

## Debating Dostoevsky Answer Key

Because these are **open-ended prompts**, student responses will vary. Below are key points to look for:

### 1. Justice

- Real punishment is his conscience, which torments him long before Siberia.
- Legal punishment is secondary but necessary for closure and redemption.

### 2. Free Will

- Some may argue he freely chose murder, testing his “extraordinary man” theory.
- Others may argue poverty, pride, and ideology trapped him into action.

### 3. Morality

- Sonia’s view = moral strength through faith and suffering.
- Raskolnikov’s view = resistance and denial until forced into confession.
- Strong answers will weigh both approaches.

### 4. Society and Justice

- The city’s poverty and despair blur moral lines.
- Crime and desperation are shown as symptoms of social decay.

### 5. Redemption

- Dostoevsky shows redemption possible even for murderers, but only through humility, confession, and love (via Sonia).