

MOCRISIS 2026

Crime and Punishment: Mind of the Man Extraordinary

Directed by:
Nowshin Alam

Background Guide

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Directors Letter

Esteemed delegates of MOCRISIS 2026,

It is my honour to welcome you into my committee, Crime and Punishment: Mind of the Man Extraordinary. I am Nowshin Alam, and I'm currently a Grade 11 IB student at Monarch Park! A little about me, I'm a big fan of psychology and the complexities of the human mind. Thus, the idea for this committee was born. This committee asks some of humanity's most complicated questions, and I'm ever so excited to see everyone's interpretations of them! However, above all else, I hope this committee is as fun as I envision it to be, and I wish everyone the best of luck and leave this committee with not only an unforgettable experience, but also happy memories that we'll all share long after the conference comes to an end. Now, without further ado... let me introduce you to my committee: The Man Extraordinary.

The idea of this committee is directly inspired by the established novel, Crime and Punishment, written by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The committee is situated in the fractured mind of Rodion Raskolnikov following the murder of Alyona Ivanovna and Lizaveta. However, rather than other human beings, the delegates will be representing emotions or beliefs. Whether you represent Pride, Guilt, Logic, Faith, Justice, Paranoia, or another aspect of his mind, your goal is to debate other delegates and to ultimately decide the fate of Raskolnikov as the story progresses. An important thing is that while this committee draws heavily from the themes and events of Crime and Punishment, it is not a retelling of the novel. The murder has already been committed, but everything that follows is in your hands. Also, whether you are familiar with the novel or experiencing the world of Raskolnikov for the first time, I encourage you to just try to embody your character to the fullest and have fun with it!

I look forward to seeing the story you all create, and I wish everyone of you the best of luck!

- Nowshin :3, Director and Background Guide Author of Crime and Punishment

Equity Statement

MOCRISIS 2026 has a zero-tolerance policy for equity violations within or outside of the committee. We acknowledge that this committee may touch on controversial issues; however, we implore delegates to maintain a high degree of respect and decorum. As a reminder, instances of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, or any other form of discrimination will not be tolerated and may lead to disqualification from awards or removal from MOCRISIS 2026, depending on the severity.

During the course of this committee, delegates may be required to portray beliefs or commit actions that are vastly different from their own ideology. While remaining in character is encouraged, it should never be used as an excuse for discriminatory remarks or inappropriate behaviour towards another delegate. The chair will strongly discourage the mentioning of contemporary issues that may be insensitive or controversial.

True to Crime and Punishment, this committee does involve topics such as psychological distress, morality, and potential consequences of a crime. We kindly ask all participating delegates to be mindful and approach these topics with utmost respect and responsibility. Furthermore, a basic level of respect and order is expected while interacting with staff, pages, and faculty facilitators who make this conference possible.

Historical Background

The events of Crime and Punishment unfold in St. Petersburg during the 1860s, during a period of time when Russia had been transforming rapidly through economic, social, and political shifts. Although Russia stood as one of the largest empires in the world, its rapid modernization exposed deep divisions between social classes and intensified the struggles faced by ordinary citizens. Following the Emancipation Reform of 1861, which abolished serfdom, many hoped the country would enter a new era of prosperity. Instead, countless former serfs remained trapped in poverty, while rapidly growing cities became overcrowded with people searching for work and opportunity.

Amidst all of this lived Rodion Raskolnikov, a former law student living in extreme poverty. He had been forced to leave university after he could no longer afford his tuition. Following this, he dissociated from society, spending almost all of his time in his small rented home. While his financial problems were severe, it was his isolation from the world that was more damaging. Throughout the novel, Raskolnikov isn't portrayed as your typical villain, as he isn't driven by greed or violence. He showed true compassion for people less fortunate than him, often giving away the little money he had to the poor. One of Raskolnikov's character-defining moments is when he learns his younger sister, Dunya, agreed to marry a wealthy lawyer for a sense of duty. She believes this will provide her struggling mother with financial security, while also giving Raskolnikov a second chance at education and a better future. Outraged by the idea that his little sister has to sacrifice her dignity and freedom for their family, Raskolnikov perpetually tries to prevent it. Nevertheless, all of this became the foundation for his philosophy, the Extraordinary Man Theory.

According to this theory, humanity can be divided into two groups: ordinary people, who must obey society's laws, and extraordinary people, whose ideas have the power to change history. Raskolnikov debates that figures such as Napoleon only succeeded because they were willing to break

moral and legal laws in the pursuit of a greater purpose. If their actions had ultimately helped humanity, then maybe their actions were justified. He ultimately believed that he was justified in his actions because it was for the better good of his family. However, does this mean that “extraordinary” people should abide by different rules because they’re capable of improving society?

