



# **Revision Summaries for GCSE AQA Religious Studies A**

Component 2

Theme E: Religion, Crime and  
Punishment

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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 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.
- ✓ **Exam-style Questions:** A full set of practice questions (with extra multiple-choice questions), complete with mark schemes listing indicative content. These are useful for students wishing to improve their knowledge on a particular topic and learning how to 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.

### Remember!

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

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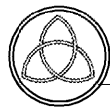
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# Good and Evil



## Keywords

- **Conscience** the aspect of humanity which makes us feel guilty for w
- **Crime** something which is against the law of a country
- **Evil** actions which are considered to be immoral, usually ca
- **Experience** the events which an individual has encountered withi
- **Free will** the ability to make moral choices freely on one's own
- **Good** actions which are considered to be moral
- **Intention** the objective behind the carrying out of an act
- **Justice** the achieving of a fair society
- **Morality** the code of ethics or values by which an individual or co
- **Sin** something which is considered to be against the law of
- **Suffering** 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 evi
- 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, or which fall short of the laws of God or his moral standard are called sins. Some 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 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 Intentions

- Intent is an important facet of discussion within the realm of crime and punishment. If someone does not intend to commit a crime, but it happened accidentally, then they are usually therefore, may 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, and so have expressed extreme senses of guilt for having done so.
- Repentance is also a key idea within discussions of good and evil, specifically with idea of an individual who admits they have committed an act which is considered 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 from the teachings which is commonly used to be a blanket moral statement. The act is known as the Golden Rule. It is through this teaching that they view all other rules into perspective.

### Sources of Evil

- Genesis 2 contains an account of what is known as the Fall of humanity, as he disobeyed God's one commandment in the Garden of Eden (eating of the tree of life), 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 angel who tempts them and is intentionally trying to cause humans to fall from God's intent, thus causing evil.
- An important facet of Christianity is the idea of hating the sin itself, but loving the sinner. This extends to sources of evil – they should hate the evil act, but love the person who committed the evil act as they believe God does. The person is not innately evil, but the act remains an evil act.

### Justice

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

### Can Suffering Ever be Good?

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

*[Jesus] said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second like it is: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets*

Matthew 22:37-40

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

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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 following situation ethics, which means they believe the morally right thing to do differs from the right thing to do in itself.
- Some people believe that the most moral thing to do within a situation is the one which garners the greatest happiness for the greatest number. This is known as utilitarianism.
- 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 possible.
- Some Christians can also be utilitarian as the two methods of thinking are not mutually exclusive.
- The question is posed whether or not it can ever be considered to be good to allow 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 disallow people to defend themselves from attack. However, other Christians might cite Matthew 5:39 as a teaching which instructs Christians to not take violent action even in such a situation.
- Some Christians might argue that actions that cause suffering might be considered good. For example, some Christians might argue that allowance of abortion (despite suffering a foetus to suffer) is sometimes the most loving thing to do in order to ensure the health of a woman.



### Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Sure ☺
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 Exam-style Questions

### Good and Evil

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

- Which of the following is the term for an act which is considered breaking of a law?
  - Crime
  - Sin
  - Mistake
  - Sentence
- Which of the following is not an example of a cause of evil?
  - Pain
  - Suffering
  - Inconvenience
  - Hardship
- Which of the following Bible verses contains the greatest and second best commandments?
  - 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 would want to be treated?
  - The Ten Commandments
  - The Laws of Moses
  - The Talmud
  - The Golden Rule
- Give two examples of how moral choices might cause suffering.
- Explain two details about the role of utilitarianism in making moral choices.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain two reasons why a religious person might accept a situation in which suffering is caused as being morally acceptable.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- ‘An act which causes suffering is always immoral.’  
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
  - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
  - give reasoned arguments against this idea
  - refer to religious viewpoints
  - refer to non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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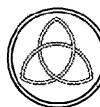


# Reasons for Crime



## Keywords

- **Addiction** a person suffers from the need to intake a substance such as drugs or alcohol
- **Crime** an action which is against the law
- **Cause** a factor, or combination of factors, which can lead to actions which are considered to be immoral, usually caused by a mental illness
- **Evil** actions which are considered to be immoral, usually caused by a mental illness
- **Good** actions which are considered to be moral
- **Greed** The insatiable want for more and more of a certain thing
- **Hate** a strong negative emotion of loathing towards another person
- **Intention** the personal emotional drive to commit an action
- **Mental illness** an individual who suffers from a psychological issue which means they would commit an act
- **Poverty** the state of relative or absolute lack of financial wealth
- **Upbringing** the combination of factors during the childhood and adolescence of an individual
- **Unjust law** A legal rule within a country which is not morally just



## Overview

- Many people, including Christians, believe that the cause behind crime is an individual's background and how they are brought up. This is why society takes of such criminals, as well as affecting efforts towards preventing crime.
- For example, if an individual suffers from a mental illness then this might be why they committed the crime they did. This might be viewed within legal courts as not their responsibility for the crime. In order to illustrate this point, consider this example of two individuals who conspired together to commit a murder.
  - The first individual had a great childhood, with a loving family who were not aware of any mental health issues. They had no addictions. They had no motives for committing the crime towards the individual they murdered.
  - The second individual was brought up in a disadvantaged area, growing up in a family where some of the abuse they suffered as a child was directed towards them within the home. They also had a mental health issue. These factors might have influenced their actions and wrong, potentially contributing to their actions.
- Someone examining this case might take more pity or be more lenient on the second individual as the more factors which might diminish their personal responsibility for the crime, the more they are considered to be at high risk of committing a crime.
- These are known as mitigating factors, which will commonly be taken into account when sentencing for a crime. It is important to consider the causes of crime when addressing how we punish them as a society, but the reasons behind why these events happen. It is important to address how we punish them as a society, but the reasons behind why these events happen so that we can treat criminals fairly by having a holistic view of their lives and circumstances. It is important to prevent further crimes from being committed by dealing with the social issues that cause them.
- It is important also to be aware that there are differing views regarding the responsibility for crimes committed – some non-violent crimes – for example, petty theft – may be looked at as less serious than crimes which are violent, such as murder.

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## Key Points

### Mental Illness

- The mental state of an individual who has committed a crime is highly important when addressing the issue of the causes of crime. If an individual is not in a 'right mind', they cannot contribute to their defence.
- This is known as diminished responsibility – the idea that they have a lesser capacity for actions due to their mental limitations. If they are incapable of understanding the consequences of their actions are, then they should (it might be argued by the defence) not be punished for their crime.
- Individuals with mental illnesses who have committed crimes will all be different. Some issues might include having some kind of lowered capacity for understanding the consequences of their actions.
- This means that the offender will not be held fully responsible for their actions.
- Within Islam, if a person is not considered to be sane then they cannot be punished for their actions regarding certain crimes.

