

## Revision Summaries for GCSE AQA Religious Studies A

Component 2

Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

Update v1.1, October 2025

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## Teacher's Introduction

The revision summaries in this series are designed to support your students as they study the GCSE AQA Theme E Religious Studies A specification, and have been designed to cover the major themes and concepts of each topic point accordingly.

All students, whether they are academically strong, average or weak, can benefit from a concise and clearly explained set of notes to revise from, both as they work through the AQA course and when preparing for their

## Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

end-of-course exams. It is recommended, therefore, that students be given each relevant summary after learning a topic so that they can clearly understand the summaries and refer back to them when needed. However, the summaries can also function well as a pack given to students in the run-up to their exams.

Each topic follows a set structure detailed below:

- ✓ Keywords: A clear list of important terminology students need to know when studying the topic.
- ✓ **Overview:** A look at the major themes of the topic, with a brief introduction to the major points of discussion and disagreement.
- ✓ **Key Points:** The main body of the summaries for each topic; they are a clear and concise set of notes that help students support their own knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- ✓ **Student Checklist:** A helpful guide to what students need to know by the end of the revision summary and a way to check their understanding and progress through a particular topic.
- ✓ **Practice Questions:** A full set of practice questions (with extra multiple-choice questions), complete with mark schemes. These are useful for students wishing to improve their knowledge on a particular topic and to practice skills as they approach their end-of-year exams.

This clearly ensures students have not only a grasp on the key themes of each topic, but a way to understand their place within the specification as a whole. Students who may have missed lessons or not made detailed notes may benefit greatly from these revision summaries in helping their recollection of key topics closer to their end-of-course exams, especially when looking over topics covered earlier in their studies.

March 2019

## Update v1.1, October 2025

As per the exam board assessment updates, changes have been made to the practice questions:

- "contrasting" replaced with "different" in the 4 mark question
- 5-mark question replaced with a 6-mark question
- 2-mark question reduced to a 1-mark question

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\* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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## Good and Evil



## **Keywords**

0	Conscience
0	Crime
0	Evil
0	Experience
0	Free will
0	Good
0	Intention

**Justice** C

Sin 0 Suffering 0

the aspect of humanity which makes us feel guilty for w something which is against the law of a country actions which are considered to be immoral, usually call the events which an individual has incountered within the ability to make moral of or firely on one's own actions which are sice at to be moral the objection had the carrying out of an act l a numg of a fair society

The code of ethics or values by which an individual or co wrong

something which is considered to be against the law of the experience of pain or upset as a result of an event



## **Overview**

- Different groups have different views about what makes an act or intent evil
- Christians believe that human beings have free will, which means they have moral decisions. This freedom can either be used to follow the will of God, which fall short of the laws of God or his moral standard are called sins. Son regarding rules of right and wrong - for example, both Christians and Jews as they are contained within the Old Testament as well as the Torah.
- Sins are acts which are considered to be wrong within a religious context but example, within the UK, blasphemy (taking God's name in vain) is not illegal in many religions, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Within Christ originate when someone deviates from the laws of God. However, there is a considered to be immoral within religion and what is considered to be immo-
- Generally, most religious and non-religious groups have a consensus that a wrong/evil - actions such as murder, rape, theft are all considered to be univ majority of groups.



## **Key Points**

## Ideas of Good and Evil Internal

- Intent is an important action discussion within the realm of crime and pun not in a crime, but it happened accidentally, then they are un y be treated with more leniency when it comes to their sentence
- Conscience is also an important idea within discussions of good and evil with punishment. An individual's conscience is the innate knowledge of what is seems to be a natural reaction that killing another human being is wrong, an so have expressed extreme senses of guilt for having done so.
- Repentance is also a key idea within discussions of good and evil, specifically idea of an individual who admits they have committed an act which is consider their ways because they regret the choice they made. This is a central tenet of Christians believe that they can confess their sins and repent of them, and in

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Within Christianity, many Christians take their morals from the Bible and fr of the teachings which is commonly used to be a blanket moral statement react is known as the Golden Rule. It is through this teaching that they view all puts all other rules into perspective.

## **Sources of Evil**

- Genesis 2 contains an account of what is known as the Fall of humanity, at we disobeyed God's one commandment in the Garden of Eden (eating of the tree this, sin entered the world and God's perfect creation was tainted with evil. in a literal interpretation of this story, the general idea posited by this for the interpretation is that this shows that human beings bring evil into the world
- Some Christians believe that the devil is a real fallen and who tempts them to intentionally trying to cause humans to fall from 50 incent, thus causing ev
- An important facet of Christianity is the earth ating the sin itself, but love the sin. This extends to sources he is they should hate the evil act, but love committed the evil act, but love god does. The person is not innately eact, but act, but act is a san evil act.

## **Justice**

- Societies such as that of the UK function in such a way as to attempt to achie for crimes is a key part of this justice-based system. Those who commit crimpenance for the actions they have done and the suffering they have caused, who have committed sins should also be called to account for their actions at
- Justice is an important religious idea justice means fairness, and fair treatrare important in order for a society to live harmoniously. Most religious tractidea about the justice of God.

## **Can Suffering Ever be Good?**

- There are some issues regarding good and evil that occur when supposedly be consequences, or good actions garner bad consequences.
- Should someone suffer as a result of a good action, this causes issues for the garner good consequences. If the end goal is alleviation of suffering then it is actions cause suffering.
- Some Christians believe that they should follow the rules of God even if doin suffering in others. For example, there might be some situations in which it lie; however, Christians would argue that they have a moral duty to tell the commanded them to. However, other Christians might put more of an emplattempt to take the most compassionate route. Therefore, some Christians permissible to lie in this context.



