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The desert principle states that criminal sanctions should be commensurate with the seriousness of the offense. This theory of sentencing advocates that punishment should be proportional to the seriousness of the crime committed.

The main focus of the just desert principle is the balance of the scale of justice by ensuring that precisely prescribed punishment for crime be imposed on all offenders without fluctuation as to the severity or type of punishment being given for that crime. In essence the just principal is focused on ensuring punishment for a crime.

The just desert Principle often referred to as retribution principle, although very similar in nature ( as they both focus on punishing the offender for his crimes) they are different as retribution is stricter toward ensuring punishment to an offender while the just desert principle is more lenient when it comes to the scale.

The Just Desert principle became popular from the 1971 Stanford Prison experiment which was conducted by Professor Philip Zimbardo. From this experiment he illustrated that prisons did not offer inmates with any opportunities to redeem themselves. Also in Robert Larson's essay 'Nothing Works' (1974) he argues that nothing works in correctional treatment.

The above study made scholars begin to look at other alternative as to corrective philosophies for crimes such as the 'Just desert' principle. In essence what motivates the just desert principle is ensuring that the scale of justice is balanced by punishment fitting the crime and every offender getting the same specified penalty for the same offence committed.

2. According to Duihaines dictionary, a capital offence is one which the punishment, or one of the punishments, is death. As a Criminology student who has conducted intensive research on the subject matter I am of the opinion that the best ways of treating capital offenders are;

1. Solitary confinement
2. Indeterminate sentencing
3. Excommunication

#### 4. Community service

I shall proceed to give reasons as to why I find these methods most effective when dealing with capital offenders. Before I do so it is of my best interest to note that Death penalty/Corporal penalty has not been scientifically proven to be an effective means of dealing with capital offenders, for one thing it is seen by a number of people as being too lenient of the offender and the victims gaining little to no form of compensation.

I find solitary confinement an effective way of treating capital offenders as they are kept alive to atone for the crimes they committed while engaging in hard labour. This way the criminal can reflect on the crime committed and may in turn repent.

Indeterminate sentencing is another effect method of treating capital criminals, this method can be seen to have an underlying intention at reforming the criminals as certain considerations may be looked upon such as if the criminal is seen to be of good behaviour his sentence may reduced based on good behaviour and in turn put on parole or probation.

Excommunication is also a good way of treating capital offenders as it protects others from the criminal as well as ensures punishment on the offender.

Community service in my opinion is one of the most effective ways of treating capital offenders because it lets the criminal or offender work as a consequence of his crime, thereby benefiting the society and it give the criminal a chance to atone of his crimes.

3 No, my answer would not be the same as a simple offender cannot be given the same punishment as a capital offender as it will unbalance the scale of fairness.

I am of the opinion that one of the best ways to treat those found guilty of simple offenses is by following the guidelines provided for in the Tokyo rules Rules 8.1&8.2 which are intended to promote greater community involvement in the management of criminal justice, specifically in the treatment of offenders, as well as to promote among offenders a sense of responsibility towards society as well as reduce the use of the imprisonment sanctions .

**REFERENCE**

Tokyo Rule 8.1-8.3

JUST DESERT AND DETERRENCE THEORY OF PUNISHMENT -ROBERT WORLEY ,2004.

Types of punishment, Ashley Johnson, 2017.