

GCSE Religious Studies

Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment E- Revision Booklet



PARKWOOD
E-ACT ACADEMY

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Question 3

The 4 mark questions in Theme A can be either:

- Explain 2 **contrasting** beliefs about...
- Explain 2 **similar** beliefs about...
- Explain 2 **contrasting** views in **contemporary British Society** about... You **MUST** discuss the main religious tradition of GB: **CHRISTIANITY**.

Contrasting views in **Contemporary British society** can **only** be on...

- **Corporal Punishment**
- **Death Penalty**
- **Forgiveness**



Glossary

Capital punishment death penalty

Community service order punishment; criminal has to do a set number of hours' work in the community as their punishment

Conscience sense of right and wrong; usually the guilty voice in our head

Corporal punishment physically hurting the criminal as a punishment

Crime breaking the law; can be against a person (e.g. assault), against property (e.g. arson), or the state (e.g. terrorism)

Deterrence aim of punishment; where the punishment puts someone off committing the crime

Duty something we are bound to do

Evil something (or someone) considered morally wrong; wicked; often linked to the idea of a malevolent force, e.g. the devil.

Forgiveness letting go of anger toward someone for a wrong they have done us

Hate crime a crime committed because of prejudice, e.g. beating someone up because you think they are gay; in UK law, it can mean the doubling of a sentence if found guilty

Glossary

Imprisonment locking someone up as a punishment

Justice making things fair again

Law the rules which govern a country to keep us safe

Order the enforcement of rules, e.g. by a police force

Parole release of a criminal from prison, but continuing to monitor their behaviour

Probation order punishment; monitoring of behaviour with the threat of greater punishment for offending again

Protection aim of punishment; to keep people safe

Reformation aim of punishment; helping the person see how and why they should behave better

Reparation aim of punishment; making up for, compensating

Retribution aim of punishment; getting back at the person for what they have done

Victim the one against whom a crime is committed

Vindication aim of punishment; the punishment exists because the law does

Young offenders persons under 18 who commit crime

Christianity and the Law

Christians believe that **law breakers should be forgiven** and given a second chance but they **need to be punished** as well during which time they are **helped to reform**.



'A man reaps what he sows' (Galatians)



Christians believe they should **work with people to discourage reoffending** and although poverty cannot be used as an excuse for breaking the law trying to reduce poverty and bad social conditions may prevent law breaking.

Christians believe that law breakers should be **encouraged and helped to repent** (say sorry) leading to **forgiveness**.

Christianity and the Law

Most Christians also believe that offenders should be **helped to change their ways** so that they do not reoffend **once the punishment is over**. In the **parable of the sheep and goats**, Jesus gave various actions that are pleasing to God, and these include treating prisoners well...

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **For . . . I was in prison and you came to visit me.**”



Some Christians believe a punishment should be as severe as the crime committed. Others believe they should be helped in order that they do not offend again. They may hate the crime but not the person who committed it. **Christians believe that inhumane treatment of offenders is wrong.**

Types of crime

There are **three** key types of crimes:

- **Crimes against the person** – offences causing direct harm to a person, for example, murder, rape, GBH and **hate crimes**.



- **Crimes against property** – offences that damage or deprive people of their property, for example, arson, burglary, trespassing.



- **Crimes against the State** – offences that potentially endanger everyone or affect the smooth running of society, for example, terrorism, selling state secrets, perjury.



Causes of Crime



Upbringing

This might include the environment a person is brought up in, the morals of the family/friends/neighbourhood, whether a person is surrounded by crimes or criminal activity and the social and financial status of the family.

Causes of Crime

Mental illness – The state of mind of a person may lead them into crime. They might have serious psychological issues with no understanding of right or wrong; might feel no guilt or compassion for others; might enjoy hurting others; might have educational learning issues and be easily led into crime; or are themselves victims of some event which has disturbed their minds, for example, depression or an abusive upbringing.

Addiction – A person may have an addiction, for example, to alcohol, drugs, sex or money which leads them into crime to feed their habit or their cravings. They may even be addicted to crime, for example, stealing.

Poverty – A person might commit a crime because they see no other alternative way to survive. They may have no money, no job or cannot provide for themselves or their children.

