

Starters and Plenaries for Area of Study 3: Philosophy and Ethics

For GCSE Edexcel Religious Studies A
Paper 3B (Christianity)

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of Edexcel Option A Christianity, the Philosophy and Ethics section. All areas of the specification are covered by different activities providing a way into new topics or allowing students to consolidate their learning. Some activities can be done individually, others in groups, and there is flexibility to adapt this.

This resource focuses on Arguments for the Existence of God, and Religious Beliefs and Families in the Twenty-first Century.

The starters and plenaries in this resource are designed to help teachers allocate time continuously by providing short activities which can be slotted in at the beginning or end of a lesson. Each activity should take between 5 and 15 minutes to complete, though some longer main-lesson activity if desired.

A plan of the activities with teacher's notes is provided at the beginning of each section on how to teach the content. Answers, or possible answers, are included at the end of each section to help with student or teacher marking, and in some cases it may be helpful to refer to other resources.

This resource should be informative and educational, and hopefully also encourage students to support teachers with a base which they can build on when teaching additional topics.

These topics force students to consider different arguments and philosophical positions, as exploring how Christianity may impact people's lives in the day to day. The resource aims to help students to develop reasoning skills as well as learn important details.

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Topic Coverage

For many of these it will be useful for the students to have some knowledge of the to

Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	
	1.1 Revelation, Old Testament	1 True or false	S or P	Individual
	1.1 Revelation, New Testament	2 Explain to the class	S	Class activity different 1 Cut up ca This sheet
	1.2 Visions	3 Match up visions, visionaries and impact	S	Individual
	1.3 Miracles	4 Fill in table	S or P	Individual
	1.2, 1.3, 1.4 Religious Experiences	5 Answer questions for revision	P	Can be de discussion back to th
	1.2, 1.3, 1.4 Religious Experiences	6 Match the beginnings and endings of sentences	S or P	Individual
	1.5 Prayer	7 Unjumble words and explain use and importance	S or P	Individual

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Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	
Arguments for the Existence of God	1.6 Design Argument	8 Reorder the essay/text	P	Individual
	1.6 Design Argument	9 Sort into groups and explain	S	Individual worth feedback
	1.7 Cosmological Argument	10 Reorder the words to create a sentence, and assess	S or P	Individual
	1.6, 1.7 1.8 Reasons for not Believing in God	11 Complete the diagram	S	Individual
	1.8 Religious Upbringing	12 Pass the hat	S	Class activity Cut up cards This sheet
	1 Summary Revision	13 Spider diagram with questions	P	Can be done in groups (use)
Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the Twenty-first Century	2.1 Marriage	14 Odd one out	S	Individual
	2.1, 2.2 Marriage and Sex	15 Match up views	S	Individual
	2.2 Sex	16 Multiple-choice	S or P	Individual
	2.2 Homosexuality	17 Class discussion	S	Class activity This sheet though you can ask questions students

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Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	
Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the Twenty-first Century	2.3 Family	18 Noughts and crosses	S	Class activity This sheet
	2.3 Family	19 What am I?	S	Class activity This sheet (unless you use as prompt) Cut up cards
	2.4 Local Church and Family	20 Correct the statements	S or P	Individual
	2.5 Contraception and Family Planning	21 Place items on a continuum	S or P	Can be done in groups (use cards) It may be used in the class
	2.6 Divorce and Remarriage	22 Advantages and disadvantages	P	Individual be worth it
	2.7 Gender Roles and Equality	23 Assess an example exam answer	S or P	Individual be worth it
	2.8 Gender Prejudice and Discrimination	24 Battleships with questions to test knowledge	S	Paired activity
	2 Summary Revision	25 Spider diagram with questions	P	Can be done in groups (use cards)

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Activity 1 – 1.1: Revelation, Old Testament

Revelation describes instances where the divine, or God, are believed to have revealed themselves physically, or God is believed to have spoken to humans, or been sensed by humans.

Decide whether the statements about revelation are true or false, according to Christian belief. If false, correct the false statements.

