

## Moral Education and Criminal Punishment

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### Abstract

I will attack two arguments for claiming that offenders with a bad moral education or upbringing should be punished less for their crimes. The first argument, the *character acquisition argument*, claims that offenders with a bad moral education should be punished less for their crimes because their bad moral character, which led to their crimes, is to a lesser extent caused by their own blameworthy choices in the past as compared to offenders with a good moral education. The second argument, the *fairness argument*, claims that offenders with a bad moral education should be punished less because they have received less benefit and hence should bear a lesser burden in punishment as a matter of fairness.