



Learning Curve  
Education Service Workshops

Key Stage 4

# Jack the Ripper



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# Teacher's notes

## Aims of the workshop

This videoconference workshop is designed for those taking the Edexcel GCSE coursework option on Jack the Ripper. Through a study of original correspondence taken from the Metropolitan Police Letter Books and the Jack the Ripper letters held here at the National Archives, students will investigate why the police were unable to catch the murderer.

They will research the different methods employed by the police in their efforts to apprehend Jack the Ripper, as well as those suggested by members of the public, to question whether or not they were to blame for not bringing him (or her!) to justice.

The Jack the Ripper letters will also be examined to understand the impact they had on the police investigation of the case, and what they reveal about society's attitudes to the murders.

In addition to this, students will examine original census returns from 1881 to build up a picture of Whitechapel at the time of the murders and consider how this evidence can also help us to understand the difficulties faced by police in their investigations into the case.

## Who's who

Sir Charles Warren: Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police until November 1888

Sir James Munro: Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police from November 1888

Sir James Fraser: Commissioner of the City of London Police

Henry Matthews: Secretary of State for the Home Office (Home Secretary)

Percy Lindley: a breeder of bloodhounds from Loughton, Essex

Thomas Blair: a member of the public from Gribton, Dumfries

## Documents

### **Document 1: reference MEPO 1/55 (p.321 – 323)**

Police letter, undated. From an unknown person to Henry Matthews, the Secretary of State, reporting on trials of police boots

### **Document 2: reference MEPO 1/48**

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Sir James Fraser, suggesting that the two police forces should be in closer communication

### **Document 3: reference MEPO 1/48**

Police letter, 1888. From Charles Warren to Percy Lindley on the subject of bloodhounds

### **Document 4: reference MEPO 1/55**

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Henry Matthews at the Home Office, regarding the offer of a pardon to any accomplices that the Ripper may have

### **Document 5: reference HO 144/221 A49301C (p.204 – 205)**

Police letter, 11 Nov 1888. From Thomas Gribton suggesting that policemen should dress up as women

### **Document 6: reference MEPO 2/227**

Police letter, 11 September 1889. From James Munro to Henry Matthews, requesting further police officers in the Whitechapel area

**Document 7: reference MEPO 3/142 (4 – 5)**

'Jack' letter, 24 Sept 1888. 'Dear Sir I do wish to give myself up ...'

**Document 8: reference MEPO 3/142 (195)**

'Jack' letter, 4 Oct 1888. 'Spring Heel Jack The Whitechapel Murderer'

**Document 9: reference MEPO 3/142 (160)**

'Jack' letter, 8 Oct 1888. 'I am ... amongst the slogging town of Brum ...'

**Document 10: reference MEPO 3/142 (252 – 254)**

'Jack' letter, 19 Oct 1888. 'Dear boss iff you are the boss ...'

**Document 11: reference MEPO 3/3157**

'Jack' letter, 29 Oct 1888. Sent to Dr Openshaw, 'Old boss you was rite ...'

**Document 12: reference MEPO 3/142 (272)**

'Jack' letter, 17 Oct 1889. 'Dear Sir I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20th...'

## Resources

- Worksheet for use with Police letters
- Worksheet for use with 'Jack the Ripper' letters

## Activity

This must be completed before the videoconference.

Divide the students into six groups. Give each group one of the Metropolitan Police letters (documents 1 – 6) plus a worksheet, and one of the 'Jack the Ripper' letters (documents 7 – 12) plus a worksheet. Allow them time before the videoconference to study their documents and to complete the accompanying worksheets, either in class or as a homework activity. If the students have any questions, they can save them to ask the Education Officer during the videoconference.

## The workshop

The workshop will begin with a discussion based on the preparation materials taken from the Metropolitan Police Office Letter Books. Students will be asked to share the result of their research into police methods and to draw some conclusions about the advantages and disadvantages of these methods to catch the murderer.

We then go on to examine an 1881 census return for Albert Square in Whitechapel and use this to consider some of the problems the police faced when investigating these murders, particularly the difficulties arising from the area in which they took place.

As a final activity, we consider the Jack the Ripper letters. Students will be asked to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the decision taken by the police to publish the 'Dear Boss' letter. We will then go on to consider how reliable the letters are, as a source for helping us to identify Jack the Ripper, and why they might also have made it so difficult for the police to apprehend the killer.

To conclude the workshop, students will be encouraged to discuss and draw conclusions based on the original evidence they have studied, as to what extent the police were to blame for not apprehending Jack the Ripper.

