



GSOC.CR7 Aims of Punishment: Retribution, Deterrence, Rehabilitation and Reparation

AQA 8192 · Calculators not allowed · about 60 minutes

Total Marks

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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** Which one of the following BEST describes the aim of retribution in the context of punishment in criminal justice?

- ☐ A) Preventing crime by making an example of the offender
- ☐ B) Reforming the offender through training and education
- ☐ C) Making the offender suffer in proportion to the wrong done, just deserts
- ☐ D) Requiring the offender to repair harm to victims or the local community

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Define the aim of rehabilitation in the context of punishment and criminal justice, and give one brief example of a rehabilitative measure.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

- 4** Define the aim of reparation in the criminal justice context and give one short example of how an offender might make reparation.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

- 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)

- 7** Identify and briefly explain the difference between individual deterrence and general deterrence, giving one sentence for each.

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

- 8** Explain one rehabilitative measure used in punishment and why it is intended to reduce reoffending. Give one clear example and brief reasoning.

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

- 9** Give one specific example of reparation within criminal justice and explain briefly how it helps victims or the community.

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

- 10** State one criticism often made of deterrence as an aim of punishment, and briefly explain the basis of that criticism.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

- 11** Item A: Research summary. A police report summarises two recent sentences for similar low-level criminal damage in the same town. Case 1: The offender received a fine equal to the damage plus public mention in court to warn others. Case 2: The offender received a requirement to pay compensation to the victim and attend an education course about community impact. Using Item A and your own knowledge, explain two different aims of punishment shown by these two sentences and link each aim to the correct case. (Context: short local sentencing examples.)

(Total for Question 11 is 4 marks)

- 12** 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 12 is 4 marks)

- 13** 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 13 is 4 marks)

- 14** Define what is meant by 'proportionate punishment' in the context of retribution and give one short reason why proportionality matters for justice.

(Total for Question 14 is 2 marks)

- 15** 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 15 is 8 marks)

Mark scheme · GSOC.CR7 Aims of Punishment: Retribution, Deterrence, Rehabilitation and Reparation

Question 1

- **B1** C (retribution is just deserts, proportionate punishment)
- **Answer: C**

Question 2

- **B1** identifies that deterrence aims to discourage offending, oe
- **B1** development: names individual deterrence and general deterrence
- **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 3

- **B1** identifies rehabilitation as reforming offenders so they do not reoffend
- **B1** gives an example, e.g. education, job training or therapy
- **Answer: Rehabilitation is reforming offenders so they do not reoffend, for example through education, job training or therapy to change behaviour.**

Question 4

- **B1** identifies reparation as making amends to victims or the community
- **B1** gives an example, e.g. compensation or unpaid community work
- **Answer: Reparation is the aim that offenders make amends to victims or the community, for example by paying compensation or doing unpaid community work to restore harm.**

Question 5

- **B1** 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
- **Answer: 1: retribution. 2: general deterrence. 3: rehabilitation. 4: reparation.**

Question 6

- **B1** 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
- **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.**

Question 7

- **B1** identifies individual deterrence as punishment aimed at preventing the same offender from reoffending
- **B1** identifies general deterrence as punishment aimed at discouraging the wider public from offending by setting an example
- **Answer: Individual deterrence aims to prevent the same offender reoffending, for example by imposing a sentence that makes reoffending unattractive. General deterrence aims to discourage others in society from offending by making an example of the punishment.**

Question 8

- **B1** identifies a rehabilitative measure, e.g. education, vocational training, counselling or addiction treatment
- **B1** explains how it reduces reoffending, e.g. by giving skills or addressing causes of offending so the offender has alternatives
- **Answer: Example: vocational training gives an offender job skills, so they have legitimate employment options and are less likely to reoffend for material reasons. It addresses a root cause and offers alternatives to criminal behaviour.**

Question 9

- **B1** gives a specific example, e.g. offender pays compensation to a victim or carries out unpaid work repairing community property
- **B1** explains how it helps, e.g. compensation replaces lost property or unpaid work restores community resources and acknowledges harm
- **Answer: Example: the offender pays compensation to the victim for damaged property, which helps replace what was lost; or the offender repairs a damaged playground, restoring community facilities and showing acknowledgement of harm.**

Question 10

- **B1** identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. deterrence assumes rational calculation of consequences which may not apply to impulsive or addicted offenders
- **B1** brief development, e.g. so heavy penalties may not actually prevent those who offend without thinking about consequences
- **Answer: Criticism: deterrence assumes people weigh consequences rationally, but many offences involve impulsivity, emotion or addiction, so harsher penalties may not stop such offenders.**

Question 11

- **B1** identifies case 1 as showing general deterrence or retribution (one aim named correctly)
- **B1** explains how case 1 links to that aim using Item A, e.g. fine and public mention warn others or show deserved punishment
- **B1** identifies case 2 as showing reparation or rehabilitation (one aim named correctly)
- **B1** explains how case 2 links to that aim using Item A, e.g. compensation repairs harm or education course aims to reform offender
- **Answer: Case 1 shows general deterrence because the fine plus public mention warns others not to offend; it can also be seen as retribution if the fine reflects deserved punishment. Case 2 shows reparation because the offender must compensate the victim, and rehabilitation because the education course aims to change the offender's understanding and reduce reoffending.**

Question 12

- **B1** 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
- **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 13

- **B1** 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
- **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 14

- **B1** defines proportionate punishment as a sentence fitting the seriousness of the offence

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Basic statements about rehabilitation or retribution with little or no development, limited use of sociological ideas and no clear judgement.
- **Level 2** (3-5): 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.
- **Level 3** (6-8): 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.
- **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