

Courting Disaster – Suitable for S4 and S5

The class can work in pairs or threes. One Penalty Table (page 26) and one Case Study sheet per pair. Give yourself a Case Study Sheet for info.

If you have a class who may have difficulty in understanding some of the language used in the penalty code take time to explain the meanings of words such as obligatory and discretionary.

1. Let the young people feel that their decision with regard to an appropriate sentence is extremely valid.
2. Encourage each pair to tell the class at some point during Courting Disaster 1 what they, as the judge, would say to the court before passing sentence.
3. Feed back the court sentences to the students in any way that you choose.

- Lord A was fined £300 and disqualified from driving for one year.
- Mr B was sentenced to 4 months in prison and disqualified from driving for 5 years.
- Soldier, Mr C, was imprisoned for 4 years and disqualified from driving for 10 years.
- Mr D was ordered to do 300 hours of community service and was disqualified from driving for 10 years. He was also ordered to pay £2000 compensation to the boy. He was spared a prison sentence because of previous good behaviour.
- Mother Mrs E went to prison for 6 months and was disqualified from driving for 5 years.
- Walsall teenager Mr F was sent to a young offenders institution for 3 years and was disqualified from driving for 8 years.
- Footballer Mr G was disqualified from driving for 6 months, fined £2500, ordered to pay the court costs of £3000.
- Teenager Mr H, was disqualified from driving for 10 years and sentenced for 7 years in a young offenders institution.
- Lorry driver Mr J was imprisoned for 2 years and disqualified from driving for 4 years. He has been ordered to take an extended driving test before being allowed his licence back.
- Mr K was imprisoned for 9½ years.

Debate and discussion will ensue as to the sentencing of the offenders. Encourage the class to think that the penalties may change over the next few years. What would they like to see in the changes?

The discussion points following the Courting Disaster 1 throw up some debates on citizenship and the law with regard to road safety. It is important to allow the class to question the role of Government in making laws and the role of the police in enforcing road safety.



Courting Disaster A – Suitable for S4 – S5

Working in small groups give out the Case Study sheet again and the Penalty table (page 26).

It is key to the success of this exercise that the class think about the emotional trauma that these incidents cause to individuals and families both the driver's and victim's. How do families recover? How do these drivers live with themselves? What about the future? Much of the work done in prisons and young offender institutions is in rehabilitation but the mental scars of these car crashes will have life long implications. How do these incidents affect the lives of others?

Whole class discussion or group feedback.

Courting Disaster B

Extension work looking at the law and the responsibility that we have as a society to effect a change in the behaviour of people who continue to reoffend.

New offences of causing death by careless driving are currently being proposed. Falling asleep at the wheel, using a hand-held mobile or eating whilst driving are a few. Allow the class to think of other things that drivers do that could also be potentially dangerous, and result in casualties, e.g. driving with illegal tyres.

For more information please consult the following websites with the class.

www.dft.gov.uk
www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk
www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk
www.getinlane.com

Links Across Learning

SRUA

See page 4 and 5 for links to the four capacities in activities 7, 8 and 9.