

## Representation 2

***A Complaint by a Policeman*, a poem published in *Punch* magazine in the late nineteenth century.**

I am a policeman, bold and true  
Stand in my uniform six foot two  
Yet what do you think I has to do?

They bids me chivvy little boys  
And grab their hoops, them harmless toys  
Which gouty gents they much annoys.

I muzzle dogs, both great and small,  
Stop little boys from playing ball  
Or move away an apple-stall.

Meanwhile garroters plays their game  
And roughs they also do the same.  
The public cries, 'O what a shame!'

'The streets are quite unsafe', they say,  
'You're robbed and mobbed in broad noon day  
But little boys they mustn't play.'

Well. If from growls you can refrain  
It ain't of us you should complain  
You've got to thank SIR RICHARD MAYNE.

### Glossary

- 'A Complaint' – A complaint
- 'Policeman' – Policeman
- 'Gouty' – Suffering from gout, which is an inflammation of the joints
- Sir Richard Mayne – Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1855-68

## Representations for use in Part B

### Representation 1

**From *The English Police Force; A Political and Social History* written by Clive Emsley, published in 1991.**

The New Metropolitan Police force had been formed with the principal task of 'the prevention of crime', and this was also in the instructions given by their superiors to men joining the provincial forces. However, over time other police tasks evolved.

What the new police were especially good at was apprehending those who committed petty street offences: perhaps also their presence on the street reduced the incidence of street robbery. They were less successful at preventing burglary, an offence which significantly increased in the second half of the nineteenth century, unlike any other form of property crime.

The police constable was expected to bring civilisation and decorum to society: he was armed with a range of legislation to achieve this. It was possible for the police constable to move on street traders and to apprehend disturbers of the peace with efficiency, strictness and enforcement.

Drink was considered to be a major cause of crime. Enforcing legislation that allowed increased police supervision of public drinking places, however, proved to be difficult. This created friction between the police and the poorer sections of the working class. Police constables were violently assaulted when on their beats. In some rough working class areas the constables regularly patrolled at night armed with swords. Decisions were sometimes taken at senior level to contain, rather than confront, certain rough areas. The police never had sufficient manpower to suppress disorder entirely. In some areas they allowed fights and other law-breaking activities that they would have acted against elsewhere.

The power of the police in the streets, and their use of this power, probably contributed to the belief among many members of the working class that there was one law for the rich and another, harsher law, for the poor. Yet it would be wrong to see the relationship between the working class and the police as one of mutual hostility. Many members of the working class wanted respectability and good order in their communities, and while they may have not necessarily liked the police, they realised that the police were there to serve and protect the community.