Causes of Crime

Greed/hate

Emotions are often responsible for crime, our reaction to what goes on around us or what others have or do to us.

We always want more so inherently we are greedy. People do bad things to us so hate leads us to take revenge and commit crimes.

Opposition to existing laws

Some crimes are committed in protest about laws that exist that are considered either unfair or for the benefit of a select few in society. Sometimes laws have to be broken to get laws to be changed.

Religious people often feel a duty to oppose unjust laws.

Aims of Punishment

There are 4 main aims of punishment:

- **Deterrence**
- **Reformation**
- **Retribution**
- **Protection**

Society sets up rules and we have to obey them or face the consequences. However, what one person thinks is very wrong, another person might consider less so. That is why we have a **judicial system that sets tariffs for punishments** to guide judges in the sentences they hand down. A judge will also know other information before they give a sentence. For example, if the person has offended before, information from psychologists and perhaps about their home background. There are four main aims of punishment.

Deterrence

A punishment is meant to be unpleasant and a deterrence, so that the offender is put off committing crimes in the future. A burglar who gets sent to prison for five years will hopefully not want to experience that again and will find some other legal means to obtain money and possessions. Also, we learn very quickly that when we do wrong we may be punished, so if they know what the punishment is going to be, many people would be put off committing the crime in the first place.

For example, the penalty for **drink driving** in the UK is a minimum **12-month driving ban**, a fine and potentially a prison sentence which **deters** people from drink-driving.



Protection

The whole point of having a legal system is to protect society. Some criminals are dangerous and society needs protection and the criminal needs protection from society also. When a person shows no remorse for what they have done and continues to be a threat they have to be locked up for the safety of others.

We lock mass murderers away to prevent them from killing any more people.



Types of punishment that offer protection:

- Prison
- Capital Punishment
- Curfews/Electronic tags

Retribution

This is taking revenge on the offender; simply put it means 'getting your own back'. When people break the law someone somewhere is almost always hurt, even if it means they are just upset or angry. Most people follow the law so it is not fair that a few people want to just ignore the rules and do as they please.

Society uses punishment to make the offender **pay for what they have done** and show support for the victim. They do this by demonstrating that the criminal has not got away with hurting them. In some cases retribution can be very severe. In the UK, criminals can receive lengthy prison sentences; other countries use capital or corporal punishment.

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Reformation

Obviously society cannot simply lock up everyone who breaks the law and throw away the key. Many punishments are given to try to **change the nature of the person** who has offended. This is because most people who break the law are going to still **continue to be part of society**. It is important to try to make these people realise the effects their action had on others and then hopefully they will **not do it again**. A graffiti artist might be sentenced to work in the council parks and gardens department. In prisons there are usually **education and work programmes** to support offenders in their rehabilitation; this helps prepare them to **rejoin society** as a constructive member.

Religious groups feel this is an important aim of punishment.

The UK Prison System

Prison is used as a punishment across the countries of the world as society needs to feel safe from dangerous people. There are many types of prison in the UK, from high-security to open prisons to young offender institutions.



**HM PRISON
SERVICE**

Public Sector Prisons

There are **123** prisons in the UK.
Over **85,000** people are in prison in the UK.



Alternatives to Prison

Parole – means that a person can be released early having served some of their sentence. When on parole **they must live within the law** and are supported by a parole officer, who will help them to reintegrate into society. The parole order may require them to have treatment, for example, for drug abuse. **The aim is to help them avoid re-offending and become active and purposeful members of society.**

Court Fines

The magistrates' court may **fine** you for committing a crime. They can also order you to pay compensation to any injured party and award costs against you.



The fine may be set at an initial hearing or as a result of a fixed penalty notice (where the level of the fine is set automatically).

Community Service Order

Community service is often called 'community payback' when referring to it as a punishment. Community sentences can be given if the criminal is convicted of a crime but are **not sent to prison**. The punishments involve doing unpaid work in the local community, like cleaning up a park.

Community sentences can be given for less serious crimes such as damaging property or drink driving. It is seen as **more positive than prison** and the judge might think that it could have a better effect than sending them to prison. Also, it allows people to **carry on working** and doing the payback in the evenings. This enables them to keep their job.



