

# Crime and Punishment

## Curriculum unit

### Unit 1: part 1, Chapters 1-5

Handouts:

1. Cyrillic alphabet
2. Russian names and exercise
3. List of characters
4. Study questions

#### **"Morality" Exercise**

Students rank the following, 1-7, with 1 being the most morally reprehensible and indicate their rationale for each: thief, prostitute, murderer, gossip, sadist, alcoholic, gambler.

Ask students to put their lists on the board, then to justify their ranking, then present extenuating circumstances and ask students to re-rank the list.

Ask students to draw conclusions.

*Extenuating circumstances:*

1. The thief steals bread for starving children.
2. The gossip causes someone to lose a job.
3. The gambler loses the money to feed a family.
4. A young person was sold into prostitution to support the family. OR A young person runs away from an abusive family and uses prostitution to stay alive.

#### **"Jury" Readiness Exercise 1**

Poll the class to find out what sentence they would deem just for a man who killed two women with an axe—not in self-defense. Keep the tally for the end of the novel.

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Фёдор Михайлович Достоевский

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**Crime and Punishment**  
**Преступление и наказание**

**Study Questions**

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**Assignment 1: I : 1-5**

1. Describe Raskolnikov's living conditions.
2. What can environmental factors like this do to one's mind?
3. Describe the different aspects of Raskolnikov's personality
4. Describe Marmeladov and his family
5. Is Marmeladov to be pitied or despised
6. Do you sympathize with Katerina Ivanovna? Why? Why not? Does Dostoevsky want a reader to? How do we know
7. Does Katerina Ivanovna's background make her present situation even more tragic? Why
8. Is the pawnbroker described as being physically attractive or unattractive
9. Is Raskolnikov described as being physically attractive or unattractive?
10. How are the descriptions of the pawnbroker and Raskolnikov ironic?
11. What determines whether the character is likable or not?
12. Is Sonia likable?
13. Is Luzhin, Dunya's proposed husband, likable? Why? Why not?
14. How does Raskolnikov feel about Dunya's proposed marriage to Luzhin?
15. Does Raskolnikov love his family? How can we tell?
16. Why does Raskolnikov compare Dunya's proposed marriage to Sonia's prostitution?
17. Is the comparison valid?
18. How does Marfa Petrovna react to Dunya's rejection letter to Svidrigailov?
19. What was Raskolnikov's former occupation?

20. Why isn't he tutoring now?
21. What personality trait does Dostoevsky bring out here?
22. Discuss (and come to conclusions about) Raskolnikov's dream about the mare.
23. How is the dream symbolic?
24. What does Raskolnikov overhear about the pawnbroker's schedule?

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**Assignment 2: I : 6-7, II : 1-2**

1. Discuss the role coincidence plays in this reading assignment.
2. What ironic remarks does Dostoevsky have the different characters make?
3. What ironic events does Dostoevsky include?
4. Is Raskolnikov rational or irrational in his actions?
5. What happens to Raskolnikov's concept of time?
6. What does the novel say sleep provides those feeling guilt?
7. What are some of the effects of guilt?
8. What do most people need to do with the burden of guilt?
9. Does Raskolnikov demonstrate this need? How do we know?
10. What does Raskolnikov do with the spoils of his crime?
11. What evidence does Dostoevsky provide that robbery was Raskolnikov's motive?
12. Is Raskolnikov suffering? Explain.
13. Is guilt a constructive or destructive emotion?
14. When is guilt healthy? unhealthy?
15. Describe Raskolnikov's behavior at Razumihin's apartment.

