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COURSE: CRIMINOLOGY

1. What motivates the just desert principle of punishment? Discuss

The philosophy let the punishment fit the crime is the one behind the just deserts model of justice. The phrase represents the idea of a fair and appropriate punishment relates to the severity of the crime of the crime that was committed. The just desert model is often referred toas the retribution type of sentencing. In other words, one should be punished simply because of the crime committed. Throughout history, the idea of retribution for the commission of a crime can best be explained in the old testament quote ‘an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth”. Under the just desert, those who commit crimes deserve to be punished. Moreover, the severity of punishment should be commensurate with the severity of the crime. In other words as stated at the outset, the punishment should fit the crime. Just deserts is an attempt to blend justice with fairness. By focusing on the behavior of the offender, punishment is not based on predictions of the like hood of recidivism or how long it will take to change the offender. But the seriousness of the offence and past record of offending become the substantive basis for determing appropriate punishment. Retribution presents crimes as acts which deserve punishment. It focuses on the idea of just desert, of money as a form of punishment, particularly for minor in order to give the offender what he deserves. It also encompasses the classical idea that punishment should be equal in proportion to the seriousness of the crime.

1. As a criminology student, what do you think is the most effective way of punishing and treating capital offenders. Give your reasons.

Capital offenders are people who commit capital crimes, capital offences or felonies, and varies depending on the jurisdiction but commonly include murder, mass murder, rape and assault, terrorism, treason etc. the suitable punishment for capital offences is death or life imprisonment.

Death sentence is a government sanctioned practice whereby a person is to be put to death by the state as a punishment for a crime. there are different modes of execution is

1. Lethal injection
2. Death by hanging
3. Death by electrocution
4. Death by firing squad

I believe death penalty is the most effective way to curb capital offences because no other punishment can deter men so effectually from committing crimes as the punishment of death.

Also if we believe life is so meaningful and important then those who take innocent life deserve to suffer the punishment of death also and not for then to be fed three square meals

Murders can be seen as societies predators and society has no moral reason to pay for the upkeep of its predator, so death is the only option available

Capital punishment is usually an act of justice. the only way for a murder to adequately atone for his sin of taking an innocent life is to forfeit his or her own life.

1. Will you answer be the same if the accused was charged for a simple offence?

No, my answer would not be the same.

Simple offences is any offence declared by law to be a simple offences and is punishable by not more than 6 months imprisonment. So I believe the appropriate punishment for simple offences would be imprisonment, community services and payment of fines. This is because there crimes are not as severe as that of capital offenders. Example of simple offences include wearing of army uniform, selling of army uniform etc.

Imprisonment: can be defined as a term of judicial sentence available for a convicted offender of adult age, involving incarceration in prison for either life or specified period of time.

Fine: is money that the court of law or other authority decides has to be paid as punishment for a crime or other offences. The amount of fine can be determined case by case but it is often announced in advance.

Community service: offenders required to perform unpaid work for the community in which the offences has been committed for a certain period of time.

Then the following are ways to treat simple offenders.

1. Chaplaincy services: through this services, inmates are rehabilitated spiritually. Most prisons provide both Christian and muslin clerics who coordinate religious activities. They do this in order to draw the offender back to a lawful state.
2. Skill acquisition programs: prisons in Nigerian are equipped with workshop in various aspect of skill acquisition such as carpentry, hair making, soap making, shoe making etc.