

A The prison system

Since the **abolition** of **capital punishment** in the UK, time in prison is the most serious punishment allowed by law. It satisfies our need for **retribution**, and longer sentences are meant to be a **deterrent**. Furthermore, criminals who are **locked up** are no threat to society, and **rehabilitation** programmes in

prison give criminals a chance to **turn over a new leaf**. However, the current system is **in crisis**. More people are being **imprisoned**, over 60 per cent **reoffend**, and for some criminals, prison is simply **regarded** as an **occupational hazard**. Is it just our way of **taking revenge**? If so, can we **justify** its continued existence?

Glossary

abolition	the official ending of a law, system, or institution. abolish sth v.	turn over a new leaf	change your behaviour and become a better person.
capital punishment	punishment by death.	in crisis	in a period of great difficulty and uncertainty.
retribution	FML severe punishment for sth serious that sb has done.	reoffend	FML commit a crime again (a person is a reoffender).
deterrent	a thing that makes sb less likely to do sth. deter sb v.	regard sth/sb as sth	think about sth/sb in a particular way.
lock sb up	INF put sb in prison. SYN imprison sb . imprisonment N.	occupational hazard	a risk or danger (= hazard) that is part of a job.
rehabilitation	the process of helping people to live a normal life after they have been ill or in prison. rehabilitate sb v.	take revenge	take action to punish sb because they made you suffer.
		justify sth	show that sth is right or fair. justification N. justifiable ADJ.