

## Crime and Punishment Overview

<u>Capital Punishment</u>	<u>Christian and Islamic Views on Capital Punishment</u>	<u>Christian and Islamic Teachings on Forgiveness</u>	<u>Causes of Crime and Responses</u>
<p>Capital punishment refers to the death sentence. Currently 53 countries such as China and Iran maintain capital punishment. Examples include a lethal injection, hanging and even stoning. The death sentence was abolished in the UK in 1969.</p>	<p><u>Advocates:</u> Those who support the death sentence (still exists in some American states) argue that such a strict punishment is a good way to deter criminals and allow for retribution for heinous crimes. They refer to the Old Testament, <i>"an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."</i></p> <p><u>Opposition:</u> Those who oppose would argue that innocent people have been wrongly accused and killed and capital punishment does not allow for reformation. Jesus taught, <i>"forgive not seven times but seventy times seven."</i></p>	<p><u>Advocates:</u> Supporters argue that hudud crimes are unforgivable (as stated in the Qur'an,) e.g. drinking alcohol, drugs and apostasy and should be punished to deter others. The Qur'an teaches, <i>'take not life which God has made, except by way of justice and law. Thus does he command so that you may have wisdom.'</i> Execution remains part of the law enforced in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar, UAE, Iran and Mauritania.</p> <p><u>Opposition:</u> Some Islamic countries (Pakistan) impose fines or corporal punishment instead, or alternatively accept diyya contributions as retribution. Muhammad encouraged forgiveness and some Muslims say only God should take away life. The Qur'an teaches, <i>"let them pardon and forgive. Do you not wish that God should forgive you? God is most forgiving and merciful."</i></p>	<p><u>Causes:</u> Causes include poverty, addiction, upbringing and greed.</p> <p><u>Responses in Christianity:</u> Jesus taught <i>"money is the root of all evil,"</i> meaning a focus on wealth can lead to crime, e.g. fraud. He taught in the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Sheep and Goats that to avoid crime humans should share their wealth, <i>"for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."</i></p> <p><u>Responses in Islam:</u> Similarly in Islam, Muslims share their wealth by giving zakat (2.5% of their income to the poor.) The Qur'an teaches that, <i>"alms are for the poor and the needy."</i></p>
<p><u>Aims of Punishment</u></p>	<p><u>Types of Punishment</u></p>	<p><u>Hate Crimes</u></p>	<p><u>Evil, Suffering and Freewill</u></p>

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<p>The aims of punishment can be remembered as <b>RDR</b>:</p> <p><b>Retribution</b> - to take ones revenge on the perpetrator "an eye for an eye." (Old Testament) Corporal punishment and capital punishment allow for revenge and this is one of the key reasons punishment is carried out in Islam, "cut the hands off thieves as a punishment for what they have done." (Qur'an)</p> <p><b>Deterrent</b> - to prevent similar crimes being carried out in the future. Fine and jail time aim to deter other people committing similar crimes.</p> <p><b>Reformation</b> - to encourage criminals to show improved behaviour. Jail time (with counselling/therapy) and community service encourage opportunities for improved behaviour. "Forgive not seven times but seventy times seven." (New Testament) "For I was in jail and you visited me." (Parable of the Sheep and Goats.)</p>	<p>The types of punishment can be remembered as <b>PCC</b>.</p> <p><b>Prison</b> - a loss of liberty imposed by the state. It is a controlled setting where all liberty including ones food and exercise is controlled. The length of a prison sentence should fit the crime committed, but critics argue prisons are overcrowded, underfunded, and full of drugs and gangs. In Islamic countries less emphasis is given on prison sentences in favour of corporal punishment.</p> <p><b>Corporal</b> - Involves punishments causing physical pain, i.e. lashing, beating, amputation and capital punishment. In Islamic countries there is greater emphasis placed on corporal punishments since they see this as more effective in deterring criminal behaviour, "cut the hands off thieves as a punishment for what they have done." (Qur'an) Many Christians say it is too violent and again the human rights of criminals. They favour prison time.</p> <p><b>Community service</b> - giving back through helping out in the community e.g. cleaning streets. This allows for reformation (improved behaviour) and it is preferred by many Christians; "forgive not seven times but seventy times seven." (NT) However, many Muslims say it is too lenient and doesn't deter criminals.</p>	<p>Hate crimes include crimes that are specifically against ones gender, religion, sexual orientation or nationality. E.g. beating up a lesbian couple or attacking Muslims in a mosque.</p> <p><b>Christianity:</b></p> <p>Example: Dylan Roof killed nine African American Christians in Charleston (USA) in 2015 to 'ignite a race war.'</p> <p>Yet Christianity teaches of human equality. It teaches, "do not murder," since all life is sacred, "love your neighbour as yourself," and "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us to help those who we may not even have good relations with. "Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbour to him who fell among the robbers?" He said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."</p> <p><b>Islam:</b></p> <p>Example: Islamophobia - the dislike or prejudice towards Muslims such as verbal or physical abuse.</p> <p>Yet Islam teaches that "He created you from a single soul" and that all humans originate from the prophet Adam, so we should not act towards another human being in a way of prejudice or discrimination. The prophet Muhammad emphasized this by including Christians and Jews within the first ummah (community.)</p>	<p>Moral evil refers to evil committed by humans towards another human. Some people question how and why a loving God would allow such evil things to happen (the Problem of Evil).</p> <p><b>Christian responses to suffering:</b></p> <p>Suffering is not always unproductive - the Bible states that suffering can produce 'perseverance, character and hope.' According to Christians Jesus died on the cross to rid the world of sin (atonement), so we should avoid sin to not reintroduce suffering into the world.</p> <p>The Parable of the Sheep and Goats explains how Christians should respond to suffering in the world, they can 'feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty' etc. in order to support others overcome their suffering.</p> <p>In the story of Job, he recognises the power of God through his suffering. He loses his wife, crops and animals - but understands his place in the Universe as a result of his suffering.</p> <p><b>Islamic Responses to suffering:</b></p> <p>Suffering could be a test from God. God wishes to test ones faith and obedience, e.g. Ibrahim's test to sacrifice Ismail. If Muslims have caused others to suffer then they should repent, like Adam on Mount Arafat. Muslims must obey religious practices which encourage the suffering of some in the ummah to be shared with others, e.g. zakat helps shared the burden - the principle of sadaqah.</p>
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## Crime and Punishment Overview