16. Why does Raskolnikov go to Razumihin's apartment?

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*Assignment 3: II : 3-6*

1. Contrast Raskolnikov with the people around him.
2. What is the only subject in which Raskolnikov shows interest?
3. How would the novel, and particularly this part of it, be different if Dostoevsky had written it in the first person from Raskolnikov's point of view? What qualities of a good friend does Dostoevsky give Razumihin?
4. How does Razumihin show his concern for Raskolnikov?
5. What does Dostoevsky use Raskolnikov's delirious ravings to reveal about him?
6. Why does Razumihin feel that Nikolai is not the murderer?
7. What does Razumihin's theory about the crime reveal about him?
8. How does Luzhin behave in his interview with Raskolnikov?
9. How does Raskolnikov treat Luzhin?
10. Whom does Dostoevsky depict more sympathetically—Luzhin or Raskolnikov?
11. What qualities does Dostoevsky (or his narrator) seem to value in people?
12. What qualities does Dostoevsky (or his narrator) seem to despise?
13. Discuss Raskolnikov's behavior with Zametov at the bar.
14. Whom does Dostoevsky have provoke the conversation about the murder—Zametov or Raskolnikov? Why?
15. Based on his behavior at the bar, what other personality traits of Raskolnikov does Dostoevsky have surface here?
16. Where does Raskolnikov go? Why?
17. What other examples of verbal irony and situational irony does Dostoevsky use in these chapters?

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*Assignment 4 : II : 7, III : 1-3*

1. What do Katerina Ivanovna's reactions to Marmeladov's death say about her character?
2. What does Luzhin's letter reveal about his personality?
3. Raskolnikov's generous actions after Marmeladov's accident effect a temporary change in his character. Discuss.

4. Discuss the incongruity of Sonia's description in chapter 7.
5. What personality traits does Dounia share with her brother Rodya?

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*Assignment 5: III : 4-5, IV : 1*

1. What do Sonia's reactions to the polite behavior of Raskolnikov's family reveal about her self-concept?
2. Where does the fifty-year-old man who is new to St. Petersburg live?
3. From a strategic standpoint, why are the playful actions of Raskolnikov and Razumihin upon entering Porfiry's room effective?
4. How is Porfiry described in a somewhat contradictory way?
5. When Porfiry repeats the words "ordinary" and "extraordinary" what is Raskolnikov aware of?
6. Discuss the main point of Raskolnikov's article on crime as published in the *Periodical Review*.
7. What does the fact that Porfiry has studied Raskolnikov's article reveal to both Raskolnikov and the reader?
8. Does Porfiry question Raskolnikov in traditional police manner?
9. Where is Porfiry being sarcastic in his discussion of Raskolnikov's theory?
10. Does Porfiry seem like a formidable opponent at first?
11. What result is Porfiry's friendly disposition likely to provoke in a criminal?
12. When does Porfiry's lighthearted manner give way to a deadly serious question?
13. Is Raskolnikov a suspect?
14. How does Razumihin's reaction to Porfiry's question about the painters further describe his character?
15. Why does Porfiry ask Raskolnikov if he believes in Lazarus rising from the dead?
16. What disturbing comment is made by a stranger to Raskolnikov as he is walking home?
17. Is Raskolnikov starting to believe that his actions are not worthy of his theory?
18. Discuss the significance of Raskolnikov's dream about the beating of an old woman.
19. Who visits Raskolnikov?

