

## **Verdict on the judges The way they are appointed must change**

No other public service would survive such a report. It would be ruthlessly restructured in accordance with the ministerial modernising mantra that has been applied to education, health and social services. But the appointments system for judges and QCs has a special place in New Labour's heart. This is a service run by ministers themselves. Or, to be more precise, by one minister, the Lord Chancellor. The system was once described by one of his Conservative predecessors, Lord Hailsham, as "almost as foolproof as it could be".

In opposition, Lord Irvine disagreed. Ten years ago, in a Guardian article, he criticised the outdated, secretive and elitist appointments system and called for an independent appointments commission. Once inside government, he changed his mind. Now, 10 years on from his Guardian piece, the independent commission for judicial appointments which, contrary to its title, does not make appointments but instead monitors the Lord Chancellor's 180-strong team that does, has come out with a damning report. It finds his appointments system slow, opaque, unsystematic and unprofessional. All manner of inappropriate comments ("anecdote, gossip, hearsay, irrelevant self-indulgent comment") were found in the files drawn up from 4,700 responses of 300 consultees on 456 candidates. It found a number of consultees — senior judges and leaders of the legal profession — did not comply with the requirement to provide detailed reasons for their assessments. It suggests the current lack of transparency could be one reason why the system is still perpetuating a white male dominated judiciary drawn from a narrow social group. Of all public services, the judicial system, which on occasions is asked to rule on racial and sexual discrimination cases, should be seen to be free from bias. The current system was devised for a small legal profession. It now numbers more than 100,000. Tune for a change.

**Part I**

A. Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Who appoints judges and Qs ( Queen’s Counsels ) ?

.....

2. What is the function of the appointments commission?

.....

3. What is the main accusation of the report?

.....

.....

4. What is the stereotype of a judge in Britain?

.....

.....

5. Why should it be changed?

.....  
..... 10

B. Which expressions in the article have similar meanings to:

- 1. obeying or following the rules .....
- 2. to make an official decision about a legal problem - .....
- 3. a system or plan which is certain to be successful ( adj.) -.....
- 4. something that you have heard but don’t know if it is true-.....
- 5. to prepare a legal document-..... 5

## PART II

For the following questions read the text and decide which word best fits each space.

### SHOPLIFTING

Last year, losses from shops through shoplifting and theft by staff amounted to over 1 billion \$. There are many (1)..... for shopkeepers themselves to reduce shoplifting. As with all types of crime, prevention is better than (2) ..... . The best deterrent is the (3) ..... of staff properly trained in how to identify potential shoplifters. There are also many security (4) ..... now available. Video camera surveillance is a popular system, even with quite small retailers. In clothes shops, magnetic tag marking systems that set off an alarm have proved their (5) ..... . However, there are many (6) ..... measures that retailers should consider. Better lighting and ceiling-hung mirrors can help staff to (7) ..... all parts of the display area. Similarly, simply arranging shelves and display units to allow clear (8) ..... of vision is a good deterrent.

Another problem for retailers is the (9) ..... of stolen credit cards to buy goods and services. Many retailers avoid this by always checking the (10) ..... of a card used for purchase. Electronic systems are now available to (11) ..... up the procedure.

Most companies keep a petty (12) ..... box for small expenses. They are a popular (13) ..... for thieves. It is not enough to have a box that locks. A thief can steal it and then open it at leisure. Lock it in a drawer as well. Telephones, typewriters, word processors and computers are also vulnerable because they are (14) ..... . Property marking is a good deterrent and helps the police return stolen goods if they are (15) ..... . And remember that in many businesses information is valuable to competitors and should be protected.

- |                    |               |             |              |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. A opportunities | B schemes     | C ideas     | D occasions  |
| 2. A remedy        | B loss        | C cure      | D conviction |
| 3. A knowledge     | B presence    | C number    | D importance |
| 4. A devices       | B methods     | C tricks    | D machines   |
| 5. A reliability   | B worth       | C valuation | D identity   |
| 6. A better        | B easier      | C simpler   | D bigger     |
| 7. A notice        | B watch       | C control   | D regard     |
| 8. A fields        | B areas       | C systems   | D angles     |
| 9. A employment    | B application | C technique | D use        |
| 10. A honesty      | B forgery     | C validity  | D value      |
| 11. A speed        | B check       | C take      | D key        |
| 12. A money        | B bank        | C saving    | D cash       |
| 13. A robbery      | B target      | C aim       | D object     |
| 14. A portable     | B expensive   | C stolen    | D attractive |
| 15. A reported     | B known       | C revealed  | D traced     |

