

PAPER 2, Q4 AND Q5 MINI MOCK – THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Source A: Alice Edwards, 2024, for *Guardian Online*:
‘Prisoners serving sentences with no clear end is a stain on British justice – it also amounts to torture’

Martin Myers attempted to steal a cigarette. Tommy Nicol stole a car. John Wright, then 17, head-butted a younger child and stole his bike. For these relatively minor crimes, they received grossly disproportionate sentences of the length you might expect for murderers.

Martin Myers is still in jail for attempted robbery of that cigarette back in 2006. John Wright is now 34 and has spent 17 years in jail. Tommy Nicol took his own life while in prison on an indeterminate sentence.

These are just a few of the cases highlighted in the recent series by the Guardian on imprisonment for public protection (IPP) sentences. In force between 2005 and 2012, IPPs were intended for offenders who had committed serious crimes and presented a risk of causing serious harm to the public, designed to detain them until they no longer represented a risk. The sentences included a minimum period, or tariff, after which prisoners could be considered for release, but crucially, they had no end date.

Many more people were detained than anticipated – 8,711 of the sentences were issued in total. But although the decision was made to abandon them in 2012, with the government saying they were “not defensible”, it was not retrospective. As a result, nearly 3,000 prisoners in England and Wales remain in jail under these sentences today, as well as many others who have been released but face the ongoing prospect of immediate recall to prison.

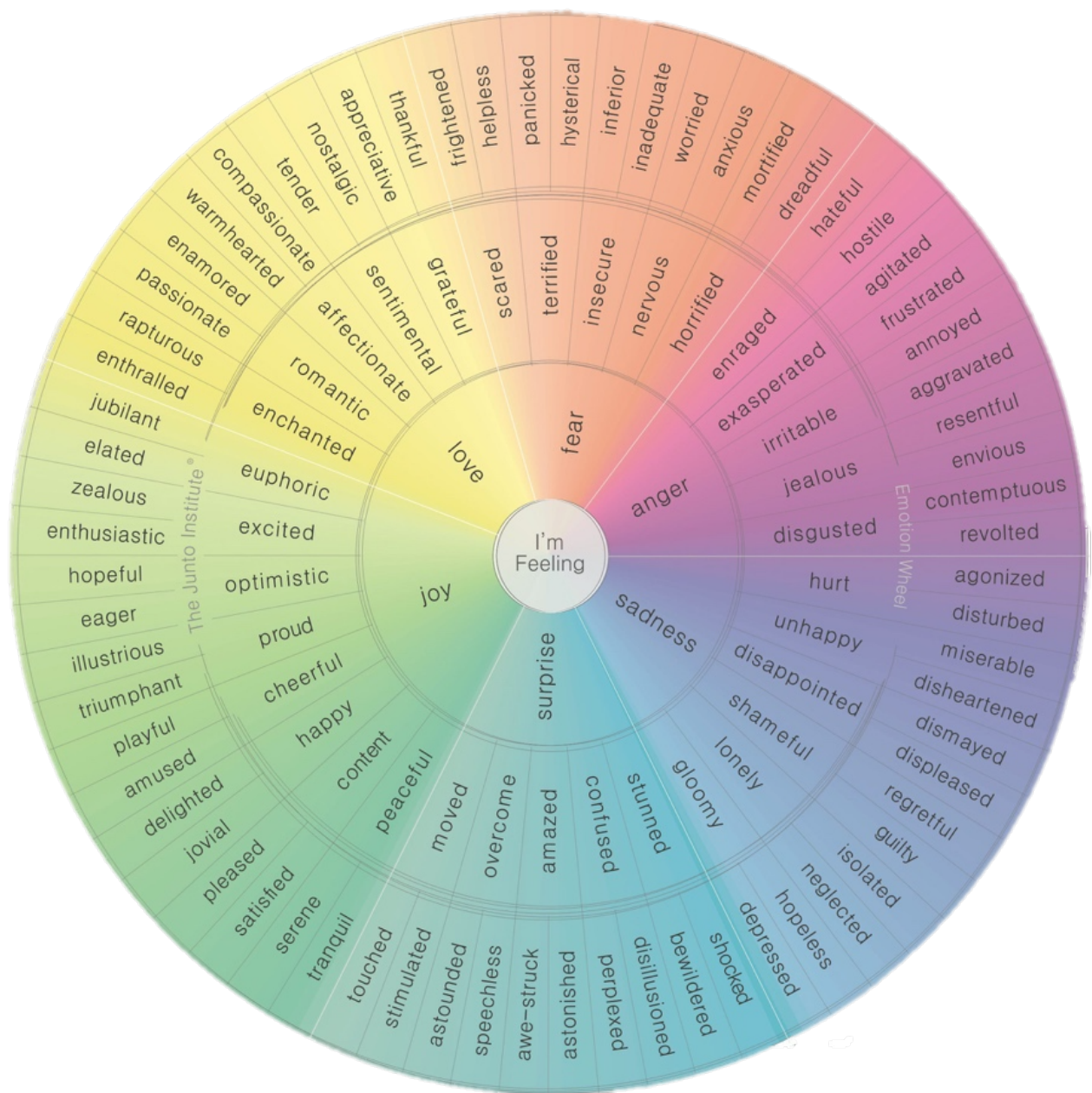
They are experiencing a punishment that is inhumane and often amounts to psychological torture. That is not a term I use lightly. As the UN special rapporteur on torture, I review dozens of cases of the mistreatment of prisoners around the world ranging from gross overcrowding in dilapidated jails in many Latin American and Asian countries, to persons being held incommunicado or without charge in places that are “off the map” in Iran and Syria.

