



**Tuesday 17 June 2014 – Morning**

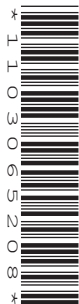
**A2 GCE CRITICAL THINKING**

**F503/01/RB Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making**

**RESOURCE BOOKLET**

**To be issued with the Question Paper**

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Use the resource documents to answer the questions in the Question Paper.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The information contained in this Resource Booklet was accurate when it went to press, but may subsequently have changed. Questions should be answered on the basis that the information is correct.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR**

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This Resource Booklet has been pre modified for carrier language

**Key terms**

**Capital offence:** crime punishable by death.

**Posthumous pardon:** an official recognition of innocence after death.

**Mandatory death penalty:** the judge has no choice but to pass a death sentence on anyone found guilty of that crime.

**Discretionary death penalty:** the judge has the power to decide whether to pass a death sentence or impose some other punishment.

**Document 1****Have you ever thought about stealing a sheep?**

In the early 1800s, sheep stealing was a capital offence. Impersonating a Chelsea Pensioner, or living with gypsies for a month, hardly seem morally equivalent to battering your neighbour to death, yet these, too, were among 220 capital crimes at that time. In the 19th century 3518 people were hanged in England and Wales, only 40% of them for murder.

1

It took until the mid-1960s to remove the death penalty for murder. Since then Britain's recorded crime rate has grown, the annual level of murders has more than doubled and the prison population has exploded from 15 000 to more than 70 000. Not surprisingly, fear of crime has grown too.

2

Ripe conditions, indeed, for the 'hang 'em and flog 'em brigade' baying for the return of the noose, egged on by the tabloid press. Yet a YouGov opinion poll published in 2006 revealed that, for the first time since Britain outlawed capital punishment, less than half the population wanted it restored.

3

The global picture is changing, too. By 1979 only 19 countries had abolished the death penalty. In 2006 it was 81 countries. A further 32 countries kept the death penalty in their laws but had not actually imposed death sentences for many years. A minority of countries today use the death penalty. It is used most in China, Iran, Vietnam, the US and Saudi Arabia.

4

The strongest single argument against capital punishment was stated by Charles Dickens – "The barest possibility of mistake is a sufficient reason against the taking of a human life which nothing can restore," he protested in 1846. Britain has granted posthumous pardons to a number of individuals who were hanged in the 1950s. In the US, thousands remain on Death Row for years, appealing against their convictions. Since the 1970s, more than 120 of them have been released after proving their innocence.

5

*Source: TES Connect Resources*

*Sponsored by the Times Educational Supplement, TES Connect Resources consists of "a vast library of teaching resources all created and uploaded by teachers".*

## Document 2

### The case for capital punishment

Some time ago I found myself at a conference of those with an interest in matters of law and order. When I mentioned that the murder rate had quadrupled since the abolition of capital punishment, an embarrassed silence filled the room.

1

Afterwards, however, I was approached by a meek, mild little gentleman, who turned out to be a Professor of Ethics at one of America's leading universities, and an adviser retained by the police departments of several major US cities. He told me a story. "Of course capital punishment works. In China recently they had a drug problem. One day, they took out 6000 drug dealers and shot them in the back of the head. The result: they don't now have a drug problem."

2

If, over the next few years, the supply of cheap and illegal arms continues to grow at the rate it lately has, the practice of random, casual shooting will become a normal part of our lives. In time, such murder will be so widespread that it almost ceases to be reported. And only then will some radical politician reluctantly admit that capital punishment is the alternative to scrapping the rule of law.

3

*Source: The Daily Telegraph*

## Document 3

### Offences initially recorded by the police as homicide England and Wales 1946–2010

| Years     | Number |
|-----------|--------|
| 1946–1950 | 1 703  |
| 1951–1955 | 1 645  |
| 1956–1960 | 1 445  |
| 1961–1965 | 1 492  |
| 1966–1970 | 1 989  |
| 1971–1975 | 2 511  |
| 1976–1980 | 2 834  |
| 1981–1985 | 2 970  |
| 1986–1990 | 3 279  |
| 1991–1995 | 3 561  |
| 1996–2000 | 3 640  |
| 2001–2005 | 4 428  |
| 2006–2010 | 3 579  |

*Source: The Home Office*

The figures in this table include murder and manslaughter. Manslaughter is unintended killing.

- Before 1957, the death penalty was mandatory for all cases of murder.
- Capital punishment was restricted to certain kinds of murder from 1957.
- Capital punishment for murder was suspended in 1965 and abolished in 1969.

## Document 4

When we first began campaigning against the death penalty in 1977, it had been abolished by just 16 countries. Yet over the decades, as countries have learned about the realities of the death penalty – its ineffectiveness in deterring crime, its incompatibility with human rights – they have turned against it.

1

Today 139 countries have abolished this cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment in law or practice, a remarkable achievement. Moreover:

2

- Whilst 67 countries gave death sentences in 2010, only 23 countries actually carried out executions – just over a third.
- The number of official executions reported fell from at least 714 people in 2009 to at least 527 in 2010, excluding China.
- We have also seen fresh steps towards abolition in countries including Belarus and Mongolia.

3

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Despite this progress and momentum, a handful of countries remain deeply committed to using the death penalty, and it continues to be imposed with blatant disregard for international law. Death sentences are being given for offences that do not meet the international criterion of 'most serious crimes' and often after unfair trials. In Iran, for instance, our research shows an alarming increase in executions for acts such as drug trafficking or vaguely worded charges relating to national security.

6

*Source: Amnesty International*

## Document 5

### More than half of voters back the reintroduction of the death penalty

Calls for the death penalty have been highlighted by recent high-profile cases. But human rights activists say support for the death penalty is actually weakening and claim the moral case against – and public revulsion at – the punishment remains strong.

1

Harris Interactive has recently conducted a poll questioning 1100 people aged between 16 and 64. This poll shows 54% of people are in favour of the death penalty while 30% are against it. Although the strongest support comes from older generations, 49% of 25- to 34-year-olds and 37% of those aged 16 to 24 support executions.

2

Of those in favour, 94% want it for murder, 68% for war crimes and 62% for child abuse. But 29% believe it should be extended to major drug dealers and 45% say it should be used for rapists and those involved in gun crime.

3

Outlawing capital punishment is a condition of European Union membership and a European Convention on Human Rights protocol which Britain signed in 1999. Human rights charity Reprieve last night insisted: "In our experience, the British people have a sane and humane attitude towards the death penalty and would never tolerate executions on our soil."

4

*Source: The Metro, 2012*

*The Metro is a free newspaper, aimed at people travelling to work in cities.  
It describes itself as politically independent.*

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