

Unit 5: The Role of the NI Justice System SEN (Inclusion)



Lesson 1: Types of sentencing

This lesson requires pupils to explore the different types of sentencing in place for those who commit a crime. They will identify the advantages and disadvantages of different sentencing types. It is important to understand your class and be sensitive to the fact that some of this might impact on individuals personally.

Planning	
Prior Learning	<p>Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what justice is; • what lawfulness is; and • what the Northern Ireland justice system is.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify different types of sentencing that people can face; • identify advantages and disadvantages of the different types of sentencing; and • make decisions for themselves on what they consider fair or harsh sentencing, considering multiple factors.
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus	<p>Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following:</p> <p>Working with Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respect the views and opinions of others and reach agreements using negotiation and compromise; <p>Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make and justify decisions; • offer solutions and weigh up options; and • examine options and weigh up pros and cons.
Attitudes and Dispositions	<p>Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • openness to new ideas; • concern for others; and • personal responsibility.
Resources	<p>Transcript of animation The Role of the Northern Ireland Justice System Unit 5: Lesson 1 Resource A – Types of sentencing (match the terms to the definitions) Unit 5: Lesson 1 Resource B – Understanding sentencing Unit 5: Lesson 1 Resource C – Advantages and disadvantages of different types of sentencing Online activity: You be the judge Flipchart paper, Blu Tak.</p>

Unit 5: The Role of the NI Justice System SEN (Inclusion)



Active Citizenship

Suggested Teaching and Learning Strategies

Launch

Lead a class discussion, using prompt questions and effective questioning techniques:

1. **What is the role of the Northern Ireland justice system?**
2. **Who has the right to sentence people?**
3. **What is the role of a jury?**
4. **Can a sentence be revoked or overturned?**
5. **How many different types of sentencing can you come up with?**

You may now wish to show the transcript of the animation *The Role of the Northern Ireland Justice System*.

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. *To protect the people of Northern Ireland and ensure that when someone has committed a crime they are dealt with fairly.*
2. *A judge.*
3. *To hear both sides of the arguments and decide whether the evidence proves that the accused is guilty or not guilty.*
4. *Yes, there is the possibility to appeal a sentence up to three times if new evidence is brought to light.*
5. *Jail time or a custodial sentence; community service; electronic tagging.*

Unit 5: The Role of the NI Justice System SEN (Inclusion)



Activities

Activity 1: Sentencing

- Before the activity, cut out the cards from **Resource A – Types of sentencing**, mix them up and place in envelopes. Make sure you have enough envelopes for each group.
- Explain to the pupils that there are many different types of sentencing for crimes committed.
- Ask your pupils to work in groups of three or four. Give each group an envelope containing the set of cards.
- Invite the groups to match the words to the definitions; explain key terms, where necessary.

Answers:

Custodial: F. A sentence given by the court imposing legal custody of the offender, either in prison or in some other closed institution, for example psychiatry, reformatory or drug detoxification.

Non-custodial: E. A sentence given by the court that does not involve a prison term or other closed institution.

Prison: G. A building in which people are legally held as punishment for their crime.

Fines: B. Amounts of money that have to be paid as punishment for a crime or other offence.

Community service: C. Unpaid work intended to help the community, such as graffiti removal or litter picking.

Electronic tagging: D. Attaching monitors to the offender to allow them to be tracked.

Anti-social behaviour order: A. An order obtained from the courts by local authorities to restrict a person's behaviour that might cause distress to the local community.

- Show the class **Resource B – Understanding sentencing** and explain that they will be focusing on these five types of sentencing: prison, fines, community service, anti-social behaviour orders and electronic tagging.

Activity 2: Categorising the different types of sentencing

Prepare for this lesson by:

- writing one of these five categories at the top of a flipchart sheet: *Prison, Fines, Community Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders* and *Electronic Tagging* and displaying each sheet around the classroom; and
- making copies of the six statements in **Resource C – Advantages and disadvantages**, cutting them out and handing them out randomly to the pupils.
- Ask your pupils to form pairs to decide what category they think each statement relates to and then stick the statement onto the relevant sheet.
- Check that the statements are on the correct sheets.

Unit 5: The Role of the NI Justice System SEN (Inclusion)



Activity 3: Advantages and disadvantages of different types of sentencing

- Divide the class into five groups. Give each group one of the flipchart sheets.
- Give each group an **Advantage** and **Disadvantage** label from **Resource C**.
- Ask them to place one at the top and the other half-way down the sheet.
- In their groups, ask them to separate the statements into **Advantages** and **Disadvantages**.
- Each group can present their category or put them back on the wall for the class to see.
- Discuss the pupils' answers as a class.

Activity 4: You be the judge (online activity)

- Introduce the online activity [You be the judge](http://www.ybtj.justice.gov.uk) available at www.ybtj.justice.gov.uk
- Explain to your class that they will be presented with a range of different criminal case studies. They must use their knowledge of different types of sentencing to decide what they believe to be the correct form of punishment and justify their choices.
- Choose one of the criminal case study videos to play to the class.
- After watching the video, discuss the question posed before watching the next video.
- Before the last video, ask the class to vote on their chosen final sentence from the options given.
- Encourage the class to discuss their choices.
- Select the sentence the class voted for and display the results and final video.

Debrief

- Use this whole-class activity to encourage pupils to discuss their learning and identify their understanding of judicial procedures.
- Ask them to record one thing they have learned about sentencing that they didn't previously know.
- As a class, discuss the different points raised.

The Role of the NI Justice System

Active Citizenship



Unit 5: Lesson 1 Resource A

Types of sentencing (Match the terms to the definitions)

1. Custodial

2. Non-custodial

3. Prison

4. Fines

5. Community service

6. Electronic tagging

7. Anti-social
behaviour order

A. An order obtained from the courts by local authorities to restrict a person's behaviour that might cause distress to the local community

B. Amounts of money that have to be paid as punishment for a crime or other offence

C. Unpaid work intended to help the community, such as graffiti removal or litter picking

D. The attaching of monitors to the offender to allow them to be tracked

E. A sentence given by the court that does not involve a prison term or other closed institution

F. A sentence given by the court imposing legal custody of the offender, either in prison or in some other closed institution, for example psychiatry, reformatory or drug detoxification

G. A building in which people are legally held as punishment for their crime

Unit 5: The Role of the NI Justice System SEN (Inclusion)

Active Citizenship



Unit 5 Lesson 1 Resource B Understanding sentencing

<https://ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/active-citizenship/role-ni-justice-system>

Prison



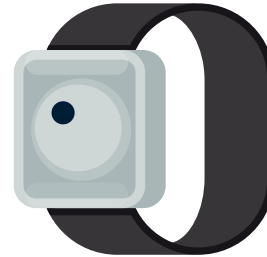
Fines



Community Service



electronic tagging



Anti-social behaviour orders




Unit 5: The Role of the NI Justice System SEN (Inclusion)

Active Citizenship



Unit 5: Lesson 1 Resource C

Advantages and disadvantages of different types of sentencing



ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Not normally used for minor crimes, unless the person has previous convictions.	Some offenders may spend the rest of their lives behind bars.
Removes the offender from society.	People have wrongfully been put behind bars for years before being released; these years cannot be given back.
Removes the threat to the community, especially in the case of murder and rape cases.	The person who committed the crime is not the only one to be punished; for example, their children will grow up without a parental figure.

Prison