St. Antony's Catholic College

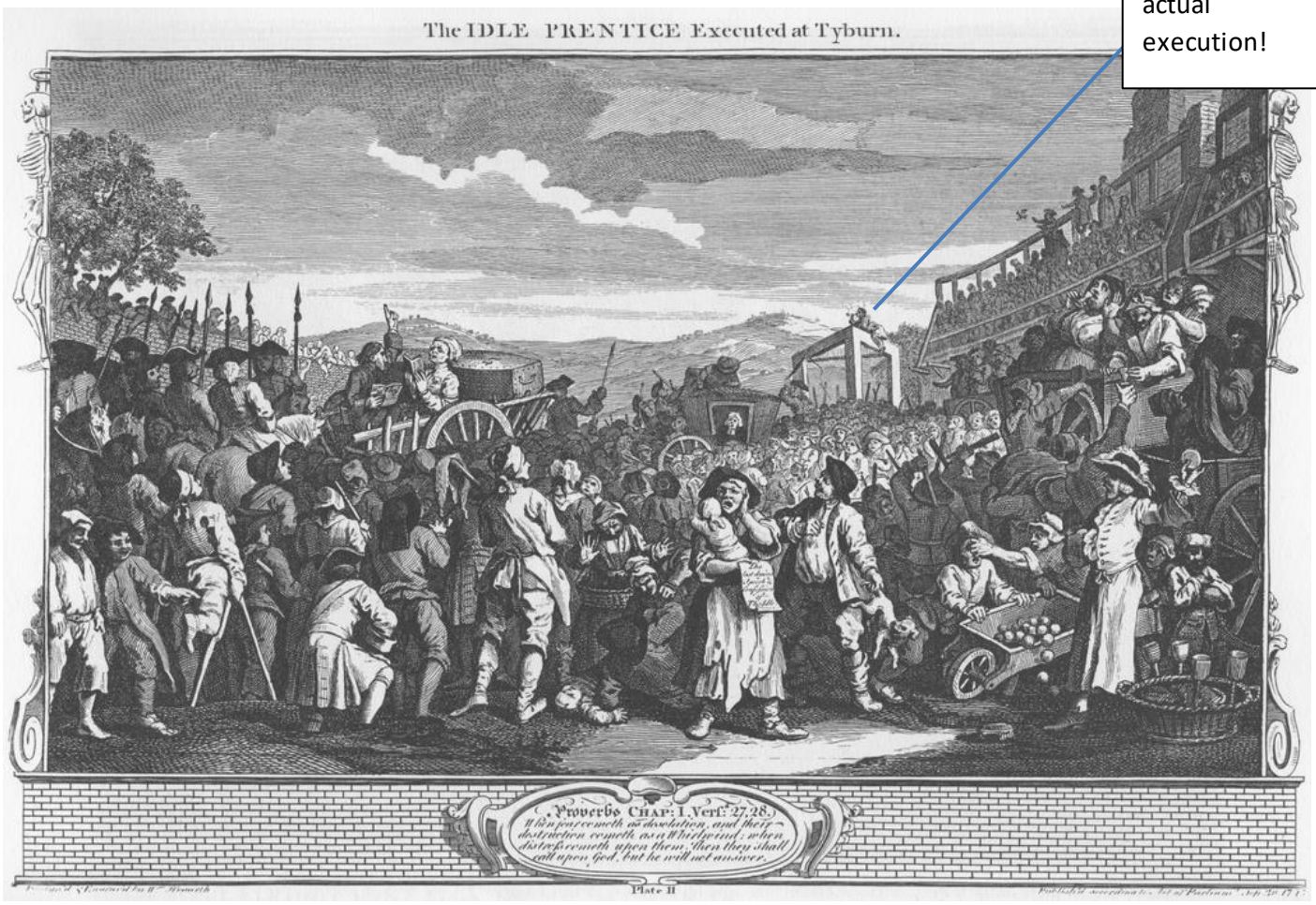
Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Year 10 History

