Алексеева Т. Е.
Шилина Н. В.

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК для социальных работников Probation. Social work

Учебное пособие

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Т. Е. Алексеева, Н. В. Шилина

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Рецензенты:
О. В. Игумнова, кандидат педагогических наук, доцент
Кузбасский институт ФСИН России;
О. Л. Никитина, кандидат филологических наук, доцент
Воронежский институт ФСИН России

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Алексеева Татьяна Евгеньевна
Шилина Нина Владимировна

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Учебное издание предназначено для курсантов, обучающихся по направлению подготовки 39.03.02 Социальная работа. Пособие разработано с учётом профессиональной направленности обучения и призвано способствовать формированию у студентов языковой и коммуникативной компетенций в контексте их будущей профессиональной деятельности.

Структура издания логична и продуманна. Материал разделён на два тематических блока – «Пробация» и «Социальная работа», что позволяет охватить ключевые аспекты профессиональной сферы обучающихся.

Каждый раздел построен по единой методической схеме, включающей:

Active Vocabulary – подборку актуальной профессиональной лексики;

Text 1 – основной учебный текст, служащий источником информации и языковой базы;

Vocabulary Study – упражнения, направленные на закрепление и расширение словарного запаса;

Grammar – грамматические задания, интегрированные в профессиональный контекст;

Oral Practice – задания для развития навыков устной речи, включая дискуссии и презентации.

Дополнительно в каждом разделе представлены тексты для информативного чтения, что способствует развитию навыков работы с аутентичными материалами и расширению профессионального кругозора.

Информационная база пособия сформирована на основе материалов, опубликованных в открытых источниках сети Интернет. Тексты частично адаптированы – в основном за счёт сокращения объёма – и снабжены методическими заданиями, облегчающими их восприятие и усвоение. Подготовительные и контрольные упражнения обеспечивают поэтапное усвоение материала и позволяют преподавателю эффективно организовать как аудиторную, так и самостоятельную работу обучающихся.

UNIT 1
PROBATION

Text 1
What is Probation

Active Vocabulary

condition	– условие	to allow	– позволить
court	– суд	to appear	– появиться
		to assign	– назначать
defendant	– ответчик	to avoid	– избегать
		to charge	– обвинять
felony	– уголовное преступление	to convict	– осудить
fine	– штраф	to fail	
jail	– тюрьма	to follow	– следовать
misdemeanor	– мелкое преступление	to free	– отпускать на свободу
offence	– преступление	to include	– включать
offender	– преступник	to obey	– соблюдать
probation	– пробация, испытательный срок	to remain	– оставаться
restitution	– реституция (возмещение)	to require	– требовать
sentence	– приговор	to send	– посылать
supervision	– наблюдение, надзор	to sentence	– приговорить (осудить)
violation	– нарушение	to specify	– определить
		to vary	– измениться

ankle tracking device – устройство отслеживания, размещенное на лодыжке
community service – общественные работы
to commit a crime – совершить преступление
to hand down a sentence – выносить приговор
on a regular basis – на регулярной основе
under supervision – под наблюдением
depending on – в зависимости от
as ordered – в соответствии с требованием

Probation is a sentence handed down to criminal offenders that allows them to remain out of jail, under supervision. When an offender is sentenced to probation, he/she must meet with an assigned probation officer on a regular basis, and must obey the conditions specified by the court. If the offender fails to follow the conditions, he risks being charged with violation of probation, and sent to jail.

Probation Conditions

Probation conditions vary greatly depending on the jurisdiction, and the offense of which the individual was convicted. Common standard probation conditions include:

– payment of restitution and/or fines;
– completing community service as ordered;
– meeting with probation officer at planned times;
– appearing in court as ordered;
– submitting to random drug testing;
– avoiding places and people associated with criminal acts;
– avoiding committing any crime, whether a felony or a misdemeanor.

Types of Probation

There are several types of probation that may be ordered for an offender. The most commonly ordered types of probation include unsupervised probation, supervised probation, community control probation, and shock probation.

Unsupervised probation frees the offender from the direct supervision of a probation officer, while still requiring him to obey a specific court ordered condition. This is often used for less serious, non-violent crimes.

Supervised probation requires the offender to check in with a probation officer on a regular basis. This can range from weekly to monthly personal visits to mail reports, or phone calls.

Community control probation requires the offender to remain in his home, his location monitored by an ankle tracking device. In some cases, the offender is allowed to leave the home to attend work or school.

Shock probation consists of a defendant being sentenced to jail or prison for a short time. After the time period ends, the judge releases the defendant on probation. This is done in order to “shock” the defendant into following probation conditions.

Vocabulary Study

1. International words.

(n) act, risk, type, shock; basis, visit, standard, period, testing; report, control, device; officer, criminal, individual; location, probation, condition, jurisdiction, restitution;

(adj) regular, serious, individual, criminal, personal, specific;

(v) to plan, to shock, to vary, to reserve, to monitor, to associate, to check in

2. Word building.

to convict	- conviction	crime	- criminal
to locate	- location	offence	- offender
to restitute	- restitution	probation	- probationer
to supervise	- supervision	to defend	- defendant
to violate	- violation	person	- personal
		month	- monthly
to pay	- payment	week	- weekly

3. Match the synonyms.

1. defendant	a) offender
2. felony	b) jail
3. prison	c) crime
4. criminal	d) verdict
5. supervision	e) control
6. to free	f) to release
7. to obey	g) to convict
8. to require	h) to follow
9. to sentence	i) to need

4. Word building: conversion.

Note: Конверсия (*conversion*) – способ словообразования, когда слово переходит из оной части речи в другую без изменения формы, например, *visit* – визит, *to visit* – посещать

test	– to test	free	– to free
risk	– to risk	order	– to order
plan	– to plan	judge	– to judge
end	– to end	release	– to release
monitor	– to monitor	sentence	– to sentence

1. Probation is a *sentence* handed down to criminal offenders. When an offender is *sentenced* to probation, he must meet with a probation officer on a regular basis.

2. In case of *shock* probation the defendant is sentenced to jail for a short time. This is done to "*shock*" the defendant into following probation conditions

3. Unsupervised probation *frees* the offender from the direct supervision of a probation officer. After *release* a person is *free* to go home.

5. Word combinations:

– criminal offender, criminal act, regular basis, less serious crimes, non-violent crimes, personal visits;

– community service, probation officer, probation condition, mail report, phone call, time period, court condition;

– to release the defendant; to leave the house; to attend work; to complete community service; to pay a restitution, to commit a crime; to obey the probation conditions; to follow specific court conditions; to free the offender; to release the defendant on probation; to avoid places and people;

– to sentence to jail; to remain out of jail, to depend on the jurisdiction, to appear in court.

6. Match the following English expressions with their Russian equivalents.

1. probation officer
2. probation department
3. probation order
4. probation violation
5. probation period
6. board of probation
7. breach of probation order
8. release on probation
9. work on probation
10. sentence of probation

a) условное осуждение
b) нарушение приказа суда о пробации
c) нарушение условий досрочного освобождения
d) стажироваться
e) приговор к пробации
f) совет по пробации
g) должностное лицо, осуществляющий надзор за условно осужденными
h) условное освобождение
i) испытательный срок
j) отдел пробации

7. Match the definitions.

1. Unsupervised probation — a) is more serious than simple probation; it is basically supervised house arrest in the community;
2. Supervised probation — b) is offered after a prisoner has served a part of his / her sentence, usually around three to six months;

3. Community control probation	c) is a form of probation where you do not report to a probation officer;
4. Shock probation	d) is ordered by a judge as an alternative to prison and allows the convicted person to remain in the community.

8. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words.

(probation officer, jurisdiction, restitution, supervision, fines, court, probation conditions)

1. When an offender is sentenced to probation, he must meet with a _____ on a regular basis.
2. If the offender doesn't follow the _____, he risks being sent to jail.
3. Probation conditions vary greatly depending on the___ _____, and his/her offense.
4. Standard probation conditions include: payment of _____ and/or _____; appearing in _____ as ordered, etc.
5. Unsupervised probation frees the offender from _____ of a probation officer, while still requiring him to obey court ordered _____.

Grammar

9. Translate the sentences with Participle II as an attribute (определение) and part of the predicate (часть сказуемого) in the passive voice.

Note: В предложении причастие II может выполнять роль определения (какой?) и части сказуемого в страдательном залоге.

Определение	Часть сказуемого
1. An offender ***sentenced*** to probation, must meet with a probation officer on a regular basis. *преступник, приговоренный к*	1. When an offender ***is sentenced*** to probation he/she must meet with a probation officer on a regular basis. *когда преступник приговорен к*
2. A probationer must obey the conditions *specified* by the court.	2. The probation conditions *are specified* by the court depending on the jurisdiction.
3. The offender *released* on probation must not violate probation conditions.	3. After the time period ends, the defendant *is released* on probation by the judge.
4. The offender *charged* with violation of probation may be sent to prison.	4. If the probation conditions are violated the offender may *be charged* and sent to jail.

Oral Practice

10. Answers questions.

1. What is probation?
2. What must the offender do when he/she is sentenced to probation?
3. What awaits the criminal if he/she fails to follow the conditions of the sentence?
4. What do probation conditions depend on?
5. What do standard probation conditions include?
6. What types of probation are there?
7. What is an unsupervised probation?
8. What is a supervised probation?
9. What requirements should a criminal meet if he is sentenced to community control probation?
10. What is a shock probation?

11. Complete the sentences.

1. Probation is …
2. When an offender is sentenced to probation, he …
3. If the offender fails to follow the conditions, he …
4. Common standard probation conditions include: …
5. The most commonly ordered types of probation include: …
6. Unsupervised probation frees the offender from …
7. Supervised probation requires the offender …
8. Community control probation requires the offender …
9. Shock probation consists of …

Text 2
The Early History of Probation

Word list

appeal for a pardon	ходатайство о помиловании
cobbler	сапожник
come into being	возникать
convince	убедить
divert	отклонить
imprisonment	заключение (в тюрьму)
incarceration	лишение свободы
indefinitely	неопределенно
intend	предназначить
suspend	приостановить

Task: Read the text and find the answers to the following questions:

1. What is the origin of probation?
2. When did probation start in the USA?
3. Who was John Augustus? What did he propose?
4. Who was the first official probation officer?
5. What did the National Probation Act allow the courts to do?
6. What was the basis of adult and juvenile probation programs?
7. What does probation mean?

