

Robbery – street and less sophisticated commercial

This guideline applies only to offenders aged 18 and older. The Sentencing Guidelines Council Robbery Definitive Guideline includes a guideline for sentencing young offenders which continues to be in force.

General principles to be considered in the sentencing of youths are available in the Sentencing Guidelines Council's definitive guideline, Overarching principles – Sentencing Youths. Check www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk for amendments to guidance for youth offenders.

Theft Act 1968 (section 8(1))

This is a serious specified offence for the purposes of section 224 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Triable only on indictment

Maximum: Life imprisonment

Offence range: Community order – 16 years' custody

STEP ONE
Determining the offence category

The court should determine the offence category with reference only to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

The court should weigh all the factors set out below in determining the offender's culpability.

Where there are characteristics present which fall under different levels of culpability, the court should balance these characteristics to reach a fair assessment of the offender's culpability.

Culpability demonstrated by one or more of the following:

A - High culpability:

- Use of a weapon to inflict violence
- Production of a bladed article or firearm or imitation firearm to threaten violence
- Use of very significant force in the commission of the offence
- Offence motivated by, or demonstrating, hostility based on the victim's personal characteristics (for example, sex, race, sexual orientation (or presumed sexual orientation))

B - Medium culpability:

- Production of a weapon other than a bladed article or firearm or imitation firearm to threaten violence
- Threat of violence by any weapon (but which is not produced)
- Other cases where characteristics for categories A or C are not present

C - Lesser culpability:

- Involved through coercion, intimidation or exploitation
- Threat or use of minimal force
- Mental disability where linked to the commission of the offence

Harm

The court should consider the factors set out below to determine the level of harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim.

Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious physical and/or psychological harm caused to the victim • Serious detrimental effect on the business • Very high value goods or sums (whether economic, personal or sentimental) (commercial robberies only)
Category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some physical harm caused to the victim • Some psychological harm caused to the victim above the level of harm inherent in the offence of robbery • Some detrimental effect on business • High or medium value goods or sums (whether economic, personal or sentimental) (commercial robberies only)
Category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors in categories 1 and 2 not present

Where the goods stolen are of more than low value, whether economic, sentimental or personal, this is considered as an aggravating factor at step two.

STEP TWO**Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions. A case of particular gravity, reflected by multiple features of culpability or harm in step 1, could merit upward adjustment from the starting point before further adjustment for aggravating or mitigating features, set out on the next page.

Consecutive sentences for multiple offences may be appropriate.

Harm	Culpability		
	A	B	C
Category 1	Starting point 8 years' custody Category range 7 – 16 years' custody	Starting point 5 years' custody Category range 3 – 12 years' custody	Starting point 3 years 6 months' custody Category range 18 months' – 7 years' custody
Category 2	Starting point 5 years' custody Category range 3 – 12 years' custody	Starting point 3 years' 6 months' custody Category range 2 – 7 years' custody	Starting point 2 years' custody Category range 18 months' – 4 years custody
Category 3	Starting point 4 years' custody Category range 2 – 7 years' custody	Starting point 2 years' custody Category range 18 months' – 4 years' custody	Starting point 1 year's custody Category range High level community order – 2 years six months' custody

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the starting point. In particular, relevant recent convictions are likely to result in an upward adjustment. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

Factors increasing seriousness**Statutory aggravating factors:**

- Previous convictions, having regard to a) the nature of the offence to which the conviction relates and its relevance to the current offence; and b) the time that has elapsed since the conviction
- Offence committed whilst on bail

Other aggravating factors:

- Steps taken to prevent the victim reporting or obtaining assistance and/or from assisting or supporting the prosecution
- Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability), including but not limited to age, mental or physical disability
- Involvement of others through coercion, intimidation or exploitation
- Prolonged nature of event
- Restraint, detention or additional degradation of the victim
- Sophisticated organised nature of offence
- A leading role where offending is part of a group activity
- Attempts to conceal/dispose of evidence
- Established evidence of community/wider impact
- Failure to comply with current court orders
- Offence committed on licence
- Offences taken into consideration
- Failure to respond to warnings about behaviour
- Timing of the offence
- Location of the offence
- Attempt to conceal identity (for example, wearing a balaclava or hood)
- Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Targeting of large sums of money or valuable goods (except where considered at step one)
- High value goods or sums (whether economic, personal or sentimental) (~~street robberies only~~)
- Location of offence also victim's residence

Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

- No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions
- Remorse, particularly where evidenced by voluntary reparation to the victim
- Good character and/or exemplary conduct
- Serious medical conditions requiring urgent, intensive or long-term treatment
- Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender
- Mental disorder or learning disability

- Little or no planning
- Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives
- Determination and/or demonstration of steps having been taken to address addiction or offending behaviour

STEP THREE**Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

STEP FOUR**Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

STEP FIVE**Dangerousness**

The court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose a life sentence (section 224A) or an extended sentence (section 226A). When sentencing offenders to a life sentence under these provisions, the notional determinate sentence should be used as the basis for the setting of a minimum term.

STEP SIX**Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour.

STEP SEVEN**Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

Where the offence involves a firearm or an offensive weapon the court may consider the criteria in section 19 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 for the imposition of a Serious Crime Prevention order.

STEP EIGHT**Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

STEP NINE**Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

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Robbery – professionally planned commercial (including banks, shops, businesses)

This guideline applies only to offenders aged 18 and older. The Sentencing Guidelines Council Robbery Definitive Guideline includes a guideline for sentencing young offenders which continues to be in force.

General principles to be considered in the sentencing of youths are available in the Sentencing Guidelines Council's definitive guideline, Overarching principles – Sentencing Youths, [which will continue to be in force pending further guidance in a forthcoming youth guideline](#). Check www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk for amendments to guidance for youth offenders.

Theft Act 1968 (section 8(1))

This is a serious specified offence for the purposes of section 224 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Triable only on indictment

Maximum: Life imprisonment

Offence range: Community order – 20 years' custody

STEP ONE
Determining the offence category

The court should determine the offence category with reference only to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

The court should weigh all the factors set out below in determining the offender's culpability.

Where there are characteristics present which fall under different levels of culpability, the court should balance these characteristics to reach a fair assessment of the offender's culpability.

Culpability demonstrated by one or more of the following:

A - High culpability:

- Use of a weapon to inflict violence
- Production of a bladed article or firearm or imitation firearm to threaten violence
- Use of very significant force in the commission of the offence
- A leading role where offending is part of a group activity
- Offence motivated by, or demonstrating, hostility based on the victim's personal characteristics (for example, sex, race, sexual orientation (or presumed sexual orientation))
- Abuse of position

B - Medium culpability:

- Production of a weapon other than a bladed article or firearm or imitation firearm to threaten violence
- Threat of violence by any weapon (but which is not produced)
- A significant role where offending is part of a group activity
- Other cases where characteristics for categories A or C are not present

C - Lesser culpability:

- Performed limited function under direction
- Involved through coercion, intimidation or exploitation
- Threat or use of minimal force
- Mental disability where linked to the commission of the offence

Harm

The level of **harm** is determined by weighing up all the factors of the case to determine the harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim. The victim relates both to the commercial organisation that has been robbed and any individual(s) who has suffered the use or threat of force during the commission of the offence.

Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious physical and/or psychological harm caused to the victim • Serious detrimental effect on business • Very high value goods or sums
Category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some physical harm caused to the victim • Some psychological harm caused to the victim above the level of harm inherent in this offence • Some detrimental effect on business • High or medium value goods or sums
Category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors in categories 1 and 2 not present

STEP TWO**Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions. A case of particular gravity, reflected by multiple features of high culpability or harm in step 1, could merit upward adjustment from the starting point before further adjustment for aggravating or mitigating features, set out on the next page.

Consecutive sentences for multiple offences may be appropriate particularly where exceptionally high levels of harm have been caused.

Where multiple offences or a single conspiracy to commit multiple offences of particular severity have taken place sentences in excess of 20 years may be appropriate.

