

## Religion, crime and punishment

1.	What is the main rule within religion?	<b>'Do good and avoid evil'</b> . The good things please God/Allah. Avoid sin as their actions will be judged when they die.
2.	What evidence of the people being judged by the law of God is found within Christianity?	The parable of Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) Where by the people who have done 'good' by helping others <b>'for when I was hungry you fed me' 'for when I was imprisoned you visited me'</b> so by helping others in turn they were helping Jesus. These on Judgement Day became the sheep on Jesus' right and will enter heaven and they followed God's law. The ones, who hadn't done 'good' by ignoring those in needs, were the goats in the left and entered hell as they had disobeyed God's law. <b>'Whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me'</b>
3.	In Christianity how is evil possible?	Genesis 2 describes the 'Fall' within the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve use their gift of <b>free will</b> to disobey God. So humans have the free will to select good or evil. <b>We are all born with original sin</b> from Adam and Eve. Jesu was sent down as a way of Atonement to rectify the relationship between humanity and God.

## Law within society

1.	Within society how do people know what is right and wrong?	Using state law. In the UK ours was based on Christianity as this is a Christian country. However as society and its norms and values have evolved, sometimes this can contradict with religion.
2.	How are laws enforced within the UK?	Our laws are the rules that Parliament create and the Courts enforce them.
3.	Should religious people follow the law?	Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam) believe that God has commanded people to follow law. However some religions believe that God's law should be followed over the laws of the land. (instead of)
4.	How can some state and religious law contradict?	Some religious people believe it is better to break the law (of the country) than it is to sin against God's law.
5.	What is an example of the state laws and religious law contradict?	Homosexuality. Within UK law since 1967 it has been legal to practice. Since 2014 it is been legal to marry. However some religious people may state God would never allow homosexuality. Therefore wouldn't marry them.
6.	How does society show justice within the law?	If you break the law, so you be arrested or even imprisoned. You are always innocent until proven guilty. UK law in 1965 stopped capital punishment; Life in prison is the harshest punishment that can be given.

## Corporal punishment

7.	What is corporal punishment?	It involves pain – beating, flogging, often in public. It is not used in Europe.
8.	Criticism of this type of punishment?	Prisoners have human rights- this goes against these rights and encourages violence.
9.	A type of deterrence?	Others argue it would deter people from committing or recommitting crimes.
10.	What might a religious person say it a better form a public deterrence.	Community service – allows repayment of debt yet the prisoner can lead a normal life after and society can aid them to not reoffend.

## Christianity

11.	Why is corporal punishment wrong within Christianity?	'Speak up and judge fairly defend the rights of the poor and needy' proverbs 3:19. You should speak; people in prison deserve to be treated fairly. Christians may work to better conditions within prisons of people. I.e defending their rights.  Jesus taught those who live by the sword, die by the sword. Violence is wrong.
12.	What should prison be like?	Hard/ difficult. This will deter people from reoffending.
13.	When and why might some Christians agree with some forms of corporal punishment?	Disciplining children  There is evidence within the Bible where corporal punishment has been used on criminals but this is the old testament.
14.	Why else is it seen as wrong?	Goes against compassion and Agape

## The Death Penalty / Capital Punishment

15.	What is capital punishment?	Putting someone to death for a crime they have been proven guilty of, for example murder. It could be done through hanging, execution, electric chair or legal injection. Etc.
16.	Do people still carry out this punishment?	Yes, but only for murder, espionage (spying) and treason. Most of Europe and south America have abolished it. In the UK it was around 1964-5.
17.	Arguments for Capital Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) It is a good deterrent</li> <li>b) Cant reoffend</li> <li>c) It is cheaper than keeping them alive in prison</li> <li>d) Utilitarianism – benefits most of society</li> </ul>
18.	Arguments against Capital Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Hypocritical – can't teach murder is wrong by murdering someone</li> <li>b) Reformation isn't even tried</li> <li>c) Could be proven innocent – have been cases of this.</li> <li>d) Human rights</li> <li>e) Sanctity of life/ playing God</li> </ul>
	Christianity	<i>Mixed views</i>
19.	Why someone Christiana are against Capital Punishment	Jesus taught to love your enemies and turn the other cheek. Many Christians believe only God has the right to give and take life. Also they are against the violent nature of what capital punishment is all about.
20.	Why do some Christians in the United States agree with it?	It protects the innocent. <b>'Whoever sheds blood, by humans shall their blood be shed'</b> (Genesis 9:6) and <b>'Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death'</b> (Exodus 21:1) it is legal here.

