

### III Read this article and answer the questions below.

There are around 82,000 people in prison here in Britain. Is that a lot or a little? How can we tell? Compared to the 2.2 million people languishing in U.S. jails it doesn't sound all that many. Britain's prisoners could fit into the new Wembley Stadium with room to spare, although on the government's own projections, all 90,000 Wembley seats will be taken sometime around 2010. Over the last five years, the prison population has grown by 20 percent. Lord Carter, head of a government panel investigating crime in Britain, accepts in a recent report that this trend will continue, and recommends a new prison-building program so that supply can ( A ) demand, which may reach 100,000 by 2014. (The government says it wants to stabilize the prison population at about 95,000. The Conservative Party, by contrast, says it is happy to go past 100,000.)

Carter notes that the prison population in Britain has risen by 60 percent since 1995. In Germany it has been more or less stable during this period, while in Canada it has fallen by 11 percent. New Zealand outstrips Britain, with 68 percent growth since 1995, while the U.S. lags behind with 42 percent. But it will be a long time before Britain catches up with the U.S. in terms of the imprisonment rate: the U.S. imprisons 750 people per 100,000, as against 149 in England and Wales, and 136 in Scotland. Still, within Europe, the British imprisonment rate is behind only former Eastern Bloc countries and, curiously, Luxembourg. The only West European country that comes close is Spain, which imprisons 146 per 100,000. By comparison, Germany imprisons 93 per 100,000, Turkey 91, France 85, and Italy 67.

Prison—what a strange thing it is! I can remember my shock as a child being told that some adults had done things so bad they had to be locked away, for years, until they knew better. ( B )

Speaking as a philosopher, rather than a criminologist, I find just about everything to do with the criminal justice system a puzzle. But the central question, it seems to me, is this: Are we imprisoning more people because we have to, or because we choose to? And in either case, why?


The argument that we simply have to lock more people away is usually based on the idea that society faces a ( C ). Tony Blair often seemed to encourage this view. In one of his last statements on crime as prime minister, he announced that the government's priority was to close the growing "justice gap": the gap between recorded crime and convictions. Government figures state that in 2000, there was one conviction for every 11 recorded offences, as compared to one conviction for every six offences in 1980. If the prison population is rising, yet the conviction rate is falling, the obvious conclusion is that as a society we are failing to cope with an increasing disregard for the law.

Yet crime is not rising; it is falling. In fact, it is falling fairly dramatically. Experts who agree about nothing else agree that figures of crime reported to the police are a poor indicator of underlying crime, and so Blair's "justice gap" may not tell us much about overall crime rates. We know that many crimes go unreported—often because people think that ( D )—and that reporting varies for arbitrary reasons. For example, when I lived in a high crime area, my neighbors and I were encouraged to report all crimes for a few months, however minor, so that more resources would be diverted to the local police force. The resulting "crime wave" was an artifact of the tedious business of calling in every vandalized side mirror and stolen potted plant. Moreover, methodologies for recording crime regularly change, and apparent trends may reflect nothing more than a new method.


Given the difficulty of establishing crime rates from recorded crime, in 1981 the British Crime Survey (BCS) was devised to provide a more accurate picture. It is a fascinating document, even for those of us who do not, one way or the other, earn our living from crime. The survey asks a cross-section of the public whether they have been victims of particular crimes in a given year. The 2006-07 report estimates that crimes in Britain have fallen from about 20 million in 1995 to about 12 million in 2006. Surprisingly, violent crime has fallen at a similar rate—though police records report a rising trend, which, the BCS editors claim, is due to changing reporting conventions. Examine the reduction in violent crime and you find a steep decline in "acquaintance violence" (including domestic violence), while "stranger violence" (such as random attacks and muggings) has remained fairly constant.

But if crime is falling, why is the prison population rising? Is it a policy choice—a determined effort by the government to make the country safer? If so, the rising prison numbers ( E ), not failure, indicating not only that an increasing number of hardened criminals are being taken off the streets, but that the less hardened are being held back by the prospect of a period behind bars.

To understand why the prison population is rising, we need first to appreciate that it is determined by many variables, and then to establish which contributes most to the increase. The crime rate matters, of course (and remember that it is affected not only by people's behavior, but also by the forms of behavior that are classed as criminal). But other things affect the prison population too: the detection rate; the conviction rate of those who are tried in court; and the length of time criminals are sent to prison. Adjustments to any one of these can significantly affect the number of people in prison at any one time.