### Upbringing

- The influence of the childhood of an individual is important to consider regarding crime. An individual has been raised in an environment where certain behaviours or crimes are more likely to be committed than one whose upbringing was different.
- For example, someone who has grown up in a household witnessing or potentially experiencing physical or sexual abuse, then they are potentially more likely to commit those crimes within their own household when grown. If an individual has been exposed to gang-based violence from a young age, they are more likely to become involved and commit crimes as a result.
- The circumstances in which an individual is raised can contribute hugely to why they commit a crime and what kind of crimes they commit, meaning that this should be considered as a cause of crime.

### Addiction

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

### Hate Crime

- 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 crimes against people because of their race, gender, religion, sexuality or disability, among others.
- Crimes based on hatred of particular groups are condemned within the society of Britain as most modern individuals view human beings as being equal within society.
- Within Christianity, crimes motivated by hatred are condemned as within Christianity, all are viewed the same way by God. This is found within the biblical teaching of Galatians 3:28: *'There is neither Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, all are one in Christ Jesus.'*
- However, some Christians have in the past committed crimes motivated by hatred. For example, homosexuals, as homosexuality is deemed to be a sin within Christianity, have been persecuted.

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male nor female, all are one in Christ Jesus.*

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### Poverty

- Poverty is one of various socio-economic factors which can contribute to the causes of crime.
- Poverty can be absolute or relative, meaning that people can either be in a state of poverty relative to those around them within society (relative poverty) or in a state of poverty where they are being unable to meet their basic needs (absolute poverty).
- Poverty might motivate an individual to commit a crime due to living within a society where they are not owning 'more' – the divide between the haves and the have nots might drive them to commit a crime such as theft in order to feel that they can have the same level of wealth as those who are richer.
- 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 someone who is rich wanting to fund a lifestyle they wish to have. This is because this would be more in line with Christian teachings against **greed**.
- They might feel a responsibility towards a family which they may feel unable to support.

### Unjust Law

- Some acts can be committed which are considered to be illegal under the rule of law. In some instances, some people might consider the action to be moral, without being illegal.
- If a law is unjust or morally questionable, then an individual may choose to break the law in order to attempt to change the law, or make a point regarding the unjust nature of the law.
- An example of an individual who has broken laws in order to demonstrate that a law is unjust is Martin Luther King Jr, who led protests within the United States, staging sit-ins in order to challenge legislation regarding racial segregation, in order to demonstrate that these laws were unjust. His faith informed much of his ethos regarding his non-violent approach to protesting. In order to challenge segregation laws, he did so peacefully; for example, by staging sit-ins, rather than using violence.

### Religious Responses

- St Paul taught in the Bible that believers should obey the laws of the land that they are living in. It is important that Christians remain on the right side of the law. They should not break the law and uphold the law of the country they live in.
- However, Christianity also places a large amount of emphasis on the forgiveness and compassion for those within disadvantaged situations. This might lead a Christian to advocate for, leniency regarding individuals who come from backgrounds with factors towards committing crimes.
- Jesus taught repeatedly throughout the Gospels that Christians should be kind to others wherever and when possible. Many Christians interpret this to mean that committing crimes is wrong, especially those who commit crimes due to poverty.
- Some Christians might attempt to alleviate addiction as a cause of crime by supporting those who are addicted avoid committing crime. This might be done by alleviating the suffering of those who are addicted, help them to recover from their addictions via crisis centres, etc.



### Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Need Help 🙋
I understand how 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 Exam-style 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
  - Hate
  - Addiction
  - Upbringing
- Which of the following is an example of an individual who broke an unjust law?
  - Sister Helen Prejean
  - Rev Martin Luther King Jr
  - Pope Francis
  - St Thomas Aquinas
- 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 cause of crime?
  - John 3:16
  - Matthew 25:40
  - Galatians 3:28
  - Genesis 4:56

- Give two different reasons why an individual might commit a crime.
- Explain why two religious efforts towards alleviating crime.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain a religious person may not always see breaking of the law as being immoral.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious teaching.
- 'Those who commit crimes are simply evil.'  
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
  - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
  - give reasoned arguments against this idea
  - refer to religious viewpoints
  - refer to non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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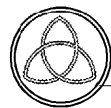
# Aims of Punishment

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## Keywords

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ○ <b>Aim</b>                        | the intended result of an action or event  |
| ○ <b>Compensate</b>                 | to give an individual something in reparation that has been caused by an action                                |
| ○ <b>Deterrence</b>                 | to punish a criminal in such a way as to prevent the same crimes   |
| ○ <b>Justice</b>                    | the quality of fairness within society   |
| ○ <b>Punishment</b>                 | a penalty dealt out by an authority to someone who has committed an illegal act                                |
| ○ <b>Reformation/Rehabilitation</b> | to reform an individual's character so that they become a functioning member of society and will not re-offend |
| ○ <b>Reparation</b>                 | to make amends for or make up for someone's suffering.   |
| ○ <b>Retribution</b>                | to take revenge against an individual who has wronged you  |
| ○ <b>Vindication</b>                | 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 punishments, which are rooted in the values and beliefs of that individual society. Generally, most societies aim at punishing an individual to make them into a better person so that they will be a safer place as a whole. The punishment is in the interest of society. This is a utilitarian approach towards punishment. As 30% of criminals released from prison within a year of release,<sup>1</sup> if the general purpose of punishment is to exact penance for the crime, the way in which prisoners are punished is a relevant aim.
- Before sentencing an individual who has committed a crime, the person deciding (the judge) will consider all of the aims of punishment and what the desired end is (the judge) before sentencing. The main aims of punishment to consider within this are deterrence, reformation/rehabilitation and reparation.



## Key Points

### Deterrence

- Deterrence is an important aim of punishment. Within some societies, harsh punishments are given for certain crimes in order to make a point regarding the crime and to prevent committing a similar crime.
- The theory of deterrence is that the individual being punished will find the punishment so unpleasant, will not repeat the illegal behaviour; for example, someone who was in prison will not return to prison. Furthermore, other potential criminals will not commit crimes because of the unpleasant punishment and do not wish to be subjected to it themselves.

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/54111/bulletin-oct15-dec15.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/54111/bulletin-oct15-dec15.pdf)

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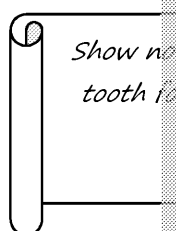
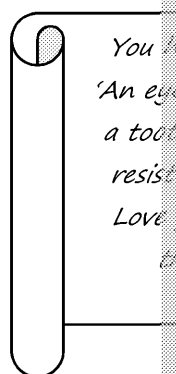
- Many dispute whether or not gaol has become a deterrent to hardened criminals. Punishment of incarceration as being a punishment they are deterred by.
- Within some religious tradition there are various forms of specific punishment for others. For example, within Islam the hudud punishments (set corporal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

### Reformation/Rehabilitation

- As many criminals do not remain in prison for the remainder of their lives (especially for a particularly heinous crime), the aim of reformation or rehabilitation is an important aim of the justice system. While in gaol, prisoners will be helped in order to attempt to create a change resulting in a change within the person, who will then be able to be released as a productive member of society and avoid reoffending.
- Many different religious groups feel strongly that this is an important aim of punishment. Teaching might emphasise forgiveness and helping the disadvantaged.
- Many Christians emphasise the importance of reformation within prisons. They emphasise emphatically and continually that forgiveness is preferable and individuals should be helped.
- This is an important aim of punishment within Christian thought. Many Christians believe that reformation is highly important within the system of punishment as it is the aim to make better choices and a better life, thus helping society by reducing the number of reoffenders.
- Many Christians take part in prison programmes where they might go and offer help, either theoretical or practical, in order for prisoners to be reintroduced to society with a reform that makes them able to be functional, constructive members of a society.
- For example, Quakers have a strong link with prison reformers who are those who use various means of lobbying to help liberate prisoners from prison.

