

Nombre: _____

1. Read and answer the questions

More violent crime

Crime is on the rise according to a worrying report issued this week by the government’s national statistics office.

Concerned citizens are likely to be alarmed by the report’s conclusions. Despite promises that the government was tackling the problem seriously, the report indicates a 6% rise in serious offences over the last year. The largest increase has been in assaults, especially those concerning knives or other weapons. The main factor in these crimes appears to be the growth of gangs in our inner cities, and many of the crimes are drug related.

Burglaries and theft have also increased, although by a smaller percentage. The published figures show a 3% growth since last year. Government sources claim that the underlying reason for this increase is the economic situation. An opposition spokesman said there was nothing surprising in these figures. He pointed at causes which are social and blamed the rise in crime on the present government’s lack of investment in education and training. The chair of the Police Officer’s Association placed responsibility for the situation on the shoulders of the Minister of Justice. Reductions in police numbers have been a principal factor in the growth of crime, he claims.

As usual, it is the old and vulnerable who are most likely to be the victims of crime. More than 38% of the victims identified in the report were over the age of 65. It is certainly true that there is a fear of crime among the elderly, and many groups are calling for something radical to be done about the problem. They are asking for maximum sentences for those criminals who attack the elderly or disabled. They feel the criminals involved should be punished more severely than others.

1. What is the main cause of the rise in violent assaults?

2. Why does the opposition spokesman think that there is nothing surprising about the increase of criminal offences?

3. Theft has grown in the same proportion as serious offences. **T F**

4. The groups that are most commonly attacked are old and disabled people. **T F**

5. How do some radical groups want to solve the problem?

2. Read this letter and put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense. When you see a + use a modal

Hi Emma,

We’re having an absolutely wonderful time here in Barcelona – well, until last night, that is! We _____ (stay) in a hotel in the Gothic quarter. Yesterday we _____ (go) for a delicious meal. We _____ (walk) back to the hotel at about midnight when we _____ (suddenly surround) by three young guys who demanded our wallets. I _____ (never be) so frightened in my life. They had a knife, so we didn’t resist. And there was nobody nearby, so we _____ (+ not even call) for help. Luckily, we only had a few euros in our pockets, no credit cards or anything like that. They just took the money and ran away. They didn’t hurt us, so it wasn’t as bad as it might have been. I _____ (not let) it spoil my trip!

Anyway, everything else _____ (be) fantastic! I hope things are OK at the office and you _____ (not work) too hard – although I _____ (+ not say) I’m very happy at the thought of getting back there next week!

Lucy

3. Read about this other type of crime and complete the blanks with a suitable linking word

For years illegal street races have been a real problem in Los Angeles. Driving through the busy city streets, amateur drivers race in _____ to win prizes of up to \$3,000. Crashes and fatalities are common. _____, the police seem unable to stop the danger _____ the faster they chase the criminals the faster they drive _____ that they cause even more damage. The drivers call these races "cutting up" contests _____ their aim is to drive as fast as possible through crowded streets overtaking and "cutting up" ordinary drivers. The criminals use special cars which look like ordinary family cars _____ in fact they have been fitted with special fuel. _____ they are not as powerful as professional racing cars, these vehicles can still reach high speeds and be extremely dangerous. _____ parents and psychologists blame the crime wave on the influence of computer games, many of which are about street races. Teenagers want to be _____ the drivers in these games. But driving in a game is fictional. _____ you crash a car in a computer game you simply start again.

4. Go on reading and complete the blanks with only one word

Ten years _____ about ten people a year were killed in street races in the Los Angeles area. Now the figure is more _____ a hundred. As street races have grown more and more dangerous, the police have been forced _____ take stronger action. This has resulted in a surprising discovery: _____ of the racers are teenage girls rather _____ teenage boys. Some of them are not even old _____ to have a driving licence. But to many members of the public this isn't a surprising revelation, especially _____ many of these girls seem to be from the Asian community. People believe _____ these girls are perhaps modelling Nadine Toyoda, a Scottish-Japanese former street racer _____ has changed her ways and now works _____ a legitimate racing driver. Let's hope that these teenagers will take her example and stop this dangerous new trend.

5. Complete the dialogue between a policeman and a witness of a street race accident

Policeman OK, madam. _____ when the accident happened?

Witness I was standing at the corner of Lexington and Madison. I was about to cross the street.

Policeman And _____ the car license?

Witness No, I'm afraid I couldn't. I was too shocked, you see.

Policeman And _____?

Witness 'ell, yes. I think it was an Asian girl. Japanese or Chinese, probably.

Policeman _____?

Witness I think so. I didn't see anybody else in the car.

Policeman If I showed you some pictures, _____?

Witness Well, I'm not sure. I can try, though.

6. Composition. Write about 60 – 80 words on one of the following:

- Write a story about a crime.
- Write a letter to a friend telling him about a frightening experience you had.