

Ranking Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to encourage you to think about the kinds of issues faced by a Justice of the Peace. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers! Your thoughts and conclusions will then form the basis for a general discussion at the start of your interview about the seriousness of different offences and the comparisons between them.

Task

Read through the examples of offending situations which are described below. Then, using the box below:-

1. Pick the four most serious offences from the seven.
2. Rank these four in order of seriousness from most serious to least serious.
3. Explain the reasons for your choice.

A The accused, a young pregnant female, with a pram, was seen acting suspiciously in a supermarket. She took an item from the shelf and placed it under the blanket in the pram and left the store without paying for the item. She was stopped outside by a store detective and found to have a bottle of vodka which had not been paid for.

B The accused, who had been drinking heavily, was seen kicking a car, a Vauxhall Corsa, denting the rear offside wing and the bonnet of the vehicle, causing £450 worth of damage.

C The accused, an unemployed young man was seen outside a nightclub near the taxi rank, shouting and swearing at a couple in the queue. Police witnessed this and asked him to stop but he continued to shout and swear and committed a breach of the peace.

D The accused is charged with assault to his mother with whom he lives. Both had been drinking heavily. The injuries sustained were redness to the face and neck, but did not require treatment.

E The accused was stopped on a routine check at 2am and asked for his vehicle documents. When he brought them to the police station 2 days later he was found not to have a current MOT certificate.

F The accused was seen consuming alcoholic liquor, a can of lager, in a designated public area where it is forbidden to drink alcohol.

G The accused was charged with overtaking on a road where there was a double white line while driving a Mercedes sports car. He has 6 points on his licence from a previous speeding offence 6 months ago.

The four most serious offences on the list are :-	Insert the letter from above (ie if you think that D is the most serious offence described, insert 'D' in the first line
1. <i>[Most Serious of the four]</i>	
2.	
3.	
4. <i>[Least Serious of the four]</i>	
Please explain below the reasons for your choices.	