[Jesus] said to him, 'Yu hr', We the Lord your God wi heart and ''' '' '' '' soul and with all your mind'. This or '' commandment. And the second like it is: 'Yo wr neighbour as yourself'. On these two commandment the law and the Prophets

Matth

For example, some Christians might support homosexual marriage and relative teaching that opposes such concepts, because it might cause pain and distress marry the same sex if they are denied the opportunity to do so. They would biblical teaching would be the most loving thing to do, and, therefore, the most loving thing to do.

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- Others might not agree with this, and might be completely comfortable with order to maximise happiness and minimise suffering. These people are follo situation ethics, which means they believe the morally right thing to do diffe
- Some people believe that the most moral thing to do within a situation is the which garners the greatest happiness for the greatest number. This is known
- This belief is less concerned with whether or not an action is morally good or not the outcome will garner pleasure or happiness for the most people possil
- Some Christians can also be utilitarian as the two methods of thinking are no
- The question is posed whether or not it can ever be considered to be good to a robber attacks a civilian, and the civilian kills the robber in self-defence.
- Some people think it is acceptable for the civilian in this instance to defend himself. Some Christians might consider it to be unloving to disalle where the defend themselves from attack the weak, other Christians might cite Matheway w 5 3 has a teaching which instructs Charles as a teaching which instructs as the lation.

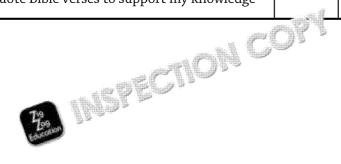
Do not resist strikes you

Some Common smight argue that actions that cause suffering might be consexample, some Christians might argue that allowance of abortion (despite so a foetus to suffer) is sometimes the most loving thing to do in order to ensure

## Student

## **Student Checklist**

What do I know?	No Idea ⊗	Nearly	Sur ©
I understand Christian ideas of good and evil			
I understand the concept of a conscience			
I understand the tension between suffering and moral action, and evil action garnering good outcomes			
I understand the ideas of utilitarianism			
I can quote Bible verses to support my knowledge			



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## **Practice Questions**

## **Good and Evil**

**Multiple-choice Questions** (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- Which of the following is the term for an act which is considered breaking of
  - A Crime
  - В Sin
  - Mistake
  - Sentence
- Which of the following is not an example of case of evil?
  - A Pain
  - В Suffering
  - Inconvenio
  - D



- Which of the following Bible verses contains the greatest and second best contains the greatest and gr
  - Matthew 22:37-40
  - Mark 22:37-40
  - Luke 22:37-40
  - John 22:37-40
- Which Christian teaching states that Christians should treat others as they themselves?
  - The Ten Commandments
  - The Laws of Moses
  - C The Talmud
  - The Golden Rule
- Give **one** example of how moral choices might cause suffering.
- Explain **two** details about the role of utilitarianism in making moral choices. 6.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** reasons why a religious person might accept a situation in which as being morally acceptable.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred with a sor another source of
- 'An act which causes suffering is a vay nanoral.' Evaluate this statemer ir your answer:
  - give so of real nents in support of this idea
  - gill oned arguments against this idea
  - ret religious viewpoints
  - refer to non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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## Reasons for Crime



## Keywords

0	Addiction
0	Crime

Cause

o Evil

Good

o Greed

o Hate

Intention

Mental illness

PovUpbrUnjust law

a person suffers from the need to intake a substance sur an action which is against the law a factor, or combination of factors, which can lead to an actions which are considered to be immoral, usually cau actions which are considered to be moral

The insatiable want for more and in ore of a certain thin a strong negative emption of laching towards another the personal and lack drive to commit an action

ar i id id who suffers from a psychological issue when y would commit an act

the state of relative or absolute lack of financial wealth the combination of factors during the childhood and ad A legal rule within a country which is not morally just



## Overview

- Many people, including Christians, believe that the cause behind crime is an navigating the morality of crime and punishment. If an individual's backgromight be viewed as having been a contributing factor to their crimes or action society takes of such criminals, as well as affecting efforts towards prevention.
- For example, if an individual suffers from a mental illness then this might be they committed the crime they did. This might be viewed within legal courts responsibility for the crime. In order to illustrate this point, consider this exconspired together to commit a murder.
  - The first individual had a great childhood, with a loving family who were
    no mental health issues. They had no addictions. They had no motive f
    towards the individual they murdered.
  - The second individual was brought up in a disadvantaged area, growing some of which was directed towards them within the home. They also the abuse they suffered as a child. These factors might have influenced and wrong, potentially contributing to their actions.
- Someone examining this case might take more pity to more lenient on the more factors which might diminish their per on 1r sponsibility for the crim combination of factors beyond their and an analysis on the considered to be at high
- These are known as mitigating factors, which will commonly be taken into consentence for a crimators apportant to consider the causes of crime when adopunish with the world and within the UK as it is important to address how we have a society, but the reasons behind why these events have can treat criminals fairly by having a holistic view of their lives and consentence from being committed by dealing with the social issue.
- ➤ It is important also to be aware that there are differing views regarding the to committed some non-violent crimes for example, petty theft may be low which are violent, such as murder.

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## **Mental Illness**

- The mental state of an individual who has committed a crime is highly important addressing the issue of the causes of crime. If an individual is not in a 'right's contribute to their defence.
- This is known as diminished responsibility the idea that they have a lesser actions due to their mental limitations. If they are incapable of understanding consequences of their actions are, then they should (it might be argued by the punished for their crime.
- Individuals with mental illnesses who have committed crimes will all be different issues might include having some kind of lowered capacita for understanding of the committed crimes will all be different issues might include having some kind of lowered capacital for understanding of the committed crimes will all be different include having some kind of lowered capacital for understanding of the committed crimes will all be different include having some kind of lowered capacital for understanding of the committed crimes will all be different include having some kind of lowered capacital for understanding of the committed crimes will all be different include having some kind of lowered capacital for understanding of the committed crimes will all be different include having some kind of lowered capacital for understanding of the committed crimes will be also be
- This means that the offender will not be held fighty possible for their action
- Within Islam, if a person is not considerate to same then they cannot be putheir actions regarding certains.

