**QA Religious Studies A - Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment ( Paper 2)**

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| **Key Words** | | | |
| Community Service | Working in the community to pay back for a criminal act. | Hate Crime | A crime, often violent, which is motivated by hatred e.g. racism, homophobia. |
| Corporal Punishment | Using physical pain as a punishment- illegal in the UK. | Mental Illness | A medical condition that affects a person’s feelings, emotions or moods. |
| Crime | An action which is against the law and incurs a punishment. | Poverty | Being poor. Not having enough money to be able to live a comfortable life. |
| Death Penalty | (Capital Punishment) A form of punishment where the offender is killed for their crime. | Prison | A place where criminals are sent as punishment. They have no freedom. |
| Deterrence | An aim of punishment: to put people off committing crimes by harsh treatment of offenders. | Punishment | Something negative done to criminals by the state. |
| Free will | The ability to make your own decision. | Reformation | An aim of punishment – to try and reform criminals. |
| Forgiveness | To show mercy and pardon someone for what they’ve done wrong. | Retribution | An aim of punishment – seeking a form of revenge on criminals. |

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| **Key Ideas** | | | | |
| **Attitudes to Crime** | **Good and Evil Intentions**  The Bible warns Christians against having **evil** thoughts which lead to evil actions. Avoiding sin and temptation steers Christians away from crime.  Christians would be more willing to treat an offender who had good intentions with more **mercy** than one who acted out of evil intentions.  Buddhists do not speak in terms of ‘good’ and ‘evil’. They use the terms of **‘skilful’** and **‘unskilful’** actions. A ‘skilful’ action is rooted in kindness and generosity. An ‘unskilful’ action is rooted in hatred, selfishness and ignorance. | | **Attitudes to Lawbreakers**  Christians do not believe that people are evil but that people can be **tempted** to do wrong and break the law.  Christians are taught to “love the sinner, hate the sin” so they should **forgive** those people who have done wrong but have admitted their mistakes and sought **atonement**.  Offenders should be punished by law and given basic human rights. However they should be given chance to reform and rehabilitate. | |
| **Reasons for Crime** | **- Poverty**; not having enough money or food. Stealing as a results of poverty is still wrong. **“Do not steal”** (10 Commandments - Christianity) “**Abstain from taking what is not given”** (Second Moral Precept in Buddhism)  - **Upbringing** (where people are not taught right from wrong).  **- Addiction** and **mental illness**; some people commit crimes to feed an addiction or are mentally ill. **Christians** and **Buddhists** believe people with addiction or mental illness should be treated with **compassion**.  **- Greed and Hate**; committing crimes out of a desire for things they cannot afford or for hatred. **Greed** and **Envy** are sins. **Hatred** and **Greed** are two of the **Three Poisons**. (Buddhism)  **- Opposition to unjust laws;** breaking the law to oppose hateful or unjust laws. **Christians** should challenge injustice but should not use violence. E.g. Rosa Parks challenging segregation in America in the 1960’s. | | | |
| **Three Aims of Punishment** | **Deterrence**  This aim of punishment seeks to **use punishment as a message** to others considering committing crime. By giving one criminal a harsh punishment others may be put off committing a similar crime. | **Reformation**  This aim of punishment seeks to help criminals **change their behaviour for the better**. It may involve therapy, education or training. Many Christians support this as a form of **mercy**. ( ‘Love your neighbour’) | | **Retribution**  This aim of punishment is society getting its own back on the offender. The Old Testament says **‘an eye for an eye’** so some Christians would argue that this form of punishment is just according to the Bible. |
| **Forgiveness** | **Forgiveness** is at the heart of Jesus’ teaching. It means to show **mercy** and pardon someone for what they have done wrong but showing someone forgiveness does not mean they should not be punished for their crimes.  When Jesus was crucified, he forgave those who sentenced him to death and crucified him saying: ‘**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do’**.  Forgiveness leads Christians to support reformation as an aim of punishment as it allows the criminal to be forgiven and to ask for forgiveness. They also use forgiveness as an argument against the death penalty.  In Buddhism, f**orgiveness** allows people to let go of anger which causes suffering. | | | |
| **Attitudes to Punishment** | **Prisons**  Many Christians believe prisoners should be **treated** **well** when in prison as even though they have done wrong they do not believe in evil people as much as evil actions.  Buddhists believe the main reason for the use of prison is to protect society. | **Corporal Punishment**  Most Christians do not support using physical pain as a form of punishment as it is **harmful** and **negative**. It is illegal in the UK.  Buddhists do not agree with CP as it causes suffering and it may encourage resentment. | | **Community Service**  Many Christians and Buddhists are in favour of community service as criminals work to **repay** their community. It allows criminals to make up for what they have done and does not harm the offender in the process. |
| **Death Penalty** | The **death penalty** means the state killing of criminals who have committed the worst crimes. It has not been used in the UK since 1969 but is still a common punishment elsewhere in the world.  - Some Christians argue that the death penalty is a **just** punishment for murder as the Bible says both ‘**you shall not kill’** and **‘an eye for an eye’**. They may also argue that it **deters** criminals and keeps people safe.  - Other Christians argue that the death penalty goes against **sanctity of life**. Life is sacred and holy and only God can give and take life. They might also argue that the death penalty goes against the aim of **reformation**.  - Buddhists disagree with the death penalty as it is against the **First Moral Precept**: **To abstain from taking life.** | | | |

