5.7 Aims of Punishment: Retribution, Deterrence, Rehabilitation and Reparation: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For short answer questions a single word or short phrase may gain full marks; for extended answers write in full sentences. The whole paper is worth 43 marks and should take about 60 minutes.

1 Explain two reasons why some sociologists argue that rehabilitation should be the priority aim of punishment rather than retribution. Give two distinct reasons with a development for each.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Identify and explain two differences between the aims of retribution and rehabilitation. Give one clear point for each difference with brief development.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Essay question. Discuss how far punishment should prioritise rehabilitation over retribution. In your answer you should consider arguments for and against prioritising rehabilitation, refer to at least one other aim of punishment, and reach a supported judgement.

(Total for Question 3 is 8 marks)

4 Define the aim of deterrence as it is used in criminal justice theory, naming its two main forms.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

5 Match each of the four short example sentences below to the aim of punishment it most directly serves. Context: brief scenario sentences about punishment goals. Sentence 1: 'The court gave a prison term equal to the seriousness of the crime to show the offender deserved punishment.' Sentence 2: 'The judge imposed a heavy fine and publicised it widely to warn others not to do the same.' Sentence 3: 'The offender was enrolled on a programme for anger management and job training.' Sentence 4: 'The offender was ordered to pay compensation to the victim and repair damage to a local park.'

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Explain one way the aim of retribution is linked to the idea of justice in society, using a clear point and brief development in the context of punishment purposes.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 5.7 Aims of Punishment: Retribution, Deterrence, Rehabilitation and Reparation: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies reason 1, e.g. rehabilitation reduces reoffending which protects society	**B1**
development of reason 1, e.g. fewer reoffences lower future victimisation and long term costs	**B1**
identifies reason 2, e.g. rehabilitation addresses causes of offending such as lack of skills or addiction	**B1**
development of reason 2, e.g. tackling causes gives offenders real alternatives so punishment is constructive rather than purely punitive	**B1**

Answer: Reason 1: Rehabilitation reduces reoffending, which protects society and reduces future victimisation and costs. Reason 2: Rehabilitation addresses causes of offending, such as lack of skills or addiction, giving offenders alternatives and making punishment constructive rather than only punitive.

Question 2

identifies difference 1, e.g. retribution focuses on punishment proportional to wrongdoing, rehabilitation focuses on reforming the offender	**B1**
development of difference 1, e.g. retribution emphasises moral desert while rehabilitation emphasises future behaviour change	**B1**
identifies difference 2, e.g. retribution is backward-looking (past harm) whereas rehabilitation is forward-looking (preventing future harm)	**B1**
development of difference 2, e.g. retribution aims to satisfy justice, rehabilitation aims to reduce recidivism	**B1**

Answer: Difference 1: Retribution focuses on punishment proportionate to the wrong, emphasising moral desert; rehabilitation focuses on reforming the offender to prevent future offending. Difference 2: Retribution is backward-looking, concerned with the past harm, while rehabilitation is forward-looking, concerned with preventing future harm and reducing recidivism.

Question 3

Level 1 Basic statements about rehabilitation or retribution with little or no development, limited use of sociological ideas and no clear judgement.	**1-2**
Level 2 Some developed points, showing understanding of both rehabilitation and retribution and at least one other aim such as deterrence or reparation. Partial evaluation and a simple judgement.	**3-5**
Level 3 Clear, balanced evaluation weighing arguments for prioritising rehabilitation against arguments for retribution. Uses appropriate sociological ideas and considers another aim such as deterrence or reparation. Reaches a supported and justified judgement.	**6-8**

Indicative content:

- Arguments for prioritising rehabilitation: reduces reoffending, protects society in the long term, addresses causes of crime, cost arguments about long term savings, moral case for reforming people
- Arguments against prioritising rehabilitation: retribution meets public sense of justice and moral desert, some offenders may be resistant to rehabilitation, victims may want punishment that reflects harm
- Consideration of other aims: deterrence (some argue visible punishment deters others), reparation (victims may need compensation not only offender reform)
- Evaluation points: rehabilitation is forward-looking and can reduce future harm but may not satisfy immediate justice demands; retribution supports social order and moral clarity but may do little to prevent reoffending; practical issues about who provides rehabilitation and when it is effective
- Possible judgement: a balanced approach that gives significant weight to rehabilitation while retaining elements of retribution and reparation, or an argument that rehabilitation should be prioritized for certain offenders and offences while retribution should remain central where moral condemnation is required

Question 4

identifies that deterrence aims to discourage offending, oe	**B1**
development: names individual deterrence and general deterrence	**B1**

Answer: Deterrence aims to discourage offending; it includes individual deterrence, to stop the specific offender reoffending, and general deterrence, to warn others in society not to offend.

Question 5

identifies that sentence 1 matches retribution	**B1**
identifies that sentence 2 matches general deterrence	**B1**
identifies that sentence 3 matches rehabilitation	**B1**
identifies that sentence 4 matches reparation	**B1**

Answer: 1: retribution. 2: general deterrence. 3: rehabilitation. 4: reparation.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Question 6

identifies that retribution expresses moral condemnation or 'just deserts' for wrongdoing **B1**

development, e.g. giving an offender a punishment proportionate to the harm satisfies a public sense of justice **B1**

Answer: Retribution expresses moral condemnation and the idea of just deserts; giving a punishment proportionate to the harm satisfies the public sense that wrongdoing has been fairly punished.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk