

Law enforcers

Sheriff - King's agent in each county, received a share of all fines paid, worked closely with coroner and chief constable. Would gather a posse to search for criminals.

Chief constables of the hundred - 2 appointed each year. Ensured every free man between 15-60 was equipped and ready to fight in the king's army.

Parish constable - 1 year appointment. Carry on with full time job. Make sure his parish could supply armed men. From 1363 - Make men practice archery every Sunday.

People - Grouped in to 10 men - Tithings. Victims of crime would call for a hue and cry. People had to chase the criminal.

The courts

Royal court - Tried most serious crimes. Jury came from the criminal's local area. They would use their knowledge of the criminal. Judges would travel to counties to try cases but this was irregular and inefficient.

Quarter assizes - 1293 King Edward orders royal judges from London to visit each county 2 or 3 times a year to try serious crimes in that area.

Justices of the peace (JPs) 1361 - took over court duties from sheriff (Hundred court) Tried non-serious crimes in their county. 3/4 JPs. 1388 - these courts were held 4 times a year - Quarter sessions.

Manor courts - dealt with most local crimes. Including theft and land disputes. Lord ran the court.

Law enforcement in the towns.

Most people lived in the countryside and had the law enforcement mentioned on the first page. The law enforcement was the same in the towns as it was in the countryside with some additions.

Watchmen - 1285 - Patrolled the gates and walls at night. They carried lamps. The arrested suspicious strangers and took them to the constable in the morning. Called the hue and cry if they discovered a crime.

Borough courts - Similar to hundred courts as most men in towns were freemen and had no lord to judge them.

Church courts - Tried crimes and people linked to the church. E.G crime - sex outside of marriage, people - priests.

Punishments

Fines - Manor court → Lord, Borough courts → Town leader, Church courts → Church, Hundred courts/Quarter sessions → King.

Public humiliation - Cucking stool, pillory, publicly confessing sins.

Imprisonment - Not used as punishment for serious crimes - Keep people awaiting trial. Could be used to punish debtors, forgers, people who could not pay their fines.

Death - **Hanging** → rape, murder, theft of goods worth more than 12d, burglary, robbery. **Hanging, drawing and quartering** → high treason, counterfeiting. **Burned alive** → petty treason, heresy. **Local variations on hanging** → thrown off cliffs at Dover.

How to avoid the death penalty

Run, seek sanctuary → Stay in a church or cathedral for 40 days and 40 nights, confess sins to a coroner and then 'abjure the realm.' (Leave England forever.) **Have powerful friends** → They could pressure juries in to letting the accused off. **Refuse to plead** - Would be sent back to gaol until they did, **hope for a friendly jury, buy a pardon** → Buy forgiveness from the king, **join the king's army, pregnancy, benefit of clergy** → Members of the church could not be put on a trial in any court except the church court. The church court did not give out the death penalty. If the accused could read a certain verse from The Bible it would prove they were a priest as only priests could read. **Become a king's approver** - name 10 other men who are guilty of serious crimes.

Medieval (1250 -1500) crime and punishment knowledge organiser

<p><u>Crimes - 1250 - 1500</u></p> <p>1300 - 48 Homicide 18%, Robbery 9.5%, Burglary 24%, Theft 40% Suicide = murder</p> <p>Stealing more than 12d worth of goods could be hanged.</p> <p>Petty crimes - Stealing goods worth less than 12d, debt, limited harm to a person or property.</p> <p>All sudden deaths had to be reported to a coroner. - Gave evidence to the king.</p> <p>Over half of Medieval murders came from arguments. - Usually started by hunger.</p> <p>New crimes 1350 - 1400 Scolding and vagrancy</p>	<p><u>Period overview</u></p> <p>Roman Catholic - People believe in God</p> <p>King = God's representative on earth, had to rely on loyalty to control all England</p> <p>King's people in 3 groups - Clergy (church) Lords and everyone else.</p> <p>Land divided in to counties - Each county given to a lord. Counties divided in to hundreds - Main local govt. Hundreds divided in to manors/parishes.</p> <p>Farming - Most important work. Land divided into strips farmed by peasants.</p> <p>Some war and rebellion - Peasants Revolt 1381, Wars of the Roses, kings fought against Scotland and France.</p> <p>All work done by hand, peasants kept tools close by. Adult men had to keep weapons ready to fight in the army.</p> <p>Peasants are not free to move from their home. Animals are the most valued goods. Kept inside the houses at night.</p> <p>Life set by church calendar. Water was not safe so people drank ale.</p> <p>Feast days - Villages would hold fairs and have big games of football with physical contact.</p>
<p><u>Crimes from the 15th century</u></p> <p>Outlaws - Most feared and despised. Gangs of robbers. Ambushed travellers, robbed houses, threatened to use arson.</p> <p>Most members of the gangs were outlawed because they hadn't turned up to court. Others such as Eustace Folville were not given land by their fathers in his will.</p> <p>Laws would sometimes be passed against gambling and other games - Church saw them as sinful. Church dealt with moral crimes, heresy and spreading false beliefs.</p> <p>1351 Act of Parliament defined treason - Plotting to kill king, counterfeiting, killing husband. Lords created own armies and fought amongst themselves.</p>	<p>1351 Act of Parliament defined treason - Plotting to kill king, counterfeiting, killing husband. Lords created own armies and fought amongst themselves.</p>