PHILOSOPHY, BELIEFS & ETHICS (PBE) YEAR 11

PAPER 2: THEMATIC STUDIES 2019

THEME A RELATIONSHIPS AND THE FAMILY (p.6-19)
THEME B RELIGION AND LIFE (p.20-37)
THEME D PEACE AND CONFLICT (p.38-46)
THEME E CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (p.47-60)
### THEME A: RELATIONSHIPS AND THE FAMILY p. 6 - 19

| I can explain different types of sexuality and relationships (heterosexual and homosexual) |
| I can describe different types of family in the UK (nuclear, extended, single-parent, same-sex, cohabiting) |
| I can explain and evaluate arguments surrounding family planning and contraception, including the use of natural family planning |
| I can explain the nature and purpose of marriage (e.g. sacrament in Christianity) |
| I can explain religious attitudes to the role of parents and children |
| I can explain religious attitudes to the purpose of families, including (a) procreation; (b) stability; and (c) educating children in a faith |
| I can explain religious attitudes to extended families and nuclear families |
| I can explain religious attitudes to polygamy |
| I can explain the reasons for divorce and remarriage |
| I can evaluate different ethical arguments surrounding divorce including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion |
| I can explain traditional religious ideas about the role of men and women |
| I can explain different arguments surrounding gender equality |
| I can explain different examples of gender prejudice and discrimination |

### THEME B: RELIGION AND LIFE p.20 - 37

<p>| I can explain different religious beliefs (conservative vs liberal) about the origins of the universe |
| I can explain scientific ideas about how the world began (Big Bang and evolution) |
| I can evaluate the relationship between scientific views, such as the Big Bang theory, and religious views e.g. are science and religion compatible? |
| I can explain why theists believe the universe is valuable using the terms <strong>awe and wonder</strong> |
| I can explain why theists believe humans have a duty to protect the world including religious teachings about stewardship, dominion and responsibility |
| I can describe the use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources and pollution. |
| I can describe and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to the use of animals for experimentation. |
| I can describe and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to the use of animals for food. |
| I can describe the meaning of sanctity and quality of life and religious teachings about these concepts e.g. why religious people believe human life is sacred |
| I can explain and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to abortion |
| I can explain and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to euthanasia. |
| I can describe beliefs about the afterlife in at least two religions |
| I can explain how believing in the afterlife might influence people |</p>
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<tr>
<th>THEME D: PEACE AND CONFLICT p. 38 - 46</th>
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<tr>
<td>I can explain the meaning and significance of <em>peace</em></td>
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<td>I can explain religious attitudes to peace and pacifism</td>
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<td>I can explain contrasting attitudes to pacifism</td>
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<td>I can explain the meaning and significance of <em>justice</em> and religious attitudes to it</td>
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<td>I can explain the meaning and significance of <em>forgiveness</em> and religious attitudes to it</td>
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<td>I can explain the meaning and significance of <em>reconciliation</em> and religious attitudes to it</td>
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<td>I can explain why greed, retaliation and self-defence can be reasons for conflict using examples</td>
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<td>I can explain why religion and belief can be a reason for conflict using examples</td>
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<td>I can evaluate which of these causes is the main cause of conflict today</td>
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<td>I can explain Christian and Muslim Just War theory</td>
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<td>I can explain different arguments surrounding violence and violent protest</td>
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<td>I can explain different arguments surrounding terrorism</td>
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<td>I can explain different arguments surrounding nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence and the use of weapons of mass destruction</td>
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<td>I can explain how religions work towards peace today including the work of individuals influenced by religious teachings</td>
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<td>I can explain how religions respond to victims of war, including the work of a present-day organisation</td>
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<th>THEME E: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT p. 47 - 60</th>
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<tr>
<td>I can describe different causes of crime including poverty, upbringing, mental illness, addiction, greed, hate and opposition to an unjust law</td>
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<tr>
<td>I can describe different religious attitudes to the different causes of crime including poverty, upbringing, mental illness, addiction, greed, hate and opposition to an unjust law</td>
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<td>I can describe different beliefs about the causes of crime, including whether it can ever be good to cause crime and the difference between good and evil intentions.</td>
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<td>I can describe and evaluate the different aims of punishment: reformation (or reform), retribution and deterrence.</td>
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<td>I can explain religious attitudes to reformation (or reform), retribution and deterrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>I can describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to capital punishment, including the use of the principle of utility and the application of the sanctity of life.</td>
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<td>I can describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to corporal punishment</td>
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<td>I can describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to forgiveness</td>
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<td>I can describe and evaluate the use of community service and prisons</td>
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<td>I can describe religious attitudes to hate crimes</td>
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<td>I can describe religious attitudes to murder</td>
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<td>I can describe religious attitudes to theft</td>
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REVISION TIPS

1. **Start revising early** – revision is about going over information again and again. The more times you do this, the more you will remember. Cramming at the last minute cannot activate long-term memory.

2. **Take breaks** – studies suggest breaks every 45 minutes to an hour. Put a timer on and try and focus on completing that amount of revision. To begin with, you may only be able to do 15-20 minutes at a time. Keep practising and your focus will improve. When you begin a focused session, make sure you will not need to get up for any reason!

3. **Find out about yourself** – People tend to learn more at different times of the day and in different ways. Find out if you are a morning or an evening person and plan your day accordingly.

4. **Be organised and create a timetable** – Create a timetable to make sure you get through every topic in time. Give yourself manageable targets.

5. **Practise questions** – Make sure you get enough practice for each question type. You can even have a go at creating your own quiz or questions to help you prepare.

6. **Make mind maps or re-write notes** – Many people like to use mind-maps or write out notes on a table or in another form that works for them. Remember to summarise and write ideas in your own words as this helps you to remember them.

7. **Make revision cards** – There are different types of revision cards that can help you revise. Use larger cards to summarise key details. You must re-write information in your own words and in shortened form. Simply copying out information has been proven to be ineffective. Reading is also, according to studies, the least effective way of committing something to memory. You can also create very small cards with a key word or topic on one side and the definition or a few bits of information on the other. Use these to test yourself or your friends.

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**Paper 1 is on Beliefs:** You have studied Christianity and Islam

*There are two sections: one on ‘beliefs’ and one on ‘practices.’* **Paper 2 is on Philosophy and Ethics:** You will study (1) Crime and Punishment, (2) Religion and Life, (3) Relationships and the Family and (4) Human Rights and Social Justice.

**1: DEFINITION (1 mark)**

Multiple-choice definition - You just need to circle the correct answer.

**2: GIVE TWO... DESCRIPTION (2 marks)**

Give two examples / types - This just requires a simple sentence at most.

**3: EXPLANATION OF TWO BELIEFS (4 marks)**

You may need to explain two beliefs or two ideas. This requires that you only mention TWO and develop both sentences. In Paper 2, this can be asked in a harder way. In this case, the examiner could ask you for two CONTRASTING beliefs and you will also need to refer to two different religions.

**4: EXPLANATION OF TWO BELIEFS + SCRIPTURE (5 marks)**

5 very briefly developed points or 2 well-developed points = 5 sentences. You must use evidence and refer to both sides of the debate. You will lose 1 mark if you do not mention religion at least once.

**5: EVALUATE (12 marks)**

3-4 PDD chains = 12+ sentences

You must use evidence and refer to both sides of the debate.

You must refer to religious arguments.

You must give a conclusion at the end.
1. Which one of the following most accurately means a violent protest? (1 mark)  
   (A) Riot ✓  
   (B) Demonstration  
   (C) Hunger strike  
   (D) March

2. Give two examples of types of family found in the UK. (2 marks) Nuclear / Extended

3. Explain two reasons why Christians should forgive (4 marks)  
   Christians are taught to forgive in the Bible. Jesus is the Son of God and taught to ‘turn the other cheek’ showing forgiveness is important.  
   Christians also believe that God is omnibenevolent which includes the idea of forgiveness. If God is forgiving, He also expects us to try and be forgiving.

OR The harder type

3. Explain two religious beliefs about the origins of the universe (4 marks) Many Christians are creationists. This means that they believe the world was made as it says in their holy book e.g. In 6 days.  
   Other Christians believe that God created the Big Bang and then evolution. They believe this because there is scientific proof, such as fossils, for this theory.

4. Explain two religious beliefs about terrorism (5 marks) One belief is the belief that it is wrong because it often leads to the death of innocents. This goes against the Just War criteria found in Islam and Christianity. In the Qur’an it says that God dislikes ‘those who transgress the limits’ which suggests that terrorism is wrong.  
   On the other hand, some famous Christians have been regarded as terrorists but have acted on the basis of their religious beliefs. For example, some Christians attempted to kill Hitler in order to save the lives of millions.

5. ‘Believing in life after death improves behaviour.’ Evaluate this statement.  
   Christians believe that a belief in life after death encourages good behaviour. Many argue that it inspires agape, or love for everyone no matter who they are. This means that believing in Heaven can make us do good things, even when they are very hard. Parables in the Bible about death encourage good behaviour. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus says whoever has fed the hungry, visited prisoners, and looks after the sick will be judged favourably when the Day of Judgement comes. Religious figures, such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Mother Teresa have all worked to help the oppressed as a result of their beliefs. This evidence suggests that a belief in the afterlife can inspire charity work and truly good behaviour.  
   By contrast, Harris who argues that a belief in the afterlife encourages bad behaviour. He argues that people killed thousands of innocents during the Crusades as they thought it would help them get to Heaven. Today, some terrorists kill civilians for the same reason. He also argues that exclusivism (the belief that only one religious group will go to Heaven) has inspired terrible acts in history including the forced conversions under the British empire. A stronger argument, then, is that belief in the afterlife is neither good nor bad. Appiah argues that it does not make sense to say it is one or the other because there are so many denominations so we cannot make generalisations. Similarly, Armstrong argues that religion can make people act even worse than they would normally but it can make good people behave even better because they think God is judging them. This makes logical sense since the evidence shows that a belief in the afterlife inspires both bad and good behaviour.  
   Overall, whilst Christians argue that life after death improves behaviour, I would argue it depends. This is because believing in life after death can inspire charity work as a result of religious teachings on judgement. However, it can also inspire terrorist acts and forced conversions. Thus, I agree with Armstrong who argues that it really depends on the person.
Sexuality refers to who we are attracted to. There are all sorts of relationships and families in the UK. Traditionally, marriage was a religious ceremony between a man and a woman.

**NUCLEAR FAMILIES**
This is a family with a mother, father and children. For many years, it was considered the traditional family unit.

Traditionally families in the UK were **nuclear**. However, over time this has become less common. It is still the main type of family but there are now a number of different family types. Nuclear families are the norm in Christianity and Islam. Both religions traditionally teach that **marriage should be between men and women**. They also teach that marriage represents a bond made in front of God and should not be broken, although some Muslims and Christians do allow divorce. The family is the **basis of all society**. It is designed to bring stability to the lives of children and to educate the next generation in the faith. Muslims and Christians are taught to procreate: have children.

**EXTENDED FAMILY**
This is the nuclear family plus other relatives, such as grandparents, who also live with the family.

Muslim families are frequently **extended families**. Most Muslims believe that extended families mean greater stability, continuity, love and support for each other. They are taught to treat the elderly with respect, to respect their parents and, for parents, to respect their children. Unlike Christians, the traditional Muslim teaching is also that polygamy is allowed since this was allowed by the Prophet Muhammad.

**POLYGAMY**
This is illegal in the UK. This is where a man has more than one wife.
UK law has now changed. **Divorce is allowed** (following Henry VIII) but so are many other types of family including **same-sex families**. Cohabiting couples also have more rights. Single-parent and reconstituted families are also far more common.

**SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY**
This is a family of either a mother or father with children. This is much more common in the UK.

**RE-CONSTITUTED FAMILY**
A family joined together after a divorce, consisting of step-parents and stepbrothers and sisters.

Since the 1950s, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of single-parent and reconstituted families. This is because there has been a big increase in the number of divorces. Whilst many Christians oppose divorce, others, such as the Church of England argue it is **compassionate (loving)** to allow divorce in some cases.

**COHABITATION**
Living together without being married.

The arguments surrounding cohabitation are the same as the arguments surrounding **pre-marital sex**. This is because cohabiting couples usually have sex but are not married. Whilst the Church of England have now allowed this, other Christian denominations (groups) do not. Similarly, the official teachings of most Muslim denominations are that pre-marital sex (also known as fornication) is not allowed.

**SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIP**
Where both partners are of the same sex. Now same sex marriage is legal. Before this point, a same-sex partnership was called a civil partnership.

Many religious groups still oppose same-sex relationships, even if they argue homophobia is wrong. The Catholic Church and most Muslim denominations argue that the family is meant for **procreation** so homosexuality goes against God’s plan, or Natural Law. There are also teachings in the Qur’an and the Bible that **prohibit** homosexual behaviour. Other denominations argue that these teachings are outdated and that we should show love and allow same-sex couples.
Christians believe that marriage and families are very important. One of the purposes of a Christian marriage is to have children and bring them up in the Christian faith. Christianity teaches that marriage is a religious institution and that the family was created by God. Christian teaching on divorce suggests that married couples should stay together to raise their children. It is through the family that children are baptised, confirmed and go to church. This means that the family are very important in encouraging people to be religious.

Christians believe that children are a gift from and that they have a responsibility to care for them and teach them about God. One of the 10 Commandments is to honour one’s parents (Exodus 20:12) and in the creation story God tells Adam and Eve to be ‘fruitful and multiply’ (Genesis 1:28).

Marriage vows are made in front of God and represent the relationship between Jesus and the Church (Christian community). Marriage is a sacrament: an outer sign of an inner blessing. Sacraments allow Christians to show their inner faith in God outwardly through events such as baptism or marriage. Christians believe that getting married and having a family can show faith. The other sacraments are baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, confession, being anointed if you are very sick and becoming a priest.

Not all Christians marry. Priests in Roman Catholicism must remain celibate. Living with someone without being married is called cohabitation. Many people argue that you do not need to marry to be in a committed relationship. Monogamy is where you only have sex with one person and are faithful to them. Roman Catholics, however, argue that you should marry if you are going to have sex.

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**Sacrament:** an outward way of showing what you believe. In Christianity there are 7 sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Holy Communion
4. Confession
5. Being anointed if you are very sick
6. Marriage
7. Becoming a priest.

