

## Crime and Punishment Revision Sheet

### Crime and Punishment

Crime: an offence, which is punishable by law.

Punishment: something legally done to somebody because of being found guilty of breaking a law

Intention: an aim or plan

Action: the fact or process of doing something, typically to achieve an aim

### Religious views on what is good and evil (must include intentions and actions)

Christians believe that you can produce a good action that is not set out in law. E.g. Kindness is not a law but seen as good. 'love thy neighbour.'

Christians and Muslims also believe that actions such as adultery are legal, but that they are still wrong.

Evil actions are considered those which cause suffering, injury or possible death. These include breaking the law like, murder, mass murder and terrorism.

Also Christians are not just warned against committing evil acts but also having evil intentions. 'I tell you that anyone who is angry...will be subject to punishment.' Jesus

### Reasons for crime

Opposition to unjust laws, Poverty, Greed, Upbringing, Addiction, Hate, Mental Illness.

### Religious views on these reasons and how to prevent them being reasons

Poverty can cause crime as people do not have the basic resources to survive so they steal. 'Focusing on poverty and sacrificing for the poor are at the heart of the gospel.' Pope Francis (Love thy neighbour)

Greed can cause crime, as people want more and more and exploit others. 'Competing for more distracts you.'

Qur'an

Addiction can cause crime as people may steal to get money to buy the thing they are addicted to. 'Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.' Bible

Hate can cause crime as people may persecute another group of people/person. Islam means peace.

### Different types of crime

Hate crime (violence against someone due to their religion, race, sexuality or gender), Theft (Stealing) and Murder (Killing)

### Shari'ah law categories for crime

Unforgiveable crimes (Hadud) – crimes such as adultery, theft, drinking alcohol and rebellion against the state

Forgivable crimes (Al-jynayaat) – crimes against the right of the individual, such as bodily harm and murder, for which the victim or family can gain credit by showing mercy.

Community crimes (Al Ta'azir) – crime that affects the community like fraud and anti-social behaviour.

Crimes against state law (Al-Mukhalafat) – crimes against a law of the state, such as parking offences and speeding.

### Religious views on different types of crime

Hate crime is wrong. 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free for you are all one in Christ.'

Murder is wrong. 'Thou shall not kill.' Bible

Theft is wrong is Christianity. 'Thou shall not steal.' Bible

Theft is wrong. 'As to the thief, male or female, cut off his or her hands.' Qur'an

Hate crime is wrong. 'Every Muslim is a brother to another Muslim.' – Hadith

### Religious views on suffering

Suffering can help people to improve as human beings. 'We glory in our suffering, as we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope.' – St Paul

Christians believe they should help those who suffer. 'Share each other's troubles and problems.' – St Paul

Suffering is allowed by Allah to test faith. 'you are sure to be tested...to hear much that is hurtful.' Qur'an

Muslims believe they should help those who suffer particularly those who are part of the Ummah. 'Every Muslim is a brother to another Muslim.' – Muhammad

### How religious people should respond if they cause suffering

Jesus taught Christians to say sorry and to try and help those who they make suffer. When Peter cut off the right ear of a servant to the high priest, Jesus healed the ear.

'Allah accepts the repentance of a person who apologise' – Hadith

### Aims of Punishment

**Retribution** - Retribution is the aim that criminals need to pay for their crime.

In favour of this: 'an eye for an eye' and in Islam 'As to the thief, male or female, cut off his or her hands.' Qur'an  
**Deterrence** - Deterrence is the aim that punishment should put people off committing a crime.

In favour of this: 'an eye for an eye' and in Islam 'As to the thief, male or female, cut off his or her hands.' Qur'an  
**Reform** - Reform is the aim that criminals should be taught not to commit crimes again.

In favour of this 'love thy enemy.' Jesus 'Compete with each other in doing good.' Qur'an  
**How should we treat criminals?**

Community service: a way of punishing offenders by making them do unpaid work in the community

Prison: a secure building where offenders are kept for a period of time set by a judge

Corporal punishment: punishment of an offender by causing them physical pain – illegal in the UK

**Religious view on treatment of criminals**

'He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.' Bible

'Treat others as you wish to be treated.' Bible

Christians are in favour of using prisons as long as prisoners are treated well. They also praise the punishment of community service.

'Cut the hands of thieves, whether man or woman.' Qur'an

Muslims see prison as a place to hold criminals while they await trial before their punishment.

Community service is rarely used under Shariah law as the punishment is not seen as severe enough

**Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

Forgiveness – stopping blaming/pardoning someone for what they have done

Reconciliation – bringing two people together who have opposed one another

Jesus dies to bring about forgiveness of man's sins and to reconcile humans with God

'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins'

Ephesians 1:7

Hadith (sayings of Muhammad) show him forgiving people even when provoked. 'Be forgiving and control yourself in the face of provocation.'

Quran tells Muslims to forgive. 'If a person is patient and forgives, this is one of the greatest things.'

**Religious arguments for and against Death Penalty**

The Shari'ah law says that the family of a murder victim can accept blood money rather than requiring capital punishment.

Capital punishment is a punishment in the Qur'an

Jesus banned retribution when he said 'an eye for an eye' is wrong.

The Bible sets down the death penalty as the punishment for a number of crimes, so God must allow it.