

COMMUNITY ORDERS

In this guideline, community sentences are expressed as one of three levels (low, medium and high).

An illustrative description of examples of requirements that might be appropriate for each level is provided below. Where two or more requirements are ordered, they must be compatible with each other. Save in exceptional circumstances, the court must impose at least one requirement for the purpose of punishment, or combine the community order with a fine, or both (see section 177 Criminal Justice Act 2003).

Low	Medium	High
Offences only just cross community order threshold, where the seriousness of the offence or the nature of the offender's record means that a discharge or fine is inappropriate	Offences that obviously fall within the community order band	Offences only just fall below the custody threshold or the custody threshold is crossed but a community order is more appropriate in the circumstances
In general, only one requirement will be appropriate and the length may be curtailed if additional requirements are necessary		More intensive sentences which combine two or more requirements may be appropriate
Suitable requirements might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any appropriate rehabilitative requirement(s) 40 – 80 hours of unpaid work Curfew requirement within the lowest range (for example up to 16 hours per day for a few weeks) Exclusion requirement, for a few months Prohibited activity requirement Attendance centre requirement (where available) 	Suitable requirements might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any appropriate rehabilitative requirement(s) Greater number of hours of unpaid work (for example 80 – 150 hours) Curfew requirement within the middle range (for example up to 16 hours for 2 – 3 months) Exclusion requirement lasting in the region of 6 months Prohibited activity requirement 	Suitable requirements might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any appropriate rehabilitative requirement(s) 150 – 300 hours of unpaid work Curfew requirement up to 16 hours per day for 4 – 12 months Exclusion order lasting in the region of 12 months
* If order does not contain a punitive requirement, suggested fine levels are indicated below:		
BAND A FINE	BAND B FINE	BAND C FINE

The *Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines* includes further guidance on fines. The table above is also set out in the *Imposition of Community and Custodial Sentences Guideline* which includes further guidance on community orders.

