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Law and order in communities

Read and précis Pages 39-42 of 'AS Citizenship' by Holden-Rowley and Blewitt before class.

Please take your précis notes and these overheads to class with you.

Law and order in the classroom

- Please turn off your mobile.
- It is bad manners to chat while somebody is talking to the class - Do not do it!
- Raise your hand if you have a question.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

- In the 1980's many Neighbourhood Watch schemes were set up. Why?
- These are essentially 'Active Citizens' living in mainly middle-class areas. The assumption being that it is poorer people from outside who commit crime. Do you agree?

Which crimes are worst?

- Prostitution?
 - Domestic burglary?
 - Anti-social behaviour?
 - Selling/taking drugs?
- Would you report a fellow student for selling drugs?

What if they had sold drugs to your sister/brother and s/he dies?

Neighbourhood Wardens ...

- In some areas - for example Feltham - Neighbourhood Wardens are now being employed by the Council and/or Housing Association to PATROL an estate and consult with residents.
 - They liaise with the Police - but are not Police Officers. Is this a good idea?
- Police now have 'Community Support Officers' - with lesser powers of arrest.

The Problem of Youth Crime

- From the age of 10 a juvenile is criminally liable.
- The Government's Crime and Disorder Act 1998 proposed a comprehensive review of community and youth justice.
- Juvenile offenders now dealt with through agencies working together in a multi-agency partnership. These include:

Youth Crime - Multi-agency approach

- Community safety teams
- Youth offending teams
- Drug action teams
- Crime reduction partnerships
- The Probation Service
- The Police Force

Youth Crime - range of court orders

- ASBO's - for those who cause harassment alarm and distress. Lasts for 2 years and a breach is a criminal offence.
- Child curfew schemes - prohibit from public space between 9pm and 6am (under 10). Police power to remove from the street children breaking the curfew.

Youth Crime - range of court orders

Detention and training orders - persistent offenders between 12-18. What is the minimum/maximum sentence?

- Can you list the five community orders established by the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 (see page 40 of 'Active Citizenship')?
- Is prison always the best means of those who commit criminal offences?

Break into small groups - Would you give legal aid to (read page 40/41 of AS Citizenship)

- A person accused of paedophilia/selling drugs?
- A person who has been found guilty of murder and wishes to appeal.
- A poor student from Strode's College caught stealing a mars bar at Budgens.
- A person who has been dismissed.
- A person who has been injured in a car crash.

Commission for Racial Equality

- Students should read page 41 of 'AS Citizenship' and note the powers of the Commission for racial Equality.
- This is an important body which is expected to face some change in the near future. See Equalities Commission The Guardian of 12th May 2004

What next?

- Come to class prepared - read and précis the next topic BEFORE your next lesson.
- Take your intranet materials to class with you.
- Prepare to answer the Examination Paper on page 43 of 'AS Citizenship' in exam conditions.
- Remember: If you miss Citizenship classes - you must do essay homework?