

Pentonville Prison – historic site study – Q6a/6b of the Crime and Punishment paper

Remember... **Pentonville Prison was built in 1842** – information from before this date is background / context. To describe specific features or identify changes, you need to focus on what happened at Pentonville **AFTER 1842**.

Context / background of Pentonville prison – what was the situation BEFORE? How and why had attitudes been changing in the run up to Pentonville prison being built?	Features of Pentonville Prison – features that are specific to Pentonville, rather than general info about prisons... e.g. design & construction, conditions for prisoners, exercise... etc.	Changes at Pentonville Prison over time – pick out specific changes that have been implemented at Pentonville from 1842 onwards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased levels of poverty - Ings, wags, ↑ population. John Howard = report highlighted issues with prisons. esp. overcrowding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → recommended isolation, belief in reform. C.O. Paul + E. Fry Impact of Bloody Code <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → more in prison to avoid death sentence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design + construction Conditions - religion + discipline + separation. Arrival Separation / Separate system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → exercise → chapel → work → treadmill → work. Impact (effectiveness = mental health impact 1842-50 = 26 had breakdowns, 3 committed suicide) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harsher punishments for prisoners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1865 = reform replaced with deterrence 1902 = executions at Pentonville - 120 in total b'n 1902 + 1961 (including John Christie in 1953). Changes in law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1895 = reform 1898 = abolished treadmill + crank, limit of 1 month in isolation. 1960s = change to more meaningful work + ability to

Decline of transportation → reports at end of 1840s indicating less money. → more in prison that something should change. Criticised by Charles Dickens - but = change to harsher treatment in 1960s →

Underfunded / overcrowded.

Categorisation = Bantonsville = category B.

Bantonsville in 2000,

2003 report = overcrowding to blame for poor standards. Basic needs not met.

2005 = new hospital wing (£15 mil) opened, but criticised as inadequate in months.

2007 = report showed

- infested with rats
- insufficient staff
- unsatisfactory conditions for mentally ill inmates.

Prisoners escape → MP called for prison to be closed down.