Harm	Culpability		
	A	B	C
Category 1	<p>Starting point 16 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 12 – 20 years' custody</p>	<p>Starting point 9 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 7 – 14 years' custody</p>	<p>Starting point 5 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 4 – 8 years' custody</p>
Category 2	<p>Starting point 9 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 7 – 14 years' custody</p>	<p>Starting point 5 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 4 – 8 years' custody</p>	<p>Starting point 3 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 2 – 5 years' custody</p>
Category 3	<p>Starting point 5 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 4 – 8 years' custody</p>	<p>Starting point 3 years' custody</p> <p>Category range 2 – 5 years' custody</p>	<p>Starting point 1 year's custody</p> <p>Category range High level community order – 3 years' custody</p>

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the starting point. In particular, relevant recent convictions are likely to result in an upward adjustment. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

Factors increasing seriousness

Statutory aggravating factors:

- Previous convictions, having regard to a) the nature of the offence to which the conviction relates and its relevance to the current offence; and b) the time that has elapsed since the conviction
- Offence committed whilst on bail

Other aggravating factors:

- Steps taken to prevent the victim reporting or obtaining assistance and/or from assisting or supporting the prosecution

- Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability), including but not limited to age, mental or physical disability
- Involvement of others through coercion, intimidation or exploitation
- Restraint, detention or additional degradation of the victim
- Prolonged nature of attack
- Attempts to conceal/dispose of evidence
- Established evidence of community/wider impact
- Failure to comply with current court orders
- Offence committed on licence
- Offences taken into consideration
- Failure to respond to warnings about behaviour
- Timing of the offence
- Attempt to conceal identity (for example, wearing a balaclava or hood)
- Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Targeting of large sums of money or valuable goods (except where considered at step one)
- Location of offence also victim's residence

Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

- No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions
- Remorse, particularly where evidenced by voluntary reparation to the victim
- Good character and/or exemplary conduct
- Serious medical conditions requiring urgent, intensive or long-term treatment
- Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender
- Mental disorder or learning disability
- Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives
- Determination and/or demonstration of steps having been taken to address addiction or offending behaviour

STEP THREE

Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

STEP FOUR**Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

STEP FIVE**Dangerousness**

The court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose a life sentence (section 224A) or an extended sentence (section 226A). When sentencing offenders to a life sentence under these provisions, the notional determinate sentence should be used as the basis for the setting of a minimum term.

STEP SIX**Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour.

STEP SEVEN**Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

Where the offence involves a firearm or an offensive weapon the court may consider the criteria in section 19 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 for the imposition of a Serious Crime Prevention order.

STEP EIGHT**Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

STEP NINE**Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Robbery – dwelling

This guideline applies only to offenders aged 18 and older. The Sentencing Guidelines Council Robbery Definitive Guideline includes a guideline for sentencing young offenders which continues to be in force.

General principles to be considered in the sentencing of youths are available in the Sentencing Guidelines Council's definitive guideline, Overarching principles – Sentencing Youths, [which will continue to be in force pending further guidance in a forthcoming youth guideline](#). Check www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk for amendments to guidance for youth offenders.

Theft Act 1968 (section 8(1))

This is a serious specified offence for the purposes of section 224 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Triable only on indictment

Maximum: Life imprisonment

Offence range: 1 year's custody – 13 years' custody

STEP ONE
Determining the offence category

The court should determine the offence category with reference only to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

The court should weigh all the factors set out below in determining the offender's culpability.

Where there are characteristics present which fall under different levels of culpability, the court should balance these characteristics to reach a fair assessment of the offender's culpability.

