**Worksheet 3.5a: ASBOs and prison**

Read the notes below about ASBOs and prison and answer the questions


# Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs):

**Prison:**

* Special ‘prisons’, called secure units, are used for people aged 10–17
* Created in the 1990s. Anyone aged ten or over can get one
* Used by Crown Court and Magistrates’ Court

Adult prisons are used for people aged 18+

Each prisoner gets a prison number and has their belongings removed

Every prisoner gets an interview/ assessment when they first arrive

This helps the prisoner understand their rights and responsibilities

Specialist help is available for prisoners with diabetes, depression, dyslexia, drug dependency, and so on

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* Given when people cause/are likely to cause distress, alarm or harassment

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* Examples of what leads to ASBOs: graffiti, threatening behaviour and vandalism

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* Intended to prevent further crimes (not necessarily to punish)

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* ASBOs stop you from doing certain things

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* Examples: can’t get drunk in street and not allowed in city centre after 7pm

Punishments include TV being removed and being in cell longer than usual

* Education and training is available (for example, degrees and reading support)
* Babies aged up to 18 months can live in prison with their mothers (in special units)
* Last at least two years (can be reviewed if attitude improves)
* If ASBO is breached, offender gets taken to court

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* Depending on offender’s age, fine or prison (or both) might then be given.

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* Rewards include getting extra visiting hours for family and friends

Staff are trained to spot vulnerable prisoners, for example, those at risk of suicide.

1. What are the main differences between prison and ASBOs?
2. In your opinion, when is an ASBO more useful than a prison sentence?
3. An ASBO can stop someone from seeing certain friends. Is this fair? Why/why not?
4. Prison offers offenders health care, education and training. Is this fair? Why/why not?
5. Should criminal courts stop using prison and ASBOs because they’re ‘old-fashioned’? What might be better modern-day alternatives?

**Theme C How the law works**

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