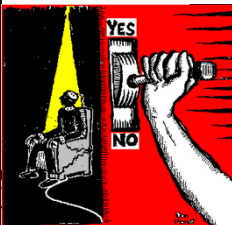


Y9 RE Knowledge Organiser HT2 - Capital Punishment

Key terms:

- **Corporal punishment** means physical punishment.
- **Capital punishment** is the death penalty.



Who Has the Death Penalty?

Yes

United States
Egypt
Nigeria
Iran
Uganda

No

United Kingdom
Rwanda
France
South Korea
Ghana

Religious Quotes

".. life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth ..." Exodus 21:23-24

"Do not judge, or you will be judged!"
Matthew 7

John 3:17: "God did not send his Son into the world to hurt the world."

10 commandments
"You shall not murder"

Arguments in Favour of Capital Punishment

If someone murders someone else, they have given up their human rights - including one to stay alive themselves. They get what they deserve (retribution). For example, Saddam Hussein was put on trial and executed in 2006. Hussein was a man who is said to be responsible for the death of thousands of Iraqi civilians as well as other civilians across the Middle East.

2) ***Giving the killer a death sentence will stop them - and others doing it again.*** Having such a harsh punishment in place will **deter** (stop) others from committing this crime.

3) ***The punishment should 'fit the crime'*** - if you have killed someone, you should be killed too.
Religious teaching: 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'. (Exodus 21:24)

4) ***How can a society/government allow such 'monsters to live'?*** Many whom commit murder cannot be trusted to be released back into society. They don't deserve to live in prison.
For example, many argue that Behring Breivik who killed 69 people in a mass shooting in Norway is a threat to humanity.

5) ***The very small chance of executing the wrong person*** is balanced by the benefits to society by **putting off other murderers from killing**. They will not want to lose their own lives, and so will not commit murder.

Arguments Against Capital Punishment

1) ***Many believe the idea of retribution*** - giving someone what they deserve is wrong. Vengeance (the concept of getting someone 'back') is not justice and it is not fair. **The law should not sink to the level of criminals.**
'We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing' U.S. Catholic Conference.

2) ***The death penalty goes against our most basic human right - the right to life.*** Everyone has a right to human life, even those who commit murder. Sentencing a person to death and execute them violates that right.

3) ***If mistakes are sometimes made in the law*** - what if someone who is innocent is actually killed? Witnesses, prosecutors and members of the jury can all make mistakes too.

For example: 1950 - Timothy Evans was tried and executed in the UK for the murder of his baby daughter Geraldine. An enquiry conducted 16 years later showed that his fellow tenant, John Christie (a serial killer) was responsible for the murder. Evans was innocent.

4) ***Being killed by a lethal injection or being electrocuted is not always smooth and painless;*** sometimes it causes a painful death. Some argue that this is not a civilised act and is like going back 100 years in time.

5) ***Capital Punishment is actually more expensive*** in a lot of countries than life imprisonment. Court costs in the US are massive when trailing someone for the death penalty. For example - the cost of convicting and executing Timothy McVeigh for the Oklahoma City Bombings was over \$13 million.

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