

Candidate 8 evidence

Analyse religious responses to moral issues arising from custodial sentences. 10

A custodial sentence is a type of punishment given by a court where the offender is required to spend time in a prison or similar secure facility **(KU)**. These sentences can vary in length, ranging from a few days to life imprisonment **(KU)**, depending on the severity of the crime. Recidivism is a significant moral issue within the prison system, as many people who commit crimes often end up reoffending and returning to prison **(KU)**—approximately 25% of people in the UK end up back in prison **(KU)**. A Christian may look to the teachings of Jesus to address this moral issue. The Bible demonstrates Jesus' care for those in need, including prisoners: "...I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."**(KU)** An implication of this teaching highlights the importance of showing compassion and support to all offenders by encouraging a more humane and supportive approach to helping offenders reintegrate into society and remain out of prison **(A)**. This teaching encourages a focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment, urging Christians to support restorative justice practices **(A)**. By following Jesus' example of offering care and support to those in need, Christians are prompted to work toward a justice system that emphasises healing, forgiveness, and second chances, rather than solely focusing on retribution **(A)**.