### 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 you'.
- Jesus within the Gospels contradicts the Old Testament teaching of 'an eye for an eye' by teaching Christians to 'turn the other cheek' to those who wrong them (seventy times seven times). Therefore, on the basis of this scriptural teaching, many would argue that rather than exact revenge on those who have committed crimes, the best way forward would be punishment (e.g. the death penalty for murderers), that the best way forward would be towards forgiveness.
- Many religions, 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 who break the laws of the 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 a crime is committed against another, it is considered to be fair within our society that the perpetrator should be punished to achieve justice.
- Many religions share this view.
- Within Islam, the justice of God is one of the most integral parts of God’s nature. Compensation is an important part of punishment. For some crimes, the perpetrator or their family are able to pay compensation money to the victim or their family in lieu of punishment. Harmony within society is also incredibly important within Islam and is upheld in all cases.
- Within Christianity, Christians are taught specifically to obey the laws of a government they are living in; therefore, the upholding of these laws is an important part of Christian punishment.

**Reparation**

- This is the aim of punishment in which the damage caused to society by the crime is repaired. This is a more modern aim of punishment.
- A good example of this is the use of community service, which is discussed in more detail in a later 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 Exam-style Questions

### Aims of Punishment

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

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

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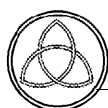


# Treatment of Criminals



## Keywords

- **Community service** required tasks in service of the community as a form of punishment
- **Corporal punishment** this is physical punishment, such as beating
- **Duty of care** this is the responsibility of a facility or an individual to care for people in their care
- **Fine** the requirement of an individual to pay a sum of money as compensation for breaking the law
- **Prison** where offenders are imprisoned in a state- or institution-run facility
- **Prison chaplains** those who give pastoral and spiritual support to and help in rehabilitating them



## Overview

- While prison is a place in which those who have committed crimes may be sent, the concept of prison is of importance to discussions of crime and punishment and is of interest to many religious and Christian people.
- Many religions support the idea of the punishment fitting the crime – that be a crime which is not serious. It is also important to take into account individual backgrounds and whether or not prison would be the best method of punishing an individual.
- It is important to also remember that prison itself is the punishment – any mistreatment within gaol is considered immoral. Prisoners living within institutions who are under the responsibility of the state to care for. Poor care can be a result of negligence. It is the responsibility that while a convicted prisoner is serving their sentence, they are not subjected to maltreatment. They are serving their time in prison, and this is the punishment.
- Prisoners found guilty are imprisoned for a set period of time deemed to be appropriate for the crime they committed; it is important that the punishment fits the crime. To allow someone to steal a chocolate bar is a completely badly weighted punishment.
- There are various different forms of treatment of criminals – from punishment to tagging (enforced house arrest), an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) (for an individual), young offenders' institutions (for those who are under the age of 18), meeting young offenders' needs, fines and probation are different examples of treatment for convicted of crimes.



## Key Points

### Treatment in Prison

- It is the responsibility of the institution and the government to treat the prisoners well. The conditions in which the prisoners are kept are debated as being potentially inhumane.
- The treatment of prisoners and the conditions in which they are kept within prisons is a point of concern among many religious people, as there are problems within the treatment of criminals. Considering that on average there is one suicide per 100 prisoners, this is indicative of there being an issue of treatment of prisoners within prisons.
- Prisoners do not lose their human rights, only their freedom. They still have access to shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, etc. For those within the prison system, it is the government to provide this.

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- This includes the opportunity to reform – to better themselves through education so that when they have served their sentence and are released back into society, changes in their lives which will mean that they will not reoffend and they will have a better life.
- It is important that the punishment of a sentence is served, but it is also important that they are not unduly punished by poor conditions. They are serving their time for their crime and should not receive further punishment beyond this.
- Young offenders' prisons or institutions are where people under the age of 18 who have committed a serious crime. The conditions at these institutions are important as they are impressionable and capable of changing their ways if given proper reform which can be appropriately tailored to their age and stage.

### Community Service

- Community service is a form of punishment for non-violent crimes with a low sentence. It is a form of punishment in which an individual might be given a task which serves the community in a local area.
- It is a method of punishment commonly reserved for criminals who pose a low risk to society.
- For example, they might be given the task of cleaning up a park from litter as a result of a 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. For example, if a criminal cleans up a public space, so the criminal makes up for this by improving a public space.

### Corporal Punishment

- This is the use of physical punishment; inflicting physical pain on the individual as a result of a crime. Within Islam, corporal punishment is considered to be allowable. In many cultures, corporal punishment is the set punishment. This is known as the hudud punishment which is aimed towards reform while simultaneously being a visual sign to deter others from committing similar crimes.
- Examples of forms of corporal punishment include whipping, branding and flogging. These are not common forms of punishment within the UK, but are still used within some parts of the world, such as the Middle East, Asia and South America.
- Within the UK, administering corporal punishment is illegal and is an abuse of power which would be prosecutable.
- Christians largely do not agree with corporal punishment as they would argue that it does not reform prisoners, but could create resentment which could in turn potentially lead to further crime. Christians, however, might use Bible passages such as Psalm 89 (*'I will punish the wicked'*) to justify why they might agree with the use of corporal punishment for crime.
- Currently, no Christian country within modern high-income countries has a form of corporal punishment in an official capacity.

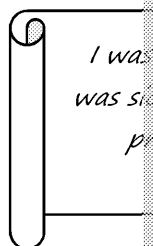
### Christian Responses to Treatment of Criminals

- Many Christians disagree with mistreatment of criminals within prisons.
- Many Christians take part in programmes to attempt to help rehabilitate prisoners. By making an effort to get involved with rehabilitation, Christians can help to reduce the risk of reoffending. The biblical commandment given in Matthew 25:36 which states: *'I was naked and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'*
- They might do this by volunteering to help rehabilitate prisoners or by becoming a mentor to a prisoner.

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- While not necessarily always Christians, prison chaplains are often Christians and 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.
- Most Christians agree that it is important that through punishment the individual does not reoffend. Punishment is necessary in order to ensure that the action is understood and therefore, that the same thing will not just happen again. Christians generally believe that prisoners should be given the opportunity to repent of their crime, and should serve time in order to learn how to be better upon release.



### Other Religious Responses

- As the virtues of mercy, humbleness and kindness are important within Judaism, Jewish thinking regarding the compassionate treatment of those who have committed crimes is different. Virtues of fairness and justice are also important. The Jewish Prisoner Service works internationally to show love and kindness to those incarcerated within prisons.



### Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly ☺️	Sure 😊
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 Jewish community to the treatment of prisoners			

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## Practice Exam-style Questions

### Treatment of Criminals

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

- Which of the following crimes is most likely to incur a prison sentence?
    - Theft
    - Murder
    - Trespassing
    - Possession of drugs
  - Which of the following is a role which supports prisoners pastorally?
    - Prison guard
    - Prison penfriend
    - Prison reform officer
    - Prison chaplain
  - Which of the following verses is used to support kindness towards prisoners?
    - Matthew 25:40
    - Matthew 25:36
    - Matthew 25:17
    - Matthew 25:15
  - Which of the following is not a virtue within Judaism regarding the treatment of prisoners?
    - Humbleness
    - Forgiveness
    - Mercy
    - Kindness
5. Give two examples of different types of punishment.
6. Explain two reasons why religious people have concern about the treatment of prisoners.
- 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 writings or another source of religious teaching.
8. 'Prisoners have committed horrible crimes and so it doesn't matter how they are treated.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
- give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
  - give reasoned arguments against this idea
  - refer to religious viewpoints
  - refer to non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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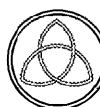


# Forgiveness



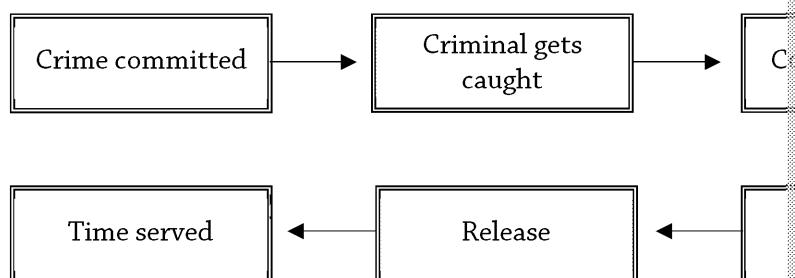
## Keywords

- **Repentance** the expression of regret for an act which has been committed
- **Forgiveness** the letting go of negative emotions by a victim towards the perpetrator
- **Jesus** the central figure of Christianity who taught heaven and hell
- **Moving on** the continuing of a life following a negative event without dwelling on negative emotions
- **Vigilante justice** the punishment of an individual, usually involving a group within society as they feel the individual has not been punished by the official system
- **Release** the event of a criminal being freed from prison



## Overview

- Forgiveness is the process by which the victims (or society) let go of negative emotions towards an individual for the act they have committed.
- Forgiveness does not ignore the crime that has been committed – if pain and suffering is caused to an individual this could continue to be acknowledged, and the individual should be held accountable for the crime they have committed. It is important not to condone crime; however, forgiveness should ideally be given once an individual criminal has served their time and as is required by the law.
- In an ideal circumstance, the way in which crime, time and forgiveness should be handled should follow:



- The ideal within society is for the criminal to be forgiven for their crime once they have served their sentence, as theoretically they will have repaid their debt to society and should be able to move on following their punishment.
- Religions have many teachings on the idea of forgiveness. It is an integral teaching in many religions, being an important principle in Judaism, Islam and Buddhism.
- Those who have been the victims of particularly harsh crimes, such as the murder of a loved one, find it incredibly difficult to forgive. Forgiveness for these individuals might also be difficult, however, because holding on to negative emotions towards the perpetrator can affect the entirety of their lives.

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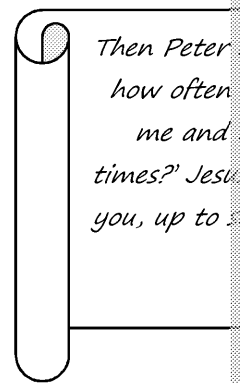
## Key Points

### Issues of Forgiveness

- One important facet of the ideal of forgiveness is that the crime should be forgiven.
- Some people find the idea of repentance makes the process of forgiveness easier. A criminal who openly professes that they are sorry for the crime they committed is possible to forgive an individual who has not expressed regret; however, it is not possible to 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 excuse the crime. The crime 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 who has committed a crime they committed and are released back into society, if there is not forgiveness, it could lead to discrimination, making life within society difficult. This might lead to issues of social exclusion and so could potentially cause them to reoffend.
- Another issue that might arise within the issue of forgiveness is the issue of vengeance. In some societies do not feel that justice has been done within the situation they may take revenge and punish the individual in a manner they see fit, e.g. by violently attacking them. This, therefore, is a negative consequence of the lack of forgiveness, as it causes further conflict.

### Forgiveness in Religious Views

- Many religious people might rely on their faith in God to help them to forgive others. Different religions have teachings which encourage or require forgiveness of others.
- Within many religions (e.g. Judaism, Christianity and Islam) there is the idea of emulating the behaviour of God and that humans should emulate this behaviour by forgiving others. A key teaching of religions such as Christianity, for example, where forgiveness is required of believers to forgive others in the same way that they believe that God forgives them.
- However, it is important to remember that every one of these religions also teaches that justice should be done. It is important that while forgiveness should be offered, the crime is not forgotten. To achieve justice. Crimes which go unpunished do not achieve justice within many religions. An important teaching of Christianity, it is important that crimes are punished. If a crime has been served the individual should be offered forgiveness and be able to move on.
- There are a number of verses within the Bible which directly address the issue of forgiveness.
  - 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 scroll to the right, describes how Jesus preaches infinite forgiveness when asked how many times people must forgive one another.
  - Within Islam, forgiveness is an important teaching for Muslims. While not a requirement, it is encouraged within Islam. Those who choose to forgive crimes committed against them within the Islamic faith are considered righteous. It is stated in the Qur'an that if a person amends, his reward is upon Allah' (Surah 42:40).
  - Within Judaism, Jews are called not to hold grudges against those who have wronged them. It is commanded within the Torah, as within Leviticus 19:18 it states, 'Do not hate your brother in your heart; love your neighbour as yourself. If anyone hates their neighbour, their sins against other human beings have to be forgiven between human beings. However, God does not forgive sins among man, but only sins against himself.