Culpability demonstrated by one or more of the following:

A - High culpability:

- Use of a weapon to inflict violence
- Production of a bladed article or firearm or imitation firearm to threaten violence
- Use of very significant force in the commission of the offence
- Sophisticated organised nature of offence
- A leading role where offending is part of a group activity
- Offence motivated by, or demonstrating, hostility based on the victim's personal characteristics (for example, sex, race, sexual orientation (or presumed sexual orientation))
- Abuse of position

B - Medium culpability:

- Production of a weapon other than a bladed article or firearm or imitation firearm to threaten violence
- Threat of violence by any weapon (but which is not produced)
- A significant role where offending is part of a group activity
- Other cases where characteristics for categories A or C are not present

C - Lesser culpability:

- Performed limited function under direction
- Involved through coercion, intimidation or exploitation
- Threat or use of minimal force
- Very little or no planning
- Mental disability where linked to the commission of the offence

Harm

The court should weigh up all the factors set out below to determine the harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim.

Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious physical and/or psychological harm caused to the victim • Very high value of goods (whether economic, sentimental or personal) • Soiling, ransacking or vandalism of property
Category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some physical harm caused to the victim • Some psychological harm caused to the victim above the level of harm inherent in this offence • High or medium value of goods (whether economic, sentimental or personal) • Damage caused to dwelling
Category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors in categories 1 and 2 not present

STEP TWO**Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions. A case of particular gravity, reflected by multiple features of culpability or harm in step 1, could merit upward adjustment from the starting point before further adjustment for aggravating or mitigating features, set out on the next page.

Consecutive sentences for multiple offences may be appropriate particularly where exceptionally high levels of harm may be caused.

In a case of particular gravity, reflected by extremely serious violence, a sentence in excess of 13 years may be appropriate.

Harm	Culpability		
	A	B	C
Category 1	Starting point 11 years' custody Category range 9 – 13 years' custody	Starting point 7 years' custody Category range 5 – 10 years' custody	Starting point 5 years' custody Category range 4 – 8 years' custody
Category 2	Starting point 7 years' custody Category range 5 – 10 years' custody	Starting point 5 years' custody Category range 4 – 8 years' custody	Starting point 3 years' custody Category range 2 – 6 years' custody
Category 3	Starting point 5 years' custody Category range 4 – 8 years' custody	Starting point 3 years' custody Category range 2 – 6 years' custody	Starting point 18 months' custody Category range 1 – 3 years' custody

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the starting point. In particular, relevant recent convictions are likely to result in an upward adjustment. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

Factors increasing seriousness

Statutory aggravating factors:

- Previous convictions, having regard to a) the nature of the offence to which the conviction relates and its relevance to the current offence; and b) the time that has elapsed since the conviction
- Offence committed whilst on bail

Other aggravating factors:

- Steps taken to prevent the victim reporting or obtaining assistance and/or from assisting or supporting the prosecution
- Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability), including but not limited to age, mental or physical disability
- Involvement of others through coercion, intimidation or exploitation

- Restraint, detention or additional degradation of the victim
- Prolonged nature of attack
- [Child or vulnerable person](#) at home (or returns home) when offence committed
- Victim compelled to leave their home
- Attempts to conceal/dispose of evidence
- Established evidence of community/wider impact
- Failure to comply with current court orders
- Offence committed on licence
- Offences taken into consideration
- Failure to respond to warnings about behaviour
- Timing of the offence
- Attempt to conceal identity (for example, wearing a balaclava or hood)
- Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

- No previous convictions **or** no relevant/recent convictions
- Remorse, particularly where evidenced by voluntary reparation to the victim
- Good character and/or exemplary conduct
- Serious medical conditions requiring urgent, intensive or long-term treatment
- Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender
- Mental disorder or learning disability
- Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives
- Determination and/or demonstration of steps having been taken to address addiction or offending behaviour
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STEP THREE

Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

STEP FOUR

Reduction for guilty pleas

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

STEP FIVE**Dangerousness**

The court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose a life sentence (section 224A) or an extended sentence (section 226A). When sentencing offenders to a life sentence under these provisions, the notional determinate sentence should be used as the basis for the setting of a minimum term.

STEP SIX**Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour.

STEP SEVEN**Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

Where the offence involves a firearm or an offensive weapon the court may consider the criteria in section 19 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 for the imposition of a Serious Crime Prevention order.

STEP EIGHT**Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

STEP NINE**Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

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