## Knowledge, skills and understanding

Students taking part in this workshop will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding by:

- Studying key events, people and issues in the period appropriate to their course of study
- Studying key features and characteristics of the period and, where appropriate, the social and ethnic diversity of, and the experiences of men and women in, the society studied
- Studying history through a range of sources of information, such as written and visual sources, including the use of ICT
- Using historical sources critically in their context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions
- Debating with the Education Officer leading the workshop, and amongst themselves to organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of the subject in question
- Drawing conclusions and appreciating that historical judgements are liable to reassessment in the light of new or reinterpreted evidence

## Examination board specification

- Edexcel GCSE History A (Modern World and European) Section C  
[www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/120455.pdf](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/120455.pdf)

## Useful links

- Information and activities on the origins of the Metropolitan Police:  
[www.learningcurve.gov.uk/candp/prevention/g08/default.htm](http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/candp/prevention/g08/default.htm)
- Images of a selection of 'Jack the Ripper' letters:  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item\\_id=39](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=39)
- Book a workshop  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1)
- Find out more about workshops  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/)

## Document 1: reference MEPO 1/55 (p.321 – 322)

Police letter. Undated. From an unknown person to Henry Matthews, the Secretary of State, reporting on trials of police boots

During the past  
twelve months Sir Charles  
Warren has had trials made  
of several pairs of boots  
with i... waterproof, or  
sile... none have  
gt... itable for the  
lic. Some of  
see by adap  
giveness of  
his, when the changes of  
to nature and weather are  
ta... into consideration. though  
in... instances they have  
been... and very suitable in  
particular cases.  
The Constable has to  
walk... ily for 8 hours. and the  
great caution is required in  
ma...

making changes in his boots,  
as upon these his efficiency  
so much depends.

Two important complaints  
against the noiseless boots  
are, that the wearer is very  
much more fatigued than when  
ordinary boots are worn; & that  
the feet are drawn & made sore.

Many very strong  
reasons have been sent to the  
Commissioners by the public in  
favor of the retention by Police  
on their beats of boots which  
are not silent.

## Document 1 transcript: reference MEPO 1/ 55 (p.321 – 322)

Police letter. Undated. From an unknown person to Henry Matthews, the Secretary of State, reporting on trials of police boots

During the past twelve months Sir Charles Warren has had trials made of several varieties of boots with [text missing] waterproof or silent [text missing] none have [text missing] suitable for the [text missing] police force of [text missing] adapted [text missing] when the changes of [text missing] and weather are taken into consideration though in [text missing] instances they have been found very suitable in particular cases.

The constable has to walk daily for 8 hours and the greatest caution is required in making changes in his boots, as upon these his efficiency so much depends.

Two important complaints against the noiseless boots are that the wearer is very much more fatigued than when ordinary boots are worn, and that the feet are 'drawn' and made sore.

Many very strong reasons have been sent to the Commissioner by the public in favour of the retention by Police on their beats of boots which are not silent.

## Document 2: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Sir James Fraser, suggesting that the two police forces should be in closer communication

9.10.88

Sir Jas Fraser

My dear Fraser

In order to prevent our working  
doubly on the same ground I have to  
suggest that our G.D. should be in  
more constant communication with  
you about the W. Murders

Could you send an Officer to  
Ch. Insp. Warren here every morning  
to consult or may I send an Officer  
every morning to consult with your  
Officers.

We are inundated with suggestions  
& names of suspects.

Truly yours  
C.W.

## Document 2 transcript: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Sir James Fraser, suggesting that the two police forces should be in closer communication

9.10.88

Sir J Fraser

My dear Fraser,

In order to prevent our working doubly over the same ground I have to suggest that our CID should be in more constant communication with yours about the W[hitechapel] murders.

Could you send an officer to Ch[jief] Insp[ector] Swanson here every morning to consult or may I send an officer every morning to consult with your officers.

We are inundated with suggestions and names of suspects.

Truly Yours,

C.W. [Charles Warren]



Document 3: reference MEPO 1/48

Police letter, 1888. From Charles Warren to Percy Lindley on the subject of bloodhounds

Percy Lindley Esq  
York Hill  
Loughboro

Sir,  
I have seen your letter in the Times on subject of bloodhounds & perhaps you could answer a question I have put to many without satisfactory reply.  
Supposing a hound to be brought up at once to a corpse after a murder how is he to know what are the tracks or which is the scent of the murderer or how is he to know that you want the particular track trace.  
If the murderer left a portion of his clothing behind & some of his blood I can understand a dog following up or if you could show him a particular spot where he had been standing even, but on a London pavement where people have been walking all the evening there may be scores of scents almost as keen as those of the murderer.  
This seems to me to be the

initial difficulty & I should be glad if you could give me a solution to it.

Truly yours

C.W.

Would a hound follow up a person on whose hands was the blood of a murdered person if he is shown the blood on the ground. I scarcely think he could.

### Document 3 transcript: reference MEPO 1/ 48

Police letter, 1888. From Charles Warren to Percy Lindley on the subject of bloodhounds

Percy Lindley  
York Hill  
Loughton

Sir,

I have seen your letter in the Times on subject of bloodhounds and perhaps you could answer a question I have put to many without satisfactory reply.

Supposing a hound to be brought up at once to a corpse after a murder how is he to know what are the tracks or which is the scent of the murderer or how is he to know that you want the particular track tracked.

