

Name: _____

Levels of Criminal Offences

Canada's justice system handles various criminal offences differently depending on the seriousness of the crime. The type of offence has a bearing on custody issues, bail requirements, trial procedures, and sentencing. The three levels of crimes include **summary conviction offences**, **indictable offences**, and **hybrid offences**.

Using your textbook (pages 221-223) to help you, find the information for the following:

Summary Conviction Offences

1. Give the definition of a summary conviction offence.

2. Give two examples of summary conviction offences.

3. What is the usual punishment for someone convicted of a summary offence?

4. In which court are summary conviction offences tried?

Federal Court

Provincial Court

Municipal Court

5. Is there a jury present?

Yes

No

6. Does the accused have to appear in court if he or she is represented by a lawyer?

Yes

No

7. Where do you find out if a crime is classified as a summary conviction offence?

Indictable Offences

1. Give the definition of an indictable offence.

Name: _____

2. Give two examples of indictable offences.

3. What is the range of maximum punishments for indictable offences?

4. Which court would hear the trial for an indictable offence? Explain using examples.

5. Are indictable offences tried before a jury?

Yes, Always No, Never Sometimes

6. Does the accused have to appear in court if he or she is represented by a lawyer?

Yes No

7. Is there a limitation on time when the offence may be prosecuted?

Yes No

Hybrid Offences

1. Give the definition of a hybrid or dual procedure offence.

2. Give two examples of hybrid offences.

3. How do you know a crime is a hybrid offence?

4. How are hybrid offences treated before charges are laid in court?

As Summary Offences As Indictable Offences

Name: _____

5. How does the Crown decide how they will treat a hybrid offence? Explain using an example.

Building Your Understanding

1. Why are trials for some offences heard by a judge alone?

2. If the accused is charged with a hybrid offence, who decides whether the charge proceeds as summary or indictable?

3. With a partner, categorize the following offences into the chart below according to the severity of the crime. (If you don't know, don't be afraid to guess)

Theft under \$5000

Arson

Appearing Nude in a Public Place

Theft from Mail

Second-Degree Murder

Fraud under \$5000

Trespassing at Night

Making Harassing Phone Calls

Unauthorized Use of a Computer

Causing Unnecessary Suffering to Animals

Impaired Driving Causing Death

| Summary | Hybrid | Indictable |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | | |