9.6 Suffering Caused and Relieved by Punishment: 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 the suffering caused to an offender's family by their punishment. 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 suffering caused and relieved by crime and punishment. 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 one group of people, other than the offender, who may be affected by suffering caused by crime and its punishment. **(1)**

(b) Give two ways that suffering caused by crime can be relieved. **(2)**

(c) Explain two religious teachings about relieving suffering caused by crime. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer. **(4)**

(d) Explain two contrasting views about where support for those affected by crime should be focused. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority or another source in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'Relieving the suffering of victims should always be the top priority of the criminal justice system.' 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 · 9.6 Suffering Caused and Relieved by Punishment: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

view 1: some argue this suffering, while regrettable, is an unavoidable consequence of a proportionate punishment for the original crime, oe **B1**

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

view 2: others argue the suffering of an innocent family, e.g. children losing a parent to prison, should be reduced wherever possible, such as through community sentences, oe **B1**

development: this can draw on teaching about compassion for the vulnerable, e.g. Matthew 25:40, 'whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me', oe **B1**

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

Answer: Contrast: an offender's family's suffering as an unavoidable consequence of proportionate justice (Exodus 21:23-25) vs a view that this suffering should be minimised out of compassion for the vulnerable (Matthew 25:40).

Question 2

(a) the victim of the crime, or the offender's family, or the wider community, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: E.g. the victim of the crime (also accept: the offender's family; the wider community).

(b) compensation or reparation paid to the victim, oe **B1**

(b) support services offered to the victim or to the offender's family, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. compensation to the victim; support services for the victim or the offender's family (also accept: restorative justice meetings; rehabilitation that reduces future offending).

(c) point 1: many Christians believe they have a duty to help carry the burdens of those who are suffering, oe **B1**

(c) development: 'Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ' (Galatians 6:2), oe **B1**

(c) point 2: many Muslims believe relieving another person's suffering is of the highest importance, oe **B1**

(c) development: 'whoever saves one [life], it is as if he had saved mankind entirely' (Qur'an 5:32), oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. the duty to carry others' burdens (Galatians 6:2); the high value placed on relieving harm and saving life (Qur'an 5:32).

(d) view 1: many argue the community has a primary duty to support victims of crime, e.g. through victim support services and compensation, oe **B1**

(d) development: this can be supported by teaching to carry the burdens of those who are suffering (Galatians 6:2), applied to victims specifically, oe **B1**

(d) view 2: others argue that supporting an offender's rehabilitation also relieves suffering, because it reduces the number of future victims, oe **B1**

(d) development: on this view, relieving suffering is not only about the present victim but about preventing future harm to others, oe **B1**

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

(d) Answer: Contrast: primary focus on supporting current victims (Galatians 6:2) vs a wider focus that includes offender rehabilitation to prevent future victims' suffering.

(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: victims can suffer lasting physical, emotional and financial harm, and some argue the justice system has historically focused more on offenders than on properly supporting victims.
- Agree: Galatians 6:2's teaching to 'carry each other's burdens' is often applied to supporting victims specifically, since they did not choose the harm done to them.
- Agree: without strong victim support, some argue confidence in the justice system as a whole is weakened, since victims may feel forgotten.
- Disagree: Qur'an 5:32 teaches that saving one life is like saving all mankind, which some use to argue that preventing future crime, including through offender rehabilitation, ultimately protects future victims too.
- Disagree: if a system focuses only on the current victim and ignores rehabilitation, an unreformed offender may go on to create more victims, so some argue this is not truly in victims' long-term interests either.
- Disagree: 'always the top priority' may be too strong, since a justice system also has duties to protect the wider public and to act fairly towards the accused and convicted.
- A balanced answer might conclude that supporting victims must always be a central priority, but that this is best achieved alongside, not instead of, measures that reduce future offending and so future victims' suffering.

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