

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

A952/22

HISTORY A (SCHOOLS HISTORY PROJECT)

**Historical Source Investigation
Developments in Crime and Punishment
in Britain, 1200–1945**

SOURCE BOOKLET

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2011: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the answer booklet

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

8 page answer booklet (sent with general stationery)

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Question booklet

DEVELOPMENTS IN CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN BRITAIN, 1200–1945

HOW EFFECTIVE WAS TRANSPORTATION AS A PUNISHMENT?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the seventeenth century transportation of convicted criminals to British overseas colonies began. It was seen as a useful alternative punishment to hanging. Convicts were sent to the Americas, but when the USA declared its independence in 1776, a new destination was needed. In 1787 transportation to Australia started. Transportation seemed to have many advantages. It meant convicts did not have to be imprisoned in Britain. They could be used as forced labour in the colonies, and have some chance, with good behaviour, of making new lives for themselves. Nonetheless, transportation was brought to an end during the 1850s and 1860s.

Was transportation an effective punishment?

SOURCE A



A painting of two convicts in Tasmania, Australia, in the early 1790s. The convicts are a young man and a young woman who are wearing the ordinary clothes of the time.

SOURCE B

A few gentlemen seem very angry that convicts are sent here at all. They would, if they could, prevent people buying them. Then, of course, convicts would not be brought here at all. I confess I am one of those who think a young country cannot be improved without people of some sort, and that it is much better for the country to receive convicts than slaves. The wicked and bad convicts come here and mostly run away to the north, while those, more innocent, and who come for very small offences, serve their time out here, behave well, and become useful people.

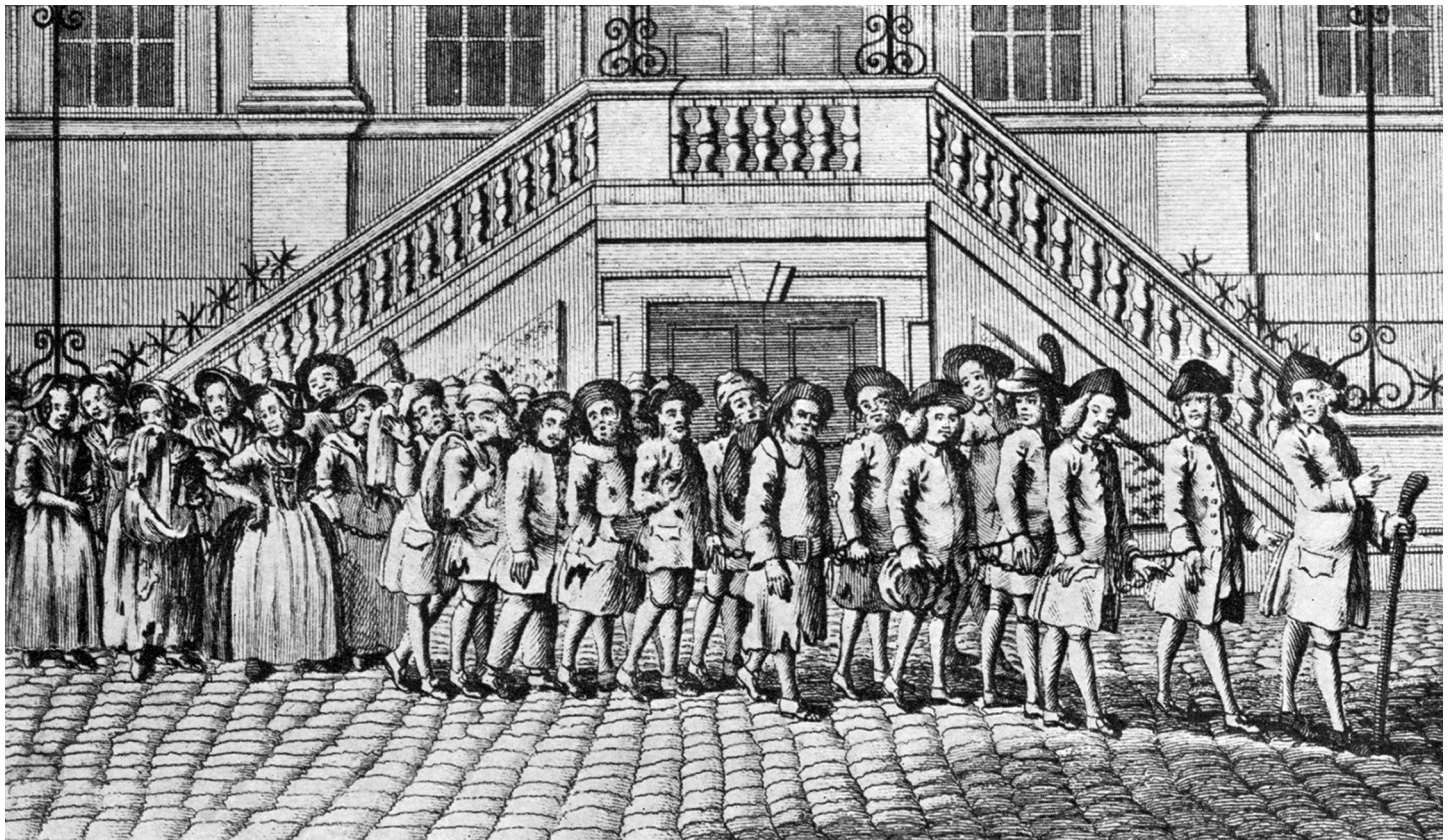
A letter to a newspaper in Maryland, one of the American colonies, July 1767.

