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**Question**

1) What motivates the 'just desert' principle of punishment? Discuss

2) A) as a criminology student, what do you think is the most effective way of punishing and treating capital offenders. Give reason(s) for your answer

b) Will your answer be the same if the accused was charged for a simple offence?

**What motivates the 'just desert' principle of punishment? Discuss**

The word is related to justice, revenge, blame, punishment and many topics central to moral philosophy, also "moral desert". In the English language, the word "desert" with this meaning tends to be a rather uncommon word colloquially; it is almost exclusively used in the phrase "just deserts" (e.g. "Although she was not at first arrested for the crime, she later on received her just deserts."). The phrase "just deserts" is a pun on this original term and is often confused as the correct spelling of the word. In ordinary usage, to deserve is to earn or merit a reward; in philosophy, the distinction is drawn in the term desert to include the case that which one receives as one's just deserts may well be unwelcome, or a reward. For example, if one scratches off a winning lottery ticket, one may be entitled to the money, but one does not necessarily deserve it in the same way one would deserve to be paid for working for an employer, or deserve a round of applause for performing a solo. So, what exactly is the just deserts philosophy? Under just deserts, those who commit crimes deserve to be punished. Moreover, the severity of the 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 sometimes referred to as the 'retribution' type of sentencing. In other words, one should be punished simply because one committed a crime. 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, a tooth for a tooth.

**As a criminology student, what do you think is the most effective way of punishing and treating capital offenders? Give reason(s) for your answer**

I will start by defining who a capital offender is, a capital offender is someone who has committed a capital offence or has been convicted of a capital offence, capital offences include murder, terrorism related offences, etc. Capital punishment, also called death penalty, execution of an offender sentenced to death after conviction by a court of law of a criminal offense. Capital punishment should be distinguished from extrajudicial executions carried out without due process of law. The term death penalty is sometimes used interchangeably with capital punishment, though imposition of the penalty is not always followed by execution (even when it is upheld on appeal), because of the possibility of commutation to life imprisonment.

**Will your answer be the same if the accused was charged for a simple offence?**

No, my answer would not be the same