



Subject Level Descriptor

Department	Philosophy and Ethics	Year Group	Y9	Assessment	Capital Punishment
Assessment Summary	Students have been considering the ethical implications of the death penalty within a topic looking at human rights. In this assessment, they are asked to write an essay on: 'Should the UK bring back the death penalty?'. In this, they should refer to human rights and religious perspectives on the issue as well as ideas about the aims of punishment.				

	Level descriptor
Level 1	Students give basic descriptions of arguments for and/or against the statement and do not explain the arguments or use examples to add detail. There is very limited or no use of key terms like 'reform' or 'deterrence' and limited or no reference to religious belief and / or human rights. Personal conclusion lacks explanation or is missing altogether.
Level 2	Students give basic descriptions of arguments for and/or against the statement although there is some evidence of students explaining these arguments further, possibly using examples. There is some, albeit, limited use of keywords like 'reform' and there may be reference to a religious belief and / or human rights. Personal conclusion is included but brief and not well explained. Students cannot move beyond this point if they have only given one side of the argument.
Level 3	Mostly detailed descriptions of arguments for and against the statement and most arguments are explained in good detail and there is often use of examples and at least one case study. Good and accurate use is made of keywords like 'reform' and there is usually reference made to religious belief, possibly including a quotation from scripture. Human rights are included and often explained well in the context of capital punishment. Personal conclusion is included and well explained. Students cannot move beyond this point if they have not provided a personal conclusion or made no reference to religion or human rights.
Level 4	Consistently detailed descriptions of arguments for and against the statement. Arguments are well explained and there is consistent use of examples and at least one case study. Excellent use of keywords such as 'reform' and there is a reference to at least one religious view that is well explained using a quotation. Human rights are included in detail and explored in the context of capital punishment. Personal conclusion is very well explained and clearly shows why the position supported is the strongest. Students cannot move beyond this point if they have not referred to at least one case study.
Level 5	Student's response stands out as being one of the best in the class and consistently includes: very detailed descriptions and explanations, accurate information, excellent use of keywords and is mostly (if not completely) free from SPAG errors, good use of a case study/s, religious arguments on both sides of the discussion and quotations. The student makes excellent use of arguments that include human rights and enters into intelligent discussion concerning whether capital punishment is an infringement of human rights. Student has demonstrated excellent knowledge, even drawing upon wider information such as statistical data about the use of the death penalty.