

## COURTS IN UK (part I)

### 1. Magistrates' courts

All criminal cases start in a magistrates' court.

Cases are heard by either: 2 or 3 magistrates or a district judge

There isn't a jury in a magistrates' court.

#### Cases a magistrates' court deals with

A magistrates' court normally handles cases known as 'summary offences', e.g.:

most motoring offences, minor criminal damage, being drunk and disorderly

It can also deal with some of the more serious offences, e.g.: burglary, drugs offences

These are called 'either way' offences and can be heard either in a magistrates' court or a Crown Court.

#### Cases that magistrates pass to the Crown Court

Magistrates' courts always pass the most serious crimes to the Crown Court, e.g.: murder, rape, robbery. These are known as 'indictable offences'.

#### Being kept in custody or granted bail

In some cases, the magistrates court decides if you should be: kept in custody – e.g. a police or court cell or granted 'bail', and let out on strict conditions – e.g. to keep away from named places or people

This may happen if:

- another court hearing is needed
- the court needs more information before passing sentence
- your case is passed to the Crown Court for trial or sentencing

#### Sentences a magistrates' court can give

The court can give punishments including:

- up to 6 months in prison (or up to 12 months in total for more than one offence)
- a fine of up to £5,000
- a community sentence, like doing unpaid work in the community

Courts can also give a combination of punishments – e.g. a fine and unpaid work in the community. If the court decides your sentence should be for longer than 6 months, it can pass your case to the Crown Court for sentencing.

#### Appealing a sentence or conviction

If you disagree with the magistrate court's verdict, you may be able to appeal.

#### I. Mark the sentences True/False:

1. Cases in magistrates' court are heard by magistrates or a district judge.
2. There is a jury in a magistrates' court.
3. The Crown Court passes the most serious crimes to a magistrates' court.
4. The magistrates decide if you should be kept in custody.
5. You cannot be granted 'bail' in magistrates' court.

6. A case can be passed to the Crown Court for trial.
7. A magistrates' court can give a combination of punishments.
8. A magistrates' court can give punishment of more than 6 months.
9. If you disagree with a verdict, you may appeal.
10. A magistrates' court cannot pass a case for sentencing to the Crown Court.

II. Write a definition, a synonym or give an example of the following expressions or words:

a magistrates' court -

summary offences -

the more serious offences -

indictable offences -

either way offences -

bail -

to be kept in custody -

to pass sentence -

a community service -

a fine -

III. Match the words or expressions with their Polish meaning:

1 summary offence	A szkoda karna
2. indictable offence	B uwięzienie
3. pass sentence	C ława przysięgłych
4 court hearing	D kara zastępcza – praca na rzecz społeczeństwa
5 to keep in custody	E sędzia sądu rejonowego
6 community service	F przestępstwa rozpatrywane w trybie doraźnym
7 bail	G wydać wyrok
8 punishment	H Sąd Koronny
9 a magistrate	I przestępstwa zaskarżalne
10 imprisonment	J sędzia pokoju
11 district judge	K kaucja
12 Crown Court	L trzymać pod strażą
13 a jury	M przesłuchanie w sądzie
14 criminal damage	N kara

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