49 The justice system

A A police investigation

A crime is **reported** to the police, usually by the **victim.**

The police **investigate** it. The victim and **witnesses** tell the police what they know.

The police look for **evidence** and take photos where the crime **took place.**

If possible, they **catch** the person **responsible for** the crime and **arrest** him/her.

If they think they have **proof** this person committed the crime, they will **charge** them.

This person will then go to **court.**

GLOSSARY

report	give information about sth that has happened
victim	a person who has been robbed, injured, killed, etc.
investigate	try to find out about sth **investigation** *n*
witness	a person who sees sth happen, e.g. a crime or an accident
take place	happen
catch *pt/pp* **caught**	find and hold sb
responsible (for sth)	being the person who made sth happen
arrest	When the police **arrest** sb, they take them to a police station to question them about a crime.
charge	If the police **charge** sb, they are saying officially that they believe this person committed a crime: *He was **charged with** murder.*
court	the place where *trials* (see part B) happen and crimes are judged

SPOTLIGHT *evidence and proof*

Evidence [U] can be facts, signs or objects that make you think something is true. **Proof** [U] is something that shows that an idea about a crime, an event, etc. is true. **prove** *v.*

- *The police collected **evidence** so they could **prove** the man was guilty.*

1 Answer the questions. Some questions have more than one answer.

▶ Who is caught? The person that the police believe may be responsible for the crime.

1 Who takes photos? .....
2 Who is charged? .....
3 Who investigates the crime? .....
4 Who is affected by the crime? .....
5 Who sees the crime take place? .....
6 Who usually reports the crime? .....
7 Who is arrested? .....
8 Who goes to court? .....

2 Circle the correct answer.

When a robbery has ▶ *taken place / reported*, someone will **(1)** *investigate / report* it to the police. **(2)** *Victims / Witnesses* will then tell the police what happened to them, so that the police can begin to **(3)** *investigate / charge* the crime. They may take photos where the robbery **(4)** *took place / caught*. If possible, they will **(5)** *report / arrest* the person who they think is responsible. If they get enough **(6)** *evidence / victims*, they will **(7)** *catch / charge* the person, and he/she will have to go to **(8)** *court / the police station*.

3 Complete the sentences.

▶ A group of young people have been arrested for several crimes in the area.

1 I saw the robbery and ..... it to the police.
2 The police think he committed the crime, but unfortunately they can't ..... it.
3 Two men were ..... with robbery.
4 The police ..... the man leaving the shop. He had over £1,000 on him, so they ..... him immediately and took him to the police station for questioning.
5 The police carried out a very detailed ..... to find the people responsible.
6 They are looking for ..... who saw what happened.
7 One problem is that ..... often suffer for a long time after a crime has ..... place.
8 They charged the woman with the crime and she will appear in ..... on Monday.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B In court

In Britain, serious crimes such as robbery and murder, are **tried** in **court** by a **judge** and **jury**. The **purpose of the trial** is to **examine** the evidence and **determine whether** somebody is **innocent** or **guilty** of the crime that they have been charged with. That is the jury's decision. If the person is guilty, the judge will then decide the correct **punishment** for the crime.



GLOSSARY	
try	ask sb questions in court to decide if they have done sth illegal
purpose (of sth)	the aim or intention of sth
trial	the process in a court of law where a judge, and often a jury, listens to the evidence and decides if sb is guilty of a crime or not
examine	look carefully at sth/sb **examination** *n*
determine	discover the facts about sth
innocent	If you are **innocent,** you haven't done anything wrong. OPP **guilty**
punishment	what sb must suffer for doing sth wrong, e.g. go to prison **punish** *v*

SPOTLIGHT *whether (... or not)*

1 We use **whether** to talk about choosing between two things:
*I don't know **whether** to go **or not**.*
*I don't know **whether** to buy that suit **or not**.*
2 **Whether** can also mean **if**:
*She asked me **whether** I was Spanish.*

4 True or false about British courts? Write *T* or *F*. Correct the false sentences.

▶ A trial decides that somebody is guilty. F – A trial decides whether somebody is innocent or guilty.
1 Trials take place in a court. _____
2 A trial looks at all the evidence. _____
3 A judge determines whether the person is guilty or not. _____
4 The jury must listen to all the evidence. _____
5 If the person is innocent, they will go to prison. _____
6 The jury decides the punishment. _____

5 Put the sentences in the correct order.

a The jury decided that the person was guilty. ☐
b The police charged this person. ☐
c Somebody committed a crime. 1
d The person went to court. ☐
e The police arrested somebody. ☐
f The jury listened to the evidence. ☐
g The police investigated the crime. ☐
h The victim reported the crime. ☐
i The judge decided on the punishment. ☐

6 Complete the sentences.

▶ The person on trial may be guilty or innocent.
1 I sat in _____ for three days while a man was being _____ for the crime.
2 If you are guilty of a crime, the _____ could be years in prison.
3 The police _____ all the evidence they had.
4 A _____ has to tell the court what they saw or know about the crime.
5 We had to decide _____ to believe the witness or not.
6 The _____ have to _____ whether the person is innocent or _____.
7 The _____ of the investigation was to find who was responsible for the murder.
8 The _____ lasted for six days, and at the end, the _____ sent the woman to prison for two years.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS