KS3 RE Knowledge Organiser - Year 9 - Topic: Crime and Punishment

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- What is crime?
- What are different types of crime?
- What causes crime?
- What are different aims of punishment?
- What are different types of punishment that fulfil the aims of punishment?
- What aims of punishment should be most important in the UK?

Key words

Crimes against proper- Community service

Crime ty Forgiveness
Crimes against state Reoffending

Offence Religious offence

Property
Social
Environmental
Psychological
Prison
Reform
Deterrent
Retribution
Prison

Crimes against person Capital punishment

Key concepts

- A crime is when the law is broken, but some things are criminal but not always considered a crime (e.g. eating whilst driving), whilst other things are considered wrong but there is no law (e.g. cheating on a partner and lying about it).
- Crimes come in different forms, including against the property (e.g. vandalism, theft), against the person (assault, rape etc.), against the state (terrorism, treason).
- Crimes can be hard to measure because they are officially recorded by police when they are reported to them, but not all crimes get reported to the police. People might be scared of reporting, or think that nothing will happen if they do.
- Religious offences are unique because they are sometimes the same as the law (e.g. "Do not commit murder" in the Bible), but sometimes they can be different (e.g. "Do not be jealous" in the Bible). They are often seen as separate to the law because breaking them is a sin which breaks their relationship with God. This could require asking for God's forgiveness or perhaps being punished in the afterlife, in hell.
- When a person has committed a crime, they require a punishment, but what should the aim be? Should we be trying to deter people from committing a crime (scare them from committing a crime in the first place), getting retribution on the criminal (making the punishment as harsh as the crime), or reforming the criminal (trying to make them feel sorry for what they've done and change into a better person)?
- Prison is a very common punishment used in the UK, and try to fulfil all 3 aims of punishment. Longer sentences for bigger crimes, loss of freedom and fixed routines mean that prisoners cannot choose to do what they want to.
- However, prisons are overcrowded, expensive and most prisoners will reoffend when they are released.
- Some people want capital punishment (the death penalty), to punish the biggest crimes, such as premeditated murder, but this offers no chance for reform and if a mistake is made, there is no way of going back.