

How do we get justice in modern Britain?

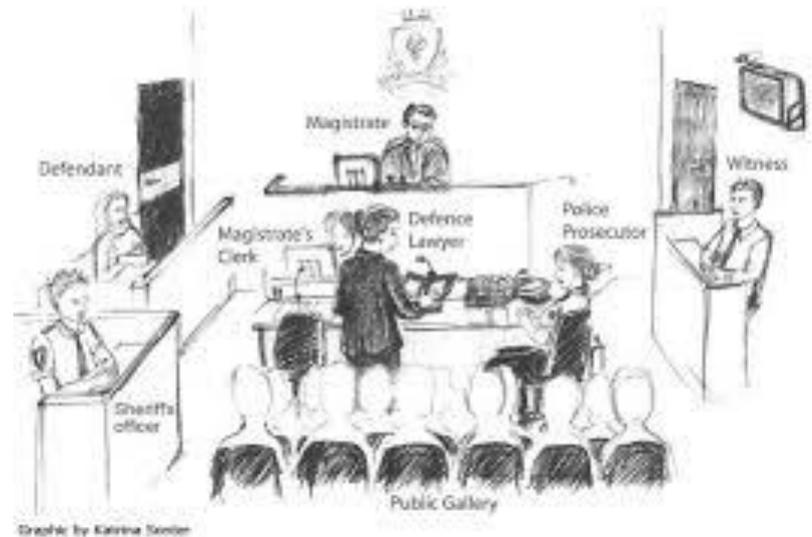
L1: I am aware of the legal system and local courts

Success Criteria

I can explain what the role of a local magistrate is

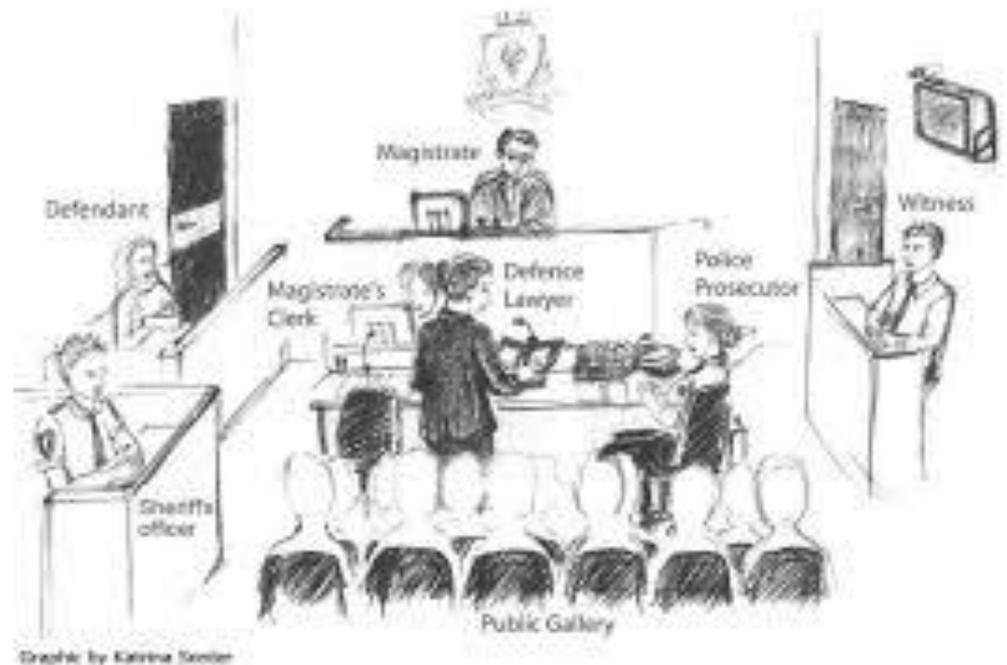
Key vocabulary

- magistrate • court • crime • offence • sentence



Task

Read through information on the next two slides about magistrate court and create a fact file.



Magistrates' courts - what they do

If you have been charged with a crime, the process to decide whether you're guilty or not guilty begins in a magistrates' court.

All criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court

All criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court. Depending on the crime you have been charged with, your case will either:

- start and finish in a magistrates' court
- start in a magistrates' court but finish in a 'higher' court - normally the Crown Court

If you're charged with a serious offence you are either bailed or remanded in custody by the magistrates' court. Your case is sent to the Crown Court straight away.

Magistrates' court - how they work

A magistrates' court has either:

- three magistrates - they don't have formal legal qualifications but are volunteers trained for the role
- a district judge - who is legally trained and normally deals with more complicated cases

A magistrates' court is less formal than a Crown Court - for example, magistrates and judges do not wear gowns or wigs.

There is no jury (members of the public who decide whether you are guilty or not guilty) but the court is open to the public.

Types of cases magistrates' courts deal with

Some offences (known as 'summary offences') are dealt with only by magistrates' courts. These include:

- most motoring offences
- minor theft - like stealing from a shop
- minor 'public order' offences (like being drunk and disorderly)

The maximum punishment for a single summary offence is:

- six months in prison, and/or
- a fine of up to £5,000

You could go to prison for up to 12 months if guilty of more than one offence

Magistrates' courts can deal with more serious crimes, known as 'either way' offences. This means they can be dealt with by either a magistrates' court or a Crown Court. More serious crimes include:

- burglary
- drugs offences
- handling stolen goods

The maximum punishment in a magistrates' court for an either way offence is:

- six months in prison, and/or
- a fine of up to £5,000 (£2,000 in Northern Ireland)

It's possible to get a prison sentence of up to 12 months if you're found guilty of more than one either way offence.

Where are criminals sentenced?

In Britain today if you are put on trial for a crime then you would go to one of two courts:

Magistrates court

Crown court

They deal with different crimes and look very different inside.

How have crime rates changed?

Date	Murder/Manslaughter	Burglary	Theft
1900	312	3812	63,604
1910	291	6499	76,044
1920	313	6863	77,417
1930	300	11,169	110,159
1950	315	29,834	334,222
1960	282	46,591	537,003
1970	393	190,597	952,666
1980	620	294,375	1,463,469
1996	681	1,101,000	2,280,000