1)	God revealed himself to Noah because he wanted to save Noah when he was alone, and the rest of humanity.
2)	God told Noah to take two pairs of every animal into an ark (giant boat) to survive a great flood.
3)	God made a covenant with Noah, a promise to never again kill all the people and creatures on earth.
4)	The sign of the covenant which God made with Noah is signified by the rainbow.
5)	God promised Abraham that he would have as many descendants as the stars in the sky.
6)	God promised Abraham that his descendants would always have a land of their own.
7)	God changed Abraham's name to Abraham from 'Abram', and told him that he was the father of many nations.
8)	Abraham and his descendants did not have to do anything in return for God promising them land.
9)	God revealed himself to Abraham and told him that he would have a son named Sarah.
10)	Abraham had to sacrifice his son Isaac to God.
11)	God gave Moses commandments which the people of Israel should obey as part of their covenant with them. If they obeyed them, God would bless them, and if they disobeyed, God would withdraw his help, and possibly curse them.
12)	Christians believe that God did not reveal himself to anyone else in the Old Testament after Moses.
13)	All Christians believe that such revelations of God in the Old Testament were very harsh.
14)	Many Christians believe that examples of revelation in the Bible provide evidence for the existence of God, because the Bible reports people experiencing him.

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Activity 2 – 1.1: Revelation, New Tes

Pick students from the class, or ask for volunteers. Give them a prompt statement or event from the New Testament which links to revelation. Explain to the class what the content of the box shows about the nature of what we believe God has done. Adjust as necessary – you can add extra cards if you want, or give more-able students more difficult cards.

<p>✂</p> <p>1) Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2)</p> <p>***</p>	<p>2) At the Last Supper, Jesus gave for 'many' (Mark 14:24, Matthew 26:28)</p>
<p>3) 'Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.' (Hebrews 1:1–2 NRSV)</p> <p>**</p>	<p>4) At Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist said to him, and the voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved' (Matthew 3:16–17)</p>
<p>5) Jesus healed people and brought some back from the dead (throughout the Gospels)</p> <p>*</p>	<p>6) 'In the beginning was with God, and the beginning of all things came into being through him' (John 1:1–3)</p>
<p>7) Jesus transforms during the transfiguration (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9)</p> <p>**</p>	<p>8) The last days of the Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah (Gospels)</p>
<p>9) Jesus appears resurrected to his disciples (at the end of the Gospels)</p> <p>*</p>	<p>10) Jesus is born (the Gospels)</p>
<p>11) Jesus tells his disciples to make more disciples (e.g. the Great Commission, Matthew 28)</p> <p>**</p>	<p>12) Jesus heals the blind man and sends him to the Samaritans (John 4)</p>

Key:

- * Easier Card
- ** Medium Card
- *** Harder Card

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Activity 3 – 1.2: Visions

Visions are a type of religious experience where someone sees, and often hears, something which is an apparition of a saint, angel, Jesus or God. People who see visions are called visionaries.

Match up these visions with the person who claimed to have experienced them, and with the

Extension: Colour-code whether these visions are recorded in the Old Testament, the New Testament

Visions of an angel and saints instructed the visionary to help reconquer France from the English.

Peter, James and John

The Virgin Mary appeared and said 'I am the Immaculate Conception [conceived without sin]', before others also saw visions.

Joan of Arc

An angel of God appeared in a burning bush. God said 'I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'

Abram/Abraham

A light flashed from heaven, blinding the visionary, and a voice was heard saying '...why do you persecute me? ... I am Jesus whom you are persecuting'

Bernadette of Lourdes

Jesus was transfigured (his appearance changed miraculously) and his face and clothes shone. Moses and Elijah appeared with him, and God's voice spoke approval from heaven.

Saul/St Paul

The word of God appeared to the visionary and spoke with him, telling him that he would be rewarded and have as many descendants as stars in the sky.

Moses

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Activity 4 – 1.3: Miracles

Miracles are extraordinary happenings which do not appear to be explainable in natural terms, which may be attributed to the divine.

Fill in this table with whether the miracle is reported to have occurred in the Old Testament, or after the time of the Bible (be more specific if possible), and whether it may be important for Christians. Use a Bible / the Internet for tricky ones.

Example of Miracle	Old Testament / New Testament / After the Bible	Important for Christians
The parting of the Red Sea		
Jesus walking on water		
Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead		
Jesus healing the blind man; people possessed with demons; the official's son; and more		
Elijah calls down fire from heaven on an offering drenched in water		
None of the people of Oberammergau died from the plague after praying to God and making him a promise		
Three men surviving being thrown into a fiery furnace		
Gideon's Fleece		
A statue of the Virgin Mary weeps blood		

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Activity 5 – 1.2, 1.3, 1.4: Religious Exp

Religious experiences can include many different types of experiences that have been in touch with the divine; for example, various types of revelation, prayer, among others.

Write down some reasons for why different religious experiences may be helpful to confirm their belief in God; what they show about God's nature; Christians. This will be useful for revision purposes later.

Why are visions and miracles important to Christians?

What might Christians

Why might visions and miracles confirm belief in God / lead

Why are other types of religious experience important to Christians?