Probation dates back to English common law, when the court had the authority to suspend an execution, while a convicted criminal appealed to the monarch for a pardon.

In the United States, probation started in 1841 when a Boston cobbler John Augustus convinced a judge in the Boston Police Court to release a convicted offender to his care for a short time. He intended to present the rehabilitated offender to the court in time for sentencing.

The first probation officer was recognized by U.S. courts in 1878, when the Mayor of Boston appointed a former police officer to the position.

In the early 20th century, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed judges to suspend sentences indefinitely. As a result, the National Probation Act of 1925 came into being. The Act allowed courts to suspend sentences of incarceration, placing offenders on supervised probation for a specified period of time.

By 1956 each U.S. state had established adult and juvenile probation programs and they were all based on the rehabilitative model of John Augustus. Probation was seen as “an opportunity to divert the individuals from imprisonment and give them another chance.”

Text 3

Word list

probation - испытательный срок; служба пробации
probationer - испытуемый; находящийся на пробации
probation officer - сотрудник службы пробации
bail - залог
abstain from alcohol - воздерживаться от спиртного
persuasion - убеждение
conviction - приговор
drunkard - пьяница
sober - трезвый
astonishment - удивление
evaluate - оценивать

Task 1 Read the text and find the answers to the questions.

1) How did John Augustus organize his help to the probationers?

2) What was the main idea of the *Washington Total Abstinence Society*?

3) What was the first case of probation?

4) Why did Augustus pay much attentions to the characteristics of prospective probationers?

5) What were the results of Augustus's activities as a probation officer?

Task 2. Read the text and choose the best title for it.

1. From the history of probation.
2. The biography of John Augustus.
3. John Augustus – Father of Probation.
4. The origins of probation.

Before the United States had an official probation system, there was John Augustus, a shoemaker from Boston. From 1841 to 1858, he used mostly his own money to post bail for nearly 2,000 people. He believed these individuals would benefit more from rehabilitation than from being sent to jail. He helped them find jobs, get an education, and reported their progress to the court. Because of his work, John Augustus is known as the "Father of Probation" and is considered the first true probation officer.

John Augustus was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, in 1785. By 1829, he had moved to Boston and was running a successful boot-making business. He was a member of the Washington Total Abstinence Society – a group whose members avoided alcohol and believed that people struggling with alcohol could be helped through kindness, understanding, and moral support, rather than punished with jail time.

In 1841, Augustus went to a police court and posted bail for a man known as a "common drunkard" – now recognized as the first person ever placed on probation. The man was told to return to court in three weeks for sentencing. When he came back, he was sober and behaved so differently that everyone in the courtroom was amazed.

This event marked the beginning of Augustus's 18-year career as a volunteer probation officer. He didn't help every offender, and he only took on those he believed could succeed. He carefully looked at each person's character, age, and the influences in their life — such as people, places, and habits. Augustus kept detailed records of his work and was the first person to use the word "probation" to describe his method of helping offenders change their lives.

By 1858, John Augustus had helped 1,946 men and women stay out of jail. Of those, only 10 failed to meet the conditions of their release. His efforts had a

lasting impact. Shortly after his death in 1859, Massachusetts passed the first official probation law, inspired by his work.

Today, John Augustus is remembered as a pioneer in criminal justice reform and the founder of modern probation.

Task 3. Read the text and rearrange the points of the outline (plan) of the text

1. The First Probation Case (1841)
2. Career as a Volunteer Probation Officer
3. Selection Process and Methods
4. Early Life and Background
5. Results and Legacy
6. Introduction: The Birth of Probation

Task 4. Read and translate the main idea of the text as formulated the AI system.

The main idea of the text is that John Augustus, a Boston shoemaker, pioneered the concept of probation in the United States by voluntarily bailing out offenders and helping them rehabilitate, thereby proving that support and guidance are more effective than incarceration for many individuals and laying the foundation for the modern probation system.

Text 4
Probation Officers

Word list

supervise	надзирать, осуществлять контроль
conditions of probation	условия пробации
electronic monitoring	электронный браслет
mental health	психическое здоровье
substance abuse	злоупотребление веществами
violent offender	лицо, совершившее насильственное преступление
peace officer	сотрудник правоохранительных органов
concealed weapon	скрытое оружие
pepper spray	слезоточивый спрей
self-protection	самозащита
arrest warrant	ордер на арест

Task 1. Read the text and find the answers to the following questions:

1. What are the objectives (цели) of probation officers?
2. What are the activities of probation officers?
3. Whom do probation officers supervise?
4. What should be the education of a probation officer?
5. What skills and abilities should a probation officer have?
6. Do probation officers wear uniforms?
7. What weapons are probation officers armed with?

Probation officers play a key role in the criminal justice system. They work with people who have committed crimes but are not in jail. Their job is to supervise these offenders and help them stay out of trouble. They make sure the offenders follow the rules of their probation and do not commit more crimes.

Officers often visit offenders at home or at work. They meet with them regularly to check on their progress, see how their rehabilitation is going, and make sure they are obeying the court's conditions.

Most probation officers work with people who have not yet been sent to prison. Some officers work with many types of criminals. Others specialize in certain groups, such as sex offenders; people on house arrest (with electronic monitoring); offenders with mental health problems; people with drug or alcohol addictions; violent offenders.

To become a probation officer, most places require a four-year college degree. Some probation officers have police powers and are considered peace officers. In these cases, they must go to a police academy for training.

Good communication skills – both speaking and writing – are very important. Officers must also understand the criminal justice system well. They need to be able to work with people from all backgrounds and be ready for the risks of working with criminals.

Probation officers usually do not wear uniforms. They dress in business or casual clothes. However, they carry official ID and a badge. In many cases, they can carry a hidden gun and pepper spray for protection or to arrest someone if needed.

Task 2. Rearrange the points of the text's plan.

Types of offenders supervised
Important skills and abilities
The role of probation officers in the justice system
Main responsibilities and activities
Dress code and weapons
Professional requirements and qualifications

Task 3. Complete the sentences.

1. Probation officers work with …
2. The functions of the probation officers are to …
3. The types of offenders supervised are …
4. Probation officers get education/training at …
5. Probation officers should … (skills and abilities)
6. Probation officers are dressed …

Task 4. Read and translate:

a) *Main idea*. Probation officers play a vital role in the criminal justice system by supervising offenders in the community, supporting their rehabilitation, and ensuring they comply with court-ordered conditions to prevent reoffending.

b) *Abstract*. The text describes the role, responsibilities, and requirements of probation officers in the criminal justice system. It explains that probation officers supervise individuals who have committed crimes but are not in prison, helping them to rehabilitate and follow the conditions of their probation. The text highlights the importance of their work, the specialized groups they may work with, the necessary qualifications and skills, and their authority and safety measures. Overall, the text presents probation officers as key figures in preventing crime and supporting offenders' reintegration into society.

Text 5
Probation Violation

Task 1. Translate the following words and word combinations using a dictionary:

to violate
term of probation
conditions of probation
violation
probation violation
probation violation hearing
consequences of probation violation
to give a warning
prior violations
to commit a crime/ offence
controlled substance
to be under the influence

to possess of drugs
to suspend a sentence;
to revoke a suspension
to serve a sentence.

When a person breaks the terms of their probation, it is called a probation violation. The punishment depends on several factors such as how serious the violation is and whether the person has broken the rules before. If probation is violated, an offender faces serious penalties, including going to jail to serve the original sentence that was suspended.

Common types of probation violation

not showing up in court when ordered;
not reporting to, or meeting with, the probation officer as scheduled;
not paying fines or restitution, or not doing community service as ordered;
spending time with other offenders;
traveling outside the county or state without permission from the court or the probation officer;
possessing, using, or selling drugs;
being arrested for any reason.

Consequences of probation violation

Usually, the probation officer decides what happens next. The officer may give a warning, or make the person go to court for a probation violation hearing. At the hearing, the judge will look at the evidence of the violation presented by the prosecutor. The probation officer then gives a recommendation on how to handle the violation. The judge has the final decision and can choose any sentence. But usually, the court listens closely to the officer's recommendation.

Task 2. Make up the summary of the text.

Text 5.1
A Case of Probation Violation

Task. Read the text and find the answers to the questions.

1. What was the initial crime of Melissa?
2. What were the conditions of her probation?
3. What condition of probation did Melissa violate?
4. What punishment will she get for probation violation?

Melissa was found guilty of possessing a controlled substance. The amount was large enough to make it a felony, but this was her first time getting in trouble.

To give her a chance to change, the judge gave her a two-year prison sentence – but suspended it. This means she won't go to prison if she successfully completes three years of supervised probation, and completes a drug rehabilitation program.

About a year later, Melissa is found at a party with friends who are all drunk. Not only is Melissa under the influence (which breaks her probation rules), but she also has 20 small bags of drugs on her.

While drinking again might have led to a warning, having drugs – especially in a quantity meant for selling – is a serious violation. In this case, Melissa will likely be taken to jail to wait for a probation violation hearing. Most likely her probation will be revoked, and she will have to serve her two-year prison sentence.

Text 6
Probation cases

Task 1. Study the definitions of the key legal terms used in the text.

Probation – a period of court-ordered supervision in the community instead of incarceration.

Probation violation – breaking any rule set by the court during probation, which can lead to jail or prison time.

Suspended sentence – A jail or prison sentence that is not served unless the person violates specific conditions (like probation).

Plea bargain – an agreement where the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a reduced sentence or dropped charges.

Misdemeanor – a less serious crime (e.g., petty theft, minor assault), typically punishable by fines or short jail terms.

Felony – a serious crime (e.g., murder, armed robbery), often punishable by more than one year in prison.

Juvenile Court – a special court that handles cases involving offenders under the age of 18.

Blood-Alcohol Content (BAC) – a measure of alcohol in a person's bloodstream; 0.08% is the legal limit for driving in most U.S. states.

DUI – driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Task 2. Study the two cases of probation and answer the questions.

1. What for do the courts use probation?
2. What was the offence committed by Ethan Couch?
3. What was the sentence given to Ethan by the juvenile court judge?
4. What factors influenced the decision of the judge?