**PART III** *Idiomatic Expressions and phrasal verbs*

*A: Use a suitable idiomatic expression in the following sentences:*

1. You can be sure Jack will ..... Let's hope he doesn't offend too many people.  
(say exactly what he thinks)
2. When my boss takes the credit for work I've done it .....  
(I am furious/angry)
3. Politicians are criticized for whatever they do. They've got to be pretty ..... to take it all.  
(insensitive to blame or disapproval)
4. It's nothing to do with you. Stop .....into other people's business.  
(interfere)
5. ....! What's the rush? I haven't even told you how to get there.  
(wait before acting hastily)

*B: In the following sentences use a suitable phrasal verb:*

1. It takes him at least a week to ..... before he can enjoy the holidays.  
(rest and relax after a lot of hard work)
2. Must you keep .....? Can't you at least let me finish a sentence?  
(interrupt a conversation)
3. Which piece of modern technology ..... the biggest changes in your life?  
(caused to happen)
4. Some people ..... from controversial subjects deliberately.  
(avoid talking about)
5. It was his extravagant spending that ..... him .....  
(reveal sb's guilt)

20

**PART IV**

*In most of the sentences there is a grammatical mistake. Find it and correct it. If you think the sentence is correct write it next to the number of the sentence.*

1. We would be there by now if you wouldn't have spent so long on getting ready.
2. The fire was burning for several hours by the time the firefighters arrived.
3. Neither of the six animals were hurt.
4. Burkina Faso is the country who is used to being called Upper Volta.
5. I met a very pretty girl at a dance and she agreed to letting me walk her home.
6. We needn't have taken a cab because Joe gave us a lift in his car.
7. The queue was quite short so I didn't have to wait too long.
8. Not a word have I heard from him since he left eight weeks ago.
9. She is so good, she should have been promoted soon.
10. He told to me that he was taking the ferry and wouldn't be in Paris until tomorrow. 10

**PART V**

*Fill each space in the sentences below with the correct form of the word in bold print above it.*

**1. explain**

An .....leaflet is given to all purchasers of the machine.

**2. dead**

The doctor gave him an injection to .....the pain.

**3. courage**

She .....stood in the way of the escaping robbers.

**4. false**

She was accused of .....the financial accounts.

**5. describe**

The damage caused by the earthquake cannot be imagined. It was .....

**6. famous**

The day of the massacre will go down in history as a terrible, ..... day.

**7. defend**

We must do all we can for the ..... of this nation against possible attack.

**8. possess**

In his will he left all his money and .....to his wife.

**9. form**

It is especially important for children to have love and affection in their ..... years.

**10. compel**

Military service is no longer .....in Britain.

**PART VI** *Answer the following questions*

1. What is the age of criminal responsibility in Britain and which courts deal with such cases?

..... 1

2. Explain the doctrine of precedent

.....  
.....  
..... 2

3. Name three crimes against property

-  
-  
- 1

4. Decide if these sentences are True or False

- a. The highest court of appeal in Britain is the Court of Appeal
- b. The Speaker in the House of Commons is also the member of the Cabinet
- c. Members of the Civil Service are not elected
- d. Only people with legal education can become Justices of the Peace 2

5. Who are Law Lords?

.....  
.....  
..... 1

6. What is a constituency?

.....  
.....  
..... 2

7. What are the three elements which make a contract binding?

-  
-  
- 2

8. What is the difference between a barrister and a solicitor?

.....  
.....  
..... 2

9. What is the British legal system based on?	
-	
-	1
10. What are the powers of the President of Poland?	
-	
-	
-	
-	2
11. Who can vote in Britain?	
.....	
.....	
.....	2
12. What is the jurisdiction of Magistrates Court?	
.....	
.....	
.....	2
13. What are the main categories of peers?	
-	
-	
-	
-	2
14. How do we call a criminal who commits the following crimes:	
- falsyfing documents - .....	
- setting fire to buildings - .....	
- breaking into buildings - .....	
- damaging public property - .....	2
15 What is the difference between manslaughter and murder?	
.....	
.....	
.....	1
	25