**Scottish Sentencing Council Teaching Resources**

**Teacher Guide**

Higher Modern Studies

Social Issues: Crime and the Law

[www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk)

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These resources can be used for the Crime and the Law unit when teaching about the impact of crime. Pupils will already have covered the causes of crime but not the penal system.

**Victims of Crime PowerPoint**

Show the video on the link on the PowerPoint:

<https://www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk/about-sentencing/videos/victims-of-crime/>

**Ask pupils to consider the questions:**

In what ways does the victim get involved in the criminal proceedings?

This can include giving evidence in a trial where an offender pleads not guilty; providing a victim statement to the court; joining a victim notification scheme; having the right to know the reasons a sentence is given.

**Use the slide *Deciding a sentence* to generate a discussion around the questions**

What factors can a judge take into account when deciding a sentence?

These can include the seriousness of the offence including the harm caused to a victim; whether the offence was pre-planned; the offender’s circumstances including whether they can pay a fine; whether the offender has previous convictions; what sentence might change an offender’s behavior to stop offending, the concerns of the wider community.

Which of the factors from the video might make a sentence more severe?

This can include the fact that the offender used a knife making the robbery more serious, and the offender has robbed before.

Which of the factors from the video might make a sentence less severe?

This can include the fact that the offender pled guilty, and the offender was sorry for the harm he caused.

Describe some of the sentencing options in Scotland and what they can involve

These can include a fine; compensation order (paid through the court); Community Payback Order (this can involve unpaid work, supervision with a social worker, treatment for addictions. If the CPO is breached offenders can be sent to prison); prison/detention (for the most serious offences / offenders can spend some of the time in the community on parole which can include wearing an electronic tag).

**Active Learning:** The video showed one example of a crime. Ask pupils to consider many different crimes and the different impact these crimes may have on a victim. Pupils participate in a walk round in small groups. Four large pieces of paper with one heading are placed around the room. Pupils are given a few minutes at each paper to write down the impact crime can have on victims. The four headings are:

Mental health; Lifestyle; Physical health; Financial impact

Further research: Pupils go to the Victim Support Scotland website for further examples of the impact crime can have on a victim.

https://www.victimsupportsco.org.uk/

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