As he believes himself to be one of the extraordinary people, he murders Alyona Ivanovna, an elderly pawnbroker whom he considers greedy, exploitative, and not important. In his mind, eliminating one corrupt person and taking their wealth for actually meaningful purposes is the greater good for society. However, while carrying out the murder, Alyona's younger half-sister, Lizaveta Ivanovna, unexpectedly enters the apartment. This causes him to kill her too in fear of being caught. Unlike Alyona, Lizaveta was completely innocent and had never been part of his plan. Her death transforms what Raskolnikov had imagined as a heroic act for the greater good for society into a chaotic act of violence.

Following the murder, his mind and conscience are in complete uproar; he questions his actions in the name of justice. He feels utmost guilt for Lizaveta, simultaneously also remaining prideful in his theory. His mind is a circus of all the uproaring emotions and beliefs in his mind.

Current State of Affairs

The news of the brutal murder of Alyona Ivanovna and Lizaveta Ivanovna has sent shockwaves throughout the entirety of St. Petersburg. Rumours spread fast through the city's streets as citizens search for explanations, fearful that another act of violence may occur at any time. An investigation has begun, interviewing people nearby, while the police roam everywhere for possible suspects. Despite all this, the true identity of the killer remains a mystery to everyone.

The murders have caused immense psychological turbulence in Raskolnikov's mind. His attempt to prove himself as an "extraordinary man" has failed to bring the clarity he expected. Now he is haunted by paranoia, every conversation feeling like an interrogation for what he had done. As his mental state slowly deteriorates, he searches for the ultimate conclusion in the mindscape. The mindscape is a place inside Raskolnikov's mind where every emotion and belief is personified and gathered together to debate and seek the ultimate fate of Rodion Raskolnikov. The job of every emotion is to advocate for their vision of justice, morality, and the right thing to do. Every argument made within the Mindscape shapes the choices Raskolnikov makes in the outside world. This is where you come in: as delegates, the Mindscape is your committee, as you are representing it with your character.

Topic A: The Extraordinary Man Theory

Raskolnikov's entire worldview lies in the Extraordinary Man theory, which argues that humanity is divided into two groups of people: Ordinary and extraordinary people. Ordinary people must follow the rules created by society and serve to preserve the current social order. While extraordinary men are people who possess unique talents to change society for the greater good; they hold an inner right to cross moral boundaries if it helps fulfill their higher ideas. To prove this theory, Raskolnikov conducted his experiment, which led to the murder of the two women. However, rather than confirming his philosophy, the murders plunged his mind into utter chaos. His confidence in his theory began to shatter as overwhelming feelings of guilt, paranoia, and even doubt started to take control. Now in a world in his mind known as the Mindscape, delegates representing emotions and ideologies will debate to determine whether the Extraordinary Man remains valid or whether it was just a simple delusion in his mind.

The Psychological Aftermath

Raskolnikov had originally analyzed Alyona Ivanova for weeks from his visits to her chamber, which had been disguised under the name of business. He had calculated every routine and found the optimised time to carry out his plan, yet Alyona's half-sister had stumbled into the house right after the murder. To not get caught, Raskolnikov had to strike her down and kill her too. However, unlike Alyona, she had been completely innocent, which shattered his calculated plan into a mess. Furthermore, his human conscience and his capability for empathy interfered, which caused him to

withdraw from society. Instead of feeling like someone with power, he experienced a total psychological breakdown from regret.

However, deep inside, Raskolnikov still strives to justify his actions and bring peace to his mind. To admit that the murders were nothing more than a senseless act of violence would mean accepting that his philosophy, the very belief upon which he had built his identity, was fundamentally flawed. Plus, it would force him to confront the fact that he is just an ordinary man with a normal human conscience that felt crushing guilt and regret for his actions rather than a brave, powerful being that was above these human emotions in his opinion. Therefore, Raskolnikov also deludes himself, allowing his pride and arrogance to battle consistently with his conscience; fighting for what each believes.

As Raskolnikov's psychological state continues to deteriorate, one big question remains unanswered: does his overwhelming guilt prove that the Extraordinary Man Theory was fundamentally flawed, or does it hint that Raskolnikov himself was never extraordinary enough to uphold it? Or does it expose that the extraordinary men never truly existed at all? The Mindscape is faced with a crisis that is to define the very meaning of Raskolnikov's actions. Every aspect of his mind interprets the murders differently. Some continue to defend them as a necessary sacrifice made in pursuit of a greater purpose, while others see them as undeniable proof that no individual can ever rise above morality. As these perspectives collide, the validity of the Extraordinary Man Theory itself is continuously challenged. Whether the theory survives, is reshaped, or is rejected altogether depends entirely upon the delegates of this committee who must come to a decision collectively.

