

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

Capital punishment

Death penalty; state sanctioned execution for a capital offence; not legal in UK.

Community service order

UK punishment involving the criminal doing a set number of hours of physical labour.

Conscience

Sense of right and wrong; guilty voice in our head; seen as the voice of God by many religious believers.

Corporal punishment

Punishment in which physical pain is inflicted on the criminal; not legal in the UK.

Crime

Action which breaks the law; can be against the person (eg murder), against property (eg vandalism), or against the state (eg treason).

Deterrence

Aim of punishment to put a person off committing a crime by the level of punishment.

Duty

What we have a responsibility to do.

Evil

Something or someone considered morally very wrong or wicked; often linked to the idea of a devil or other malevolent being.

Forgiveness

Letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done; moving on.

Greed

Reason for committing crime – wanting or desiring something or more of something.

Hate crime

A crime committed because of prejudice, eg assaulting a person because they are gay or Asian.

Imprisonment

Locking someone up and taking away of civil liberties of a criminal.

Law

The rules a country demands its citizens follow, the breaking of which leads to punishment.

Murder

Unlawfully killing another person.

Order

The enforcement of rules, eg by a police force.

Parole

Release of a criminal from prison under the condition they will meet with a parole officer who can monitor their behaviour.

Protection

Additional aim of punishment; to keep people safe.

Reformation

Aim of punishment; helping the criminal see how and why their behaviour was wrong, so that their mindset changes for the better.

Reparation

Additional aim of punishment; where the criminal makes up for, or pays back for, their crimes.

Retribution

Aim of punishment; getting the criminal back for their crimes.

Theft

Taking something without the owner's consent.

Victim

Those who are directly affected by a crime, eg the person assaulted.

Vindication

Additional aim of punishment; the punishment exists to justify the law.

Young offenders

Criminals under the age of 18.