If the murderer left a portion of his clothing behind and some of his blood I can understand a dog following up or if you could show him a particular spot where he had been standing even but on a London pavement where people have been walking all the evening there may be scores of scents almost as keen as those of the murderer.

This seems to me to be the initial difficulty and I should be glad if you could give me a solution to it.

Truly yours,

C.W. [Charles Warren]

Would a hound follow up a person on whose hands was the blood of a murdered person if he is shown the blood on the ground. I scarcely think he could.

### Document 4: reference MEPO 1/ 55

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Henry Matthews, regarding the offer of a pardon to any accomplices that the Ripper may have

St. Vincent Place, S.E.  
9<sup>th</sup> October, 1888

Sir,  
In reply to your immediate communication on the subject of his pardon, I have to inform you that in the course of the investigation of the case that during the last three or four days I have been coming to the conclusion that useful results could be produced by the offer of a pardon to accomplices. Among the variety of theories there is the possibility that the murderer is someone who is doing the

Secretary of State

The day time is seen, but who at a fair period is overbalanced in his mind; and I think it possible in that case that his relatives or neighbours may possibly be aware of his peculiarities and have been unwittingly assisting him. It would be to expect any other person to be pardoned.

On the other hand if it is the work of a gang in which only one actually commits the murder, the free pardon may make the discovery of information being obtained.

As a striking commentary on this matter I have today received a letter from a person avowing himself to be an accomplice

Secretary

and asking for a free pardon; and I am commencing a communication with him through an advertisement in a journal. This letter is probably a hoax, for we have received scores of hoaxing letters, but on the other hand it may be a bona fide letter, and if so it would be to the discovery of the murderer by omitting to offer the pardon; and I cannot see what harm could be done in this or any other case by offering a pardon.

I am, Sir,  
Yours most obedient servant,  
Charles Warren

## Document 4 transcript: reference MEPO 1/ 55

Police letter, 9 October 1888. From Charles Warren to Henry Matthews, regarding the offer of a pardon to any accomplices that the Ripper may have

4 Whitehall Place S.W.

9<sup>th</sup> October 1888

Sir,

In reply to your immediate [text missing] just received on the subject of [text missing] for the information of the Secretary of State that during the last three or four days I have been coming to the conclusion that useful results would be produced by the offer of a pardon to accomplices. Among the variety of theories there is the possibility that the murderer is someone who during the daytime is sane, but who at certain periods is overtaken in his mind; and I think it possible in that case that his relatives or neighbours may possibly be aware of his peculiarities and may have gradually unwittingly slid into [the roles of accomplices].

On the other hand if it is the work of a gang in which only one actually commits the murder, the free pardon to the accomplice may make the difference of information being obtained.

As a striking commentary on this matter I have today received a letter from a person asserting himself to be an accomplice and asking for a free pardon; and I am commencing a communication with him through an advertisement in a journal. This letter is probably a hoax, for we have received scores of hoaxing letters, but on the other hand it may be a bona fide letter and if [text missing] would be to the discovery of the murderer by omitting to offer the pardon; and I cannot see what harm can be done in this or any further case by offering a pardon.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Charles Warren

Document 5: reference HO 144/221

Police letter, 11 Nov 1888. From Thomas Gribton suggesting that policemen should dress up as women

PLEASE TO KEEP THE BRASS FASTENING OF THE TAG OUTSIDE.

HOME OFFICE RECEIVED 13 NOV. 88

No. A49301<sup>c</sup>  
16

204

DATE 11 Nov 1888. Mr. Thomas Blair

REFERENCES, &c. East End Murders.  
Offers suggestion for capturing the murderer.

*Pressing*

MINUTES.  
Once to dress and act as women deceptively.  
Ackn. 2 days by J. G. Nov 13.  
E. B. 2nd Div.  
C. W. 14/11

*Pressing*

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 88<sup>c</sup>  
A49301<sup>c</sup>  
16 205

Plan for entrapping the Whitechapel Murderer.

Let a number of men—say twelve be selected, of short stature, and as far as possible of effeminate appearance, but of known courage & tried nerve.

Dress them as females of the class from whom the victims are selected, arm them with the best and lightest weapons

and distribute them over the district haunted by the murderer.

Note, The men would require to be fair actors, and behave in the natural manner of women of that class, further they would require to be shadowed by help, in an unobtrusive way, and the whole scheme would require to be kept absolutely secret, for once let the press get a hint of it, and farewell

to any chance of success.

This plan is based on the theory that the murderer solicits intercourse, and that the woman accompanies him to a quiet spot, where the crime is committed, while in the act, so that men who undertake the duty of capturing him would require to have all their wits about them.

Thos Blair  
Gribton  
Dumfries  
N.B.

