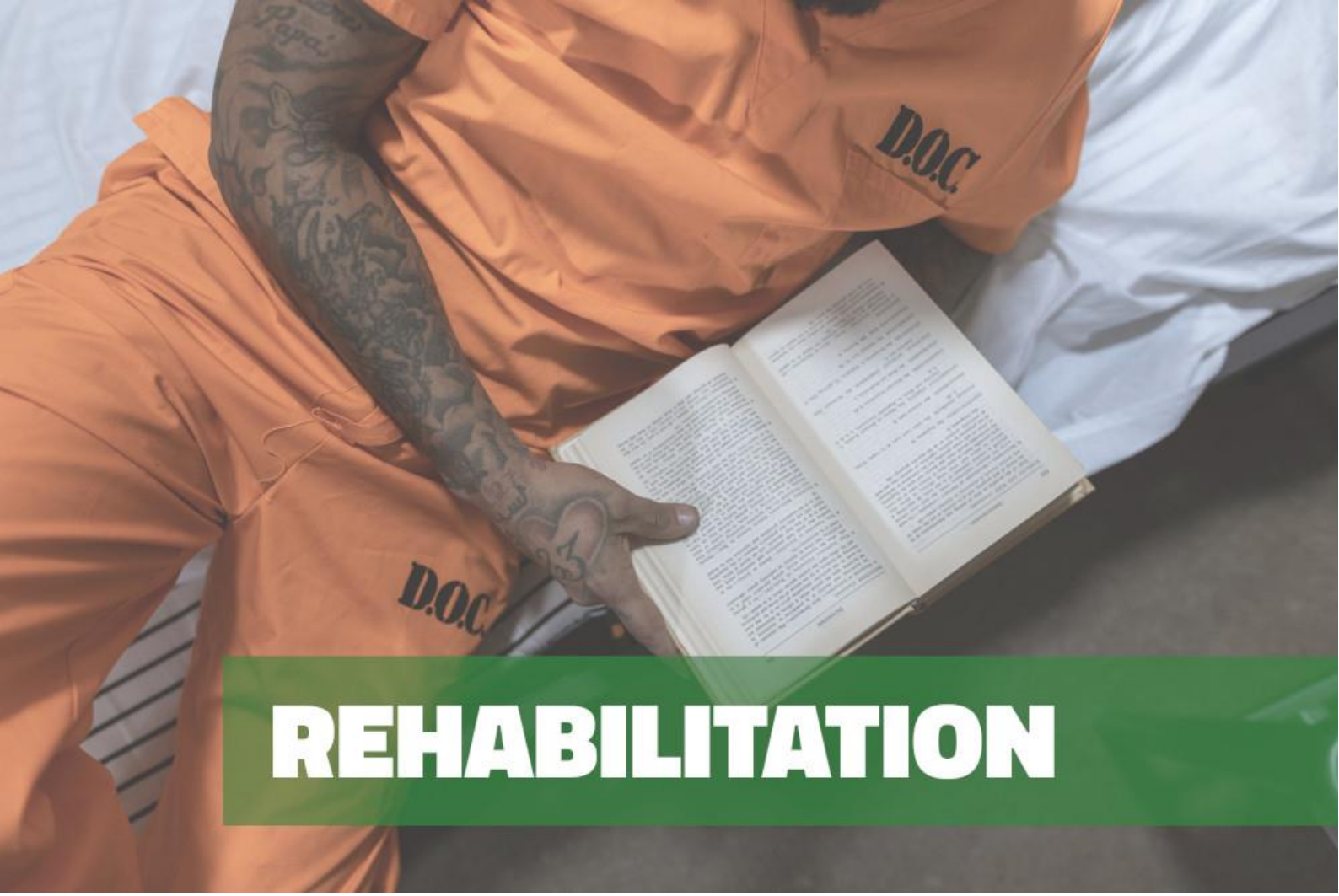

"Generally speaking, punishment makes men hard and cold; it concentrates; it sharpens the feeling of alienation; it strengthens the power of resistance."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900), German philosopher

1. Rehabilitation Discussion

1. Is the main purpose of convicting a criminal punishment, rehabilitation or public protection? What's the difference between these?
2. Is it better to punish criminals or try to rehabilitate them?
3. Are short sentences of less than a year any use? If not, what would be a better alternative?
4. What should prisoners learn while they are in prison? How would you feel about combining prison sentences with university bachelor's courses? Would this help rehabilitate prisoners?
5. When should a criminal be rehabilitated outside of prison?
6. If prison were too comfortable, would that actually encourage people to commit crimes?
7. What do prisoners need to genuinely reintegrate back into society?
8. Does rehabilitation actually work?