5. What was the offence committed by Thomas McPartlen?

6. What was his sentence?

7. What were the conditions of his probation?

8. Do you agree with the court's decision in the first and in the second cases?

9. What would you sentence the offenders to if you were a judge?

Probation is a sentencing option often used by courts in the United States. Instead of sending an offender to jail or prison, the court allows them to remain in the community under strict supervision. This approach aims to reduce prison overcrowding while giving individuals a chance to rehabilitate and avoid future crimes.

Case 1: The Teen Who Caused a Fatal Crash

Incident: On June 15, 2013, 16-year-old Ethan Couch stole beer from a Walmart and then drove his father's pickup truck with seven teenage passengers. He was speeding on a dark road when he crashed into a stalled car and another vehicle parked nearby. The accident killed four people: a mother, her daughter, and two men who had stopped to help.

Legal Facts: Couch's blood-alcohol content (BAC) was 0.24% –three times the legal limit for adults. Prosecutors asked the judge to sentence Couch to 20 years in prison for the incident.

Outcome: Because Couch was a minor, his case was heard in juvenile court. The judge sentenced Couch to 10 years of probation and ordered him to enter rehabilitation. The decision of the judge was partly based on a psychologist's testimony that Ethan grew up rich and was never taught that actions have consequences. The judge thought he needed help more than punishment but warned that any violation of probation could result in up to 10 years in prison.

Case 2: A Fight, a Knife, and a Second Chance

Incident: On June 22, 2015, Thomas McPartlen and William Gartrell got into a physical altercation. During the fight, McPartlen cut Gartrell with a six-inch steak knife. Though Gartrell's injuries were not life-threatening, McPartlen was arrested and initially charged with second-degree assault and armed criminal action – both serious felonies.

Legal Strategy: The following month, McPartlen entered into a plea bargain. He agreed to plead guilty to a reduced charge – a misdemeanor assault – in exchange for the dismissal of the more serious charges.

Outcome: McPartlen received a one-year jail sentence, but it was suspended. This means he avoided jail entirely on the condition that he successfully complete

two years of probation, and finish an “Alternatives to Violence” educational program. If McPartlen violates probation or fails to complete the program, the court can activate his one-year jail sentence.

Task 3. Choose one of the cases described and speak about it in short.

Text 7
Difference between Probation and Parole

Word list

adhere	- придерживаться
assigned officer	- назначенный офицер
as directed	- согласно указаниям
follow a curfew	- соблюдать комендантский час
follow strict conditions	- соблюдать строгие условия
initial jail sentence	- первоначальный тюремный срок
impose	- налагать
overcrowded jails	- переполненные тюрьмы
parole	- условно-досрочное освобождение
refrain from	- воздержаться от
revoke supervised release	- отменить контролируемое освобождение

Task. Read the text and fill in the table of similarities and differences between probation and parole:

	Probation	Parole
Similarities		
Differences		

While both probation and parole offer supervision for individuals convicted of a crime, there are some basic differences. While probation is a sentence used in place of jail time, often used for first time and non-violent offenders, parole is supervised release of an individual who has already served jail or prison time.

Both probation and parole have the goal of rehabilitating offenders, and of keeping them out of jail or prison. In both cases, the offender is required to follow strict conditions, and to report on a regular basis to their assigned parole or probation officer. Probation is a sentence issued by the judge at trial. Parole may be granted only after a minimum amount of time in jail or prison has been served, and is granted at the discretion of the parole board.

Text 8.
Difference between a Suspended Sentence and Probation

Task 1. Read the text and find the answers to the following questions.

1. What are the alternative punishments to jail time?
2. What is a suspended sentence?
3. What is the most common condition of a suspended sentence?
4. What is the purpose of a suspended sentence?
5. When is probation imposed?
6. What are the conditions of probation?
7. What are the functions of a probation officer?

Task 2. Translate the text using the dictionary.

When a person is convicted of a crime, he is not always sentenced to jail time. Two alternative punishments imposed by a court are a suspended (conditional) sentence and probation.

A suspended sentence means that a court imposes a jail sentence, but the sentence is not served so long as the defendant adheres to the court's conditions. The most common condition is refraining from committing another crime. If a condition is violated, the suspended sentence is revoked and the defendant must serve the initial jail sentence.

The purpose of suspended sentences is to minimize the problem of overcrowded jails. When the crimes are less serious and are committed by first-time defendants, courts often impose suspended sentences.

After conviction, a court can impose *probation* instead of a jail sentence. The court sets conditions for the probation period, which include refraining from committing crimes, following a curfew, remaining employed, attending counseling, completing community service and meeting with a probation officer as directed.

A probation officer monitors a person on probation to ensure that all conditions are met. Generally, a probation officer requires a person to check in once a month. The probation officer also administers random drug tests and supervises progress in completing community service and attending counseling.

Key Difference

Probation is about what you DO (follow rules, report to an officer, stay out of trouble).

Suspended sentence is about what you AVOID (going to jail) – as long as you do what is required (usually, completing probation).

Text 9 (1)
Pros and cons of Probation

Task 1. Read the text and translate it with the help of a dictionary.

Pros of Probation

1. Cost-effectiveness. To the government, this practice is cost-effective as it spends less when the criminal is released on probation.

2. Protection of society. Probation ensures close supervision of criminals while they undergo rehabilitation. This helps to minimize the criminal activities in the community and make sure the security of community members is maintained.

3. Reformation. Probation provides first-time offenders with the opportunity for reformation. This prevents them from turning into hardened and dangerous criminals.

4. Makes offenders productive. Probation offers individuals the opportunity to maintain employment, support their families, and contribute positively to society.

5. Issues of overcrowding are solved through probation, and the population can be managed.

Cons of Probation

1. Increased risk to the society. This practice allows criminals to mingle with the community members easily; this increases the risk of criminals committing another crime.

2. Increased crime rate. Probation is always viewed by many as a lack of punishment. This leads to an increase in the crime rate since there is no heavy punishment of the offenders.

3. Risks of probation officers. This practice poses serious safety risks to probation officers' lives as they freely meet with offenders. They may end killing them or doing something else.

4. Lack of reformation. Punishment is the central theme of the justice process, and therefore, when probation type of sentence is applied, there is minimal or no punishment. This may make the criminals not realize their mistakes, and thus, they will not be reformed.

Probation: True or False Quiz

Task 2. Read the statements and decide if they are true (T) or false (F) according to the text.

1. Probation is cheaper for the government than keeping someone in prison.
2. Probation helps solve the problem of prison overcrowding.

3. Probation guarantees that an offender will be reformed and will never commit another crime.

4. Probation increases the risk to society because offenders are living in the community.

5. Probation officers face no great safety risks in their job.

6. Probation allows offenders to keep their jobs and support their families.

7. According to the text, many people view probation as a lack of serious punishment.

8. According to the text, probation always leads to the successful reformation of criminals.

Task 3. Express your attitude to probation.

Text 9 (2)
Pros and Cons of Probation
(Adapted version)

Task 1. Compare text 9 (1) with its adapted version (2) done by the AI.

Probation is when a court lets someone stay out of jail – but only if they follow strict rules. Here's what's good and bad about it:

PROS (The Good Things)

1. *No Jail Time.* People can stay with their families, keep their jobs, and live normally – as long as they follow the rules.

2. *Cheaper for Society.* It costs much less to supervise someone on probation than to keep them in prison.

3. *Helps People Change.* Courts often require counseling, drug treatment, or anger management. This helps people fix the problems that got them in trouble.

4. *Reduces Prison Overcrowding.* Fewer people in jail means prisons aren't packed, and resources can go to more serious criminals.

5. *Second Chance.* Probation gives young or first-time offenders a chance to learn from their mistake without a prison record ruining their future.

CONS (The Bad Things)

1. *Too easy on offenders?* Some people think probation is too soft – especially for serious crimes. Victims may feel justice wasn't served.

2. *Risk of re-offending.* If supervision is weak, some people break the law again while on probation.

3. *Strict rules = Easy to mess up.* Probation has many rules (check-ins, drug tests, no travel, etc.). Breaking even a small rule can send you to jail.

4. *Not everyone gets it.* Judges decide who gets probation. Sometimes, people with money or good lawyers get it – while others don't, even for similar crimes. This can feel unfair.

5. *Stressful & Controlling.* Being watched by a probation officer, drug tests, and curfews can feel like constant pressure – even if you're trying to do your best.

In Short: Probation is a tool – not perfect, but useful. It works best when the person is truly willing to change and the system supports them with good supervision and programs.

Task 2. Answer the questions.

1. What is probation, according to the text?
2. Why is probation "cheaper for society"?
3. How does probation help people change their behavior?
4. How does probation help solve the problem of prison overcrowding?
5. Who is can profit (извлекать выгоду) from the "second chance" that probation gives?
6. Why might victims feel that justice wasn't served?
7. What can happen if someone on probation breaks even a small rule?
8. Why might the probation system feel unfair (несправедливый) to some people?

Task 3. Discuss the problems caused by probation (in writing or orally).

1. According to the text, probation works best when "the person is truly willing to change (желать измениться)." What do you think motivates someone to be willing to change?
2. Do you agree that probation is "too easy on offenders," especially for serious crimes? Why or why not?
3. According to the text probation can be "stressful and controlling." Is this a necessary part of the system, or is it counterproductive? Explain your opinion.
4. In your opinion, is the risk of re-offending worth the benefits of probation (like saving money and giving second chances)? Why?

Text 10
Probation and Parole: Advantages and Disadvantages

Task. Summarize the text.

What is probation? Instead of going to jail, an offender is allowed to stay in the community under supervision.

Advantages:

More options for judges: It gives judges flexibility. They can choose probation if they believe the person can live responsibly in society.

A second chance: It's a chance to make things right. Offenders get to stay out of prison but are closely watched to help them stay on track and avoid future crimes.

Focus on rehabilitation: The goal is to help people improve and become productive members of society.

Disadvantages:

Still under control: Even though you're not in jail, your freedom is limited. The government is still heavily involved in your daily life.

Too many people in the system: Millions are on probation. Critics argue this overloads the justice system and can harm both the individuals and society as a whole.

Too soft?: Some people believe certain offenders are getting off too easy and should be behind bars instead of walking free.

What is parole? This is the early release of a prisoner before their full sentence is up, usually for good behavior.

Advantages:

Fresh start: It gives reformed prisoners a real opportunity to rebuild their lives and start over.

