9.4 Treatment of Criminals: Prison and Community Sentences: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting views, religious and/or non-religious, about whether prison or community sentences better treat criminals. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 This question is about the treatment of criminals through prison and community sentences. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question: parts (a) to (d) are worth 12 marks; part (e) is the 12-mark evaluation.

(a) State what is meant by a community sentence. **(1)**

(b) Give two examples of requirements that can be included in a community sentence in England and Wales. **(2)**

(c) Explain two religious teachings that support the reform of offenders while they are being punished. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer. **(4)**

(d) Explain two contrasting views about whether prison or community-based approaches better help an offender to reform. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority or another source in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'Community sentences are always a better way to treat criminals than prison.' In your answer you should: refer to religious teaching, refer to different points of view, reach a justified conclusion. **(12)**

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(Total for Question 2 is 24 marks)

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Mark scheme · 9.4 Treatment of Criminals: Prison and Community Sentences: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

view 1: some argue prison is necessary for serious or violent crime, to protect the public and provide a proportionate punishment, oe **B1**

development: this can be supported by the proportionate justice described in Exodus 21:23-25, oe **B1**

view 2: others argue community sentences better suit many lower-level or non-violent offences, allowing offenders to make reparation while keeping employment and family ties, oe **B1**

development: UK reoffending data has repeatedly shown lower reoffending rates for community sentences than for short prison sentences of a similar length, which some cite in support of this view, oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: prison as necessary for serious crime (Exodus 21:23-25) vs community sentences as more effective for lower-level offending, supported by UK reoffending data.

Question 2

(a) a sentence served in the community, rather than in prison, often with conditions attached, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: A sentence served in the community, rather than in prison, often with conditions attached.

(b) unpaid work, e.g. Community Payback, oe **B1**

(b) a curfew enforced by an electronic tag, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. unpaid work (Community Payback); a curfew enforced by an electronic tag (also accept: a rehabilitation activity requirement, a drug rehabilitation requirement, an exclusion requirement).

(c) point 1: the parable of the prodigal son teaches that a wrongdoer who turns back can be welcomed and forgiven, oe **B1**

(c) development: 'his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son... and kissed him' (Luke 15:20), oe **B1**

(c) point 2: many Muslims believe repentance (tawbah) is always possible, however serious the wrongdoing, oe **B1**

(c) development: 'do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins' (Qur'an 39:53), oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. the welcome given to the repentant son in the parable (Luke 15:20); Allah's mercy for the repentant (Qur'an 39:53).

(d) view 1: some argue prison provides structured time, e.g. for education and training programmes, that can support genuine reform for serious offences, oe **B1**

(d) development: this can be supported by teaching that even serious wrongdoing can be followed by genuine change, as in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15), oe **B1**

(d) view 2: others argue community-based approaches, such as restorative justice, better support reform because the offender remains connected to their family, employment and community, oe **B1**

(d) development: this view can draw on the general principle in Qur'an 39:53 that mercy and a path back are always available, best supported by remaining part of a community, oe **B1**

(d) reference to a source of wisdom and authority or another appropriate source made accurately, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: Contrast: prison as offering structured reform for serious offences vs community-based approaches as better preserving the ties that support genuine change.

(e) **L4** A well-argued, balanced answer that considers more than one point of view in a developed way, using accurate and detailed references to religious teaching and/or scripture to support each point, and reaches a clear, justified conclusion. **10-12**

(e) **L3** A clear and reasoned answer that considers more than one point of view, supported by relevant references to religious teaching and/or scripture, though the justification of the conclusion may be less developed. **7-9**

(e) **L2** A reasoned answer that considers at least one point of view, with some relevant supporting evidence, but with limited or no consideration of an alternative view. **4-6**

(e) **L1** One or more relevant points are made, but with little or no supporting evidence and no reasoned conclusion. **1-3**

(e) **L0** No relevant content. **0**

(e) Indicative content:

- Note for markers: this question can be answered with either conclusion; credit any well-supported argument, whether it agrees, disagrees, or takes a middle position.
- Agree: community sentences allow offenders to keep employment and family ties, and UK reoffending data has repeatedly shown lower reoffending for community sentences than for short prison terms.
- Agree: teachings such as the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15) and Qur'an 39:53 emphasise that reform and mercy matter most, which some argue is better supported outside prison.
- Agree: restorative justice, often used alongside community sentences, can give victims a voice and help offenders understand the harm caused in a way a prison sentence alone does not.
- Disagree: for serious and violent crimes, many argue prison is necessary to protect the public and to provide justice proportionate to the harm caused, as in Exodus 21:23-25.
- Disagree: a community sentence may not feel like a real consequence for a very serious crime, and some argue this could undermine victims' confidence in the justice system.
- Disagree: not every offender is suited to a community sentence, e.g. where there is an ongoing risk to public safety, so 'always' is too strong a claim.
- A balanced answer might conclude that the best treatment depends on the seriousness of the crime and the risk posed, so neither prison nor community sentences are always better, but each is more appropriate for different cases.

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