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|  **Good and evil actions**Related imageChristian teachings, such as the parable of the sheep and goats, teach that people should be good and avoid doing evil. This is to get to heaven and avoid hell, evil goes against God’s plan for the world.Some people believe that suffering is caused by the devil who influences people, and there is no such thing as an evil person as they were made by God.Image result for devilEvil actions go against human laws and cause suffering e.g. murder and rape. Some people think that some people are born evil, such as Hitler. Others say evil people is caused by things which happen to them.Gandhi “Hate the sin, love the sinner.”Image result for hate the sin not the sinner gandhi | **Reasons for crimes**Studies show that people commit crimes for a variety of reasons. * Poverty
* Upbringing – some people are brought up thinking that crime is acceptable
* Mental illness – some illnesses mean that people aren’t aware of what they are doing, they’re not thinking in the same way that they ordinarily would.
* Addiction to drugs and alcohol – some people steal to pay for their addiction
* Greed
* Hate – attacking someone for something about them e.g. skin colour
* Breaking an unjust law - motivation to break a law that is unjust/unfair e.g. people broke the law to protest about segregation of black and white people in America in the 1960s.

Some Christians believe that people who break laws should be punished but treated with compassion and helped as part of their punishment (reformed), or rehabilitated. The Bible teaches that if someone steals due to starvation then they should be forgiven.**Jesus said “Forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.”****Golden Rule/’Love your neighbour’**Others think that people are still responsible for their actions so should not have special treatment. Breaking the law is bad and people deserve fair punishment. **“An eye for an eye..”** **“For the love of money is the root to all evil.”** | **Views about types of crime**Hate crimes as crimes against people because of something about them, NOT because of something they have done, e.g. skin colour, religion, disability. Sophie Lancaster was killed because of her style of dress (goth).Murder is the deliberate killing of someone e.g. the killing of young women by Fred and Rose West. **All Christians are against these crimes.** They are against Bible teachings – love your neighbour, ‘Do not kill’, humans made in the image of God, and because they are unjust (unfair) yet all people are equal.Theft can be for something necessary e.g. food, or for greed.All Christians are against taking things out of greed as it’s a sin (something against God) – the Decalogue teaches “Do not steal”, it is unjust, “For the love of money is the root to all evil.”Some Christians understand when it is out of necessity. The Old Testament teaches that people to steal to survive should be treated with love.**‘Do not despise a thief who steals to feed himself**.’ | **Religion and Punishment**There are two contrasting opinions. Some Christians support the idea of punishment should be reform as this is more in line with the teachings of Jesus, and it is better for society if a person changes their ways. Many Christians believe that only God should judge others and so punishment should be to support people.Other Christians and Muslims believe that punishment should be for retribution, which would also act as a deterrent. “Eye for an eye”. Breaking the law often follows God’s laws which is a sin and so should be punished. Retribution gives justice to the victim.Image result for eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth justice  | **Views on forgiveness**Christians think that forgiveness is important as this was the message of Jesus:* Forgive not seven times but seventy times seven
* God set the example of forgiveness when Jesus atoned for original sin
* The Lord’s Prayer says “as we forgive those who trespass against us”
* Forgiveness stops hate and anger, which can lead to retaliation and conflict.
* Forgiveness allows both the victim and criminal to move on
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 **AQA Crime and Punishment**

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| **Community service**Many Christians think that this is good for minor crimes as it doesn’t destroy families. It is in line with Jesus’ teachings of compassion. It helps people reform and teaches them new skills, and acts as a deterrence for others. Other Christians may think that it isn’t harsh enough for some crimes, it isn’t justice for serious crimes.Image result for community service | **Corporal punishment**Again, there are different views. Some Christians are totally against it as it goes against Jesus’ teachings about compassion – ‘love your neighbour’/ Golden Rule. The Bible also teaches that the body is a ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’ so hurting a person hurts God too.Non-religious people would argue that it causes resentment and so is about retribution and doesn’t reform.Some Muslims support its use as it gives justice but then lets the criminal get on with their lives – they are punished but get to stay with their family and keep their job etc. Muslims and some Christians support it as it a punishment given in the Qur’an, and the Bible teaches **“Spare the rod, spoil the child’.**It acts as a good deterrenceImage result for corporal punishment | **Prison**Some Christians support the use of prison for bad crimes – “an eye for an eye”. Criminals can be reformed through programmes, as well as giving them time to reflect on what they’ve done. Once their sentence is over they are then free to get on with their lives. It also acts as a deterrence. It is a severe punishment shown by the high number of people who try to commit suicide in prison. Some argue it satisfies all reasons for punishment – reform, retribution, deterrence and protection.Related imageOther Christians don’t like the idea of prison because it ruins lives as people struggle to get a job when they get out. Also, it is often used for lighter crimes and then criminals mix with harder criminals and come out worse. It can’t be that bad as some people think it is as some people WANT to be in prison as all things – food, healthcare etc. Prison doesn’t seem to work as 60% reoffend within a year of release.For some, it is not harsh enough. Muslims and some Christians believe in an eye for an eye’ and so for a murderer then it isn’t enough. | Image result for death penalty hanging**Capital punishment**The death penalty is still given out in many countries today, but isn’t used in the UK. It is given out for severe crimes e.g. murder, instead of sending people to prison. The alternative is for them to stay in prison for a very long time, often for life, which costs a lot of money and can put other prisoners at risk.Some people agree with it because of the principle of utility – it is the greatest good for the greatest number of people:* It is just (fair) which reassures people that justice is done
* It deters others from committing similar crimes which people want
* It gives the victim and their family closure
* It costs a lot of money to keep people in prison, what’s the point if they are never going to be let out? This money could be spent on law abiding people
* The Qur’an specifies it as an option for murder, adultery and working against Islam
* The Bible teaches ‘An eye for an eye.’

Others disagree as they believe in the sanctity of life – all life is precious* It is a contradiction – killing someone to show that killing is wrong
* Jesus saved the adulterous woman from execution in favour of forgiveness and reform
* The Bible teaches about showing love and compassion which killing someone doesn’t do
* Some say it is too soft, they want the criminal to suffer a long time
* There have been times when innocent people have been executed e.g Derek Bentley
* All life is special and holy, only God can give and take life away
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