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**Cohabitation:** living with someone without being married

**Monogamy:** only having sex with one person

**Celibacy:** not having sex

**Sacrament:** An outward way of showing belief, such as marriage
MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

ARRANGED MARRIAGES: Marriages in Islam are often arranged (by the two families of the bride and groom) but these can only take place with the consent (agreement) of both parties. If someone was forced to marry then the marriage would be invalid and against the teachings of Islam. As such, when this happens, it is seen as being cultural not religious. Arranged marriage is not an Islamic necessity, but parents are encouraged to do their best to see their offspring settled with good life-partners. Although divorce is allowed, the ideal is to settle down with a life-partner, and of all the things God does permit, divorce is said to be the thing He likes least. Traditionally, a Muslim girl (and boy) is expected to be a virgin at the time of the first marriage. Muslims are encouraged to look for a spouse on the grounds of compatibility through religious beliefs, rather than for good looks, or wealth, or prestige. People from very diverse backgrounds can be very happy together if their understanding and practice of Islam is compatible. Muslims are not required to stay with a partner if their beliefs change. Some other Muslims accept ‘love marriages’ where they choose their own partner. This is becoming more common in Britain today.

POLYGAMY: At the time of the revelation of the Qur’an it was normal procedure for men to have more than one wife, up to the limits of their ability to support them. Having more than one wife is called polygamy. This was designed to help support women, who often struggled financially at this time. One of the Prophet Muhammad’s eleven wives, for instance, married him because he paid for her freedom when she had been captured. Powerful and wealthy women also had marital arrangements with more than one partner, known as polyandry. This is still allowed in Islam under certain rules. The man must be able to treat all of his wives equally and be able to afford to look after them properly. Muslim women are required to have only one husband at a time - they may still marry more than one man in a lifetime, but consecutively. Remarriage is allowed in Islam once the contract of marriage has been broken. One difference between Islam and other faiths is that to this day a man may have more than one wife, up to the limit of four wives simultaneously - so long as it is not done to the detriment (negative effect) and hurt of the existing Muslim partner(s).

Whilst some Muslims argue that this practice is acceptable, as it is allowed in holy scripture, many Muslims argue it should no longer happen. The Prophet Muhammad, arguably, married out of necessity to help women who otherwise would have been poor. They argue, for instance, that it could create a power imbalance in the relationship since there is more than one wife to look after and spend time with. Some regard it as a sexist practice since the rules do not apply to men and women equally. Others argue that the Prophet Muhammad allowed it at a time when women rarely worked. Circumstances are different today and women do not need to marry to make money so the rules should no longer apply. Polygamy is illegal in the UK.

Cohabitation: living with someone without being married
Monogamy: only having sex with one person
Celibacy: not having sex
Sacrament: An outward way of showing belief, such as marriage
PROCREATION: People have different ideas about why marriage and families are important. Some do not wish to marry whilst others do not wish to have a family. One reason why people commonly get married is to have children, known as **procreation**. Many argue that marriage provides stability for children as it is a legal contract and, for some, a religious contract as well. They may argue that remaining married provides a source of comfort for children and can ensure that responsibilities are shared. Religions also argue that marriage is an important religious commitment. For instance, in the Bible, it says that children must ‘honour thy parents’ in the 10 Commandments (Decalogue) and Jesus says, ‘Blessed are the children.’ Adam and Eve are also told to be ‘fruitful and multiply.’ These quotations suggest that people should have families and look after them and respect them. In Islam, the Prophet Muhammad spoke about sex being special within marriage. He said it was a source of pleasure and provided the blessing of children from God. Muhammad also said that couples should only have as many children as they could properly look after.

STABILITY: The Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury have both argued that a broken society extends from a broken home. They see the family as being a model for **how to behave**. If families are very poor, suffering or having other problems, it can eventually lead to all society suffering. Similarly, the traditional teaching is that the family represents the whole **ummah (Muslim community)**. Parents must care for their children and children must respect their parents, Where families are stable, society will be stable.

RAISING A CHILD IN FAITH: Many people argue that it is their responsibility to raise a child in their faith. For this reason, many people choose to marry someone who shares their religious beliefs. In the traditional Christian wedding vows, they promise to have children and raise them as Christians. This includes baptising children and taking them to church. In Islam, the mother is responsible for helping to teach the child Arabic and the rules of the religion. In Judaism, they circumcise babies to show that they are entering into a covenant with God, as Abraham did. The family allows the religion to be passed down through many generations. Muslims believe that the family is very important. In Islam, children learn **moral rules** (rules about how to behave) from the **Qur'an (the holy scripture) and the Hadith (the example of the Prophet)**. It is believed that these behaviours, such as kindness, eating **halal** and reading scripture, should be passed on by the mother, and that the mother models how Muslim children should behave toward others in the **ummah (the Muslim community)**. Traditionally, women are responsible for raising the children.

Many, however, disagree with raising a child as religious. Richard Dawkins, for instance, argues that it is wrong as it **indoctrinates** children (brainwashes them) and teaches them to believe without proof. He also argues that the idea of Hell is too scary for children and it is wrong to upset them with this idea.

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**DECALOGUE**: 10 Commandments, including ‘Honour Thy Parents’/
**COVENANT**: A promise made with God
On the whole, Christians disagree with divorce as it breaks the sacrament of marriage. However, over time, some Christian attitudes to divorce have changed and different Christian groups have interpreted biblical teachings differently. One of the reasons that divorce has been so difficult to obtain in the past was for religious reasons.

Most non-Catholic Churches think that divorce is wrong, but often allow it if the marriage is broken down. They argue based on compassion (doing the most loving thing). Some such churches allow re-marriage. In the Gospels, Jesus also says that divorce should be allowed in cases of adultery (Matthew 19:9). For many liberal Christians, divorce is the lesser of two evils and compassion should be shown to couples who want to divorce for a good reason.

Jesus taught that we should ‘love thy neighbor’ and treat others as we wish to be treated. Allowing divorce could be a sign of agape love, especially where couples are arguing a lot. The Golden Rule can also be applied: if people want the right to divorce, they should allow it.

The Roman Catholic Church does not allow religious divorce or re-marriage. They believe in the sanctity of marriage. Marriage is a sacrament and a covenant that cannot be broken. The Catechism states that because marriage vows are made in front of God, marriage is forever, and re-marriage is the same as adultery.

Jesus also taught that divorce is wrong in the Gospels. The Church may allow legal separation, but couples are still considered married in the eyes of God.

In the 10 Commandments, it says ‘Do not commit adultery’ and some Christians believe that divorce is like adultery.

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**ANNULMENT**: A declaration that the marriage was never a true marriage e.g. the Roman Catholic Church might allow an annulment if it was proved that the wedding was never really Christian.

**SACRAMENT**: An outward sign of inner grace and beliefs – there are official ceremonies and rites in the Christian Church where members show their faith e.g. baptism, marriage etc.

**RE-MARRIAGE**: Getting married after a divorce.

**GOSPELS**: The 4 books in the Bible (part of the Old Testament) that describe the life and teachings of Jesus.

**RECONCILIATION**: ‘Making up’ i.e. trying to fix a marriage, sometimes through therapy.

**CATECHISM**: Official teachings and laws of the Roman Catholic Church.
Within Islam, the family is at the heart of the community and is important for raising children in the Islamic faith. Parents are responsible for the religious upbringing of their children e.g. giving them the right foods (**halal**), making sure they attend **madrasah** and helping them learn the Qur’an. The Qur’an teaches that on Judgement Day, Muslims will be judged on how well they raise their children – the family has been created by God and must be respected.

The Prophet Muhammad raised a family and is considered to be the perfect example; Muslims try to follow this example in their own lives (**hadith**). Muslims are also part of a world-wide community known as the **ummah**. The individual family and the **ummah** are kept together through blood ties, marriage and faith. Muslims are likely to live in extended families that offer couples greater stability and financial support. The elderly are highly respected in Islam and must be looked after.

For Muslims, marriage is a contract and divorce is usually allowed: ‘And if you fear that the two may not be able to keep the limits ordered by Allah, there is no blame... if [they] redeem [themselves] from the marriage tie.’

Many Muslims are completely against divorce. Muhammad argued it was the most hateful of things. Although divorce is allowed, it is not encouraged as it can have a very negative effect on the family. Divorce is automatically granted if one partner leaves Islam – for other reasons, the divorce must be announced 3 times over a period of 3 months (known as the **iddah**). The couple should seek **reconciliation** first where they try and fix their problems.

After the divorce, the couple are free to re-marry – the husband remains responsible for his ex-wife and children unless she re-marries. Other Muslims argue that, so long as it is done according to Islamic (Shar’iah) Law, divorce can be the lesser of two evils and may benefit the family.

**HALAL**: Food prepared according to strict Islamic laws; food that is acceptable for Muslims to eat

**MADRASAH**: Muslim school

**HADITH**: Example and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad that have been collected together

**UMMAH**: World-wide community of Muslims
Sex outside of marriage refers to **pre-marital sex** (sex before marriage) and **adultery** (cheating on your partner). The Bible teaches that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Sex is considered to be an act of love but is also meant for the **procreation** of children and it is thought that this is best done in marriage. Some Christians even wear silver rings to show that they will be celibate until they are married. Christians are taught to avoid being **promiscuous** (having casual sex relationships).

‘The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside marriage it always constitutes a grave sin.’ *Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church*

However, some liberal Christians today argue that sex before marriage is acceptable. They argue that the Bible needs to be adapted to fit in with our modern lifestyles. The **Church of England** recently published a report called ‘**Something to Celebrate**’ where they said that **cohabitation** is acceptable if it is a step before marriage. Having sex with someone other than your partner is considered a grave sin (**adultery**). In the 10 Commandments it says, ‘You shall not commit adultery’ (Exodus 20:14).

Islam teaches that marriage should take place between a man and a woman. They believe that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Sex before marriage is forbidden in the **Qur’an** which also says that girls and boys should be separated after puberty and dress modestly. **Shari’ah Law** states that sex should only take place in marriage and that the primary purpose of sex is to have children.

As in the **Bible**, the punishment for adultery is very severe in the **Qur’an**. This is because it breaks the marriage contract and may have negative consequences for the couple and their children – anything that is likely to hurt the family is forbidden in the Qur’an. All Muslims are expected to get married, as the Prophet Muhammad did. Sexual desire is considered to be a gift of new life from God, and Muslims fulfil this through marriage.

As **Islam has spread to different countries**, attitudes towards the family have changed a little. Some young Muslims no longer have **arranged marriages** and socialize much more with members of the opposite sex. The extent to which this happens will depend on how **conservative** the family is in their views. Traditional Muslim practices, like **polygamy**, are banned by UK law and are much rarer.

**ADULTERY**: Cheating on your partner

**PROMISCUOUS**: Having casual sexual relationships with more than one partner

**SHARI’AH LAW**: Islamic law

**POLYGAMY**: Having more than one wife
**Liberal Christians** usually argue that contraception is acceptable, although many usually argue that it is meant for married couples in order to limit family size and not to be used for pre-marital sex (as pre-marital sex is not allowed). As the main teaching is to love others, they argue that contraception helps women financially, physically and emotionally. They also argue that it can protect against HIV/AIDS and that there is nothing in the Bible forbidding it.

Many Muslims also allow contraception between **married** partners in order to limit family size and protect the health of the mother. God allows this because several hadith record the Prophet Muhammad permitting the use of *coitus interruptus* as a means of contraception. Now that more modern methods of contraception are available, surely these are acceptable. If pregnancy is likely to cause death or extra burdens on the family, contraception can be used as the Qur’an says that God does not want to place extra burdens on families. Suicide is also wrong and going through a pregnancy that is likely to lead to **maternal death** is wrong too.

**Conservative Christians** often argue that sex is meant for procreation and, where they accept that the number in a family should be controlled, advocate natural planning methods (e.g. limiting sex to times when a woman is less likely to get pregnant). **Pope Pius XI** condemned contraception (1930) and in 1968, **Pope Paul VI**’s *Humanae Vitae* confirmed this. It is also written into the **Catechism**. Anything that is seen as killing a potential life is considered a sin i.e. because life is seen to begin at **conception**, the morning-after pill is considered wrong.

Muslims may also argue against contraception, arguing that using it is going against the will of God and the plan He has for each of us. The Qur’an does not mention contraception but does say ‘You should not kill your children for fear of want.’ They argue that this should mean a ban on contraception. God created sex for the purposes of procreation and contraception prevents God’s wishes. Muslims argue that since the Prophet Muhammad had a large family, they should try to do the same. The Prophet Muhammad is seen as the perfect example to follow.
Christians strongly disagree about whether homosexuality is acceptable or not. Traditionally, the vast majority of Christians were against homosexuality. In the Bible, it says that God created man and woman to be together and to raise children (e.g. Genesis 1:27); Homosexuality was seen to undermine the family and sex was meant for children only. Since homosexual couples are unable to have children naturally and this is considered to be the primary purpose of humans, it was regarded as wrong.

There are also biblical teachings against homosexuality. In Leviticus 18:22, it is said, ‘Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman’ and St Paul writes, ‘Homosexual offenders... will [not] inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) – although some Christians are quick to point out that Leviticus also bans eating shellfish among other things that Christians often do!

Most Evangelical Christians are strongly against homosexuality, even if they believe homophobia is wrong. They believe that the Bible is word-for-word true and take the teachings on homosexuality literally. Some groups believe that prayer can ‘save’ homosexual people from sin. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that homosexuality is wrong because sex is meant for the procreation of children. The Church teaches that people cannot help their sexual orientation, so homophobia is a sin. However, they still argue that practicing homosexuality is a sin.

More Liberal Christians usually have a more sympathetic view towards homosexuals. Couples are judged on the strength of their love, and gay priests are now accepted in some congregations (although they are frequently told to remain celibate).

This is because Jesus taught his followers to ‘love thy neighbour’ rather than judge others. Jesus treated people who had sinned with respect. It is also wrong to lie, according to the 10 Commandments, so hiding your sexuality would be wrong. Such Christians believe that biblical ideas of homosexuality need to be updated to fit in with modern understanding, and some groups even bless homosexual unions in church.

In this country, same-sex marriage is legal and homophobia is against the law. Many people argue that the Bible needs to be adapted: it was written at a time when people did not understand science or human rights. We now know that many animal species practise homosexual sex and that there are genes connected with homosexuality. Furthermore, it is a human right and such liberal Christians argue that it is more important to accept the human rights than condemn others.

**LGBT:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans

**CONDEMN:** To say that something is wrong

**CONGREGATIONS:** The community and people in each church
Many Muslims believe homosexuality is a grave (very serious) sin and, under strict Shari’ah law, it is punishable by death (“Kill the one that is doing it” Hadith). Al-Fatiha, a Muslim gay rights group, estimates that over 4000 people have been executed in Iran because of their sexuality. In the Qur’an, the people of Lot, known as the Sodomites, are destroyed by Allah because they practised homosexuality. Traditionally, Islam teaches that homosexuality is a choice and that it must be educated against. It is seen as undermining the family, which the Qur’an says is very important, because gay couples cannot have children naturally.

Other Muslims argue that preventing same-sex relationships is wrong and against human rights e.g. Al-Fatiha. They also argue that homosexuality is natural and isn’t a choice. Many animals have now been found to display homosexual behaviour and certain genes have been linked with homosexuality. This suggests that homosexuality is not a choice. Muslims may also argue that society has changed and the Qur’an must be interpreted using the information we know now about homosexuality. For example, some argue that the story of Lot is about lust and not love – so long as the relationship is about love and being faithful, it is acceptable. Muslims may also argue that Allah created all things and loves everyone. As such, He must have created homosexuals and must love them too. Furthermore, Islam is a religion of peace and love and these should be shown to all people.

In the Bible, it clearly says that people should be having children (e.g. Genesis 1:28) and that homosexuality is a sin! It also says this in lots of other holy books. We should be following the law of God – He knows best when it comes to the family!

Attitudes have changed over time – when these holy books were written, women had no rights! We didn’t understand that people are born gay – now that we know what we do, we should make sure everyone has equal rights. Everyone has the right to a family according to the Human Rights Act! Anyway… Jesus and Muhammad taught that the right action is the most loving one – not the most judgmental one!
In the past, all women were often expected to stay at home with the family – in the 1900s this became the main attitude and only about 15% of women worked. In the early 20th century, women began to campaign for **equality** and were successful in implementing many laws such as the Equal Pay Act in 1970. However, prejudice and discrimination still exist in Britain and around the world. Prejudice is the pre-judgement of others based on a characteristic they have or the group they belong to. Prejudice against women could be caused by how people are brought up, the media, religion or a number of other factors. It can lead to sexism (discrimination based on gender). A **feminist** is anyone who campaigns for gender equality. Most people argue that they are feminists, although they may disagree about how best to gain equality or what equality looks like.

In the UK, there are still many examples of gender prejudice:

- Women are frequently victims of violence and sexual offences, with some studies estimating that up to 1 in 4 women will be a victim of violence and sexual offences. This was highlighted in the #MeToo campaign.
- In the workplace, women still earn less and occupy far fewer positions of power. For instance, only 25% of MPs are female.
- Many women have been the victim of female genital mutilation (FGM). It is estimated that 200 million girls have been abused in this way across the world, with some still living in the UK.

Others argue that religions still promote outdated attitudes. Many religions teach that there are fundamental differences in how God made men and women. However, others argue that the differences between men and women have been exaggerated and that men are just as capable of looking after children while women are just as capable of working. This debate continues within religions. For instance, the Church of England recently changed their teachings to allow women bishops whilst the Catholic Church has not.

**PREJUDICE**: Prejudice is the pre-judgement of others based on a characteristic they have or the group they belong to.

**DISCRIMINATION**: Treating someone differently based on prejudice
Many argue that religion is responsible for some of the sexist attitudes faced by women. This is because many religions have traditionally argued that men and women have different roles. If women are denied access to certain roles, then this could be said to be discriminatory. However, theists may respond by arguing that men and women are equal but different; they have different roles to play but these roles are equally important.

In the Hadith (the written example of the Prophet Muhammad), it says: ‘All people are equal... as the teeth of a comb.’ Traditionally, men and women are seen as having different but equally important roles. While men must provide for the family even if their wives work, it is the woman’s job to raise children. Many Muslim women now work (as the Prophet Muhammad’s wife did) as well as take care of the family. The Qur’an and the Hadith refer to the biological differences that mean men are generally physically stronger than women. Men, therefore, are regarded as protectors of women and families, and providers of financial support. Women are expected to have children and to fulfil the role of wife and mother as the Prophet Muhammad’s wife did.

The Qur’an states that both men and women must dress modestly. However, Muslims disagree about whether women need only cover their hair (with a hijab) or their whole bodies (with a burqa). Many Muslim women argue that it is sexist to make women cover their faces and that it keeps them separate from society; other Muslims disagree and say that it allows women to be seen for their personality and not their looks and that it is a symbol of faith. Unlike men, women are not obliged to attend the mosque. Men and women must worship separately to avoid distraction when praying. Women are not generally allowed to be imams (leaders) unless they are leading an all-female group. However, the Qur’an says that all Muslims must receive education (‘the search for knowledge is the duty of every Muslim, male or female’). It clearly states that all the rules of the Qur’an, including the 5 pillars, apply to men and women equally.

Muslim feminists are fighting to make sure every Muslim woman around the world receives the right to an education and to practise their religion freely e.g. in Saudi Arabia. Many also argue against the forced use of the burqa and hijab in countries such as Iran, as well as against polygamy which they argue is no longer fairly practised. Many women now choose to work and argue that men are just as capable of raising children well and teaching them about how they should behave. Whilst many religious couples still believe it is their duty to have a family, for the woman to raise the children, and for the children to be raised as Muslim, other couples are more liberal and believe that having children should be a choice and that women do not need to stay at home.

**FEMINISM:** The campaign for gender equality (equality between all sexes)
Some very Conservative (Evangelical) Christians argue that women should still submit to their husbands and stay at home. This idea is based on Biblical teachings that suggest women should take a more passive role compared to their husband e.g. St Paul wrote ‘Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the Church’ (Ephesians 5:21). St Paul also taught that ‘women should remain silent in churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission as the Law says’ (Corinthians 14:34). As these Christians interpret the Bible literally, they still follow these teachings today. In Orthodox Judaism, men and women must still sit separately. The Torah states that woman was made from man to be his companion.

Roman Catholics believe that men and women have equal roles in life and can take on most of the same jobs. However, the Pope also teaches that women cannot be ordained priests, although it says that this does not mean that women are not equal to men. This idea is based on the teachings of the Catechism which says that men and women should have equal roles in life and society. The 1971 report, ‘Justice in the World’ called for women to take on more responsibility within the Church. However, this does not mean that they should lead but, rather, help out more; the teachings of the Catechism which says that, because Jesus was male and so were his main disciples, only men can be priests – priests represent Jesus in church. Similarly, in Islam, men and women usually have to pray separately and only men can lead services. They are still equal as the Qur’an says that all duties of Islam apply to men and women equally and because the Prophet Muhammad commanded kindness towards women. Thus, the majority of these theists do not argue that women are inferior. They believe that men and women are different and have different roles.

Liberal Christians usually accept that men and women should have equal rights in all respects. This means that they allow women to become priests. They base their ideas on the first creation story (Genesis) where God makes men and women equal. In other passages, St Paul appears to teach equality, writing ‘There is neither male nor female...’ because everyone is equal in the eyes of Jesus. Evidence from the Gospels that Jesus treated women with respect and even had female disciples. Moreover, there is evidence that there were women priests in the early Church e.g. they were only banned in the 4th century. Such Christians argue that the Bible was written in a time of inequality and must be interpreted to fit in with modern ideas.

Other religions also allow women to lead, such as in Sikhism where both men and women can read from the Guru Granth Sahib. They believe God is neither male nor female.
Scientific truth comes from making a hypothesis and then testing it to see if it is true. All ideas in science are called theories, such as the theory of gravity, because this shows that scientists are willing to change their ideas depending on what the evidence suggests. Scientific facts, therefore, must be proven through testing, such as the idea that gravity exists or that water is H2O. Scientific truths are always being developed and can be challenged by other theories – this is just part of the scientific process.

Religious truth is learnt in a number of different ways. It can be learnt through religious experiences or holy books. Some people argue that there is evidence of a designer God in nature. Religion tries to explain why we are here, who God is, how we should behave and what happens when we die. It gives answers to ultimate questions: questions that are very important but that don’t have a clear answer.

Many people believe that the teachings of their holy book are absolute: unchanging and never wrong.

Many people argue that there is no real conflict between science and religion. This is because science explains how the world works whereas religion explains why the world is here to begin with. Religion gives people answers about their purpose and how they should behave, whereas science simply states the facts of the world. For this reason, many people are religious and scientific. In the Vatican, the Head of the Roman Catholic Church, there are even astronomers who study space. The Bible, for such Christians, is a metaphorical document. It is not fact but is meant to give people guidance and ideas, rather than be a historical guide. The Bible was written thousands of years ago when people did not have knowledge of science, but there is still, according to these Christians, a lot that can be learnt from it today.

However, others argue that science and religion do conflict. This is because they believe that they cannot both be true at the same time. Fundamentalist Christians and Muslims believe that everything in the Bible is factual and word-for-word true (literal). They believe that any scientific ideas that contradict the Bible or the Qur’an must be rejected, such as the theory of evolution. Many atheists also reject the idea that science and religion can be compatible. They argue that there is no scientific evidence to prove that God exists and, since they believe we should only accept what we can test, they reject the idea of God.
They believe that human life was then formed through **evolution**, which is the view that different species have changed and adapted over time. **Charles Darwin** presented his theory of evolution in **1859**. He found that different species were competing for things such as food, and eventually only the fittest survived. This process is known as **natural selection**. Every time parents reproduce, half of their DNA combines with their partners. There are also genetic mutations as the DNA is copied. This means that the child born will have a unique set of DNA. If this DNA helps them to survive, they will be able to breed and pass their DNA on. Over long periods of time, this can lead to changes in a population.

The Big Bang occurred around 20 billion years ago. There was nothing at first, then a huge explosion caused a cloud of dust and gas. Eventually, the sun, stars, planets and universe itself formed from this. Scientists believe our **solar system** was formed around 4.6 billion years ago. The Earth was very hot at first, and covered in a mix of liquids and chemicals. These came together to give the first life forms, which were simple beings. From these, all other life developed, including humans.

There has been a lot of scientific evidence to support Darwin’s theory, as scientists have found fossils which show that humans and animals have evolved over time. Different areas of the world also cause different adaptations; for example, finches (types of bird) have different beaks depending on whether they live in an area where berries are the main food, or shellfish are the main food. The fact that our DNA is so similar to other animals is also evidence for evolution. 98% of our DNA is the same as that of a chimpanzee which would make sense if we are their evolutionary cousins. There is also a lot of evidence for the Big Bang theory, including the fact that the planets are still moving apart, as you would expect following such a large explosion, and background radiation can be measured.
THE VALUE OF THE WORLD

The Christian creation story is written in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. It says that there was nothing at the beginning but God created light on the first day and separated it from darkness. It describes how God created the world *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). On the second day, God created the heavens. On the third day, God created plants and the sea. On the fourth day, God created the fish and birds.

**SANCTITY OF LIFE:** On the sixth day, God created animals as well as humans. It says, ‘God created mankind in His image... Male and female He created them’ (Genesis 1:27). It also says that he told them to reproduce – ‘Be fruitful and multiply’ (Genesis 1:28) – and to rule over every living thing (dominion). In the second creation story in Genesis 2, it says that Eve is made out of Adam’s rib to be his helper. It also says that humans must look after God’s creation. Whether or not Christians believe this is literal, they believe it tells them that they are *sacred*: they are very holy.

**DOMINION AND STEWARDSHIP:** It also tells them that they are superior to other life forms but that they must take care of them. In the Muslim creation story, it also says that God gave the command to look after the environment. This is called *stewardship*. Theists disagree about the balance between dominion and stewardship. For instance, some people think it is acceptable to eat meat because we are superior whilst others think that we should take care of animals and not eat them. Others may argue that humans have a right to use the environment to help other humans, whilst others argue we need to do this much less.

**AWE AND WONDER:** Awe and wonder can be described as the ‘wow’ factor that one gets from looking at the universe. Christians and Muslims accept the *design argument*. This is the belief that the universe is too complex and perfect to have come about by chance. William Paley argued that when you look at the human eye, you can see elements of a designer at work. This is because the eye is very complex and well-suited to the purpose of seeing. It cannot have come about by chance! For this reason, they argue there must be a designer. Many people say they believe in God because of the awe and wonder they feel when looking at the universe, from waterfalls to sunsets.

**DOMINION:** Ruling over the environment / **STEWARDSHIP:** Taking care of the environment
In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, it describes the creation of the world. In Genesis Chapter 1, it says that God made the world in 7 days. In Genesis Chapter 2, it describes how Eve was made from Adam’s rib. These stories are very important to Christians but they do not all agree with how they should be understood.

**EVOLUTION**: The scientific theory that explains how organisms adapted to fit their surroundings over billions of years e.g. fossil record evidence

**BIG BANG THEORY**: The scientific theory that the world began with an enormous explosion of gases and matter

**GENESIS**: The first chapter of the Bible which says God made the world in 7 days

**CREATIONIST**: Someone who interprets the creation story literally i.e. word-for-word

**LIBERAL CHRISTIANS**

Some Christians believe that the Bible is only *metaphorically true* – it contains important, *symbolic* messages but is not *factually* true. For instance, in Genesis 1:27 it says that God made mankind in *imago dei* (in His image) which suggests that we are sacred (very holy) even if it is not meant to be taken literally. The story can also teach them the importance of avoiding greed and not disobeying God.

**CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS**

Other more conservative Christians are creationists. They believe that the Bible should be interpreted *literally* (word-for-word true), so the creation story in *Genesis* must be completely true too! This means they do not believe in evolution but think that God created the world in 7 days.

Fundamentalist Christians believe that it is not possible to accept scientific theories of evolution and the Bible as well as the teachings of the Bible. For instance, in the Bible it says that the stars were made after light, and that animals were all made on the same day which directly contradicts the theory of evolution and the Big Bang theory. They argue that you should not *pick-and-choose* which parts of the Bible to accept and which to ignore.
The idea that God created the world leads to the belief that humans should look after it. Christians and Muslims believe that God gave them dominion (the right to rule over every living thing) but also told them to be stewards (to look after the environment). Today, theists and non-theists alike are worried about the use of natural resources. These are materials found in nature such as oil and trees. Many of these resources are running out. This is because they are finite: there is only a set amount.

Worldwide over 90 million barrels of oil are used a day. The USA and China use the most. Scientists believe we have about 40 years left of using oil, including petrol, if we continue at this rate. The problem of deforestation is also serious. This is where trees are cut down, to make land or for use. An area roughly the size of Panama is cut down every year. In 2015, an area covering more than 7 times the size of New York was taken from the Amazon. These trees provide habitats for animals such as the orang-utan which we fear may be lost soon forever.

However, the use of natural resources such as trees and oil is also affecting humans. Global warming means that the Earth is warmer than it has been for over 1000 years. Many scientists believe that the Earth has probably never warmed as fast as in the past 30 years. It is clear from pictures and scientific measurements that ice caps are melting and that this is affecting the sea level. Over time, this could lead to some coastal areas disappearing and other countries becoming deserts. There is also likely to be a rise in natural disasters around the world. Most scientists as well as the United Nations Climate Change Panel believe that global warming is caused by human activity. This is known as the greenhouse effect. People burning fossil fuels (gas, coal, and oil) produce carbon dioxide. This produces a barrier in the atmosphere so that the heat from the sun passes through but can’t get back out. This makes the Earth heat up. Whilst the greenhouse effect exists naturally, it is argued that the process has been sped up by human actions, particularly in developed countries in the past and developing countries today.

