



# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Crime is an offence which is punishable by law.

Punishment is something legally done to someone after they are found guilty of breaking the law.

Crime and punishment in the UK involves dealing with criminals in a court of law after they have been charged with committing a crime. The most severe sentence in the UK is life imprisonment for crimes such as murder, rape and terrorism. In many Muslim countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the death penalty is the most severe sentence this is often a result of following Shari'ah law.

Many Christians and Muslims use religious/moral laws to govern their behavior. Take a look at some of these examples of Christian moral laws in the ten commandments.

Task: Put a tick next to the ten commandments which are also UK laws, and a cross next to those which are not UK laws.

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|---|--|
| 1. You shall have no other gods before me             | 6. You shall not murder  |
| 2. You shall not make for yourself an idol            | 7. You shall not commit adultery                                   |
| 3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God | 8. You shall not steal   |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy        | 9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.       |
| 5. Honor your father and your mother                  | 10. You shall not covet... anything that belongs to your neighbor. |

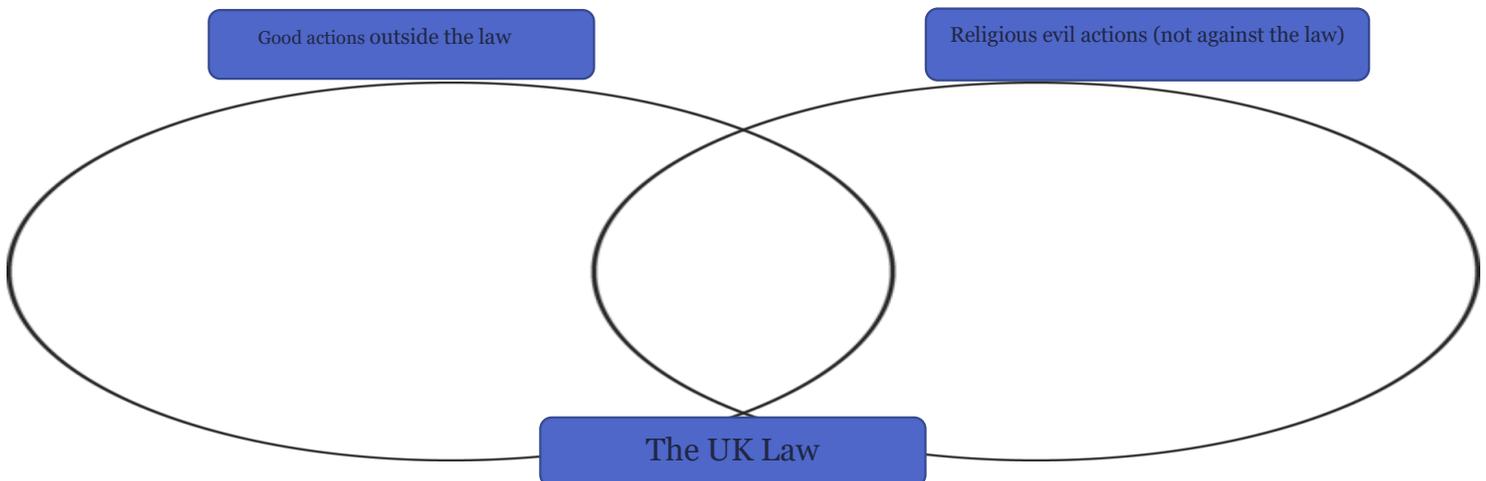
Good actions and evil intentions.

A good action is an action which does not break the law. An evil action is an action which goes against the law. Evil is often viewed by Christians and Muslims as a destructive force against God. However, some good actions exist outside the law; for example, giving to charity. Likewise, many Christians and Muslims believe some actions are evil that do not go against the law.

