

Key Vocabulary...

Citizen	A person who is legally a member of a certain country and has the absolute right to live there.
Crime	An action which is against the law of that particular place.
Law	A rule which is set by the government for all the citizens to obey without exception.
Punishment	An action which is a penalty for some action which is considered to be wrong.
Rehabilitation	The act of helping someone to change their behaviours to allow them to comply with the law in future.
Corporal Punishment	A punishment which takes the form of physical violence being done to the offender.
Capital Punishment	The act of killing an offender for breaking the law, also known as the death penalty
Imprisonment	The act of locking someone away to punish them for crimes or to keep others safe from them.
Parole	An early release from a prison sentence, usually earned through good behaviour.
Enforcement	The basic rights which any person should always have without exception.

The British Values and Some Other Rights

Democracy	The idea that the people should be able to collectively choose their leaders.
The Rule of Law	The idea that all people should follow the law and be treated equally by the law.
Individual Liberty	The idea that people should be free to choose their own path in life.
Mutual Respect and Tolerance	The idea that no one should be mistreated based on their race, gender, religion, disability or any other difference.
Freedom of Speech	The idea that people should be free to express themselves and their views without fear of punishment.
The Right to Protest unfair Treatment	Within certain rules, UK citizens are legally allowed to protest against treatment or rules that they deem unfair.
Human Rights	The basic rights which are considered to be common to all people rather than having to be earned.

Religious Matters

The Bible	The Christian holy book, actually a collection of different books.
The Koran	The Muslim holy book, communicated to Muhammad by Allah
Sanctity of Life	The belief that all human life is precious as it is a gift from God.
Thou shalt not murder	The sixth commandment given to Moses by God.
Priest Minister Vicar Pastor	Various names for a leader/teacher of the Christian faith.
Imam	A leader/teacher in the Islamic faith.

The Big Idea

The law is a really important concept as we all have to follow the law or face the consequences, and yet we all have the chance to help decide what the law should be. We do this by voting in elections, as the people we elect will make the laws and employ the people such as police and judges to enforce them. We therefore need to understand the ethical debates around the punishment of crimes, and in particular about the death penalty. Whilst the death penalty has been abolished in the UK, many British people think it should be used. The death penalty continues to be used in places around the world, to find out why there are these debates, we need to look at their origin in religion.

Always Remember...

- Religions affect our lives even if you don't have a religious belief.
- Within Britain there is a huge amount of diversity, not only of race or ethnicity, but of religious belief.
- Many people base their ideas about morality (right and wrong) on their religious beliefs, so to understand the range of different opinions in the world we need to understand the religious teachings which shape them.
- There is evidence which both supports the death penalty and also contradicts its use. Some people think that the death penalty is the ultimate deterrent against the most serious crimes. Other people think it is cruel and unnecessary, and they believe that the government should not have the right to decide to kill a person as a punishment.

Deeper Learning...

State three types of crime that are so serious that they have been given the death penalty at some time in the past.

Describe the Christian idea of 'sanctity of life' and how it is discussed in the Bible.

Explain three reasons why people might want there to be a death penalty for serious crimes. Explain three reasons why people might not want there to be a death penalty for serious crimes.

'It costs society too much money to imprison people for murder therefore murderers should be executed'. How far do you agree with this statement?

Activity - Research the conditions in prisons during the Victorian period, presenting your work as a two-side fact-file, including an explanation of your opinion on whether these conditions were justified.