206

## Document 5 transcript: reference HO 144/221

Police letter, 11 Nov 1888. From Thomas Gribton suggesting that policemen should dress up as women

Date 11 Nov 1888	Mr Thomas Blair
References, &c	<u>East End Murders</u> Offers suggestion for capturing the murderer. <u>Pressing</u>
	MINUTES Police to dress and act as women decoys. Ackn[nowledge] and Lay by C[harles] [Warren] Nov 13

Pressing

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 88

Plan for entrapping the Whitechapel Murderer. Let a number of men – say twelve be selected, of short stature, and as far as possible of effeminate appearance, but of known courage and tried nerve.

dress them as females of the class from whom the victims are selected, arm them with the best and lightest weapons and distribute them over the district haunted by the murderer.

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Note. The men would require to be fair actors, and behave in the natural manner of women of that class, further they would require to be shadowed by help, in an unobtrusive way, and the whole scheme would require to be kept absolutely secret, for once let the press get a hint of it, and farewell to any chance of success.

This plan is baised [sic] on the theory that the murderer solicits intercourse and that the woman accompanies him to a quiet spot, where the crime is committed, while in the act. So that men who undertook the duty of capturing him would require to have all their wits about them

Thomas Blair  
Gribton  
Dumfries

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### Document 6: reference MEPO 2/227

Police letter, 11 September 1889. From James Munro to Henry Matthews, requesting further police officers in the Whitechapel area

H.O.  
Done  
11-9-89

Our experience in connection with the last Whitechapel murder shows that notwithstanding every precaution the murderer has been enabled to slip through our patrols, and dispose of the body of his victim without being observed by police. All that I can do is to strengthen the force of police in the locality, and make it more difficult than before for these lamentable occurrences to take place. For this purpose I shall require 100 more men, both uniform and plain clothes. I cannot possibly arrange for their transfer from other Divisions, which have already furnished men for the last 2nd, and therefore ask for an

augmentation of 100 men for a couple of months, in addition to those whom I have already had under H.O. letter.

As soon as I can see my way to reduce the number of S of S may rely upon my doing so, but we must put a stop to these Whitechapel outrages, and for this the number of men applied for is absolutely necessary. I trust therefore that I may receive immediate sanction to supply the above number of men for the time mentioned.

J.M.  
11/9

## Document 6 transcript: reference MEPO 2/227

Police letter, 11 September 1889. From James Munro to Henry Matthews, requesting further police officers in the Whitechapel area

11. 9. 89

Done G

H.O.

Our experience in connection with the last Whitechapel Murder shows that notwithstanding every precaution the murderer has been enabled to slip through our patrols, and dispose of the body of his victim without being observed by police. All that I can do is to strengthen the force of police in the locality, and make it more difficult than before for these lamentable occurrences to take place. For this purpose I shall require 100 more men, both uniform and plain clothes. I cannot possibly arrange for their transfer from other Divisions, which have already furnished men for the East End, and I therefore ask for an augmentation of 100 men for a couple of months, in addition to those whom I here already have under HO letter.

As soon as I can see my way to reduce the number S[ecretary] of S[tate] may rely upon my doing so, but we must put a stop to these Whitechapel Outrages, and for this the number of men applied for is absolutely necessary. I trust therefore that I may receive immediate sanction to supply the above number of men for the time mentioned.

JM

11/9



# Worksheet for Police letters

It is December 1888. The Metropolitan Police and the City Police still have no clue as to the identity of Jack the Ripper.

As part of a Home Office investigation into the way in which the police have been handling the case, you have been asked by the Secretary of State to study a selection of police records. It is your job to decide whether the police are to *blame* for not yet apprehending the murderer.

When drawing your conclusions, consider how the police have sought to discover the murderer and the way in which they have used and handled any possible evidence. Also consider how reliable and useful these sources really are in providing information about police methods.

## 1. Document analysis

What method for trying to catch the murderer is suggested here?	
What does it say in the document about the advantages of this method?	
What does it say in the document about the disadvantages of this method?	
What is your judgement on the usefulness of this method as a way of catching the murderer?  Explain your answer	

## 2. Usefulness and reliability

Now you need to consider the usefulness and reliability of this document as a piece of evidence in deciding whether or not the police were to blame for not catching the murderer.

There are five points you always need to think about when examining a document in this way – do this for your document in the table below.

Who wrote it? <i>Get your teacher to show you the who's who section in the preparation pack for help, or search the internet for more information about them</i>	
When did they write it? <i>Is this close in date to the events the document describes?</i>	
Where was it written	
Why was it written	
What does it tell us	You've covered this in number 1!

## 3. Judgement time!

Finally, summarise your thoughts about the usefulness and reliability of the documents.

- As a historian, do you think these are useful sources for evidence of police methods in the late 1880's? Explain why. (you may need to use a separate sheet for this)
- What do you think are their strengths and weaknesses as sources for understanding the effectiveness of police methods at this time?

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES

## 4. Conclusions

Chose the statement you most agree with:

We believe that the police     are to blame  
  are not to blame  
  are partly to blame

for not apprehending Jack the Ripper.

