

Criminal Justice System

Teacher 's notes

Summary: This worksheet practices the skill of preparing and delivering a short presentation.

Preparation:

Prepare a transparency with the structure of the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales which was taken from a UK Home Office report.

Procedure:

1. Ask Sts to make notes while they are listening to the teacher's presentation.
2. Read the following presentation.

Can everyone see? Well, good morning ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming. Before we start, I'd like to introduce myself.

My name is..... and I am the(position) of(agency/ unit).

I'm here today to talk about the structure of the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales.

I'm going to look at three main areas.

First, I'll talk about the Home Office.

After that I will describe the responsibilities of the Lord Chancellor's Department.

And finally, I will move to the Attorney General's Office.

My presentation will take around minutes. There will be time for questions at the end.

As you can see from the diagram, the English Criminal Justice System is very complicated. It consists of three elements. The Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Department and Attorney General's Office are the three main government departments with responsibility for the CJS, providing the policy framework, objectives and targets, funding development and support functions.

First of all, I'd like to talk about the Home Office, which is the equivalent of the Ministry of the Interior in many other countries, deals with matters relating to criminal law, the police, prisons and probation. The Home Secretary also has general responsibility for internal security. The police service is organised into 43 local forces which are overseen by Local Police Authorities. These bodies are responsible to the local authorities and the Home Office. The Home Office is also in charge of various prison institutions ranging from open prisons to high security establishments.

Secondly, I'd like to look at the Lord Chancellor's Department which deals with matters relating to the judiciary and administers the Higher Courts by means of the Court Service. The Lord Chancellor is the head of the Judiciary. Magistrates' Courts are administered through local Committees within a national framework set by the LCD. Crown Courts hear major criminal cases, where the defendant is tried by a judge and jury. The Magistrates' Courts hear cases of petty crime, such as domestic violence and traffic offences. Magistrates are unpaid officials who have no legal qualifications.

Finally, moving to the Attorney General's Office. This body supervises the Crown Prosecution Service, which is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases. It is headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the CPS decides whether to prosecute a case or not.

In conclusion, I'd like to highlight the fact that there are three main bodies which control the Criminal Justice System: the Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Department and Attorney General's Office. Right, I think that's everything. Let me finish by thanking you very much for your attention. And now, if you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

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3. Check the Sts' notes.
4. Distribute gapped copies of the presentation and ask Sts to fill them in while listening to the presentation for the second time.
5. Check the answers.
6. Depending on how much time you have and what your Sts know about the topic, either ask them to prepare similar presentations on their CJS in class, or assign it as homework. It would be a good idea to encourage the Ss to give the presentation using only notes prepared from a script.

Optional exercise:

You may ask your Ss to prepare a similar presentation on CJS of other countries.

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Figure 2.1: The structure of the Criminal Justice System