Look at the examples below and organize them into the correct categories:

Murder	Misusing the name of God	Worshipping false Gods	Giving to charity	Being nasty to your parents	Helping the homeless	Not giving Zakat
Abortion	Adultery	Praying everyday	Theft	Paying taxes	Arson	Trafficking

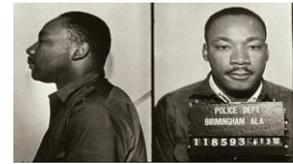
See the examples below to help you



## REASONS FOR CRIME

Religious believers think that crime is never justified. However, many people commit crimes for various reasons. Look at the pictures below and match to the reasons of committing crimes:

*Greed, poverty, homelessness, hate, upbringing, mental illness, addiction, opposition to unjust laws.*



Reasons for Crime



Now match the descriptions to the correct crime

Description of reason	Reason for crime
<i>Millions of people in the UK live in poor conditions and cannot buy food or necessities.</i>	
<i>Some people grow up in households where they are subject to abuse, or where crime is a way of life and they witness it from a young age.</i>	
<i>Anger management and depression may lead to violence.</i>	
<i>Addictions are expensive and some people commit crime to feed their needs. Alcohol can also lead people to commit crime such as drunk driving, rape and violence.</i>	
<i>Some people want personal possessions they cannot afford to look good. Others make money in illegal ways.</i>	
<i>The opposite of love can lead to aggression or violence.</i>	
<i>Some people break laws to protest against them. For example, Rosa Parks during the civil rights movement. They could be laws based on inequality or human rights.</i>	

Think about Christian and Muslim principles/beliefs. Try to come up with three Christian and Muslim responses to help reduce crimes by tackling their reasons. Look at the example to help you:

*Christians could help overcome hate by showing love to everyone by following the quote 'love thy neighbor.'*

## ATTITUDES TO LAWBREAKERS



There are lots of types of crime. For your exam, you will need to know three main types of crime.

**Hate crimes:** Targeted crime because of characteristics such as gender, nationality, religion or sexuality.

**Murder:** Considered one of the worst crimes. It is permanent and cannot be taken back. It also can lead to great pain for the family.

**Theft:** Less serious than some other crimes but results in suffering and loss.

Match the Christian response to the different type of crime:

"You shalt not murder."

"Do not take a life as all life is sacred."

God gave life and only he has the right to take it away.

"Thou shalt not steal."

"thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards will inherit the kingdom of God."

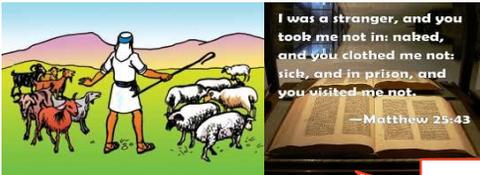
Muhammad had people's hands cut off for stealing."

"Love thy neighbor."

"There is no Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, you are all one in Christ Jesus."

"God commands justice, the doing of good." (Qur'an)

Christians do believe justice is to be served for committing crimes. However, the Bible and the Qur'an heavily supports helping all criminals and showing love, forgiveness and working for reformation. **Look at the examples below and suggest how they may influence Christians:**



"Forgive and you will be forgiven, judge and you will be judged."

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life."

**VS VICTIM SUPPORT**

LOVE thy neighbour



## TYPES OF PUNISHMENT

**Society sets up rules and we have to obey them or face the consequences. Prison systems across the world have different systems and aims of punishment. For example, in the UK we have a reformatory prison practice. Prisoners are never subject to physical harm for their crimes and have opportunities to seek counsel and better themselves to one day successfully be reintegrated into society. In the US, prisons are much harsher and are usually based on deterrence. Prison sentences are longer with less facilities. Super max prisons ensure prisoners stay in their heavily confined cells for 23 hours a day. In many countries, prisoners have to work hard in labourious jobs and often face physical punishment. Look at the examples below at the different aims of punishment and respond to the questions:**

**Retribution:** *Retribution is the least positive of the three aims of punishment. It means to get your own back. In other words, retribution means that society, on behalf of the victim, is getting its own back on the offender. An early form of retribution, introduced in the Old Testament, is called lex talionis (the law of retaliation). Put simply, this means that criminals should receive the same injuries and damage they caused to their victim. In case of murder, this meant that the murderer was executed to match the fate of the victim.*

**Summarise in ten words:**

**Draw a picture to help you remember and revise:**

**Deterrence:** *A punishment is meant to be severe and a deterrence, so that the offender is put off committing crimes in the future. A burglar who gets sent to prison for five years will hopefully not want to experience that again so will not commit further crimes.*

*We also learn very quickly that when we do wrong we may be punished, many people would be put-off committing the crime in the first place.*

**Summarise in ten words:**

**Draw a picture to help you remember and revise:**

**Reformation:**

*Reformation is the aim of punishment most Christians prefer because it seeks to help offenders by working with them to help them to understand that their behaviour is harming society. It is hoped that offenders will change their attitudes and become responsible, law-abiding citizens. In order for this to work the offender needs to realise that their behaviour is wrong before they can hope to be reformed. This could involve group therapy sessions, counselling, work experience placements or meeting the victim to apologise.*

