

Some people believe that young people who commit serious crimes should be punished in the same way as adults. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay:

The question about whether to impose the same punitive measures on juveniles in comparison to adults, when they commit grave offenses, is a contentious one with varied opinions and perspectives. It is my conviction that, while some adolescents could be tried as adults under certain circumstances, a categorical approach might not take into account the intricacies involved in juvenile delinquency.

One primary argument that supports trial and punishment of juveniles on par with adults is the belief in the universal inviolability of justice. Proponents of this view argue that if a young individual is mature enough to commit a serious crime, they must also bear the corresponding responsibility and consequences. Additionally, this could serve as a stringent deterrent for potential adolescent offenders.

On the converse, research consistently shows that juveniles' brain development and decision-making skills are not fully formed, making them more prone to impulsive actions and susceptible to negative influences. Thus, assertive rehabilitation, guided direction, and second chances have a more significant chance of reforming young offenders than punitive justice. This acknowledges the fact that youthful mistakes, however severe, should not consign an individual to a life marred by the stain of a criminal record.

In summary, my stance is an intermediate one. Yes, there may be instances where teenagers who commit horrendous acts must face adult consequences, but these should be the exception and not the rule. The primary aim of penal systems should be the reformation of individuals, especially when it comes to the young who hold the potential to be productive members of society.

Word count: 261

Essay translated in Korean:

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Good expressions:

- 1. universal inviolability of justice - 가
- 2. stringent deterrent -
- 3. assertive rehabilitation -
- 4. guided direction -
- 5. consign an individual to a life marred by the stain of a criminal record -

6. reformation of individuals -

7. potential to be productive members of society - 가 .