Trevor McDonald Life on Death Row

Episode 1 <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5lkw4d>

Episode 2 <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5lsfvj>

Terms:

* **Death Row** – the part of a prison where they keep prisoners who are going to be executed
* **population** – the area of the prison where non-death-row prisoners are kept
* **homicide** – murder
* **Kabbalah** – Jewish mystical writings exploring the supernatural power of words from the Hebrew Bible (Jewish ideas but sometimes adopted by Christians)

Answer the questions on this sheet (except for q.5). Highlighted ones apply to both episodes.:

1. What is the average length of sentence in Indiana State Prison?
2. List the effects that prison has on people.
3. List the effects that the anticipation of the death sentence has on prisoners.
4. What is an honor cell?
5. In your book write at least three case studies, including Fredrick Baer as one of them:
   1. Give details of his crime.
   2. What circumstances may have made this person more likely to commit crime?
   3. Give any information about how he feels about the crime now.
   4. Give any evidence that this person has changed since the crime.
   5. What effect has the punishment had on him?
6. What privileges do some prisoners have?
7. List ways in which religion plays a part in people’s lives in the prison.

Discussion

1. Is it better to be a victim or a shark?
2. Is it right to kill a prisoner if killing is supposed to be wrong?
3. Is there a difference between murder and judicial execution?
4. Is it right that a killer of other people should be allowed to live a full lifespan?
5. Is it right for people to have to pay taxes to keep murderers alive in prison at £30,000 per year each?
6. What human rights are involved in this area of debate?
7. Can these crimes be excused?
8. Can these crimes be forgiven?