IPP prisoners are experiencing a form of psychological torment, which is something that many survivors of torture tell me is worse than any physical violence. For those who remain jailed, people on IPP sentences must satisfy the Parole Board that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public for them to be confined. And yet, few have access to the rehabilitation programmes that are needed to demonstrate that reduction in their risk to the public. The result is they often wait years, decades even – as the cases I’ve highlighted showcase – languishing in prison, not knowing when they will be released. If they are refused release, they must wait another year before applying once again.

Source B: In 1858, a unknown writer describes the experience of witnessing a man sentenced to death in an article from *The Leisure Hour*.

We will look in now upon this Old Court while a trial is going on. The crowd around the outer portals, and the pushing and struggling for entrance, would warn us, if we did not know it already, that an affair of more than usual interest is going forward. We happen to arrive at the end of a long life-and-death trial, which has lasted two days, and at the moment when the doom of the prisoner, which no man doubts, is already impending. There he stands in the dock a young man, almost a boy, in the morning of life, who has deliberately premeditated and in cold blood committed the foulest murder, for the mere mercenary profit of the bloody deed. You would think, as he gazes round the court with an air of apparent unconcern upon the dense mass of faces all turned towards him, that he imagined himself the subject of sympathy, or even of admiration, rather than of disgust and horror, so buoyant and self-confident is the expression of his face. But a closer scrutiny shows you that he is acting a part - that that nonchalant bearing is put on - that dismay is gathering at his heart - and that the moment is not far distant when all that futile and assumed bravado will suddenly collapse and disappear. Already, though his glance is still defiant, the muscles of his mouth are not under his control, but are seen to twitch and quiver convulsively ; his hand wanders mechanically among the twigs of rue, and, without his volition or consciousness, his fingers are rending then into fragments ; and the restlessness of his whole frame testifies to that of his perturbed spirit. He is a foreigner, and ignorant of our laws ; and to the last moment he buoys himself up with some latent hope, which perhaps may be the secret of his seeming audacity. At the very last minute, when all other pleas have failed him, he claims exemption from capital punishment on the ground that he is a minor and cannot be executed. The judge calmly tells him that such a plea, however it might tell in his own country, is of no avail in an English court of justice; and in that response the unhappy man appears for the first time to recognise the certainty of his fate. We need not dwell upon the scene; the sentence is pronounced by the judge amidst a deathlike stillness, and the prisoner is withdrawn, disappearing from the world of men, to look upon it but once more at that last hour, in the presence of ten thousand witnesses.

The disappearance of the doomed prisoner operates as a signal for the clearance of the gallery.



QUESTION 4

For this question, you need to refer to the whole of Source A and Source B.
Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on the justice system.

In your answer, you could:

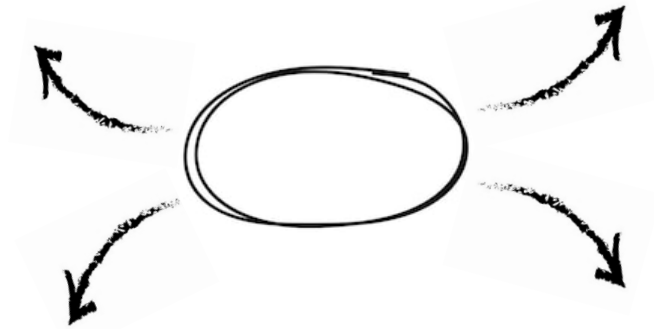
- compare their different feelings and perspectives on the justice system
- compare the methods they use to convey their feelings and perspectives
- support your response with references to both texts.

Link	Source A	Source B
	V:	V:
	Q:	Q:
	A:	A:
	V:	V:
	Q:	Q:
	A:	A:

[illegible]

QUESTION 5

“Schools do not teach enough about politics and the justice system. Teenagers need to learn about courts, prisons and sentences. It would help today’s youth become moral, upstanding citizens’
Write an article offering your views on this statement.

[illegible]