

Historical study – Crime and Punishment

East End of London

Overarching question: Why was the East End of London significant in highlighting the need for change?

Key features of the East End of London in the Victorian era:

- Housing
- Overcrowding
- Dirty
- Death rates
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Workhouses
- Dark/Foggy

Opportunities for crime:

- Rookeries/Lodging houses
- Ale houses/alcoholism
- Prostitution
- Gangs
- Attacks on Jews
- Poor policing

Changes to policing:

- Beat policing problems
- Investigative policing
- Whitechapel murders
- Press coverage
- Pressures to reform living conditions
- Pressures to reform policing

Key features of the East End of London in the Victorian era:

- **Housing** - 1 million people lived in East end, houses divided into apartments (cheaper rents but packed in), poorest lived in lodging houses which were used in three 8 hour shifts per day.
- **Overcrowding** – whole families lived in single rooms, Whitechapel was very densely populated.
- **Dirty** – rags covered broken windows, rat and insect infested, little ventilation, water from shared pipes, very little sanitation
- **Death rates** – annually 50 in 1000 in Whitechapel (double the rest of London). Two out of every ten children died. TB, Rickets and scarlet fever common.
- **Poverty** – 1/3 lived in poverty
- **Unemployment** – many worked in dark and dusty sweatshops, many shoe makers, tailors, dock workers but hours were long and wages low. Many also unemployed.
- **Workhouses** – those who couldn't rely on a steady income ended up in workhouse (often those too young, too old or unwell. Whitechapel workhouse was last resort, it was very strict, families separated, hard labour.
- **Dark/Foggy** – from coal dust, thick fog from moist air of Thames, poor street lighting, very poor visibility.

Opportunities for crime:

- Rookeries/Lodging houses – Rookeries are slum areas of very crowded, filthy housing, meant criminals could hide and watch for victims. Lodging houses attracted criminals, drunkards and prostitutes, many opportunities for petty theft. All Jack the Ripper victims came from a rookery in Spitalfields.
- Ale houses/alcoholism – drinking helped people deal with life in Whitechapel, also made them vulnerable, led to theft, out of hand violence.
- Prostitution – 1, 200 in Whitechapel, vulnerable to attack.
- Gangs – Bessarabian Tigers, the Odessians were gangs from Whitechapel. They demanded protection money from local businesses, very hard to catch.
- Attacks on Jews – many living in East end, often in separate communities who were a target for prejudice. Led to anti-Semitic attacks on Jew police had to spend time dealing with.
- Poor policing – crime was increasing, police would only enter EE in pairs, Met police poorly paid, worked long hours. Local people not keen to cooperate with police, crisis in police force with staffing issues in the detective branch.

Changes to policing:

- **Beat policing problems** – prevented crime as obvious presence, arrested criminals, walked specific route and specific time, expected to know areas on beat (pubs, alleyways etc), moved on after month to prevent corruption between officers and locals.
- **Investigative policing** – No forensics yet so observation about crime scene, autopsy, photography, sketches, interviews, questioned more than 2000 people, witness statements, followed up clues. 20 plain clothes officers and 50 constables were transferred to work on the case, identity parades, criminal profiles.
- **Whitechapel murders** – Jack the Ripper, Mary Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddoes and Mary Kelly, gruesome murders which led to frenzied coverage in press.
- **Press coverage** – Police shown as useless, sensational stories led to hoax letters wasting police time, led to some suspects going in to hiding, published sketches of what were called “foreign-looking” suspects leading to increased tensions with Jewish communities. Journalists also relied on crowds gathered after the discovery so much gossip.
- **Pressures to reform living conditions** – Working Classes Dwellings Act 1890 to rehome those who had lost homes u the slum clearances, creation of world’s first council housing, Flower, Dean and Dorset St were demolished and replaced, charitable schemes like the Peabody Trust provided new, cleaner houses for thousands of people.
- **Pressures to reform policing** – led to profiling of suspects although criminology did not become a recognised branch of psychiatry until 1920s, form 1890s mug-shots and facial measurements to reconstruct sketches of suspects. Fingerprints first suggested but not used.

Question 6 (a)

<i>Mark allocation:</i>	<i>AO1 (a)</i>	<i>AO2</i>	<i>AO3</i>	<i>AO4</i>
8	8			

Question: **(a)** (a) Describe two main features of life for a person living in the East End of London in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. [8]

Band descriptors and mark allocations

	AO1(a) 8 marks	
BAND 3	Offers detailed knowledge to fully describe two main features of the historic site set within its appropriate historical context.	6-8
BAND 2	Offers some knowledge to describe two main features of the historic site set within its historical context.	3-5
BAND 1	Offers a generalised description with limited knowledge of two main features of the historic site.	1-2

Assessment Question 6a

Describe two main features of (8)

8 minutes



Success criteria:

- 2 clear paragraphs for 2 clear features = like two smaller 'describe' questions.
- Include a range of info for each feature.
- Link info to the topic in the question.

Question 6 (b)

<i>Mark allocation:</i>	<i>AO1</i>	<i>AO2</i>	<i>AO3</i>	<i>AO4</i>
12		12		

Question: **(b)** Explain why the conditions in the East End of London were a significant cause of crime in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. [12]

Band descriptors and mark allocations

	AO2 12 marks	
BAND 4	Offers a sophisticated and reasoned explanation and analysis of the historic site and its relationship with historic events and developments. The answer fully addresses the position of the historic site in showing changes in crime and punishment set within the appropriate historical context.	10-12
BAND 3	Offers a reasoned explanation and analysis of the historic site in showing changes in crime and punishment set within the appropriate historical context.	6-8
BAND 2	Offers some explanation and analysis of the historic site in showing changes in crime and punishment set within the appropriate historical context.	3-5
BAND 1	Offers a generalised explanation and analysis of the historic site with limited reference to changes in crime and punishment.	1-2

Assessment Question 6b

Explain why... led to changes in...

(12)

Success criteria:

- ✓ Include info to describe the change that happened.
- ✓ Include 3 key reasons to explain why this change happened at this time, in this place.
- ✓ Use the key words REASON and BECAUSE.

12:00