

**“Crime is a more serious issue now than it has ever been. Despite government assurances, not enough is being done to address this problem.” To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give examples in your answer.**

<p>There is no doubt that crime is a serious problem in twenty first century Britain. Prisons are overcrowded, and numerous surveys inform us that we feel less safe and secure now than we have ever been. The rural villagers who would once have left their doors unlocked now barricade their properties and install expensive security systems. Clearly, things are not as they were.</p>	<p>A concise, logical introduction which immediately gets to grips with what the question is asking for. Good.</p>
<p>In the Newbury area alone, in the first three months of 2005, over 3,00 crimes were committed. These ranged from petty burglary and vehicle theft to violence, criminal damage, and murder. What appears to be a shift in morality over the past 100 years (people’s standards are not what they used to be) must have contributed to this crime rate. A society of top hats, where people dressed for dinner, has given way to the baseball cap, hoody culture. Alas, crime is becoming an increasingly integral part of life.</p>	<p>Society is changing. Culture is changing. Some interesting points, backed up with hard and fast statistics. I like the phrase “a shift in morality”. This ties in well with the question, which infers that society is changing</p>
<p>So, people’s perceptions of what is accepted and what isn’t, are changing. A recent survey, reported widely in the national press, said that the British were now less likely than ever before to challenge young people who were behaving antisocially. Have we now gone so far as to respect other people’s standpoints to such an extent that we are unprepared to challenge them, even when we know that they are doing wrong? Or are we simply too afraid of possible consequences to have the guts to stand up for our convictions? What has society come to, when the innocent householder defending his property can be taken to court if he attacks an intruder?</p>	<p>Lots of questions, encouraging the reader to question his own opinions. I think it is developing the idea of “shift in morality”, and what you say is well-written, but a little laboured. A slightly waffley linking paragraph, perhaps?</p>
<p>The fact that there are more people alive now than have ever lived in the past must suggest, by the law of averages, that there will be a greater proportion of criminals than there have ever been. Because the overcrowding of our prisons has become headline news, we are now perhaps all the more aware of this pressing issue, because it is being publicised so much.</p>	<p>Good – again, answering the question directly, and bringing in what’s in the news. You’re using your wider knowledge to make your point. Well done.</p>
<p>The government has long promised to act. Up to date technology is being used to tackle all types of new crimes (e.g. internet credit card fraud). This must be working, as more and more people are being arrested. The difficulty is, what to do with them.</p>	<p>Another linking paragraph. This time, shorter and more to the point – better. Referring to the government – i.e. tying back to the question.</p>

<p>Sending prisoners to prison does indeed serve as a form of retribution for the crimes that they have committed. It also protects the public from many dangerous characters. However, whilst the theory of prison is meant to encompass reformation of the convict, is this really taking place? Surely, prisoners are all too often being given the opportunity to learn new tricks and skills from their fellow inmates, so that they will be even more successful criminals upon their release? The fact that some prisons are resorting to paying the inmates to play table tennis or scrabble, in order to force some kind of calming influence on them, is surely a ludicrous way to try to prevent crime in the future? What has society come to?</p>	<p>Purpose of punishment explored – well done. Then a critique of the prison system, lamenting what it has come to. You use wide knowledge to back yourself up, and make your point well.</p>
<p>These are not the only “crime prevention measures” which take place. Efforts are being made to prevent criminals from re-offending, and discourage non-criminals from committing offences in the first place. Prisons have complicated psychiatric support units, assisting inmates who are often vulnerable and disturbed, and encouraging them to see the error of their ways. In addition, through charities such as NACRO, ex-prisoners are given help to settle back into society, and a number of companies offer employment for such men and women, in order that they might have the immediate option of earning an honest wage. Organisations such as Crimestoppers regularly publicise many atrocious crimes which have been committed, and much is being done to try to persuade the public as a whole that crime doesn’t pay.</p>	<p>A knowledge of wider crime-prevention measures taking place is important – the question asks you for it. You give specific examples and explain how each one adds to your own argument. Good.</p>
<p>However, I am not convinced. Yes, of course efforts are being made, but it is a natural human instinct to wish to “stretch the boundaries”. Thousands of years ago, Adam and Eve succumbed to temptation and committed the first sin in the Bible. Some criminals have grown up with troubled backgrounds, others commit crimes because they are desperate, but the worrying fact is that more and more people are attempting to break the law, and not get caught – and it’s human instinct to be susceptible to temptation. The fact that police are arresting more men and women than ever before shows that the problem of crime is a real one, and must prove that not enough is being done to deter people from falling into bad habits. Surely, something must be done soon, before it is too late?</p>	<p>Conclusion. You refer to the question, refer to your arguments, and tie your points to a close. You bring in the Bible (Adam and Eve) and talk about human instinct – a good twist at the end. A logical conclusion, making your point well.</p>
<p><b>18/25</b> A well written essay. Rather long, though! You make an attempt to address precisely what the question asks you, and bring in a wide range of specific facts to back yourself up. You refer to current affairs, the prison system, other crime prevention organisations and the Bible. This breadth of knowledge will impress the person marking your work. Apart from a slightly waffley third paragraph, it all hangs together well, and reads fluently. Could you say a little more about the types of crime being committed?</p>	