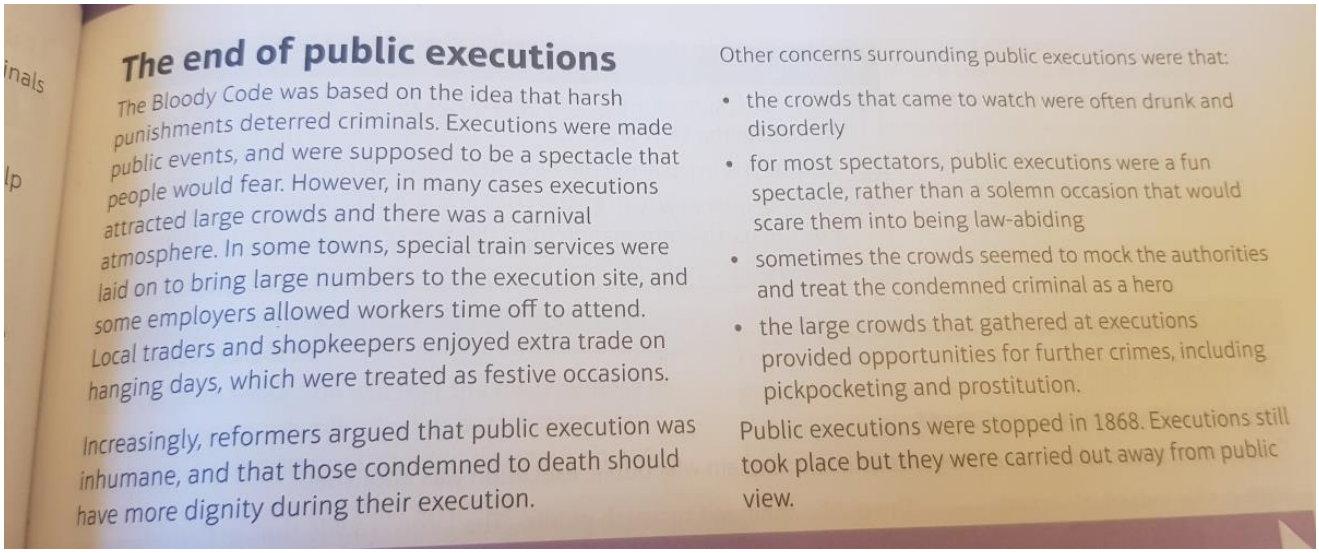
Instructions for the week beginning 18th May 2020

Return this work to j.edge@st-antonys.com

1) Look at the image below. What can you figure out about the atmosphere/behaviour at public executions? Clue: list the other activities going on



2) Read this text:



The end of public executions

The Bloody Code was based on the idea that harsh punishments deterred criminals. Executions were made public events, and were supposed to be a spectacle that people would fear. However, in many cases executions attracted large crowds and there was a carnival atmosphere. In some towns, special train services were laid on to bring large numbers to the execution site, and some employers allowed workers time off to attend. Local traders and shopkeepers enjoyed extra trade on hanging days, which were treated as festive occasions.

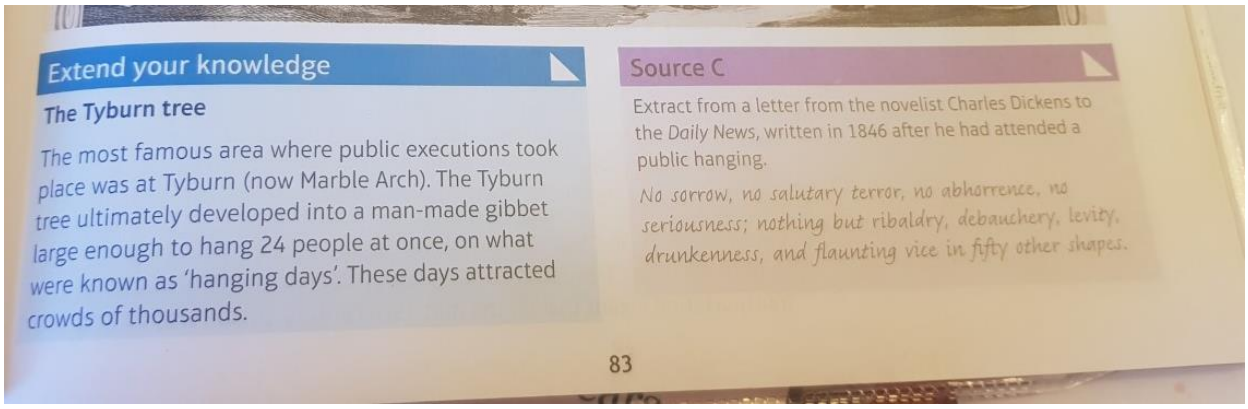
Increasingly, reformers argued that public execution was inhumane, and that those condemned to death should have more dignity during their execution.

Other concerns surrounding public executions were that:

- the crowds that came to watch were often drunk and disorderly
- for most spectators, public executions were a fun spectacle, rather than a solemn occasion that would scare them into being law-abiding
- sometimes the crowds seemed to mock the authorities and treat the condemned criminal as a hero
- the large crowds that gathered at executions provided opportunities for further crimes, including pickpocketing and prostitution.

Public executions were stopped in 1868. Executions still took place but they were carried out away from public view.

3) List the reasons public execution ended on opposite sides of the page
4) Try to draw lines linking the reasons and on the line write a sentence to say why you have linked them
5) Write the subtitle Public Executions were ended. Write a brief explanation
6) OPTIONAL: Read this info and make notes about the Tyburn Tree. Read source C. What is the message of the source? What can you learn about why public executions were ended?



Extend your knowledge

The Tyburn tree

The most famous area where public executions took place was at Tyburn (now Marble Arch). The Tyburn tree ultimately developed into a man-made gibbet large enough to hang 24 people at once, on what were known as 'hanging days'. These days attracted crowds of thousands.

Source C

Extract from a letter from the novelist Charles Dickens to the *Daily News*, written in 1846 after he had attended a public hanging.

No sorrow, no salutary terror, no abhorrence, no seriousness; nothing but ribaldry, debauchery, levity, drunkenness, and flaunting vice in fifty other shapes.