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## Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 
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 forgiveness		
I understand Islamic ideas about forgiveness		

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## Practice Exam-style Questions

### Forgiveness

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

- Which of the following is not a Bible verse regarding forgiveness?
  - John 3:10
  - Colossians 3:13
  - Romans 5:20
  - Matthew 18:21–22
- What do many Christians rely on in order to help them forgive?
  - Communion
  - Rituals
  - Conversations
  - Prayer
- Which of the following Bible verses is also cited within Jewish discussions of forgiveness?
  - John 3:16
  - Revelation 10:20
  - Micah 6:5
  - Leviticus 19:18
- Which of the following is forgiveness considered to be within Islam?
  - Looked upon favourably by God
  - Looked upon disapprovingly by God
  - A commandment
  - A requirement

- Give two Bible verses regarding forgiveness.
- Explain two reasons why a religious person should forgive.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain two different religious beliefs regarding forgiveness.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'Religious people are required to forgive criminals.'  
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
  - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
  - give reasoned arguments against this idea
  - refer to religious viewpoints
  - refer to non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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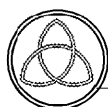
# The Death Penalty

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## Keywords

- **An eye for an eye** this is an Old Testament idea regarding the idea that the punishment for a crime should be directly proportional to the crime
- **Capital punishment** this is another term for the death penalty
- **Electric chair** this is a method of execution in which an individual is killed via electric currents sent through their body
- **Exoneration** the declaring of an individual to be innocent of a crime they have been convicted of
- **Hudud** capital punishment or corporal punishment has been mentioned within Islam
- **Justice** the idea that a fair, qualitative punishment has to be given
- **Lethal injection** a concoction of lethal medications used within the US to execute inmates sentenced to the death penalty
- **Retribution** the aim of punishment focused on revenge



## Overview

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



## Key Points

### Reasons for the Death Penalty

- Many people feel that the death penalty is just because it applies the same punishment as they have often inflicted upon their victims, such as in the case of murder.
- It will help the families of victims of heinous crimes feel that justice has been done.
- Severe punishments such as the death penalty might stop others from committing similar crimes and make society a safer place to live (deterrent).
- It helps keep society safe from the most dangerous criminals as they will never be released.

### Christian Arguments against the Death Penalty

- Many Christians hold the view that the death penalty is not a just punishment. The Ten Commandments specifically prohibit murder as being a sin, which would lead to the death penalty to point out that the killing of an individual, even if justified by the law, 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 and therefore, should be given importance over Old Testament ideas.
- Quakers, or the Society of Friends, are a group of Christians whose viewpoint is largely focused around pacifism.
- Some Christians would emphasise rehabilitation within prison programmes as opposed to punishment.
- The Bible teaches that you should 'pray for those who persecute you', leading to the idea that instead be focused on praying for criminals rather than trying to put them to death.
- In July 2018 Pope Francis changed the catechism of the Catholic Church to state that the death penalty is 'incompatible with the dignity of human beings', an interesting departure from the Church's traditional teaching that God has the right to give death to authorities such as governments.
- Some Christians argue that only God should have the power and authority to take a life and being should not take a life even if it is in the form of punishment. Life with God is sacred (**sanctity of life**) and, therefore, it should not be taken for any reason.
- Some Christians make the argument that the way in which the death penalty is administered. There is debate about to what extent those who opt for death by lethal injection. The use of the drugs used to stop their hearts, and on this basis some Christians would argue that administering the punishment does not uphold the Christian principle of the sanctity of life.
- Another Christian argument, specifically centred on the states within the US which still have the death penalty, is the debate about how the death penalty is administered. Some forms of execution, 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 prisoners in Louisiana and campaigning against the death penalty in the United States. She is one of the most prominent people who opposes the death penalty.

### Christian Arguments For

- Some Christians take a retributive view of the death penalty. These Christians believe that 'an eye for an eye' is the only way to ensure that wrongdoers are punished. These Christians.
- 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 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, idolatry and murder.
- In this way, some Christians make the case for the death penalty as being an equally weighted retributive punishment.
- Many Christians who hold this view can be found within the southern states of the US, within which the death penalty is still legal in many states.
- Romans 13 specifically teaches that the government has the right to wield a sword, 'to punish the wrongdoer and to protect the good doer'.
- Genesis 9:6 is a Bible verse which could be used to support the death penalty, 'Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed'.
- Some Christians point to Old Testament passages such as Leviticus 24:17-21 as evidence of the moral acceptability of the death penalty.

*Anyone who injures their neighbour is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth*

*Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed*

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

**Other Religious Viewpoints:**

- Within Islam, the death penalty is considered to be acceptable for certain crimes if they can be completely proven without even a shadow of a doubt. The Prophet sentenced those who committed the crime of murder, so for this reason some Muslims might argue that the death penalty is permissible. The crimes for which the death penalty is given within the Qur'an are capital hudud punishments.
- However, other Muslims argue that since the Qur'an teaches against killing, the death penalty should not be allowed.
- Within Judaism, the death penalty is acceptable in some cases. Generally, Jews believe that those who committed truly heinous crimes should be put to death as they will not be able to repent. Some might cite a similar verse to some Christians, such as Leviticus 24:17–22, which is found in the Torah as well as the Old Testament, as an example of a teaching to justify the death penalty. Teachings from within the Talmud, an important Jewish document, support the death penalty.

**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 utilitarianism, a form of thought which aims to achieve the greatest level of happiness for the greatest number of people. If something will achieve this then it is considered to be moral.
- Generally speaking, within the principle of utility, which is a utilitarian moral theory, the death penalty is considered to be wrong as it is judged to cause more suffering than it does good. It is not considered to be moral, and is, therefore, considered to be bad.



**Student Checklist**

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😐	Sure 😊
I understand what the death penalty is			
I can detail the Christian arguments for the death penalty			
I can detail the Christian arguments against the death penalty			
I understand Islamic ideas 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 one correct answer)

- Which of the following is not a Bible verse used to debate the death penalty?
  - Genesis 9:6
  - Leviticus 24:17-22
  - John 3:16
  - Exodus 20:13
- Which of the following is not a form of administering the death penalty?
  - Electric chair
  - Lethal injection
  - Drowning
  - Firing squad
- Which of the following is a Bible verse which is used to oppose the death penalty?
  - Romans 13
  - Leviticus 24:17-22
  - Genesis 9:6
  - Exodus 20:13
- In which of the following countries is the death penalty currently legal?
  - England
  - USA
  - Scotland
  - Cyprus
- Give two Bible verses which oppose the use of the death penalty.
- Explain two other religious teachings on the death penalty.
  - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain why some Christians might support the death penalty, while others might oppose it. Refer to the use of Bible verses.
  - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious teaching.
- 'The Death penalty is never justifiable.'  
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
  - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
  - give reasoned arguments against this idea
  - refer to religious viewpoints
  - refer to non-religious viewpoints
  - reach a justified conclusion

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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 of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark for each correct point (max. 2)  
Students may describe some of the following ways:
- Any relevant example will be accepted.
  - An example of an answer might be something like how in some instances, to tell the truth is the kinder thing to do, and cause less suffering. Based on the situation someone might choose to do to tell the lie to stop suffering. (1)
  - However, someone who considers this to be a totally immoral thing to do would not tell the lie to cause suffering. (2)

6. 2 marks per way for a total of **4 marks:**  
Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks  
Students may describe some of the following ways:
- Students should show awareness of the definition of utilitarianism.
  - This is a system of ethics which aims to achieve the greatest happiness for the greatest number.
  - This belief is less concerned with whether or not an action is morally good or bad, but more concerned with the outcome will garner pleasure or happiness for the most people possible.
  - Students might include an example of how utilitarian ethics might be used during the Trolley Problem regarding moral choices. This includes but is not limited to the Trolley Problem, where a choice is made between the happiness or wellbeing of the many at the expense of the few.