<u>Crime</u>		
1.	What is an example of a crime?	Murder, theft, hate crimes etc.
2.	What does Christianity and Islam state about theft and murder?	Within Christianity it breaks two of the 10 commandments given to Moses by God. The Qur'an also condemns both too.
3.	Is murder the worst crime?	Often yes, because it goes against the <b>sanctity of life</b> (life is sacred). Only God has the right to create or take life. So to murder is playing God/ Shirk.
4.	What is the religious view on hate crimes?	Hate crimes are crimes committed against someone because of their ethnicity, religion etc. Religions believe equality within humanity is important and people should help the victims.
<u>Causes of crime</u>		
5.	How is poverty linked to a cause of crime?	If someone doesn't have enough money to support themselves and their family, they might become tempted to steal food or money, or earn money illegally e.g selling stolen goods or drugs. They often do this out of desperation.
6.	Upbringing	A troubled childhood, falling in with the wrong people or born into a family of criminals might take it more likely, as they perceive it as a normal way of life.
7.	Mental illness	People may not fully understand what they are doing (what is legal or illegal), they also may be vulnerable and easily persuaded to break the law.
8.	Addiction	Being dependent on drugs or alcohol may lead to desperation. They need constant money to keep up their addiction (fund it), they lose perception of morality and break the law. Often they steal from people who are closest to them.
9.	Greed	They want what they cannot afford, so they steal or earn money illegally.
10.	Hate	This might be because of revenge, if someone has done something against them or their family, it also might be because of prejudice, discrimination, racism, sexuality etc.
11.	Opposition to unjust law	A law might be broken in protest because people feel it is unfair. For example, in the 1950's and 60's many people such as Rosa Parks, broke black segregationally driven laws in the USA.
12.	Should someone's situation be taken into account when they break the law?	Many people believe yes their situation should be taken into account and religious people would want to help the individual as well as tackling the bigger issues that cause crime. However, certain causes would be more likely to get sympathy than others. i.e poverty is more reasonable than greed. Many think that breaking a law that is unfair or that goes against religious law is acceptable.
13.	Deontological view	This is a branch of ethics that states things are right or wrong. Therefore someone's situation should not be taken into consideration. If they broke the law, they should be punished.
14.	Teleological view	<p>This branch of ethics looks further into the context of a situation.</p> <p>Situation Ethics – Based on Agape – You do the most loving thing in the situation, so stealing to feed your family might be acceptable.</p> <p>Utilitarianism – You do the <b>Greatest good for the Greatest Number</b> (you do whatever makes the majority of people happy) Protesting within the Civil Rights Movement would be an example of this.</p>

### Christianity

15.	How do Christians feel about Crime?	Christians are strongly against crime. ' <b>Love your neighbour as yourself</b> ' (Mark 12:31) you do not treat any victim as an equal.
16.	Have Christians broken unfair laws?	Martin Luther King broke segregation laws. ' <b>We must obey God rather than human beings</b> ' (Acts 5:29)
17.	How could Christians help present crime?	Donate to charity, open food kitchens and banks, homeless shelters, be Street Pastors.
18.	What is Prison Fellowship?	A Christian organisation in England and Wales that helps prisoners by praying for them and through group activities and maintaining contact with their families. They try to make prisoners see how they have affected victims of their crimes and stop them from committing crime again when they leave prison, e.g. through restorative justice.

