

A) Define the term Free Will



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The ability to make choices voluntarily and individually.



B) Explain how a religious believer may make moral decisions



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Based on their Holy Book – Bible and the 10 commandments

Based on the example of their religious founder – Sunnah and Hadith

Based on advice from their religious leader – priest or imam

Based on a response they believe they receive from God through prayer ie. Mother Teresa sacrificing her teaching career to be a nurse for the poor in India.



C) Explain from one religious tradition, views on punishment and justice



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CHRISTIANITY

Justice is the belief in Christianity that forgiveness and punishment go hand in hand.

The Bible is clear that justice is important “But let justice roll like a river”

Many belief in restorative justice – where the prisoner makes amends normally this involves those they have hurt through their crime.

Forgiveness is important and so retribution should not be an aim of punishment. Jesus is an example of someone who was forgiving. For example he forgave the thief being crucified with him.

Gee Walker also favoured forgiveness over punishment.

Although criminals should be punished to some extent, this should not be in unfair/unjust conditions. Therefore, prison reformers have tried to make sure this is not the case = Elizabeth Fry.

C) Explain from one religious tradition, views on punishment and justice

ISLAM

Forgiveness is important but so is protection and punishments should reflect both of these.

For example, in Islam the death sentence is allowed for protection of the ummah and to act as a deterrent.

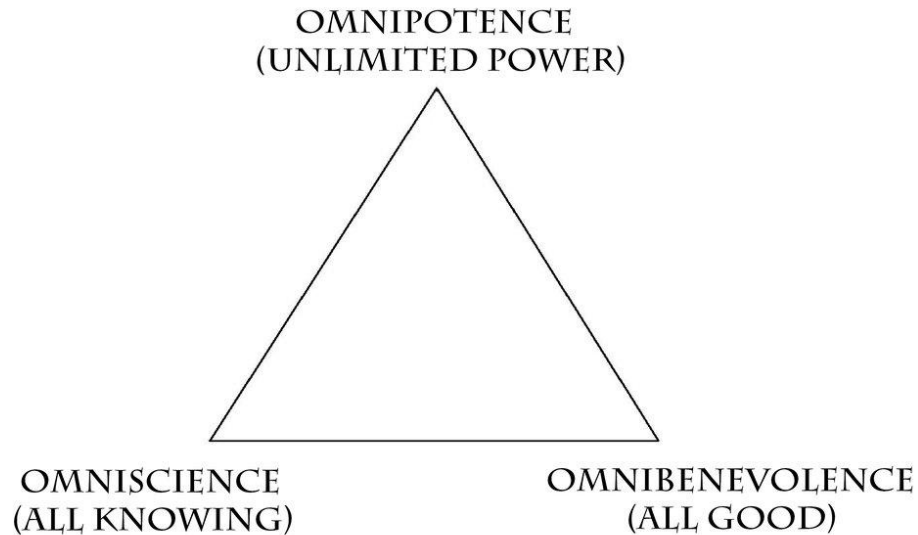
However, family members of those hurt can show forgiveness to the criminal ie. Balal Abdullah.

It is believed that God will give justice for one's actions on earth in the afterlife. (Aakhirah)

Shariah law helps to provide justice here on earth.

Giving punishment is supported by scripture 'He admonishes you that perhaps you be reminded'. Therefore, maybe it helps to teach Muslims a lesson and remind them of God's teachings.

D) “You cannot believe in God while there is suffering in the world”



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AGREE

Epicurus – God cannot be all loving, all powerful and all knowing if he allows suffering.

Many people lose their faith during traumatic events ie. Holocaust.

If you belief in predestination (Al Qadr) it is difficult to understand why God would allow suffering as part of the plan for your life.

D) “You cannot believe in God while there is suffering in the world”

DISAGREE

Believing in God can bring you hope during suffering ie. Ellie Wiesel during Holocaust

The Bible makes it clear that suffering will be endured in this lifetime for believers ie. Jesus and Paul are examples of this.

Suffering may be a test for the afterlife (Raqib and Atid)

We may not understand suffering but we can still believe in God during it ie. Job

Suffering is man made (moral suffering) and a consequence of free will.

Suffering was brought into the world as part of the original sin. God had warned us of this as a consequence of disobeying him in Genesis.

A) Give 2 examples of sin



Adultery
Blasphemy
Lying
Stealing
Murder

B) Explain the difference between crime and sin.



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- 30,000 crimes in the UK each day but likely to be considerably more sin
- Many sins are not crimes. Example: “thou shall not commit adultery” (10 commandments)
- Different consequences for sins and crime:
- SIN = excommunicated from the congregation or not achieving reward in the afterlife (parable of sheep and goats).
- CRIME = range of punishments from community service to imprisonment to capital punishment.
- Sometimes crime and sin are inherently linked. EXAMPLE: Within Shariah law sins such as blasphemy are also made into crimes and therefore punished both on earth and later by God at Akhirah.

