

Key Concepts

Punishment	The consequences or penalty for someone that has committed a crime.	Absolutism	The belief that there are certain actions which are always right or always wrong.
Sin	An act against God	Relativism	The belief that certain actions are right or wrong depending on the situation or circumstances.
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they've caused you. Overlooking a person's faults.	Eucharist	Meaning "thanksgiving". The sacrament in which Roman Catholics remember the Last Supper.
Salvation	The belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of eternal life.	Evangelisation	Spreading the "Good News" which can be translated as "Gospel" The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

Crime and Punishment

Sin and crime are concerned with our behaviour. Deciding what is right or wrong is known as morality. Making decisions on how we should behave can be complex; very simply there are two common forms of morality known as absolute morality and relative morality. In the UK, if a person commits a crime then they will receive some form of punishment. The punishment might depend on how severe the crime was. For example, some punishments might be community service to try and change the actions of a criminal whereas others may be prison to protect society.

Sources of Authority

"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed" **Genesis 9:6**

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" **Exodus 21:24**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you: "Turn the other cheek" **Jesus in Matthew 5**

"If bloodless means can be used they should, but if public safety is at risk then it can be used" **Pope John Paul II Evangelium Vitae**

Sin & Crime	When someone breaks the law they commit a crime . Laws are there to show what acceptable behaviour is so that people can live safely and without fear. Laws are made by the government and can vary from country to country. What is lawful can change over time, for example, homosexuality was illegal in this country but is not anymore. A sin is an action which goes against the will or laws of God. Some sins are crimes , for example, murder and stealing. Other sins such as adultery and pride are not against the law .
Absolute & Relative Morality	Absolute Morality is when a person firmly believes that an action should always apply. For instance, " stealing is wrong ". This applies in all situations, no matter what the context or circumstance . It would be wrong for me to steal food, even if my family were starving. Another example would be the belief that it is wrong to kill. This would apply in all situations such as war, abortion and euthanasia. There is no circumstance where it is acceptable. Relative Morality is the idea that a moral principle can be adapted or adjusted in certain situations. So stealing in principle is wrong , but if I have no other way to get food then stealing can be seen as acceptable. The Humanist Peter Singer would argue that cases of abortion and euthanasia are relative because we need to consider the circumstances such as the quality of a person's life.
Aims of Punishment	When a criminal is found guilty of a crime, there are a number of punishment options available to a judge, such as prison, fines and community service. A judge will consider the advantages and drawbacks of several different purposes when sentencing a person for the crime they have committed. There are three main aims of punishment : 1. Retribution – making a criminal pay for their crime through punishments like the death penalty. 2. Deterrence – a punishment that is so severe it puts other people off from committing a crime such as large fines or long prison terms 3. Rehabilitation – helping criminals to reform (change) so that they won't commit crime again such as providing counselling and education

Exam Practice

d) Euthanasia is always wrong' (15) – in a question like this you could refer to relative and absolute morality

d) Punishments such always try to rehabilitate the offender' (15)