

Reading Questions for October 27

These questions cover a book chapter by Louis P. Pojman titled “A Defense of the Death Penalty”. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

Background:

Today and next Tuesday we’re talking about the death penalty.
Today, we’ll look at some arguments in favor of the death penalty.
Next Tuesday we’ll look at some arguments against it.

Questions:

1. On pages 108-9, Pojman talks about a justification for punishment having to do with retribution. What is this justification? What do you think about it and why?
2. On pages 109-116, Pojman talks about a justification for punishment having to do with deterrence. What is this justification? What do you think about it and why?
3. On pages 117-9, Pojman discusses an objection to the death penalty “Objection 3” and responds to it. What is the objection and what is his response? Is it plausible? Why?
4. On pages 119-21, Pojman discusses a second objection to the death penalty “Objection 4” and responds to it. What is the objection and what is his response? Is it plausible? Why?