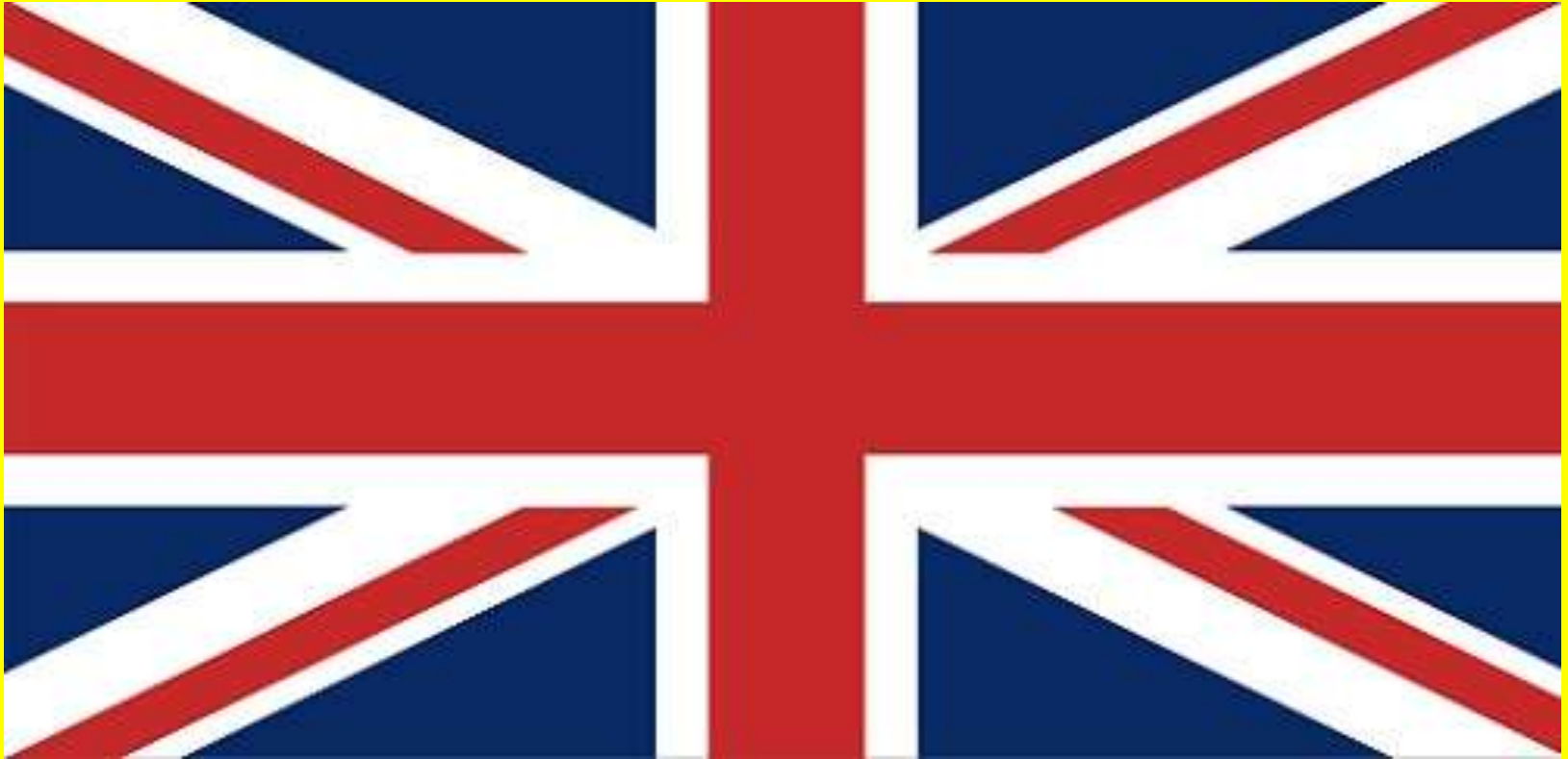
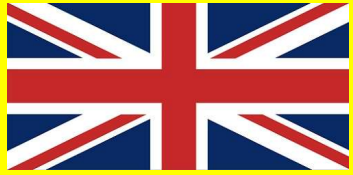