The solutions to global warming include producing electricity without producing CO2 e.g. through wind power, sea power and solar power; the UK government announced a Green Energy Plan to produce 1/3 of Britain’s energy through wind power by 2020. Scientists also recommend only using cars that use electric batteries or hydrogen to power them as these do not produce CO2. Many people are simply trying to change their lifestyles to reduce their carbon footprint. For instance, eating meat and taking flights massively impact the environment.
Pollution puts the health of humans, animals and plants at risk. It also contributes to global warming. There are many different types of pollution including air, water and land pollution. **Water pollution** is very bad at the moment as a result of the amount of plastic being put into the ocean. More than eight million tonnes of plastic enters the world's oceans each year and most of that escapes from land. It can be blown into the sea from ships and beaches, or carried there by river. Some also gets flushed down the toilet. Experts think that by 2050, the amount of plastic in the ocean will weigh more than the amount of fish in the ocean. These plastics hurt fish but also affect the humans that eat them.

Plastics are man-made and can be produced from natural materials like coal and oil and so also contribute to global warming. They also fail to degrade which means that once they have been made they stay on the earth. Each year, 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced and 40% of that is single-use - plastic we will only use once before it's binned. Europe produces more than 2.5 billion tons of waste a year. New York alone produces 26,000 tons a day! This is not sustainable (possible to maintain it). Human waste is also expensive to clean and can be extremely dangerous if it gets into the water systems. Animal waste, particularly from battery farms, is also having a huge impact. People who live near farms report getting many more illnesses as the massive amounts of waste produce start to seep into the ground and reach water. Radioactive waste can also cause cancer e.g. the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster (1986). In an open letter, Pope Francis recently called on everyone to protect the environment. He wrote that we must tackle climate change, pollution and poverty since human life is grounded in our relationship with God and the rest of humanity.

The solutions to pollution include:

- Using less fossil fuels to prevent acid rain; the government should encourage the use of alternative energy e.g. wind, hydroelectric, tidal and solar power;
- Using recycling much more and never dropping litter! The UK has passed laws to try and stop this but the police rarely issue fines as they can be difficult to enforce;
- Being vegetarian to reduce the amount of CO\textsubscript{2} and nitrates and avoiding long-haul flights;
  - Making sure that radioactive waste is reprocessed and safely disposed of.
  - Avoiding any single-use plastics, such as straws and cups;
  - Donating money to environmental charities that can help clean the oceans

**Non-renewable resources** are resources that cannot be used again, such as oil. As humans use these resources, they become scarce (rare). Losing the available oil would have a huge impact on the planet! If we do not change the way we use resources, we may find ourselves without cars, televisions or machines!
**Sustainable development** is the idea that new technological developments should all be infinite, or very long-lasting, as well as within the reach of all nations. **Conservation** means when we try to protect an area or species. It may involve repairing damage that has already been done e.g. maintaining the environment for an endangered species. It might include planting trees to protect an area from landslides or declaring an area a nature reserve. This has happened in Borneo to protect orang-utans.

Practising Hindus believe in the **sanctity of life**. This is the belief that life is sacred. They believe this because they argue that God (Brahman) is in everything, just like salt dissolves in water and permeates (goes into) everything. Hinduism teaches that there must be respect for all life because humans also rely on nature. There should be **ahimsa** (non-violence) against animals and conservation to make sure we look after the environment. It is said that trees have five sorts of kindness, such as giving fuel to families and providing us with medicines. Life is interdependent: it all depends on everything else. When we damage the environment, we damage the balance. Some Indians today argue that **progress in technology** is more important since India must have more opportunities to develop. India is currently one of the largest producers of fossil fuels and pollution.

Practising Muslims believe in the **sanctity of life**. This is the belief that life is sacred. They believe this because the Qur’an states that God made everything in the world. They believe that God is omnipotent (all-powerful) so He could create Earth but also omnibenevolent (all-loving) so He wanted to create a beautiful place for humans to live in. Adam and Eve, the first humans, were told to be **khalifahs** (stewards) of the environment, which means they were asked to look after it. The angel Mika’il (Michael) was told to help humans look after the environment as well. This is one of the reasons why many Muslims will recycle or find other ways of conserving the environment.

Muslims also believe that God created the world in perfect harmony and balance. Since there is one God, everything exists in a perfect state of harmony so long as humans work to keep that balance.

Christians believe that God gave humans stewardship over the Earth. In the Genesis accounts of creation. God gave humans **dominion** (the right to rule) over the environment but also asked them to be **stewards** (look after the environment). People are asked to ‘love their neighbour’ and ‘treat others as they wish to be treated.’ This Golden Rule suggests that the world’s resources should be shared equally and looked after for future generations. The Bible makes it clear that there will be a Day of Judgement where Christians will be held accountable for how they have treated the world.

God tells Adam and Eve to act as **stewards** of his creation, meaning that they should take care of it. He says, ‘till the Earth and keep it’ (Genesis 2:15). The Bible also suggests that God will be angry when people ruin the environment: ‘I brought them into a fertile land to eat its fruit and its produce. They made my property disgusting’ (Jeremiah 2:7). So, whilst humans are the most sacred, and made in the image of God (imago dei – Genesis 1:27), the environment is also God’s creation and must be looked after.
There are different approaches to using animals for human gain, and some are more cruel than others. For example, some farming is ‘free range, which means animals are in their natural environment with freedom of movement. However, some animals are ‘battery farmed’ which means they are kept in small cages and fed until they are unhealthily large. Such animals suffer from broken bones, organ failure and early death.

Animals today are still used for entertainment purposes. We see animals on display in zoos, racing events, aquariums and in shows. Some people also hunt animals as their hobby. Circuses and zoos attract the public, especially children, for being colourful, fun and original. They can be entertaining and can introduce children to animals they may not have seen before. Some zoos treat animals more kindly than others, as they help to save species going extinct by encouraging them to breed. However, many people argue that animals should not be used for our entertainment as they are sacred and made by God.

Experiments on animals have crucial outcomes for humans, particularly those that help to make and improve medicines for humans and animals. Medical science has always used animals and many types of surgery and nearly all medicine has been tested on animals so that they are successful today. Many people, including religious believers, support the use of animals for experiments because they can improve medical knowledge and can test new drugs to prevent them from harming people. Religious people may argue that this is acceptable because God gave Adam and Eve dominion (the power to rule over the environment).

Some of these experiments are carried out on live animals which are specially bred in farms for testing on. Furthermore, sometimes cosmetics such as makeup and body creams are tested on animals. Many consider cosmetic testing to be cruel, as animals are often killed and the outcomes are for manufacturers to make money and not to save people.

Many people choose to be vegetarian because of their health, upbringing, religion and concerns about animal rights. Some people eat no meat or dairy products at all (vegans) and some choose not to eat meat (vegetarians). Others eat fish, but not other meat (pescatarians).

Traditionally, Christianity, Islam and Judaism allow meat in their diets. Many Christians don’t eat red meat on Fridays out of respect for Jesus’ sacrifice on Good Friday. Muslims and Jews may not eat certain meats, for example, pork, shellfish or birds of prey. They may also only eat meat ritually slaughtered in a specific way (halal for Muslims, kosher for Jews).

This reflects the idea that God gave man dominion over animals, so they can be used as food. Hindus and Buddhists are largely vegetarian, as they believe in ahimsa (non-violence) and respect for all life. Many Sikhs are also vegetarian to show respect for God’s creation.

VEGETARIANISM: Not eating meat / STEWARDSHIP: Taking care of the environment
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<th>ARGUMENTS AGAINST EATING MEAT</th>
<th>ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF EATING MEAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battery farming is extremely cruel. Animals are grown far too quickly. For chickens, this means that their legs break underneath them.</td>
<td>Muslims are only allowed to eat meat that has been killed in a special way (known as <em>halal</em>) but this does mean they are allowed to eat meat.</td>
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<td>The Prophet Muhammad once told a man to return a bird’s eggs when he saw the mother bird was distressed. He is seen as the perfect example.</td>
<td>Free range animals have had a better quality of life. It is natural to eat meat that is raised in the wild as this is what humans have always done.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Many Hindus believe in reincarnation which means that people’s souls may be reborn into animal or human bodies. It is wrong to eat them.</td>
<td>Many Hindus have begun to eat meat. They may argue that animals are to be respected but that they have dominion over them and should be able to eat them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eating meat causes large amounts of pollution and destruction to the planet. We would reduce global warming if everyone ate less meat and dairy.</td>
<td>In the Bible, it says that humans can be meat-eaters or vegetarians. Noah was told to eat meat by God who said, ‘Everything that lives and moves will be food.’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Many Hindus believe that Brahman (God) is in every living thing. This includes animals. This means that they should be treated with respect and not tested on.</td>
<td>Dominion means that humans can rule over animals. Testing on animals can help to find drugs for humans and can even help doctors to practice as they train.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many animal rights activists argue that it is unacceptable to test on animals for cosmetics. It causes lots of pain. For example, dogs are blinded by our make-up.</td>
<td>When drugs are not tested on animals first, they can be very dangerous for humans. In tests of some drugs, people have died because they were not tested on animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bible teaches ‘stewardship’ which means we ought to take care of the environment. This could be used to argue that testing on animals is wrong.</td>
<td>Using animals to test for medicines may save millions of lives. Christians are taught ‘agape’ which means unconditional love for humans. We should try and help the sick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are many alternatives to animal tests such as using skin that has been grown in the lab or computer simulators. This does not need to harm life.</td>
<td>In Islam, it would be seen as wrong to cause unnecessary harm to an animal. Cosmetic testing may be wrong but medical testing may be seen as necessary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sanctity of life is the belief that all life is sacred, or holy, because it has been made by God. However, non-religious and religious people disagree about how to apply this rule should apply to abortion. Quality of life is the description of how good or bad someone’s life is. For instance, a person who is in a lot of pain might be said to have a very low quality of life.

In the UK, abortion has been legal since 1967. The exception to this is in Northern Ireland where abortion carries a life sentence. Abortions must be carried out by 24th week of pregnancy (except in extreme circumstances e.g. Down’s Syndrome). Two doctors must agree that the mother’s mental or physical health is at risk and/or that the foetus will be born with physical or mental disabilities.

Arguments for abortion are called pro-choice arguments. Pro-life campaigners argue abortion is wrong. Pro-choice campaigners argue that before abortions were legal, back-street abortions were common. These were abortions performed by untrained people. Some pro-choice campaigners argue that the limit should be lengthened for all women to 28 weeks or even longer because women should have the rights to their own body. It is estimated that 21.6 million women experience an unsafe abortion worldwide each year and that 18.5 million of these occur in developing countries. 47,000 women die from complications of unsafe abortion each year. Deaths due to unsafe abortion remain close to 13% of all maternal deaths.

Campaigners who argue against abortion are called pro-life campaigners. They believe that abortion is wrong, often for religious reasons, because the embryo and foetus must be protected and given the same rights as the mother. For instance, many Christians argue that the embryo has human rights from the moment of conception: the moment when the sperm meets the egg. They believe that abortion is wrong because it counts as murder as the foetus is a person. They argue that, since murder is banned in the Bible, and because it involves the death of one of God’s creations, it is wrong.
In the UK, abortion has been legal since 1967. The exception to this is in Northern Ireland where abortion carries a life sentence. Abortions must be carried out by 24th week of pregnancy (except in extreme circumstances e.g. Down’s Syndrome). Two doctors must agree that the mother’s mental or physical health is at risk and/or that the foetus will be born with physical or mental disabilities. People strongly disagree about when life begins which affects their attitudes to abortion.

**The moment of conception?** This is the moment when the sperm meets the egg...

**7 weeks?** The organs are beginning to form...

**24 weeks?** The foetus is unlikely to survive outside of the womb...

Life begins at the moment of conception so abortion is always taking a human life... it might not look like a person but it has the full potential to become one! Just because a child is disabled does not mean it should not be loved - anyway, unwanted babies can be given up for adoption...

A foetus becomes a person at birth! If you had it your way, we would have to go back to having dangerous backstreet abortions! Anyway, an unwanted foetus is no different to an unwanted tumour - it’s just a bunch of cells, not a person - give women the choice over their own bodies...
Some Christians argue for a more relativist approach to abortion, particularly in cases where the mother or foetus are likely to suffer. This is because they believe that the most important thing is to ‘Love thy Neighbour’ as Jesus said. It is their duty to show compassion, and aborting a foetus may be the most loving thing to do e.g. in cases of rape. The Sanctity of Life rule may be broken in war – why not to help a pregnant woman?

Conservative Christians argue that abortion is never acceptable (they are absolutist and pro-life). They believe in the Sanctity of Life (the idea that life is sacred and a gift from God) and that murder is wrong (as written in the 10 Commandments). As they think that life begins from the moment of conception, abortion at any time is murder. They would argue that it is always better to adopt and that the foetus’ rights are just as important as the mother’s.

‘You shall not commit murder.’
Exodus 20:13
This is one of the 10 Commandments, used to argue against abortion

‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’ Mark 12:30
Jesus taught that you should treat others as you wish to be treated. This is the Golden Rule.

‘So God created man in His own image... Be fruitful and multiply’
Genesis 1:27-28
As God created man in His image (‘imago dei’), life is sacred – harming humans is like harming God. God also told Adam and Eve to ‘multiply’ (have children).

ROMAN CATHOLIC: A Christian who follows the teachings of the Pope

CONCEPTION: The moment when sperm fertilizes egg

SANCTITY OF LIFE: The idea that life is sacred and a gift from God. Only God can decide when to give or take life.

ABSOLUTIST: Someone who believes in absolute morality – an action is always right or wrong no matter what the circumstances

RELATIVIST: Someone who believes that the rightness or wrongness of an action depends on the specific circumstances

Catechism (law) of the Roman Catholic Church (Catechism 2270): ‘Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of existence, a human must be recognised as having the rights of a person.’ Roman Catholics rely on the teachings of the Pope (Catechism). As the Pope has forbidden abortion, many Roman Catholics disagree with abortion as well.
Muslims believe that life is sacred and a gift from God (Sanctity of Life). Abortion is usually considered wrong because it is seen as taking away a life. Many Muslims believe that a life begins once the soul has entered the foetus (ensoulment). This is said to take place when the foetus is 120 days old. Other Muslims argue that life begins earlier, at 40 days, or when the foetus begins to move.

