**Explain why 17th century law enforcement was unsuccessful. [12]**

Candidate A

In the 17th century policing was mainly unsuccessful as it relied heavily on the community. If a crime was committed the victim would have to find the criminal themselves, for a serious crime a Hue and Cry would be called, but this was also made up of normal members of the public. Once caught the criminal would be brought before the JPs, put on trial and punished. Over time the JPs dealt with so many different cases and had a range of different jobs to do, so they had little time to do a good job.

Policing was also unsuccessful in the 17th century, as it did not prevent crime and only dealt with criminals once a crime had been committed. There was no official police force preventing crime. Keeping peace was down to the JPs, constables and watchmen, all of which were ineffective. The main people in charge of law and order were JPs who were chosen by the king. They helped write laws, led trials, gave punishments and made sure that local governments were following the laws. But this did not contribute to solving crimes or catching criminals, therefore JPs were largely unsuccessful. Constables were expected to carry out orders from the JPs, maintain the peace and also punish criminals for petty crimes.

However, constables were ordinary men that were forced to do the job for a year with no pay. These men did not want the job, had no training and were not paid. As a result, the job was not taken seriously and was not done to a good standard. At night time watchmen took over patrolling the towns, calling out the time and arresting any suspicious people, before handing them over to constables in the morning. However, the pay was low which attracted people that weren’t capable of the job. A lot of older men and drunks took up the role, making it very unsuccessful. Therefore 17th century policing was unsuccessful due to the lack of an official police force and heavy reliance on the public to deal with crime.