

**0 5** Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

**0 5 . 1** Which one of the following do religious believers regard as an evil intention? [1 mark]

- A Showing forgiveness
- B Going to prison
- C Planning murder
- D Opposing an unjust law

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority**

Answer: C Planning murder

**0 5 . 2** Give two reasons why some religious people may break the law. [2 marks]

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority**

1 mark for each of two correct points.

**Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited.**

Poverty / upbringing / mental illness / addiction / greed / hate / opposition to an unjust law / jealousy / ignorance / the law may be against their faith / because of their conscience, etc.

**0 5 . 3** Explain two contrasting religious views in contemporary British society about the use of corporal punishment.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions.

[4 marks]

**Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs**

**First contrasting view**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks

**Second contrasting view**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks

**Students must refer explicitly to a belief from Christianity, so showing that they know and understand that the main religious tradition of Great Britain is Christian. The belief they choose to explain may vary according to the denomination or tradition they refer to.**

If similar views are given only **one** of them may be credited up to 2 marks max.

**If students do not refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain (Christianity) a maximum of 2 marks may be awarded.**

**Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited.**

Provides a deterrent and reducing crime is a good thing / teaches an offender a lesson so that they won't reoffend, etc.

Seen as degrading of human dignity / parents physically punishing children / against UK law which religious believers encourage followers to obey / there are other better ways to treat offenders / it is a breach of human rights / causes physical and emotional harm / used to be used in schools, etc.

**Buddhism**

Corporal punishment expresses violence / is likely to encouragement resentment rather than reformation / it does not solve the underlying motives for the crime / punishments should help the individual to recognise crime's negative impacts, etc.

**Christianity**

Some Christians support corporal punishment as they believe in the importance of discipline / 'He who spares the rod hates their children but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them' Proverbs 13 : 24.

Many Christians oppose corporal punishment as they focus on positive sanctions that help offenders to see the error of their ways and reform / it doesn't treat people with respect, etc.

### **Hinduism**

Hinduism opposes violence and revenge in the treatment of offenders but recognises that social justice should be administered / the fear of consequences will deter an offender / Hindus believe in trying to help as well as punish, etc.

### **Islam**

Public caning or flogging is used in Muslim countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates / used as punishment for offences such as gambling, selling alcohol or sexual promiscuity / some believe that it is better than imprisoning people for a long time, etc.

### **Judaism**

Although the Torah and Talmud both allow for corporal punishment (up to 40 lashes) it doesn't happen in Jewish practice today / 'He who spares the rod hates their children but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them' Proverbs 13 : 24 / most Jews would not use physical punishment in teaching children right from wrong / the focus is on helping offenders realise the error of their ways, etc.

### **Sikhism**

Sikhs oppose corporal punishment as it is against their principles / it is harmful / lacks compassion / makes no effort to reform the offender, etc.

**0 5 . 4** Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness.

**Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.**

**[5 marks]**

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority**

**First belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

**Second belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching – 1 mark

**Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited.**

Religions believe in the importance of forgiveness / this does not mean to excuse or forget what has happened / it enables people to move on and let go of the desire to see the other person being punished / recognises that the other person may change, etc.

**Buddhism**

Failure to forgive leads people to feel angry or resentful / “He abused me, he struck me, he overcame me, he robbed me.’ Of those who wrap themselves up in it hatred is not quenched” – The Buddha – Dhammapada verse 3 / forgiving a person does not mean that their actions will not have consequences (Buddhism teaches that unskillful actions lead to suffering) / forgiveness can sometimes bring about reconciliation / belief in compassion, etc.

**Christianity**

Core belief of Christianity is to forgive others regardless of what they have done / in return God will forgive them / The Lord’s Prayer – ‘Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us’ / many Christians would say that forgiveness isn’t necessarily a replacement for punishment / Jesus’ reply to Peter’s question – Matthew 18 : 21-22 / there can be no limit to forgiveness / Jesus’ words on the cross “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” / Jesus died that people might be forgiven, etc.

## **Hinduism**

Hindus teach that [Forgiveness is] the one supreme peace (Mahabharata 5:33) / [Forgiveness is] a Divine characteristic (Bhagavad Gita 16 : 1-3) / it is not a duty to blame and punish people; that will happen anyway under the law of karma / a person who does not forgive carries a burden of negative feelings, anger and unresolved emotions that affect his or her present as well as future / Lakshmi forgives even when the one who does wrong does not repent / Vishnu forgives only when the wrong-doer repents / Sita is well-known for forgiveness / some texts suggest that murder and rape are naturally unforgivable, etc.

## **Islam**

God is compassionate and forgiving / only God can truly forgive / but will only forgive those who are truly sorry and intend to follow the faith properly in the future / humans showing forgiveness is a good way to establish goodness over evil / humans should forgive those who ask for forgiveness and encourage them to also ask God to forgive them / “..let them pardon and forgive. Do you not wish that God should forgive you? God is most forgiving and merciful” – Qur’an 24:22 / “Pardon each other’s faults and [God] will grant you honour” – Hadith, etc.