**Summarise in ten words:**

**Draw a picture to help you remember and revise:**

**Task**

- a. **Which aim of punishment do you think is most effective in stopping crime and why?**
- b. **Which aim of punishment do you think is the least effective and why?**
- c. **Which type of punishment benefits the criminal and why?**
- d. **Which type of punishment benefits the offender and why?**
- e. **Which type of punishment benefits society and why?**

**Challenge: Does the UK have the best justice system? Why/why not?**

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## RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO SUFFERING

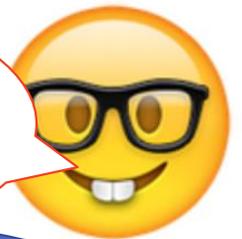
Suffering is a part of life every person goes through in one way or another. Natural events such as illness, earthquakes, tsunamis and death cause suffering. Likewise, humans can cause suffering such as murder, assault, theft. Muslims and Christians believe that if a human is responsible for suffering, they should try and repair and repay the damage they have caused.

Natural evil – evil caused by natural disasters out of human control.

Can you give any examples of natural evil? .....



Surely if God is all powerful (omnipotent he could stop this. Afterall, he is also all loving (omnibenevolent) and shouldn't want people to suffer!



Ah, St Paul (one of the founders of the Christian church) advised that, "We glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, character and hope."



What does this quote mean?

Why might suffering therefore be necessary?

The Book of Job. In Job, we see a man who God allows to be directly attacked by Satan. He is an example of faithfulness as he loses everything (his children, money, home, health) important to him yet remains faithful to God. His wife even curses God for his suffering. However, Job is a role model; it shows the importance of faithfulness during times of hardship.

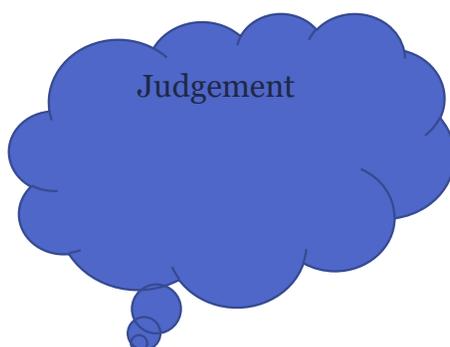
How might Christians be influenced by the book of Job? What might be a modern day example of Job?

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Moral evil – evil caused by human actions and behavior.

Can you think of any examples of moral evil? .....

Should God stop people from behaving evilly? Explain the Christian responses to moral evil.



# THE TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS

Type	Description	Christian beliefs	Muslim beliefs
Prison	Prison involves the loss of freedom. Inside prison, they have no choice how to spend their time. Sometimes prison encourages crime; criminals spend a lot of time with other criminals which can negatively influence behavior. However, society is protected from them and inside prisoners are given opportunities to reform. It costs the tax payer £60,000 per year to keep a young offender in an institute, and £30,000 to keep a prisoner in prison. Therefore, it is expensive. Prison is a deterrent to people who may be considering a criminal action. The offender's families are often suffering through no fault of their own.	Many Christians believe that prisoners should be treated well when in prison and are keen to support them to make their time in prison useful by encouraging positive activity. Other Christians believe that life in prison should be tough enough to act as a deterrent. If prison life was tough, then prisoners would not want to offend.	In Muslim countries, prison is used less for punishment and more as a place to keep people awaiting trial or punishment such as caning (corporal punishment) or death. Some Muslims argue that prison may be a greater penalty than inflicting pain through corporal punishment- putting someone in prison can lead to reform better than reformative actions themselves.
Corporal Punishment	Punishes offenders by inflicting physical pain, this is illegal in the UK and many other countries. Examples of corporal punishment include whipping, branding or amputation (removal of a body part.) For many, corporal punishment is a major deterrent and a quick and cheap reformation. However, you may say it is an effective method of stopping people reoffend, whereas in prison there is a high rate of reoffending. However, some prisoners may just become more hardened or mentally scarred.	Most Christians do not agree with it, believing it does not help reform criminals, as it is more about retribution and taking revenge. Jesus himself was flogged before he was hung on the cross. Some Christians support the view of, 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.' z No Christian country in the developed world uses corporal punishment in their justice system.	Corporal punishment is used in some Islamic countries. It is often carried out in public as they believe it serves as a deterrent, persuading others not to break certain laws. It is laid down in Shari'ah law and can be imposed by offences such as gambling, adultery and drinking alcohol (80 lashes). "A thief male and female cut off the hand of both" Qur'an 5:38. "If woman or man is guilty of adultery, flog each of them 100 stripes" Qur'an 24:2
Community service	A punishment for minor offences allowing offenders the chance to reform. Seen as more positive than prison and the judge might think that it could have a better effect than sending them to prison. It allows people to carry on working and doing the payback in the evenings. People who are considered a danger to society would not be allowed in a community payback programme. Some believe this is too soft of a punishment. The punishment does not always work and people get involved in further crime because the punishment did not deter them- if the punishment was harsher they wouldn't commit the crime.	Agree as a punishment for offenders who are likely to benefit from it- it allows them to make amends for what they have done wrong (reparation). No harm is done to the offender which is a positive step. Could deter them from committing offences in the future and reforms them by making them realise the consequences of their actions.	Shari'ah law makes little use of community service because it is not seen as a sufficient deterrent. In Islamic countries it is believed that community service does not protect society from future criminal behaviour.