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**  
Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 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 approaches to morality.
  - Within Christianity, morality is not necessarily structured around alleviating suffering, but rather the will of God. Therefore, if there are rules within the Bible which might potentially conflict with causing less suffering, they would still consider following these to be moral.
  - For example, if there were an instance in which telling a lie would cause less suffering, a Christian might consider it their moral duty to tell the truth anyway, as telling the truth is one of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.
  - Some Christians, however, might choose to act in such a way that minimises the suffering of the individual, as some Christians also practise utilitarian ethics, even if this breaks the rules of the Bible.
  - They might do this because Jesus described loving your neighbour as being the most important, being the filter through which Christians should view all other commandments.
  - They might consider an act which minimises suffering to be the most loving way to act, and therefore, would choose to support or commit an action which goes against the rules of the Bible. Christians support homosexual marriage even though this is not allowed according to the Bible, as it shows compassion and minimises the suffering of those who wish to enter into a relationship with 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 reached if only one point of view is considered
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

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***'An act which causes suffering is always immoral.'***

**Arguments for:**

- Students should be able to show that different groups of people have different views on what is good or evil. Students should show an understanding of what evil and immorality are.
- Some people might judge an act which causes suffering as being innately immoral because of their conscience. This is the feeling of emotional guilt experienced naturally by humans. An act which causes suffering which is considered to be immoral or wrong. (1)
- Some people would see the experience of suffering due to an immoral act and would judge that they would view the act as being immoral. (1)
- A utilitarian, for example, might consider the act to be immoral based on the amount of suffering it causes. An act is considered to be moral if it causes the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. If an act causes just one person, but a huge amount of happiness for others, then it would be considered moral. If an act causes a large amount of suffering to the majority of people, then it would be considered immoral.

**Arguments against:**

- Christians might take a number of different views. For example, some Christians believe that an act is moral even if the act which causes suffering is considered to be a command in the Bible.
- They would emphasise the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 22:37–40 that the most important commandment is to love your neighbour, meaning that acting in a loving way towards your neighbour is moral. Therefore, an act which causes suffering for a neighbour would be considered immoral.
- Some Christians, however, take their ideas about what is and what isn't moral from the Bible. Upholding of the rules within the Bible regarding moral codes would be considered moral. These Christians might consider an act which is against the moral codes of the Bible to be immoral, but consider an act which is against the rules of the Bible but causes suffering to be moral.
- It can also depend on the situation – for example, an act might cause suffering if an individual was attempting to commit an immoral act, then it is considered to be moral. An example of this would be an individual defending themselves against a robbery. This act causes injury and suffering in the robber, but acts of self-defence are considered moral because the victim has no choice.

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## Reasons for Crime

**1–4. Multiple-choice:** Correct answers in order: (a), (b), (c), (c) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark for each correct point (max. 2)

Students may describe some of the following ways:

- Hate crimes – crimes motivated by hatred of a particular group, such as racism or a crime based on the sexuality of the victim (1)
- Unjust law – breaking a law which is morally wrong (1)
- Poverty – breaking the law out of necessity due to extreme poverty (1)
- Addiction – breaking the law in order to fulfil the need of obtaining a substance to which they are addicted (1)
- Upbringing – an individual whose background makes them more likely to commit a crime (1)

6. 2 marks per way for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

Students may describe some of the following ways:

- Helping those who experience poverty via charity schemes or volunteering to help them out of poverty or better their situation. (1)
- They might also volunteer to work within prisons in rehabilitation schemes so that those serving their crime are helped to not reoffend once they are released from prison. (1)
- This is in fulfilment of what some Christians consider to be a commandment given by Jesus encourages visiting the prisoners in Matthew 25:36. (2)
- Christians might also encourage others to be aware of and respect the laws of the land as taught in the Bible that believers should obey the laws of the land they are living in so that Christians remain on the right side of the law. (2)
- They might also attempt to help alleviate the causes of suffering of addiction by working in crisis centres. (1)

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for each way of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Paul taught in the Bible that believers should obey the laws of the land they are living in as it is important that Christians remain on the right side of the law. (1)
- Romans 13:1–7 states that, 'Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities that which God has established.' (1)
- Therefore, due to this teaching some Christians might argue that even if the law is unjust, they should work towards changing the law rather than breaking it. (2)
- However, there have been instances in which Christians have considered the breaking of laws to be morally acceptable. (1)
- For example, an individual who has broken laws in order to demonstrate that the law is unjust, such as Martin Luther King Jr, who led protests within the United States, staging sit-ins which challenged racial segregation, in order to demonstrate that these laws were unjust. (2)
- His Christian faith informed much of his ethos regarding his non-violent approach to breaking segregation laws, he did so peacefully; for example, staging sit-ins, rather than violent protests. (1)

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 reached if only one point of view is considered mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

**'Those who commit crimes are simply evil.'**

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Students could include any of the following points (answers are not limited to these answers will be accepted):

- The laws of a country are not necessarily tied to morality within the Christian faith. As a result, it is not necessarily all crimes which are considered to be evil. (1)
- There are some things which are considered to be immoral within Christianity but are within the bounds of the law. (1)
- Some crimes Christians would consider to be evil; however, there is the idea of loving the sinner but hating the sin which has been committed, but love the sinner. This means Christians should love the murderer. (2)
- Some Christians would argue that certain crimes, such as murder, are evil as they take the life of another individual, which is the right only of God within Christianity. As a result, Christianity is considered to be sacred and, therefore, should be treated with respect. (1)
- However, Christianity also places a large amount of emphasis on the forgiveness of those within disadvantaged situations. (1)
- This might lead Christians to believe in and advocate for leniency regarding individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds which might be contributing factors towards committing crimes. (1)
- Jesus taught repeatedly throughout the Gospels that Christians should be kind and when possible. (1)
- Many Christians interpret this to mean that compassion should be shown to those living in poverty. (1)
- Some Christians might attempt to alleviate addiction as a cause of crime by attempting to help addicts avoid committing crime. (1)
- This might be done by alleviating the suffering they feel and offering them help through support groups, via crisis centres, etc. (2)

## Aims of Punishment

**1–4. Multiple-choice:** Correct answers in order: (b), (d), (a), (a) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

**5.** 1 mark for each correct point (max. 2)

- Any relevant Bible verses will be accepted; however, examples might include:  
For – Matthew 5:38–99, 44  
Against – Deuteronomy 19:21

**6.** 2 marks per way for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

Students may describe some of the following reasons, or any other relevant and sensible reasons:

- Retribution feels just – it fulfils the ideas of justice held by society as people feel that the person who has committed the crime has paid for the crime they have committed. There is a sense of justice in society when people feel that justice has been served. (2)
- It can help the victim (or the victim's family) to feel that they have been given justice and they may be able to move on. (1)
- It marries well with the aim of deterrence as a retributive punishment might stop another person from potentially committing the same crime. (2)
- It underlines the serious nature of the individual crime, showing how seriously it should be taken. (1)
- As the punishment is retributive, the punishment will generally fit the crime, and the punishment is fair. (1)

