

Criminal Courts

**Produced by Mrs Anna Lindley
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Before these lessons...

- You should read and précis chapter 6 of 'OCR Law for AS' by J Martin.
- Raise your hand if you have a question.
- Ensure your mobile is switched off.

PRECIS NOTES WILL BE CHECKED

Magistrates' Courts

- There are around 430 Magistrates' Courts in England & Wales.
- Cases heard by either Magistrates or District Judges.

Jurisdiction of Magistrates

(1) and (2) involve 97% of all criminal cases

- (1) Try all summary cases
- (2) Try triable-either-way cases heard in Magistrates' Court
- Deal with the first hearing of all indictable offences
- Search warrants, bail etc.
- Youth Courts (10-17)

M's Civil Jurisdiction

- Enforcing Council Tax demands.
- Family cases (violence and maintenance orders)
- Welfare of Children
- Hear appeals over licences.

Summary Trials

- Five levels related to fines as per the Criminal Justice Act 1991.
- What are these levels? What is the maximum fine for a business?
- Over 90% of D's in the Magistrates Court plead guilty.

What happens?

Break into Law Firms - research the topic and then explain to class what happens when ...

- D pleads - guilty
- D pleads - not guilty
- D seeks a trial by a jury

Sentencing power ...

- What is the maximum sentence that a Magistrates Court can give?

Youth Courts (age 10-17)

- Murder, manslaughter, rape and or causing death by dangerous driving can be tried at the Crown Court.
- Also possible for anyone over 14 to be tried at Crown Court if an adult could be given a 14 year sentence.
- M's trained and under 65 (one female).
- Press - no names - parents or guardians required to be present.

Crown Court

Research and explain the following...

- Preliminary Matters (6.3.1)
 - The Trial (6.3.2)

Exam Practice ...

Plan, and then write, answers to the exam questions on page 74 of 'OCR Law for AS'.