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| Module code  | JP | NQF level      | 4       |
| Credit value | 15 | Study duration | 9 weeks |

# Justice and Punishment

## This module aims to:

- Define 'justice' and 'punishment'
- Explain the historical development of the penal system
- Explore the purposes of punishment
- Examine and compare the different philosophies and approaches to justice and punishment
- Critically analyse abolitionist movements
- Compare the various sentencing options available in England and Wales today
- Consider the impact of human rights legislation on sentencing and prison condition

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- explain definitions of justice and punishment
- understand the development of the English penal system
- understand the purposes of sentences and the philosophies and theory behind this
- evaluate the effectiveness of punishment
- compare the different practical types of punishment in use today
- evaluate the contribution of international instruments such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners on penal reform

## Syllabus

- Introduction What do we mean by 'justice' and 'punishment'?
- Historical development of the penal system and punishments: movement from holding of prisoners prior to disposal; transportation and corporal/capital punishment; John Howard and Elizabeth Fry, enlightenment philosophy; Jeremy Bentham; evolution of prisons from private to state at same time as prisons moving from open and accessible to closed and hidden from public view
- Human rights: impact on sentencing and imprisonment (including international instruments)
- Philosophies of punishment: why do we punish? Models of punishment: retribution, rehabilitation, reparation
- Legislation and policy; impact on sentencing practices
- Sentencing options available in England and Wales: discharges, fines, community orders, imprisonment (suspended – imposed), early release, licence, curfew
- Effectiveness of punishment: statistics, rehabilitation, does prison 'work'? Treatment and training; recidivism
- Pains of imprisonment: human rights, penal crisis – legitimacy, abolitionist movements
- Penal reform – transnational frameworks; how has / will globalisation of crime affect imprisonment and sentences?

## Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The live lectures will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/ web-based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors. At pre-arranged and regularly agreed points, on specified days and times in advance of each lecture (typically two to three days prior to the lecture) there will be a 'drop in' telephone/or online preparatory learning liaison session conducted between the student(s) and tutor, typically lasting for 20 to 30 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide students with an introductory preview of the week's work and give them an opportunity to ask specific and general questions related to that week's learning opportunities and to enable them to contextualise their learning experience. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given weekly direction on required and indicative reading.

| Description of unit of assessment | Length/Duration  | Submission date   | Weighting |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Discussion contributions          | Fortnight        | Unit 2 and Unit 3 | 10%       |
| Mid-module assignment             | 2,000 words      | Unit 6            | 40%       |
| Journal entries                   | 500 words (each) | Unit 4 and Unit 8 | 10%       |
| End of module project             | 2,000 words      | Unit 9            | 40%       |