

Youth Criminal Law in Canada Answer Key

Fill out the following chart using the suggested resources:

Comparative Analysis of Youth Justice approaches:

Young Offenders Act <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/y-1/20030101/P1TT3xt3.html>

Youth Criminal Justice Act: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/yj-jj/tools-outils/back-hist.html>

	<i>Young Offenders Act</i>	<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>
Date Created	1984	2003
Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility	12	12
Maximum Age of Criminal Responsibility	18	18
Main Goals (i.e. punish, rehabilitate, educate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -protect society from illegal behaviour -youth to take responsibility for their actions -alternative measures could be used instead of judicial proceedings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -protect the public -prevent crime by addressing the causes of an offender’s behaviour -ensure offenders receive meaningful consequences -extrajudicial measures can be used instead of judicial proceedings -emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration
Criticisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -public sentiment that the YOA was too lenient (partly in response to cases of high-profile violent crime) -other critics argued the opposite - that high rates of youth incarceration would lead to youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -has received praise and resulted in lower levels of youth incarceration -has received criticism from those who believe incarceration is the better approach over extrajudicial measures or restorative programs



	becoming repeat offenders	
Other Notes	-young people are recognized as having special needs and requiring guidance (in Declaration of Principle) -protection of youth privacy included in this act	-YCJA addresses the needs of victims of youth crime -Stiff sentencing for serious and violent offences exists

Reflection: After reading and filling out the chart, what do you think are the main updates of the YCJA to the YOA?

- More focus on rehabilitation
- Goals expanded: punishment (especially for serious offences), deterrence, rehabilitation, reintegration, protection of society are all prioritized
- Data suggests the YCJA is successful in lowering incarceration and promoting reintegration for youth