- 1 Choose the most suitable word from those below to fill in blank space (A).
  - (a) create
  - (b) encourage
  - (c) find
  - (d) meet
  - (e) send
  
- 2 Choose the most suitable order of sentences from those below to fill in blank space (B).
  - (a) I could hardly imagine anything worse than being behind bars for such a long time.
  - (b) If anything, we should be phasing them out—converting old prisons into luxury apartments as we do with unused warehouses and churches.
  - (c) Instead, we are building more and more—although apparently not enough to cope with the rapid growth of the prison population.
  - (d) Prisons seem to belong to the age of the horse-drawn cart and gas lamps, not Eurostar and the Internet.
  
- 3 Choose the most suitable phrase from those below to fill in blank space (C).
  - (a) decline in the number of police
  - (b) falling standard of living
  - (c) growing hardship for criminals
  - (d) rapid increase in population
  - (e) rising tide of crime
  
- 4 Choose the most suitable phrase from those below to fill in blank space (D).
  - (a) calling the police is the best option
  - (b) that's the best way to encourage the police
  - (c) the police are paid to help
  - (d) the police reduce the "justice gap"
  - (e) there is nothing to be gained by calling the police
  
- 5 Choose the most suitable answer from those below to complete the following sentence.

Although the British police report an increase in violent crime,

  - (a) British criminals can now earn a better living.
  - (b) it is mostly committed by people's acquaintances.
  - (c) the British Crime Survey indicates just the opposite.
  - (d) the British public demands more justice.
  - (e) the victims of particular crimes continue to be silent.
  
- 6 Rearrange the seven words below to fill in blank space (E) in the best way. Indicate your choices for the second, fourth, and sixth positions.
  - (a) a
  - (b) as
  - (c) count
  - (d) mark
  - (e) of
  - (f) should
  - (g) success
  
- 7 With which of the following statements would the writer most likely agree?
  - (a) Crime in Britain is falling because fewer crimes are reported to the police.
  -  (b) The increase in Britain's prison population cannot be explained by the crime rate alone.
  - (c) The rise in the prison population suggests that people are less willing to report crime.
  - (d) The U.S. imprisons far more people than Britain because it is a more dangerous place.
  - (e) Whatever methods are used to record crime, the apparent trends will remain constant.

**IV Read this dialogue and answer the questions below.**

**Traveler:** Could I have a ticket to Manchester, please?

**Station clerk:** The Manchester train is running late, I'm afraid. There are some wet leaves on the line.  
( **A** ), you'll have to wait for at least two hours.

**Traveler:** Two hours! That's ridiculous. I need to get there by lunchtime.

**Station clerk:** ( **B** ), you'd better take the bus. It leaves in ten minutes from across the street.

**Traveler:** Very well. Do you know how much that would cost?

**Station clerk:** Around 50 pounds, I think.

**Traveler:** Fifty pounds? ( **C** ) I could ( **D** ) than that! Why is everything in Britain so expensive?

**Station clerk:** I have no idea. I blame the government. If I could afford a stamp, I'd write and complain.

1 Use three of the seven words below to fill in blank space (A) in the best way.

- (a) at                      (b) by                      (c) from                      (d) level  
(e) rate                      (f) their                      (g) this

2 Choose the most suitable phrase from those below to fill in blank space (B).

- (a) As you said  
(b) By the way  
(c) For most people  
(d) If I were you  
(e) In that case

3 Choose the most suitable phrase from those below to fill in blank space (C).

- (a) How exciting!  
(b) It's your fault!  
(c) Keep your word!  
(d) There's no time!  
(e) You must be joking!

4 Rearrange the seven words below to fill in blank space (D) in the best way. Indicate your choices for the first, fourth, and seventh positions.

- (a) and                      (b) back                      (c) fly                      (d) for  
( **e** ) less                      (f) Switzerland                      (g) to

**V Read the statement below and write a paragraph giving at least two reasons why you agree or disagree with it. Write your answer in English in the space provided on your written answer sheet.**

*(It is suggested that you spend no more than 15 minutes on this section.)*

“Supermarkets should stop giving customers free plastic bags.”