Electronic Tagging

Electronic monitoring (known as 'tagging') is used in England and Wales to monitor curfews and conditions of a court or prison order.

If you're given a tag, it will usually attach to your ankle. The tag will send your location data to a 'base unit' in a place stated in your court or prison order (usually your home). The base unit constantly checks if you're present during your curfew hours. It will send an alert to a monitoring centre if you're not.

Prisoners serving between three months and four years can be released early provided they agree to a Home Detention Curfew Order.

Around 2,000 offenders are now fitted with tags at anyone time. This is a much cheaper option than prison, costing around £2,000 a year.



Probation Order

Probation means you're serving your sentence but you're not in prison.



While on probation, you may have to:

- do unpaid work
- complete an education or training course
- get treatment for addictions, like drugs or alcohol
- have regular meetings with an 'offender manager'

You could go back to court if you break any rules of your probation. For example, if you:

- do something your sentence bans you from doing
- commit another crime.
- miss meetings and appointments without a good reason
- behave in an aggressive, racist or other unacceptable way at a meeting or appointment.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is to use **physical pain** as a punishment for a criminal act. It deliberately inflicts pain through **whipping, branding** or **amputation** (removal of a body part). This type of punishment only remains in parts of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and South America.



Corporal punishment is illegal in the UK. Corporal punishment was permitted in schools in the UK until it was made illegal in 1987 in government-funded schools and in 1999 in all other schools in England and Wales. By 2003, it had also been banned completely in Scotland and Northern Ireland. **Imposing physical pain on any person, no matter what they have done, is completely unacceptable for most Christians,** although in 2005 a group of head teachers in private Christian schools unsuccessfully challenged the ban of corporal punishment in schools.

Christianity: Corporal Punishment



'I will punish transgressions with the rod'

(Psalm 89)



Some Christians use Psalm 89 to **justify physical punishment of children** as chastisement. E.g. smacking or caning children that are naughty.



'He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.'

This teaching suggests that a 'good' parent will **discipline their child** and use the 'rod' to make sure they know right from wrong.

Islam: Corporal Punishment

Islamic law **allows** corporal punishment.



'A thief male and female cut off the hand of both'

(Qur'an 5:38),



Thieves will have their hands cut off

'If a woman or man is guilty of adultery, flog each of them 100 stripes' (Qur'an 24:2).



Adulterers (cheaters) will be lashed with a whip.

In many Muslim countries, the **Law of Compensation** can be used which swaps corporal punishment for paying compensation. Some extreme Muslim groups do use these punishments quite freely, though.



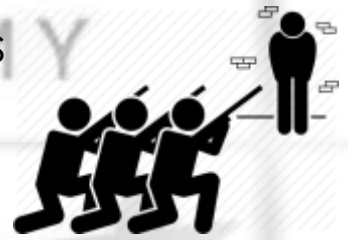
Attitudes to Punishment

	Features	Religious views
Prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punishment is loss of liberty • For serious crimes • No real choice about how to spend their time – everything is controlled for them • Locked in cells, fed and allowed exercise and interaction with other prisoners at set times • Prisoners work in the prison for very little money or take part in training or education programmes 	<p>Many Christians believe that prisoners should be treated well when in prison and are keen to support them to make their time in prison useful by encouraging positive activity.</p> <p>They believe it is important that conditions within prison are humane and civilised.</p>
Corporal Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punishes offenders by inflicting physical pain • Illegal in the UK and many other countries • Punishments often take place in public • Considered to be a breach of human rights laws 	<p>Most Christians do not support corporal punishment. It does not seek to reform an offender, so can be seen as a negative and harmful punishment.</p>
Community Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes work in the community, such as cleaning graffiti off buildings or clearing wasteland • Considered to be a punishment for minor offences, such as vandalism or benefit fraud • Gives offenders the chance to make up for what they have done and reform • It can include treatment for addiction or medical conditions, counselling or educational opportunities 	<p>Christians agree with community service for offenders who they think may benefit.</p> <p>It allows them to make up for what they have done wrong (reparation), deters them from committing offences in the future and reforms them by making them realise the consequences of their actions.</p> <p>No harm is done to the offender and it is hoped that the experience is positive.</p>

Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is the killing of a criminal as punishment for their crime.