*Task one: On each post-it, summarise each type of punishment in twenty words. On the back of the post-it, not down one positive and one negative aspect of the punishment.*



*Task two: Summarise the Christian and Muslim teachings on each type of punishment in thirty words:*





# FORGIVENESS

Christians and Muslims believe that forgiveness is an important part of following God. When they die, they hope to be forgiven for their sins and transgressions on earth and therefore believe they need to forgive others on earth. However, this is not seen as a replacement of punishment.



## Christianity

- Jesus died on the cross to bring about forgiveness
- Whilst on the cross he stated, "forgive them father for they do not know what they do"
- Jesus said that if Christians do not forgive others, they will not be forgiven by God – "Forgive and you will be forgiven, judge and you will be judged."
- In the Lords prayer Christians recite the line, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who forgive those against us."
- St Paul said that Christians should try to live in peace with everyone
- Jesus said not to forgive seven times but seventy seven times.

## Islam

- God is compassionate and merciful to sinners, so Muslims should also be forgiving.
- How can Muslims ask for God's forgiveness on the Last Day if they are not prepared to forgive people themselves?
- The Qur'an says that Muslims should forgive those who offend them. "Let them pardon and forgive"
- The Hadiths record that Muhammad said Muslims should be forgiving.
- "Pardon each others faults and God will grant you honour."

Task one: Choose two quotes from each religion and explain their meaning:

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News footage of the terrorist bombing on 7 July 2005 highlights the number of people who were killed that day. Among the dead was a young woman, Jenny. Her mother, Julie Nicholson, was an ordained priest but quit her position because she could not forgive the suicide bomber who murdered her daughter. "I don't struggle with the issue of forgiveness, I just feel with the circumstance it isn't appropriate. It needs a relationship, two people- giving back, saying "I forgive you". I can't do that because the person who killed my daughter isn't here. So there isn't anyone here to forgive."

What Christian beliefs may have influenced Julie Nicholson?

What is an important part of forgiveness according to this account?

Do you agree/disagree with this view? Why, why not?

What Christian beliefs may have influenced Anthony Walker?

What is forgiveness important to the victim according to this account?

Do you agree/disagree with this view? Why, why not?

The story of the racially motivated murder of 18-year-old Anthony Walker, as told by his mother, sister and using news footage. They describe their feelings of pain, loss and resentment, but they also speak of their Christian faith and beliefs on forgiveness.

"Offload the hate and anger, it's too much weight. Losing my son is already a heavy weight, so I choose to forgive. It helped the healing process."



# RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO THE DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty is a form of punishment whereby criminals are put to death as a result of being found guilty for their crimes. This is a very extreme version of retribution, whereby the family of the victim get closure and the criminal cannot offend again. The death penalty was abolished in the UK since 1969. America and China still have the death penalty, as do many Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia.

Using a pencil and a ruler, consider the extent of which you believe with these arguments against the death penalty by drawing a line to your chosen point:



Individual Christians may have different beliefs about whether the death penalty should or should not be allowed. Those who agree tend to use **Old Testament** teachings;

*"A life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth"* – What does this suggest about the death penalty?

