



Have the courts been too tough on rioters?

INSTRUCTIONS: Copy out the words below. Then match them with the 10 numbers from the article.

officers Birmingham charged cut convicted looters rise CCTV damage Facebook



The summer riots in some English cities have caused a steep 1)_____ in the prison population. In August, England and Wales had a record 86,654 inmates. The Prime Minister has backed the tough sentences given to many rioters by courts. However, there is also concern at the huge cost of keeping so many people locked up at a time when the government is trying to 2)_____ spending.

People across the world were shocked to see thousands of rioters causing so much 3)_____ in the centre of cities such as London, Manchester and 4)_____. Shops had millions of pounds worth of goods stolen by 5)_____. Some people criticised the police for failing to stop the trouble but there were so many rioters it was very difficult for police 6)_____ to keep control.

In the weeks that followed, the police used 7)_____ to track down many rioters. Courts held special all-night sittings and at one point over 100 people a day were being sent to prison. Many were 8)_____ of crimes such as theft while others were 9)_____ with even more serious crimes including murder. In one case, two young men were give four-year sentences for attempting to use 10)_____ to incite a riot, even although the riot did not take place. Some now think the courts have been too tough on rioters but others say this is fair because they did great damage to the lives of many innocent people and in some cases they even caused deaths.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read the report above and write down three **facts** from **each** paragraph.
- 2) Give a reason why the police failed to stop the riots even although officers were present.
- 3) Do you think the 4-year sentence for trying to incite a riot was too tough? Give reasons.
- 4) Do you think there should be a new law to restrict the wearing of hoods? Give reasons.

Homework: Ask some adults about a law to restrict the wearing of hoods. Do their views differ from yours?

EASY!

THE NEWS QUIZ

DIFFICULT!

1. Rebels have taken control of Libya's capital city. Is it Damascus, Cairo or Tripoli?



Journalists in Libya have found some e_____e of terrible w_r cr____s. Complete the words.

2. Did the USA recently suffer widespread damage from a tropical storm, forest fire or earthquake?



Days later, 100 people died in floods in Nigeria. Can you suggest why this made less news?

3. Scientists have created a new SURVI which may destroy cancer SLECL. Unscramble.



Suggest reasons why laws prevent a new cancer treatment being used until it has been fully tested.

4. The river Thames is now attracting wild salmon. Which city does the Thames run through?



What does the arrival of the salmon suggest about the way the Thames has changed in recent years?



5. Why was August a very busy month for the agents who represent football players?



Whose heart skipped a beat to reach the top spot, and who did he feature?



AND FINALLY ... Make up 5 news questions of your own and put them to some of your classmates.

No. 75 - Answers

NEWS ARTICLE

1. rise
2. cut
3. damage
4. Birmingham
5. looters
6. officers
7. CCTV
8. convicted
9. charged
10. Facebook

QUESTIONS

1. FACTS - (Other answers may also be correct)

Summer riots caused steep rise in prison population
England and Wales had a record 86,654 inmates in August.
The Prime Minister has backed the tough sentences given to many rioters by courts.
There is also concern at the huge cost of keeping so many people locked up at a time of spending cuts.

People across the world were shocked to see thousands of rioters causing so much damage in English cities.
London, Manchester and Birmingham were affected by the riots.
Shops had millions of pounds worth of goods stolen by looters.
Some people criticised the police for failing to stop the trouble.
There were so many rioters it was very difficult for police officers to keep control.

Police have used CCTV to track down many rioters.
Courts held special all-night sittings and at one point over 100 people a day were being sent to prison.
Many were convicted of crimes such as theft.
Some were charged with even more serious crimes including murder.
Two young men were give four-year sentences for attempting to use Facebook to incite a riot
Some now think the courts have been too tough on rioters.
Others say this is fair because rioters did great damage to the lives of innocent people and even caused deaths.

2. The police failed to stop riots because there were so many rioters it was very difficult for police officers to keep control.
3. Opinions may vary but should be backed up by valid and relevant reasons.
4. Opinions may vary but should be backed up by valid and relevant reasons.

NEWS QUIZ

1. Tripoli
evidence, war crimes
2. tropical storm
The USA is the world's richest country with a very extensive news media. It has strong links to most parts of the world and the media in other countries often pick up stories from the USA. Also, natural disasters with loss of life are more common in parts of the developing world such as many African countries. This means they become less of a news story than they might otherwise be. Some people believe there is a bias in the international news media towards rich countries. Other answers are also possible.
3. virus, cells
If a new treatment is used without proper testing the side-effects could be much worse than the illness it is meant to treat. This is especially true of something like a new virus which could spread to other people if it got out of control.
4. It is best known because its flows through central London but the Thames also flows alongside other towns and cities including Oxford, Reading, Henley-on-Thames, Windsor, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond.

The appearance of salmon shows that the Thames is much less polluted than it used to be a few years ago when salmon had disappeared and very few types of fish and other marine life could survive in the water.
5. Many footballers were bought and sold during the transfer window which ended on 31 August.
Olly Murs - he featured Rizzle Kicks on his single *Heart Skips A Beat* which reached No.1 in the UK Singles chart.