The evidence to support our argument is (continue on a separate sheet and remember to use the sources as evidence, and bring in your own knowledge at this point)

Document 7: reference MEPO 3/142 (p.4 – 5)

'Jack' letter, 24 Sept 1888. 'Dear Sir I do wish to give myself up ...'



Dear sir  
I do wish to give myself up  
I am in misery with nightmare  
I am the man who committed  
all these murders in the last  
six months my name is [redacted] and  
I am a slauterer and work at  
[redacted] I  
have found the woman I wanted  
that is chapman and I done what  
I called slautered her but if  
any one comes I will surrender but I  
am not going to walk to the station  
by myself so I am yours truly [redacted]

sep 24 1888  
METROPOLITAN POLICE  
RECEIVED  
25 SEP 88  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPT

keep the Boro road clear  
or I might take a  
trip up there  
photo  
[redacted]  
of knife  
this is the knife that  
I done these murders  
with it is a small  
handle with a large long  
blade sharpe both sides

PUBLIC RECORD  
OFFICE

4

## Document 7 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142 (p. 4 – 5)

'Jack' letter, 24 Sept 1888. 'Dear Sir I do wish to give myself up ...'

On Her Majesty's [sic] service

Sir Charles Warren

Commissioner of Police

Scotland Yard

[Postmarked] London SE 12 SP 24 1888

Sept 24 1888

Dear Sir

I do wish to give myself up I am in misery with nightmare I am the man who committed all these murders in the last six months my name is [silhouette of coffin] so and so I am a horse slaughterer [sic] and work at name [blocked out] address [blocked out] I have found the woman I wanted that is Chapman and I done what I called slaughtered [sic] her but if any one comes I will surrender but I am not going to walk to the station by myself so I am yours truly [silhouette of coffin]

Keep the Boro road clear or I might take a trip up there photo of knife[silhouette of knife]

This is the knife that I done these murders with it is small handle with a large long blade sharpe both sides

Document 8: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 4 Oct 1888. 'Spring Heel Jack The Whitechapel Murderer'

October 4<sup>th</sup> 1888  
Spring Heel Jack  
The Whitechapel Murderer

I am an american I have been in  
London the last ten months and have  
murdered no less than six women I mean to make  
a dozen of it now while I am about it I think  
I may as well have six men in blue to make  
the number as I see there is a few too many  
knocking about the last end looking for one but  
I am above upon their heel every day and will  
be for some time yet and I was in the court  
at Newnes Street watching the blue boys washing  
the blood matter away sorry to give you so much  
trouble but what I have sworn to do I will  
do at the cost of my own life at night I have  
been sleeping in Bow cemetery  
I have to tell you know so  
who has found the women

I mean settling as they will not  
the chance of going evidence against me  
I shall shortly have to shift or change  
my quarters from Bow cemetery as  
I have enlightened you in that matter  
I have written this on the Embankment  
near Waterloo

Jack the Ripper

195

I will rip a few more  
So help my God I  
will

## Document 8 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142 p.195

'Jack' letter, 4 Oct 1888. 'Spring Heel Jack The Whitechapel Murderer'

October 4 1888

Spring Heel Jack

### The Whitechapel Murderer

I am an American I have been in London the last ten months and have murdered no less than six women I mean to make a dozen of it now while I am about it I think I may as well have six men in blue to make the number as I see there is a few too many knocking about the east End looking for me but I am close upon their heel every day and will be for some time yet and I was in the crowd at Berners Street watching the blue boys wash the blood marks away sorry to give you so much trouble but what I have sworne to do I will at the cost of my own life at nights I have been sleeping in Bow cemetery one thing I have to tell you know is the policemen who has found the women it is those I mean settleing[sic] as they will not g[et] the chance of giving evidence against me I shall shortly have to shift or [illegible] my quarters from Bow cemetery as I have enlightened you a bit about I have written this on the Embankment near Waterloo.

