

2) Give each paragraph a title

1) Highlight the most important information

3) Summarise the paragraph into 3 key points

THE EAST END OF LONDON IN THE LATE 19th CENTURY

In the last decade of the nineteenth century London's population expanded to four million, which spurred a high demand for cheap housing in areas that became known as **slums**. These were very similar to the rookeries of the previous century. The East End of London was one of these areas. They became notorious for overcrowding, unsanitary and squalid living conditions.

Many poor families lived crammed in accommodation **without sanitation and proper ventilation**. There were also over 200 common lodging houses which provided shelter for some 8000 homeless and destitute people per night. In the last decades of the nineteenth century the East End of London was inhabited predominantly by the **working classes**, including the native English population, Irish immigrants and immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe, mostly poor Russian, Polish and German Jews. Most of these groups lived in real poverty

Whitechapel was the area at the heart of the East End. In the mid eighteenth century it had been a relatively prosperous district, but by the second half of the nineteenth century it was overcrowded and notorious for crime. The term '**criminal classes**' was used to describe many of the people of the East End - used to suggest a social group stuck at the bottom of society. Most offenders were young males and most offences were petty thefts, drunkenness and vagrancy. The most common offences committed by women were linked to prostitution and soliciting. Whitechapel was the venue of murders committed in the late 1880s on several women by the anonymous serial killer, called **Jack the Ripper**. The national press, which reported the Whitechapel murders in great detail, also revealed to the reading public the appalling deprivation and dire poverty of the East London slum dwellers.

Historic environments such as the East End of London were very **significant** in the history of crime and punishment. The criminal activity in the area was a **major cause of the spread of the new police forces** across London from the mid-1850s, (see your notes on policing in the late industrial period). The new police had a positive impact on petty theft on the streets of the East End.

The degree of crime in the East End, and the amount of attention it got from the press, **led to improved social conditions**. Social reformers and politicians began to tackle the roots of crime in these areas in a number of ways:

- Clearing slums by knocking down some areas and building new roads like Oxford Street
- Social projects by philanthropists like George Peabody and Angela Burdett- Coutts
- The introduction of compulsory elementary education in 1870

Due to these improvements, linked with the historic environment of the East End, the crime rate in areas like the East End of London started to decline by the end of the century.