## **Upbringing**

- The in o. the childhood of an individual is important to consider regard individual been raised in an environment where certain behaviours or crithey are more likely to commit the same crimes than one whose upbringing of
- For example, someone who has grown up in a household witnessing or potentially more likely to commit those crimes within the grown. If an individual has been exposed to gang-based violence from a your to become involved and commit crimes as a result.
- The circumstances in which an individual is raised can contribute hugely to verime and what kind of crimes they commit, meaning that this should be concauses of crime.

## Addiction

- Addiction is the affliction of being addicted to a particular substance such as alcc classified as a disease. Those suffering from such an affliction will feel a computer
- Often, these substances will be used by the individual to dull a particular pair might cause those who are prosecuting someone who has committed a crime leniency in their case.
- This might lead an individual to commit a crime should they feel they need the su
- In some cases, the substances to which they are addicted are themselves illeg use of these drugs is a crime.

## **Hate Crime**

in Christ Jesus.

- Hate of a particular group can be a driving force behind committing crimes, usually leaning towards violent crimes such as assault, murder or rape.
- Common examples of hate-based crimes include rinks against people because of their race probability, among an a sexuality or disability, among an a sexuality or disability, among an a sexuality or disability.
- Crimes based on hor a society of Britain as most moder iduals view human beings as being equal within socy.
  - moder iduals view human beings as being equal within christianity, crimes motivated by hatred are condemned as within Cl viewed the same way by God. This is found within the biblical teaching of Ga 'There is neither Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer m

There is new

is no longer

longer male

However, some Christians have in the past committed crimes motivated by lexample, homosexuals, as homosexuality is deemed to be a sin within Christian

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## **Poverty**

- Poverty is one of various socio-economic factors which can contribute to the
- Poverty can be absolute or relative, meaning that people can either be in a stot those around them within society (relative poverty) or in a state of povert being unable to meet their basic needs (absolute poverty).
- Poverty might motivate an individual to commit a crime due to living within owning 'more' – the divide between the haves and the have nots might drive such as theft in order to feel that they can have the same level of wealth as me
- This would be viewed by Christians in a far more negative light than stealing because one is poor in order to feed a family is more understandable than so want to fund a lifestyle they wish to have. This is because this would be mot Christian teachings against **greed**.
- They might feel a responsibility towards a family with they may feel unable

## **Unjust Law**

- Some acts can be considered to be illegal under the ruli instantion in the rule instantion in the rule might consider the action to be moral, without being legislations and the rule instantion in the rule in the ru
- If a law ust or morally questionable, then an individual may choose to order to attempt to change the law, or make a point regarding the unjust nat
- An example of an individual who has broken laws in order to demonstrate the Martin Luther King Jr, who led protests within the United States, staging sit legislation regarding racial segregation, in order to demonstrate that these la faith informed much of his ethos regarding his non-violent approach to prot segregation laws, he did so peacefully; for example, by staging sit-ins, rather

## **Religious Responses**

- St Paul taught in the Bible that believers should obey the laws of the land the is important that Christians remain on the right side of the law. They should and uphold the law of the country they live in.
- However, Christianity also places a large amount of emphasis on the forgiver compassion for those within disadvantaged situations. This might lead a Ch advocate for, leniency regarding individuals who come from backgrounds wh factors towards committing crimes.
- Jesus taught repeatedly throughout the Gospels that Christians should be ki where and when possible. Many Christians interpret this to mean that comp those who commit crimes due to poverty.
- Some Christians might attempt to alleviate addiction as a cause of crime by a addicted avoid committing crime. This might be done by alleviating the suffithem help to recover from their addictions via crisis centres, etc.

## **Student Checklist**

Wall Mow?	No Idea	Ne
I understar mental illness might cause crime		
I understand how upbringing might cause crime		
I understand how addiction might cause crime		
I understand how hatred might cause crime		
I understand how poverty might cause crime		
I understand how unjust laws might cause crime		
I understand at least two religious responses to causes of crimes		

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## **Practice Questions**

## **Reasons for Crime**

**Multiple-choice Questions** (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- Which of the following is not considered to be a cause of crime?
  - Conscience
  - В Hate
  - C Addiction
  - Upbringing
- Which of the following is an example of a in directal who broke an unjust la
  - Sister Helen Prejean
  - Rev Martin Lut'
  - C



- Which of the following is not an example of a hate-based crime?
  - Gender violence
  - Racial violence
  - Gang violence
  - Violence aimed at a certain sexuality
- Which of the following is a Bible teaching used to argue against hate as a cau
  - John 3:16
  - Matthew 25:40
  - C Galatians 3:28
  - D Genesis 4:56
- Give **one** reason why an individual might commit a crime.
- Explain **two** religious efforts towards alleviating crime.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** reasons why a religious person may not always see breaking of
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- 'Those who commit crimes are simp' c Evaluate this statement, and and a swer:
  - give reasoned and a support of this idea
  - gives on the gaments against this idea
  - eligious viewpoints
  - refaction non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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## Aims of Punishmen



## **Keywords**

0	Aim	the intended result of an action or en
0	Compensate	to give an individual something in re
		have been caused by an action
0	Deterrence	to punish a crimir al in such a way as
		the same can also be a same can
0	Justice	the quality of fairness within society
0	Punishment	penalty dealt out by an authority to
		committed an illegal act
0	Reformio 🖙 🛌 ilitation	to reform an individual's character so
	City 1	functioning member of society and w
0	Repa	to make amends for or make up for s
		suffering.
0	Retribution	to take revenge against an individual
		against you
0	Vindication	the upholding of the law as correct



## **Overview**

- Behind every kind of punishment within society there is an aim; punishment carried out without meaning. Societies have different aims behind different rooted in the values and beliefs of that individual society. Generally, most so punishing an individual to make them into a better person so that they will resociety a safer place as a whole. The punishment is in the interest of society utilitarian approach towards punishment. As 30% of criminals released from year of release, if the general purpose of punishment is to exact penance for from recommitting, the way in which prisoners are punished is a relevant an
- Before sentencing an individual who has committed a crime, the person decipudge) will consider all of the aims of punishment and what the desired end f before sentencing. The main aims of punishment to consider within this the reformation/rehabilitation and reparation.



## **Key Points**

## Deterrence

- Deterrence is a 1 2 mc aim of punishment. Within some societies, hars are given ain crimes in order to make a point regarding the crime and committee similar crime.
- The theory of deterrence is that the individual being punished will find the p result, will not repeat the illegal behaviour; for example, someone who was it return to prison. Furthermore, other potential criminals will not commit cri unpleasant punishment and do not wish to be subjected to it themselves.

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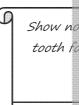
- Many dispute whether or not gaol has become a deterrent to hardened crimi punishment of incarceration as being a punishment they are deterred by.
- Within some religious tradition there are various forms of specific punishment others. For example, within Islam the hudud punishments (set corporal punispecific crimes). These were intentionally harsh punishments which were use of a hand for a thief) as this would deter other people from potentially committee.
- It is preferable within Islam, however, for people to forgive. Islam teaches the treated favourably by Allah.

## Reformation/Rehabilitation

- As many criminals do not remain in prison for the remainder of their lives (uparticularly heinous crime), the aim of reformation and reliabilitation is an impossible. While in gaol, prisoners will be help at a contempt to create resulting in a change within the part of wall then be able to be released productive member of society at a love of reoffending.
- Many different roles in goups feel strongly that this is an important aim of teaching that it is a phasise forgiveness and helping the disadvantaged.
- Many (many emphasise the importance of reformation within prisons. emphatically and continually that forgiveness is preferable and individuals slipes.
- This is an important aim of punishment within Christian thought. Many Chr reformation is highly important within the system of punishment as it is the to make better choices and a better life, thus helping society by reducing the I reoffending.
- Many Christians take part in prison programmes where they might go and of or practical, in order for prisoners to be reintroduced to society with a reformable to be functional, constructive members of a society.
- For example, Quakers have a strong link with prison reformers who are thos means of lobbying to help liberate prisoners from

## Retribution

- Some Christians believe that biblical teaching indicates that for some crimes, retribution is the best aim of punishment. This is because of a biblical teaching within the Old Testament, which tends to emphasise revenge as a fair and just method of punishment.
- Some Christians oppose the use of punishment as retribution. They argue that Jesus clearly taught that Christians are called to forgive rather than exact revenge for those who have wronged them. For example, Matthew 5:44 instructs believers to 'pray for those who persecute year."
- Jesus within the Gospels contradicts the Old Later 1 nt teaching of 'an eye for an eye' by teal's. The Later to 'turn the other cheek people (seventy times seven lands Therefore, on the basis of this scriptural would argue that rational lands and the later toward toward veness.
- Many rengions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism, have a general principle that punishments handed out should be weighted accordingly to the seriousness of the crime for example, if a person has committed a small infraction then the punishment should not be as harsh as for an individual who has committed a serious crime.



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## **Vindication**

- This is the aim of punishment which underlines the importance that those was country must be punished in order to uphold the laws of the country.
- One of the important aims of punishment is the achievement of **justice**. If crime against another, it is considered to be fair within our society that the to achieve justice.
- Many religions share this view.
- Within Islam, the justice of God is one of the most integral parts of God's na compensation is an important part of punishment. For some crimes, the per family are able to pay compensation money to the victim or their family in li punishment. Harmony within society is also incredibly important within Islands upheld in all cases.
- Within Christianity, Christians are taugh specifically to obey the laws of a gr living in; therefore, the upholding of the laws is an important part of Chris punishment.

## Reparation

- This is the aim of punishment in which the damage caused to society by the This is a more modern aim of punishment.
- A good example of this is the use of community service, which is discussed to section of the course.

## **Student Checklist**

What do I know?	No Idea	Nearly	Sure	
I understand the aim of deterrence				
I understand the aim of retribution				
I understand the aim of rehabilitation				
I understand religious views on deterrence				
I understand religious views on rehabilitation				
I understand religious views on retribution				



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## **Practice Questions**

## **Aims of Punishment**

## Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is not an aim of punishment?
  - **A** Deterrence
  - **B** Suffering of prisoner
  - **C** Retribution
  - **D** Rehabilitation
- **2.** What is the ultimate aim of rehabilitation?
  - **A** A comfortable prison sentence
  - **B** The satisfaction of the victing
  - **C** To release the priscal claim to society quickly
  - D To relesse less pack into society safely
- **3.** What is timate aim of deterrence?
  - **A** To put off other potential criminals
  - **B** To make the criminal regret their actions
  - **C** To satisfy the victim
  - **D** To fulfil the law
- **4.** Which of the following is a Bible verse used to argue against retribution?
  - **A** Matthew 5:38–39, 44
  - **B** Mark 5:40
  - **C** John 7:33
  - **D** Luke 14:4
- **5.** Give **one** Bible verse on the topic of retribution.
- **6.** Explain **two** reasons why retribution might be considered a good aim of punish
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** reasons why a religious person might lay more emphasis on rehabil
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of relia
- **8.** 'Retribution is the ultimate aim of punishment as the criminal has to pay for the Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
  - o give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
  - o give reasoned arguments against this idea
  - refer to religious viewpoints
  - o refer to non-religious vie vpc n s
  - o reach a justified a leto...



