***Crime and Punishment Revision***



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| ***Learning Checklist – Can you…*** |
| Explain religious beliefs about law and order  Explain religious concepts of right and wrong, conscience, duty and responsibility  Describe and evaluate causes of crime  Understand the different types of crime  Evaluate whether or not the different forms of punishment achieve the aims of punishment, including consideration of young offenders, imprisonment, parole and early release and the death penalty  Evaluate alternatives to prison and issues concerning prison reform  Discuss topics from different points of view, including religious ones |

***Crime and Punishment Key Words:***

*Crime*:

*Punishment*:

*Conscience*:

*Forgiveness*:

*Repentance*:

*Young offender*:

***Types of Crime:***

*Crime against the person*:

*Crime against the state*:

*Crime against property*:   
  
*Religious offence*:

Q: Which type of crime do you think the worst?

***Aims of punishment (with examples):***

*Protection*:   
  
*Retribution*:

*Deterrence*:   
  
*Reform*:

*Vindication*:   
  
*Reparation:*

Q: What are the aims behind different punishments?  
 Do all the punishments work?

***Forms of punishment:***

Q: Which punishment do you think is most effective…why?

*Imprisonment:*

*Capital Punishment:*   
  
*Community service*:

*Electronic tagging:*   
  
*Fine*:

*Probation*:

***Prison sentences:***

*Parole*: when a prisoner is released without having completed their sentence, because they have behaved well and accepted their guilt. The prisoner is monitored to try to ensure they do not re-offend

*Life imprisonment*: a prison sentence that [theoretically] keeps people in prison until they die (or for a significant portion of their life)

*Early release*: when a prisoner is allowed out of prison even though they have not completed their sentence, or fulfilled the criteria for getting parole

Q: Which crimes do you think deserve the sentences above?  
 Do all the punishments work?

**Religious attitudes to the aims of punishment.**

**Summarise the views on the next page:**

**Christianity: Islam:**

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| **Christian** | **Islam** |
| Christians support the aim of vindication  They believe reformation is the most important aim of punishment. That criminals should receive both punishment and forgiveness. So that the person can start afresh.  This comes from the teaching of Jesus who ate with sinners to help them see the right path.  **‘If your brother sins rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him.’ Luke 17:3**  **‘For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you.’ Mathew 6:14** | Islamic punishments aim to deter people from breaking the law.  This means the punishments are severe and often in public to ensure that the law is respected and give the victim satisfaction.  **‘As to the thief, male or female, cut off their hands: a punishment by way of example.’ Qur’an 5.38**  Allah will forgive those who repent and seek forgiveness.  Many teachings seem to support retribution however the underlying principle is always justice and revenge may not seem just to all.  **‘We ordained for them, life for life.’ Qur’an 5:45** |

**Can you give some examples of punishments which support each aim given by the religions above?**

**Christianity:**

**Islam:**

**Prison**

* Britain’s prisons are bursting with inmates.
* More people per head of the population are behind bars in Britain than anywhere else in Western Europe.
* Prisons cost a lot of money.

**Do prisons work?**

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| **Positives of prison** | **Negative of prisons** |
| * To protect society from dangerous and violent criminals. * To isolate those who deserve such punishment from their family and friends To punish criminals for what they have done (retribution) * To prevent people from offending because they are locked away. * To act as a deterrent to others and ensure that the law is respected (vindication). * To give offenders a chance to reflect of their actions and decide to reform. | * They are often called ‘school for crime’. * Prisons are not strict enough in the UK. * Prisons can breed resentment – a bitterness to get back at society. * Most prisoners reoffend on release so the system doesn’t bring about reform * A prison record makes it very difficult to get a job on release which may lead back into crime. |

**Look at the table above. Highlight the view you most agree with. Why do you agree with this?**

**In a different colour, highlight the view you most disagree with. Why do you disagree with this?**

**Religious attitudes to prison:**

All major religions accept the need for prisons. It is needed to deprive prisoners of freedom and to help them to reform to re-join society. Christians may take their inspiration to visit prisoners from the parable of the sheet and Goats. This story tells followers that by helping others we are helping God:

**‘‘When did we see the sick or in prison go to visit you?’ The King will reply. ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’ Mathew 25:39-40**

**Should we release prisoners early or should we enforce their full sentence?**

**Capital Punishment**

In 1965 the UK Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty for a five year experiment and in 1969 made the abolition permanent.

**Arguments for the death penalty:**

* Retribution – terrorists and murderers deserve to die
* Deterrence – people will be put off crimes as they don’t want to die
* Protection – the public need to be protected
* Finance – it costs the tax payers thousands to keep murderers alive in prison

**Arguments against the death penalty:**

* Mistakes – innocent people have been executed
* Protection – putting people in prison protects society
* Deterrence – there is no evidence the death penalty deters people more than life imprisonment
* Reformation – reformed criminals can be an enormous influence for good
* Right – only God has the right to end a person’s life

**Do you agree with the death penalty – why?**

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| **Christian** | **Islam** |
| Some Christians support capital punishment and see it as a deterrent to prevent serious crime:  **‘Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed.’ Genesis 9:6**  Other Christians doubt its use as a deterrent as an innocent person could be executed. Furthermore capital punishment removes the possibility of repentance. They believe that:  **‘All life is sacred. Human life especially so. Protecting it is of utmost importance to God’ Genesis 9:8** | Most Muslim countries still have the death penalty for murder and in some blasphemy.  **‘O you who believe, retaliation is prescribed for you in the matter of the slain…’ Qur’an 2:178**  **‘If anyone is killed unjustly, we have granted the right of retribution to his heir.’ Qur’an 17:33**  **Thinking Point Hinduism:** **‘An eye for an eye ends up making the whole world blind.’ Ghandi** |

**Practice question:**

1. Explain briefly what is meant by early release from prison.
2. Give three reasons someone may commit crime.
3. ‘**Religious offences are the worst type of crime.**’ Do you agree give reasons for your answer?

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| **Agree** | **Disagree** |
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1. Explain religious attitudes to the use of deterrence as an aim of punishment.
2. ‘**Religious believers should support the death penalty.’** Do you agree? Give reasons for your viewpoint showing you have considered more than one point of view. Make reference to religion.

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| **Agree** | **Disagree** |
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**PEEL**  
To get the higher marks it is essential you use PEEL when writing answers to fully develop them  
Below is an example of using PEEL to Explain Muslim attitudes to the death penalty:

* Point (Statement eg. Some Muslims support the use of capital punishment.)
* Evidence (Quote/Teaching/Example eg. I know this because in the Qur’an it says ‘‘O you who believe, retaliation is prescribed for you in the matter of the slain…’
* Explain (What does the quote mean? Eg. This means that if someone has committed murder then capital punishment is an appropriate punishment.)
* Link (How does this answer the question? Eg. Therefore some Muslims support capital punishment based on this teaching if a murder has been committed. .)

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| **Point** | **Evidence** | **Explain** | **Link** |
| A Christian/Muslim  supports…  In my opinion… | I know this…  For example… | This means…  This shows that…  This illustrates… | Therefore… |