Saves money: Keeping someone in prison is incredibly expensive (tens of thousands per year). Parole saves taxpayers a lot of money.

Better for society: Having fewer people locked up aligns with the values of a free and democratic society.

Disadvantages:

Risk of re-offending: The biggest fear is that the person will commit another crime after being released.

Struggling on the outside: Some parolees can't cope with life after prison and end up jobless, homeless, or back on drugs.

Still not fully free: Parole usually comes with continued supervision, which costs money and means the person's freedom is still limited for a period of time.

Text 11
Federal Law No. 10-FZ of February 6, 2023
"On Probation in the Russian Federation"

(Abridged)

Read the text and do the tasks:

Task 1. Write out a) the principles of probation and b) the objectives of probation.

Task 2. What is the difference between executive, penitentiary and post-penitentiary probation?

Task 3. What is the difference between re-socialization, social adaptation and social rehabilitation?

1. The main provisions

Article 1. Subject of Regulation

This Federal Law governs the organization and operation of probation in the Russian Federation, including its goals, objectives, principles, the legal status of probationers, and the powers of probation authorities.

Article 2. Legal Basis

Probation is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation, generally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation, and federal laws.

Article 3. Principles of Probation

Probation shall be conducted in accordance with the following principles: priority of human and civil rights and legitimate interests; humanism; rule of law; individualized approach; - openness (transparency).

Article 4. Goals and Objectives of Probation

The goals of probation are to correct antisocial behavior, promote re-socialization, social adaptation, and rehabilitation of probationers, and prevent recidivism.

The objectives of probation are to create conditions for assisting probationers in restoring social ties; securing housing, education, and employment; accessing medical, psychological, and legal support.

Article 5. Key Concepts

For the purposes of this Federal Law, the following terms are defined:

Probation – a system of measures applied to convicted persons and individuals released from correctional institutions who face hardship, aimed at their re-socialization, social adaptation, rehabilitation, and protection of their rights and legitimate interests.

Executive Probation – measures implemented by penal inspections for individuals serving non-custodial sentences who are in difficult circumstances.

Penitentiary Probation – measures applied to convicts within correctional institutions to facilitate their correction and prepare them for release.

Post-Penitentiary Probation – measures applied to individuals released from correctional institutions who face hardship, aimed at their re-socialization, social adaptation, and rehabilitation.

Re-Socialization – socio-economic, educational, and legal measures designed to reintegrate individuals into society after release from custody.

Social Adaptation – measures to assist probationers with employment and daily living, encouraging lawful behavior.

Social Rehabilitation – measures to restore the social connections and functions of individuals subject to probation.

Text 12
Probation around the World (In Short)

Task 1. Read the text and write out the main objectives (цели) of probation in different countries.

Probation is a community-based alternative to incarceration, allowing offenders to remain in society under supervision and specific conditions. While details vary by country, the main goal is rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

United States: Widely used; managed by state or federal probation officers. Offenders must meet conditions (e.g., drug testing, employment, curfews). Violations can lead to jail.

United Kingdom: Managed by the National Probation Service (England & Wales), Community Justice Scotland, and Probation Board for NI. Focus on rehabilitation, public protection, and restorative justice.

Canada: Probation is a common sentence under the Criminal Code. Supervised by provincial/territorial probation services. Emphasis on reintegration and addressing root causes (e.g., addiction, mental health).

Australia: State-based systems. Probation (or "community corrections orders") includes supervision, community service, and treatment programs. Managed by state corrective services.

European Union: Varies by country but generally emphasizes rehabilitation. Many nations (e.g., Germany, Sweden, Netherlands) use probation with strong social support systems. EU promotes standards via the European Probation Rules.

Japan: Probation exists for adults and juveniles. Supervised by probation officers and volunteer probation supervisors. Strong emphasis on community and family support.

South Africa: Probation services focus on social reintegration and restorative justice. Part of the Department of Correctional Services. Often includes community service and counseling.

Brazil: "Penal probation" or community service. Managed by courts and social workers. Overburdened system; implementation varies regionally.

India: Probation of Offenders Act (1958) allows courts to release first-time or young offenders on probation. Supervised by probation officers, but infrastructure is limited in many areas.

Global Trends:

Shift from punitive to rehabilitative models.

Use of electronic monitoring and risk assessment tools.

Growing role of non-governmental organizations and volunteers.

Challenges: underfunding, caseloads, inconsistent implementation.

Key Purpose Worldwide:

Avoid prison where possible, reduce reoffending, protect the public, and support offender rehabilitation through supervision and social services.

Task 2. After reading the text do the quiz "Probation Around the World"

1. What is probation?

a) a type of prison;

b) supervised freedom instead of jail;

c) a big fine;

d) a court trial

2. What is the main goal of probation in most countries?

a) to punish offenders harshly;

b) to help offenders change and not reoffend;

c) to send offenders to the army;

d) to take away their phones

3. In which country do volunteers help supervise people on probation?

a) Brazil;

b) Japan;

c) India;

d) Australia

4. Which country has a law from 1958 that allows young or first-time offenders to get probation?

a) Canada;

b) India;

c) South Africa;

d) USA

5. In which country does probation often include community service and treatment programs?

a) United Kingdom;

b) Australia;

c) Brazil;

d) Japan

6. Which country focuses on "restorative justice" and "social reintegration" in probation?

a) USA;

b) South Africa;

c) Germany;

d) India

7. Who manages probation in England and Wales?

a) the army;

b) the national probation service;

c) the federal police;

d) the United Nations

8. In which country does probation focus on root causes like addiction or mental health?

a) Canada;

b) Brazil;

c) India;

d) Japan

9. In which country is the probation system overloaded and uneven?

a) Sweden;

b) Brazil;

c) Canada;

d) Australia

10. What does Japan emphasize in its probation system?

a) strict punishments;

b) support from family and community;

c) military training;

d) big fines

11. What is one key purpose of probation worldwide?

a) make offenders work for free;

b) avoid prison when possible;

c) stop offenders from voting;

d) move offenders to another country

Text 13
Probation and Parole Violations

A conviction for any type of criminal offense can carry serious repercussions that could have a significant impact on your life. There are many types of criminal charges that may carry penalties, such as extensive monetary fines and time behind bars.

A jail sentence might not always be the only sentencing option, as sometimes the court might order you to be placed on probation as an alternative. However, if you violate the terms of your probation, this could lead the court to revoke probation and order that you be returned to jail. Sometimes probation violations could even lead to additional criminal charges.

Here are some common examples of probation violations:

Missing court: Experts indicate that missing a court date is a common type of probation violation. Even a single missed date could lead to the revoking of your probation.

Drug test results: Sometimes the terms of probation may require frequent drug tests. Another prevalent example of a probation violation could involve a positive drug test result.

Check-ins: Showing up to all your check-ins with your probation officer may also be imperative, as missing any of these meetings could trigger detrimental results.

Unauthorized travel: The conditions of your probation could include travel restrictions, and traveling outside of the area without authorization could constitute a probation violation.

Financial obligations: You may also have to fulfill certain financial obligations, and failure to pay your fees in accordance with this arrangement may prompt unfavorable results.

The court may also decide to revoke probation if you are arrested for involvement in further criminal activity, as this is another common type of probation violation.

Text 14
The Origin and History of Probation

Probation began in medieval England, where punishments for even minor crimes were brutal – like whipping, branding, or execution. Under King Henry VIII, over 200 crimes carried the death penalty. This cruelty led reformers to find ways to soften justice, such as royal pardons, tolerant judges, or labeling offenders as clergy to avoid harsh sentences. Courts later started "binding over for good behavior," releasing people temporarily to prove they could reform.

In the U.S., especially Massachusetts, similar ideas emerged –like paying bail for good behavior or delaying sentences. These were early steps toward modern probation.

Modern Probation

In England, judge Matthew Davenport Hill placed young or redeemable offenders under the care of guardians and had police check on their progress.

But John Augustus, a Boston shoemaker and temperance advocate, is known as the "Father of Probation." In 1841, he bailed out a drunk man, who returned to court sober and reformed. Augustus spent 18 years helping nearly 2,000 people, carefully choosing those most likely to change. He kept records, coined the term "probation," and created the foundation for today's probation system: investigation, intake, and supervision.

After his death in 1859, Massachusetts passed the first probation law. Probation spread across the U.S., boosted by the creation of juvenile courts (starting in Chicago, 1899). Today, all states use probation for both adults and youth.

Probation in New York

New York's probation system is run locally but overseen by the state. It began in 1907 with a state commission, became a division in 1917, and turned into a separate agency in 1970. In 1974, local probation chiefs began reporting to county leaders (or NYC's mayor). In 1984, it was renamed the "Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives." Today, New York City has the second-largest probation department in the U.S., after Los Angeles County.

Probation Knowledge Quiz
(Probation in the U.S. legal system)

Section 1: Choose the best answer.

1. What is the primary purpose (цель) of probation?

a) to punish offenders severely;

b) to provide community supervision as an alternative to prison;
c) to ensure offenders serve jail time;
d) to collect fines from offenders

2. Who typically supervises a person on probation?
a) police officer;
b) judge;
c) probation officer;
d) public defender

3. Which of the following is NOT a common condition of probation?
a) regular check-ins with a probation officer;
b) obligatory drug testing;
c) traveling abroad without permission;
d) attending counseling or treatment programs

4. What happens if someone violates their probation?
a) they automatically get a longer probation term;
b) their case is dismissed;
c) they may face jail time;
d) nothing – violations are ignored

5. Probation is often decided by:
a) the president;
b) the jury;
c) the judge;
d) the prosecutor

Section 2: True or False.

6. Probation can be granted before or after a conviction.
☐ True
☐ False

7. Probation and parole are the same thing.
☐ True
☐ False

8. Juvenile offenders can be placed on probation.
☐ True
☐ False

9. Probation officers have the authority to arrest probationers who violate terms.
☐ True
☐ False

10. Probation is always free – offenders never pay fees or restitution.

☐ True

☐ False

Section 3: Short Answer

11. Name two advantages of probation over incarceration.

12. What is "shock probation"?

13. Explain the difference between supervised and unsupervised probation.

Text 15
Opinions about Probation

Read the different opinions about probation and do the tasks below.

Here are different opinions about probation. These opinions highlight the complexity, controversy, and humanity behind probation as a legal and social tool.