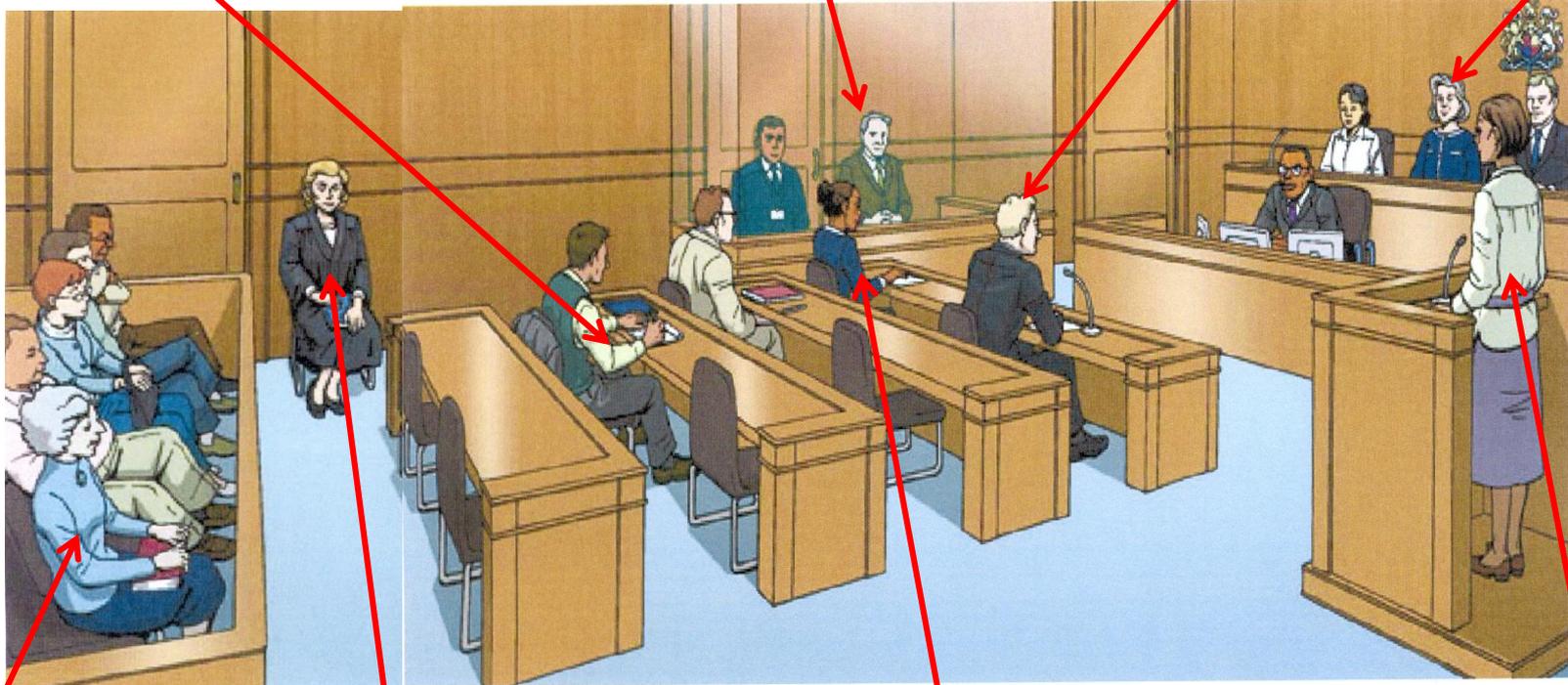
Magistrate court

Newspaper
reporter

Defendant

Prosecution

Magistrates



Member of the
public

Usher

Defence

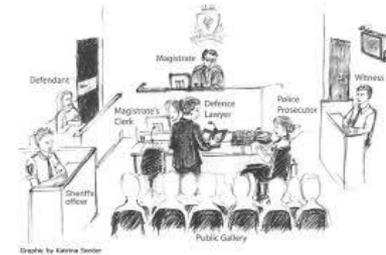
Witness

Create a fact file about Magistrate's court.

Magistrates court

Think about the subheading you could use:

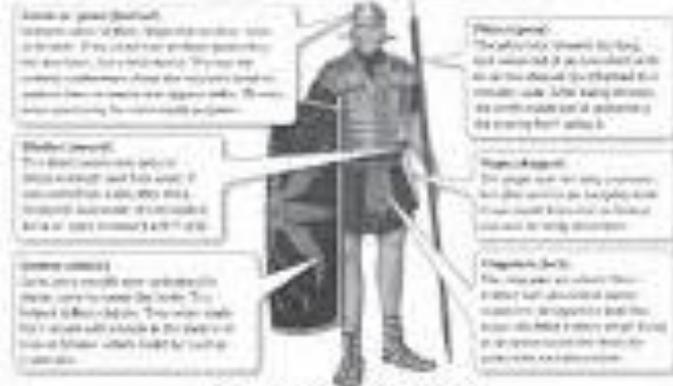
- What crimes are dealt with there
- Who makes the decisions in court
- What punishments can they give criminals



The Roman army

The success of the Roman Empire was largely due to the fact that every soldier in the army was made up of professional soldiers who were fit, well equipped with weapons and provisions, and trained in military tactics.

Magistrate's Court
A court where a magistrate sits. A judge who hears cases of criminal offences in the Magistrate's Court. The Magistrate's Court is the lowest level of the court system. The Magistrate's Court is the lowest level of the court system. The Magistrate's Court is the lowest level of the court system.



Other weapons and tactics

Gladius
The gladius was a short sword used by Roman legionaries. It was a double-edged sword, typically 45-60 cm long. It was used for close combat and was the primary weapon of the Roman legionary.

Pilum
The pilum was a javelin used by Roman legionaries. It was a long, thin spearhead with a long shaft. It was used for throwing and was the primary weapon of the Roman legionary.

Scutum
The scutum was a large, rectangular shield used by Roman legionaries. It was made of wood and covered in metal plates. It was used for protection in battle and was the primary shield of the Roman legionary.

Example of fact file layout
(on a different topic so
please do not copy).

