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Activity: Media

Indeterminate sentences

Learning objective

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

- describe the impact of indeterminate sentences on offenders.

A. Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 18 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldILWJ5BVWM&t=484s>

1. What was the new type of sentencing introduced in 2005?
2. What types of crime was this given out for?
3. What were indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs) supposed to do? When were they scrapped?
4. At the time of the clip, how many prisoners were still serving these sentences?
5. Briefly describe Johnny's case, including how he pleaded and the tariff he was given. How long has he been in prison?
6. What other crimes have people been given IPPs for?
7. What is the cost of keeping IPP prisoners in jail?
8. According to Joel Samuels QC, what would be a better way of ensuring the safety of the public?
9. What sentences are the most dangerous criminals serving?
10. What criticisms are made of parole boards in the way in which they deal with IPP cases? According to Samuels, what are the problems with these cases?
11. What do IPP prisoners have to prove to be released?
12. Briefly describe Michael Hood's case. How long did he serve in prison compared to his original sentence?
13. According to Hood, what can be the effects of IPP sentences on prisoners? Why are they treated differently when they are released?
14. What kinds of conditions are placed on Hood since he has been released?
15. What is Hood's offending history and at what ages? Why does he feel he didn't deserve an IPP?
16. According to Hood, who else suffers when an IPP is given?
17. How long are IPPs on probation when released and how many get recalled?
18. Why didn't Johnny get released?

B. Using evidence from the clip, evaluate whether indeterminate sentences meet their aims. Give specific examples to justify your points.