Judges

"Probation gives me flexibility to tailor justice. Not every crime – or person – deserves prison. For first-time or nonviolent offenders, probation can be the bridge to rehabilitation – if they're willing to walk it."

"But probation only works if there's responsibility. I hate revoking probation, but when someone repeatedly violates terms or endangers the community, I have no choice but to send them to jail."

Probation Officers (POs)

"I'm part cop, part counselor, part paperwork machine. My job isn't to punish – it's to guide. But with 150+ cases, how can I really help anyone?"

"The most rewarding part? Seeing someone graduate probation with a job, clean record, and hope. The worst? Sending someone to jail for missing an appointment because their bus didn't show up."

Defense Attorneys

"Probation sounds better than jail – until you see the fine print (написанное мелким шрифтом). Fees, drug tests, curfews, travel bans… One mistake and you're locked up. For many clients, it's a trap disguised as mercy."

"I stand for unsupervised probation whenever possible. Supervised probation often criminalizes poverty – can't pay your fee? Back to court. Can't take time off work? Violation."

Former Probationers

"Probation saved my life. My PO connected me with rehab and job training. I'm five years clean now. But I had privileges – stable housing, family support. Others aren't so lucky."

– Jamal R., completed probation in 2019

"It was a nightmare. $200/month fees I couldn't pay. Missed a meeting because I was working a double – got a warrant. Ended up in jail for 3 months over a technicality. That's not justice."

– Maria S., probation revoked in 2021

Legislators & Policymakers

"Probation saves money and reduces prison overcrowding. But we must pay probation officers properly and standardize conditions.

Victims & Community Members

"He got probation for assaulting my daughter. 'Rehabilitation'? He never even apologized. I don't feel safe. Probation feels like a slap on the wrist (букв. шлепок по руке)."

– Linda G., mother of assault victim

"I support probation – if it includes restitution and mandatory counseling. People can change. But the system needs to center victims too, not just offenders."

International Perspective (e.g., Norway, Germany)

"In Norway, probation focuses on reintegration – not surveillance. Officers have small caseloads and work with psychologists, job coaches. The goal is to make the person a contributing citizen.'

Conclusion: Probation can be humane, individualized, and effective – with proper investment and philosophy.

Task 1: Read the statements below write T if the statement is true according to the text, F if it is false.

☐ The judge believes prison is always the best option for first-time offenders.

☐ Probation officer feels he has enough time and resources to help all 150+ of his clients effectively.

☐ The defense attorney says that probation fees can criminalize poverty.

☐ Former probationer Jamal R. thanks his probation officer for helping him access rehab and job training.

☐ Victim Linda G. feels that probation was a correct and just (*справедливый*) outcome for the person who assaulted her daughter.

☐ In Norway, probation officers work with large caseloads focused mostly on surveillance.

Task 2: Answer the following questions in 1–2 complete sentences.

1. What are two major concerns shared by probation officers?
2. Why do defense attorneys think supervised probation as potentially harmful (наносящий ущерб) for low-income clients?
3. Which groups generally have *mixed* feelings about probation? Name at least two.
4. What is the conclusion of the article if probation is basically good or bad?

GLOSSARY

Administrative probation – minimal or no active supervision. Offender must avoid new offenses but doesn't report to a PO. Often used for low-risk cases.

Community supervision – broad term for probation or parole – stresses location (community) over incarceration. Preferred by reformers.

Conditional liberty – Freedom granted only if specific court-ordered rules are followed. Violation = potential jail.

Electronic monitoring – use of GPS ankle bracelets or check-in devices to track location and compliance.

Graduated sanctions – step-by-step consequences for violations (e.g., warning → community service → short jail) – avoids immediate revocation.

Intensive supervision probation – high-monitoring probation with frequent check-ins, strict curfews, drug tests. For higher-risk offenders.

Mass supervision – critique term: probation and parole systems supervise millions – often more than prisons incarcerate.

Paper prison – metaphor: probation feels like incarceration due to endless rules, fees, and surveillance – even without bars.

Probation officer (PO) – government agent who supervises, supports, and reports on probationers. Role blends social work and law enforcement.

Probation violation – failure to follow court-ordered conditions. Can be "technical" (missed meeting) or "substantive" (new crime).

Restitution – court-ordered payment to victim for damages, loss, or injury. Often a probation condition.

Revocation - termination of probation due to violation. Can result in jail or prison time.

Shock probation – judge sentences offender to short jail term (e.g., 30–90 days), then releases to probation – meant to "shock" into compliance.

Technical violation – breaking probation rules without committing a new crime (e.g., failed drug test, missed curfew, didn't pay fee).

Unsupervised probation – no assigned PO. Offender must simply avoid arrest and sometimes pay fines. Minimal system contact.

Task 1: Match each term on the left with the correct definition on the right.

TERM	*DEFINITION*
1. Technical violation	a) probation with no assigned officer; minimal contact with the system
2. Mass supervision	b) Breaking probation rules without committing a new crime (e.g., missed meeting)
3. Unsupervised probation	c) critique term: millions under probation/parole — more than in prison
4. Graduated sanctions	d) step-by-step consequences (warning → community service → jail)
5. Paper prison	e) metaphor: probation feels like jail due to excessive rules and surveillance

Task 2: Decide if each statement is True (T), False (F) based on the glossary.

1. "Shock probation" means the offender is never sent to jail.
2. "Restitution" is a payment made to the court, not to the victim.
3. "Intensive supervision probation" is used for low-risk offenders.
4. "Electronic monitoring" always involves an ankle bracelet.
5. "Paper prison" is a literal term referring to jail sentences on paper.
6. "Probation officers" only enforce rules and never provide support.
7. "Community supervision" is a term preferred by reformers.

Task 3: Fill in the blanks with the correct term.

electronic monitoring; shock probation; graduated sanction; probation violation

1. When a judge sentences someone to 30 days in jail and then releases them to probation, it's called _____.

2. Sending someone back to jail for missing a meeting is an example of punishment for a _____.

3. A system where you get a warning first, then community service, then jail is using _____.

4. A GPS tracker on your ankle is part of _____.

Task 4. Match each term (1–4) to the correct situation (a – d).

Terms: *(1) graduated sanctions; (2) paper prison; (3) shock probation; (4) restitution*

Situations:

a. Maria stole $200 from a store. The judge ordered her to pay the store back – not the court.

b. David got 30 days in jail, then was released to probation. The judge said, "This should scare you straight."

c. Lena missed two check-ins. First, she got a warning. Then, community service. Only after a third violation did she go to jail.

d. Sofia says, "I'm not in jail, but I feel like I am – I can't travel, I pay fees, I report weekly. It's exhausting."

Task 5. Express your opinion.

Use connectors: because, in my opinion, for example

1. Is "shock probation" a good idea? Why or why not?
2. Should people go to jail for not paying probation fees? Explain.
3. Which is worse: prison or "paper prison"? Why?

Task 6. You are a criminal justice reformer. Design your "Ideal Probation System" using the terms from the glossary.

Topics for Discussion

1. Is probation primarily a tool for rehabilitation, punishment, or public safety? Can it effectively serve all three goals – or are they sometimes in conflict?

2. Does probation reduce recidivism – or simply delay incarceration? 3. Should probation officers act as social workers, law enforcers, or both? What training, resources, and discretion should they have?

4. Should technical violations (e.g., missing an appointment, failing a drug test) result in jail time? What alternatives exist? (e.g., graduated sanctions, community service, counseling)

5. Can technology (e.g., apps, GPS, virtual check-ins) improve probation – or does it increase surveillance and control?

UNIT 2
SOCIAL WORK

Text 1
The Importance of Rehabilitation Programs Before and After Release

Task. Read the text and rearrange the points of the plan accordingly.

Роль тюрьмы: от наказания к исправлению
Программы после освобождения: поддержка на свободе
Проблема реинтеграции
Реабилитация в тюрьме: основа для будущего
Ответственность общества

Former inmates often return to a world very different from the one they left – often without stable employment, financial resources, or social support. Rebuilding their lives under these conditions is a great challenge, that is why rehabilitation programs – both during incarceration and after release – are essential.

Prisons should not only serve as places of punishment. They must also function as institutions of transformation, providing individuals with the tools to become productive, law-abiding members of society. Unfortunately, many rehabilitation programs are reduced or eliminated altogether due to chronic underfunding – a short-sighted approach that damages public safety and human potential.

A main function of the justice system should be to prepare individuals for successful reintegration. Rehabilitation must begin behind bars, offering purpose, structure, and hope. Practical programs – such as vocational training, educational courses, and life skills development – make it possible for these individuals to leave prison with the skills for good stable jobs.

Effective reentry programs are also important. They provide former offenders with access to employment, stable housing, mentoring, and constant support – all of which contribute to financial independence, personal dignity, and reduced risk of recidivism. While employment is an important part of successful reintegration, more support and educational programs are needed.

Society has a responsibility in supporting these individuals who are trying to rebuild their lives. It is necessary that prisoners are given the proper training and opportunities to improve themselves and their prospects after their release.

Vocabulary study

1. Translate the words with the prefix “re-”.

Note: приставка ***re-*** указывает на то, что действие происходит еще раз или возвращается в исходное состояние.

return, ***re***lease, ***re***building, ***re***habilitation, ***re***integration, ***re***entry, ***re***cidivism, ***re***offend

2. Match the pairs of synonyms

prisons	reentry
rehabilitation	behind bars
inmates	incarcerated individuals
release	leave prison
reintegration	rebuilding their lives
recidivism	financial independence
stable employment	return to crime

3. Word combinations.

– former inmates, former offenders;
– stable employment, stable housing, good stable jobs;
– financial resources, financial independence;
– constant support, social support;
– vocational training, educational courses;
– chronic underfunding, successful reintegration;
– productive, law-abiding members of society,
– rehabilitation programs, effective reentry programs;
– personal dignity, great challenge;
– rebuilding their lives, equipping individuals with the tools;
– justice system, life skills development, community-based service;
– during incarceration, after release, behind bars;
– places of punishment, institutions of transformation, reduced risk of recidivism;
– to rebuild their lives, to leave prison to improve themselves and their prospects.

4. Translate the sentences with the modal words.

1. Prisons *should* not merely serve as places of punishment.
2. They *must* also function as institutions of transformation, equipping individuals with the tools to become productive, law-abiding members of society.