Jack the Ripper

I will rip a few more

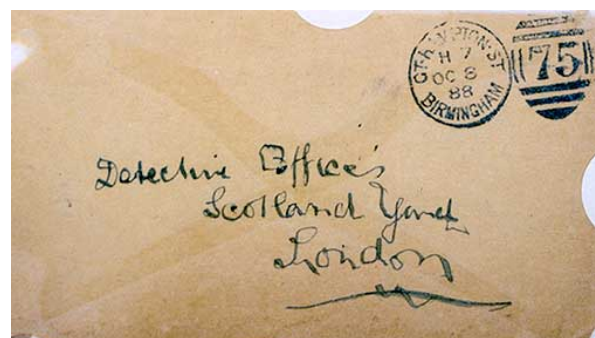
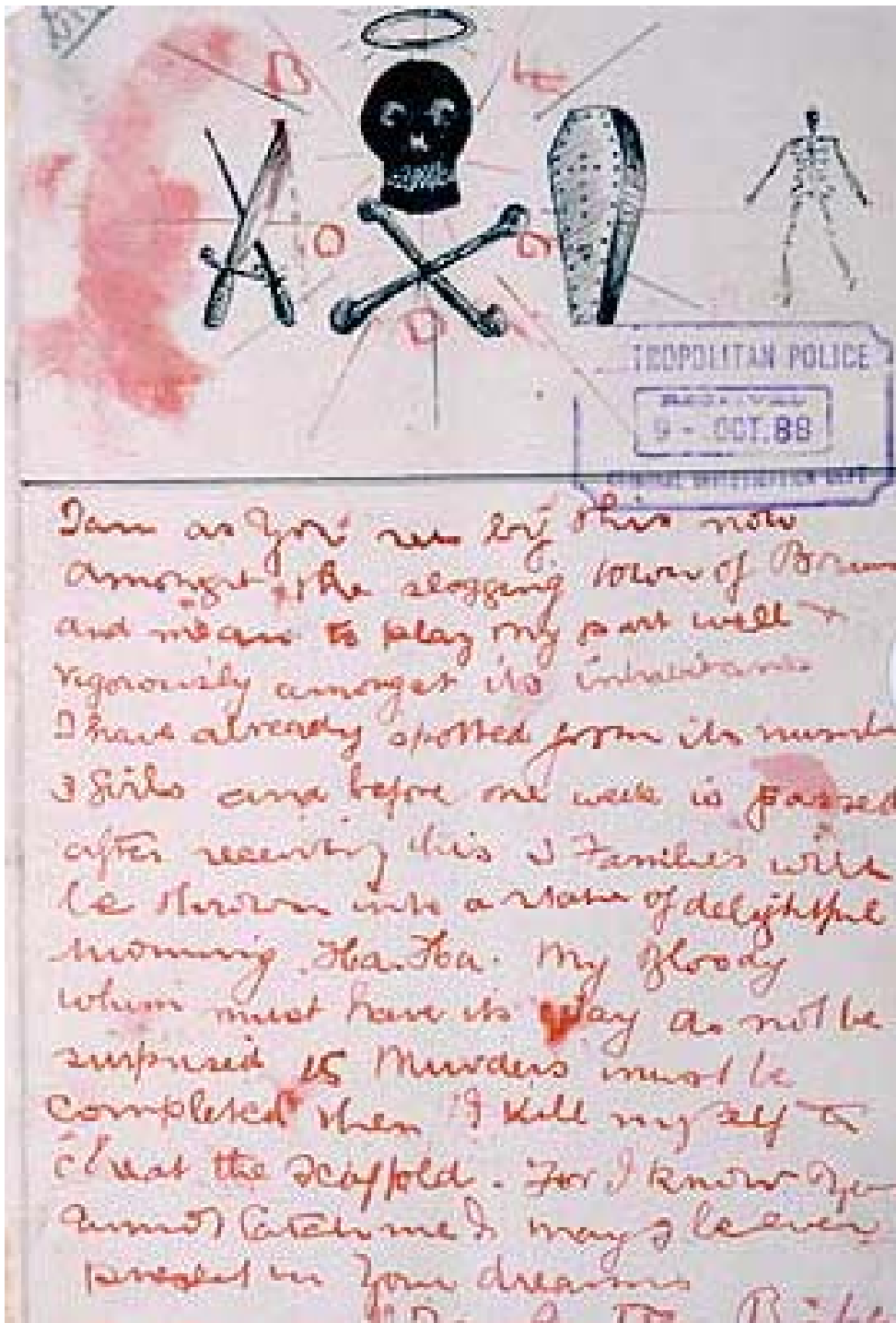
So help my God I

Will

[Image of two knives with blood dripping from them]

### Document 9: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 8 Oct 1888. 'I am ... amongst the slogging town of Brum ...'



**Document 9 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142, p.160**

'Jack' letter, 8 Oct 1888. 'I am ... amongst the slogging town of Brum ...'

Detective Offices

Scotland Yard

London

[Postmarked 8 October 1888 Birmingham]

[Images and the letters B L O O D at the top]

I am as you see by this note amongst the slogging town of Brum and mean to play my part well & vigorously amongst its inhabitants I have already spotted from its number 3 girls and before one week is passed after receiving this 3 Families will be thrown into a state of delightful mourning. Ha. Ha. My Bloody whim must have its way do not be surprised 15 murders must be completed then I kill myself to cheat the scaffold. For I know you cannot catch me & may I be even present in your dreams

Jack the Ripper



Document 10: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 19 Oct 1888 sent to Charles Warren. 'Dear boss iff you are the boss ...'

