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| **Key Concepts** **Good** - That which is considered morally right; beneficial and to our advantage. **Evil** - That which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong. **Forgiveness** - To grant pardon for a wrongdoing; to give up resentment and the desire to seek revenge against a wrongdoer. **Free Will** - The ability to make choices voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is predetermined. **Justice** - Fairness; where everyone has equal provisions and opportunity. **Morality** - Principles and standards determining which actions are right or wrong. Punishment - A penalty given to someone for a crime or wrong they have done. **Sin** - Deliberate immoral action; breaking a religious or moral law. **Suffering** - Pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss. Suffering can be physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual. | **Absolute Morality –** When a person has a principle that will never alter no matter the circumstances e.g. It is always wrong to steal.**Relative Morality** – When a person has a moral principle but adapts it to situations (taking a life). | **Aims of punishment****Retribution**: revenge/ getting even with person who committed crime. **Deterrence**: to put someone off from committing the crime - to deter. **Reformation**: to rehabilitate the offender to change their behaviour. **Reparation**: repairing the damage done through the crime **Vindication**: shows that the law should be followed / upheld **Protection**: protecting society from the criminal |
| **Causes of Crime:**Pressure from societyPressure from the mediaPressure from personal lifePressure from peersDrug and alcohol abuseLow self esteemParental neglectPoverty | **How do we make moral decisions?** ● Conscience ● The Law ● Religious Leaders / Community elders ● Religious teachings ● Reason / Logic ● Past experiences ● Other values / beliefs | **Crime versus Sin** ***Crime*** is an offence that is punishable by law. The government makes laws; the police force prevents and detects crime; the courts enforce the laws and punish crime. A **sin** is a religious law, but not necessarily against a law of the country e.g. adultery is not a law but is a sin. |
| **Arguments supporting the death penalty** ● There has to be the ultimate punishment for the worst crimes ● Life imprisonment is very expensive, approx £40 000 a year.● The only way victims can experience closure. | **Arguments against the death penalty** ● It’s just state sanctioned murder; 2 wrongs don’t make a right ● There is evidence that innocent people have been executed ● It is not a successful deterrent | **The relationship between justice and punishment** Many people would say that justice cannot be achieved without some form of punishment. However, for justice to be truly achieved, the punishment must address the cause of the crime and reflect the severity of it.**Christian attitudes to punishment and justice** Christianity is a life of forgiveness, so retribution is not supported. Christianity does teach about the importance of justice, meaning forgiveness and punishment should go together. Christians try to follow the example of Jesus who forgave those who betrayed him. Most Christians also believe that reform is an important aim. ***‘Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream’*****Muslim attitudes to punishment and justice**The Qur’an teaches that believers should make the choice between good and evil. Punishment is seen as an important aspect of justice but forgiveness is important too. Allah is known as Ar-Rahman (the merciful) and Ar-Rahmin (the compassionate). Allah will judge on judgement day. Quran teaches – ***God sets the rules and shows the way.*** |
| **Christian attitudes towards the death penalty** -Most liberal Christians believe only God has the right to take a life. -Execution goes against the sanctity of life - ‘Do not kill’ -Jesus taught to be compassionate and forgiving. -You cannot reform someone if they have been executed. -The Old Testament says ‘an eye for an eye’; supports death penalty -The Old Testament specifies 36 crimes worthy of the death penalty**Muslim attitudes towards the death penalty** – Quran states ‘never take a life which God has made sacred’. Some Muslims stress the importance of forgiveness. There are more beneficial ways to punish an offended and keep law and order in society. Criminals should be punished on earth. Quran states ‘never take a life which God has made sacred’ but also adds, except for just cause. In some countries Shari’ah law is the law and the death penalty is used.  |

**** **Year 7 Crime and punishment**