3. A main function of the justice system *should* be to prepare individuals for successful reintegration.

4. Rehabilitation *must* begin behind bars, offering purpose, structure, and hope.

5. Oral practice

5. Answer questions

1. What main challenges do former inmates face when they re-enter society?
2. What should be the purpose of prisons, besides punishment?
3. Why are many rehabilitation programs reduced or eliminated?
4. What specific types of programs should be offered during incarceration to prepare individuals for release?
5. What main forms of support do effective post-release (reentry) programs provide?
6. What responsibility does society have towards individuals who are trying to rebuild their lives after incarceration?

6. Translate the main idea of the text formulated by the AI.

The main idea of the text is that for the successful reintegration of former inmates and the ensuring public safety, society must invest in rehabilitation programs both during incarceration and after release, transforming prisons from places of punishment into institutions that provide individuals with the skills and support needed to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

7. Questions for discussions and essays.

1. Should prisons primarily focus on punishment, rehabilitation, or an equal balance of both?

Punishment focus: Society demands justice and responsibility for crimes committed.

Rehabilitation focus: The final goal should be to reduce recidivism. Investing in rehabilitation transforms individuals into productive citizens.

Balance: Justice requires punishment of offenders, but a mere punitive system is ineffective and costly.

2. Is society morally obligated (обязано) to fund and support the reintegration of former inmates?

Yes. Society played a role in the individual's circumstances (*обстоятельства*) (e.g., systemic inequalities, lack of opportunity) and now has a duty to help them succeed.

No. The primary obligation is to the victims of crime and law-abiding citizens.

3. Can effective rehabilitation programs realistically reduce crime rates in the long term?

Yes: Evidence shows that stable employment and housing, provided through reentry programs, address the root causes of recidivism (poverty, lack of opportunity).

No: Some individuals are fundamentally criminal or have antisocial behaviors that programs cannot change.

4. Is the chronic underfunding of prison rehabilitation programs a mark of a short-sighted (недальновидный) justice system?

Yes: Cutting these programs saves money in the short term but costs far more in the long run because of higher recidivism rates.

No: Governments have limited budgets and must make choices. Funding for rehabilitation is uncertain (неопределенный) in its results, while funding for security and basic prison operations is most essential.

Text 2
Social Work in Prison

Word list

advocacy	– адвокатская деятельность
assessment	– оценка
counseling	– консультирование
evaluation	– оценивание
reentry	– возвращение
support	– поддержка
case management	– ведение дела (пациента)
community liaison	– связь с общественностью
crisis intervention	– кризисное вмешательство
mental health	– психическое здоровье
program development	– разработка программы

Task 1. Read the text and rearrange the points of the plan in accordance with the text.

1) Introduction
2) Crisis intervention
3) Family and community liaison
4) Counseling and mental health support
5) Advocacy

6) Rehabilitation and reentry planning
7) Assessment and case management
8) Program development and evaluation
9) Conclusion

1. Social work in prison is a special kind of job that helps people who are in jail. These workers support prisoners, help them change their lives, and prepare them to return to society. Prison social workers deal with many difficult problems – emotional, social, money-related, and legal – that prisoners face every day.

2. One of the main jobs of a prison social worker is to understand each prisoner's situation. They talk to the person and find out what they need – for example, help with mental health, drug or alcohol problems, education, or finding a job. Then, they make a personal plan to help that person get better and prepare for life after prison.

3. Social workers also give counseling. This means they listen to and help prisoners cope with hard feelings – like sadness, anger, or stress. They work in groups or one-on-one. If someone has a serious mental illness, the social worker will work together with psychologists or doctors to give the best care.

4. Another important job is helping prisoners get ready to leave jail. Social workers connect them with services outside – like housing, jobs, schools, or health care. They also teach life skills, like how to write a resume, manage money, or talk to employers. This helps prisoners start a new life without returning to crime.

5. Social workers also speak up for prisoners' rights. They make sure prisoners are treated fairly and with respect. They try to fix big problems in the system – like unfair rules or lack of help – that make it hard for people to change and succeed.

6. They help prisoners stay close to their families. This can mean helping with visits, writing letters, or family meetings. Strong family ties make it easier for people to do well after release. Social workers also talk to community groups, probation officers, and other services to make sure help continues after the person leaves prison.

7. Sometimes, emergencies happen – like someone feeling suicidal, becoming violent, or having a mental health crisis. Social workers intervene quickly to calm the situation and give support in a safe, caring way.

8. They also create and check programs in prison – like classes for parents, drug recovery groups, or programs that help prisoners say sorry and make things right with victims.

9. Working as a social worker in prison is hard but very important. It needs a kind heart, strong spirit, and belief in every person's worth. These workers help break the cycle of crime and build a safer, fairer world.

Task 2. Answer the question on the text.

1. What is the primary goal of social work in prison?
2. What information do social workers gather about a prisoner?
3. What counseling do prison social workers offer?
4. What are the "life skills" that social workers teach prisoners?
5. What does "advocacy" mean in the context of a prison social worker's job?
6. Why is the role of "family and community liaison" important for a prisoner after release?
7. In what situations would a prison social worker need to intervene?
8. What programs do social workers create?
9. What are the personal requirements needed to become a prison social worker?

Text 3
Correctional Programs in the United States

1. Education and Work Programs

Education and work programs are among the most widely implemented forms of rehabilitation in U.S. prisons. Their popularity results from the idea that obtaining educational credentials and practical job skills is essential for getting employment and becoming a productive member of society after release. Research shows that these programs have a clear, if modest, impact on reducing recidivism.

In addition to formal education, many institutions offer life-skills training. These programs deal with common problems of reintegration into society. Participants learn practical competencies such as how to apply for jobs and succeed in interviews, manage personal finances and household responsibilities, maintain physical and mental health, fulfill family roles (including parenting and partnership), and obtain essential documents like a driver's license.

Correctional facilities often provide vocational training programs. These are designed to equip inmates with trades and technical skills applicable in the workforce upon release.

2. Psychological and Counseling Programs

Many prison programs aim to address the psychological or behavioral causes of criminal conduct. Among them are substance abuse treatment programs, because about half of all incarcerated individuals report drug use before their arrest. Some facilities house drug-dependent inmates in special therapeutic units. Others offer group or individual counseling sessions focused on addiction recovery and behavioral change.

Beyond substance abuse, general counseling services – both individual and group-based – help offenders give up criminal lifestyles and develop positive social behavior.

Prisons also function as mental health facilities for many individuals with psychiatric disorders. These inmates typically receive therapy, counseling, and, when necessary, prescribed medications. In more severe cases, they may be transferred to specialized psychiatric hospitals.

Another source of emotional and spiritual support comes from chaplains and religious volunteer organizations. These groups organize many different programs, including Bible study, and regular worship services.

3. Community-Based Treatment

After release, many former inmates are placed under community supervision through parole or supervised release and monitored by parole officers. Probation serves as an alternative to incarceration: offenders who avoid prison sentences may instead be placed on probation and supervised by probation officers.

Traditionally, probation and parole officers perform a dual function: supervision and rehabilitation. They monitor offenders for signs of criminal activity while also helping them change their behavior for the better.

Task1: Read the text and say whether the statements below are true or false.

1. Education and work programs are the most common types of rehabilitation in U.S. prisons.

2. Life-skills training includes learning how to manage money and apply for jobs.

3. All inmates are required to participate in vocational training.

4. Substance abuse programs exist because most prisoners used drugs before arrest.

5. Chaplains only provide religious services, not emotional support.

6. Probation is a type of punishment inside prison.

7. Counseling programs aim to help offenders stop criminal behavior.

Task 2: Match the heading (заголовок раздела) with its main idea.

Heading	Main idea
1. Education and work programs	a) Officers help former prisoners find community support while monitoring their behavior.
2. Psychological and counseling programs	b) Prisons teach practical skills like budgeting, job interviews, and parenting.
3. Community-based treatment	c) Therapy, addiction treatment, and spiritual support help change criminal behavior.

Task 3. Find the answers to the questions in the text.

1. Why are education and work programs so popular in U.S. prisons?
2. What "life skills" do inmates learn?
3. How do prisons address substance abuse and mental health issues among inmates?
4. What role do chaplains and religious volunteers play in the rehabilitation process?
5. What is the difference between probation and parole? Who supervises individuals in each case?
6. What are the two main responsibilities of probation and parole officers?

Task 4: Questions for discussion.

1. Which type of program (education, counseling, or community support) do you think is most important for reducing crime? Why?
2. Should prisoners be required to work or study while in prison? Give reasons.
3. Do you think society benefits when former prisoners succeed? Explain.

Text 4
Prison Rehabilitation Programs

Word list

educational programs	образовательные программы
general education diploma (GED)	аттестат об общем образовании
college-level courses	курсы уровня колледжа
prison chaplains	тюремные священники / капелланы
spiritual interests	духовные интересы
sacred texts	священные тексты
worship services	религиозные службы
self-help programs	программы самопомощи

life-building	построение жизни
communication skill-building	развитие навыков общения
structured daily routine	структурированный, распорядок дня
transitional programs	программы адаптации
counseling	психологическая консультация
emotional issues	эмоциональные проблемы
housing assistance	помощь с жильём
halfway house	полупансион / переходный дом
to complete prison sentences	отбыть тюремный срок
to re-enter society	вернуться в общество
to engage in criminal activity	заниматься преступной деятельностью
to gain skills	приобретать навыки
to obey a curfew	соблюдать комендантский час
to abstain from alcohol and drug use	воздерживаться от употребления алкоголя и наркотиков

Task. Read and translate the text.

Offenders who are already in prison may participate in a prison rehabilitation program. Prison rehabilitation programs are used to help offenders re-enter society, live normal lives, and avoid engaging in criminal activity after they complete their prison sentences.

There are generally four distinct kinds of prison rehabilitation programs, as follows:

Educational: Educational programs offer classes to help inmates get a General Education Diploma (GED) or a high school diploma. They may also offer college-level courses. Many inmates need to learn English or engage in activities within a library. Research shows that inmates who acquire skills in these areas have a better chance of re-entering society and avoiding criminal behavior. These programs may also make prison time more tolerable for the inmate.

Spiritual: Prisons hire prison chaplains to offer ministry and other support for the spiritual interests of inmates. Of course, prison inmates may affiliate with any religion they choose – or they may practice no religion at all. Organized religious groups may provide volunteers who help inmates study sacred texts, attend worship services, and engage in other aspects of religious practice. Such groups may also offer self-help programs, such as classes in life-building and communication skill-building.

