

Y9 EP – Crime and Punishment – Knowledge Organiser



Key Teachings

"Forgive seventy times

seven." (Christianity)

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

"Do not Kill" (Christianity)

Key Terms

Crime

Breaking the law, can be against a person, against property or the state.

Duty

Something we are bound to do.

Hate Crime

A crime committed because of prejudice.

Justice

Making things fair again

Conscience

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

Deterrence

Where punishment puts someone off committing the crime.

Vindication

The punishment exists because the law does.

Retribution

Getting back at the person for what they have done.



We all have a conscience which helps us to assess what is right and wrong. We then have free will to choose and make our own decisions.

All religions teach people to live good lives, this includes following religious teachings People should avoid sin and evil as their actions will be judged when they die.

Causes of Crime

People are tempted to commit crime for a wide range of reasons including:

Poverty - Not having enough money or food.

Upbringing - People are not taught right from wrong.

Addiction - Committing crimes to feed an addiction.

Greed - A desire for things they cannot afford. **Hatred** – Seeking revenge against people or laws

Crime Against the Person – Rape, murder, assault, hate crimes

Crime Against the Property – Vandalism, arson, burglary

Crime Against the State – Terrorism, false accounting Religious Offences – Insulting God, making images of God/prophets in some countries

Types of Crime

"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)

Aims of Punishment



Protection - Retribution - Vindication - Deterrence - Reformation - Reparation

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 'love your neighbour' mercy.

Retribution

This aim of punishment is society getting its own back on the offender. The Old Testament says 'an eve for an eve' so some Christians would argue that this form of punishment is just according to the Bible.

Prison Reform – Elizabeth Fry

A Christian prison reformer in the late 1700s, early 1800s. She dedicated her life to helping others. Visited Newgate Prison, horrified at bad conditions. Fought for reform; segregation of sexes, better living conditions, education for children, focus on learning new skills and religious instruction. Prison reform legislation in 1823.

Modern Treatment of Criminals

Rehabilitation and preventing reoffending is key focus. Different punishments for different crimes. E.g. community service, prison, fines, probation. Focus is on learning new skills, improved conditions, supporting addicts to stop. Some experience issues when return to society; attitudes of others, lack of housing and skills.