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2. Rehabilitation Vocabulary

- **to rehabilitate** (verb), **rehabilitation** (noun) – *the process of helping someone return to normal, either after injury or time in prison.*
- **to reoffend** (verb), **repeat offender** (noun) – *to commit another crime after being released from prison; a criminal who reoffends.*
- **restorative justice** (noun) – *a form of rehabilitation where the offender meets with the victim or community in order to discuss and repair the harm caused.*
- **parole** (noun), **probation** (noun) – *the early, supervised release of a prisoner from their sentence (parole); a period of supervision outside of prison built into a convict's sentence, either after a prison sentence or instead of (probation).*
- **offender management** (noun, BrE) – *a multi-agency programme to supervise and rehabilitate criminals during their time in prison and reintegration into society.*
- **the straight and narrow** (idiom) – *an honest way of living as opposed to living from crime.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. After a life of crime, Bill decided to go on _____ and find a legitimate career.
2. An _____ meeting took place between the police, drug workers, and Job Centre staff to decide on the best way to supervise the prisoner's reintegration into society.
3. Criminals tend to _____ because of a lack of employment opportunities when they leave prison.
4. Education in order to promote job opportunities is the best method of _____.
5. For good behaviour, Michael was released on _____ three years before his sentence was due to end on the condition that he report to a police station every day.
6. To provide some kind of _____, the offender met with the victims to explain the reasons behind his actions.

Rehabilitation vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What are the best ways to rehabilitate criminals?
2. Why do so many criminals reoffend when they come out of prison?
3. Do you think restorative justice is an effective way of dealing with criminals? Would you accept this as a form of justice if you were a victim?
4. Why are prisoners let out on parole? Is this a good idea?
5. Which different agencies should be involved in offender management? Which should have the most responsibility? (e.g., the police, social workers, etc)
6. Can criminals ever really change their ways and get back on the straight and narrow?

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3. Video: Finland's Prison System

You are going to watch a video by Insider News called "Prisoners In Finland Live In Open Prisons Where They Learn Tech Skills."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-rehabilitation/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Where do prisoners sleep in the Laukaa open prison?

   a) cell blocks *b) prison cells* *c) dormitories*

2. What career is Matti studying for?

   a) accountancy *b) tech* *c) engineering*

3. How does Finland's Criminal Sanctions Agency help criminals reintegrate into society?

   a) generous public benefits *b) day-care for children* *c) work opportunities*

4. The number of prisoners in jail in the United States is equal to how much of Finland's population?

   a) a third *b) a half* *c) two thirds*

Sentence completion

5. 70 years ago, Finland began building one of the most _____ prison systems in the world.
6. Finland's Criminal Sanctions Agency is investing heavily in _____ training.
7. Turku is Finland's highest-_____ closed prison.
8. Finland's new €34 million prison will have windows and the _____ in every room.

Short answer

9. When did the prison that housed men and women shut down?
10. A prison built in the 19th century modelled on the American style of prison is used as what today?
11. What does Reaktor design?
12. What does Matti hope to complete before his sentence finishes?

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4. Rehabilitation Conversation Questions

1. How would you describe the effectiveness of rehabilitation in your country?
2. What do you think of the practice of companies using prisoners to work for free? Do you think this helps the prisoners? Should prisoners be paid for this work? What effect does this have on the wider job market?
3. How would you convince a criminal who made good money from crime that they should take a low-paid job when they leave prison?
4. Don't criminals just spend all their time in prison learning new tricks on how to commit crime from their fellow inmates?
5. Doesn't prison represent a great opportunity for gangs to recruit new members? How could this be solved?
6. Should people go to jail for taking drugs, or should this be treated as a medical condition? How should people who commit crime to feed a drug habit be rehabilitated?
7. How is it possible that it is so easy to buy drugs in prisons? How does this affect rehabilitation?
8. Are criminals really the victims of society? Is crime just the consequence of an unequal society where greed is promoted? Will we ever truly be able to rehabilitate criminals as long as our current economic model is maintained?

5. Rehabilitation Writing Task

Write about your opinion of rehabilitation. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Why so many criminals reoffend.
- The best ways to rehabilitate prisoners.
- Who should be responsible for rehabilitation.

Alternative exam practice question:

Despite attempts to rehabilitate prisoners, many go back to their old ways when they are released. Why do so many prisoners reoffend when released from prison? What should be done to prevent reoffending?

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