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Christians who oppose the death penalty do so mainly because they do not believe it is right to take away life. Only God has the right to take life, as God gave life in the first place. Christians believe in the Sanctity of Life, all life is given by God therefore it is holy and precious. Jesus taught Christians to be forgiving and warned them not to judge others harshly. Imprisonment gives murderers the chance to repent and be reformed so that, when released, they can become useful members of society.

*"Love your enemies"* – What does this suggest about the death penalty?

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*"Forgive and you will be forgiven, judge and you will be judged"* - What does this suggest about the death penalty?

## Muslim attitudes to the death penalty

Muslim teachings suggest the death penalty should be allowed in certain circumstances. Shar'iah law suggests it is acceptable for serious crimes such as murder. This is seen as a form of deterrence and retribution. The victim is encouraged to show mercy by accepting money from the offender to save their life. This is called **Blood Money**. Not all Muslims agree with the death penalty, some see it is a misinterpretation of the Qur'an's teachings. They rather choose to follow teachings such as, "Do not take life



Summarise Muslim beliefs in twenty words.

# EXAM QUESTIONS

## **Crime and Punishment**

Which of the following best describes an evil action? (1 mark)

- a. Breaking the law    b. An action which causes extreme suffering.    c. People trafficking    d. Having bad intentions for a person.

Describe two sources of authority a religious person may base their actions upon. (2 marks)

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- Explain two beliefs in contemporary British society about following moral laws. Refer to the main religious tradition in the UK in your response. (4 marks)

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Explain two religious beliefs about crime. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Prejudice and Discrimination**

Committing a crime based on the want for personal possessions that they do not need and cannot afford is best described as what?

- A. Hate.
- B. Addiction.
- C. Crime.
- D. Greed

Give two examples of reasons someone may commit a crime. (2 marks)

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Explain two reasons in contemporary British society about committing a crime. (4m)

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Explain two similar religious beliefs about committing crime to pay for addictions. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Religious Attitudes to Suffering Causing Suffering to Others**

Which of the following is not an example of moral suffering? (1 mark)

- a. Earthquake      b. Murder      c. Theft      d. Tax evasion

Give two examples of natural suffering. (2 marks)

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Explain two contrasting responses in contemporary British society about causing suffering to others. Refer to the main religion in contemporary British society. (4m)

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Explain two religious beliefs about suffering. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**The Treatment of Criminals -**

Which of the following refers to inflicting physical pain on criminals to punish them (1 mark)

- b. Retribution
- b. Sin
- c. Corporal Punishment
- d. Prison

Name two purposes of prison. (2m)

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Explain two contrasting beliefs about community service. Refer to the main religious tradition in Britain. (4m)

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Explain two religious beliefs about corporal punishment. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Religious Attitudes to lawbreakers**

Which of the following best describes the targeted use of violence because of a persons characteristics? (1 mark)

- c. Murder      b. Theft      c. Hate Crime      d. Prejudice

Describe two religious responses to murder (2 marks)

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Explain two contrasting religious beliefs in contemporary British society about theft. Refer to the main religious tradition in Britain in your answer. (4 marks)

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Explain two religious beliefs about murder. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**The Three Aims of Punishment**

Which of the following refers to the use of punishment to put people off committing crimes? (1 mark)

- a. Retribution.    b. Reformation    c. Exploitation    d. Amputation

Give two methods used to help reform criminals. (2 mark)

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Explain two similar beliefs in contemporary British society about retribution. Refer to the main religious tradition in Britain. (4m)

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Explain two religious responses to deterrence. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Religious attitudes to forgiveness**

Which of the following refers to showing mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong?  
(1 mark)

- a. Justice.      b. Forgiveness.      c. Faith.      d. Omnibenevolence.

Describe two ways a person can show they are sorry for their crimes. (2m)

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Explain two contrasting responses to criminal behaviour in contemporary British society. Refer to the main religious tradition in the UK in your answer. (4m)

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Explain two similar religious beliefs about forgiveness. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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**Religious attitudes to forgiveness**

Which of the following refers to the aim of the death penalty? (1 mark)

- b. Retribution.    b. Forgiveness.            c. Reformation.            d. Evil.

Describe two methods of the death penalty. (2m)

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Explain two contrasting responses to the abolition of the death penalty in the UK. Refer to the main religious tradition in the UK in your answer. (4m)

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Explain two similar religious beliefs about the death penalty. Refer to scripture in your answer. (5 marks)

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