For ethics only:

1 mark - **Define** simply the keywords/phrases. P

- Capital punishment - **the death sentence as a punishment for crime.**
- Corporal punishment
- Forgiveness
- Retribution
- Deterrence
- Reformation
- Community service
- Hate crimes
- The Problem of Evil

2 marks - Give two... (Can use Islam and Christianity as long as **two different points.**) PP

- Give two reasons why some religious believers accept capital punishment

P: Some Christians say it successfully allows for retribution.

P: Some Muslims teach that it prevents other similar crimes being committed (deterrent.)

- Give two religious beliefs about corporal punishment.

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- Give two examples of forgiveness within Christianity.
- Give two religious beliefs about retribution as an aim of punishment.
- Give two religious beliefs about deterrence as an aim of punishment.
- Give two examples of reformation as an aim of punishment.
- Give two religious beliefs about community service as a type of punishment.
- Give two examples of hate crimes.

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- Give two beliefs about how religious believers can respond to the Problem of Evil.

4 marks - **Explain two similar religious beliefs** about.... or two **contrasting religious beliefs** about... (Can use Christianity and Islam.) PEPE

- **Explain two similar** religious beliefs on capital punishment -

P: Some Christians believe that capital punishment is useful since it acts as success retribution. E: They say that if someone harms another then they too should suffer a harsh punishment as payback akin to an eye for an eye. P: Similarly, many Muslims say it is useful since it can successfully deter others from committing similar crimes. E: The belief is that if a murderer loses their life it can prevent others from committing similar acts, knowing they will face the death sentence.

- Explain two **contrasting** religious beliefs towards corporal punishment.

- Explain two **similar** religious beliefs about forgiveness.

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- Explain two **contrasting** religious views about retribution.
- Explain two **similar** religious beliefs about how best to deter crime.
- Explain two **contrasting** views about reformation as an aim of punishment.
- Explain two **contrasting** religious beliefs about community service.

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- Explain two **similar** religious responses to hate crimes.
- Explain two **similar** religious responses to the problem of suffering in the world.

**5** marks - Explain **two...** (Can use Christianity and Islam.) Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote. PEPEQ or PEQPE. They always begin 'explain two'... and might be teachings/ways/reasons why/examples of

- Explain two **religious teachings** about capital punishment. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.  
P: Some Christian's teach that the death sentence is useful in allowing for retribution. E: They say that if someone harms another then they too should suffer a harsh punishment as payback. Q: It is taught in the Bible, "an eye for an eye, tooth for tooth."  
P: In Islam it is taught that capital punishment can be useful since it can successfully deter others from committing similar crimes. E: The belief is that if a murderer loses their life it can prevent others from committing similar acts, knowing they will face the death sentence.

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- Explain two religious teachings about corporal punishment. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.
- Explain two religious teachings about forgiveness. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.
- Explain two examples of retribution as a form of punishment. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.
- Explain two religious teachings about deterrence as an aim of punishment. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.

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- Explain two religious teachings about reformation as an aim of punishment. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.
- Explain two examples of community service as an aim of punishment. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.
- Explain two religious teachings about hate crimes. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.
- Explain two religious teachings about the Problem of Evil. Must include a **scriptural link** aka quote.