Oct 19 1888 Wouster  
Dear boss iff you are the  
boss you have not got the  
right man 100 miles off  
scant bloodhounds no  
use will not catch me  
have been in Wouster  
a week have spotted 3  
cut will visit them again  
shortly dont no much  
about this part off too  
Brunn to day  
Post this on me way hope  
I shall have luck there  
The Atmosphere was so hot  
at Whitechapel had to  
clear off smelt a rat  
saw last victim buried  
I felt rather down hearted  
over my knife which I  
lost coming here must  
get one tonight. I shall  
kill 15 at Brunn call and  
settle 3 I have spotted at  
Wouster I shall then finish

up at Hull before going  
to Poland  
Kelly looking in low lodgen  
houses for me do not resist  
them description spotted at  
Plover Station nothing like  
me look out for Oct 24th  
at Brunn will give them  
reapers  
Jack a Poland Jew  
Better known as Jack the Ripper  
A drop of Strides Blood

## Document 10 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142 p. 252

'Jack' letter, 19 Oct 1888 sent to Charles Warren. 'Dear boss iff you are the boss ...'

October 19 1888

Wouster

Dear boss iff you are the boss you have not got the right man 100 miles off  
scent bloodhounds no use will not catch me have been in Wouster a week  
have spotted 3 out will visit them again shortly [sic] don't know much about  
this part off too Brum to-day

Post this on me way, hope I shall have luck there The Atmosphere was to  
hot at Whitechapel had to clear off smelt a rat saw last victim buried [sic] I  
felt rather down hearted over my knife which I lost coming [sic] here must  
get one to night. I shall kill 15 at Brum call and settle 3 I have spotted at  
Wouster Shall then finish up at Hull before going to Poland

Silly looking in low lodging houses for me do not visit [sic] them description  
posed at Ploise [sic] stations nothing like me look out for Octer. 27<sup>th</sup> at  
Brum will give them ripper.

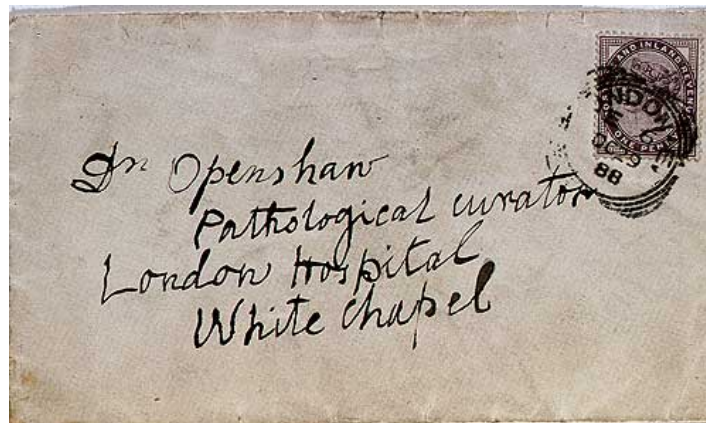
Jack a Poland Jew

Better known as Jack the Ripper

A drop of Strides Blood

Document 11: reference MEPO 3/3157

'Jack' letter, 29 Oct 1888. Sent to Dr Openshaw, 'Old boss you was rite ...'



Old boss you was rite it was  
the left kidney i was goin to  
be operate agin close to your  
aspitte just as i was goin  
to drop mi wife along of  
er doomin throate them  
cusses of coppers spoilt  
the game but i guess i wil  
be on the job soon and will  
send you another bit of  
innards Jack the ripper

• have you seen the devle  
with his microscope and scalpul  
a lookin at a kidney  
with a slide collect up

## Document 11 transcript: reference MEPO 3/3157

'Jack' letter, 29 Oct 1888. Sent to Dr Openshaw, 'Old boss you was rite ...'

Dr Openshaw  
Pathological Curator  
London Hospital  
Whitechapel

[Postmarked London 29 October 1888]