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## Treatment of Crimina



## Keywords

**Duty of care** 

**Prison chaplains** 

**Community service** required tasks in service of the community

form of punishment

Corporal punishment this is physical punishment, such as beating

this is the responsibility of a facility or an

people in their care

the requirement of an individual to pay a so Fine

compensation or eaking the law

w<sup>1</sup> Femiers are impisoned in a state-b Prison

those who give pastoral and spiritual supp

of rehabilitating them



While prison is a place in which those who have committed crimes may be se prison is of importance to discussions of crime and punishment and is of interest of the prison is of importance to discussions of crime and punishment and is of interest of the prison is of importance to discussions of crime and punishment and is of interest of the prison is o Christian people.

- Many religions support the idea of the punishment fitting the crime that be be punished harshly for a crime which is not serious. It is also important to tal backgrounds and whether or not prison would be the best method of punishment individual.
- It is important to also remember that prison itself is the punishment any within gaol is considered immoral. Prisoners living within institutions who judicial system are the responsibility of the state to care for. Poor care can le negligence. It is the responsibility that while a convicted prisoner is serving subjected to maltreatment. They are serving their time in prison, and this co
- Prisoners found guilty are imprisoned for a set period of time deemed to be they committed; it is important that the punishment fits the crime. To allow stealing a chocolate bar is a completely badly weighted punishment.
- There are various different forms of treatment of criminals from punishme sentence, to tagging (enforced house arrest), an antisocial behaviour order (s individual), young offenders' institutions (for those who are under the age meeting young offenders' needs), fines and probation are different examples convicted of crimes. -101 CO?



## **Key Points**

## Treatmen

- nsibility of the institution and the government to treat the pri conditions in which the prisoners are kept are debated as being potentially
- The treatment of prisoners and the conditions in which they are kept within point of concern among many religious people, as there are problems within treatment of criminals. Considering that on average there is one suicide per prisons, this is indicative of there being an issue of treatment of prisoners w
- Prisoners do not lose their human rights, only their freedom. They still have shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, etc. For those within the prison system the government to provide this.



## > This includes the opportunity to reform – to better themselves through educe so that when they have served their sentence and are released back into social changes in their lives which will mean that they will not reoffend and they will life.

- It is important that the punishment of a sentence is served, but it is also impunduly punished by poor conditions. They are serving their time for their crafter punishment beyond this.
- Young offenders' prisons or institutions are where people under the age of 1 committed a serious crime. The conditions at these institutions are importal impressionable and capable of changing their ways if given proper reform call appropriately tailored to their age and stage.

## **Community Service**

- Community service is a form of pur service to ron-violent crimes with a logar form of punishment in the charteness and the vidual might be given a task which service a local area.
- Fig. 1 It is a small commonly reserved for criminals who pose a lo
- For exact they might be given the task of cleaning up a park from litter as crime. This is commonly a punishment given to crimes which are less serious
- Society as a result benefits in return for the damage caused to society in kind to a public space, so the criminal makes up for this by improving a public spa

## **Corporal Punishment**

- This is the use of physical punishment; inflicting physical pain on the individ a crime. Within Islam, corporal punishment is considered to be allowable. F punishment is the set punishment. This is known as the hudud punishment towards reform while simultaneously being a visual sign to deter others from
- Examples of forms of corporal punishment include whipping, branding and a forms of punishment within the UK, but are still used within some parts of t Middle East, Asia and South America.
- Within the UK, administering corporal punishment is illegal and is an abuse would be prosecutable.
- Christians largely do not agree with corporal punishment as they would argureform prisoners, but could create resentment which could in turn potential Christians, however, might use Bible passages such as Psalm 89 ('I will punish justify why they might agree with the use of corporal punishment for crimes
- Currently, no Christian country within modern high-income countries has a punishment in an official capacity.

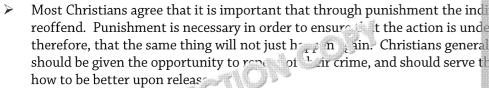
## Christian Responses to Treatment of Crimin

- Many Christians disagree with mistreatmen of cininals within prisons.
- Many Christians take part in many some a so attempt to help rehabilitate pri programmes. By making off the conget involved with rehabilitation, Christ the biblical corresponding one given in Matthew 25:36 which states: 'I was naked and you have in prison and you came to me.'
- They must o this by volunteering to help rehabilitate prisoners or by become

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- While not necessarily always Christians, prison chaplains are often Christian those within prison reform their ways and offer pastoral support to anyone undergoing a prison sentence.
- Some Christians believe that life in prison should be unpleasant enough to act as a deterrent - if life in prison is a comfortable and happy existence then criminals will not consider it a deterrent. They might believe in more of an 'eye for an eye' method of punishment, and may want to pursue harsher punishments, such as corporal punishment or capital punishment (the death penalty) for certain crimes.



