# 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 chair  TrueTube: <https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/death-penalty-debate>  BBC:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqo0vYvrSPU  Textbooks/information sheets  Derek Bentley news report: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/january/28/newsid_3393000/3393807.stm>  Postcard templates |