

2 Reading Comprehension – Answer Key

Text: “Crime Wave and Penal System in the 18th Century“, from: Martin Arndt/Karl Sassenberg, *Australia and New Zealand - Down Under On Top*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), Students’ Book, pp. 22f.

C TASKS

1. John Austin was
the accused (l. 1)
2. The accused
did not know the victim beforehand (l. 8)
pretended to help the victim (ll. 13f., 19f., 65f.)
and the victim spent some time together (ll. 11ff.)
3. John Austin was accused
of robbery and murder (ll. 52f., 76ff.)
4. During the execution the accused
showed fear (ll. 80f.)
prayed to God (ll. 91ff.)
5. John Austin
died in complete solitude

6. Find a synonym used in the text for each of the five words from the eight options below	an account (l.1) : a report; a story	an apology (l. 23): an excuse; a defense	specious (l. 19) : misleading; seeming to be true; false	credulous (l. 25): unquestioning; naive	to convict (ll. 2, 42) : to find guilty
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D CREATIVE WRITING

Rewrite the text, turning it into a news story.

Model answer

BRUTAL CRIMINAL FINALLY EXECUTED

The robber and murderer John Austin was put to trial and executed in Tyburn

By Martin Arndt

John Austin, accused of murder and robbery, was finally executed in Tyburn after being put to trial and cross-examined in Old Bailey on last Saturday. Austin, however, had pleaded not guilty.

Austin was convicted of robbing and taking part in the killing of John Spicer, a poor labourer. Austin had deceived the victim into believing that he would help him on his way to London by finding him an accomodation. Austin was helped by a man called Patrick Bowman who stabbed the innocent and naive Spicer in an open field near Bethnal. Austin's accomplice Bowman is still on the run.

The verdict of public hanging is said to have been advocated by our King who does not show any compassion for cruel criminals. The crime is even more horrible, as it was committed "under the mask of false friendship." The punishment was seen as an example "of the strictest justice and necessity", being in line with His Majesty's intentions.

On the gallows the accused asked our Saviour for "mercy" and "pity". He died after 10 minutes.
(198 words)

(Martin Arndt)