### Forgiveness

1.	What is forgiveness?	Stopping anger in times of wrongdoing. It is important for religious believers.
2.	How does forgiveness reflect God?	God is merciful towards people who genuinely seek his mercy and that they should reflect God's forgiving nature in their own behaviour.
3.	Why is it important to forgive criminals?	So they can be reconciled with the community. If they leave prisoners isolated and rejected from society, they are more likely to recommit crime due to desperation i.e. if they cannot get a job or have somewhere to live.
4.	Should criminals be punished though? (Religious belief)	Yes, this is justice. God is Just, so should humans.
5.	How can forgiveness be shown?	Lesser offences on longer stay on peoples records permanently, there are also schemes that give ex-offenders skills and a job once released.
6.	What is restorative justice?	An offender might meet their victims affected due to the crime they committed. This enables empathy and gives the victims a chance to forgive them and by them being forgiven it discourages reoffending.

### Christianity

7.	What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?	Jesus taught that God is always ready to forgive and that Christians must accept that forgiveness and to forgive others in return.
8.	Which prayer talks about forgiveness?	The Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:12)
9.	What did Jesus teach about reconciliation?	To seek it. In any conflict before offering a gift to God, showing you cannot fully communicate with God if you have not forgiven someone. ' <b>First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift</b> ' (Matthew 5:24)
10.	Is forgiveness linked to repentance?	Yes closely. Christians believe that God's forgiveness can only come when they repent of their sins.

<u>Punishment</u>		<u>Aims</u>
1.	What is the aim of punishment?	So people have time to reflect on their mistakes, to create the concept of justice.
2.	What is the aim of retribution as a form of punishment? What are the cons?	A form of revenge. 'pay the price'  Some people say it doesn't put things right though, it's better to look at more constative solutions that helps to change people.
3.	Protection? What are the cons?	Imprisonment is an example. If the criminal will harm the public.  Some will disagree and say no, you only protect society by reforming the offenders not just keeping them locked up.
4.	Reformation? Why do religious believers preference this	To actively change the criminals behaviour and hopefully stop them from reoffending. This is the normal preferred type of punishment in the eye of a religious believer, this is because it allows people to repent and seek forgives from God. Counselling and community service is an example.
5.	Deterrence? Cons?	Putting people off committing or recommitting the crime. i.e high fine, embarrassment, painful. People also know the consequences of the crime and often feel it financially or physically.  It doesn't stop people on alcohol or drugs as they don't have the time or capacity to stop and think before they commit the crime. It also doesn't take into account the individuals' circumstance.
<u>Christianity</u>		
6.	Should people be punished?	Yes.
7.	What are the different views?	'Eye for an eye' – retribution  'turn the other cheek' – reformation
8.	Judgement of others?	It is important to look at our own behaviour before criticising others. The adulterous woman who was been stoned to death was stopped by <b>Jesus</b> ' <b>let any one of you without sin, cast the first stone at her</b> ' <b>John 8:7</b> . It reminds humans none of us are perfect, that's the condition of humanity.
9.	Why is being merciful important within Christianity?	Because Jesus forgave humanity, therefore so we should act on his behalf. Therefore for most Christianity reformation is important. ' <b>if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently</b> ' ( <b>Galatians 6:1</b> )
10.	Why is deterrence and protection also important?	Makes society less dangerous

## **Christian quotes**

if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently' (Galatians 6:1)

Jesus 'let any one of you without sin, cast the first stone at her' John 8:7.

First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift' (Matthew 5:24)

'We must obey God rather than human beings' (Acts 5:29)

Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31)

Whoever sheds blood, by humans shall their blood be shed' (Genesis 9:6) and 'Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death' (Exodus 21:1)

Parable of sheep and goats – For when I was hungry you fed me' 'for when I was imprisoned you visited me' ... 'Whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me'