Muslims argue that abortion is usually wrong, particularly after 120 days, unless the mother’s life is in danger. If you do something good (saving the mother) that has a bad side-effect (aborting the foetus), then it is morally acceptable. The mother is thought to be more important as she has a full life with responsibilities and the foetus would not be alive without her anyway. However... some Muslims argue that if a foetus is suffering from a serious, untreatable defect then, before 120 days, it can be aborted. Other Muslim scholars argue that abortion should be allowed if the mother has been raped, although some feel that the foetus should not suffer just because of the way it was conceived. Other reasons, such as not having enough money, are not thought to be good enough reasons for abortion. In the Qur’an it says, ‘Kill not your offspring for fear of poverty; it is we who provide for them.’ During the Bosnian and Kosovan genocide, Muslim scholars allowed women who had been raped to have abortions. Thousands were murdered in this genocide and many women were raped by soldiers. This can be seen as an application of the Golden Rule. Given that many of us would like abortion as an option, we ought to allow it for others.

Some Christians argue for a more relativist approach to abortion, particularly in cases where the mother or foetus are likely to suffer. This is because they believe that the most important thing is to ‘Love thy Neighbour’ as Jesus said. It is their duty to show compassion, and aborting a foetus may be the most loving thing to do e.g. in cases of rape. The Sanctity of Life rule may be broken in war – why not to help a pregnant woman?

More conservative Christians, such as Roman Catholics, argue that abortion is never acceptable (they are absolutist and pro-life). They believe in the Sanctity of Life (the idea that life is sacred and a gift from God) and that murder is wrong (as written in the 10 Commandments). As they think that life begins from the moment of conception, abortion at any time is murder. They would argue that it is always better to adopt and that the foetus’ rights are just as important as the mother’s.
Euthanasia, meaning ‘good death’ involves painlessly ending someone’s life. This may be voluntary or non-voluntary. Currently, UK law forbids active euthanasia (e.g. lethal injection) but allows some forms of passive euthanasia (e.g. switching off life-support). One reason for this is that doctors must take a Hippocratic Oath in which they promise to save people, not harm them. The law punishes people who assist euthanasia, even if there is evidence the patient wanted it, under the 1961 Suicide Act. Voluntary euthanasia is where someone asks for euthanasia, whereas involuntary is where they are not able to ask. In this country, people cannot ask for euthanasia but they can refuse treatment.

**EUTHANASIA: AGAINST**

- In cases of non-voluntary euthanasia, how can you be sure it is what the person really wants?
- In cases of voluntary euthanasia, the person may be feeling depressed – it would be better to counsel them rather than allow euthanasia
- A cure might be found if a person has a disease; It is the job of doctors to save life, not end it
- Legalising it could lead to a ‘slippery slope’ – it might lead to a general change in attitudes towards the elderly and the sick and make people feel pressured into dying
- Plus... Most Christians also argue that: Murder is wrong – as written in the 6th Commandment (Exodus 20:13)
- Humans are made in the image of God so life is sacred and a gift (Genesis 1:27)
- The Bible says that suicide is wrong
- Euthanasia is unnatural - only God has the right to decide whether life should end or not, not doctors or anyone else
- Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church: ‘An act... that causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder.’

**EUTHANASIA: FOR**

- It would allow people to die with dignity in a way that they choose
- It would save on medical costs and would relieve the family of financial/emotional burdens
- Medical advances have meant that people are being kept alive despite having painful diseases or being very disabled – putting them on life support is unnatural too... why not allow euthanasia in order to end suffering?
- People should be given rights over their own bodies – dying should be a choice
- Some forms of euthanasia are already legal. There is no moral difference between switching off life support and allowing someone to die painlessly
- People have the right to commit suicide – we should help people are who physically unable to do this for themselves
- Plus... A few Christians also argue that: The Golden Rule, as suggested by Jesus, was to love others and treat them as you wish to be treated (Mark 12:30). Killing someone who desperately wants to die, or who is in great pain, could be the most loving thing.

**ACTIVE EUTHANASIA**: Taking active measures to end the person’s life e.g. administering drugs

**PASSIVE EUTHANASIA**: Removing treatment that was keeping someone alive e.g. life support machines or feeding tubes

**VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA**: Ending life painlessly when someone asks to die
Christians believe there is an afterlife. Although the body dies and is buried or cremated, they believe that their unique soul lives on and is raised to new life by God.

Their belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion gives Christians hope that if they follow Jesus’ teaching and accept him as their Lord and Saviour, then this new resurrection life awaits them. By being born as a human being (the incarnation), and then dying on the cross, Jesus made this new ‘life after death’ possible for all.

Christians believe that Jesus’ life on Earth had a purpose which was to announce that the rule (or ‘Kingdom’) of God was coming. Many Christians believe that, at the end of the world, Christ will come again to rule for 1000 years.

Christians disagree about what happens after death. They believe that God is just and fair, and so cannot let evil go unpunished. Most believe in the idea of judgement after death, and that God will treat people in the afterlife according to how they lived their life on earth. Salvation is the idea that God is prepared to forgive people of their sins and that this was made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus. The traditional Christian belief is that if they feel sorry for what they have done (repent), they can achieve eternal life in Heaven.

Although heaven is often mentioned in the Bible, it is rarely described. Christians therefore have very different ideas about it. Some believe that heaven is a physical place, where their body goes after death. Such Christians believe in full-body resurrection and think that the whole body will rise again on Judgement Day, when God will judge people on how they have lived their lives. Others believe that it is their soul that lives on (immortality of the soul), and that heaven is a state of being united with God. The Bible is even less specific about hell, and Christians have very different ideas about this too. Some Christians believe that hell is a place of suffering, and of separation from God. Others (perhaps most) believe that hell is a spiritual state of being separated from God for eternity.

Some Christians, including some Roman Catholics, believe in purgatory. This is an in-between state for the majority of people of waiting for heaven, a time of cleansing from sin and preparing for heaven. While some Christians believe that only Christians can enter Heaven, others believe that all people who have behaved well can enter Heaven. Calvinists believe in predestination: the belief that, since God is all-knowing (omniscient), He already knows who will be saved at the end of the world. They believe that only a small number of people can enter Heaven.

**Salvation / Atonement:** The belief that people can be saved from sin as Jesus died for people’s sins

**Resurrection:** The belief that the body rises after death

**Immortality of the soul:** The belief that the soul lives on after death
Belief in *akhirah* (life after death) is very important for Muslims. They believe that they will be held accountable for their actions in life and that Allah will decide what happens in death. Islam teaches that Allah (God) has full control over all that happens. Nothing can happen unless permitted by Allah. However, Allah has also given humans free will; people are able to choose between right and wrong, and are responsible for their actions. This life is a preparation for the eternal life to come (*Akhirah*).

Humans have one life and it is up to them how they choose to live it.

Muslims believe that the angel of death will first take a person’s soul to *barzakh*, the stage between the moment they die and the moment of facing judgement. Like many Christians, Muslims believe that the body will be resurrected on the Day of Judgement. Many Muslims do not believe in immortality of the soul, but believe that the whole body will be resurrected and put before Allah.

Muslims (followers of Islam) believe that on a day decided by Allah, and known only to Allah, life on earth will come to an end and Allah will destroy everything. On Judgement Day, all the people who have ever lived will be raised from the dead and will face judgement by Allah. Muslims believe that they will remain in their graves until this day. Allah will balance the good deeds a person has done in their life against the bad deeds. If the good deeds outweigh the bad, the person will go to paradise (*Jannah*), a place of joy and bliss. If the bad things outweigh the good, then the person will be punished in hell (*Jahannam*). When Allah is making a judgement, even a person’s intentions (niyyah) are taken into account.

The decision about where a person will go is said to be made when two angels open the book which contains the record of a person’s deeds in life. If the person’s name is recorded on the right-hand side of the book, they will go to Paradise. If it is recorded on the left, they will be sent to Hell. While all people will try to reach Paradise over the *Assirat Bridge*, those who are meant to go to Hell will only fall off when trying to slip into Heaven. Not all Muslims actually believe these descriptions are literally (word-for-word) true. Some Muslims prefer to think of such writings as metaphors. They would argue that it is impossible to really know what these places are like or even if they exist in a literal way. However, Muslims make efforts to not go to Hell by trying to follow the 5 Pillars and the teachings of the Qur’an and the Hadith.
Atheists argue against life after death. These arguments usually focus on three key ideas:

• Belief in an afterlife is the product of wishful thinking.
• There is no evidence to suggest that people survive death.
• It makes not sense to talk of a person surviving death, since a person is a physical entity.

Atheists such as Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins argue that people have made up ideas of the afterlife to give them hope and to stop them being afraid. This is just wishful thinking. Richard Dawkins also argues that teachings about heaven and hell have been used to control people out of fear of judgement. For him, this is problematic and such beliefs are indoctrinating.

Many atheists also explain that experiences of ghosts are understood as hallucinations, created by our brain’s tendency to see faces. Some evolutionary psychologists argue that ghosts are caused by tricks of the mind. In our evolutionary past, we needed to survive attack from predators. We may have evolved to see faces and feel a presence as this could keep us safe from potential attack.

The ‘God Helmet’ is a device that can be placed on the head to stimulate the temporal lobe in the brain. When this is done, it causes religious hallucinations. Michael Persinger argued that religious experiences can be explained scientifically.

Many atheists do not believe in the afterlife because they there are too many logical problems. For example, if a soul exists what does it look like? Where would you find it? Were would they go? Atheists often point out we can see decaying bodies so what is supposed to live on?

Humanists such as Stephen Fry also argue against life after death. They argue that there is no evidence for life after death. Instead, they take a positive attitude to life, arguing that death is the very thing that gives life meaning, because it comes to an end. It can be understood as enjoying a cake; part of what makes the experience of eating a cake special is because the experience comes to an end. If we could eat cake forever, we would get sick of it! They believe that an endless afterlife would not be desirable.

**ATHEIST**: Somebody who believe that God does not exist.

**INDOCTRINATION**: teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically.

**HUMANISM**: A belief system which focuses on the importance of human life and does not accept beliefs in God or life after death.
IS IT BETTER TO BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH?

**Good behaviour:** Many believe that belief in life after death is a positive thing because it encourages good behaviour. Christians and Muslims believe that they will be judged by God at the end of their life, on their actions in this life. Many Christians believe in *salvation through works*, which is the idea that they must do good actions to get into heaven. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, those who have fed the hungry, looked after the sick and cared for other people go to heaven. Similarly, Muslims believe that they will judged on whether they have followed the teachings of the Qur’an and the five pillars. This encourages them to give to charity (zakat) and look after those in need. Theists may also give to charities such as The Salvation Army and Muslim aid. Belief in life after death also encourages life after death in Buddhists and Hindus, as they believe that the karma that they generate will influence their next life. Philosophers such as Pascal also argue that it makes more sense to believe in God and the afterlife than not to believe. He presents a logical argument, claiming that it is better to believe in it and it not to turn out to be true, than to not believe and to suffer in the afterlife as a non believer.

Atheists such as Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins argue that it is worse to believe in life after death because there is no evidence and it is wrong to believe something you cannot prove.

**Bad behaviour:** Others such as Sam Harris argue that a belief in life after death is negative because it encourages bad behaviour. He argues that people killed thousands of innocents during the Crusades as they thought it would help them get to Heaven. Today, some terrorists kill civilians for the same reason. He also argues that exclusivism (the belief that only one religious group will go to Heaven) has inspired terrible acts in history. During the time of the British Empire, missionaries (sent to preach the word of God abroad) were involved in violently forcing many people to abandon their own beliefs.

Karen Armstrong argues that religion can make people act even worse than they would normally but it can make good people behave even better. If people think they can go to Heaven by killing someone, they are more likely to do this; if they think they can go to Heaven by giving to charity, they are more likely to do this too. Kwame Appiah argues that this view lacks nuance as is not possible to make generalisations about all religions as there are too many of them.
**THEME D:
PEACE AND CONFLICT**

**CAUSES OF CONFLICT**

**GREED:** Many wars are fought as a result of greed. Greed could include wanting more land, resources or power. Many wars have been fought as a result of one individual or groups of people wanting more land. For instance, the British Empire created huge amounts of conflict as a result of the British monarchy and government wanting more land and power around the world. Similarly, the First and Second World War can be traced back to a desire for more power and land for Germany and its allies. Today, the conflict in Israel and Palestine is often said to be the result of a desire for more land for Israeli citizens. Christianity warns against greed in the Decalogue, or 10 Commandments. This is also true of other religions. For instance, the lesser jihad in Islam **cannot** be fought for more land or power.

**SELF-DEFENCE AND RETALIATION:** Many wars are **fought in retaliation.** For instance, during the Second World War, Hitler also tried to make Germany a world-power. Other countries joined the war to prevent this or in retaliation. Other leaders have said that they have gone to war to stop a dictator or **oppressive government.** A **dictator** is a powerful ruler who may keep power by force or through fear tactics, such as Saddam Hussein, Stalin, Mao or Hitler. Retaliation may be **unjust but, for others, it may be necessary to end oppression.** In the case of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the American and British government said they were fighting against oppressive governments and terrorists. In Syria, ‘rebel groups’ are fighting against Bashar Al-Assad and, in Palestine, many argue they are also fighting against the government out of self-defence. This suggests that conflicts **can be viewed differently:** whilst some groups are described as extreme, others may say they are acting as **freedom fighters.** Many Christians and Muslims argue that self-defence is an acceptable reason for fighting in a war. In Islam, the criteria for the lesser jihad include fighting in self-defence. It is said that the Prophet Muhammad was a pacifist (he refused to fight) for 12 years but eventually fought in self-defence. Although people may **disagree about what counts as retaliation or self-defence,** the Bible and the Qur’an are clear that retaliation is not a good reason to fight. In the Bible, Jesus said, ‘if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.’ This suggests that forgiveness is more important than retaliation.

**RELIGION AND BELIEF (IDEOLOGY):** Many people argue that religion is a cause of conflict whilst others argue it helps to **prevent** conflict. Sam Harris and Richard Dawkins, both atheists, argue that religion is actually the main cause of conflict. Richard Dawkins describes religion as the ‘root of all evil’ and says that it is responsible for terrorism and all the major conflicts the world has seen. He believes that religion encourages violence and uses examples from the Bible, such as ‘an eye for an eye’ as well as examples of **genocides and wars** to argue that the Bible condones (allows) war and violence. Many wars seem to be based on religion. In Israel and Palestine, for instance, Muslims and Jews are fighting over land. Jews came to the land believing it was holy, following the events of the Holocaust. Similarly, the Crusades can be linked to religion and a belief in exclusivism: the idea that only Christianity is right. However, others argue that religion helps to prevent conflict. For instance, many argue that the war in Israel and Palestine is about land and not really about religion. Moreover, there is a lot of evidence that religion promotes peace. The Quakers, for instance, are a Christian group who are **pacifists.** They have refused to fight in all wars, even if it has led to imprisonment and even death. Similarly, the Muslim Peace Fellowship argue that all war is wrong because modern war cannot meet the criteria for a Just War. They argue that the Bible and the Qur’an promote peace over violence. The teachings of the Bible and the Qur’an have also been cited by other famous pacifists, from Martin Luther King to Nelson Mandela.