C. Explain from one religion, views on forgiveness



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CHRISTIANITY

Jesus said to forgive 70X7 and to turn the other cheek

We should follow the example of Jesus who forgave the adulterous woman. An example of someone who did this is Gee Walker.

To show forgiveness is more likely to lead to reformation of character. Therefore, prison chaplains such as Sister Helen Prejean, encourage forgiveness.

God is a God of forgiveness as shown through the parable of the lost son

You can only be forgiven by God if you are truly sorry (repent)

Explain from one religion, views on forgiveness

ISLAM

The prophet Muhammed showed forgiveness to the woman who kicked dirt at him

Forgiveness is important but even more so is protection of the ummah so punishment is needed to

Al-Ghaffar – the forgiver is one of Allah's 99 names

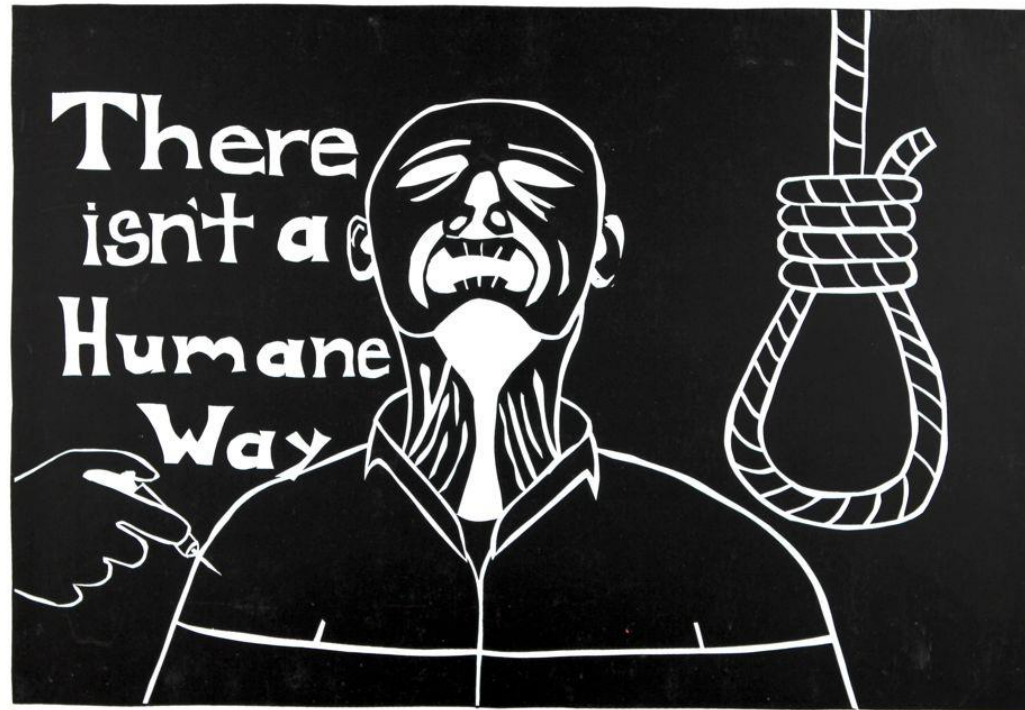
Allah wants those who sin to ask him for forgiveness. "God loves those who turn unto him in repentance" (Qur'an)

Muslims get the opportunity to show forgiveness before capital punishment is given. For example, in the case of Balal Abdullah.

Forgiveness is the path to peace.

The Qur'an states that those who forgive will be rewarded by God.

D. Capital Punishment is not right in today's society



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MORAL AGREE

State sanctioned murder

Much crime is due to upbringing so reformation is more important

CHRISTIAN

'Thou shall not kill' – sanctity of life

Only God has the right to take a life 'My times are in your hands'

Jesus protected the adulterous woman who was due to be stoned

Quakers – All life is sacred 'made in the image of God'

ISLAM

Forgiveness is preferred and will be rewarded by God – Balal Abdullah

Some may argue in today's society the death sentence is used by repressive governments and not for actual justice and so it should be abolished.

D. Capital Punishment is not right in today's society

MORAL DISAGREE

Acts as a deterrent

Some people can never reform ie. Aileen Wuornos

CHRISTIANITY

136 offences in the Old Testament were punishable by death. Therefore, maybe God supports the death sentence.

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed” Old testament, Bible)

Gets justice for those affected ‘Let justice roll on like a river’

ISLAM

Protects the ummah

Permission in Qur'an? “Nor take life which God has made sacred, except for just cause”