PHILOSOPHY, BELIEFS & ETHICS (PBE) YEAR 11

PAPER 2: THEMATIC STUDIES

THEME A RELATIONSHIPS AND THE FAMILY / THEME B RELIGION AND LIFE / THEME E CRIME AND PUNISHMENT / THEME F HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
## THEME A: RELATIONSHIPS AND THE FAMILY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I can…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explain different types of sexuality, relationships and families e.g. Nuclear, single-parent etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding family planning and contraception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain religious attitudes to the nature and the purpose of the family, including procreation, stability and faith education, as well as the role of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding same-sex relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding pre-marital sex, adultery and cohabitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion / lesser of two evils arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain and evaluate polygamy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding gender equality, including positive affirmation and women in the Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## THEME B: RELIGION AND LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I can…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe different beliefs about the origins and value of the universe and why some Christians are creationists whilst others are not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate the relationship between scientific views, such as the Big Bang theory, and religious views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it, including religious teaching about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources, pollution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to the use of animals for food and experimentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe religious teachings about the origins of human life, and different interpretations of these.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the meaning of sanctity and quality of life and religious teachings about these concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to the origins and value of human life and the use of abortion in Britain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes to euthanasia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe beliefs about the afterlife and their impact on ideas about the value of human life.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### THEME E: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I can...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe different causes of crime including poverty, upbringing, mental illness, addiction, greed, hate and opposition to an unjust law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate the different aims of punishment: reformation (or reform), retribution and deterrence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can explain religious attitudes to reformation (or reform), retribution and deterrence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to corporal punishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to forgiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe attitudes to hate crimes, theft and murder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and evaluate the use of community service and prisons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### THEME F: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I can...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explain different human rights and the responsibilities that come with rights, including the responsibility to respect the rights of others. I can explain the meaning of social justice using examples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can discuss issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief including freedom of religious expression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can define racial prejudice and discrimination and discuss ethical arguments related to racial discrimination (including positive discrimination), including those based on the ideals of equality and justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can discuss prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief, including the status and treatment within religion of women and homosexuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can explain different attitudes to the uses of wealth and the responsibility to tackle poverty and its causes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can explain how the poor may be exploited, including issues relating to fair pay, excessive interest on loans and people-trafficking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can discuss the responsibilities of those living in poverty, if any, to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face, as well as issues related to giving money to the poor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.
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. Today, however, many couples cohabit (live together without being marriage) and there are also many same-sex relationships.

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

**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.

**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.

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

**COHABITATION**
Living together without being married.

**POLYGAMY**
This is illegal in the UK. This is where a man has more than one wife.
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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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.

**THE ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN:** Most religions have traditionally taught that men and women have different roles. For instance, the mother is said to be in charge of the household while the husband is in charge of working. This division of roles was common for most of British history. For instance, the Catholic Church has long argued that men and women are different but equal, and that women are best placed in the home. In the Bible, it says that Eve was made to be Adam’s helper and this teaching has influenced many religious ideas about the roles of men and women.

After the Second World War, more women began to demand the right to work, having done so many jobs during the war. Over time, many women went into the workplace. Today, many disagree that men and women should have different roles within a marriage and may share the responsibilities equally. Many more men stay at home to raise children while women work.

**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.

**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

Most non-Catholic Churches think that divorce is wrong, but often allow it if the marriage is broken down. They argue based on **COMPASSION**.

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.
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
DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TO CONTRACEPTION

**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 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.

**CONTRACEPTION:** Methods of preventing pregnancy
CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO LGBT

Chrisitans 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!
**ARRANGED MARRIAGE AND POLYGAMY**

**Arranged marriages** are common within the Muslim community. Both partners must agree but trust their parents to make a good choice! Divorce is also allowed under certain conditions. Forced marriage is banned in Islam. All Muslims are expected to get married and have children, just as the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did. Marriage is thought to bring God’s blessings. It is also thought to be a natural part of God’s plan. When they marry, Muslims sign a contract. Muslims promise to raise their children in the faith and provide a stable home. In the UK, forced marriage and marriage with a minor are not allowed. However, arranged marriage is allowed.

Many Muslims argue that arranged marriages can help people to find a suitable partner. For example, many people may choose someone because of how powerful they are or how good looking they are. These do not help couples stay together for long periods of time. Similarly, in an arranged marriage they look at whether personalities are compatible so that the children involved will not be blinded by love but can be supported to make sensible decisions. On the other hand, many Muslims today seek ‘love marriages’ and feel able to make these decisions alone. Many argue that they want to spend more time getting to know someone for themselves and making their own decisions.

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.
GENDER AND SEXISM

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). In the UK, 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. In the workplace, women still earn less and occupy far fewer positions of power. For instance, only 25% of MPs are female. 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. Some, for instance, may argue that men and women are different but must be equally supported, whilst others argue that the differences between men and women have been exaggerated.

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.

However, the fact remains that women cannot be priests in many Christian denominations and imams in the majority of Muslim denominations. In Theravada Buddhism, women will often pray that their rebirth will be as a man and in Sikhism, whilst either gender may read the Guru Granth Sahib, it is unusual in practice to see women doing this.

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
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.

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 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 stars and on the fifth day, He created the fish and birds. 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. 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.

DOMINION: Ruling over the environment / STEWARDSHIP: Taking care of the environment
**CHRISTIAN BELIEFS ABOUT CREATION**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIBERAL CHRISTIANS</th>
<th>FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some Christians believe that the Bible is only <strong>metaphorically true</strong> – it contains important, <strong>symbolic</strong> messages but is not <strong>factually</strong> true. For instance, in Genesis 1:27 it says that God made mankind in <em>imago dei</em> (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.</td>
<td><strong>Other stricter</strong> Christians are creationists. They believe that the Bible should be interpreted <strong>literally</strong> (word-for-word true), so the creation story in <em>Genesis</em> must be completely true too! This means they do not believe in evolution but think that God created the world in <strong>7 days</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Such Christians believe in theistic evolution</strong> (the idea that God caused the Big Bang and evolution). They believe that the Bible was written thousands of years ago when people did not know about science. It should not be looked as a factual document.</td>
<td><strong>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.</strong> 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 <strong>pick-and-choose</strong> which parts of the Bible to accept and which to ignore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
All religious believers hold a belief in the Sanctity of Life. This means that life is sacred, or holy, because it was made by God. 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).

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.

Some scientists believe that this is happening because of natural changes. They say that there is evidence the Earth started to heat up before humans used lots of carbon dioxide. Other people say that the sun is giving off more radiation which causes the Earth to warm up.

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;
- Only using cars that use electric batteries or hydrogen to power them as these do not produce CO2. However, these forms of car power can produce pollution e.g. batteries produced through power plants;
- Getting people to use more public transport as this reduces carbon emissions.
Natural habitats are being destroyed. One reason for this is pollution. For example, if a tanker spills oil into the sea it wipes out life in that area. Another reason is deforestation, where huge areas of forest are cut down. This could be to create more space for animals to graze, as humans are now consuming so much meat, or to create more areas for building and roads.

Trees are the habitat for many species but also a source of oxygen which we need in order to fight global warming. The worry is that if we continue to destroy natural habitats in this way, many species will become extinct and our lifestyles will have to change to adapt.

**Acid rain** is caused by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil which release acid into the air. These pollutants change the pH of rain water making it so acidic that things can burn when it reaches them on Earth. It has already destroyed forests and buildings in countries such as Sweden.

**Eutrophication** is where an excess of nitrates and phosphates in rivers causes a lack of oxygen and an increase in aquatic plants. This happens when fertilisers or sewage enter the water or if there is a lack of trees to soak up the nitrogen. This can cause major health problems for humans such as septicaemia.

**Waste** in the form of sewage and rubbish threatens the future of the planet. 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).

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;
- Using better sewage cleaning techniques to prevent eutrophication as well as eating organic foods and being vegetarian (as these both reduce the amount of CO2 and nitrates);
- Making sure that radioactive waste is reprocessed and safely disposed of.

**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.
ANIMAL RIGHTS

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARGUMENTS AGAINST EATING MEAT</th>
<th>ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF EATING MEAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 halal) but this does mean they are allowed to eat meat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARGUMENTS AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING</th>
<th>ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF ANIMAL TESTING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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.
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?

Stricter 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.

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

‘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).

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.
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...
RELIGIOUS BELIEFS ABOUT ABORTION

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?

Stricter 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.

‘Whoever has killed a soul, it is as though he has murdered all of mankind.’ Qur’an 5:32
‘You shall not commit murder.’ Exodus 20:13
‘So God created man in His own image... Be blessed and multiply’ Genesis 1:27-28
‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’ Mark 12:30

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.
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 who are **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

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’

John 11:25-26
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.

| AKHIRAH: Life after death |
| AL’JANNAH: Heaven / JAHANNAM: Hell |
| BARZAKH: State of waiting after death |
| JUDGEMENT DAY: When Allah judges the dead and decides their fate |
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.
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 taking 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.

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. For instance, he seemed to suggest that it was not bad to work on the Sabbath if you are helping people and also said that blasphemy and other sins can be forgiven.

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’.

This has led to the more liberal Christian idea that laws can be broken if it is for the greater good. For example, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela all broke the law but argued that it was Christian to do so. They suggested that it is acceptable to break laws if it is in the name of equality or love, since this is what Jesus teaches. This means that it might be acceptable to break other laws if it is in line with the New Testament.

**Blasphemy:** speaking against God; going against God
AIMS OF PUNISHMENT

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 society punishes 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.
There are many different reasons why people commit crimes:

**Social Reasons:** 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.

**Psychological Reasons:** 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.
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 vast majority of theists.
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.
WHERE DOES EVIL COME FROM?

A key factor in how religious people decide how they feel about a crime is the **Intentions** behind the crime. Did the person commit a crime for an evil reason or did they have good intentions?

There are a range of **Explanations** that Christians use to explain the problem of evil...

**God allows evil as a test / evil is caused by the Devil (Satan):** In the Bible, a man called **Job** was tested by Satan. God allowed Satan to make him ill and take his family. Satan realised that he could not damage Job’s faith and stopped testing him. Evil helped bring Job closer to God and led to him receiving heavenly rewards. Even today, people can only show how truly good they are in the face of evil and suffering e.g. charity work, like the work of Christian Aid, after a natural disaster.

**St Augustine’s Adam and Eve Theodicy:** God created a good world but **Adam and Eve** disobeyed God and this led to evil. This is sometimes called ‘**The Fall**’ because they are said to have **fallen** from God’s graces. As a punishment for disobeying God, Adam and Eve were told that they, and future generations of humans, would suffer e.g. childbirth and hard work. **Jesus** was sent to clear people of evil by sacrificing himself. However, some people still choose to disobey God and these leads to evil.

The **Qur’an** also says that there is a devil who was an angel. **Allah** ordered the angels to bow to Adam but **Iblis** (Satan) refused and was sent from paradise. He now tempts humans into evil.

**Irenaeus’ (AD 130-202) theodicy:** Argues that evil is a result of **human’s free-will**. He said that people need to suffer because they must choose between good and evil. If they did not have the choice, they would be like **obedient robots** and God wants people to choose to worship him. God created humans in **His image** (‘**imago dei**’) but they still have to choose to grow into the perfect people God wants them to be. Far better for a student to choose to follow their teacher, rather than have a student who has been forced to follow their teacher!

The country deals with evil through a range of punishments, including imprisonment and fines. In other countries, they also use corporal and capital punishment. Many criminals are not described as evil but as people who have made mistakes, whereas others are often described as being ‘evil.’ In recent years, studies suggest that some killers, for instance, may not have emotions or understand the difference between right and wrong. There are many different types of punishment available including **community service**. This is unpaid work in the community for up to 300 hours. This could include litter picking or cleaning walls of graffiti. Some prisons have begun to use cookery to feed people in the community or even gardening. In another prison, prisoners are used to train dogs for the blind. These are all ways in which prisoners can give back to the community.

Other people argue that these types of ‘punishment’ are not really punishments at all. They argue for retribution and believe punishments should be much harsher. In many countries, as a result, they still use the death penalty (capital punishment) and pain (corporal punishment). These are also said to act as deterrents as they make people less likely to commit crime again. Even if they disagree on punishments, all agree that the victims of crime should be supported. There are many different types of victim support available including counselling and having a case worker.

**The Problem of Evil:** The atheist argument that since evil exists, God cannot.
**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.

Terrorism is punished under the 2000 and **2006 Terrorist Acts**. Prisoners can receive a life **imprisonment** sentence for planning an attack as well as going through with it. It is also illegal to download terrorist material online and this is also punished with a prison sentence.

Not everyone who is given a life sentence will be in prison for life. **Parole** means that a person can be released early for good behaviour. They will still be supervised for a period of time but will no longer have to stay in prison. The average sentence for a murderer before applying for parole is 15 years. In the UK, people who watch a murder or rape can also receive the same sentence as people who did it under **Joint Enterprise** laws.

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 **harsher** to deter criminals from committing more crimes.

Many other crimes are punished by **fines** or short **prison sentences**. Committing minor crimes many times, such as keeping your children off from school when it isn’t necessary or spraying graffiti, can result in short prison sentences. However, minor crimes are usually punished with **community service** whereby criminals do hours of work for free, such as picking up litter for between 40 and 300 hours. They can keep their normal job or still go to school. Police may also give them **ASBOs (Anti Social Behaviour Orders)**, **curfews** and **electronic tags** to limit the amount of time they spend away from the home.

---

**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
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!
COMMUNITY SERVICE

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."

Dartmoorth 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?
**FORGIVENESS**

**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARGUMENTS FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT</th>
<th>ARGUMENTS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The death penalty acts as a warning and deters criminals from committing crimes</td>
<td>• In countries such as America and China where the death penalty is legal, there are high murder rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The value of human life is made clear by executing those who choose to ignore it</td>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It can make the criminal confess to crimes or be used to make plea bargains where criminals give up important information to avoid punishment</td>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The death penalty means that society can rid itself of the most dangerous people and provides protection for civilians</td>
<td>• Some people feel that execution is an easy punishment because many criminals would prefer to die rather than spend their lives in prison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It protects society and benefits the majority. This is known as the principle of utility: the greatest good for the greatest number.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ✫ 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 |
| ✫ The Qur’an, which is the word of God, says that death penalty may be given for certain crimes, as does Shari’ah Law | ❍ 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) |
| ✫ Muhammad made many statements that showed he agreed with the death penalty | ❍ Most Christian Churches have spoken out against capital punishment and argue that we should love and forgive criminals instead |
| ❍ When Muhammad was the ruler of Medina, he sentenced people to death for murder | ✫ The scholars of Shari’ah Law do not agree on when the death penalty should be applied |
| ❍ Islamic philosophy teaches that punishments should be harsh in order to deter people from crime | ❍ 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 |

| ❍ 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. |  |
HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Human rights are the rights to which all humans are entitled to, no matter who they are. They include basic rights and freedoms such as the right to life, the right to not be persecuted by others, the right to have food, the right to shelter, the right to free speech, the right to education and the right to healthcare. The UN Declaration of Human Rights starts with the fundamental statement, ‘All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and act and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.’ Laws are then built upon this premise (idea / basis) and lay out the rights and responsibilities we each have. Having rights does not allow us to do whatever we want. For instance, if I have the right to life, I have the responsibility to not kill; if I have the right to free speech, I also have the responsibility to not use hate speech against others.

The Equality Act (2010) also re-stated that discrimination and the removal of human rights based on protected characteristics is illegal. The protected characteristics include LGBT status, gender, age, pregnancy, race and nationality, and disability. People disagree about the extent to which everyone should have rights. For instance, the death penalty is still allowed in many countries, such as the USA, for certain prisoners. In China, nobody is allowed to vote and in the UK prisoners are also denied the vote. People also disagree about the extent to which free speech should be allowed. For instance, speech is more controlled in the UK where hate speech is illegal, whereas in America, there is more freedom to say things, even if they may be prejudiced. A citizen is someone who is a member of a country or a nation. Some citizens are religious citizens. A religious citizen may, in addition to the laws of their country, follow the rules of their religion. Secularism is where religion and politics are separated and religion is kept more private.

Social justice refers to the idea that society should be a just and fair place for everyone. This means justice in terms of wealth distribution, the law, equal rights and opportunities for everyone. The United Nations state, ‘Social justice may be broadly understood as the fair and compassionate distribution of the fruits of economic growth.’ Different political parties manage social justice in different ways and people disagree about how money should be distributed. Religions have a long history of promoting social justice. For instance, Christians have fought for prison reform since the 18th century. Famous Christians, such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, have fought for human rights. Similarly, in Islam, Muslims give 2.5% of their earnings to the poor and give to charity as commanded by the Prophet Muhammad.

Social Justice: Justice in terms of wealth and opportunities in society
UN Declaration of Human Rights: A statement adopted by the UN to protect all humans
Discrimination: Actions based on prejudice whereby people are treated differently because of the group they belong to
In the UK today, the right to religious freedom is protected. Freedom of religious expression is the right of any person to follow the religion of their choice and to be open about what they believe. In the UK, you cannot be told legally that you are not allowed to follow a particular religion, nor can you be ordered to follow a particular form of any religion, such as Catholicism. Freedom of persecution because of religion is the right to be legally protected if someone targets you because of the religion you follow. However, people still disagree about the extent to which people should be completely free to express their religious beliefs. Many religions teach pluralism: the belief that religions should co-exist and be treated equally. In Christianity, St Paul argued ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, man nor woman... For everyone is equal in Christ.’ This suggests equality.

Finding a balance between freedom of speech and the right to live free from discrimination is challenging. For instance, people may say things that are racist or sexist which go against the right to equality, or that extremely offensive to religious people, such as printing cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Similarly, many people argue that religious people cannot say whatever they like. In the UK, religious groups cannot use religious beliefs as a defence for extremism. For example, a religious group who handed out leaflets saying that homosexuals should be killed was sentenced to prison.

Under French law (2011), it is illegal for women in full-face veils (burqas) to go anywhere in public, including walk down the street, enter shops, or use public transport. Any woman caught wearing the burqa faces a fine and will be asked to take citizenship lessons to ‘prove’ they should be allowed to stay in the country. The key argument used by the government was that face coverings are a security risk and prevent identification of a person. They also banned balaclavas. In 2004, the law banned students in schools from wearing religious symbols. The law was challenged and even taken to the European Court of Human Rights. However, the law did not change and the court accepted the argument that banning religious clothing in schools would help to create a more inclusive society where people did not group themselves based on religion. In the UK, many court cases have taken place over religious clothing and objects, such as the kirpan (a Sikh knife). In the UK, Sikhs are allowed to carry the kirpan, and women may wear a veil if they choose to. Some have argued that religious freedom and expression are important but that people will need to compromise so that everyone's human rights can be met. As such, it is common for Sikhs to be required to blunt the knife that they use to ensure that they cannot be used as a weapon. In the UK, religious freedom is protected by law and this law has been used by Sikhs to argue for their right to wear religious objects in public. In Sikh scripture, it states that ‘Sikhs must in no way give offence to other faiths’ and Guru Nanak famously said, ‘There is no Hindu, no Muslim... Just one God.’

**Religious freedom:** Having the freedom to practise your beliefs; one of the human rights

**Conversion:** Changing your religious beliefs
The UK is a multi-faith society because people live here who have many different beliefs. One argument is that people should have the right to try and convert others. This means trying to change their beliefs.

Others believe that we should not allow conversion or that it is not necessary. The belief that only one religion is right and that following that religion is necessary for entering Heaven is called religious exclusivism. Life after death for Muslims is called Akhirah. Many Muslims believe that a belief in Islam is the only way to enter Heaven, known as Jannah. Those who have not followed the teachings of Islam will be sent to Hell, or Jahannam. Muslims traditionally believe that there are seven levels of Heaven and that the higher levels are reserved for those who have behaved the best in life. Muslims believe that they have to follow the teachings of the Qur’an as well as the example of the Prophet, known as the Hadith or Sunnah.

Many Christians also believe in religious exclusivism. Christianity has a long history of missionary work. Missionaries are people who believe that they have been sent to teach others about the Christian faith. Many Christians believe that a belief in Jesus is the only way to get to Heaven. Jehovah Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists also promote conversions. In the Bible it suggests that a belief in Jesus is the only way to achieve salvation (being saved from sin). Jesus says, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me’ (John 14:6) which suggests that a belief in his teachings is needed in order to enter Heaven.

The major religions teach against religious discrimination. Religious leaders, from most denominations (groups), argue that even if people do not follow the same teachings, they should not be discriminated against as this would go against teachings on the sanctity of life and equality.

Many other theists do not see conversion as necessary. Buddhism teaches that all religions are just different paths to the same religious truths. When asked for his religion, the Dalai Lama (the leader of Buddhism) once said, ‘the religion of kindness.’ The Buddha never tried to convert anyone. Many Muslims accept religious pluralism, particularly when it comes to other Abrahamic religions (religions based on Abraham). Since Christians and Jews are also ‘people of the book’ and share many of the same teachings, many Muslims believe they will also go to Heaven. It is said that the Prophet Muhammad did not force people to convert in his empire. Many people argue that trying to convert others can cause offence in a multi-faith society.
Prejudice means to pre-judge something or someone usually without any real evidence to base that judgement on. Prejudice is what we think – it is about the ideas in our head. Discrimination is when we act on our prejudice, we treat people differently because they are different to ourselves. In Britain it is against the law to discriminate against a person with protected characteristics. The Equality Act (2010) protects: gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, disability, beliefs, age, trans and pregnant women.

Sometimes people who have a disability are discriminated against. The term ‘disability’ can encompass a wide range of conditions, including mental health problems. By law, a disability is any long-term issue which has a significant impact on the day-to-day life of the person with the disability, so they cannot do the same things as others. People with disabilities are often denied access to places. For instance, many places still do not have wheelchair access, lifts or inclusive toilets.

Ageism is where people are discriminated against because of their age. This could involve acting on prejudice towards young people or old people. For example, an older person may find it harder to get a job, whereas a younger person may not be allowed to enter a shop because of a rule that only affects children.

Sexism is also known as gender inequality. This is where people are treated differently because of their gender. For instance, if someone was fired because they became pregnant, this would be an example of sexism. People may also be judged because of their sexuality: who they are attracted to or fall in love with. Homophobia is prejudice or discrimination based on sexuality. Transphobia is prejudice or discrimination directed against people who have gone through or who are undergoing gender reassignment. All forms of discrimination are against the law.

All religions teach equality, although many religious groups are still criticised on the grounds of prejudice or discrimination. In the Torah and the Bible it says, ‘So God created mankind in His own image… male and female He created them.’ This suggests that all humans are sacred and equal because they are made in the image of God. Christians also believe in the Golden Rule (to treat others as you wish to be treated) and in agape love (unconditional Christian love). Both of these religious teachings can be applied to all forms of prejudice and discrimination. Jesus taught everyone to show love and forgiveness to all, and treated everyone with respect. In the New Testament, St Paul also says, ‘There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ’ (Galatians 3:28) which, again, suggests that everyone is equal.

Similarly, equality is taught in Islam. The Prophet Muhammad taught that “All people are equal... not a white over a black person, nor a male over a female” (Hadith). Islam believes that Allah created everyone and that the Five Pillars apply to everyone equally. The Muslim Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone is equal. On Hajj, the largest gathering of Muslims, in Mecca, all Muslims wear white to show equality; they all pray in the same direction towards Mecca.
Racism is the belief that the colour of a person’s skin, or their race, makes them inferior to others. The slave trade in the 17th and 18th centuries was based on the belief that people of colour were less valuable than others. As empires grew, so people of colour were frequently exploited. Racism may not exist as openly as it did then but is still an issue today. The police keep records of race-related crimes which show that those of Asian heritage suffer the most hate crimes. This is linked to Islamophobia, the fear or hatred of Muslims.

In the UK, a large-scale investigation of the police was carried out, albeit many years later, after Stephen Lawrence was killed by a group of white men who called him ‘n***er’ before they beat him to death. The investigation revealed that the police had not collected evidence properly or dealt with Stephen’s friend correctly, resulting in a lack of conviction of the killers. Today, the police force positively discriminate, now known as positive action, in an attempt to diversify the police force. This is when police forces actively encourage people to apply from minority groups. For example, some police forces advertise specifically for Asian, black, gay or trans people to apply. Their aim is to create a Police Force which better reflects and can better serve the public. In the USA, and to a lesser extent in the UK, the group Black Lives Matter was set up to combat police brutality against ethnic minorities.

Statistics show how widespread institutional racism is. This is a way of describing the fact that structures, from businesses to government, disadvantage ethnic minorities. Unemployment rates in the UK are significantly higher for ethnic minorities compared to white groups and there are still very few people of colour in top managerial positions or Parliament. In education the rates of exclusion for black students are three times higher. The school curriculum has recently changed again and includes far fewer famous black and Asian figures – students frequently only learn about Martin Luther King rather than other famous people in black history. Furthermore, just 6% of black students attend Russell Group Universities and, when they leave, there is a pay gap whereby ethnic minorities with A Levels and University degrees are, on average, paid less than white people with A Levels and University degrees.
People strongly disagree about whether positive action is the best way of combating discrimination. On the one hand, it can help to create a more diverse work force that better represents the needs of the people they serve. This is particularly true in the legal profession, the police force and in politics. Currently, there are still far fewer female police officers and ethnic minority officers and this can affect how useful police officers can be. For instance, given that so many women are raped, they may feel more comfortable dealing with a woman. If a police force is entirely made up of white men, this could affect the experience that people have of the police force. This is also true of government where women, and, in particular, people of colour are not represented. Since the government are in charge of making decisions that affect us all, they should represent the people. Furthermore, if ethnic minorities are not represented, the government are less likely to make decisions that will help remove the pay gap and differences in wealth between white people and those who are not white. This means that inequality will not continue. Theists often argue for better treatment of ethnic minorities. The Archbishop of Canterbury has argued that the Conservative government has done little to help the poor and improve equality. In the Bible, Jesus taught the Parable of the Good Samaritan which explains how Christians ought to treat those who they see as different. Similarly, if the Golden Rule is applied, equality of opportunity should be given to everyone. Treating people equally and fairly is not, arguably, treating them the same. Telling disabled people in wheelchairs for instance that they, like everyone else, must walk is unacceptable. Currently, Muslims and Jews face the highest rates of discrimination. For Muslims, since Islamophobia has dramatically risen, positive affirmation could lead to more equality in education and the workplace.

On the other hand, many people argue it is patronising and unnecessary since minorities are just as capable of obtaining high positions in companies and organisations. Inequality needs to be removed earlier, when children are young, but companies should not offer jobs to people because of their ethnicity, especially if someone who is white performed better. Others argue that, whilst there is still such an imbalance, this may work well as a temporary measure for ensuring that there is greater equality in the work force but that it is not really addressing the issues.
RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO RACISM

Christianity is opposed to racism in all forms, although there are cases of colonialism and Christian extremism where this has not been the case. The Bible teaches that all people are equal in a number of places. In the creation story, it states ‘God made mankind in His image, male and female He created them’ which suggests that all people are sacred. St Paul also famously said, ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Jesus.’ Jesus treated people equally, no matter where they were from e.g. in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said that the Samaritan was behaving in a way that showed agape love by helping a Jew who was injured even though the two ethnic groups often fought. The Golden Rule of Christianity says to treat others as you wish to be treated and Jesus said that people should ‘love their neighbour’ (Luke 10:27). Christians such as Martin Luther King have fought for racial equality. He believed that God was on the side of the poor and oppressed, and organized peaceful protests to persuade the government to give black people equal rights. Desmond Tutu also argued for a ‘rainbow nation’ in South Africa during apartheid. He was imprisoned several times in his fight to gain equality for black people. Today, the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, is from Uganda and the Church of England has its own Race and Community Relations Committee which promotes racial harmony. They, alongside the Catholic Church, have also released documents condemning how people were treated as a result of Christian colonialism in the past.

Islam is also opposed to racism. There are Muslims all around the world who form the ummah – the worldwide community of Muslims. Muslims from all around the world make the pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj); they dress in the same white clothes to show equality and they pray in the common language of Arabic and face in the direction of Mecca – this unites them all. In the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast together.

In his speech during the Farewell Pilgrimage, the Prophet Muhammad declared that all people were descended from Adam and Eve, and that it is actions, and nothing else, that distinguishes human beings from one another. The first person who performed the adhan, the call to prayer, was black.

Malcolm X was a black American who campaigned for racial equality. At the beginning of his campaign, he fought for black supremacy but changed his mind after going on the pilgrimage to Mecca. Here he saw that all Muslims were equal in the eyes of God. When he returned, he left the extremist movement he belonged to and began working with campaigners such as Martin Luther King. He was later assassinated.
People can be discriminated against based on their gender. This is called sexism. Today, many Christians accept full gender equality, including female bishops. The Church of England argues that Jesus treated women with equal respect and that the creation story states that ‘God created mankind in His image, male and female He created them’ which shows that both genders are equal. St Paul also famously said, ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Jesus.’ The Golden Rule of Christianity says to treat others as you wish to be treated and Jesus said that people should ‘love their neighbour’ (Luke 10:27). On the other hand, Catholics traditionally argue, alongside other denominations, that men and women may be equal but have different roles. The Roman Catholic Church argue that Jesus only had male disciples and, since the priest must represent Jesus in church, they cannot have female bishops or priests. They point out that, in the second creation story, God told Eve that she was to be Adam’s helper. St Paul, in other writings, says that women must ‘remain silent in Church’ and should ‘submit to their husbands.’ Similarly, many Muslims argue that women and men are equal but different: all the rules of the Qur’an apply to both genders but women are better suited to domestic duties and raising children.

Some people are shown prejudice because of who they are attracted to. Both homophobia and biphobia are against the law (Equality Act, 2010) and discrimination is classed as a hate crime. It is also illegal to discriminate against someone because they are transgender. Many Christians support homosexuals. Pope Francis, for instance, argued ‘if a person is gay and seeks out the Lord and is willing, who am I to judge that person?’ He said that Catholics must apologise to gay people for how they have been treated. The Quakers also campaigned heavily in favour of same-sex marriage arguing that the law should recognise that all people are made in the image of God and are equal. Jesus taught that we should ‘love thy neighbour’ as well as the Golden Rule. Many Christians argue that teachings against homosexuality in the Bible are outdated, and that many parts of the Bible, such as parts that accept slavery or allow for sexism, must be ignored. Similarly, some Muslims argue that the Prophet Muhammad told people not to judge and to treat others with compassion. Other Christians and Muslims argue that homosexuality is a sin. In the Bible, Leviticus writes that it is an ‘abomination’ for a ‘man to lie with a man as one lies with a woman.’ In both the Bible and the Qur’an, the story of Lot suggests that homosexuality will be punished harshly. As such, many campaigners have argued that religion lies at the very heart of homophobia.

Sometimes people who have a disability are discriminated against. This may be because of a physical or mental disability. Discrimination could be a result of not having wheelchair access or not allowing a disabled person to work in an institution. The majority of theists argue that disabled people must be shown respect and love. They use quotes such as the Golden Rule to argue this. However, it is important to note that, in the past, disability was often thought to result from sin. In the Bible, it says that disabled people cannot approach the altar and some Hindus still believe that disability is the result of bad karma. As such, many religious institutions now have groups within them campaigning for equality.

**Equality**: The idea that everyone is of equal worth / **Gender**: Having masculine or feminine characteristics / **Homophobia**: Discrimination or prejudice based on sexuality / **Fair Pay**: Payment which is appropriate for the work done
RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO WEALTH

People may become wealthy in a number of different ways, from working to inheriting money. Religious people tend to have rules on how one is allowed to make money and how that money ought to be used. Many people in the UK are wealthy. This means that they have enough money to live comfortably and buy many things that people do not really need but simply want, from trainers to phones. However, many people in the UK and abroad are not wealthy. Nearly 1/2 of the world's population — more than 3 billion people — live on less than £2 a day.

Many religions teach that wealth must be shared and that the way you spend your money is very important. This belief is shared by humanists as well. In Buddhism, it is said that ‘acquiring wealth is acceptable if, at the same time, it promotes the well-being of the community.’ Buddhists are taught to avoid greed and this is true of other religions such as Christianity and Islam. In the Bible, Jesus is said to have argued that it is ‘easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Heaven.’ In many places, the Bible teaches that greed is wrong, such as in the 10 Commandments where it teaches people not to be envious of what others have. In many parables, Jesus also teaches against seeking wealth and said, ‘you cannot serve both God and money.’

In Islam, 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. In the Hadith, it says ‘riches are sweet, a source of blessing... But those who seek it out of greed are like people who eat but are never full.’ Thus, wealth must be used to benefit others. It is unsurprising, then, that religious organisations have played a big part in increasing the minimum wage and that religious leaders, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury, have criticised the government for not doing enough for the poor. Despite all these religious and non-religious teachings, many people are still not paid much for the work that they do. For instance, the people involved in collecting the beans used to make chocolate can rarely afford to buy a chocolate bar. This is because the companies that employ them take the money for themselves. This is why many people buy Fairtrade chocolate as this ensures that workers are paid a fair amount for their work.

Minimum wage: The legal minimum a person can be paid per hour in a job in the UK / Poverty: Having less than the basic needs of life; not being able to afford food, shelter or clothing / Rights: Entitlements that all humans have, such as the right to shelter and healthcare / Stewardship: A duty to look after the environment or those who are less fortunate / Wealth: How much money someone has
FAIR PAY AND HELPING THE POOR

**Fair pay** means being paid at a rate that is appropriate for the work done. This means that there should be equal pay without discrimination based on gender or any other characteristic. There are some who are paid excessive wages, such as footballers or investment bankers, whilst others often strike as a result of low pay, such as the police or nurses, even though they do very important jobs. ‘**Exploitation**’ means taking advantage of someone. People who are not paid very much are already, in some cases, working a lot of hours which can make it hard for them to get more money.

In the UK, religious groups have played a big part in campaigning for an increase in the minimum wage and working for the interests of the low paid. Regular statements are made, particularly by Church bishops, to highlight this issue for the poor. For example, the Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken out against the government for cutting benefits and other allowances. Religions teach that it is the responsibility of theists (people who believe in God) to help the poor out of poverty. Charities such as Islamic Aid give huge amounts of money to the poor to help them in crises. In the Qur’an is says, ‘he who eats and drinks whilst his brother goes hungry is not one of us’ (Hadith). In the Bible, it also says, in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, that anyone who clothes the needy or feeds them does so for Jesus. Helping the poor is seen, then, as doing God’s work as it allows people to show love to God’s people. Non-religious charities also see it as their duty to help the poor. Charities of all kinds fundraise for those who are the most needy. They may also run soup kitchens or food banks to feed people, offer clothes to the needy or give additional money to help people through difficult times. Many also argue that the government has a responsibility to end poverty. Governments are elected to help the people. They have the means to help, collect taxes to finance the running of public services, and can improve services such as hospitals and schools, in ways that individuals cannot. Arguably, the government is also responsible for poverty to begin with as a result of its policies locally and globally.

On the other hand, some argue that people have a responsibility to get themselves out of poverty. Many have argued that giving benefits makes people less likely to work, and that people should try harder at school in order to get more money themselves; people should try to improve their own situation rather than staying reliant on society or charity. Some people may be poor because of drug use, lack of qualifications or not working very hard. Perhaps, people should be given more skills but not more money in order to help them improve their own lives.

**Fair Pay:** Payment which is appropriate for the work done
INTEREST ON LOANS

Many people are in debt in the UK. People in the UK owed £1.562 trillion at the end of October 2017. Each person, on average, is in debt by around £8000. Fees for university have increased as well as the general cost of living, including rent. As such, people are much more likely to take out loans where they borrow money from the bank. This can cause a lot of problems, particularly when payday loans are used. These are loans with very high interest rates. Some companies offer money to people who cannot get loans from the bank. They will give more money on condition that people may back a lot of interest. However, people in debt often struggle to pay back such large amounts of interest which leads to a cycle of debt.

All religions disagree with these loans. In Islam, Muslims are not allowed to charge interest on loans for fellow Muslims. Religions accept that companies have to make profits but disagree with such large-scale exploitation. They are taking advantage of people when they are more desperate. The New Testament focuses on the dangers associated with wealth, greed and selfishness. People can become so involved with money that they forget to love God and their neighbour. Jesus told a rich young man to sell everything he owned and give it to the poor and also said, ‘easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Heaven.’ In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus also said that whoever helped those in prison and those who were poor would be sent to Heaven; just as a shepherd separates goats from the flock, so God will separate those who have helped others from those who have not. In many parables, Jesus also teaches against seeking wealth and said, ‘you cannot serve both God and money.’

Helping the poor is also a means of showing agape love. In Islam, the third pillar is Zakah. This means giving 2.5% of your earnings to the poor if you have enough wealth. Many Muslims will work out how much they owe and give the money at the end of Ramadan. By giving Zakah, Muslims are acknowledging that everything they own comes from God and belongs to him, and that they should use their wealth to help those in need. Zakah literally means to purify or cleanse. Shi’a Muslims also give 20% to religious leaders and to the poor (khums). In Buddhism, it is said that ‘acquiring wealth is acceptable if, at the same time, it promotes the well-being of the community.’ Buddhists are taught to avoid greed and this is true of other religions such as Christianity and Islam.

Loan: Borrowed money which has to be paid back, usually with interest; excessive loans are where the rate of interest is very high.
PEOPLE TRAFFICKING

‘People trafficking’ is a modern-day slave trade. People are sold for many reasons. Trafficking gangs take large amounts of money, but the people find themselves in awful situations they cannot escape. Traffickers often target poor people in foreign countries; although some people are trafficked out of the UK, the UK tends to buy trafficked people. Vulnerable people are offered the chance of a ‘better life’ in another country. They might be the victims of war or simply be poor. Parents may be encouraged to sell their children. Other people are encouraged by boyfriends to give them their passports as they are ‘going on holiday’ without realising that their boyfriends are simply working for a trafficking gang.

Once passports are handed over or once a person has been sold, they are used as slaves or prostitutes. They may be told that they have to work towards their freedom or that they have to work in order to avoid their families being killed. They live in terrible conditions, often suffering brutality at the hands of those exploiting them. In the UK, it is estimated that thousands of people are forced to work as prostitutes or domestic slaves (people who are forced to work in houses). Others never reach the destination country: the news has been filled with terrible stories of people whose boats have sunk from overcrowding at the hands of traffickers.

Religious and non-religious people alike see this activity as illegal and totally inhumane. The Human Rights Act is clear that everyone, apart from prisoners who have broken the laws, must be free and live in safety. Slavery is banned under the UN Convention. In Christianity, Jesus taught *agape love* and told his followers to ‘love thy neighbour.’ He also taught that people should act as ‘Good Samaritans’ helping those in need. The charity CAFOD, a Catholic charity, is currently working in South America to educate young girls and provide them with opportunities so that they are not forced into sexual exploitation. CAFOD was set up to spend all the money given to Roman Catholic Churches on a particular day of the year but now runs throughout the year. Many argue that we should all give to charity; it is, after all, only an accident of birth that many of us are lucky enough to be born into safe and wealthy environments. For this reason, wealth ought to be shared. Jesus taught to ‘Sell all that you have, and distribute it to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven.’ Similarly, Muslim Aid works in over 70 countries trying to eliminate poverty, and improve education and healthcare. It is currently working in Syria, amongst other people, to protect the victims of war. Many argue that individuals are not responsible for getting themselves out of this situation as it is too dangerous for them to try and escape. As such, it is the responsibility of the government and charity groups to end trafficking. Governments are able to employ more police to run anti-trafficking groups. People can also donate to a number of charities that help poor people in their countries, victims of war and victims of trafficking.