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*Assignment 6: IV : 2-6*

1. How does Luzhin act in his meeting with Raskolnikov and his family?

2. What other despicable acts has Svidrigailov committed?
3. Do you agree with Luzhin's assertion that there are some insults that do irreparable harm to relationships? Are there boundaries of acceptable criticism beyond which we should not venture in our dealings with people?
4. Rodya states that Luzhin is morally inferior to Sonia. Do you agree? What would society think about subordinating Luzhin to Sonia?
5. When rejected by Dounia, of what scandalous untruth does Luzhin remind her? What does this disclose about his character?
6. Luzhin refuses to believe that his relationship with Dounia is really over. What does this indicate about his character?
7. What business venture does Razumihin propose to Raskolnikov?
8. To whom does Raskolnikov entrust his family before he goes off alone?
9. How does Raskolnikov treat Sonia initially in his interview with her?
10. How does Sonia's religious belief add to the irony of her character?
11. What story does Raskolnikov ask Sonia to read? Describe her manner of reading it to him.
12. What parallel does Raskolnikov see between himself and Sonia?
13. Why is Sonia the one to whom eventually Raskolnikov will confess his crime?
14. Who is listening to Sonia and Raskolnikov on the other side of the wall?
15. What would Svidrigailov's knowledge of the crime give to him?
16. Porfiry engages in meaningless small talk even before talking about the crime to Raskolnikov. Is this intentional? What does this technique do to Raskolnikov?
17. Why is the repetition of the word *capital* ironic?
18. Does Porfiry know that Raskolnikov is the murderer? Does Raskolnikov know the degree to which he is being considered the murderer?
19. Why doesn't Porfiry arrest Raskolnikov right away?
20. Describe Raskolnikov's emotional state during the interview.
21. Who is in control—Porfiry or Raskolnikov?
22. Is Porfiry aware that Raskolnikov has visited the scene of the crime?
23. What strange occurrence upsets Porfiry's plan for Raskolnikov's confession?

24. Who is the man hiding behind the door at Porfiry's office, and why is it ironic that he comes to Raskolnikov's apartment to apologize?

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#### *Assignment 7: V : 1-5*

1. Why does Luzhin regret not having been more generous with Dounia and her mother?
2. How does Dostoevsky satirize Lebziatnikov?
3. What has Luzhin given Sonia to help Katerina Ivanovna?
4. Why has Katerina Ivanovna had the funeral brunch in view of her financial circumstances?
5. When Katerina Ivanovna's landlady helps with the funeral brunch, why does Katerina Ivanovna resent her?
6. What are some ironic circumstances about the brunch?
7. What does Luzhin attempt to do to Sonia? Why?
8. Who figures out Luzhin's motives?
9. How does Lebeziatnikov show good qualities?
10. Is Marmeladov's funeral brunch pathetic or humorous? Can it be both?
11. How does Raskolnikov approach Sonia so that she will be inclined to understand his acts of murder?
12. Describe Raskolnikov's emotional reactions before he confesses to Sonia.
13. What parallel does Raskolnikov see between Sonia and Lizaveta?
14. Is Sonia's reaction to Raskolnikov sympathetic or unsympathetic?
15. What kinds of motives is Sonia eager to attribute to Raskolnikov in order to make the murders more comprehensible?
16. How does Raskolnikov's theory sound when he tries to explain it to Sonia?
17. Does Raskolnikov himself know exactly why he committed the crimes?
18. What does Sonia advise Raskolnikov to do?
19. While releasing one burden onto Sonia, what other burden does he seem to incur?
20. Why does Sonia attempt to give him a cross?
21. Is Raskolnikov ready to accept his "cross" yet?

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#### *Assignment 8: V : 5, VI : 1-4*

1. Describe Katerina Ivanovna's behavior in the streets.
2. Discuss the different behavior toward Katerina Ivanovna by the people in the streets. How might people react today?

