

Module 2 – The study of crime

Student:

How do you think justice was handled in different societies in the past?

The Study of Crime

Criminology is based on the ideas of some thinkers and philosophers. They asked how we can live in society and thought it was only possible thanks to a construction we all live in called “social contract”. That is, we limit some of our freedom in order to live peacefully in society. If someone breaks the social contract, society makes them pay through punishments or limitations. There are many types of criminals like burglars, robbers, identity thieves, bank robbers, shoplifters, pickpockets, kidnappers and society has made laws to punish all these people. Nowadays the solution is taking away a person's freedom, or in more serious cases, the death penalty.

Retrieved from: <http://sociology.iresearchnet.com/sociology-of-crime-criminology/>

Value: Human rights

Punishments in the Past.

After the conquest, much information was lost about what life was like before the arrival of the Spaniards. However, thanks to some texts such as “The Chronicles of the Indies”, we know that the Inca Empire had rules that regulated the conduct of people and actions considered criminal. These norms established punishments according to the seriousness of the crime and the social class of the person who had committed the crime. Historians affirm that the Incas had extremely hard and cruel rules, some qualified as draconian. For example, the “Vinpillai”, or punishment of adultery, consisted of stoning the culprit to death.

Retrieved from: <https://revistas.juridicas.unam.mx/index.php/historia-derecho/article/view/10207/12233> and <https://es.scribd.com/document/323899462/La-Justicia-Incaica>

Read and choose the correct type of criminal.

A person who steals from a store is a ...	
A person who enters a home or building to steal is a ...	
A person who takes the name of another person is an ...	
A person who takes the money from the bank is a ...	
A person who takes a person until someone pays to get them back is a ...	
A person who steals things from purses or bags is a ...	
A person who takes the ideas of another person without giving them credit is a ...	
A person who sells illegal substances is a ...	