## Other Relies & Asses

of mercy, humbleness and kindness are important within Juda As the Jewish Limking regarding the compassionate treatment of those who have Virtues of fairness and justice are also important. The Jewish Prisoner Servi internationally to show love and kindness to those incarcerated within prison



What do I know?	No Idea	Nearly	Sur ©
I understand the issues related to treatment of prisoners			
I understand the responsibility of the state towards prisoners			
I understand the concept of corporal punishment			
I understand the concept of community service			
I understand Christian responses against the maltreatment of prisoners			
I can give an example of steps taken by Christians to support prisoners			
I understand the response of the Jevillor 1 unity to the treatment of prisoners			



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## **Practice Questions**

## **Treatment of Criminals**

## **Multiple-choice Questions** (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following crimes is most likely to incur a prison sentence?
  - **A** Theft
  - **B** Murder
  - **C** Trespassing
  - **D** Possession of drugs
- **2.** Which of the following is a role of halpports prisoners pastorally?
  - **A** Prison guard
  - **B** Priser
  - C Part form officer
  - **D** Prison chaplain
- 3. Which of the following verses is used to support kindness towards prisoners
  - **A** Matthew 25:40
  - **B** Matthew 25:36
  - **C** Matthew 25:17
  - **D** Matthew 25:15
- **4.** Which of the following is not a virtue within Judaism regarding the treatment
  - **A** Humbleness
  - **B** Forgiveness
  - **C** Mercy
  - **D** Kindness
- **5.** Give **one** example of a type of punishment.
- **6.** Explain **two** reasons why religious people have concern about the treatment
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** religious views on the treatment of prisoners.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writing of another source of
- 8. 'Prisoners have committed horrible and and a loost doesn't matter how they Evaluate this statement, and a loose swer:
  - o give reasoned a a support of this idea
  - o givesore coments against this idea
  - o re eligious viewpoints
  - o ref non-religious viewpoints
  - o reach a justified conclusion

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## Forgiveness



## **Keywords**

the expression of regret for an act which has been Repentance **Forgiveness** the letting go of negative emotions by a victim tow 0 Jesus the central figure of Christianity who taught heav 0 Moving on the continuing of a life following a negative event  $\circ$ emotions Vigilante justice the punishment of an indicate l, usually involving

group within society at the feel the individual has by the off tem

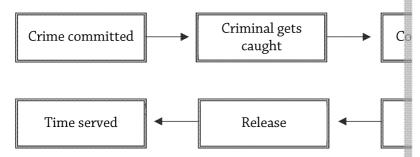
theven of a criminal being freed from prison Release



Forgiveness is the process by which the victims (or society) let go of negative individual for the act they have committed.

Forgiveness does not ignore the crime that has been committed – if pain and an individual this could continue to be acknowledged, and the individual sho for the crime they have committed. It is important not to condone crime; h ideally be given once an individual criminal has served their time and as is re

In an ideal circumstance, the way in which crime, time and forgiveness should follows:



- The ideal within society is for the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for the criminal to be forgiven for their crime on the criminal to be forgiven for the crime on the criminal to be forgiven for the criminal to be forgiven for the crime on the criminal to be forgiven for the crime on the criminal to be forgiven for the crime on the criminal to be forgiven for the crime on the crime of the cri sentence, as theoretically they will have repaid their debt to society and should following their punishment.
- Religions have many teachings on the idea of forgive and. It is an integral to being an important principle in Judaism, Island no Lidunism.
- Those who have been the victims of polyharsh crimes, such as the mo it incredibly difficult to forgive. To giveness for these individuals might also however, because bold gon conegative emotions towards the perpetrator the ent of Lives.



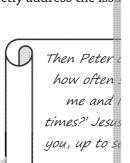


## **Issues of Forgiveness**

- One important facet of the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be for the ideal of the ideal
- Some people find the idea of repentance makes the process of forgiveness earriminal who openly professes that they are sorry for the crime they commit is possible to forgive an individual who has not expressed regret; however, not forgive and achieve peace when the criminal has said they are sorry.
- It is important to underline that the issue of forgiveness does not morally ex is still considered to be wrong even if the perpetrator is offered forgiveness.
- A lack of forgiveness within society might generate some issues. If an individual crime they committed and are released back into society if there is not forging discrimination, making life within society different. It is might lead to issues and so could potentially cause them the ferror.
- Another issue that might riew. It is the issue of forgiveness is the issue of viscociety do not feel that is remarks been done within the situation they may tall and purpose it is all in a manner they see fit, e.g. by violently attacking that and, the provided is a negative consequence of the lack of forgiveness, as it causes

## Forgiveness in Religious Views

- Many religious people might rely on their faith in God to help them to forgive religions have teachings which encourage or require forgiveness of others.
- Within many religions (e.g. Judaism, Christianity and Islam) there is the idea beings and that humans should emulate this behaviour by forgiving others. teaching of religions such as Christianity, for example, where forgiveness is a requiring believers to forgive others in the same way that they believe that G
- However, it is important to remember that every one of these religions also justice. It is important that while forgiveness should be offered, the crime it to achieve justice. Crimes which go unpunished do not achieve justice within important teaching of Christianity, it is important that crimes are punished has been served the individual should be offered forgiveness and be able to
- There are a number of verses within the Bible which directly address the issue
  - Colossians 3:13 'Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you'
  - 'But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.' Romans 5:20
  - Matthew 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.' (This is part of the Lord's Prayer, which is an important prayer within Christianity as it is the direct instruction that Jesus gave believers on how to pray.)
  - Matthew 18:21–22, included on the crill to the right, describes how Jesus program, finite forgiveness when as to fee of the control of the crill to the crill t
  - Williams Sland Lorgiveness is an important teaching for Muslims. While refer, it is encouraged within Islam. Those who choose to forgive crimes committed against them within the Islamic faith are considered death for their choice of forgiveness as it states within the Qur'an that amends, his reward is upon Allah' (Surah 42:40).
  - Within Judaism, Jews are called not to hold grudges against those who commanded within the Torah, as within Leviticus 19:18 it states, 'Do no against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself, sins against other human beings have to be forgiven between human be God does not forgive sins among man, but only sins against himself.