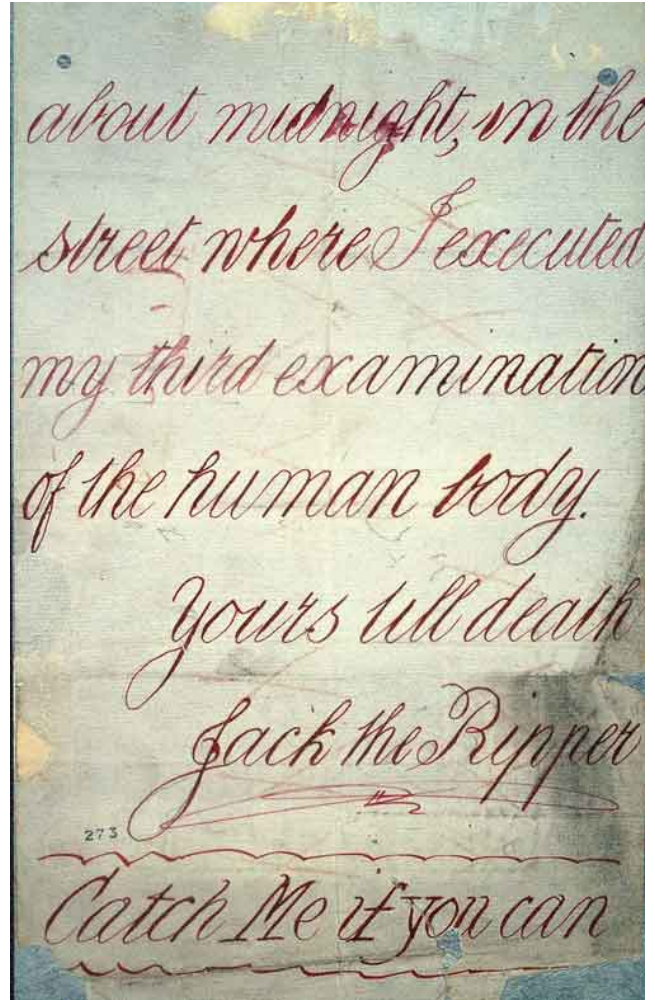
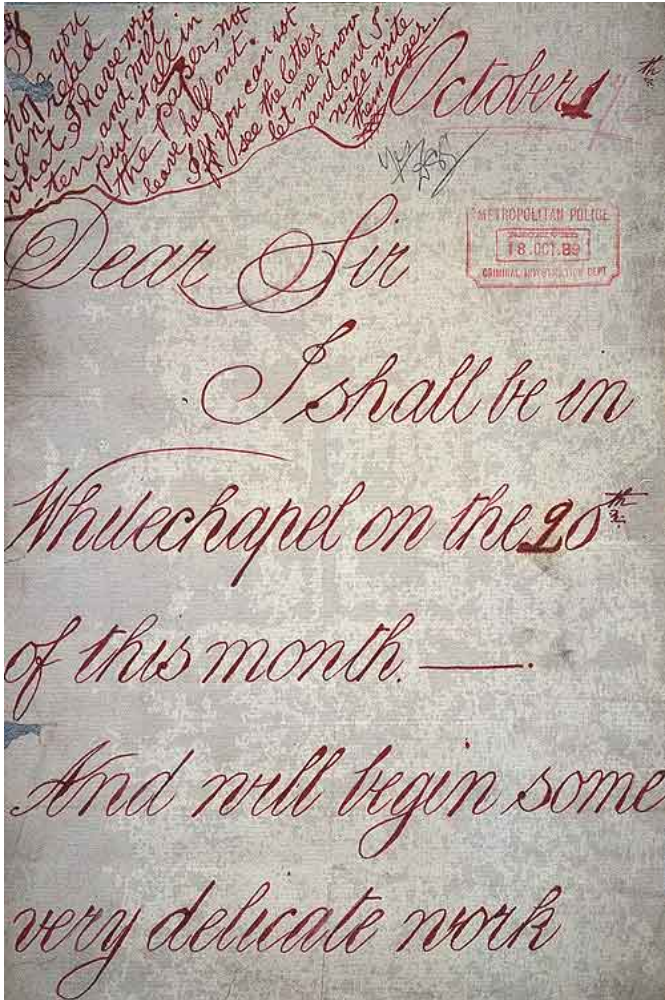
Old boss you was rite it was the left kidney I was goin to hopperate agin  
close to your ospitle just as I was goin to dror mi nife along of er bloomin  
throthe them cusses of coppers spoilt the game but I guess I wil be on the  
job soon and will send you another bit of innerds

Jack the ripper

O have you seen the devle with his mikerscope and scalpul a looking at a  
Kidney with a slide cocked up

### Document 12: reference MEPO 3/142

'Jack' letter, 17 Oct 1889. 'Dear Sir I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20th...'



## Document 12 transcript: reference MEPO 3/142, p.272

'Jack' letter, 17 Oct 1889. 'Dear Sir I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20th...'

October 17

Dear Sir

I shall be in Whitechapel on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month - And will begin some very delicate work about midnight, in the street where I executed my third examination of the human body.

Yours till death

Jack the Ripper

Catch Me if you can

PS I hope you can read what I have written, and will put it all in the paper, and not leave half out. If you can not see the letters let me know and and I will write them bigger [sic]

XXX

HA!!!

## Worksheet for 'Jack the Ripper' letters

Read, and also look very carefully at all the details in the 'Jack the Ripper' letter for your group, then complete the following worksheet:

Is the letter dated? If so, when was it written?	
Who was it sent to?	
What colour is the ink?	
How would you describe the handwriting in the letter? (E.g. neat, educated, scrawl etc)	
How would you describe the writer's use of grammar? Give examples. (Consider spelling, use of sentences, accurate use of tenses etc)	
Are there any common phrases that match those in the first 'Dear Boss' letter?	
<i>You can see the original Dear Boss letter on our website at <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=39&amp;sequence=1">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=39&amp;sequence=1</a></i>	
Is the letter illustrated? If so, describe the illustrations.	
What message is the writer trying to convey through the illustrations?	
Does the letter reveal any information about society/ social tensions in existence at this time? (E.g. Does the writer blame the murders on a particular section of society, such as Jewish people? What is the author's opinion of prostitutes or women?)	