The Crime and The Punishment

Confession is one of the most significant choices facing Raskolnikov at the moment. Every attempt to hide the truth puts him under greater stress and causes more havoc within his mind. In

many ways, this psychological torment has already become a punishment on its own. However, confession would ultimately mean giving up his freedom and being put away for the rest of his life. By admitting the truth, Raskolnikov would no longer have to live with the constant fear of being discovered, but he would also have to face the punishment that comes with taking two lives. Nevertheless, since killing Alyona Ivanova and Lizaveta Ivanova, his mind has been a complete mess. His guilt, fear, and paranoia have caused him to withdraw from the people around him, including those who genuinely care about him. By confessing, he wouldn't need to monitor every single action of his and live in complete paranoia. Although confession does ultimately mean that his experiment failed and he is in fact not an exceptional man. If confession could finally give him peace, would that be a worthy trade?

The question of punishment still remains as one of the greatest topics of debate within the Mindscape. If the extraordinary theory truly holds, then should an extraordinary individual be judged by the same moral and legal standards as everyone else? If certain people possess the right to transgress for the sake of a greater purpose, then perhaps punishment would only contradict the very philosophy Raskolnikov sought to prove. Yet others argue that no ideal, regardless of its intentions, can erase the consequences of taking two innocent lives. Nevertheless, He has already become a prisoner inside his barbaric mind, simultaneously raising the question of whether his conscience has become a punishment greater than any sentence imposed by the law. The delegates of Raskolnikov's mind must come to a consensus on whether Raskolnikov deserves punishment at all, what form that punishment should take, and whether justice is found through confession, redemption, or continued silence.

Guiding questions

1. Is the extraordinary theory a lie?
2. Is Raskolnikov an extraordinary man, or an ordinary man who had just convinced himself that he was extraordinary?
3. Did Raskolnikov commit the crimes for the greater good, or just to prove that he is an extraordinary being?
4. How does the status of “Extraordinary Man” influence a person’s moral justice?

Topic B: The Fate of Raskolnikov

Following the murders of Alyona and Lizaveta, Raskolnikov is forced into hiding as he has to conceal his crime as authorities start to get involved in this murder case. Although he initially trusts that he can escape the consequences of his actions, the investigation surrounding the murder starts to move forward. Raskolnikov is terrified that he will be suspected by them, as he was one of Alyona's customers. These thoughts eventually also start affecting his actions, which starts to affect the people around him and his ability to live normally. Nevertheless, Raskolnikov must now determine how he will respond to the growing pressure surrounding him and whether he will attempt to protect his freedom or accept responsibility for what he has done.

The Investigation

As the investigation starts to take off, the police seek to determine who had the motive, opportunity, and the resources to kill both of the women. Raskolnikov understands that he must carefully control his behaviour in order to avoid drawing attention towards himself. Every conversation with investigators carries the possibility of revealing something crucial; this creates a dangerous situation in which even a small mistake could expose him. Raskolnikov is therefore placed in a constant struggle between protecting himself and maintaining his story. In the process of doing this, he may attempt to manipulate those around him, suggest alternate explanations, or even completely distance himself from the murder. However, the more he attempts to control the situation, the more he raises the possibility of bringing attention to himself.

The “Perfect” Crime

Despite all the psychological turmoil, Raskolnikov’s plan was, in many ways, successful. He carefully planned the murder of Alyona Ivanovna, managed to escape the scene, and left behind no clear evidence directly connecting him to the crime. Even the unexpected murder of Lizaveta was not enough to make him leave any unwanted evidence behind. From a purely practical perspective, Raskolnikov had managed to commit the crime he had planned without any hard evidence to his name.

Currently, Detective Porfiry Petrovich has developed great suspicion of Raskolnikov; not because of any found evidence but based on his behaviour. Petrovich has noticed Raskolnikov’s unusual reactions, particularly when the murders are brought up in conversation. His nervousness, unusual responses, and attempts to control his behaviour make him an interesting person of suspicion despite the lack of evidence directly connecting him to the crime. Nevertheless, he understands he cannot claim a person is guilty with any hard physical evidence; therefore, he continues his investigation into Raskolnikov along with other suspects.

The Mindscape is in shambles. Addressing the investigation requires several moving components; firstly, the decision on whether or not Raskolnikov should confess to the murders. One option leads to serious legal backlash while the other requires an ironclad case. The Mindscape must build a holistic plan for Raskolnikov on how to approach the investigation, whether to do nothing, run away, or any other scheme in his benefit. With Detective Porfiry Petrovich on his trail and having not been ruled out as a suspect, Raskolnikov is vulnerable to drawing unwanted attention to himself. Delegates should debate on the best course of action to take in order to survive the investigation in the least damaging method possible. Additionally, controlling the investigation in a way that doesn’t bring suspicion requires a mental fortitude that Raskolnikov doesn’t have at present. The investigation seeks nothing but a perpetrator, and it will not end until it has given someone that label.

