

ANSWERS - Correct answers are highlighted in black.

Troubled Times - Prison History Trail



The Castle Museum is housed in two prison buildings.

The Debtors' Prison was built between 1701-5.

The ground floor cells were for those who had committed the most serious crimes such as coin clipping, arson, horse stealing, murder and highway robbery.

Conditions inside the prison were bad and many prisoners suffocated in the packed cells. In an attempt to create better conditions the **Female Prison** was built between 1780-83.

Follow the trail and discover the secrets of the Museum's prison past!



Look in The Period Rooms

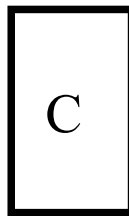
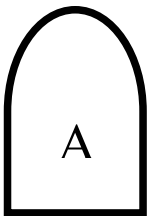
There is an original prison cell door in one of the display rooms. Where is it?

In the Victorian Parlour In the Moorland Cottage

In the Dining Room, 17th century

Stand by the window seat near the Georgian Room.

What shape were the original prison windows?



Look in The Cradle to Grave Exhibition

What do you think this large space was used for when the building was a prison?

A chapel A concert hall A café



Look in Kirkgate, the Victorian Street

This area was originally two open air exercise yards. You can see the original walls at the back of the shops.

One of the steps in the street is made from an original paving stone from the yard.

It has carvings on it made by a prisoner - where is it?

By Hutchinson and Thompson's

By William Whincup's

The original gateway to the prison was moved and put into the Kirkgate display. Which doorway do you think it is?

The candle manufacturers

The haberdashers

The bank

Go through the small door of the prison gateway to a former day cell and look for: A heart in a leg; A galleon; A bird and a hand.

Who carved these pictures?

The workers at the candle factory

The prisoner

Museum visitors



From 1868 there was a scaffold at the end of this building for executions by hanging. A bell was used to announce an execution in the exercise yard.

Where can you find the bell?

In the toy shop

Above the haberdashers

Above the gold beater's sign

What is behind the peephole on the left before you leave the police station?

A padded cell

A squash court

A soft play space

What happens when you put 20p in the English Execution machine?

Walk through the Concourse and Shop Area. You are now entering the Debtors' Prison.



Look in the **Costume Gallery** and the **Children's Gallery**

This floor is where the debtors, who were better treated than the criminals, were kept and where the prison staff lived. If you look out of the window at the end of the Children's Gallery you can see the Edwardian Street which was built in part of the prison exercise yard.



Look in The Exercise Yard

As you walk outside, look at the building. The first class debtors and the gaoler lived on the first floor which had tall glazed windows.



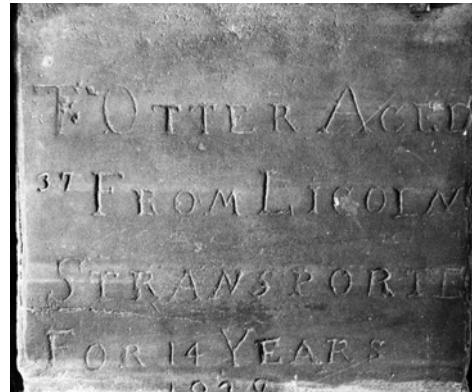
The second class debtors were kept on the second floor which had smaller glazed windows. The criminals were kept on the ground floor which had small unglazed windows with one or two sets of bars.



Look in Half Moon Court

This area is named after the semi-circular exercise yard used for debtors.

The area was also used as the un-shackling yard where the chains would be cut off prisoners before trial, execution, deportation or release.



Records show that in July 1829

Jon Foulds, Alexander Burn, Simon Hargreaves, John Toppin, Edward Hamilton, William Brewer, William Parker and George Cullingworth were kept in close confinement for attempting to escape by making a hole through the wall of Half Moon Yard.

Can you find the names of any two of the escaping prisoners carved on the wall?

1.

Foulds, Burn, Hargreaves,
Brewer and Cullingworth

2



Look in The Cells

The small cells were called the low grates and were used for the felons; those who had committed the most serious crimes.

Look inside the cells which now display the craft workshops. Three prisoners would have been locked in these cells.

How do you think air came into these cells?

Holes in the door

Fans

External windows

You can see prisoners' graffiti on the paving stones displayed on the walls. Sometimes the prisoners recorded their names, ages, crimes and their sentences.

How old was the prisoner Joseph in 1831?

23 years old



Look in the Condemned Cell



The punishments of the prisoners ranged from serving time in the cells to hanging and deportation to the colonies.

The most famous prisoner of York Castle was the man known as Dick Turpin. What was the crime for which he was eventually hanged?

Horse Stealing

Highway Robbery

Coin clipping