Work Programs: Working inside a prison gives inmates several benefits, including a structured daily routine, work experience, the opportunity to gain

skills, and pay they can use to purchase items in prison. After an inmate is released, this work experience can help them find employment.

Transitional Programs: Transitional rehabilitation programs help the inmate make the transition from prison life to life in society. These programs may offer counseling to help inmates deal with emotional issues they may face when thinking about being released – for example, anxiety. They may also offer sessions that provide inmates with information about local resources, such as free clothing, housing assistance, and more. Some inmates may be required to stay in a halfway house for a period of time after their release. In a halfway house, an inmate may receive help in finding employment, be required to save money, obey a curfew, and abstain from alcohol and drug use.

Text 5
Prison Social Work around the World

Word list

incarcerated individuals	заключённые
facilitating rehabilitation	содействие реабилитации
rehabilitative approach	реабилитационный подход
recidivism rate	уровень рецидивизма
punitive system	карательная система
under-resourced environment	условия с недостаточными ресурсами
high caseloads	высокая загруженность
racial inequality	расовое неравенство
privatized prisons	частные тюрьмы
stigma	стигма / клеймо
cultural values of harmony and shame	культурные ценности гармонии и стыда
social conformity	социальное соответствие
unmet psychological needs	неудовлетворённые психологические потребности
human dignity	человеческое достоинство
vocational training	профессиональное обучение
overcrowding	переполненность
gang dominance	доминирование тюремных группировок
community-driven innovation	инициативы, исходящие от сообщества
peer counseling	консультирование сверстниками
systemic failures	системные сбои
lack of post-release support	отсутствие поддержки после освобождения

to collaborate with psychologists and educators	- взаимодействовать с психологами и педагогами
to operate in dangerous conditions	- работать в опасных условиях
to depend on community organizations	- полагаться на общественные организации
to reflect systemic failures	- отражать системные провалы
to foster rehabilitation	- способствовать реабилитации
to break cycles of incarceration	- прерывать циклы тюремного заключения
to see the person behind the prisoner	- видеть человека за заключённым
to build bridges back to society	- строить мосты обратно к обществу

Prison social work is a specialized field that focuses on supporting incarcerated individuals, facilitating rehabilitation, and preparing them for reintegration into society. While the central values of social work – dignity, justice, and human rights – remain universal, the practice of prison social work varies greatly across countries due to differences in legal systems, cultural norms, funding, and philosophies of punishment and rehabilitation.

Sweden – Rehabilitation-Focused Model

Sweden's prison system is globally renowned for its humanistic, rehabilitative approach. Social workers are central to this model.

– Philosophy: "Punishment is the limitation of liberty – nothing else."

– Social workers collaborate with psychologists, educators, and parole officers.

– Emphasis on normalization: inmates live in conditions resembling the outside world.

– Low recidivism rate (~20%) attributed to strong social support and reintegration planning.

"In Swedish prisons, we don't break people – we prepare them to return."

United States – Punitive System with Emerging Rehabilitative Efforts

The U.S. has the largest incarcerated population in the world. Social workers operate in a complex, often under-resourced environment.

– Focus varies by state: some prioritize rehabilitation (e.g., California, Oregon), others emphasize control and security.

– High caseloads and limited funding often hinder effective intervention.

– Social workers advocate for policy reform, and alternatives to incarceration.

Challenges: Racial inequalities, privatized prisons, and stigma.

Japan – Harmony, Shame, and Silent Suffering

Japanese prison social work is shaped by cultural values of harmony, shame, and traditionalism.

– Social workers emphasize moral rehabilitation and social conformity.

– Mental health support is limited; emotional expression is often discouraged.

– Family and community pressure to "not shame the family" can complicate reintegration.

– Low crime and incarceration rates, but high suicide rates in prisons indicate unmet psychological needs.

Germany – Education, Dignity, and Preparation for Life

German prisons emphasize human dignity and rehabilitation.

– Social workers help inmates access vocational training, education, and therapy.

– "Open prisons" allow inmates to work outside during the day.

– Recidivism rate: ~34%, among the lowest in Europe.

Brazil – Overcrowding, Violence, and Community-Driven Innovation

Brazil's prison system is marked by extreme overcrowding, gang dominance, and minimal state support.

– Social workers often operate in dangerous conditions with little protection.

– Many depend on community organizations and religious groups for services.

– Innovative projects: theater programs, literacy classes, and peer counseling led by inmates.

– High recidivism (~70%) reflects systemic failures and lack of post-release support.

Prison social work is important, though often invisible part of criminal justice systems worldwide. From the humanistic halls of Swedish prisons to the overcrowded cells of Brazilian penitentiaries, social workers try to support human dignity, foster rehabilitation, and break cycles of incarceration. While methods differ, the mission remains universal: to see the person behind the prisoner, and to build bridges back to society.

Task 1. Answer questions.

1. What are the three main goals of prison social work?
2. What is the philosophy of punishment in the Swedish prison system?
3. Why is the recidivism rate in Sweden so low (~20%)?
4. What are two major challenges faced by prison social workers in the United States?
5. What cultural values influence the approach to prison social work in Japan?
6. What is the role of social workers in Japanese prisons, and how does it differ from Western models?
7. What problem in Japanese prisons is indicated by high suicide rates, despite low crime and incarceration rates?
8. How do German prisons support rehabilitation?
9. What kinds of "community-driven innovations" are there in Brazilian prisons?
10. What is the universal mission of prison social workers, regardless of country or system?

Task 2. Questions for discussion.

1. Which country's approach to prison social work do you find most effective – Sweden, Germany, Japan, Brazil, or the USA? Why?
2. "Punishment is the limitation of liberty – nothing else." Do you agree with this philosophy? Compare it to the punitive model described in the U.S. section.
3. In Japan, emotional expression is discouraged, and conformity is emphasized. Is this helpful or harmful for rehabilitation?
4. Brazil's prison system relies on "community-driven innovation" like peer counseling and theater programs. Can they replace government support? Why or why not?
5. How do you understand the statement that prison social workers should "see the person behind the prisoner?"
6. High suicide rates in Japanese prisons against high recidivism in Brazil – which problem is more urgent (срочный) to solve?
8. Imagine you could design the perfect prison social work system by combining elements from different countries. What would it include?
9. Should prison social work focus more on individual therapy (like in the U.S.) or on community and moral values (like in Japan)?

Text 6
Social Work in the Russian Penal System

Word list

vocational training	профессиональное обучение
psychological counseling	психологическое консультирование
family visitation programs	программы свиданий с семьёй
educators within prisons	воспитатели в исправительных учреждениях
to mediate conflicts	урегулировать конфликты
cultural and educational activities	культурно-просветительские мероприятия
preparing for release	подготовка к освобождению
maintaining family ties	сохранение семейных связей
non-governmental organizations	неправительственные организации
legal aid	юридическая помощь
advocacy	правозащитная деятельность
post-release support centers	центры поддержки после освобождения
job placement	содействие в трудоустройстве
trauma-informed communication	травмоинформированная коммуникация
community-based social support	социальная поддержка на уровне сообщества
chaplaincy services	духовно-пастырские службы
moral guidance	моральное наставничество
self-reflection groups	группы саморефлексии
reintegration assistance	помощь в реинтеграции
parish networks	приходские / церковные сети поддержки
sense of belonging	чувство принадлежности
psychosocial recovery	психосоциальное восстановление
culture of mutual care	культура взаимной помощи
peer support	поддержка равными
local solidarity	местная солидарность
penitentiary psychology	пенитенциарная психология
rights-based approaches	гуманные, основанные на правах подходы
person-centered care	ориентированная на человека помощь / уход

Task 1. Read the text and rearrange the points of the plan.

1. Развитие тюремной социальной работы в России на уровне сообществ.
2. Роль «воспитателей» как фактических социальных работников.
3. Растущее признание необходимости реабилитации.
4. Религиозная и моральная поддержка как форма заботы.
5. Активное участие гражданского общества.
6. Молодые специалисты, приходящие в профессию.
7. Солидарность среди равных и неформальная взаимопомощь.

In recent years, the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) has begun piloting rehabilitative programs in select regions (e.g., Tatarstan, Kaliningrad), including: vocational training (sewing, carpentry, IT basics), psychological counseling, family visitation programs. These reflect an important shift from pure punishment toward reintegration.

While Russia lacks formally trained prison social workers, educators within prisons often fulfill this role: they mediate conflicts; organize cultural and educational activities; support inmates in writing letters, preparing for release, and maintaining family ties.

Russian NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) play a vital role providing legal aid and advocacy; running post-release support centers (offering housing, job placement, counseling); training volunteers in trauma-informed communication. Their work demonstrates that community-based social support is not only possible but effective.

The Russian Orthodox Church, along with Muslim and other faith communities, offers chaplaincy services; moral guidance and self-reflection group; reintegration assistance through parish networks. For many inmates, this spiritual aspect offers hope and a sense of belonging, essential for psychosocial recovery.

Inside prisons, inmates often support one another – sharing resources, mentoring newcomers, and creating informal “families.” While not formal social work, this culture of mutual care is in line with global principles of peer support and local solidarity.

Universities in Russia are increasingly offering courses in penitentiary psychology and social rehabilitation. A new generation of professionals is beginning to offer new perspective and advocate for humane, rights-based approaches within the system.

Despite systemic problems (overcrowding, stigma, underfunding), social work in the Russian penal system is developing, driven by committed people,

community support, and a deep belief in human dignity. Through education, compassion, and community-based programs, positive changes are taking place, reflecting the universal values of social work practice worldwide: empathy, justice, and person-centered care.

Task 2. Answer questions.

1. What rehabilitative programs are carried out in some regions of Russia?
2. Who performs the role of social workers in Russian prisons?
3. What specific tasks do educators carry out?
4. What three main services do Russian NGOs provide to support incarcerated individuals
5. How do religious communities (such as the Russian Orthodox Church) contribute to inmate well-being and reintegration?
6. What changes are happening in Russian universities that may influence the future of prison social work?
7. What are the main systemic problems facing the Russian penal system?

Task 3. Translate the main idea of the text.