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**RETRIBUTION:** Another way of saying RETRIBUTION; starting a conflict in response to being attacked /

**PACIFISM:** Refusing to fight in war
Religion is a major cause of war around the world! The Crusades, which were begun by the Pope in 1095, were a series of Holy Wars launched by the Christian states of Europe against the Muslim Saracens. Israeli Jews are still fighting Palestinian Muslims in the region today. People act more violently when they ‘blindly follow faith’ as Richard Dawkins says and believe that God is on their side. Dawkins calls religion, for this reason, ‘the root of all evil.’

This is a very simplistic view! Conflicts exist because of political reasons such as fighting over land or government. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more about land and the Holocaust was not religious but an example of ethnic hatred.

Religions such as Christianity, Sikhism and Islam all have rules that allow war. In Islam, the lesser Jihad is holy war and the Prophet Muhammad fought in wars. Sikhs carry a kirpan which is a knife! This shows that religions do allow violence and must be a cause of war!

Religions mainly teach peace and some religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism, teach ahimsa, the principle of non-violence. People may say that they are fighting for religious reasons, but, in reality, it is more to do with other beliefs such as national identity. Jesus taught pacifism which is why the Quakers are a pacifist group! Many terrorists are also not religious such as Timothy McVeigh who killed 168 people in Oklahoma, he claimed he did it because he hated the government and the Unabomber. Similarly, millions of people died at the hands of Stalin (in Russia) and Mao (in China) were Communists and, therefore, atheist.
‘Just War Theory’ is the theory that whilst war is usually wrong, it may sometimes be acceptable if it is fought in the right way and for the right reasons. It is sometimes known as ‘holy war.’ St Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas developed the Just War theory, which involves conditions that can make a war ‘just’ or acceptable. The theory is intended to show that war is usually wrong but can be allowed in some cases. For a war to be just it must be fought for the right reasons (known as *jus at bellum*) and in the right way (known as *jus in bellow*). This theory was used as a reason to go to war during the Crusades of the 11th to 13th centuries in the Holy Land. Many Christians fought during the two World Wars. These Christians argue that God would support a war if the aim behind it is to protect the innocent and bring about peace. The Bible also says that people should obey their government (e.g. St Paul in Romans 13:1) and it is acceptable to fight back if you have been attacked (e.g. ‘an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth’ Exodus 21:24). Jesus also said, ‘if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one’ which suggests that he may have allowed violence in some circumstances. The Christian criteria for Just War are:

- There must be a **reasonable chance of success** so lives are not lost for nothing
- It must be a **last resort**, after all negotiations and non-violent methods of solving the dispute have failed
- Warfare must be **discriminate** i.e. it must be aimed at specific people and civilians should not be targeted
- The methods used must be **fair and reasonable** and soldiers should fight in a way that results in as little suffering as possible
- Wars must only be fought with the **aim of bringing about peace**
- The **cause of the war** must be just – such as resisting aggression (self-defence) or protecting people facing injustice

The word ‘Islam’ comes from the Arabic word for peace, and Muslims around the world greet each other by offering peace (‘salaam aleikum’). This is because the Qur’an teaches that the greatest struggle (‘the greater Jihad’) involves bettering yourself (e.g. fighting against inner greed) and becoming a better Muslim through helping others (e.g. zakat) and worshipping God (e.g. salah). That said, Muslims also accept the need for wars that are fought for just reasons. Thus, whilst the Greater Jihad involves bettering oneself, the **lesser jihad** is the name given to holy war. The criteria are similar to those of St Augustine but, in addition, they write that:

- **Prisoners** must be treated mercifully
- It must be authorised by a **Muslim authority** e.g. in order to fight injustice or protect Islam

Most Muslims accept this kind of warfare because the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) fought in wars and his acceptance of war is recorded in the **Hadith** (written example of the Prophet Muhammad). Many Muslims believe that if they fight in a just war, they will go straight to Heaven e.g. ‘Fight in the case of God those who fight you’ (Surah 2:190). The Qur’an also says, ‘to those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight’ which suggests that self-defence is acceptable. When the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was alive, the Muslim community had to defend themselves and Allah ordered them to fight back. As such, many Muslims argue that war may be necessary.

**JUST WAR:** A war that is acceptable / fought for the right reasons  
**GREATER JIHAD:** The struggle to become a better person  
**LESSER JIHAD:** Just War / Holy War
Whilst many Christians fought during World War I and II, believing them to be ‘Just Wars,’ other Christians refused, such as the Quakers. Some other Christians may not be absolute pacifists but oppose nuclear warfare and other types of fighting that lead to mass destruction of life and/or land (e.g. relative pacifists). The Quakers are a pacifist group within Christianity. Their ‘Peace Testimony’ makes clear that they will never use violence and that they oppose all wars. During the First and Second World War, they agreed to do roles involving medicine or other roles that were non-violent. They also campaigned against the government decision to go to war and supported conscientious objectors (people who refused to fight) in prison. Many pacifists (people who refused to fight) faced bullying from those around them, such as being covered in tar and feathers, and some were imprisoned and banned from voting for several years after the war.

Many Christians also work for reconciliation. This is where sides that are in conflict with one another are brought together. It involves forgiveness. For example, the Corrymeela Movement began in Belfast in Ireland in the 1960s. The movement wanted to end discrimination and fighting between the Unionists and Nationalists (the Protestants and Catholics) of Northern Ireland. They work with families who need support and with schools to educate people. Today, they work in Northern Ireland and have expanded to work in Israel and Palestine as well.

The Bible contains many teachings that encourage forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus taught to ‘turn the other cheek’ instead of following the teaching ‘an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.’ When he was crucified on the cross, he said ‘Father forgive them!’ and when he was arrested he healed the soldier who was hurt by one of his disciples. He taught his followers that they should forgive ‘seventy times seven’ showing that it is important to forgive many times. His teachings have influenced many famous pacifists such as Martin Luther King to use non-violent methods of protest.

Many Muslims oppose war today, such as the Muslim Peace Fellowship. They argue that the criteria for Just War, laid out in the Qur’an, can no longer be met. For instance, one of the rules for the Lesser Jihad is that no civilians ever be harmed. However, modern weapons, from machine guns to bombs, always kill civilians. The Muslim Peace Fellowship argue this means that no war is justified. Similarly, the Ahmadiyya community is a Muslim community who strongly believe in pacifism. They are not traditionally accepted by other Muslim groups as they believe in an additional prophet, and are persecuted (discriminated against and attacked) in countries such as Pakistan. They only accept the Greater Jihad: the struggle to become a better person. They argue that forgiveness and reconciliation are important because God will judge those who have not forgiven others.

Muslims believe that on Judgement Day, they will be judged for how they have behaved towards others and whether they forgave. In the Qur’an, it says, ‘if you pardon and overlook and forgive - then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.’ During the Hajj, many thousands of Muslims pray on Mount Arafat for forgiveness. If they would like forgiveness, they should offer it to others (the Golden Rule). They also believe that the Prophet Muhammad’s examples of forgiveness show that he preferred forgiveness where possible. The word ‘Islam’ also means ‘peace.’ Other famous Muslims, such as Malala Yousafzai, have won the Noble Peace Prize for their peaceful campaigns. Yousafzai famously said, ‘this is what my soul is telling me: be peaceful and love everyone.’ Similarly, Muhammad Ali also refused to fight in the Vietnam War on the grounds of religion.
Hinduism promotes a belief in **ahimsa** which means non-violence. Gandhi, for instance, wrote, ‘an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind’ to show that retribution would only cause further harm. He, like other Hindus, also believed in the **sanctity of life**, the belief that all life is sacred and a gift from God. This means that life cannot be harmed. Hindus believe that God (Brahman) lives within every living thing so harming a living creature is like harming God. Hindus also follow the Golden Rule: to treat others as you wish to be treated. For over 30 years, the Hindu leader of India, Mahatma Gandhi, used a policy of non-violence to fight against the government. He used methods such as refusing to follow laws and refusing to make produce for the British Empire. His actions, from marches to hunger strikes, eventually led to India’s independence from colonial rule.

Similarly, Buddhism teaches peace. It teaches that there are five main precepts, or guidelines, and that the first of these is to avoid harming living creatures. This is the principle of **ahimsa**. The Dalai Lama is the leader of Tibetan Buddhism. He wrote, ‘peace can exist if everyone respects all others.’ Tibet was invaded by China in the 1950s and Buddhists have campaigned against this. The Dalai Lama won the Noble Peace Prize in 1992 for his campaigns. Other Buddhist monks have become famous for **self-immolation**, an extreme form of non-violent protest where they set themselves on fire to raise awareness. Buddhists and Hindus believe that our actions have consequences, known as the **law of karma**, and that these consequences affect how we are **reborn** (reincarnation). Killing others can lead to negative karma and affect how we are reborn in the next life.

**Violence is sometimes necessary!** Violence is allowed in Christianity and Islam under their Just War criteria. It could be acceptable if it is done in **self-defence** as the Bible says, ‘eye for an eye’ and the Qur’an says ‘life for life.’ It could also be used to help the innocent. This is why many Christian Churches allowed Christians to fight in the First and Second World Wars.

On the other hand, many Christians and Muslims disagree and are **pacifists**. They believe that forgiveness and reconciliation are more important. Jesus taught his followers to ‘turn the other cheek’ which suggests they should forgive and not retaliate. Similarly, Buddhists and Hindus believe in the principle of ahimsa which means non-violence. They believe violence is wrong as all life is sacred!

**Reconciliation** means to restore a broken bond or to fix relationships. It often involves **forgiveness**.
Justice is about things being fair. For many people, this is about fairly giving out rewards as well as punishing people who deserve it. For instance, we say a ruling has been just if we feel like the punishment is fair. This is why self-defence is often seen as a justifiable reason for war, as it is seen as a fair response, but attacking for no reason is seen as unjust. Muslims and Christians believe that God is Just which means He is fair; he fairly rewards and punishes on the Day of Judgement, and is merciful when people have sinned. This is why Muslims and Christians are also taught to act justly towards others and not oppress them. It is also taught in the Bible and the Qur’an that people who are more forgiving will be pardoned by God, such as in the Lord’s Prayer.

Christians believe they have a responsibility to fight against injustice. They believe that Jesus fought against injustice, challenging the authorities who oppressed women and the sick. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus teaches that those who have looked after the sick, the needy and prisoners will be rewarded by God on the Day of Judgement. Christians believe that war must always be fought justly, if at all, and follow a strict set of rules, including the rule that it must be fought in the name of peace. Similarly, Muslims believe in the lesser jihad which means ‘just war.’ Since God is just, Muslims believe that wars must be fought justly, without hurting civilians and only as a last resort. They also believe that wars can be fought to protect human rights, such as the right to holding one’s religious belief.

Sikhs also have a long tradition of fighting against injustice. Sikhs often carry the kirpan, a dagger, that is a symbol of the belief that they must fight for the weak and against injustice. Guru Gobind Singh organised the Sikhs into an effective army and accepted Sikhs into the baptised Khalsa if they said they were willing to die for their beliefs. The Sikh Khanda, or symbol, includes two swords.

Buddhists also believe that they must fight against injustice but have not, traditionally, allowed war. They believe in the principle of ahimsa which is the principle of non-violence. The first precept in Buddhism is not to harm living things. Buddhists believe that their actions have consequences in this life and the next. They believe in the law of karma, or the law of cause and effect, and argue that violence in this life can affect future reincarnation. War is often the result of greed, hatred and ignorance, known as the Three Poisons. As such, Buddhists such as the Dalai Lama, who won the Noble Peace Prize, argue that all violence is wrong. He famously said, ‘peace can exist if everyone respects others.’
Everyone has the right to protest peacefully against the government. However, there is no right or law that allows people to protest violently. In 2011, parts of the UK were affected by violent rioting. The rioting led to looting where goods were stolen from shops, and the damage of property where houses and shops were burnt to the ground. Many of the people affected had nothing to do with the police, who were initially being protested against, but their livelihood was taken from them. The rioting was widely condemned for being so violent. However, some people argue that violence may be necessary as the impact of the violence could force people to think about its cause. Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use of violence to achieve a political or religious goal. It is an act against the government and often involves hurting civilians. Many governments include damage to property in their definition of terrorism. By this definition, Nelson Mandela, a Christian, would also be classed as a terrorist. Mandela advocated (allowed / supported) the use of violence as he believed that peaceful methods had already been tried and tested. He was arrested and placed in prison for 27 years as a result of his actions. Similarly, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a priest who believed that pacifism would not work in removing the Nazis from power. He began by helping Jews escape out of Nazi Germany and writing articles against Hitler. However, later on, he argued against pacifism arguing that it was his Christian duty to fight against Hitler. He worked with the British government and was accused of trying to kill Hitler.

There is disagreement amongst theists about the extent to which protest should ever be violent. Whilst many Christians argue that violence can be justified if certain criteria are met, others argue that violence is wrong. Jesus taught non-violence. In the Sermon on the Mount, he taught, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers.’ He also taught his followers to ‘turn the other cheek’ even if someone slaps you. This suggests that, even in the face of violence, Christians should not react violently. This teaching strongly influenced Martin Luther King. He argued that violence went against his Christianity and only protested peacefully, using techniques such as marches and sit-ins to make his point very forcefully to the government.

The Quakers also disagree with violent protest arguing that all life is sacred and should never be harmed. Instead, they argue that protesting can be done peacefully and they have campaigned for women’s rights and LGBT+ rights in this way. Elizabeth Fry also peacefully campaigned to reform prisons on the basis of her Christian beliefs. Gandhi, although a Hindu, was also influenced by the teachings of Jesus. He protested apartheid in South Africa and British colonial rule in India. His peaceful protests were highly successful, such as refusing to make goods for people in the Empire, and led to eventual independence from the British. Today, the vast majority of theists argue against terrorism. This is because it is associated with the loss of human life, such as the attacks made by ISIS members. Theists believe that life is sacred and can never be harmed. They also argue that terrorist attacks harm civilians which goes against the criteria for a Just War. However, despite this majority view, there are terrorists who claim to be Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim and Christian, just as there are atheist terrorists. The difference is that religious terrorists argue that they are acting in the name of God. For example, ISIS have killed thousands of other Muslims who disagree with them, including many children.
THEY ACT AS A DETERRENT: Almost nobody argues that we should be allowed to actually use nuclear weapons or WMD but many argue we should be allowed to keep them as a deterrent. Many wealthier nations have such weapons and argue that they prevent world wars from occurring due to the fear of the consequences of using them. This means that they believe nuclear testing is justified as it acts as a deterrent. By having nuclear weapons, so long as they are not used, it can stop war. The United States have argued against attempts to control their development of nuclear weapons, saying that they must be allowed to protect themselves against countries such as North Korea. The knowledge of nuclear weapons cannot be removed. It can be argued that it is preferable for governments to have these bombs for deterrence than for an unstable dictator to use them in war. The governments who have nuclear weapons argue that they are never going to use them. They argue that the weapons stop wars from happening because people are too scared to begin wars in this context. However, nuclear weapons cost billions to maintain and the money could be spent elsewhere. Britain’s missiles are stored on a fleet of submarines known as Trident. It costs billions of pounds every year.

Many argue that nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) should not exist. Many Christians and Muslims, amongst other theists, disagree with nuclear warfare. It is a fundamental belief that God is the creator of the world. In Job, in the Bible, it says that ‘the life of all creatures rests in God’s hands’. One of the 10 Commandments is ‘do not kill.’ Similarly, in the Qur’an, it says that, ‘no one can die except by Allah’s leave’ which means that God is in charge of all life. The Catholic Church disagree with nuclear testing and development as even this could have a serious effect on people in the nearby areas as well as the environment. They are also against weapons of mass destruction including chemical and biological weapons. These have the capacity to harm life which is sacred. Buddhists and Hindus often disagree with all weapons of mass destruction arguing that they go against the precept to harm life (ahimsa).

In 2017, 122 countries at the United Nations signed a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to life. This right is absolute and cannot be taken. In the Second World War, US forces dropped an atom bomb (an early form of nuclear weapon) on the Japanese city of Hiroshima and, three days later, the city of Nagasaki. Six days later the Japanese surrendered. The death toll rose to 140,000 in the months that followed and many thousands more were affected by radiation poisoning. However, such bombs continue to be used on innocent civilians around the world. In Syria, Al-Assad has used chemical weapons on the population. Those who campaign against nuclear weapons also argue that they can easily get into the wrong hands and cause widespread and unfairly distributed suffering. Recently, Donald Trump caused controversy when he placed more economic sanctions on Iran and told them to stop any nuclear testing.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Weapons that work by a nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people / WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION: Weapons that can kill large numbers of people / CHEMICAL WEAPONS: Weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse / BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS: Weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death
There are many organisations that try to help the victims of war. CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development. They work globally to help the victims of war. For example, they help refugees to escape safely and then attempt to secure their safety in refugee camps or in new countries. They help to provide food, water, shelter and medicine. They also campaign for peace, visiting Parliament and working with governments abroad. Currently, they are involved in supporting Syrian refugees and in campaigning for peace in the Holy Land (Israel and Palestine). The Quakers also campaign for peace globally. They do a lot of work in schools for free and run education centres. All of these volunteers believe that Christianity teaches action to help others is important. It is a sign of agape, or unconditional Christian love for others and a way of treating others as you wish to be treated (the Golden Rule). Jesus also taught his followers to ‘love thy neighbour.’

St Paul likened members of the Church to different parts of the body, writing that ‘if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.’ For this reason, many Christians preach peace to others and argue that they must try to end conflict. Another important role of the worldwide, or global, Church is reconciliation. This means restoring harmony after relationships have broken down. This could be in the form of confession, which is one of the sacraments, or in reconciliation between groups in society. This is why so many Christian groups work towards reconciliation between warring sides as well as helping the victims of these conflicts. Christian charities such as CAFOD also try to eliminate the causes of conflict such as poverty or inequality.

Muslin Aid is another example of a charity who helps victims of war. Muslims believe that they must give 2.5% of their earnings to charity each year. This is known as zakat or zakah. These funds can be calculated with the help of an imam (Muslim leader). Muslims are taught that all wealth is a gift from Allah. Humans are simply the caretakers of God’s wealth and will be judged at the end of the world on how they used it. Prophet Muhammad said that it was important to give zakah to ‘orphans’ and ‘the needy’ and he is seen as the perfect example to follow. Every year, Islamic Aid makes millions of pounds that can be given to those who require it. Part of this money goes to help refugees and other victims of conflict such as those in Syria or Myanmar (Burma).
A pacifist is someone who works towards peace. Contemporary means they still live today and are working currently. Malala Yousafzai grew up in Pakistan. After the Taliban (an extremist Muslim group) took control of her village, the law changed to ban girls from attending school. Malala was shot in the head after campaigning against Taliban control. Today, she is famous for her pacifism, winning the Noble Peace Prize in 2014. She was the youngest person ever to receive this.

Today, she works for the UN whilst also attending university, and seeks to end wars that, amongst other things, serve to prevent girls from achieving an education. She famously said, ‘You must not treat others with cruelty and that much harshly, you must fight others but through peace and through dialogue and through education.’ She argues that Islam is a religion of peace. For instance, Islam comes from the root word ‘salam’ meaning peace.

The Dalai Lama is the Buddhist leader. He began studying to be a monk at the age of 6. When China invaded Tibet in 1950, he began to campaign against the occupation of the country and its people. Many Tibetans were killed or imprisoned when they spoke out against the invasion. The Dalai Lama was forced to escape to India. He has spent his life working on bringing democracy to Tibet and on spreading peace around the world.

Like other Buddhists, the Dalai Lama believes in peace and is against any form of violence. He argues for the concept of ahimsa: non-violence. He also is a believer in pluralism: the idea that all religions are on equal paths to God. He famously said, ‘be kind whenever possible’ and ‘compassion is the radicalism of our time.’
Laws and Justice

Laws are rules that govern human relationships and society, making it safer to live in. Under the law, we have to take responsibility for the way we choose to behave. Justice is about enforcing the laws in a way that is fair to everyone by punishing bad acts. A crime is an action that goes against the law and that is punished. Justice is supposed to be blind: it should not matter who the person, only what they have done.

A sin is different to a crime. It is an act that goes against the will of God. Many people may not believe that sins exist so these rules do not apply to everyone. Some sins, such as adultery, are not against the law, whereas other crimes, such as speeding, are not sins. If people think a law of God is wrong, they do not need to follow it. Sometimes people may protest against the Church, or other religious institutions, if they feel it is behaving wrongly. However, if the law seems unfair many people are likely to protest or campaign e.g. against taxes.

Jesus and St Paul both argued that people should obey the government and the government create the law. In addition, laws keep people safe and provide structure in society. If everyone broke the law there would be chaos. The aim of laws is to maintain justice. Laws allow society to punish criminals and reward those who behave well. Furthermore, laws protect us. When a criminal commits a crime, they are punished by judges and this protects us all. When there isn’t a law in place, many people are likely to do that behaviour. For example, there is no law preventing adults from smoking and this could explain why so many people are smokers. If the law banned it, there would be less smoking amongst the population.

However, St Thomas Aquinas argued that an unjust law is not a proper law because: (1) people will feel that it is acceptable to break bad laws; (2) this may lead people to think that all laws are unjust; and (3) this could lead to negative consequences like rioting and civil war. This would make laws the cause of problems in society rather than the solution. In the 1960s, Martin Luther King and his followers campaigned against the unjust treatment of black people. They fought for equality because they felt the laws were unjust. Many black people broke the laws. Rosa Parks sat down on a bus and refused to move, even though white people only were allowed to sit in that seat. Similarly, in South Africa, Nelson Mandela used terrorist techniques to fight against apartheid – the legal separation of black and white people. Many civil wars have also started as a result of having laws that are perceived as being unfair e.g. Kosovo.

The UK has a Legal Aid system which gives help to less well-off people who have been accused of crimes. Many people, however, argue that the legal system is still unjust. People cannot always afford a really good lawyer and some people do not pay for their crimes when there is not enough evidence. Certain crimes, such as rape, are very difficult to get convictions on (finding someone guilty in court) because evidence is hard to obtain.
Upbringing: They break the law to fit in with a ‘gang’ or are pressured by peers. They break the law in order to show off to others. For example, drug addiction or alcohol dependence are because of social reasons. A person may have an addiction which leads them into crime to feed their habit or craving. Similarly, poverty could lead to crime as people steal to get more money or food. They may not be able to provide for their children.

Mental Illness: Some may be due to human nature, others due to an illness. For example, reports show that 90% of young people in prison suffer from mental health problems. Christians and Muslims argue that we should look after the sick and the needy. Some people may have psychological issues that mean they do not feel empathy for others.

Drug Addiction: Highest single cause of crime because when under the influence, people’s judgement is impaired. Individual addicts are often drawn into crimes; however there is a low detection rate by the police. Christians and Muslims are against the taking of drugs. Muslims argue that it is haram to take drugs (forbidden). They believe that the body is sacred because it is made by God and addiction is not an acceptable reason for committing crime.

Greed, hatred and revenge: Many people commit crimes as a result of hatred or revenge. In the Bible, it says ‘eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth’ (Exodus 21:24) which suggests that revenge is acceptable. It also says, ‘life for life’ in the Qur’an. However, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad taught that forgiveness was more important.

Opposition to existing laws: Many religious people have actually broken laws in order to achieve more human rights. During the Civil Rights Movement, Malcolm X (Muslim), Martin Luther King (Christian) and Rosa Parks (Christian) all broke the law in order to achieve more rights for black people. Buddhist monks continue to protest in Tibet for their rights, even though protesting is outlawed, and Nelson Mandela and Gandhi also broke the law when campaigning for independence and an end to segregation. For many people, Jesus is seen as a positive example. He was sentenced to death for his ‘crimes’ but people argue that he was peaceful in his protests and did it for the right reasons i.e. to show agape love.

GOOD AND EVIL INTENTIONS: When considering how to punish a crime, the intention behind the crime is considered. In UK law, this is known as mens rea: the intention. The act (actus reus) is always bad but sometimes the intention might not be. For instance, manslaughter (accidental murder) carries a lesser sentence because the intention was not bad. St Aquinas argued that it is acceptable to kill in self-defence because the intention is good even if the act is bad. Similarly, many theists may argue that it is acceptable to break the law if it is for the right reasons. This is why famous activists such as Malala Yousafzai, the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela have all broken laws.
RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO CAUSES OF CRIME

Christians and Muslims argue that people should obey their governments. St Paul, for instance, said that we should obey the law. However, they may look mercifully on some crimes or try to help people to prevent more crimes from taking place. For instance, poverty is a major cause of crime. Christians and Muslims believe it is very important to help the poor. Jesus taught, in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, that God would look at who had been kind to prisoners, the poor and the hungry. Those who had been kind in their lives would be separated from those who had not, just as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and the good will go to Heaven. (Matthew 25:31). Jesus often spoke about the need to look after the poor e.g. ‘Go and sell everything you have and give it to the poor.’ Muslims believe that one of the Five Pillars is to give 2.5% of one’s wealth to the poor (Zakat).

Jesus and Muhammad also looked after the sick. Some crimes can be linked to mental health problems, and Christians and Muslims may argue that they ought to help criminals for this reason. Religious leaders often visit people in prison to give them hope and comfort, and a chance to say sorry. Jesus preached forgiveness in the New Testament. Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone and Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” This suggests that forgiveness and reform are more important than retribution.

Many theists have also broken the law when they felt it was unfair. Martin Luther King, Malala Yousafzai, Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi are all examples of theists who broke the law in the name of human rights. They may have broken the law but theists do not believe they sinner. Jesus famously broke some of the laws of the Old Testament, including the law to not do anything on the Sabbath; Jesus healed on the Sabbath because he said he was doing God’s work on God’s day of rest.

Other causes of crime are not looked on favourably. The Bible and the Qur’an teach against greed and hatred. These emotions are never good reasons for committing crime. There are also different attitudes to the types of crime committed. Crimes against the person, such as hate crimes, murder and rape, cannot be justified; whereas some crimes against property, such as theft, may be linked to poverty. Muslims and Christians have recently spoken out against terrorists who claim that they are religious. Terrorism is a crime against the State and is also not justified by the majority of theists.

CRIMES AGAINST... The person (hate crime, rape, murder), property (theft, graffiti) and the State (terrorism)
In order for laws to work, there must be consequences when they are broken. However, people strongly disagree about what should happen. In UK courts, everyone is presumed to be innocent until they are proven guilty in court. At this point, the judge decides what should happen. Some people feel that punishments should be strict to deter people from committing crimes. Other people feel that this isn’t effective because criminals are still very likely to re-offend after they have served their punishment. They need to be rehabilitated so that they change and do not want to commit crimes again.

**DETERRENCE:** To deter someone means to prevent or discourage them from doing something that is against the law. Seeing that harsh punishments take place may put people off committing crimes in the first place and, for those who receive punishment, from committing crimes again.

**RETRIBUTION:** This is the idea that when societypunishes someone for wrongdoing it makes the victims of the crime feel a sense of justice and revenge. People who have been victims of crime or who know someone who has been want to see the person suffer and pay for what they have done.

**REFORM:** Some people think that punishment should help to reform prisoners. This means that it should help criminals see what they have done wrong and make sure they do not do it again. This normally means providing criminals with education and job training, as well as counselling, so they can become law-abiding citizens. This is also known as rehabilitation.

**PROTECTION:** People are frightened by violent criminals and one of the purposes of punishment is to protect the ordinary members of society from such offenders by keeping them locked in prison where they can do no harm. The government has a duty to look after civilians by keeping them from harm.

**Retribution:** Making people pay for their crimes; often involves harsh punishments
**Reform / Rehabilitation:** Using techniques to change criminals for the better e.g. Education
**Deterrence:** Putting people off committing crimes e.g. Through the use of public punishment
**Protection:** Protecting the public from criminals
Deterrence doesn’t work! Nearly half of all prisoners commit crime again after they are released and countries with the strictest punishments, like America and China, still have high murder rates. Victims of crime do not feel a sense of justice – they still suffer even when retribution is the main aim of punishment.

Families deserve justice! When people like Saddam Hussein are executed, most people feel that justice has been served. In the Bible it says, ‘an eye for an eye’ (Exodus 21:24) which means that even God would want retribution!

But Jesus preached forgiveness and agape love... we should be helping criminals get better by giving them jobs and education. Many of them have grown up leading very difficult lives. At some point, they will be released and we need to ensure the public are protected.

Educating criminals and letting them have yoga classes or counselling is hardly a punishment! People should be made to pay for what they have done. You can’t reform a criminal who commits murder and other serious crimes... the main focus for the government should be spending the tax payer’s money on locking criminals away.
DETERRENCE AND RETRIBUTION: In the Old Testament, there are a number of sins that carry the death penalty, including hitting a parent, witchcraft, working on the Sabbath (day of rest which was a Saturday) worshipping idols and adultery (being unfaithful to your husband or wife.). The punishment for using the God’s name when swearing, for example, is that you are taken outside and a group of people throw stones at you till you are dead. The Old Testament also has the famous quotation, ‘Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth’ (Exodus 21:24). This meant that what crime someone had inflicted upon another person they were subject to the same thing happening to them. So, if you killed someone, you would also have to be killed. Similarly, the Old Testament teaches that capital punishment should be allowed for serious crimes. It says, ‘whoever sheds the blood of a man, by man shall his blood be shed.’ This suggests that there is biblical evidence (evidence from the Bible) supporting deterrence and retribution.

Similarly, many Muslims argue the Qur’an allows deterrence and retribution. Shari’ah Law is formed from the Qur’an and the example of the Prophet Muhammad known as the hadith and Sunnah. Shari’ah Law allows for harsh punishments, such as public whipping (corporal punishment) and the death penalty. Muhammad made many statements that showed he agreed with the death penalty and other harsh forms of punishment. Islamic philosophy teaches that punishments should be harsh in order to deter people from crime.

REHABILITATION / REFORM: In the New Testament, Jesus has a very different attitude towards punishment than in the Old Testament as most of his focus on forgiveness rather than revenge. Famously, Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.” (Mathew 5:39). This means that you should not fight back against people. Jesus thought that violence was a bad thing and if you were attacked, you should not fight back but ‘offer the other cheek’.

Similarly, many Muslims argue that Islam is about love and peace. They argue that one of God’s 99 names is the Merciful. If God can be merciful, then people should be forgiving as well. In one teaching, it is said that those who are merciful to others will be treated with mercy on the Day of Judgement.
A **hate crime** can be defined as crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's: disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. Many religious people, including Muslims and Christians, strongly disagree with hate crimes and discrimination of any kind as there is much evidence against them in the holy texts. Christians follow Jesus’ message of agape (unconditional love). Jesus preached that Christians must ‘love thy neighbour’ which means that must show unconditional love towards everyone. In the parable of The Good Samaritan, a stranger does not show hate towards someone that could have been his enemy but instead shows love and aids someone who is wounded. Muslims follow a Prophet Muhammad’s teaching that ‘all people are equal as the teeth of a comb’ and therefore treating people equally is important. It believed in Christianity that all life comes from God, this means that all life is sacred and a gift. For this reason all life must be respected and not mistreated. This is also believed by Muslims. Throughout the Qu’ran there are many stories when Muhammad taught that reconciliation was the most important thing. This means that understanding other points of view is more important than judging them. However... There is evidence in both Christianity and Islam which suggests that discrimination and intolerance are not viewed as significant sins. In the Old Testament God punishes people who do not follow his commandments and St. Paul claims in the New Testament that women should be silent in churches. This has led some Christians to think that it is not highly important to always be tolerant and understand other points of view. Some Christians (the KKK) believed in the racial supremacy of white people and therefore thought it was acceptable to discriminate against others.

**Theft** goes against the 10 Commandments and some countries that follow religious law today still use very harsh punishments for theft. However, many religious people feel sympathy for those who commit theft as a result of poverty. In the Qur’an, it makes it very clear that the poor should be looked after. One of the 5 Pillars of Islam is to give **Zakat**. This is where Muslims give 2.5% of their earnings to charity. Jesus taught that it was very important to give riches to the poor. He taught that it would be easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter heaven.

**Murder** is treated very seriously. All religions believe life is sacred (holy) because it was made by God. Christians believe that God created mankind in His image (Genesis 1:27) and that taking life is wrong.

In the 10 Commandments, also known as the Decalogue, it also says ‘Do Not Kill’ (Exodus 20:13). Both Islam and Judaism describe the taking of one life as akin (the same as) taking the life of everyone. In Islam it says, ‘Whoever has killed one soul, it as if he has killed all of mankind.’ This suggests that killing is wrong because life is sacred. Christianity also teaches agape. Many Christians and Muslims argue that murder is so wrong that it ought to be punished with the death penalty (capital punishment). This is because to murder causes immense suffering to families and breaks the Sanctity of Life principle. Other Christians and Muslims argue that the death penalty is wrong because it also breaks the Sanctity of Life principle. They believe we should use prison instead. However...

Many Churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church, argue that killing is allowed in cases of war.
**PRISONS**

**Prison** is used as a punishment to keep society safe. However, not everyone believes they are successful. Many people have argued that prisoners usually have mental health problems, come from poor backgrounds and lack education and so, if we want them to become better citizens, they should be reformed. Famous Christians, such as Elizabeth Fry, have fought for the rights of prisoners and have asked the government to improve the quality of life of prisoners so that they are less likely to re-offend. This aim of punishment is known as **reform**.

The UK has different types of prison. High security prisons are called **Category A prisons** and house the most dangerous offenders. Category D prisons are open prisons where they can work outside of the prison and are not locked in cells.

Prisoners who have committed crimes as a result of mental health problems may be put into mental health institutions instead of prison. People under the age of 18 are put in **young offender institutions**. In the UK, for instance, *carrying* and *selling* drugs is usually given a prison sentence. For Class A drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, prisoners can face sentences of up to 7 years for possession and up to life imprisonment for large-scale distribution.

Many people agree with prisons because they believe that **the aim of punishment should be deterrence and retribution**. Prisons take away the right to freedom. They force people to live a life away from their family with no independence. This makes it a harsh punishment which could put them off committing a crime again or put others off (deterrence). Many argue that it also provides justice for families who know that someone is suffering in a prison. In the Bible, it says ‘eye for an eye’ which means the punishment should fit the crime (**retaliation / retribution**).

Many people disagree with prison because they argue it can make people worse. For instance, people who have killed are often placed in the same prisons as people who have not. It costs over £60,000 a year to keep someone in prison. Many people have argued, following investigations, that prisons in the UK are full of drugs and violence and are doing little to improve behaviour. Others argue that prison should be **härsher** to deter criminals from committing more crimes. They argue that we should treat prisoners with compassion, showing love (such as **agape** love in Christianity) since they may have had problems in their own lives that have led them to crime.

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**PRISON**: Where someone is locked away and has their freedom removed

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Corporal punishment is punishment intended to cause physical pain on a person. Common methods include spanking, paddling, caning. It has been outlawed in most countries. In 1950 the European Convention of Human Rights, Council of Europe. Article 3 bars "inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". This would mean that inflicting physical punishment on children would not be allowed. It is also against the law to allow violence between adults. Therefore it would not make sense that same law would allow violence from adults on children.

Some religious people argue in favour of corporal punishment and others disagree. In the Old Testament it is strongly recommended that parents use corporal punishment to discipline their child. It says, “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him” (Proverbs 13:24). It could be argued that corporal punishment teaches children immediately that there are consequences for their actions and that they would behave much better if we had it in schools. Others argue that corporal punishment can be used as a deterrent to publicly put others off committing crimes. It also gives families of victims and victims a sense of justice as they see that the perpetrator of the crime is in pain.

However, many Christians would disagree and argue Jesus preached non-violence and therefore corporal punishment is not a very Christian act. There are significant psychological impacts of violence. This would damage both the person committing the violence and the person receiving it. The person receiving violent treatment is less likely to be sorry for what they have done and more likely to be filled with rage and want revenge.

People think that corporal punishment is highly unnecessary. There are other means of education that are effective too. A common alternative is to educate why the action was wrong. Christians believe in the ‘Sanctity of Life’ this means that life is sacred and that all life is special as it has been given by God. It would not therefore make sense to suggest that we can abuse children as they too are sacred and a gift from God. The Golden Rule can also be applied: if you would not like to be hit, then you should not do it to others!
Christians and other theists (people who believe in God) try to follow the Golden Rule: to treat others as we wish to be treated. They may even apply this to prisoners by trying to help them be better people, rather than severely punish them. In New York, for instance, the program Puppies Behind Bars gives inmates the challenge - and joy - of raising guide dogs.

"Joshua has given me back my peace of mind," says Roosevelt Lewis, an inmate in the program. His puppy shares his cell and wakes him up in the morning. "He lets me know I'm still a human being." The dog has taught him much, he says, about "pure, unadulterated love."

Dartmoor prison has introduced gardening projects and a range of prison offer daily counselling in the hope that these types of projects and activities will reform prisoners. Educating them and improving their self-esteem and mental health may stop them from committing crimes in the future. Elizabeth Fry was a famous Christian who argued for prison reform. She argued that it was important to follow Jesus’ teachings. In the Parable of the Goats and the Sheep, Jesus said that people who visited those in prison did something for him too.

Following the Golden Rule, used in all religions, we could argue that we should help prisoners reform as this is how we would like to be treated. Many prisoners have had very difficult lives and have significant mental health problems so counselling may help them become better citizens and not commit crimes in the future. Reform, or reformation, is about giving people a second chance and this is emphasised in many holy texts.

Others have argued that we should not be making prison easy – if it is too enjoyable, criminals will not feel the need to leave and may become institutionalised. They may also not experience enough negative consequences for what they have done and families may feel that it is unfair. whilst this may protect society in the future, it may also fail to make punishment meaningful. How will families of victims feel if they know the criminal is gardening or getting a puppy?

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**: Doing work for the community such as litter picking; it is an example of reformation / **PRISON**: Where someone is locked away and has their freedom removed.
Christians believe it is important to forgive because:

• God sent his son Jesus to save the world from Original Sin through his death. Jesus died to bring salvation. Even when he was dying, Jesus asked God to forgive the people who had crucified him.
• Jesus said that God will not forgive people who haven’t forgiven others (Lord’s Prayer). Jesus told his followers to ‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.’ This teaching leads many Christians to treat others with love and compassion.
• All the Churches teach that Christians should forgive others and try to end conflict
• Jesus said, “Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone” (John 8:1-1) when a woman was about to be stoned for committing adultery. This shows that Christians should not judge others because everyone makes mistakes.
• Many famous Christians, such as Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, forgave people even though they had been discriminated against for years in apartheid South Africa.

However... Some Christians argue that forgiveness is never possible. Many American states, for instance, which are Christian still argue for the death penalty for ‘unforgivable’ crimes.

Muslims believe it is important to forgive because:

• Muslims believe that on Judgement Day, they will be judged for how they have behaved towards others and whether they forgave.
• During the Hajj, many thousands of Muslims pray on Mount Arafat for forgiveness. If they would like forgiveness, they should offer it to others (the Golden Rule).
• The Prophet Muhammad’s examples of forgiveness have been recorded in the Qur’an and Hadith. In many Shari’ah Law courts today, people try to encourage forgiveness rather than harsh sentencing.
• They believe that God is just and they should be too.

However... In September 2005, a Danish newspaper published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Many Muslims found this blasphemous (sinful) and unworthy of forgiveness.

FORGIVENESS: Stopping blaming someone and/or pardoning them for what they have done wrong

SALVATION: Saving people from sin through God’s grace

HAJJ: The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca (5th Pillar)
**Capital punishment**, or execution, means taking away the life of someone for a crime. It is also called the death penalty. Whilst it was abolished (got rid of) in the UK in 1973, many countries continue to use this form of punishment e.g. China and the USA. It is estimated that there is one execution per day somewhere in the world, with the greatest number being in China. Methods include hanging, lethal injection, the electric chair and death by firing squad. People feel that capital punishment **deters** people from committing crimes, protects society and gives families **justice**. It is a form of punishment designed for **retribution**.

Religious people disagree about the use of capital punishment. The Qur’an, for instance, teaches that capital punishment may be applied for some crimes but people disagree as to whether it should apply today.

‘Take not life – which God has made sacred – except for just cause’ (Surah 17:33)

‘The shedding of the blood of a Muslim is not lawful except for three reasons: a life for a life, a married person who commits adultery and one who turns aside from his religion and abandons the community’ Hadith

The death penalty may only be applied after a fair trial and as a last resort. The victim’s family must also agree to the punishment according to Shari’ah law. Four witnesses must also testify to having seen the crime and it is said that during Muhammad’s time nobody was executed apart from for adultery. That said, many Islamic countries still use capital punishment for a range of things including murder, rape, homosexual acts and for anyone working against Islam. Muslims around the world often strongly disagree with this interpretation of the Qur’an.

With regards to Christianity, many feel that they should follow the laws of the land and that capital punishment may be justified for certain crimes. Other Christians argue that this is not in-keeping with Jesus’ teachings in the New Testament. They argue that Jesus’ message of love outweighs any arguments for revenge in the Old Testament.
### Arguments for Capital Punishment

- The death penalty acts as a warning and deters criminals from committing crimes
- The value of human life is made clear by executing those who choose to ignore it
- It can make the criminal confess to crimes or be used to make plea bargains where criminals give up important information to avoid punishment
- The death penalty means that society can rid itself of the most dangerous people and provides protection for civilians
- Execution provides justice for families and retribution for the crime committed. It helps society to realise that you will have to pay if you commit a crime.
- It protects society and benefits the majority. This is known as the principle of utility: the greatest good for the greatest number.

### Arguments against Capital Punishment

- In countries such as America and China where the death penalty is legal, there are high murder rates
- If murder is wrong because everyone has the right to life, we should not let the government take life either – we should be more forgiving towards criminals and show mercy
- Many people have been executed who were later to be found to be innocent. Just as with torture, criminals may admit to things they haven’t done to escape the death penalty
- Some people feel that execution is an easy punishment because many criminals would prefer to die rather than spend their lives in prison.

| ✤ The Old Testament teaches that capital punishment should be used for serious crimes: ‘Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed’ (Genesis 9:6) | ✤ It goes against the Sanctity of Life (that all life is sacred and a gift from God). |
| ✤ St Paul teaches that Christians should accept and obey the laws and punishments of the government of the country they are in | ✤ Only God has the right to take away life |
| ✤ Jesus never taught that the death penalty was wrong and the Roman Catholic Church still permit the death penalty for various crimes | ✤ Jesus came to save and reform people – an executed criminal cannot be forgiven or reformed |
| ✤ In the Old Testament it says, ‘whoever sheds the blood of a man, by man shall his blood be shed.’ | ✤ Jesus taught that revenge is wrong: ‘You have heard that it was said, an eye for an eye... but I tell you... if someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him also’ (Matthew 5:38) |
| ✧ The Qur’an, which is the word of God, says that death penalty may be given for certain crimes, as does Shari’ah Law | ✧ Most Christian Churches have spoken out against capital punishment and argue that we should love and forgive criminals instead |
| ✧ Muhammad made many statements that showed he agreed with the death penalty | ✧ The scholars of Shari’ah Law do not agree on when the death penalty should be applied |
| ✧ When Muhammad was the ruler of Medina, he sentenced people to death for murder | ✧ The Qur’an says that it should be an option only when others have been considered. The conditions for death penalty, as laid out in the Qur’an, are rarely met so the punishment should not be given |
| ✧ Islamic philosophy teaches that punishments should be harsh in order to deter people from crime | ✧ Many Muslims argue that Shari’ah Law is not being applied properly in countries that allow the death penalty e.g. the trial is not fair or the people receiving it are mainly women and the poor. |