**A longer prison term as a way of punishing those who break the law is not as good as other methods. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Imposing prison sentences is regarded as a way of punishing serious offenders and sometimes as a correctional method. This approach has its advantage, but there are other punishments which can achieve better outcomes.

Community service should be taken into consideration as a better method as it may turn offenders into law-abiding citizens. A Community Order requires offenders to perform enormous tasks for the community, such as cleaning streets, tending public gardens and removing graffiti, which can foster a sense of responsibility. They will realize that they can contribute to society with their labour and make the community a better place to live in. This can prevent reoffending as these people may become accustomed to acting as meaningful members of communities, rather than individuals who do something harmful or destructive to society. Sending them to prison does not achieve this outcome as they are disengaged from communities when imprisoned.

Probation is also a better alternative to imprisonment for some as it allows lawbreakers to live a normal life. Some people commit criminal acts on the spur of the moment and the behaviour does not pose serious risks to community. They feel regretful and show a willingness to repent and correct mistakes. Given this. the court can offer them an opportunity to live their lives as usual, such as attending school or receiving vocational training for future careers thereby minimizing the negative impact on their lives. By comparison, a prison term may ruin their lives, cast a long shadow on their careers and reduce the chance of them becoming ordinary citizens.

If these two options are exhausted and offenders violate laws repeatedly, a prison sentence is possibly the best choice. The judge may conclude that law-breaking behaviour is ingrained and cannot be reformed. Examples of such repeat offenders include drug dealers who sell illicit substance for money, and violent criminals who have a long history of assaulting innocent people. When light punishments prove ineffective, the court can keep offenders in prison which can deprive them of their freedom and prevent them from habitually engaging in unlawful activity.

In conclusion, I think that a harsh penalty is not the best corrective measure for offenders unless they have multiple criminal offences on their records. The justice system should attempt to change offenders' behaviors and guide them to act as productive members of society.

**By punishing murderers with the death penalty, society is also guilt of committing murder. Therefore, life in prison is a better punishment for murderers.To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

"Do as I say, not as I do." This is what society tells us when it punishes murderers with the death penalty. Society tells us that murder is wrong, and in our legal system, murder is against the law. Yet we still see our society kill murderers, and thus we are committing murder ourselves. For this reason, the death penalty should end, and instead murderers should be punished with life in prison.

Society needs to show a positive model of how our lives should be and how people should act. We should always strive to improve our situation, to be at peace and in harmony with others. However, when we kill murderers, we are not working to improve our society. Instead, we are stooping to the criminals' level.

It makes me think about the revenge that came when playing games with my brothers. When we were kids/children, my brother would take my toys, so I would hit him and take my toys back. Then he would hit me harder and take the toys again. Thinking of the death penalty, I imagine a murderer kills someone. Society takes revenge by killing the murderer. This leaves behind the murderer's family and friends, who have tremendous anger inside of them, which they may release onto society. The cycle of killing goes on and on.

Society should not condemn people who are taking the same action that society is taking. Society tells us not to kill, and yet society kills when it exercises the death penalty. Because of this contradiction, we should end the death penalty and instead punish murderers by sentencing them to life in prison.

**By punishing murderers with the death penalty, society is also guilt of committing murder. Therefore, life in prison is a better punishment for murderers.To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

I strongly support the death penalty for murderers. In today's society, life is very violent. There are many mentally-ill people committing crimes and almost nothing will stop them. We have interviewed captured criminals who say, "I was going to kill him, but I knew that I could get the death penalty if I did. So I just left him there." Obviously, having the death penalty saves lives and that makes a positive difference to society.

If a criminal does murder someone, and then gets the death penalty, that isn't society's fault. Everyone knows about the death penalty as a punishment for murder. So, the person who murders is really killing himself at the same time he is killing his victim. The murderer has made the choice to die.

It is important to remember that the death penalty is used only for people who have committed very serious crimes. For example, a woman shot a police officer when she was trying to escape from jail. She was already a convicted criminal when she committed murder, and she deserves the death penalty.

People need to accept responsibility for their actions. Punishing murderers with the death penalty is one way that society can help people to realize the consequences of their decisions.

**Recent figures show an increase in violent crime among youngsters under the age of 18. Some psychologists claim that the basic reason for this is that children these days are not getting the social and emotional learning they need from parents and teachers.To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

It does seem to be true that parents find teachers have lost the authority they used to have, especially in the eyes of teenagers. They are no longer seen as models for behavior: hard work, politeness and other positive qualities are seen as old fashioned. Many young people have no respect for these qualities or the people who represent them. In fact, I think when young people today are so rebellious that it's possible that both parents and teachers are afraid to exercise their authority. However, I do not agree that this is the basic reason for the increase in teenage violence.

While I believe it is true that a lack of social and emotional learning contributes to the problem. Other factors are surely involved: economic factors, for example. If a child comes from a poor family and they live in low-quality housing in all undesirable area, this is sure to affect the child, however loving the parents are.

There is also the question of who your friends are. I believe that when you are in your teens your friends have more influence on you than your parents or teachers. At that age, you want to be part of a group, or even a gang, and this might lead to breaking the law in a number of ways.

In conclusion, while I agree that lack of social and emotional learning from parents and teachers is a factor in the growth of teenage violence, I do not believe that it is the only or main cause.

**The efficient functioning of society is based on rules and laws. Society would not function well if individuals were free to do whatever they wanted.To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Laws can be taken to refer to the rules imposed on citizens. In my opinion, a society without laws to limit the individual behaviour cannot maintain order although tough laws can be counterproductive in some cases.

A lawless society cannot function well because its economy would be chaotic. Laws stipulate or specify what people should do in public places to make sure personal behaviour does not disrupt the operation of public systems and facilities. For example, motorists and pedestrians should obey traffic regulations to avoid traffic accidents and jams caused by reckless driving. This ensures that commuters can show up for work on time and companies can deliver goods to customers in a timely manner. Businesses can then operate smoothly and generate revenue, which is essential to a healthy economy. Economic prosperity provides sufficient cash or the government to finance public services, such as law enforcement, fire fighting and water and electricity supplies, without which a society could collapse.

Laws can also uphold some values which are critical to a harmonious society. Driven by self-interest, people sometimes tend to do things that can harm others through fraudulent or violent activities. Laws punish these behaviors and encourage people to bear in mind virtues such as honesty, loyalty and integrity in social lives, professional lives and business settings. For example, some business laws impose harsh penalties on some business practices, such as making exaggerated claim on products or selling counterfeit goods, so as to build trust between sellers and consumers. If people trust each other, they can live in harmony and society will not be crippled by misunderstandings and tensions.

On the other hand, laws are prone to limit freedom and obstruct social progress. Strict laws can suppress creativity and discourage people from expressing their views and developing innovations that can improve the well-being of the society. One example is the censorship law that restricts the freedom of speech. If the press and citizens had no opportunity to voice their concerns, a country could not pinpoint and tackle some problems,such as corruption and bureaucracy. Society could not fulfill the function of improving or even overhauling its system and policies regularly to serve the interests of the public.

In conclusion, it would be difficult to keep a society running without laws, although imposing tough laws can sometimes achieve the very negative outcomes.