Despite systemic challenges like overcrowding, stigma, and underfunding, social work in Russia's penal system is developing – thanks to committed individuals, civil society, religious groups, and new generation of professionals – proving that empathetic, community-driven support is not only possible but already having a real impact.

Text 7
Personal and Professional Requirements for a Prison Social Worker

Word list

ability	-способность	*knowledge*	-знания
belief	-убежденность	*patience*	-терпение
commitment	-приверженность	*sensitivity*	-чуткость
compassion	-сострадание	*skills*	-навыки
dignity	-достоинство	*stability*	-эмоциональная стабильность
empathy	-эмпатия	*strength*	-внутренняя сила
familiarity	-осведомленность	*training*	-подготовка
hope	-надежда	*understanding*	-понимание

Task 1. Read and translate the list of professional competencies and personal qualities necessary for a social worker in prison.

Professional competencies:

– Knowledge of trauma-informed approaches – ability to communicate in a way that avoids re-traumatization.

– Understanding of criminal justice and penitentiary systems – including legal rights, reintegration pathways, and local policies.

– Skills in counseling, conflict mediation, and case management – to support inmates with emotional, family, and practical issues.

– Training in vocational or educational support – to help connect inmates with learning and job opportunities.

– Familiarity with community resources – housing, employment services, mental health care, NGOs.

– Ability to collaborate – with psychologists, educators, chaplains, probation officers, and NGOs.

Personal qualities:

– Deep belief in human dignity – seeing "the person behind the prisoner."

– Empathy and compassion – especially in harsh or under-resourced environments.

– Strength and emotional stability – to work in high-stress, sometimes dangerous locations.

– Cultural sensitivity – understanding how values like shame (Japan), solidarity (Brazil), or traditional values (Russia) affect rehabilitation.

– Commitment to justice and fairness – even when the system is punitive or unjust.

– Hope and patience – understanding that change is slow but possible.

Task 2: Sort these qualities (task 1) into three categories:

Personal qualities:

Professional competencies:

Basic values / beliefs:

Task 3. Read and translate some other qualities and competences needed for an ideal prison social worker.

– Key qualities of a prison social worker include empathy, emotional strength, cultural competence, and strong communication skills.

– Essential qualities of an ideal prison social worker are patience, integrity, and emotional intelligence.

– An ideal prison social worker should be able to build trust with incarcerated individuals.

– They should collaborate effectively with correctional staff, psychologists, and external agencies.

– Competence in crisis intervention, case management, and trauma-informed care is essential.

– Strong interpersonal and conflict resolution skills are essential in this high-stress environment.

– They need to be skilled at assessing risks and developing individualized reintegration plans.

– Past experience of working in criminal justice or mental health environments is highly valuable.

– Familiarity with the legal system and correctional policies increases their effectiveness.

– Knowledge in psychology, social work, or criminology is highly valuable.

– Experience or education in psychology, social work, or criminology is highly valuable.

– They must maintain ethical standards and respect the dignity of every individual.

– Commitment to social justice and rehabilitation – not punishment – drives their practice.

– If a social worker can remain calm under pressure and adapt to unpredictable situations, they are well-suited for prison work.

– In summary, the ideal prison social worker blends compassion with professionalism, advocacy with pragmatism, and resilience with hope.

Task 4. Compile a profile of an ideal prison social worker using the information of tasks 1 and 3 and the models:

An ideal prison social worker is a person who …

Key qualities of an ideal prison social worker include …

An ideal prison social worker should (be) …

Task 5: Imagine that you are applying to work as a social support volunteer in a Russian prison. Write a short personal statement (80–100 words) answering the questions.

– Which of your personal qualities and experiences reflect the values of prison social work?

– What would be most difficult for you – and how would you cope?

Task 6: Role-Play Scenario

Instructions: You are a young professional who just finished a course in penitentiary psychology. You meet an older prison administrator who says:

"Social work is useless in prison. These people don't deserve compassion – they deserve punishment."

Using 2–3 qualities from the list (e.g., belief, empathy, commitment), write a respectful but firm response (4–5 sentences) that reflects the values described in Text 2.

Start with: *"I understand your view, but I believe…"*

Text 8
Common Challenges for Prison Social Workers

Word list

overcrowding	переполненность (тюрем)
effective intervention	эффективное вмешательство
underfunding	недофинансирование
punitive institutional culture	карательная институциональная культура
rehabilitative goals	цели реабилитации
high caseloads	высокая загруженность
individualized support	индивидуальная поддержка
constant confrontation with trauma	постоянное столкновение с травмой
compassion fatigue	эмоциональное выгорание от сострадания
burnout	выгорание
formal protection or supervision	официальная защита или надзор
limited professional status	ограниченный профессиональный статус
"invisible"	«невидимый»
cultural and social pressures	культурное и социальное давление
formerly incarcerated people	бывшие заключённые
family and community shame	семейный и общественный стыд
safety and security risks	риски для безопасности
gang violence	насилие со стороны тюремных группировок
balancing care and control	баланс между заботой и контролем
ethical tension	этическое напряжение
lack of post-release support	отсутствие поддержки после освобождения
transitional programs	переходные / адаптационные программы
halfway houses	реабилитационные центры переходного

	типа
humanitarian values	гуманистические ценности
punitive realities	карательные реалии
build bridges between prison and society	строить мосты между тюрьмой и обществом

Task 1. Read and translate the text.

Here is an overview of the key challenges and difficulties faced by prison social workers in different countries.

1. Systemic and structural challenges

– Overcrowding (especially in Brazil and Russia) limits space, privacy, and resources for effective intervention.

– Underfunding leads to lack of materials, staff shortages, and inability to run effective programs.

– Punitive institutional culture (e.g., in the U.S. and Russia) often conflicts with rehabilitative goals.

2. High workload and emotional stress

– High caseloads (U.S.) make it difficult to provide individualized support.

– Constant confrontation with trauma, violence, and suffering leads to burnout and compassion fatigue.

– Social workers (or educators/NGO staff) often operate without formal protection or supervision (Brazil and Russia),

3. Limited professional status

– In Russia, there are no formally trained prison social workers – roles are filled by educators or volunteers with little official support.

– Social work is often "invisible" within the justice system, undervalued by administrators and the public.

4. Cultural and social pressures

– In Japan, emotional expression is discouraged, making mental health support difficult.

– Stigma against formerly incarcerated people (global, but especially strong the U.S.) hinders reintegration.

– Family and community shame (Japan) can isolate inmates and reduce support networks.

5. Safety and security risks

– In Brazil, social workers may face dangerous conditions, gang violence, and minimal state protection.

– Balancing care and control creates ethical tension: supporting inmates while working within a security-focused system.

6. Lack of post-release support

– Even when in-prison programs succeed, lack of housing, jobs, or counseling after release (Russia, Brazil, U.S.) leads to high recidivism.

– Without transitional programs or halfway houses, progress made in prison is often lost.

Summary

Prison social workers operate in complex, high-stress environments where humanitarian values often clash with punitive realities. Despite these challenges, prison social workers– driven by empathy, commitment, and belief in human dignity – continue to build bridges between prison and society, one person at a time.

Task 2. Questions for discussion.

1. Which of the six challenge categories do you think is the most serious? Why?

2. Social work is often "invisible" in the justice system. What could be done to make it more visible and valued?

3. In Russia, educators – not trained social workers – perform social work tasks. Is this enough? What might be lost without formal training?

4. Compare the challenges in Brazil and Japan. Which system seems harder for a social worker to operate in – and why?

5. Social workers "build bridges between prison and society." What does this metaphor mean to you? How can this "bridge" be strengthened?

Text 9
Different Opinions about the Role of Social Workers in Prison

Word list

view	взгляд, точка зрения
opinion	мнение
goal	цель
approach	подход
perspective	взгляд, точка зрения
belief	убеждение

1. Rehabilitation-Oriented View

Opinion: The primary role of a prison social worker is to prepare the person for a successful return to society.

– Social workers are central professionals who collaborate with psychologists, educators, and parole officers.
– Their work includes vocational training, therapy, normalization, and reintegration planning.
– Punishment is limited to loss of liberty; everything else should support human dignity and growth.
Goal: Reduce recidivism through care, not control.

2. Punitive / Security-Oriented View
Opinion: The prison system's main goal is punishment and public safety; social work is secondary or even unnecessary.
– In the U.S., social workers often operate in underfunded, high-caseload environments.
– In Russia, there are no formally trained prison social workers; their role is informally filled by educators or volunteers with little authority.
– Social work is seen as "invisible" or non-essential by administrators.
Goal: Maintain order first; rehabilitation is a luxury.

3. Community-Driven View
Opinion: When the state fails, social support must come from below – from peers, faith groups, and civil society.
– In Brazil, inmates lead theater groups, literacy classes, and peer counseling due to state neglect.
– In Russia, NGOs and churches provide legal aid, housing, job placement, and trauma-informed care.
– Social work is not a formal job but a moral act of solidarity.
Goal: Survive and support each other where the system offers nothing.

4. Moral & Conformity-Based View (Japan)
Opinion: The social worker's role is to guide inmates toward moral correction and social conformity.
– "Guidance officers" emphasize shame, harmony, and obedience rather than emotional expression or individual therapy.
– Mental health support is limited because cultural norms discourage the expression of emotional openness.
– Reintegration means returning to society without causing shame - not necessarily personal healing.
Goal: Restore social harmony, not necessarily individual well-being.

There is no universal model for prison social work; its purpose and effectiveness depend on whether a society prioritizes rehabilitation, punishment, community support, or moral reintegration. Yet, across all models, the most effective approaches share one belief: to see the person behind the prisoner.

Task 1. Decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F), or Not Stated (NS) according to the text.

In the rehabilitation-oriented view, punishment should include harsh conditions to deter crime.

In Russia, there are officially trained prison social workers with significant authority.

In Brazil, some rehabilitation activities are led by inmates themselves.

Japanese guidance officers focus on emotional expression and individual therapy.

All four perspectives agree that reducing recidivism is the main goal of prison social work.

Task 2. Match the views (perspective) with the idea / belief.

Perspective	Central belief
1. Rehabilitative	a) Society must be protected from shame
2. Punitive	b) Community must care when the state won't
3. Moral/Conformist	c) People can change
4. Community-driven	d) Crime must be punished

Task 3. Choose one of the four perspectives and explain:

– Do you think this approach is effective in preparing prisoners for life after release? Why or why not?

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