## PRISON REFORM

- Prison was used more from the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a punishment but also to reform criminals
- John Howard believed prisons should be more humane with professional jailers
- The 1774 Gaol Act suggested improvements, but was not enforced
- Elizabeth Fry tried to reform prisons, notably at Newgate. She published her ideas in 1825
- Sir Robert Peel passed the Gaols Act of 1823
- This paid gaolers, provided work and education for prisoners and began a programme for new prisons
- The main purpose was deterrence rather than reform
- The Separate System kept prisoners apart so they could not learn from each other; the Silent System did the same
- This lack of human company led to several suicides

# TRANSPORTATION

- This was introduced because an alternative was needed to the death penalty
- Juries had become reluctant to convict people who faced the death penalty for many crimes
- Transportation removed criminals from society and helped claimed Australia for the British Empire
- Most transported people were young, unskilled men; many of the stayed in Australia
- It helped reform criminals, removed them from society and courts were willing to use it However, it was expensive, was considered a soft option by some and did not reduce the crime rate
- It ended as prisons became used more

#### ABOLITION OF THE BLOODY CODE

- Instead of people treating public execution as a deterrent, they were treating it as a day out
- Large crowds went to public executions, causing issues of public order
- Many juries would not convict because they thought the punishment was too harsh for the crime
- This meant people who committed lesser crimes could get away with it
- Ideas about punishment were changing more people felt the punishment should fit the crime
- Some people felt criminals should be given the chance to change their ways
- Different punishments, such as transportation, had already been introduced

# 1750-1900

#### POLICE AND POLICING

- The old police system of constable and nightwatch was no good in the larger towns and cities
- The first organised 'police' force was the Bow Street Runners, set up by the Fielding Brothers
- People had been against a police force because of the expense and the fear of loss of privacy
- The Thames River Police was set up in 1798
- Robert Peel set up the Metropolitan Police(1829)
- By 1856 every town in Britain had a police force
- Peel was able to set up a police force because:
- He had the tax money to do so
- People were afraid of crime
- Crime was a serious problem in the big cities
- Police wore uniforms so they could be recognised but different uniforms to soldiers
- Their main 19<sup>th</sup> century effect was to deter crime
- Jack the Ripper showed they were poor at solving crime as they lacked forensic techniques

# INDUSTRIAL AND FRENCH REVOLUTIONS

- Growing towns, poor living conditions and extreme poverty forced many into crime
- People were more anonymous in the large towns and cities than they had been in villages
- Cheap prices for gin led to much alcohol-fuelled crime
- Advances in technology meant people were sacked and replaced by machinery, causing more hardship
- Luddites would smash the machinery in an effort to protect jobs and wages
- The government used the army and harsh punishment to smash the Luddite movement
- The French Revolution encouraged many people in Britain to demand political change
- The government feared a revolution in Britain, so used the army to crush meetings for political reform
- In 1819 at Peterloo 11 people were killed when soldiers charged into a meeting for reform
- The government reacted by supporting the magistrates who had ordered the soldiers in
- The government also passed the Six Acts in order to make it harder for people to gather together

### **TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS**

- Trade unions had been banned until 1824 as employers feared collective action
- In 1833 at Tolpuddle some farm workers formed a union to protect themselves
- They were arrested on the basis they had taken a secret oath, which was illegal
- They were sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia
- A public outcry caused the government to pardon the men and bring them home

#### **SMUGGLING**

- Smuggling is when duties are high & it is profitable to import goods illegally
  - Most smugglers were farm workers who earned much money by smuggling
- It was hard to stop as so many wanted cheap goods and helped smugglers
- People thought only the government suffered through smuggling, but the penalty was death and customs officers were also killed
- Smuggling ended when duties were reduced and it became unprofitable