3. How does Dounia treat Raskolnikov when she visits him?
  4. Describe Katerina Ivanovna's attitude toward the priest when she is dying.
  5. Do churches have an obligation to help the poor in their congregations?
  6. Is Katerina Ivanovna's behavior too exaggerated to arouse the reader's sympathy?
  7. What does Svidrigailov do for Katerina Ivanovna and her children after she dies?
  8. What does Svidrigailov reveal to Raskolnikov?
  9. Dounia has received a letter. Who does Raskolnikov think has sent it?
  10. Since Svidrigailov has overheard Raskolnikov's confession to Sonia, why is Raskolnikov worried?
  11. Did Razumihin ever think that Raskolnikov was the murderer? What does he think now?
  12. Does Raskolnikov believe that Porfiry suspects Nikolai?
  13. Why does Porfiry come to see Raskolnikov?
  14. What kinds of things does Porfiry reveal to Raskolnikov in his interview with him?
  15. Why does Nikolai confess?
  16. Whom does Porfiry call a murderer?
  17. What proposition does Porfiry give to Raskolnikov?
  18. Does Raskolnikov care about lessening the sentence?
  19. What possibility does Porfiry warn Raskolnikov about, and what course of action does he advise in that event?
  20. What was Svidrigailov's objective in coming to St. Petersburg?
  21. Discuss the contract drawn up between Marfa Petrovna and Svidrigailov when they were married.
  22. What other characteristics about Dounia do we find out through various incidents?
  23. Discuss the details of Svidrigailov's new engagement.
  24. How did Svidrigailov seduce even women with principles?
  25. How does the engagement between Svidrigailov and a fifteen-year-old girl affect the reader?
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- Assignment 9 : VI : 5-8, Epilogue*
1. How does Svidrigailov trap Dounia, and how does she react in this crisis?
  2. According to Svidrigailov, why is Raskolnikov now suffering?
  3. What does Svidrigailov offer Dounia to help Raskolnikov?
  4. What is strongly implied about the real cause of Marfa Petrovna's death?
  5. Does Svidrigailov offer Dounia to help Raskolnikov?
  6. How are Raskolnikov's and Svidrigailov's circumstances alike?
  7. How are Raskolnikov's and Svidrigailov's circumstances different?
  8. What incident from Svidrigailov's past is going through his mind?
  9. Discuss and analyze Svidrigailov's dream about the five-year-old girl.
  10. What are the causes of Svidrigailov's death?
  11. What does Dostoevsky have Raskolnikov ironically contemplate at the very time that Svidrigailov is shooting himself?
  12. Describe the scene between Raskolnikov and his mother.
  13. What does Raskolnikov do at the crossroads?
  14. How does Svidrigailov's death change things?
  15. When Raskolnikov hears of Svidrigailov's death, who stops him from leaving the police station?
  16. Is the Epilogue necessary? Why or why not?
  17. What is Raskolnikov's sentence?
  18. Is the sentence too severe? not severe enough? Explain.
  19. What good deeds of Raskolnikov's are mentioned at the trial?
  20. What happens between Dounia and Razumihin?
  21. Did Pulcheria Alexandrovna know about her son's crimes?
  22. How does Raskolnikov react in prison?
  23. Why do the other prisoners despise him?
  24. When does his attitude toward Sonia change?
  25. What makes Raskolnikov ill in prison?
  26. Does Raskolnikov cease believing in his theory? Explain.
  27. Discuss and analyze Raskolnikov's dream about the plague.
  28. Why does Raskolnikov fail as a successful criminal?
  29. If he is on the road to redemption, what redeems him?

## Crime and Punishment

**The morality of crime**

Ranking (1-7)	Rationale
_____ thief	
_____ prostitute	
_____ murderer	
_____ gossip	
_____ sadist	
_____ alcoholic	
_____ gambler	

## Scorecard: Raskolnikov vs. Raskolnikov

[illegible]

[illegible]



## Crime and Punishment

# Sequence of events Quiz

*Directions:* Give the following plot details their appropriate numerical order (1-17).

1	Raskolnikov finds the pledge which he had previously prepared to give the pawnbroker.
2	He sees Nastasya in the kitchen.
3	He strikes the pawnbroker with the blunt side of the axe.
4	Raskolnikov makes a noose and sews it in his overcoat.
5	He finds many articles, which people had sold, in a box under the pawnbroker's bed.
6	Raskolnikov sees Lizaveta in the room.
7	Raskolnikov realizes that he has overslept and that is already after 6 p.m.
8	He gets an axe from the porter's room.
9	Raskolnikov gives the pawnbroker the pledge.
10	Raskolnikov escapes.
11	The pawnbroker and Raskolnikov stand on either side of the door and listen.
12	Raskolnikov kills Lizaveta with the sharp side of the axe.
13	He hides in the second-story flat where the painters had been.
14	He returns the axe to the porter's room.
15	Raskolnikov rings the pawnbroker's doorbell three times.
16	Koch leaves the doorway.
17	Raskolnikov cuts the string around her neck and takes the purse from it.

