

YEAR 7 ETHICS UNIT 2: INTRODUCTION TO MORAL ISSUES

Overview

This unit follows on from Unit 1 – What is Belief? Pupils start to explore ethics and values as this unit considers what guides an individual's morality and tries to answer the question 'Why does someone do what they do because of their morality'? Students will consider the concept of morality and how a person's morals may affect their judgments and that there are consequences to their actions. Students will then consider a Moral Issues – Is capital punishment ever right?

Morality

Morality is the system of values and principles of behaviour. It is a way to determine what we consider to be right or wrong action, or how we decide if something/someone is good or bad.



Key Words

Belief
Believe
Christianity
Christians
Islam
Muslims
Sikhism
Sikh
Judaism
Jewish
Buddhism
Buddha
Buddhist
Hinduism
Hindu
Morals
Morality
Judgement
Conscience
Dilemma
Consequences
Decisions
Crime
Punishment
Deterrence
Reform
Protection
Retribution
Capital punishment
Execution
Hanging
Lethal injection
Beheading



Moral Dilemmas

The Golden Rule is used in most religions as a guide to how we should behave towards others. If we are uncertain how to proceed or how to make a decision we may use the Golden Rule – treat others as we would like to be treated.

Moral judgements

A moral judgement is when we make a decision on what is right or wrong based on our own moral code. How we act may be different to how someone else would act because we all have different moral codes when making a judgement.



The Golden Rule

That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for it's own self.

Blessed is he who prefers his brother before himself.

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary.

Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.

This is the sum of duty: do naught to others that which if done to thee would cause pain.

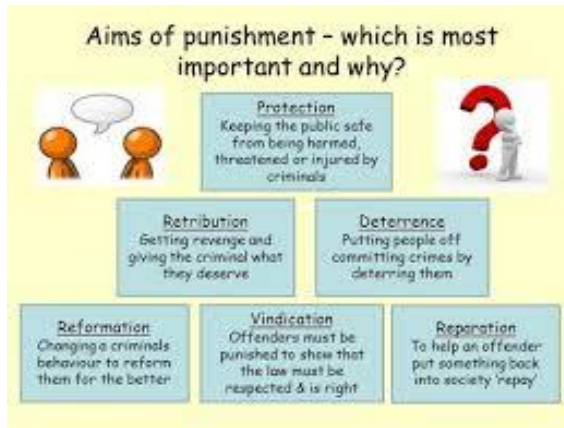
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother what he desires for himself.



The aims of punishment

All countries have laws which its people have to follow and if they don't then there are consequences. These may consist of punishment. There are 4 aims of punishment and depending on which aim is used as to what punishment is given. The 4 aims are – Deterrence; Reform; Protection; Retribution



Laws in religion

Most religions have rules its followers should adhere to. In Christianity it is the Ten Commandments, in Buddhism it is the 5 Moral Precepts.

The Five Precepts

1. I undertake to refrain from killing
2. I undertake to refrain from taking what is not freely given
3. I undertake to refrain from misusing sexuality
4. I undertake to refrain from harmful speech
5. I undertake to refrain from taking intoxicants

GOD

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet



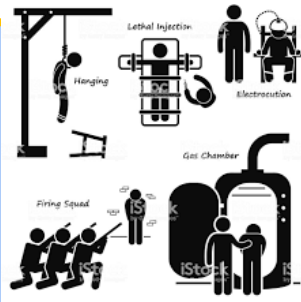
Moral Decision Making



Capital punishment

Various types of punishment can be handed out to show when someone has broken the law. The severest form of punishment is the death penalty or capital punishment. Some people believe that the punishment does not always fit the crime. There are different arguments for and against capital punishment.

The punishment fits the crime
The death penalty serves as an important bargaining point
Victims' families largely support the death penalty
The death penalty is administered as humanely as possible



WHY DO WE KILL PEOPLE WHO KILL PEOPLE TO SHOW THAT KILLING PEOPLE IS WRONG?

The death penalty was passed on these people.



Ruth Ellis



Roger Casement



William Joyce



Aileen Wuornos

Tookie Williams

Derek Bentley

Dr. Hawley Crippen

Timothy McVeigh

