

THE ROLE OF THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

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Part 1

1. What is the role of the Crown Court?
2. What is the role of the Magistrate's Court?
3. What does JP stand for?

Part 2

4. How do you become a magistrate?
5. Why do people do the job of magistrate, which is unpaid?

Part 3

6. Why do magistrates sit in groups of three?

Part 4

7. What are the most common criminal offences the magistrates deal with?

Part 5

8. What is mitigation?

Part 6

9. Are the magistrates allowed to ask questions?

Part 7

10. What is the 'entry point'?
11. What is an absolute discharge?

Part 8

12. What is a community service order?

Key

1. To deal with serious crimes (offences).
2. To deal with less serious crimes.
3. It stands for Justice of the Peace. It is an historical term which is still used now.
4. You apply. You do not need any qualifications. You are then interviewed.
5. They want to give something to the local community.
6. So that they have to reach a verdict. A decision has to be made with three votes.
7. Those related to traffic, e.g. speeding ticket.
8. It is when a person admits their guilt, and the magistrates look into the particular circumstances of the case, e.g. did they steal due to being hungry and not having any money?
9. They are allowed to ask questions only to clarify what has been said. Their main role is to listen, and afterwards to discuss the case in another place.
10. It is the average sentence that is recommended for a crime, and the magistrates begin by checking this, when deciding about individual cases.
11. When a person commits an offence but receives no punishment due to circumstances, e.g. an old lady did not have her car taxed or insured, which is an offence, but received no sentence because her husband had recently died.
12. This is an order for the offender to do some work for the community which is unpaid, e.g. paint an old person's home, or weed a garden.