

# Unit 7:

## THE DEATH PENALTY

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### WARM-UP ACTIVITY:

1. Is the death penalty legally permitted in all the countries of the world?
2. What is the situation in this country?
3. Is the death penalty too severe a kind of punishment?
4. Why do some people approve of capital punishment?
5. How do you refer to the death penalty?
6. In what cases do you think that capital punishment is justifiable?

Western democracies avoid the death penalty whenever possible. Luckily or not, many countries have abolished the death penalty. Canada did it in 1976 whereas the USA has not yet done it. Capital punishment is still legal in 36 states there. That makes some criminals rush to Canada for dear life.

The dilemma arises as to what fate criminals are faced with and what their punishment should be. If, for example, someone is charged with a string of murders involving torture and sexual abuse, does he deserve to live on? Or, if people are charged with some serious political crimes, when their misdeeds may have done harm to very many people, should they be punished or not? You may be likely to get many positive answers, but why then, on the other hand, are many countries increasingly reluctant to extradite the accused?

Extradition has always been based on voluntary agreements between two countries and these agreements can also contain explicit exceptions. The USA, for instance, will not extradite in cases when the defendant is a political refugee, cannot get a fair trial or is likely to be tortured.

Even though the charge of murder is universally regarded as among the worst of crimes, there have been cases when the accused had only a slim chance of having a fate better than death.

There was an eighteen-year old murderer who killed his girlfriend and her parents in one day in the USA and was caught later in Britain. The European Court of Human Rights judges unanimously upheld his claim that his extradition would breach the European Convention on Human Rights which forbids «cruel and unusual punishment». He was returned to the USA only after US officials had guaranteed that he would not face the death penalty. Instead, he has been sentenced to life imprisonment. Is that a better fate than death?

## English in Dialogues and Exercises

### VOCABULARY

*Abuse* – зловживати, ображати  
*Abolish* – відмінити, знищувати  
*Accuse* – звинувачувати  
*Accused* – обвинувачуваний  
*Accusation* – обвинувачення  
*Breach* – порушення (закону)  
*Charge with* – звинувачувати в чомусь;  
*Claim* – вимагати; *uphold the claim* – підтримати вимоги, заяву  
*Commit a crime* – здійснити злочин  
*Criminal* – злочинець  
*Death penalty* – смертна кара  
*Defendant* – підсудний, обвинувачуваний  
*Extradition* – видача злочинця  
*For dear life* – заради порятунку життя  
*Get a fair trial* – судити справедливо  
*Increasing* – зростаючий  
*Life imprisonment* – довічне ув'язнення  
*Misdeed* – лиходійство  
*Refugee* – біженець  
*Reluctant* – неохочий  
*Sentence* – вирок, рішення  
*Slim chance* – слабка надія  
*String of murders* – ряд убивств  
*Torture* – катувати, мучити

### PHRASES TO REMEMBER

To uphold the claim	
Life imprisonment	
To get a fair trial	
Unanimously	
misdeeds	
Increasingly reluctant	
For dear life	
Extradition	

Can you think of similar phrases in your language?

### EXERCISES

- I. Decide if the statements are true or false and correct the false ones:**
1. Only a few countries in the world avoid the death penalty ..... T/F
  2. Canada has abolished capital punishment this year ..... T/F

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3. The USA has not abolished the death penalty ..... T/F
  4. People who are charged with a political crime may have affected many more people than a murderer ..... T/F
  5. The USA will extradite only if the defendant is a political refugee, cannot get a fair trial or is likely to be tortured ..... T/F
  6. The eighteen-year old murderer who killed his girlfriend and her parents in one day in the USA was sentenced to death ..... T/F
  7. Life imprisonment is considered to be a better fate than the death penalty ..... T/F
  8. The eighteen-year old serial killer claimed that his extradition would breach the European Convention on Human Rights ..... T/F

### II. Find the phrases in the text that mean the following and write them down

- wrong doings or criminal acts.....
- in order to save their lives.....
- more and more unwilling to do something.....
- transfer of an accused person to another country.....
- in complete agreement.....
- to be judged honestly.....
- to support the request.....
- a punishment to stay in prison for one's lifetime.....

