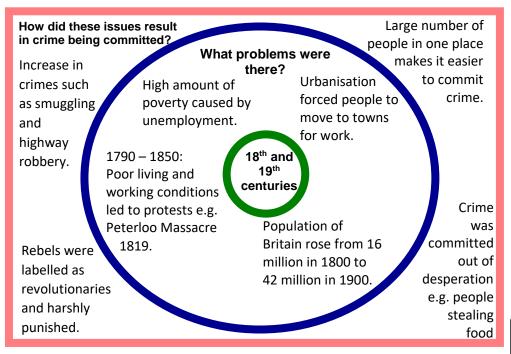
Changes in Crime and Punishment in Britain, c.500 to the present day – 18th and 19th centuries



<u>How was the law enforced during the 18th and 19th centuries? –</u> New industrial towns had to have a new system of law enforcement. The idea gradually developed the policing should become the responsibility of the government, although some people worried that a police force would restrict personal freedom.

Bow Street Runners

- Part-time paid constables who worked for Bow Street Magistrates Court
- The first force to show the government how to deal with crime.
- Developed by the Fielding brothers (Henry and John) from 1748.
- 1805 Horse patrol set up to guard main roads in and out of London.

Metropolitan Police Act 1829

- Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel convinced MPs that an organised police forced was needed in London.
 - First police force to have full-time paid constables.
 - Officers walked a set route called the beat to deter criminals.

Growth of the police across Britain

- Municipal Corporations Act 1835 police established in larger towns.
 - Rural Police Act 1839 police established in more rural areas.
- County and Borough Act 1856 compulsory for police to be established in every county.

Common crimes in this era:

Industrialisation and urbanisation meant people moved from close-knit communities to overcrowded towns with more opportunities for crime. Poor living standards and low wages meant that there was a very real threat of revolution, for example Luddism 1812-13, Swing Riots 1830-1831 and the Rebecca Riots 1839-43.

<u>Smuggling</u>



In the 18th century smuggling made some criminals very rich. They sold goods cheaper than shops or markets.

- Increase in smuggling due to government policies on customs and excise duties.
- Ended because the government reduced duties to make smuggling unprofitable.

Highway robbery



- Became more common in the 18th century as people started to travel more.
- Robbers who attacked pedestrians were called footpads. Mounted highwaymen robbed coaches and riders.
- Some robbers were glamorised e.g. Dick Turpine.
- Highway robbery declined as roads became busier. Also, in 1805 a horse patrol was set up to patrol busy roads.

Changes to prisons

- Imprisonment as a punishment did not exist in the medieval period.
- 1776, transportation was ended. Prison population started to grow. Conditions in prisons were appalling.
- Key individuals such as John Howard and Elizabeth Fry campaigned for prisons to be reformed.
- The Victorians developed the separate and silent system within prisons.

Separate system:



Silent system:

bags.

 Life made as unpleasant as possible for prisoners.

Individual cells to work/pray in.

Wore masks to hide identity

Only allowed out for church services.

Worked making clothes/ sewing mail

- They were allowed to eat and exercise together.
- Prisoners set boring and pointless work e.g. the treadmill.

