# Title: What is capital punishment? What do Christians think?

**Key Questions:** How willing am I/are we to make sacrifices? How do believers show their loyalty/sacrifices? How do followers of T\* show that they belong to their tradition? What can followers of T\* learn from events in the history of their tradition? Who/what are we faithful and committed to? Who or what do I think deserves my loyalty?

**Key Concepts:** sacrifice, commitment, loyalty, obedience, faith

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| To be able to explain reasons for /against capital punishment and explore own views and Christian views | * Show a picture of the electric chair. Ask students to write a thought bubble responding to the picture. Share and discuss responses.
* Pose the question: are any crimes unforgivable? Invite responses from students with reasons.
* Discuss terms death penalty/capital punishment.
* Ask students to write the following in their book:

My view 1 I am for/against/undecided (for all crimes)/ about the death penalty* Students to justify their view in 2/3 sentences
* Watch the TrueTube/BBC clips- students to record reasons for/against the death penalty given and then rank them in order: least to most convincing

Ask students to write : My view 2 I am for/against/undecided (for all crimes) about the death penalty. I have/have not changed my view because….* Christians and the death penalty. Ask students what they would expect Christians to think and explain why.
* Use text book/information sheet/video clips to find out different Christian attitudes to the death penalty.
* The death penalty in practice: read the BBC news report on the death of Derek Bentley. Discuss whether students think the right decision was made?
* Ask students to write two post cards to Sir David Maxwell Fyfe (the Home Secretary at the time) one from a Christian urging that Bentley be hanged, the other from a Christian urging that Bentley not be hanged. Encourage students to use religious teachings to back up their points in both.
* Ask students to write: My view 3 I am for/against/undecided (for all crimes) about the death penalty. I have/have not changed my view because…..
 | Picture of electric chairTrueTube: <https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/death-penalty-debate>BBC:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqo0vYvrSPUTextbooks/information sheetsDerek Bentley news report: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/january/28/newsid_3393000/3393807.stm>Postcard templates |