BRITISH VALUES: THE RULE OF LAW



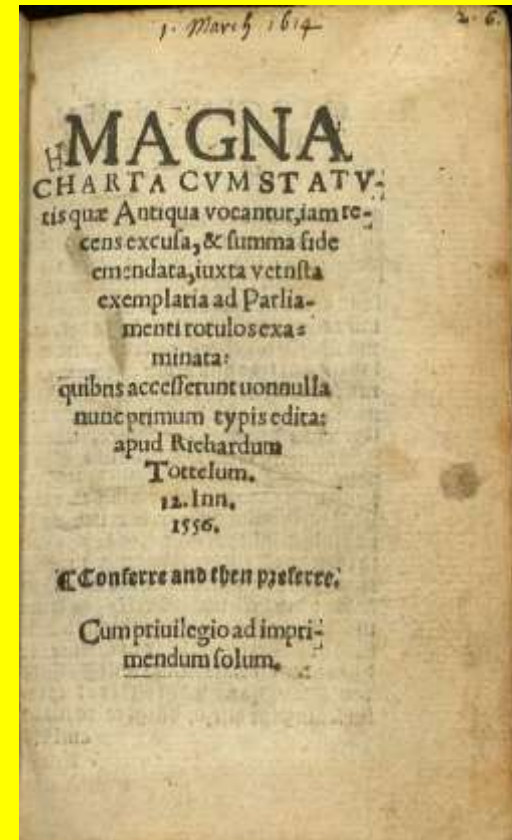
Southborough High School



The Legal System: Did you know?



- Many British laws can be traced back to the Magna Carta or the Great Charter
- Many countries legal systems are based on the British legal system



How much do you know about
the British legal system?

How old do you have to be to be held
criminally responsible?



ANSWER: 10

How old do you have to be to get a custodial sentence for a crime?



ANSWER: 15

How old do you have to be to join the armed services?



ANSWER: 16 (WITH
PARENT'S
CONSENT)

How old do you have to be to gamble?



ANSWER: 18

How old do you have to be to vote?



ANSWER: 18

How old do you have to be to be entitled to the national minimum wage?



ANSWER: 18

What is the person in charge of a court called?



ANSWER: The
Judge

What is the person who defends or prosecutes a legal case called?



ANSWER: A
barrister

The group of people that decides if a person is innocent or guilty is called what?



ANSWER: The jury

How do you become part of a jury?



ANSWER: You are chosen at random from the electoral register

Where are less serious offences such as driving offences heard?



ANSWER: In a magistrates court

Where are serious offences like murder heard?



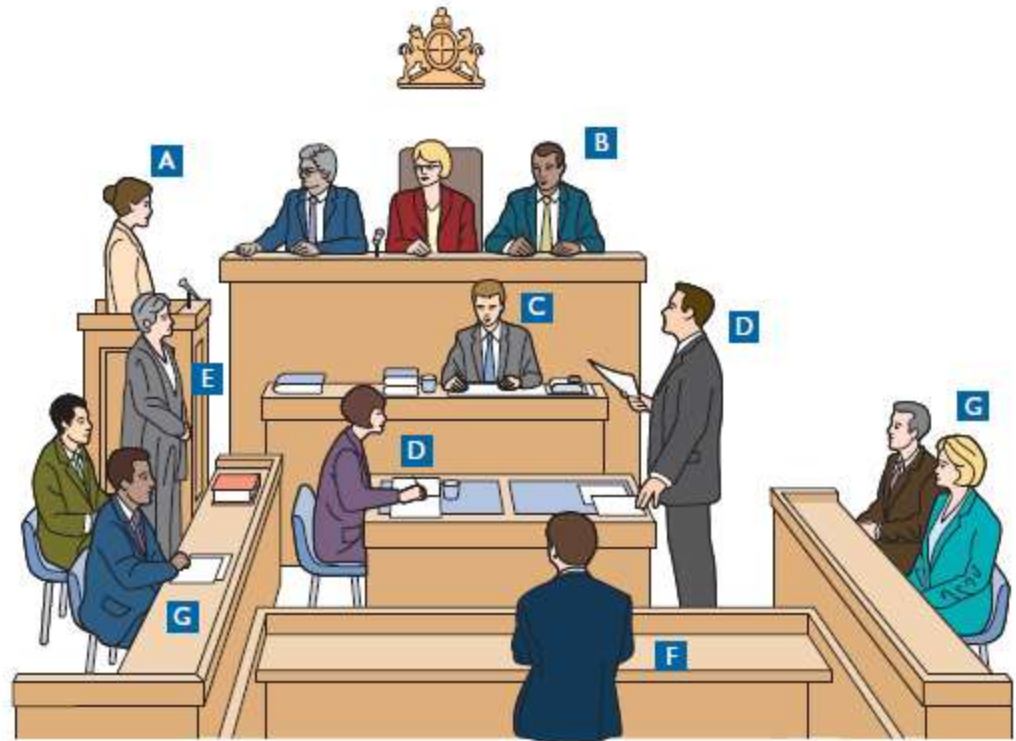
Key:

- A** The Witness
- B** The Judge
- C** Clerk of the Court
- D** Lawyers for the Prosecution and the defence
- E** Members of the Jury
- F** The Defendant

ANSWER: In a crown court

The Magistrates Court

- [Short video about the magistrates court](#)



Key: **A** Witness **B** Magistrates **C** Clerk of the court
D Lawyers for the prosecution and the defence
E Court usher **F** Defendant **G** Others

The Crown Court

- [Short video about the crown court](#)



Key:

- A** The Witness
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THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE NEWS

1. Kay Gilderdale, whose daughter Lynn suffered for 17 years from the chronic fatigue disease ME, stood trial for murder after she **injected her with drugs to ease her death.**

Her daughter, 31, had previously attempted suicide and repeatedly insisted she wished to die. On the day of her death, she had already injected herself with morphine.

Mrs Gilderdale admitted assisted suicide and the Director of Public Prosecutions decided she should stand trial because of uncertainty over whether it was the drugs she injected that ultimately resulted in her daughter's death.

Two judges criticised the decision to bring the charge and she was cleared by a jury.



Kay Gilderdale

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE NEWS

2. Last year magistrates threw out the case of a Leicestershire teenager who had been accused of **throwing a snowball** at a girl. Arlo Conley, who was 15 at the time, was charged with assault by beating but when the case was heard in court, magistrates decided there was no case to answer.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE NEWS

3. The CPS took Paul Chambers, 29, to court after he **tweeted a joke about blowing up an airport.**

He tweeted: "Crap! Robin Hood airport is closed. You've got a week and a bit to get your s*** together otherwise I'm blowing the airport sky high!!"

He was subsequently charged with sending a menacing message under the 2003 Communications Act and convicted in May 2010. However, last year the Lord Chief Justice overturned the conviction, ruling that telling a joke about blowing up an airport was not a crime.



Paul Chambers

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE NEWS

4. A great-grandmother was fined £1,000, put under curfew and fitted with an electronic tag after she **sold a goldfish to a 14-year-old boy**.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is illegal to sell pets to children under the age of 16 unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Joan Higgins, a pet shop owner for 28 years, was caught out after the council set up a sting operation and asked the boy to go into the shop to test whether owners were abiding by the law. Her sentence was eventually quashed.



Joan Higgins (MEN)

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE NEWS

5. A disabled man who **kept a penknife in his glove compartment** to use for picnics was taken to court for possessing an offensive weapon.

Rodney Knowles, who was then 61, admitted the offence and was given a conditional discharge.

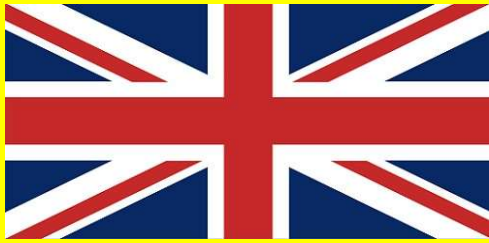


Rodney Knowles (Torbay News Agency)

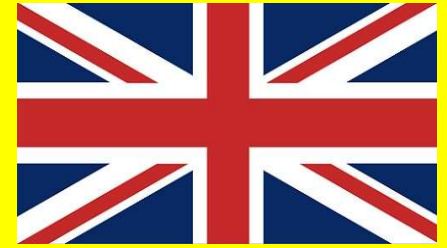
THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE NEWS: DO YOU AGREE?



- Marine Alexander Blackman was sentenced to life imprisonment for shooting an injured Taliban soldier in Afghanistan by a military court last year



Where next?



- Watch the news to find out more about legal cases in the news
- Read the newspapers
- Anyone can visit a court and sit in the public gallery