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## CRIMINOLOGY ASSIGNMENT

What is punishment?

Punishment is the infliction or imposition of a penalty as retribution for an offence. It is the meting out of a stipulated penalty for the commission of an offence

Purpose of punishment

Punishment serves as a deterrent. Punishing lawbreakers serves as a deterrent to the general populace from committing the same or similar crimes

It serves as a basis of constitutionalism. Because punishments have to be stipulated in a recognised law book, punishment is constitutional and it therefore enhances democracy.

Punishment also helps in the stabilisation of law and order in every society. Punishment in form of imprisonments or fines will help to maintain order in the society as the offenders will not go Scot free

Punishment also aims to Rehabilitate. This is the treatment or reorientation of offenders in order to prevent future commission of the crime. It can be inform of vocational training, counselling etc

Retribution prevents future crime by removing the desire for personal avengement (in the form of assault, battery, and criminal homicide, for example) against the defendant. When victims or society discover that the defendant has been adequately punished for a crime, they achieve a certain satisfaction that our criminal procedure is working effectively, which enhances faith in law enforcement and our government.

Restitution prevents future crime by punishing the defendant financially. Restitution is when the court orders the criminal defendant to pay the victim for any harm and resembles a civil litigation damages award. Restitution can be for physical injuries, loss of property or money, and rarely, emotional distress. It can also be a fine that covers some of the costs of the criminal prosecution and punishment.

### Just Deserts

Just deserts refers to fair and just punishment. Simply put this principle means that a person is punished because they did something wrong or bad. The punishment given to an offender must commensurate each other and be equal. Just deserts, as a philosophy of punishment, argues that criminal sanctions should be commensurate with the seriousness of the offense. This principle is motivated by retributive equivalences and appropriate consequences. An advantage would be that the small amount that is responsible for the majority of crime within a society would be incapacitated and the opportunity for the criminal to commit crime and or harm society is eliminated. A disadvantage would be that the people who would be least likely to relapse into crime would not only be stigmatized but sanctioned and marked by our society and the possibility of the subject recidivating would be greatly increased, for lack of opportunity and the immediate relief that crime provides is extremely tempting.

## 2. EFFECTIVE WAY OF TREATING AND PUNISHING CAPITAL OFFENDERS

Capital offenders are offenders or law breakers who have been convicted of a capital offence. A capital offence is an offense that is punishable by the death penalty. I am of the opinion that the death penalty should be abolished in Nigeria for a myriad of reasons

One being that the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to stopping crime commission. If enforcing the death penalty was an effective deterrent, crime rates in the country should have seen a significant reduction over time but that is not the case. Crimes are still being

committed at an even alarmingly higher rate. There has been no proof that the death penalty has actually influenced the number of crimes in Nigeria.

Another reason why the capital punishment should be abolished is that it is an infringement on the right of the accused. Offenders also have a right to life and two wrongs can not make a right if an offender is put to death for doing the same thing or something similar.

The death penalty also takes away the chance of reforming the criminal. Even if the criminal can not be reoriented back into the society, there is a good chance they can be rehabilitated or reformed and used for the benefit of the society. They can be allowed to offer services to the society while being incarcerated. This service will still aid the society instead of killing them off

There are many other ways to treat capital offenders. The first and most important is rehabilitation. Everyone deserves a second chance. Capital offenders are included, even though they might never get a chance to go back into the society, they can be rehabilitated and helped instead of being killed

They can also be incarcerated for life. Life imprisonment should be the highest punishment while the death penalty should be abolished. Incarceration for life is better than killing capital offenders because they can still be useful in creating criminal profiles for the police. They can still help with investigations or even in profiling other criminals still at large.

Some need treatment as they could be mentally ill. A large number of murderers or serial killers have been found to have suffered from one mental illness or another, ranging from Bipolar disorder to schizophrenia or even Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is a neurodegenerative disease caused by repeated head injuries. People who fall into this category can not be said to be responsible for the crimes they are convicted of and they deserve to be treated, even if they do not end up leaving the prison. They can also be used as case studies in researches and finding treatments or the root causes of crime causation

B. My answer would be the same if he was charged with a simple offense because capital punishment should be abolished in its entirety. It is a barbaric and unfair method of punishment that gives no closure or retribution to the affected party or parties and it does not act as a real deterrent to crimes.