

# Preparing for a Trial

## LESSON PLAN:

### Objective:

To prepare the students to take part in the mock trial.

### Aims:

- To improve the students' understanding of court procedure by focusing closely on one case
- To ensure that the students focus on their particular role in this mock trial

### Resources:

- *Teacher's Notes: List of Roles in the Trial*
- *The Legal Case*
- *The Indictment*
- *Statements of Prosecution Witnesses*
- *Statements of Defence Witnesses*
- Completed question sheet from 'Student Handout - Key Questions' from the topic 'A Mock Trial in Action'.

### Key Questions:

- If you are a \_\_\_\_\_ what will you be doing during the trial?
- What sort of issues, on both sides, could a case like this bring up?
- Why is this a criminal case, rather than a civil case? Could this be a civil case?

Duration: 70 (35 + 35) minutes

## Part One

### Introduction: (20 minutes)

Teacher conducts a class discussion around the students' notes/answers made while watching and discussing the video during Lessons 2 and 3.

Teacher explains how the class will be divided for the mock trial, the roles involved and how those roles will be assigned.

### Development and Closure: (15 Minutes)

- ◆ Using *The Case* and *The Indictment* teacher explains the case that will be the subject of the mock trial. Teacher gives these handouts to each student.
- ◆ Teacher assigns the roles for the mock trial using whatever method he/she finds most appropriate. All students in the class should be involved as much as possible (for example as newspaper or TV reporters, sketch artists, gardaí, etc).
- ◆ Teacher and class complete the blanks in *The Indictment* for location and dates (*names can be changed to suit teacher and students*).
- Teacher gives *Statements of Prosecution Witnesses* to those with prosecution roles. Each witness must fill in the blanks in his/her own statement.

- ◆ Teacher gives *Statements of Defence Witnesses* to those with defence roles. Each witness must fill in the blanks in his/her own statement.
- ◆ The class discusses the function of each role.
  - Students must prepare for their roles. This may require out-of-class meetings of prosecution barristers, solicitors and witnesses and the same for the defence.

## **Part Two**

**(35 minutes)**

Use time to recap on Part 1. This gives the students an opportunity to practice their roles in the Mock Trial.