Key Concepts			
Punishment	The consequences or penalty for someone that has committed a crime.	**Absolutism**	The belief that there are certain actions which are always right or always wrong.
Sin	An act against God	**Relativism**	The belief that certain actions are right or wrong depending on the situation or circumstances.
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they've caused you. Overlooking a person's faults.	**Eucharist**	Meaning "thanksgiving". The sacrament in which Roman Catholics remember the Last Supper.
Salvation	The belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of eternal life.	**Evangelisation**	Spreading the "Good News" which can be translated as "Gospel" The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is also known as the death penalty. It means a person is put to death or executed as a punishment for their crime. It was abolished in the United Kingdom in 1965, but it is still legal in many countries. Some people think it is a good form of punishment because it deters people from murdering others and takes a life for a life. Other people disagree with capital punishment because evidence shows it does not deter, and innocent people can be killed for crimes they did not commit.

Sources of Authority

"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed" **Genesis 9:6**

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" **Exodus 21:24**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you: "Turn the other cheek" **Jesus**

"Say 'Yes' to life and 'No' to death" **Pope Francis**

"In the light of the Gospel, the death penalty is an attack on dignity of the person" **Magisterium**

Catholic Teaching on Capital Punishment prior to 2018	The consistent teaching of the Catholic Church for the past **2000 years** has been that capital punishment is **allowed, but should not be encouraged.** In 1995, Pope **John Paul II** wrote an encyclical letter called **'Evagelium Vitae'** and said capital punishment should be avoided unless it's the only way to protect society. In the New Testament, **Jesus does not speak directly in support of it**, but he does not deny the use of it either.
Catholic Teaching on Capital Punishment after 2018	In 2018, the Magisterium, led by **Pope Francis** revised the teaching and supports the view that the death penalty should be **abolished (stopped)** worldwide. Pope Francis revised the teaching of the **Catechism** and said that capital punishment **"attacks the dignity"** of a person and should be abolished worldwide.
Arguments in favour of Capital Punishment	There are many people (both religious and non-religious) who argue in favour of capital punishment for a number of reasons. Some Christians argue that the Bible (Old Testament) states that capital punishment should be used for a number of offences. It also teaches **"an eye for an eye"** and a message of **retribution**. The death penalty is a good form of **deterrence** and a way of **protecting society**. Before 2018 the Catholic Church taught that it could protect people. It is also seen as a **fair punishment** for someone who takes the life of another person.
Arguments against Capital Punishment	There are many people (both religious and non-religious) who argue against capital punishment for a number of reasons. Some Christians argue that it breaks the commandment **"Do not kill"** and goes against the **sanctity of life.** Furthermore, The Bible states humans are made in the **image of God (imago dei**) and **Catherine of Siena** said humans are the **pinnacle of creation**. Jesus taught a message of forgiveness and said we should **"love our enemies".** St **Augustine** taught that we cannot reform someone who is dead and **Pope Francis** says we should say **"yes to life, and no to death".** Statistics show that it does not reduce the crime rate and sometimes innocent people can be put to death.

Exam Practice

b) Describe John Paul II teaching on capital punishment (5)

b) Describe Catholic beliefs about capital punishment