**7.** 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Students should show an awareness that rehabilitation is considered to be the best way for Christians. (1)
- Many Christians champion that the aim of reformation is highly important and that this is the best way to help the individual to make better choices and a better life, and reduce the likelihood of a reoffence. (2)

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- Jesus within the Gospels contradicts the Old Testament teaching of ‘an eye for an eye’, and to continually forgive people (seventy times seven times).
- Therefore, on the basis of this scriptural teaching, some Christians would argue that the best way forward would instead be to work towards forgiveness. (2)

**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 reached if only one point of view is considered
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should give a balanced account of some of the aims of punishment mentioned in the course. An argued answer including content from the course will be accepted. Examples of points from a student’s answer are as follows:

- Many people feel that retribution is an aim of punishment for which justice is done.
- The victim’s family and the victim are given justice for the crime which has been committed. Retribution usually fits the crime, which some would argue is a just aim.
- Within a Christian viewpoint, for some Christians retribution is the ultimate aim of punishment.
- This is based on the biblical teaching of requiring ‘an eye for an eye’. (1)
- However, some Christians argue that retribution should not be the main aim of punishment. It is an important part of society and is important to a just God, Jesus emphatically taught the opposite way forward, leading many Christians to prefer the aim of rehabilitation. (2)
- Many Christians point towards Matthew 5:38–39, 44 as being a teaching regarding the aim of rehabilitation over retribution. (1)
- ‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you’ Matthew 5:38–44
- They might argue that reformation helps shape society into a better and safer place than retribution does not as it only achieves justice in the individual case of the crime. It could lead to a convicted criminal towards the system, leading them to reoffend. (2)
- Within Islam, retribution is an option and is a just punishment; however, believing in this will result in a reward from Allah in the afterlife. (1)
- Many Muslims might point towards deterrence as being a better aim of punishment. In the hudud laws of punishment there are certain physical punishments which are given to deter people from committing crimes.
- One of the main aims of the hudud punishments is to be a visible deterrent to others. It could be argued to be a point supporting the use of deterrence over retribution. It would make society safer from those who would choose not to commit crimes in order to avoid the punishment.

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## Treatment of Criminals

**1–4. Multiple-choice:** Correct answers in order: (b), (d), (b), (b) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

**5.** 1 mark for each correct point (max. 2)

Students may describe some of the following ways:

- Any relevant examples of method of punishment might be acceptable; for example, community service, fines. (1)
- Student should be able to explain to a sufficient extent what each of these methods of punishment is. For example, 'community service is an act of labour in service of the community such as picking up litter' or 'prison is a crime such as vandalism'. (1)

**6.** 2 marks per way for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

Students may describe some of the examples:

- It is the responsibility of the state to treat prisoners with care, providing them with what they have lost is freedom, but they are still human beings with human rights. (1)
- Christians believe that Jesus taught to be kind to all, including prisoners. (1)
- They then would believe that they have a responsibility to make sure that prisoners are still human beings made in the image of God. (1)
- By treating prisoners badly in a prison, the cycle of offending is likely to continue. If they are given good treatment and the opportunity for rehabilitation, they can repent of their crimes and return to society, hopefully not reoffending. (2)
- This will reduce suffering. Christians consider it important that individuals are given the opportunity to repent and be forgiven for their crimes, because of Jesus' teachings. (1)

**7.** 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Some conservative Christians believe that life in prison should be unpleasant. If life in prison is a comfortable and happy existence then criminals will not consider their actions wrong. (1)
- They might believe in more of an 'eye for an eye' method of punishment, and more severe punishments, such as corporal punishment or capital punishment (the death penalty). (1)
- This approach emphasises the need for punishment in order to establish justice. (1)
- However, more liberal Christians might agree that prison should be a punishment. (1)
- The loss of freedom is the punishment, and the prisoners should still have human rights. (1)
- They might use the teaching of Matthew 25:36, which states: 'I was naked and you did not clothe me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (1)
- To indicate that being kind to those who are imprisoned is an important part of Christianity. (1)
- Reason they might be involved with reformation programmes within prisons. (1)

**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 reached if only one point of view is considered. No mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

A well-argued answer including content from the course will be accepted. Examples of content within a student's answer are as follows:

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- The treatment of prisoners and the conditions in which they are kept within gaol is a point of concern among many religious people, as there are problems within the treatment of criminals.
- Considering that on average there is one suicide per week in English and Welsh prisons, being an issue of treatment of prisoners within prison.
- Some might argue that prisoners do not lose their human rights, only their freedom. They are given proper food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, etc. For those within the responsibility of the government to provide these. Many people argue that the opportunity to reform – to better themselves through education and reform provided while they served their sentence and are released back into society, they are able to make a positive contribution to society and mean that they will not reoffend and will have the chance of a better life.
- Some people might argue that prisoners have committed horrible crimes and deserve to be punished; that when some committed unspeakable crimes such as murder or rape, they deserve a comfortable existence.
- However, counterarguments for this could be that their sentence is their punishment and anything beyond this is unduly cruel.
- Many Christians feel that prisoners are serving out their sentence and that they should be treated with compassion and love that Jesus showed to many within the Bible who were convicted. For this reason, many Christians take part in programmes to attempt to help rehabilitate prisoners. In an effort to get involved with rehabilitation, Christians believe they are fulfilling the parable in Matthew 25:36 which states: 'I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you came to me.'
- Christians might argue that efforts instead should be made to reform the prison system. If they understand what they did is wrong, they are repentant and they are able to reform and not reoffend.

## Forgiveness

**1–4. Multiple-choice:** Correct answers in order: (a), (d), (d), (a) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark for each correct point (max. 2)

**Students should give any of the following examples:**

- Colossians 3:13
- Romans 5:20
- Matthew 18:21–22

6. 2 marks per way for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

Students may describe some of the examples:

- Students should show awareness that the main reasons that Christians should forgive others is the emphasis on forgiveness and also directly commanded that it was important to forgive others. The Bible teaches that you cannot be forgiven without forgiving yourself. (2)
- They might also emphasise that it is important for Christians to forgive others. The Bible teaches that you cannot be forgiven without forgiving yourself. (2)
- They might want to follow Jesus' example. An example of Jesus forgiving should be given. A point – an example could be Jesus' choice to forgive those who mock him while he was on the cross. (2)

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Within Christianity, there is a huge emphasis on forgiveness and the importance of forgiving others. Jesus emphasised that forgiving others was necessary in order to be given forgiveness. (1)
- Colossians 3:13 is an example of a Bible verse which directly instructs believers to forgive each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. (2)
- Forgiveness and help to forgive is hugely important within Christianity, represented in the Lord's Prayer, as Jesus taught Christians to pray. (1)

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- Believers are instructed in Matthew 18:21–22 to forgive each other not seven times but seventy seven times, indicating ongoing forgiveness within the community. They are directly instructed to forgive and turn the other cheek. (2)
- Within Judaism, Jews are called not to hold grudges against those who have wronged them.
- This is commanded within the Torah, as within Leviticus 19:18 it states, 'Do not hate your brother in your heart; love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord your God. Do not hate against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord your God.'
- Moreover, sins against other human beings have to be forgiven between human beings. God does not forgive sins among man, but only sins against himself. (2)
- Within Islam, forgiveness is an important teaching for Muslims. While forgiveness is encouraged within Islam. (1)
- Those who choose to forgive rather than exact revenge for crimes committed against them are considered to get rewards from God upon death for their choice of forgiveness. It is stated in the Qur'an that 'whosoever forgives and makes amends, his reward is upon Allah' (Surah Al-Baqara 2:199).

