

Religion, Crime and Society:

Key terms	Definitions
Laws	The system of rules which a particular country or community recognises as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.
Justice	Is the principle that people receive that which they deserve.
Injustice	Is a quality relating to unfairness or undeserved outcomes.
Crime	An illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government.
Punishment	The imposition of something undesirable or unpleasant on, or the removal of something desirable or pleasant from, a person in response to behaviour deemed unacceptable.
Deterrence	Punishment should put people off committing crime.
Incapacitation (Public Protection)	Punishment should protect society from the criminal and the criminal from themselves.
Rehabilitation	Punishment should reform the criminal.
Retribution	Punishment should make the criminal pay for what they have done wrong.
Reparation	Punishment should compensate the victim(s) of a crime.
Prison	A building in which people are legally held as a punishment for a crime they have committed or while awaiting trial.
Electronic tagging	The attaching of electronic markers to people or goods for monitoring purposes, e.g. to track offenders under house arrest or to deter shoplifters.
Fine	A penalty of money that a court of law or other authority decides has to be paid as punishment for a crime or other offence.
Community service	Unpaid work, intended to be of social use, that an offender is required to do instead of going to prison.

Key questions:

How do laws govern us in society?
Is the criminal justice system always just?
Why do people commit crime?
How and why do we punish?
How does religion respond to crime and punishment?

Key points to understand:

Typical causes of crime are social causes, including inequality, lack of support, and inaccessibility.

Fines are the most common type of sentence given by the courts. That is because they are given for lower-level crimes such as minor driving offences or minor theft.

The last executions in the United Kingdom were by hanging, and took place in 1964, before capital punishment was suspended for murder in 1965 and finally abolished for murder in 1969.

There are various religious responses towards crime and punishment stemming across both positive and negative.

Capital punishment	The legally authorised killing of someone as punishment for a crime.
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