

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



Justice - just / fair behaviour or treatment.

Rehabilitation - restoring something to its former condition. Helping someone change for the better.

Reoffending - committing a further offence.

Liberties - rights people have in society e.g. freedom.

Criminal law - a system of law concerned with punishment of offenders.

Civil law - a system of law concerned with private relations between members of a community.

Shariah Law - Islam's legal system based on the Qur'an and fatwas.

Different Types of Crime.

Crime against a person: directed against an individual

or a group of people e.g. assault.

Crime against property: includes criminal damage such as vandalism and arson.

Crime against the state: an offence aimed at damaging the government or a country.

Hate Crime

Crimes committed against people because they belong to a certain group.

- † Love thy neighbour
- ✗ Agape love
- ✓ Westboro Baptist Church - hateful towards many people.

- ★ Allah creates everyone equally - equal value
- ✗ Qur'an - Allah wants justice & fairness in the world.

Shari'ah Law

- Based on the Qur'an.
- Code for living for Muslims.
- Shari'ah law is complex and its practice is reliant on experts.
- Many punishments are considered harsh - corporal & capital.
- Shari'ah law has no legal standing in Britain. Communities may use it to settle arguments & get advice.



Theft

- † Forbidden in the 10 Commandments.
- 'You shall not steal.'

- ✗ Not acceptable.
- Due to Zikah there should be no need for stealing.
- Shari'ah law - hands chopped off for stealing.

Murder

- † Life is God given - wrong to take it.
- 'You shall not murder.'

- ★ Believe in the sanctity of life.
- Taking life is likened to the taking of all lives.

Aims of Punishment

- Reformation - changing someone's character for the better.
- Retribution - taking revenge - making a person pay for what they've done.
- Protection - shielding society from the criminal(s).
- Deterrence - aiming to stop people wanting to do something.
- Reparation - making amends for doing something wrong.
- Vindication - punishments put in place to ensure the law is respected.

Forgiveness

- Letting go of bad feelings/grudges against a person or group of people who have hurt you.
- † Forgive others as you wish to be forgiven.
 - † God is merciful (forgiving & compassionate).
 - † Jesus died for forgiveness of humanity's sins.
 - ☾★ Only God can forgive & only those truly sorry.
 - ☾★ Humans should forgive those who ask for it.

Prison

- Aims to rehabilitate criminals as well as protect society from them.
- Some people question the effectiveness of prison as a punishment.
- † Prisons should treat people well and help them reform.
- ☾★ Prisons used whilst awaiting trials. Corporal Punishment mostly used under Shar'ah law.

Restorative Justice

- Offenders are encouraged to think about their crime and effect it has on their victim(s).
- Meetings between criminal & victim held.



Corporal Punishment

- Punishment which punishes someone physically.
- † Disapprove of corporal punishment - not loving & may not encourage reform.
 - † Some Christians agree with it as a deterrence.
 - ☾★ Compulsory for certain crimes in countries that follow Shariah law.
 - ☾★ Some Muslims feel harsh punishments are outdated.

Death Penalty

Being put to death for a serious crime(s).

For

- OT talks of death penalty for crimes like murder.
- Retaliation for a serious crime.
- Shariah Law supports the death penalty for serious crimes.
- Some people deserve it.
- Justice for the victims families.

Against

- It is inhumane.
- No chance of repent or remorse.
- Goes against the teaching of forgiveness.
- May kill the wrong person.
- Hypocritical to say killing is wrong then put someone to death.
- Easy way out for a criminal.



Community Service

- People are made to make amends to their local community for their crime.
- E.g. vandals repair their vandalism.

Intentions and Actions

Intention - reason why someone wants to do something.

Actions - what happens as a result of an intention.

Duty - an obligation or responsibility.

Sin - a thought or action against God.

Christianity - Good Intentions, actions & consequences

- 'Treat others how you would wish to be treated.'
- Christians should help those in need, because if they were in need, they would want others to help.
- Any intentions, or actions against God are sinful and wrong.

Christianity - Good intentions / Evil Actions or Evil Actions / Good Consequences.

- Provide for a starving family but steal in order to do this - acceptable for some Christians.
- Others would say all stealing is wrong. - duty to obey God.
- Many Christians say you should follow the most loving course of action.

Christianity - Evil intentions, actions & consequences.

- It is wrong and sinful to act evilly, on evil intentions & aim to produce evil consequences.

Free will - choices people make.

← Evil

→ The Devil (Iblis in Islam) tempting people to do wrong.

→ 'Original Sin' - tendency to do wrong.



Evil & Suffering

Christian teachings...

• God gave humans free will - people cause suffering from their choices.



• The Fall - when Adam & Eve disobeyed God → introducing original sin.

• Power of Evil - Devil/Satan.

• We cannot understand God's plans for people.

• Need to experience bad to know what is good.

Islamic teachings...

• free will - suffering caused by humans following the wrong path.

• Iblis (the devil) tempts people to do evil. 

• Life - tests & temptations from Allah = test of faith.

• Wants people to turn to Him (Allah) in prayer.

• Rewarded in the after life.



Can it ever be good to cause or undergo suffering?

• Most of time - never good to cause suffering.

• If in self-defence it is OK.

• 'Do not resist an evildoer' - non-retaliation.

• If suffering occurs to save others this can be acceptable.

• Care / help those who suffer.

• Learn from mistakes / lessons.

• Jesus suffered - comfort to Christians.


Can it ever be good to cause or undergo suffering?

• Suffering will not be more than a person can cope with.

• All part of Gods plan.

• Free will - people should make choices that do not harm people.

• Causing suffering to others is against the teachings of compassion and care.

• If suffering caused people should ask for forgiveness. 

Poverty and Upbringing

- Someone who is poor more motivation to steal.
- May have less respect for the government and law.
- If brought up to believe committing crimes is acceptable, it may encourage them to also do so.
- † May feel there are good reasons for committing crimes e.g. stealing to feed a starving family.
- † Everyone should obey God's laws.
- ★ If people are stealing the community has failed.

MAKE
POVERTY
HISTORY

Mental Illness and Addiction

- Some mental illnesses influence people to commit crimes.
- Kleptomania - influences people to steal things.
- Diminished responsibility - if people are not able to control their actions.
- Addiction can contribute to crime.
- † Treating the illness is the most loving and compassionate thing to do.
- ★ Drug abuse & drinking - not allowed. They are the work of Satan.



Psychological - your emotional/mental state, how you feel.

Environmental - living environment around you, area, and living place & conditions.

Social - effects of society/people, family, peers.

Conscience - inner feeling about what is wrong vs right.

Jealousy
Poor living conditions

Greed

No morals

Peer Pressure



Anger

Gangs

Family in prison

Mental Illness

Neglect
Unfair laws

Morality - judgement of right and wrong.

Persecution - treating people badly because of prejudice.

Prejudice - biased belief about someone.

Rehabilitation - aiming to reform someone (change them)

Sin - thought or action against God.

Zakah - giving of money to the needy.

Greed and Hate

- Greed can cause more complex crimes being committed e.g. tax fraud.
- Hate crimes - hatred towards a person or group of people.
- † Jesus taught people not to be greedy.
- † To be greedy is sinful 'for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.'
- ★ Greed is a temptation that should be avoided - distracts people from Allah.



Opposition to an unjust law

- Some people break laws because they disagree with them.
- Some people protest laws they believe are unfair.
- † Laws should not be opposed because God wanted to obey their rulers.
- † Some laws not made by God are unjust so it is OK to stand up for what they believe in.
- ★ In Muslim countries Shari'ah law is in place which are God laws and must be obeyed.