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What do I know?	No Idea	Nearl
I understand the concept of forgiveness		
I can detail reasons why Christians believe they should forgive		
I can quote at least one Bible verse supporting the idea of forgiveness		
I understand Jewish ideas about forgiven		
I understand Islamic id ः ं का निर्णाहांveness		

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## **Practice Exam-style Questions**

## **Forgiveness**

## **Multiple-choice Questions** (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is not a Bible verse regarding forgiveness?
  - **A** John 3:10
  - **B** Colossians 3:13
  - **C** Romans 5:20
  - **D** Matthew 18:21–22
- 2. What do many Christians rely on in order to hop to a lorgive?
  - A Communion
  - **B** Rituals
  - C Conversati
  - **D**



- **3.** Which of the following Bible verses is also cited within Jewish discussions of fo
  - A John 3:16
  - **B** Revelation 10:20
  - **C** Micah 6:5
  - **D** Leviticus 19:18
- **4.** Which of the following is forgiveness considered to be within Islam?
  - A Looked upon favourably by God
  - **B** Looked upon disapprovingly by God
  - **C** A commandment
  - **D** A requirement
- **5.** Give **one** Bible verse regarding forgiveness.
- **6.** Explain two reasons why a religious person should forgive.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain two different religious beliefs regarding forgiveness.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of relia
- **8.** 'Religious people are required to forgive criminals.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
  - o give reasoned arguments in support of the side
  - o give reasoned arguments agains to it a
  - o refer to religious view ats
  - o refer to non-relice s wpoints
  - o realist to conclusion

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## The Death Penalty



## **Keywords**

An eye for an eye

Capital punishment

Electric chair

Exoneration

Hudud

o Justice

O Letl

Retribution

this is an Old Testament idea regarding the idea crime should be directly proportional to the crit this is another term for the death penalty this is a method of execution in which an individually and electric currents sent through their bothe declaring of an individual to be innocent of been convicted capital and ment or corporal punishment has a concoction of lethal medications used within sto inmates sentenced to the death penalty

the aim of punishment focused on revenge



## **Overview**

- The death penalty, also known as capital punishment, is a controversial met been used throughout human history. It is the form of punishment in which convicted of a crime is put to death by the state as punishment for their crim
- It is usually reserved for specifically heinous crimes such as murder or rape. can happen in a variety of ways, including the electric chair, lethal injection, electric chair and lethal injection are the two current methods of execution within the US where the death penalty is still a legal sentence. It has also his of deterrent to put off other criminals from committing similar crimes.
- It was a practice within the United Kingdom until 1964, when the final senten was not wholly unlawful until 1998, until which point it was still a legal punish treason. As of September 2018, 58 countries worldwide still use the death pen



## **Key Points**

## **Reasons for the Death Penalty**

- Many people feel that the death penalty is just b can e it applies the same puthey have often inflicted upon their vicir s, whas in the case of murder.
- It will help the families of vicing the mous crimes feel that justice has been
- Severe punishments and in the death penalty might stop others from commake same a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from commake same as a second penalty might stop others from command penalty might stop others from the second penalty might stop other second penalty might stop others from the second penalty might stop others from the second penalty might stop other second penalty might stop others from the second penalty might stop other second penalty might stop other
- > It help ociety safe from the most dangerous criminals as they will nev

## **Christian Arguments against the Death Penalty**

Many Christians hold the view that the death penalty is not a just punishment Commandments specifically prohibit murder as being a sin, which would lead death penalty to point out that the killing of an individual, even if justified be is still sinful. Two wrongs do not make a right, two sins do not make justice.

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## Some Christians might argue that the values of mercy and forgiveness are heavily emphasised within the teachings of Christ and the New Testament an therefore, should be given importance over Old Testament ideas.

- Quakers, or the Society of Friends, are a group of Christians whose viewpoin largely focused around pacifism.
- Some Christians would emphasise rehabilitation within prison programmes as
- The Bible teaches that you should 'pray for those who persecute you', leading to instead be focused on praying for criminals rather than trying to put them to describe the property of the
- In July 2018 Pope Francis changed the catechism of the Catholic Church to cases, meaning that the Catholic Church is now wholly opposed to the death an interesting departure from the Church's traditional teaching that God had death to authorities such as governments.
- Some Christians argue that only God should be not poster and authority to being should not take a life even if it is in the form of punishment. Life with be sacred (**sanctity of life**) and there is exit, it should not be taken for any real
- Some Christians make in that the way in which the death penalty There is debate in what extent those who opt for death by lethal inject of the use to stop their hearts, and on this basis some Christians wou adminition the punishment does not uphold the Christian principle of the
- Another Christian argument, specifically centred on the states within the US penalty, is the debate about how the death penalty is administered. Some for penalty, such as the electric chair, are considered to be inhumane, and painful
- Sister Helen Prejean is a Catholic nun who has spent her life getting to know America and campaigning against the death penalty in the United States. Sh who opposes the death penalty.

## **Christian Arguments For**

Some Christians take a retributive view of the death penalty. These Christian Christians.

Anyone who injures their

the same manner: fractu

tooth /

Whoe

There are teachings throughout the Bible which specifically underline that those who commit specific acts should be punished retributively. For example, Leviticus 24 specifically states 'Anyone who injures their neighbour is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth'; therefore, some Christians would argue that this extends to being a 'life for a life', and for continuous the same manner and the same was a same continuous to be same when the same was a same continuous to be same when the same was a same continuous to be same when the same was a same continuous to be same continuous to be

extends to being a 'life for a life', and for crimes such as murder, the death penalty would be fitting.