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| **Teachings for Memorisation**  Related image | **Good and evil intentions**   * **“‘You shall not murder’ , and anyone who murders will be subjected to judgement” (Matthew 5:22 – Christianity)**   **Law and Order**   * **“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except which God has established”(Romans 13:1 – Christianity)** * **“Allah doth command you...when ye judge between man and man, that ye judge with justice” (Qur’an 4;58 – Islam)**   **Reformation**   * **“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21)**   **Corporal Punishment**   * **“Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.” ( Proverbs 13:24 – Christianity)** * **The Laws Of Manu advise the removal of a thieves hand. However, corporal punishment is not legal in Indian law today. ( Hinduism)** | | **Death Penalty**   * **“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed” ( Genesis 9:6- Christianity)** * **“I take no pleasure from the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn away from their ways and live.” (Ezekiel 33:11 – Christianity)** * **Abstain from taking life. ( First Moral Precept – Buddhism)**   **Forgiveness**   * **“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us” ( The Lord’s Prayer – Christianity)** * **“ ‘Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” ( Matthew 18:21-22 – Christianity)** * **“Whoever forgives and makes amends, his reward is upon Allah” ( Surah 42;40- Islam)** |
| **Test Yourself!**  **(All answers on the first page)**  Related image | **Define the following:**  **a) Retribution b) Deterrence c) Corporal Punishment d) Forgiveness e) Crime f) Retribution g) Free Will**  **Explain the following:**  **a) two aims of punishment b) three causes of crime c) two ways criminals should be treated d) two beliefs about the the death penalty e) two beliefs about forgiveness f) two beliefs about good and evil.**  **Write a plan for the following 12 mark questions:**  **a) “There is never any good reason for someone to commit a crime.” Evaluate this statement**  **b) “Hate crimes are the worst type of crime.” Evaluate this statement.**  **c) “Reformation is the best aim of punishment.” Evaluate this statement.**  **d) “The death penalty can never be justified.” Evaluate this statement.** | | |
| **Questions types**  Related image **on Paper 2** | **Wording** | **Explanation** | |
| **Give two.…** | **Just list two things-words or phrases.** | |
| **Explain two similar /contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about…**  **OR**  **Explain two similar /contrasting…** | **You must give and explain two beliefs about Corporal Punishment OR death Penalty OR Forgiveness from a Christian perspective and one other.**  **You must give and explain two beliefs/teachings/practices, but they must be contrasting or similar.** | |
| **Explain two religious beliefs about…** | **You must give and explain two religious beliefs. Use of a clear, specific quotation/teaching will earn the fifth mark.** | |
| **‘…………………..’ Evaluate this statement.**   * **Give developed arguments to support this statement** * **Give developed arguments to support a different point of view** * **Should refer to religious arguments** * **May refer to non-religious arguments** * **Reach a justified conclusion** | * **Support the statement and explain the reasons you give.** * **Provide a different point of view and explain the reasons you gave for it.** * **These could be religious and/or non- religious reasons.** * **A possible formula to use to organise your answer is PEARL (x3) on each side. Then add the justified conclusion.** * **PEARL = Point, Evidence, Argue, Religion. Link.** * **Give a justified conclusion to reach the highest marks** * **Save your strongest argument for the conclusion and explain why it is stronger than the other arguments you have written about.** | |
| **Useful websites and revision guides**  Related imageRelated image | **Exam board website, includes specification, practice papers, model answers.** [**http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062**](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062)  **My Revision Notes AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A (Hodder Education ISBN 978-1-510-40479-3)**  **AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide - AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (*Oxford University Press* *ISBN: 9780198422853*)** | | |