Crime and Punishment  
**Sequence of events Quiz**

*Directions:* Give the following plot details their appropriate numerical order (1-17).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A | Raskolnikov finds the pledge which he had previously prepared to give the pawnbroker. (59) |
| B | He sees Nastasya in the kitchen. (61)  |
| C | He strikes the pawnbroker with the blunt side of the axe. (66)                             |
| D | Raskolnikov makes a noose and sews it in his overcoat. (58)                                |
| E | He finds many articles, which people had sold, in a box under the pawnbroker's bed. (67)   |
| F | Raskolnikov sees Lizaveta in the room. (68)  |
| G | Raskolnikov realizes that he has overslept and that is already after 6 p.m. (59)           |
| H | He gets an axe from the porter's room. (62)  |
| J | Raskolnikov gives the pawnbroker the pledge. (65)  |
| K | Raskolnikov escapes. (73)  |
| L | The pawnbroker and Raskolnikov stand on either side of the door and listen. (64)           |
| M | Raskolnikov kills Lizaveta with the sharp side of the axe. (68)                            |
| N | He hides in the second-story flat where the painters had been. (73)                        |
| P | He returns the axe to the porter's room. (74)  |
| R | Raskolnikov rings the pawnbroker's doorbell three times. (63-4)                            |
| S | Koch leaves the doorway. (72)  |
| T | Raskolnikov cuts the string around her neck and takes the purse from it. (67)              |

A=2, B=4, C=9, D=1, E=11, F=12, G=3, H=5, J=8/7, K=17, L=6, M=13, N=15, P=17, R=7/8, S=14, T=10,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Crime and Punishment  
Sequence of events Quiz -- **Ordered**

*Directions:* Give the following plot details their appropriate numerical order (1-18).

A=2, B=4, C=9, D=1, E=11, F=12, G=3, H=5, J=8/7, K=17, L=6, M=13, N=15, P=17, R=7/8, S=14, T=10,

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| D | Raskolnikov makes a noose and sews it in his overcoat. (58)                                |
| A | Raskolnikov finds the pledge which he had previously prepared to give the pawnbroker. (59) |
| G | Raskolnikov realizes that he has overslept and that is already after 6 p.m. (59)           |
| B | He sees Nastasya in the kitchen. (61)  |
| H | He gets an axe from the porter's room. (62)  |
| L | The pawnbroker and Raskolnikov stand on either side of the door and listen. (64)           |
| R | Raskolnikov rings the pawnbroker's doorbell three times. (63-4)                            |
| J | Raskolnikov gives the pawnbroker the pledge. (65)  |
| C | He strikes the pawnbroker with the blunt side of the axe. (66)                             |
| T | Raskolnikov cuts the string around her neck and takes the purse from it. (67)              |
| E | He finds many articles, which people had sold, in a box under the pawnbroker's bed. (67)   |
| F | Raskolnikov sees Lizaveta in the room. (68)  |
| M | Raskolnikov kills Lizaveta with the sharp side of the axe. (68)                            |
| S | Koch leaves the doorway. (72)  |
| N | He hides in the second-story flat where the painters had been. (73)                        |
| K | Raskolnikov escapes. (73)  |
| P | He returns the axe to the porter's room. (74)  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition

## Crime and Punishment

# The Great Guilt Graph

*Directions:* Time to play amateur sociologist. Plot the following actions on the graph according to the way you think our society evaluates them. Rank them from 10-100 points in order of increasing severity. When you are finished, write, on another piece of paper, what you think you've learned about our society's system of values. Finally, write your opinion of that system.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. breaking a promise to a friend         | g. not fulfilling a responsibility        |
| b. divulging a secret                     | h. not helping someone in need            |
| c. going against a religious scruple      | j. lying                                  |
| d. cheating on a test                     | k. spreading harmful gossip about someone |
| e. insulting someone                      | l. damaging someone's property            |
| f. cheating on one's boyfriend/girlfriend |   |