- Within the Old Testament there are 36 crimes for which the death penalty is advocated, including blasphemy, idolaty and murder.
- In this way, some Christians make the penalty as being an equally weight (r) indive punishment.
- Many Christians who had so kew can be found within the southern state of had S, within which the death penalty is still legal in mark
- Roman Pec Arcally teaches that the government has the right to wield a
- Genesis a Bible verse which could be used to support the death penalty blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed'.
- Some Christians point to Old Testament passages such as Leviticus 24:17–23 moral acceptability of the death penalty.





Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death. A of someone's animal must make restitution-life for life. Anyone who to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, who has inflicted the injury must suffer the same injury. Whoever kills a human being is to be put to death. Y law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the LOF

## **Other Religious Viewpoints:**

- Within Islam, the death penalty is considered " > certable for certain cribe completely proven without even a slow of a doubt. The Prophet senter committed the crime of murder and or this reason some Muslims might argupermissible. The crime of which the death penalty is given within the Qurhudud punishments.
- However Auslims argue that since the Qur'an teaches against killing, not be d.
- Within Judaism, the death penalty is acceptable in some cases. Generally, Je committed truly heinous crimes should be put to death as they will not be a might cite a similar verse to some Christians, such as Leviticus 24:17–22, who Torah as well as the Old Testament, as an example of a teaching to justify the Teachings from within the Talmud, an important Jewish document, support

## **Non-religious Viewpoints:**

- There are a variety of non-religious viewpoints on the death penalty.
- One such viewpoint is held by those who adhere to the ideals of ethical utilit thought which aims to achieve the greatest level of happiness for the greates something will achieve this then it is considered to be moral.
- Generally speaking, within the principle of utility, which is a utilitarian more considered to be wrong as it is judged to cause more suffering than it does go considered to be moral, and is, therefore, considered to be bad.



## **Student Checklist**

What do I know?	No Idea	Nearly	Su
I understand what the death penalty is			
I can detail the Christian arguments for the death penalty			
I can detail the Christian argur r is a, a not the death penalty			
I understa Pric Leas about the death penalty			
I understand Jewish ideas about the death penalty			

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## **Practice Exam-style Questions**

## The Death Penalty

**Multiple-choice Questions** (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is not a Bible verse used to debate the death penalty?
  - **A** Genesis 9:6
  - **B** Leviticus 24:17-22
  - **C** John 3:16
  - **D** Exodus 20:13
- 2. Which of the following is not a form of administering the characteristic at a penalty?
  - **A** Electric chair
  - **B** Lethal injection
  - **C** Drowning
  - **D** Firing quar
- 3. Which conclowing is a Bible verse which is used to oppose the death penalty
  - A Romans 13
  - **B** Leviticus 24:17–22
  - **C** Genesis 9:6
  - **D** Exodus 20:13
- **4.** In which of the following countries is the death penalty currently legal?
  - A England
  - **B** USA
  - **C** Scotland
  - D Cyprus
- **5.** Give **one** Bible verse which opposes the use of the death penalty.
- **6.** Explain **two** other religious teachings on the death penalty.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** reasons why some Christians might support the death penalty, while answer with the use of Bible verses.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of relia
- 8. 'The Death penalty is never justifiable.'

Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:

- o give reasoned arguments in support of the side
- o give reasoned arguments agairs and sea
- o refer to religious view ons
- o refer to non-relice a four oints
- o regus nclusion

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## **Good and Evil**

- **1–4. Multiple-choice:** Correct answers in order: (b), (c), (a), (d) (1 mark each for a total
- **5.** 1 mark for any correct point. E.g. in some instances, to tell a lie in a situation might less suffering.
- **6.** 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks**:

Simple explanation = 1 mark

Detailed explanation = 2 marks

Students may describe the following:

- This is a system of ethics which aims to a the greatest happiness for the
- This belief is less concerned to the lear or not an action is morally good or be the outcome will gar as a passa e or happiness for the most people possible.
- Students might be an example of how utilitarian ethics might be used during the inchoices. This includes but is not limited to the Trolley Problem ween the happiness or wellbeing of the many at the expense of the fev
- **7.** Marked as the four-mark question, plus 1 mark for naming a relevant reference to suffer the for applying this to the question, for an overall total of **6 marks**:

Students might include the points below, but any relevant points can be included:

- Students should be able to show awareness that Christians have different appropriately appropriate the contract of the contr
- Within Christianity, morality is not necessarily structured around alleviating swill of God. Therefore, if there are rules within the Bible which might potential would still consider following these to be moral.
- For example, if there were an instance in which telling a lie would cause less sull Christian might consider it their moral duty to tell the truth anyway, as telling Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.
- Some Christians, however, might choose to act in such a way that minimises th individual, as some Christians also practise utilitarian ethics, even if this break Bible.
- They might do this because Jesus described loving your neighbour as being the commandments, being the filter through which Christians should view all other
- They might consider an act which minimises suffering to be the most loving was
  therefore, would choose to support or commit an action which goes against the
  Christians support homosexual marriage even though this is not allowed accord
  shows compassion and minimises the suffering of those who wish to enter into
  them to do so.

## 8. Criteria:

One argument with justification

Different arguments for and against, with justification

OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position

This is the highest level which can be eat a fif only one point of view is considered mention of religion

Good, well-justified a north for and against, linked together

Definition relication

Very vea. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and lear reason conclusion.

Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

'An act which causes suffering is always immoral.'

## **Arguments for:**

- Students should be able to show that different groups of people have different or evil. Students should show an understanding of what evil and immorality ar
- Some people might judge an act which causes suffering as being innately immoconscience. This is the feeling of emotional guilt experienced naturally by hum which is considered to be immoral or wrong.

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