SOURCE C

On Saturday morning between four and five o'clock, 80 convicts were taken from Newgate Prison and put on board ship at Blackfriars, in order to be sent to the Americas. They went off very happy, cheering and declaring they were going to a place where they might soon regain their freedom.

A report in a London newspaper, January 1769.

SOURCE D



An engraving published in the eighteenth century of a parade of convicts being taken through the streets from prison to transportation ships. These parades would attract a lot of attention from the public, and sometimes lists of criminals' names would be printed for the crowd. The parade consists of a long line of men and women who are chained together. Some of them are wearing ragged clothes.

SOURCE E

Critics condemn the whole system of transportation to the colonies, and say that the poor state of society there is caused by its bad influence. They complain that physical punishment, by which they mean flogging, is resorted to for every little breach of the rules. In short, the settlers who have convicts assigned to them are slave-holders, and the convicts are slaves.

From an article published in a London magazine, June 1841.

SOURCE F

At the early age of 14 years, I was sentenced to transportation for life, and sent to this colony. I arrived in January 1828, and was put to work in the Office of the Harbour Master, where I still remain. After the usual probationary period of eight years, I married a young woman, by whom I have two children. My mother has joined us in this colony and depends upon me for support. I have many years' good conduct, without one single fault being charged against me. With the sincere wish to make amends for my one youthful error, I ask you to recommend me to Her Majesty for a pardon, which will be a source of joy to an aged mother and a great blessing to my family.

From the statement of Thomas Dowse to the Governor of Queensland, Australia, requesting a pardon, September 1838.

SOURCE G

Transportation involves a certain minimum amount of punishment. However, it also leaves open to convicts the chance of improving their conditions by good conduct. Nobody could fairly object to these ideas.

But in practice this particular plan has been a failure, for these reasons. First, Tasmania did not have enough suitable buildings; nor did it have properly qualified officers to supervise the operation. Second, too many convicts have been sent out to that colony. The arrival of this large number of convicts broke down all arrangements made for their safe custody. So many convicts were looking for work that opportunities for them to earn privileges and pardons were no longer available. This meant the chief advantage of transportation was entirely lost.

From a speech made in Parliament in 1850 by the Minister in charge of the colonies. He was talking about what happened after the decision to end transportation to the Australian colony of New South Wales. This meant convicts had to be sent to Tasmania instead.



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