## 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 reached if only one point of view is considered. No mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should, in their answer, show awareness that forgiveness is not a requirement for all religions; however, it is of some religious traditions such as Christianity.

- Within Christianity, forgiveness is a requirement within the faith. (1)
- Jesus taught that forgiving is one of the most important things an individual can do. An example of a Bible verse which directly instructs believers to forgive each other is Matthew 18:21–22. 'One of them answered and said, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times.'
- This is a direct instruction from the Bible to forgive and, therefore, Christians are required to forgive as God forgave them. (1)
- Within Judaism, forgiveness is a requirement to an extent. Jews are called to forgive those who have wronged them. (1)
- This is due to a teaching in the Torah, as within Leviticus 19:18 it states, 'Do not hate your brother in your heart; love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord your God. Do not hate against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord your God.'
- Moreover, sins against other human beings have to be forgiven between human beings. God does not forgive sins among man, but only sins against himself. Therefore, forgiveness is required between human beings.
- Within Islamic tradition, forgiveness is not a requirement. Those who have been wronged, or the family of a victim, are entitled to exact equally weighted revenge against the perpetrator if it is proved without a reasonable doubt that the individual committed the crime. (2)
- However, it is important to remember that forgiveness is considered to be a virtue. Those who choose to forgive the individual rather than to exact revenge. The Qur'an states that 'whosoever forgives and makes amends, his rewards is upon Allah'. (2)
- While not necessarily a requirement for all religious people, forgiveness might be a requirement of all different faiths, or people of no faith, because it releases the victim or the perpetrator from resentment. (2)
- It can be healing and help them to move past what has happened to them and the truly repentant criminal to move past their mistakes and be a functional member of society.

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## The Death Penalty

**1–4. Multiple-choice:** Correct answers in order: (c), (c), (d), (b) (1 mark each for a total

5. 1 mark for each correct point (max. 2)

Any relevant examples of Bible verses will be accepted. For example:

- Exodus 20:13
- Matthew 5:39

6. 2 marks per way for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

Students may describe some of the examples:

- Within Islam, the death penalty is considered to be acceptable for certain crimes.
- However, the crime must be completely proven without even a shadow of a doubt.
- The Prophet sentenced people to death for having committed the crime of murder. Muslims might argue that the death penalty is permissible. The crimes for which the Qur'an are included within the hudud punishments. (2)
- However, other Muslims argue that since the Qur'an teaches against killing, this is not allowed. (1)
- Within Judaism, the death penalty is acceptable in some cases. Generally, Jews who committed truly heinous crimes should be put to death as they will not be able to atone for their sins.
- Like Christians, Jews also follow Exodus 20:13, which commands that killing is forbidden.
- They might cite a similar verse to some Christians, such as Leviticus 24:17–22. The Torah as well as the Old Testament, as an example of a teaching to justify their actions. Teachings from within the Talmud, an important Jewish document, allow the death penalty.

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Students should show awareness that there are multiple viewpoints towards the death penalty.
- Some Christians might support the death penalty due to various Old Testament teachings towards the fact that there are teachings throughout the Bible which specify that certain specific acts should be punished retributively. (2)
- For example, Leviticus 24 specifically states 'Anyone who injures their neighbor in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth'; therefore, some Christians extend this to being a 'life for a life' and for crimes such as murder, the death penalty is justified.
- They might argue that because there are 36 crimes for which the death penalty is prescribed, including blasphemy, idolatry and murder, God is content with the death penalty.
- They might also argue that a government has the power given by God to wield the sword of justice. Romans 13:4; therefore, the death penalty is at the discretion of the government.
- However, there are Christians who oppose the death penalty. They might argue that the Bible specifically prohibit murder as being a sin, which would lead those who are against the death penalty to argue that the killing of an individual, even if justified by a crime they have committed, is still a sin.
- This teaching is found in Exodus 20:13 which states 'Thou shall not kill'. The teachings of Jesus on mercy and forgiveness are heavily emphasised within the teachings of Christianity and therefore, should be given importance over Old Testament ideas. (2)

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 reached if only one point of view is considered. No mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

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Students should show that there are a variety of different viewpoints on this. They should consider different Christian viewpoints. They might also include other religious viewpoints such as the Islamic perspective. Details could include:

- Some Christians might argue that the death penalty can be justified due to the crime committed by the prisoner. There are teachings throughout the Bible which specifically underline that certain acts should be punished retributively.
- For example, Leviticus 24 specifically states 'Anyone who injures their neighbour in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth'; therefore, some Christians might argue that the death penalty extends to being a 'life for a life' and for crimes such as murder, the death penalty is justified.
- Genesis 9:6 is a Bible verse which could be used to support the death penalty, 'Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed'. They might take this as a direct teaching that the death penalty in the case of a murder having been committed is justified.
- Some Christians do not think that the death penalty is justifiable. They might argue that killing is wrong, and, therefore, it does not matter whether or not the killing is justified. If killing is wrong, and, therefore, it cannot be justified, as it is directly breaking the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill'.
- Some Christians would emphasise rehabilitation within prison programmes as well with the New Testament teachings of forgiveness, grace and second chances.
- For some Christians, the death penalty can never be justified. Quakers, or the Society of Friends, are a Christian group whose viewpoint is largely focused around pacifism. They oppose the death penalty on their pacifist beliefs. In Catholicism, it had traditionally been considered to be justifiable, however, in July 2018 Pope Francis changed the catechism of the Catholic Church to state that the death penalty is not acceptable in all cases, meaning that the Catholic Church is now wholly opposed to the death penalty.
- Some Christians make the argument that the way in which the death penalty is carried out is the issue. There is a debate about to what extent those who opt for death by lethal injection can be humanely put to death, and on this basis some Christians would argue that the death penalty is not justifiable as punishment does not uphold the Christian principle of the dignity of life.
- Within Islamic thought, the death penalty is considered to be justifiable for certain crimes. The death penalty must be completely proven without even a shadow of a doubt. The Prophet Muhammad is reported to have said that if a man committed the crime of murder, so for this reason some Muslims might argue that the death penalty is justifiable. The crimes for which the death penalty is given within the Qur'an are included in the list of capital crimes.
- Within Judaism, the death penalty is acceptable in some cases. Generally, Jews believe that those who have committed truly heinous crimes should be put to death as they will not be able to atone for their sins. They might cite a similar verse to some Christians, such as Leviticus 24:17–22, which is found in the Old Testament, as an example of a teaching to justify their use of the death penalty. The Talmud, an important Jewish document, allows the death penalty.

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