**AQA Specification: Religion, Crime & Punishment**

**3.2.1.5 Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment**

Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.

They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions:

•• Corporal punishment.

•• Death penalty.

•• Forgiveness.

**Religion, crime and the causes of crime**

•• Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering.

Reasons for crime, including:

•• poverty and upbringing

•• mental illness and addiction

•• greed and hate

•• opposition to an unjust law.

•• Views about people who break the law for these reasons.

•• Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder.

**Religion and punishment**

The aims of punishment, including:

•• retribution

•• deterrence

•• reformation.

The treatment of criminals, including:

•• prison

•• corporal punishment

•• community service.

•• Forgiveness.

•• The death penalty.

•• Ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life.