- 140 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. 58 countries retain and use the death penalty.



- In March 2005, the USA abolished child executions, affecting over 70 juvenile offenders on death row in twelve states.

- In the USA, since 1973, over 130 prisoners on death row have been released after their convictions were overturned.



- Methods of execution worldwide include: firing squad, hanging, lethal injection, stoning, beheading, gas chamber, electric chair, crucifixion (Sudan).



Some arguments FOR capital punishment

- An '**eye for an eye, life for a life**' means that murderers should pay with their life.
- It is a **deterrent**, therefore it puts people off committing horrendous crimes.
- It brings **justice** for the victims and their families.
- **Life sentences do not mean life**; murderers walk free on average after sixteen years.
- It is a **waste of resources** housing criminals for their entire life.
- This is the **only way to totally protect society** from the worst murderer who it is believed cannot be reformed.



Some arguments AGAINST capital punishment

- Retribution is uncivilised;

two wrongs do not make a right.



- **It is a contradiction** to condemn murder and then execute (kill) a murderer.
- Most murders are done on the spur of the moment, so capital punishment would not deter.
- Victims' families still grieve; killing the murderer does not end the pain of loss.
- Legal systems can fail and **innocent people can be executed.**
- **All life is sacred** and murderers should be given the chance to reform.
- It is inhumane and degrading to put anyone through the mental torture of death row.

Capital Punishment – Christian Teachings

The **sanctity of life** is a teaching that God gave life and only he has the right to take it away. In relation to the death penalty, it appears to suggest that as executing an offender is denying God's right to take away the offender's life, it is wrong.



Do not Kill! – 10 commandments

(Exodus)

“Love your neighbour as yourself”

(Matthew)

Capital Punishment – Christian Teachings

Christians who agree with the death penalty tend to use teachings from the **Old Testament** to support their views.

Their main justification is taken from **Genesis**:



“Whosoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed.”

(Genesis)

“Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”

(Exodus)

Capital Punishment – Islam Teachings

In some Muslim-majority countries, the death penalty is **used as a deterrent** for offences such as murder and rape. However, the victim or their family are **encouraged to show mercy** by accepting money from the offender to reduce the penalty from death to imprisonment. A Muslim may look to their faith in order to forgive the perpetrator.

“If a man is killed unjustly, his family will be entitled to satisfaction.”

(Qur’an)

We ordained for them; life for life.

(Qur’an)



+ Christianity

Christians believe the law has a responsibility to punish and care for the criminal whilst trying to reform them. Whilst prison removes freedoms, separates prisoners from families and removes their rights, it also has concern for their reform to be released back into society. Therefore, there can be conflict between severe punishments and the Christian belief in help, love and reform. Although some Christians want more of an emphasis on 'justice' based on the 'an eye for an eye' teaching from the Bible. However, most Christians do believe in people being treated humanely and fairly, giving them a chance to face up to their crime, serve a fair punishment and have a second chance to turn their lives around.



Islam

The Qur'an emphasises the justice of Allah and the idea and accountability of one's actions.

Also, it talks of mercy and forgiveness. The legal system prescribes punishments for crimes such as murder, rape and theft and punishments include capital punishment, imprisonment and lashings. Muslim scholars believe that extreme punishments are not used widely and that most Muslim countries have modern prisons and principles of fair treatment of criminals. Justice must be done though and the victims should be compensated equitably. Hence, victims can accept compensation from the criminal who then is given a lesser sentence, and Allah looks favourably on that.

