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Activity: Research

Alternatives to prison

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- evaluate the effectiveness of non-custodial sentences compared with custodial sentences.

Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 7 that follow.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/youth-detention-centres-abuse-victims-margaret-thatcher-brutal-treatment-eighties-short-sharp-shock-a8166861.html>

1. In which cases are non-custodial sentences found to be an effective alternative to prison?
2. According to the article, why have judges lost faith in community sentences?
3. What is a key advantage of non-custodial sentences?
4. Why is it difficult to measure the performance of public services?
5. What is a further problem of trying to determine sentence effectiveness?
6. For the following crimes, briefly outline the difference in crime reduction brought about by non-custodial sentences as compared with custodial sentences:
 - a) property crime
 - b) violence
 - c) sexual offences
 - d) robbery.
7. Briefly explain what the results of the research suggest.