**What are some of the most serious crimes that 21st century societies face?**

**Why do people become criminals?**

**What are the causes of crime?**

**Are some people born bad or do they become criminals as a consequence of the environment?**

**What can be done to prevent crime?**

**How can we prevent criminals from committing a crime again?**

**In your opinion, is imprisonment an effective form of punishment?**

**Can you create some alternative forms of punishment like community service?**

1. Is crime a serious problem where you live? What kinds of crimes happen often?
2. Do the police do a good job in your country?
3. How do you feel when you see a police officer?
4. Are some people naturally bad or does their upbringing and environment lead them to commit crimes? How much should we blame society and how much should we blame the person?
5. How do shops try to stop ***shoplifting***?
6. At what age are we fully responsible for our actions? What is the youngest age someone should be punished as an adult?
7. How do you feel about drunk driving? What is the proper punishmentfor someone who drinks alcohol and drives?
8. Have you ever seen a crime being committed? What did you see?
9. If a person acts in self-defense and accidentally hurts someone, should they be punished?
10. Is carrying a gun a good way to stay safe? Why or why not?
11. What does ‘*crime doesn’t pay*‘ mean? Do you agree?
12. Does your country have the death penalty? What do you think about this kind of punishment?
13. Has someone ever stolen from you? What did they take? How did you feel?
14. How can we reduce crime? With harsher punishments or better education?
15. Is the goal of prison to punish or to ***rehabilitate***? Can people change?
16. Is there any illegal behaviour in your country that you think should be legal?
17. Is there legal behavior in your country that you think should be made illegal?
18. Do rich people ***get away with*** crimes? Is the system unfair?
19. Do you enjoy television shows about crime and the police? Which ones are good?

**“If he has a conscience he will suffer for his mistake. That will be punishment-as well as the prison."  
- Fyodor Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment, Ch. 19**

**“**[**Punishment is lame, but it comes**](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/punishment_is_lame-but_it/190246.html)**”**

[**George Herbert**](http://thinkexist.com/quotes/george_herbert/)

**“**[**Fear follows crime, and is its punishment**](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/fear_follows_crime-and_is_its/185921.html)**”**

**Voltaire**