

2 VOCABULARY Crime and justice

a Complete the text with the words in the box.

assault community controlled convicted life
~~possession~~ psychiatric sentence served solitary

Our reactions to crime are very personal, depending on our social situation and our upbringing, according to a recent report from Swedish psychologists. Most people consider non-violent crimes, such as ¹ possession of a ² _____ substance, to be minor compared with crimes which involve injury to people, such as violent ³ _____. Views on punishment are also changing, with the majority now seeing ⁴ _____ service as the most beneficial punishment for both the offender and the victims. Increasingly, it is felt that punishments like being held in ⁵ _____ confinement or being sentenced to ⁶ _____ imprisonment are less appropriate, with ⁷ _____ help being seen as necessary to rehabilitate criminals. It was also felt that those ⁸ _____ of certain crimes should have it removed from their record when the ⁹ _____ has been ¹⁰ _____, or at least soon after.

b Underline the correct words to complete the conversation.

A People commit all types of crime today. How do you think we should deal with these offenders?

B Well, it depends on the crime and the person who has been found ¹ *wrong* / guilty of the crime.

A What about someone who has been ² *punished* / *sentenced* to life imprisonment? Should they ³ *deliver* / *serve* the full sentence?

B In my opinion, a ⁴ *cut* / *reduced* sentence for good behaviour should be a possibility. Such offenders need to receive one-to-one ⁵ *counselling* / *punishment*.

A Do you think offenders need to be brought face-to-face with their ⁶ *crimes* / *victims*?

B Yes, I'd agree that in certain situations a meeting could help both the victim and the offender.