

Justice for the unjust

When someone has been **convicted** of committing a crime, they face time in prison. Obviously, the loss of their freedom is punishment for their crimes, and many believe that this should be severe enough to make sure people do not break the law again. Others believe the time spent in prison should be used constructively by helping to prepare prisoners to function in the outside world and preventing them from committing more crimes when they are **released**.



In many prisons, **inmates** are required to perform tasks that help the prison run, for example doing laundry, cooking or cleaning. But alongside these duties prisoners are often taught skills such as metalwork or carpentry. These are coupled with **counseling** sessions which aim to change the prisoners' point of view. Skills are taught in the hope that, on release from prison, offenders may find it easier to find employment and be prevented from returning to a life of crime.

Although this may seem like a good idea, there are many who oppose such schemes. They resent their taxes being spent helping criminals and see these **schemes** as "soft". Some even go so far as to describe prisons as a "vacation camp." They also doubt the effectiveness of these schemes.

It may be true that ex-prisoners find it difficult to find work because people simply do not want to employ someone with a criminal record. Nonetheless, there have been success stories. Some **former** inmates have gone on to lead community projects that help prevent crime and others have used their skills to help the poor and underprivileged.

A. Do you know the meaning of all the words highlighted in the text? Read the article and write each of the words in **yellow** next to their definition.

Plan or arrangement for attaining something or putting an idea into effect. _____

A person confined to an institution such as a prison or hospital. _____

Having previously been a particular thing. _____

Declared guilty of a criminal offence by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge. _____

Giving professional help and advice to someone. _____

Set free. _____

B. Read the article again and choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main purpose of this article?

To examine two different prison systems

To discuss a controversial feature of prison system.

To criticize the prison system.

To recommend the best jobs for prisoners.

2. Why do some people believe that being in prison should be severe enough for offenders?

To take revenge of prisoners' crimes.

To make prisoners go through the same as their victims.

To make sure prisoners do not break the law again.

To make prisoners' lives miserable.

3. Why is it considered beneficial for prisoners to spend their time constructively?

So that they learn the meaning of hard work.

To prevent them from having spare time.

To ensure that they do not return to a life of crime.

To allow them to pursue hobbies.

4. What is the aim of having prisoners do chores in prison?

It makes them regret their crime.

It keeps them busy.

It teaches them team work.

It helps keep the prison running.

5. What advantage does a prisoner who acquires a skill in prison have?

Better chances of finding employment on release.

Extra privileges while in prison.

Extra incomes while in prison.

The ability to see things from a different point of view.

6. What is most likely to happen when an ex-prisoner looks for a job?

Employers hire him/her immediately due to the skills they got.

Employers do not hire them due to their criminal record.

The government gives them an internship.

The government hires them.

7. Why do some people oppose teaching prisoners' skills?

They think it makes prisoners weak.

They believe other schemes would prove more effective.

They think it will increase their taxes.

They don't want their tax money spent this way.