

# **Y9 EP – Death Penalty – Knowledge Organiser**



### **Key Terms**

# **Capital Punishment**Death penalty.

#### Conscience

Sense of right and wrong; usually the guilty voice in our head.

#### **Corporal Punishment**

Physically hurting the criminal as a punishment.

#### Duty

Something we are bound to do.

#### Forgiveness

Letting go of anger towards someone for a wrong they have done us.

#### **Justice**

Making things fair again

#### Parole

Release of a criminal from prison, but continuing to monitor their behaviour.

#### Sin

When a religious law is broken.

#### **Death Penalty**

The killing criminals. It has not been used in the UK since 1969 but is still a punishment elsewhere in the world.

#### **Facts and Figures**

- 140 countries have abolished the death penalty.
- 58 countries use the death penalty.
- This century 88% of all known executions have taken place in China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the USA.
- Between 1976 and 2003 the USA executed 22 people who were under the age of 22.
- In the USA, since 1973, over 130 prisoners on death row have been released after their convictions were overturned.
- In California the legal system costs \$137 million per year to run, without the death penalty it would cost \$11.5 million.

#### **Religious Arguments For**

- ☑ **Christianity** A just punishment for murder and "an eye for an eye".
- ☑ **Christianity "**Whoever kills a man shall be put to death".
- ☑ **Islam** "Obey the state authorities".
- ☑ **Islam** Hadud the 7 worse crimes (inc. murder, adultery, treason), are capital offences.
- ☑ **Judaism** If anyone takes the life of a human being, they must be put to death.

### **Forgiveness and Religion**

**Buddhism -** Forgiving has two essential virtues: com passion and understanding.

**Christianity** - Follow example of Jesus: "Forgive 70 x 7". **Sikhism** - "Forgiveness is as necessary to life as the food we eat and the air we breathe".

**Islam -** "Whosoever forgives and makes amends, his reward is upon Allah"

#### **Case Studies**

#### **Ruth Ellis**

28 year old who was hung in July 1955 for murder, the last woman to be hung in the UK. Abused by her boyfriend, had miscarriages as a result. She fought back in self-defence one time and shot him April 1955.

#### **Derek Bentley**

19 year old who was hung in 1953. Mental age of 11, illiterate, suffered from epilepsy and PTSD from war. Bentley and Craig caught stealing, Craig had a gun and killed policeman. Bentley alleged to have said "Let him have it". Both were both charged with the murder. Craig was sent to prison for 10 years as he was only 16.

#### **Religious Arguments Against**

- ☑ Christianity The Sanctity of Life means all life is sacred and only God can take it.
- ☑ Christianity "Do not kill" (10 Commandments).
- **Buddhism** Should practice Metta (loving kindness) and Karuna (compassion).
- **Buddhism** The public needs to be protected from criminals, but should have the chance for reform.
- **Hinduism** –"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind".

# Key Teachings

"Forgive seventy times seven." (Christianity)

"Pray to those who persecute you." (Christianity)

"Do not Kill" (Christianity)

"Love your neighbour" (Christianity)

"Treat others like you yourself would like to be treated." (Christianity)

"Hate the sin, love the sinner." (Gandhi)

"The wrongdoer – He has prepared for them a painful punishment." (Islam)

"Take not life, which God has made sacred." (Islam)

Five Precepts – Avoid taking life, taking what is not given and sexual misconduct.
(Buddhism)

Belief in Karma – actions determine your fate in your next life (Buddhism)

## **Amnesty International**

Founded in 1961, the biggest human rights organisation. Campaigns for individual and political change. Completely disagrees with execution. Highlights the degrading nature of the death penalty, with the mentally ill being executed, and black people being unfairly trialled with an all-white jury.