The Treatment of Criminals – Elizabeth Fry

- Elizabeth Fry was a **Christian** who was one of the 1st people to insist that **prisoners needed to be treated humanely.**
- When she visited **Newgate prison** in 1813 she discovered that 300 women and children were crammed into **2 cells**, each women had no more than 2m by 75cm of space each. The prisoners slept on the floor without bedding.
- Elizabeth visited the prison many times and **set up a school and a chapel** in the prison.
- She campaigned for fairer treatment for all prisoners and **helped improve the prison system.**

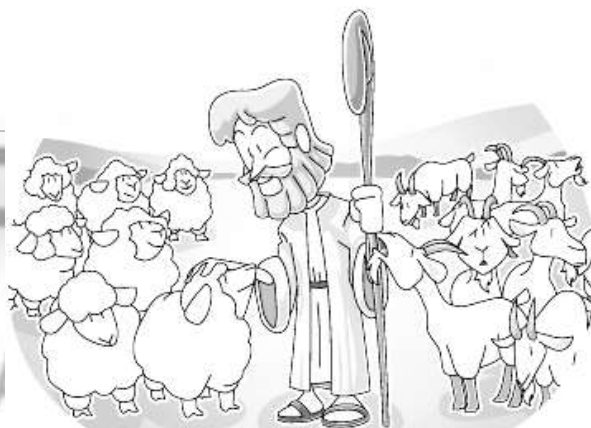


The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and **he will separate the people one from another** as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the Lord will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, **I was in prison and you came to visit me.**”

Matthew 25



Victims of Crime

Sometimes we get preoccupied with what should happen to the criminal and justice being done.

However, there is the other side to crime ... the **victim** of it.

If you are a victim of a reported crime, then the police will send you the contact details for 'Victim Support', an organisation set up to help. Many victims of minor crime would not need this service but it is offered because we can never know how each individual may react to those crimes.

There are six key areas of support available:

Emotional
and practical
support

Practical tips
to keep safe

Specific support in
certain areas, for
example, abuse or
rape

The rights
of a victim

Help for
young
victims

Help for
foreign
language
speakers

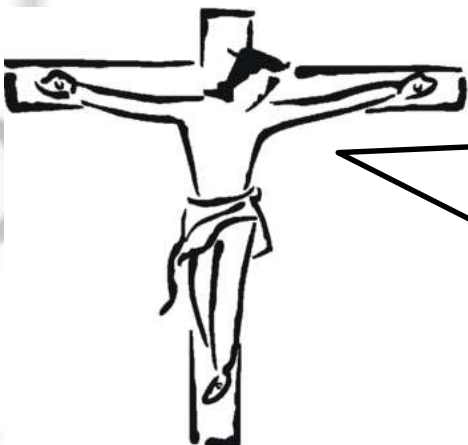
Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a core belief in Christianity and one that Jesus emphasised in his teachings. Individual Christians are expected to forgive others, regardless of what they have done, and Christians believe that in turn, God will forgive them.

The Lord's Prayer says: **'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.'**



'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, **'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'**



Father **forgive them**, for they do not know what they are doing.

Forgiveness

Christians believe that in their lives, they should **follow the example of Jesus**, and this includes forgiving those who do wrong things. In Judaism, those who have wronged others should show remorse to their victims and honestly and directly ask for their forgiveness before they can expect to be forgiven by their victim and by God. Christians don't believe this is a necessary part of forgiveness, but they do believe that **forgiveness is easier if the offender shows a serious intention to repent and change their ways** so they can start afresh.

This is why many Christians believe that **reformation should be the primary aim of punishment**. Nobody would pretend that it is easy to forgive people who have wronged you.



Forgiveness

Some Christians, who have been victims of very serious crime – for example having a family member murdered – **do not see a way to forgive**. They seek **justice rather than forgiveness** for these serious crimes.

Prayer is often used by Christians to help them forgive; they do so with **the help of God**. Most religions believe that forgiveness is a quality of God, to be copied by the believer. However, it is not an easy virtue to put into action as many people have suffered terrible crimes and will never be able to forgive, but at the same time the hatred can ruin their lives.

Religions would always urge people to forgive, but never demand it as it is a personal decision. Those who are able to forgive need to be commended and those who cannot forgive need to be helped.

Good and Evil

There are those who suggest that people who commit the worst crimes are **evil**. But what exactly is 'evil' and where does it come from? Similarly what is meant by 'good' and where does that come from?

Evil is something that is profoundly immoral and wicked and is usually seen as depraved and malicious.

Good is defined as morally excellent, virtuous, righteous and pious.



