



Case A



Name: William Taylor

Age: 14

Crime: Pickpocketting

Details: Caught stealing coins from a gentleman's pocket on Thackery Street. The gentleman chased William down the street and caught him, only to find a number of other stolen items including pocket watches and handkerchiefs.

Case B



Name: Mary Phillips

Age: 19

Crime: Theft of a coat

Details: The stolen coat was found with Mary's possessions in the servant's quarters. The valuable coat belonged to Mary's mistress Mrs H. Robson. It was noted missing on Saturday morning and discovered with Mary's belongings on Sunday afternoon. Mary was discharged immediately.

Case C



Name: Walter Evans

Age: 34

Crime: Murder

Details: Walter was caught shortly after the death of his father-in-law, James Cooper, who had been poisoned. Walter was found nearby with a small bottle in his pocket containing a poisonous liquid called 'strychnine', the very same that had caused the death of James Cooper.

Case D



Name: Thomas King

Age: 25

Crime: Criminal Damage

Details: Thomas caused damage to a railway line and three railway carriages in the middle of the night. Thomas was caught attempting to start a fire near the railway station. He does not agree with the way the government has supported the railways and wanted to protest. The damage he caused could have caused a serious accident if he had not been caught in the act.



Case E



Name: Martha Clarke

Age: 12

Crime: Theft of apples

Details: Martha was caught stealing apples from a street market stall. She attempted to take 14 apples in her bucket but was caught by another stall holder. Martha said that they are to feed her starving younger siblings since her father has died.

Case F



Name: Charles Price

Age: 21

Crime: Murder

Details: Charles became drunk and got into a fight with another man outside a pub in Siddler Street. A group of passers-by witnessed the fight but were unable to stop Charles, who became very violent. When the police arrived, the victim was declared dead at the scene and Charles was arrested.

Case G



Name: Frank and Rose Morris

Age: 52 and 49

Crime: Forgery

Details: Frank and Rose are a husband and wife who were caught producing fake documents and selling them to local criminals. The couple produced fake death certificates and wills, which were later used to fraudulently claim inheritance at the Bank of England. A supply of fake money was also discovered in their home.

Case H



Name: Henry Green

Age: 25

Crime: Attempted Burglary

Details: Henry entered a stranger's house in the night through an unlocked window. He attempted to take a box of valuable jewellery and a silver candlestick. The house owner caught Henry on his way out of the house and alerted the police. Henry says that he was forced to commit the crime by an older gang leader, but he is unwilling to provide names or details of the gang.

Resource 10b Victorian Court Files

Use the table to make notes about the punishments given for each case.



Case	Crime	Punishment (including length of sentence)
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		

Victorian Punishments

Prison	Reformatory School	Public whipping	Send to the army
Transportation to Australia	Death by hanging	Hard labour	Money fine