The delegates of this committee must now come to a consensus on how Raskolnikov should approach the investigation; whether he shall confess or not. With no direct evidence connecting him to the crime, Raskolnikov still has an opportunity to protect his freedom, but Porfiry's growing suspicion means that one mistake could change everything. The Mindscape must decide whether Raskolnikov should remain silent, attempt to mislead the investigation, cooperate with the authorities, flee, or confess. However, if he were to confess, he understands that he would immediately face the legal consequences of his actions and risk spending the rest of his life paying for the murders he committed. More importantly, confession would also mean confronting the fear of the idea that he is not the Extraordinary Man he believed himself to be. Regardless of which path is chosen, the Mindscape must also determine how he can carry it out without exposing himself.

As the investigation progresses, the delegates of this committee must now come to a consensus on how Raskolnikov should approach the investigation; whether he shall confess or not. With no direct evidence connecting him to the crime, Raskolnikov still has an opportunity to protect his freedom; however, if he were to confess, he understands that he would immediately face the legal consequences of his actions and risk spending the rest of his life paying for the murders he committed. More importantly, confession would also mean confronting what it means to admit that he is not the Extraordinary Man he believed himself to be.

Guiding questions

1. Should Raskolnikov confess?
2. Could confessing provide Raskolnikov with relief from the guilt, fear, and paranoia caused by the murders?
3. If Raskolnikov shouldn't confess, how should he handle the investigation?
4. Would the Extraordinary Man run away or embrace the investigation?

Mechanics Guide

Unlike most committees, delegates in this committee don't represent countries or individual characters. Instead, each delegate represents an emotion or belief in the mind of Raskolnikov's, which is where the mindscape is formed. As these ideas, you delegates can influence his actions and decisions, which will ultimately determine his fate following the murders of Alyona and Lizaveta Ivanovna. The main goal of this committee is to turn debate into concrete actions that influence Raskolnikov and the ongoing investigation. Another important note: The committee operates on two interconnected levels: the Mindscape, where delegates debate and formulate plans, and the outside world, where Raskolnikov will carry out those decisions.

I. Controlling Raskolnikov

The primary mechanic of this committee is controlling Raskolnikov through directives (crisis notes). Delegates must work together to determine what he should do and how he should carry out their decisions. Public directives and Joint public directives (JPD) are all encouraged; however, since JPDs are a culmination of multiple emotions it may have a bigger impact. The backroom will determine the outcomes of directives based on their feasibility, the circumstances of the investigation, and their potential consequences. Submitting a directive does not guarantee success.

II. The Investigation

The investigation will continue throughout the committee as Detective Porfiry Petrovich continues to investigate the murders and throw suspicion at Raskolnikov. Crisis updates will communicate the urgent or important developments in the outside world and reveal the consequences of the actions made by delegates in the Mindscape. For example, an attempt to avoid suspicion may

lead to attracting more in the process. This is as Raskolnikov might believe he's hiding his nervousness, while his physical reactions, such as clammy hands, unusual movements, or inconsistent behaviour, may suggest otherwise to those around him.

Sometimes, this might trigger a special kind of crisis– a timed crisis. For example, Porfiry Petrovich may suddenly confront him with a question that directly challenges his alibi or reveals that the investigation has uncovered a troubling inconsistency in his story. As the Mindspace, you must quickly decide how Raskolnikov should respond by passing a paper before his answer raises further suspicion. Your collective decision may influence the direction of the investigation and create further consequences for Raskolnikov. If the timed crisis is unexpectedly caused by a single emotion, for example, Conscience supports a directive encouraging Raskolnikov to cooperate with Porfiry, and the directive succeeds. Then, during the timed crisis, conscience has more influence on Raskolnikov, as it was caused by that emotion. Nonetheless, influence does not mean control; this does not mean Conscience is not invincible in that crisis; other emotions and beliefs may still overcome Conscience if they present compelling reasons for Raskolnikov to avoid Porfiry. For instance, Reason and Paranoia work together to convince him that cooperating would expose him to greater danger.

III. Internal Conflict

Lastly, because all delegates represent very contrasting ideas, methods, and beliefs, we want to remind delegates that collaboration and compromise are important parts of debate. Please keep your more radical ideas to backrooms. Delegates should use their assigned perspectives to contribute to debate and develop directives. Nevertheless, representing a particular emotion or belief does not mean that every decision must follow that perspective without exception.

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