

Anglo-Saxon Vs Modern British Justice System Case Studies



Read through each case study. Look at the group you are in (Anglo-Saxon people; modern British people; or Jury) and think about what you need to say to persuade the people in the other groups to agree with you.

Case Study One

A man has killed a woman because he was angry. What should we do?

Anglo-Saxon People

The man should pay a wergild fine of 200 shillings to the woman's family and then be free to go.

Talk about reasons why you think this should happen to this man.

Modern British People

The man should go to prison for 25 years.

Talk about the reasons why you think this would be the best punishment for this man.

Jury

Think about and listen to both arguments.

Which option do you think should happen? Why?

Case Study Two

A child has stolen a sheep. What should we do?

Anglo-Saxon People

The child should have his hand chopped off.

Talk about the reasons why you think this should happen to the child.

Modern British People

The child should be given a warning by the police not to do it again.

Talk about the reasons why this is the best thing to do to stop the child from stealing again.

Jury

Think about and listen to both arguments.

Which option do you think should happen? Why?

Case Study Three

A woman has been accused of being a witch. People say that she has cursed her village with an illness, as she is the only person not to fall ill. What shall we do?

Anglo-Saxon People

The woman should do a trial by ordeal, by being tied and thrown into a lake. If she sinks to the bottom, she is innocent. If she floats, she is guilty and will be killed.

Talk about the reasons why this should happen to this woman.

Modern British People

There is no evidence. She should be free to go.
Talk about the reasons why this should happen to this woman.

Jury

Think about and listen to both arguments.
Which option do you think should happen? Why?

Case Study Four

A child is naughty at the local market and upsets his mother. What should we do?

Anglo-Saxon People

The child should be whipped.

Talk about the reasons why this should happen to this child.

Modern British People

The child should be spoken to sternly by his mother and they should talk about why he should not behave like that.

Talk about the reasons why this should happen to this child.

Jury

Think about and listen to both arguments.
Which option do you think should happen? Why?