Crime

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each criminal-justice term with its meaning.

1 presumption of innocence	____	a punishment involving imprisonment
2 burden of proof	____	b circumstance making an offence less serious
3 reasonable doubt	____	c principle that a person is innocent until proved guilty
4 forensic evidence	____	d scientific material used to establish facts in a case
5 eyewitness testimony	____	e uncertainty sufficient to prevent a criminal conviction
6 plea bargain	____	f circumstance making an offence more serious
7 custodial sentence	____	g duty to prove an allegation
8 suspended sentence	____	h punishment not activated unless another offence is committed
9 mitigating factor	____	i evidence given by someone who saw an event
10 aggravating factor	____	j agreement involving a guilty plea in exchange for a concession

2 Complete the criminal-justice collocations.

doubt | **evidence** | **factor** | **innocence** | **proof** | **sentence** | **testimony** | **verdict**

1 presume someone's _____

2 meet the burden of _____

3 admit forensic _____

4 challenge eyewitness _____

5 raise reasonable _____

6 return a guilty _____

7 consider a mitigating _____

8 impose a custodial _____

3 Choose the most precise term for the context.

1 The prosecution must establish guilt: *burden of proof / reasonable doubt*.

2 Uncertainty remains after hearing the case: *reasonable doubt / forensic evidence*.

3 DNA links a suspect to an object: *forensic evidence / eyewitness testimony*.

4 A witness identifies a person seen briefly: *eyewitness testimony / plea bargain*.

5 The accused pleads guilty for a reduced charge: *plea bargain / suspended sentence*.

6 Previous planning makes the offence worse: *aggravating / mitigating factor*.

7 Immediate cooperation reduces seriousness: *mitigating / aggravating factor*.

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4 Complete the case review with terms from the box.

aggravating factor | burden of proof | custodial sentence | eyewitness testimony | forensic evidence | mitigating factor | plea bargain | presumption of innocence | reasonable doubt | suspended sentence

The court began from the **1** _____, while the prosecution carried the **2** _____. Its case combined **3** _____ with disputed **4** _____. The defence argued that the identification created **5** _____. After a **6** _____, the accused admitted a lesser offence. Planning was an **7** _____, but early cooperation was a **8** _____. The judge rejected a **9** _____ and imposed a short **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Reviewing a disputed identification

A witness identified a robbery suspect after briefly seeing the offender at night. The first identification procedure unintentionally suggested whom police suspected. Later DNA testing excluded the accused from an item handled by the robber, while phone-location evidence placed him elsewhere. Prosecutors disclosed the new evidence and withdrew the charge. The force reviewed its procedure and introduced double-blind line-ups, where the officer conducting the process does not know the suspect's identity.

1 Why might the witness's view have been unreliable? _____

2 What was wrong with the first identification procedure? _____

3 What did the DNA evidence show? _____

4 What did phone data suggest? _____

5 How did prosecutors respond? _____

6 Why were double-blind line-ups introduced? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The prosecution must prove the accusation. **BURDEN** _____

2 The evidence leaves significant uncertainty. **DOUBT** _____

3 The offender will go to prison. **CUSTODIAL** _____

4 His cooperation reduced the seriousness. **MITIGATING** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** case evaluation. Address the charge, burden of proof, reliability of evidence, reasonable doubt, verdict and proportional sentence.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms. [ ] Separate allegation from established fact. [ ] Evaluate evidence and safeguards.

ANSWER KEY

1 Criminal-justice terms

1 **c** 2 **g** 3 **e** 4 **d** 5 **i** 6 **j** 7 **a** 8 **h** 9 **b** 10 **f**

2 Criminal-justice collocations

1 **innocence** 2 **proof** 3 **evidence** 4 **testimony** 5 **doubt** 6 **verdict** 7 **factor** 8 **sentence**

3 Precise terms

1 **burden of proof** 2 **reasonable doubt** 3 **forensic evidence** 4 **eyewitness testimony**
5 **plea bargain** 6 **aggravating factor** 7 **mitigating factor**

4 Case review

1 **presumption of innocence** 2 **burden of proof** 3 **forensic evidence** 4 **eyewitness testimony** 5 **reasonable doubt**
6 **plea bargain** 7 **aggravating factor** 8 **mitigating factor** 9 **suspended sentence** 10 **custodial sentence**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 It was brief, dark and at night. 2 It suggested the police suspect. 3 It excluded the accused. 4 He was elsewhere.
5 They disclosed evidence and withdrew the charge. 6 To avoid influencing identification.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The prosecution bears the **burden of proof**. 2 There is **reasonable doubt**. 3 He will receive a **custodial sentence**. 4 Cooperation was a **mitigating factor**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check procedural fairness, evidence reliability, uncertainty and proportionality.