Good and Evil

Most religious people believe that people who do wrong are still redeemable, that they are not themselves evil, and can be brought back to good ways. **Religions believe in evil actions rather than evil people.**

Christianity

Evil is seen as the abuse of the free will God gave to humans which allowed them to choose right from wrong. In order to be able to see and appreciate good, then evil has to exist. Most Christians believe in a figure called the devil or Satan, who is an evil power, though ultimately less powerful than God. The Devil continually tries to tempt people and encourage them to behave badly. So, evil is a combination of internal and external factors.

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Corporal Punishment

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

Christianity as a rule **does not support the use of corporal punishment**. Many point to the idea of **human dignity**, and that this kind of punishment breaches that. As a form of violence, it is seen as wrong by many as that is not a **merciful, rather a vengeful** form. The belief that **violence begets violence**, means that criminals dealt with in this way will not be reformed. Christian groups such as the Quakers worked to reform this kind of punishment in UK law.

Contrasting belief 1

Islamic (Shariah) Law includes the legitimate use of corporal punishment. The **Qur'an states that it must be proportionate, necessary and carried out publicly** (24:2). Methods sanctioned by the Qur'an include **beating/lashes, and amputation** (5:38). It is a punishment and deterrent.

Contrasting belief 2

Some Christian groups allow **parents to physically chastise their children** for misbehaviour. This follows the teaching in Proverbs **'Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them'** (13:24).

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Death Penalty

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

Christianity generally does not support Capital Punishment. The Church of England was at the forefront of the move to end its use in the UK. It is seen as a breach of the commandment '**Do not kill**', because a life is being deliberately ended. It also **denies the sanctity of life** as the life of the criminal can be taken, and is against their **human dignity**. There is no chance of reform of this person, as death is too final.

Contrasting belief 1

Islamic (Shariah) Law includes the use of capital punishment. The Qur'an, states **crimes which are punishable by death** (5:32). The Qur'an insists '**Take not life except by way of justice and law**', so the crime must be sufficient.

Contrasting belief 2

Some Christians believe it is right to use the death penalty for those criminals who have committed the **worst crimes**, such as murder. Since they have taken life, for example, they forfeit their own – '**An eye for an eye**' (Exodus 21:24).

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Forgiveness

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

Forgiveness is a central teaching of Jesus. When asked how often a person should forgive, in Matthew 18:22, he said ‘**seventy times seven**’ – in other words, innumerably. The Lord’s Prayer includes the injunction to ‘**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**’. Jesus’ **crucifixion was necessary so that humans could be forgiven their sins and so enter heaven for eternity with God**. Humans must try to follow Jesus’ example, so should be forgiving.

Contrasting belief 1

In Islam, whilst **forgiveness is a quality of Allah**, it is conditional. A human must be sorry, recognise the wrong, commit to not repeat it, and seek forgiveness. **Without these conditions, forgiveness cannot be given.**

Contrasting belief 2

Some Christians, who have been victims of very serious crime – for example having a family member murdered – **do not see a way to forgive**. They seek **justice rather than forgiveness** for these serious crimes.

Paper 2: Theme E- PLC

This personalised learning checklist (PLC) is to help identify what and how to revise. The middle column asks how confident you feel about each topic.

Red – Help!

Amber – Not 100% but nearly there.

Green - Bring it on! I know this!

What you need to know	Red Amber Green	How can I revise this topic?
I can describe the Christian attitude towards crime and punishment.		
I can identify the causes of crime and why people commit them.		
I can explain the 4 main aims of punishment.		
I can describe the different ways criminals are punished (prison, community service, electronic tagging etc.)		
I can describe the UK prison system and why it does not always work as a deterrent.		
I can explain what corporal punishment is and where it is used.		
I can explain the Christian attitudes to corporal punishment.		
I can explain what capital punishment is and where it is used.		
I can explain the Christian attitudes to capital punishment.		
I can describe Christian attitudes to the treatment of criminals (Inc. Elizabeth Fry)		
I can explain Christian attitudes to how to treat/help victims of crime.		
I can explain Christian attitudes to forgiveness and link it to crime.		
I can describe Christian attitudes to good and evil.		