Worksheet 3.7b: Considering sentences

1. Which of the following statements to you agree with and which do you disagree with?

Agree: _____ Disagree: _____

A. Community sentences are great, because up to 300 hours' work in the local area gives offenders thinking time. They can then accept what they've done wrong and promise themselves they'll change.

B. Being a judge or magistrate is not about giving out punishments. The main point is to feel sorry for offenders and offer them as much help as possible (for example, parenting classes).

C. It makes sense to have different fines for different people for the same offence. Paying £200 is nothing for a successful entrepreneur, but a lot for an unemployed person on benefits.

D. In this country, we're too soft on people who break the law. Even prison is easy because when you're in there you get free food, free education, no bills, and so on. We should use the death penalty here.

E. For every offence committed, the victim/s should be able to choose what happens to the offender. That would be the only fair way, as every victim is affected differently by each crime.

F. Indeterminate prison sentences are good for keeping us safe. It's sensible to keep certain offenders locked away until further notice, otherwise none of us would ever dare to leave the house.

2. Write a paragraph summarising why many factors (age, previous offences, finances, remorse, and so on) are considered when determining a sentence.

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