### III. Complete the sentences by using the given words or phrases

*set your own house in order; move a muscle; going down; move along; move out of... into; going up; set their faces against; set off; set in;*

1. I hate the sight when my parents ..... my bad reports at the end of term.
2. Don't expect to earn much, if you're unwilling .....
3. I could not stand the weather any longer when at last some nice weather .....
4. If you cannot ..... don't hope to be able to manage a big company like this!
5. The prices keep ..... though our salaries are constantly .....
6. With the new educational system, people expect that everything will .....nicely.
7. When you ..... the old flat ..... the new one, I hope to see much more of you!

## English in Dialogues and Exercises

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8. We should say goodbye now and ..... soon, because it's already getting dark.

### IV. Use suitable phrasal verbs *set/move* to replace the bold words or phrases

So many nice things happened to us after we **had started living in a new home** in Norwich. We had been living in the north of Scotland and it seemed that we were now living in the Mediterranean as sunny days **seemed likely to last**. We had always wished we could travel more and **were always saving some money** for our holidays, but the weather in Norfolk was such a change for us that we no longer wanted to **go away from** the place.

Our father soon **established** a new firm in Norwich and things **were going on** nicely for some time. We didn't have the slightest idea that there were some people who wanted to **hinder the progress of his firm**. The problems were in sight when one Saturday morning father's company **was caused to burn**. The fire started in the garage where some explosives **were caused to explode**. What a disappointment it was for all of us!

On Monday morning my brother brought the paper home saying that the case of father's firm was in it, but I couldn't read it. They told me later that all the details **were explained** in a longish article, but I couldn't read it. I only wished to **begin a journey** somewhere, though I had no idea where to. I only thought about what it all meant for poor Dad! He had often dreamt of seeing the family **rise** owing to his very successful business. «The only thing he could do was to give up all his hopes and endeavour and **start a new business**.

### V. Pair work

**Together with your partner discuss a case you have heard of or read about in which some criminals didn't have fair trials.**

### VI. Competition group work! Which group will bring forth the most interesting ideas!

Together with other students in your group choose a chairperson and discuss the ideas stated below. The chairperson will take notes and then put them on the board and report on the group's discussion and ideas:

1. Everyone, including a criminal, has the right to live.
2. Capital punishment is not too severe for some sorts of people.
3. Life imprisonment is a worse punishment than the death penalty.

### VII. Topics for discussion

1. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment should be abolished.

2. It is not acceptable that refugees cannot have fair trials in foreign countries.
3. Political criminals are never adequately punished.

### **VIII. Follow-up**

Write a short account on any of the above topics

#### **DEAD END**

##### **Countries that have abolished the death penalty:**

AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, BRITAIN, CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, MEXICO, SPAIN

##### **Countries that retain the death penalty include:**

CHINA, CUBA, U.S.A., INDIA, THE FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT SOVIET COUNTRIES (EX SOVIET UNION)

### **IX. Translate from English into Ukrainian**

#### **USING THE COMPUTER TO CATCH CRIMINALS**

Criminals may soon be unmasked by a computer program that creates three-dimensional (3D) portraits from security camera film. Although video cameras are being used increasingly to help in the identification and arrest of lawbreakers, the task is not always an easy one because images recorded often lack the necessary clarity. New software being developed at the School of Computing at Staffordshire University, England, is designed to overcome this common problem by combining data from still-frame images and piercing them together to produce a 3D portrait model of the offender.

### **X. Translate from Ukrainian into English**

Більшість американців визначають злочин як особливий тип поведінки, який створює загрозу особистій безпеці людини та її власності, і в результаті такої поведінки окремі особи стають жертвами. Ніхто не повинен жити в постійному страху збитку чи втрати особистих речей. Ні одне суспільство не може існувати, якщо його члени вільно нападають один на одного та відбирають особисту власність. Такі факти засуджуються кожним суспільством. Існує закон, що забороняє агресивні напади на людину. Така поведінка вважається «кримінальною».