## **Judaism**

Forgiveness is a core belief and is strongly linked with repentance / Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are traditionally the time to ask for forgiveness / on Yom Kippur Jews traditionally believe that sins between people and God are forgiven / the person wronged has a duty to forgive if genuinely asked / Isaiah 1:18 “Be your sins like crimson. They can turn snow-white; Be they red as dyed wool, They can become like fleece.” / forgiveness is not a replacement for punishment, etc.

## **Sikhism**

Sikhs follow the example of the gurus and show compassion / forgiveness is often the most powerful response to wrong doing / “Where there is falsehood, there is sin. Where there is greed, there is death. Where there is forgiveness, there is God Himself” - Guru Granth Sahib 1372 / “To practise forgiveness is the true fast, good conduct and contentment” – Guru Granth Sahib 223 / forgiveness is not a replacement for punishment / there are karmic consequences, etc.

**0 5 . 5** ‘Deterring people from committing crime is the best aim of punishment.’

**Evaluate this statement.**

**In your answer you:**

- **should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement**
- **should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**
- **should refer to religious arguments**
- **may refer to non-religious arguments**
- **should reach a justified conclusion.**

**[12 marks]**  
**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**

**Target: AO2:1a and 1b Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>Reference to religion applied to the issue.</b>	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>Clear reference to religion.</b>	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. <b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b>	4–6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

**Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited.**

**Arguments in support**

- Deterrence is a good aim as it designed to prevent a crime taking place.
- The punishment given should deter the offenders and help them to realise that they should not commit another crime.
- Others are put off committing a crime when they see the punishment which is given.
- Society needs to be protected from criminals and punishments that deter do this, etc.

### **Arguments in support of other views**

- Other aims of punishment can be more effective in preventing crime
- Offenders need to reform and change their ways so 'reformation' is the most important aim
- Society needs to show and victims know that crime will be punished
- Sometimes crimes are so horrific that retribution should occur, etc.

### **Buddhism**

Buddhists see retribution as a form of violence that contradicts basic ethics / "We should not seek revenge on those who have committed crimes against us or reply to their crimes with other crimes. We should reflect that by the laws of kamma, they are in danger of lowly and miserable lives to come" Tenzin Gyatso (the Dalai Lama) / some people might be deterred by the thought of punishment but many doubt its effectiveness / the thought of being reborn into a realm of suffering may act as a deterrent / it is important to protect society / reformation is very important as a person should be encouraged to recognise the suffering they have caused / punishments should encourage the transformation of the criminal, etc.

### **Christianity**

Retribution is seen as the least positive aim of punishment / the Old Testament does say that the punishment should be equal to the crime / "The penalty shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot ..." Exodus 21 : 23-25 / many Christians believe that deterrence is very important / if offenders are punished it might put others off from committing the crime / the offenders themselves might be deterred from reoffending / punishment in public places is not allowed as people should be treated with respect / that some reject deterrence because it is a weapon of fear / most Christians prefer the aim of reformation / reformation expresses Jesus' teaching to love one's enemy / it is hoped that offenders will change their ways and become responsible members of society / Romans 12 : 19-21, etc.

### **Hinduism**

A punishment is only just if the punishment fits the crime / "An eye for an eye ends up making the whole world blind" - Gandhi / The Laws of Manu contain a sequence of punishments which gradually leads to move severe punishments / there are karmic consequences for committing crime / support given to deterring people from committing crime / aim to bring about reformation so that there can be a process of healing, reconciliation and rehabilitation, etc.

### **Islam**

In Shari'ah law the punishment is laid down to punish the offender on behalf of the victim, their family and their community / "We prescribed for them a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, and ear for an ear ..." Qur'an 5 :45 / for an Al-Jinayaat crime the victim can opt to grant mercy and receive compensation from the offender / many support severe punishments as offences are breaches of Shari'ah law and so are against God who created the law / some punishments in some Muslim countries are carried out in public to act as a deterrent to others / the offender can also learn from the punishment / reformation is an important aim as it is considered necessary for offenders to seek God's forgiveness and to become purified, etc.

### **Judaism**

Making an extreme example of an offender is not acceptable to many Jews / the Torah does say that the punishment should be equal to the crime / “The penalty shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot ...” Exodus 21 : 23-25 / most prefer Leviticus 19 : 17 -18 “Do not seek revenge...” / most Jews believe that the best aim is of reformation – Ezekiel 33 : 11 / however, if it is necessary for an individual to be punished as a deterrent, then it is acceptable / working with offenders to turn their lives around is the positive response, etc.

### **Sikhism**

Some Sikhs favour deterrence because it teaches that bad actions bring bad consequences, which is the basis of belief of karma / most believe that reformation is the best aim / it recognises that offenders have the potential to change / this change may include the desire to listen to and follow the word of God / Rehat Maryada states what should happen when religious vows are broken / the community should help make a change in behaviour effective / retribution is the least positive aim of punishment / taking revenge is regarded as a crime because it comes from anger, one of the five evils / “Do not be angry with anyone else ..” – Guru Granth Sahib 259, etc.

**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**