What attitudes towards religion

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Activity 6 – 1.2, 1.3, 1.4: Religious Experience, A

Not everyone believes that some, or all, religious experiences are genuine.

Cut and stick! Cut out the 'beginning' section as a whole and stick onto a sheet of paper. Then cut out the 'endings' of the statements and match to the correct beginning, bearing in mind the context of a text about reasons why religious experiences might not be seen as real. Some of the endings do not provide evidence for his existence.

Beginning	Ending
✂ Some people feel that there is a lack of evidence, not enough to prove that religious experiences take place...	... for example, serial killers have claimed to be sane, and psychologists have claimed they are lying. If we doubt all religious experiences, then how does one know? One has not experienced a religious experience, and it is all down to a choice of which to believe, which is not evidence.
Some people may not trust those who report religious experiences...	... because many reported miracles seem so unlikely. Weep blood can seem a silly alternative to the fact that people claim to have been healed in miracles. If God heals some people, and not others, then why?
There are those who believe that religious experiences such as visions could be hallucinations...	... and that people have religious experiences because they are experiencing some form of apparent religious experience.
Some religious experiences could also be due to the use of stimulants...	... because it is always more rationally probable that one is mistaken about a vision or miracle, because of the possibility of such happenings. Further, no one who wrote the Bible were reliable.
Some people believe that people experience religious experiences as a form of wish fulfilment...	... because people who take some drugs have reported religious experiences could be a form of the same thing where people have been given drugs, and have reported religious experiences, and devices have been created to induce religious experiences, and claim to be able to induce religious, or spiritual, experiences.
Supposed religious experiences which most people believe are not real can be cited to argue that no religious experiences are genuine...	... because many visions are only experienced by a few people, and many miracles are temporary (e.g. the resurrection of Jesus) or could not be verified afterwards for other people. Jesus was reported as having turned water into wine to prove that the wine had once been water.
Some people argue that many reported miracles today are actually evidence against a God rather than for one...	... partly because science can now explain many religious experiences, such as due to mental illnesses. Many visionaries of the past suffered from mental illnesses, which caused them to have strange experiences. This is not evidence for God.

Extension: How might Christians respond to these criticisms that religious experiences (such as visions and miracles) are not proof for God's existence and can be explained in other ways?

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Activity 7 – 1.5: Prayer

Unjumble these words on the topic of prayer, and explain why these types of prayer are used and why they are important.

Types of prayer:

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fneconios

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nionitsec

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.....

vigtahnngis

.....
.....

Examples of prayers:

od'rls rypare

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orsrya

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spslma

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Extension: Explain two reasons why if someone thinks their prayer has helped them or reinforced belief in God.

1.
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2.
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Activity 8 – 1.6: Design Argument

Cut these boxes out and rearrange them into a sensible order to create a design argument to revise the design argument. There are several acceptable versions.

A version of the Design Argument for the existence of God

✂ Also, while the world may be similar to a designed object, it is not identical. The world is not designed to be identical. It could have come into being through some process which did not involve a designer.

Another illustration was given by the scientist Isaac Newton, who argued that the world and humans had been designed, because they show that humans are unique. There is no natural reason for humans to have different thumbprints.

Another point in favour is that humans may like to believe that they have a purpose. If the world was by a God, this gives them more purpose than if they were the product of chance.

Christians believe they were designed by God, and, therefore, that he is powerful. They believe he is creative because he designed an interesting world. They also believe he designed a beautiful world for them to enjoy. Romans 1:20 (NRSV) says that 'Ever since the beginning of the world, his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.' So Christians may feel that they can come closer to God through their faith in his awesomeness.

One example used to illustrate this argument was given by a philosopher called William Paley by saying that if you saw a watch and a rock, you would know that the rock was not designed or created. This is because the watch contains organised parts **and** had a reason for being. The rock does not. Paley said that the world also contains organised parts and would also seem to have been designed. This is called an argument from analogy (this case between the world and a watch).

One point against the design argument is that the world does not actually seem to be designed. Many parts of life which do not seem optimal.

One point in favour of the design argument is that there are many things which seem to be designed to exist on earth. For example, the elements oxygen and carbon are essential for life. They have to interact in a particular organised way for everything to be as it is, and this seems to be designed rather than to be chance. This is an example of a fine-tuning argument, because the world seems fine-tuned.

The world resembles a designed object.
Humans design many objects.
Therefore, the world is similar to objects designed by humans.

Where there is a similar outcome, there is often a similar cause.
Human designers are the cause of most designed objects.
Because the world is similar to objects designed by humans (from the paragraph above),
The world has a similar designer... which is God.

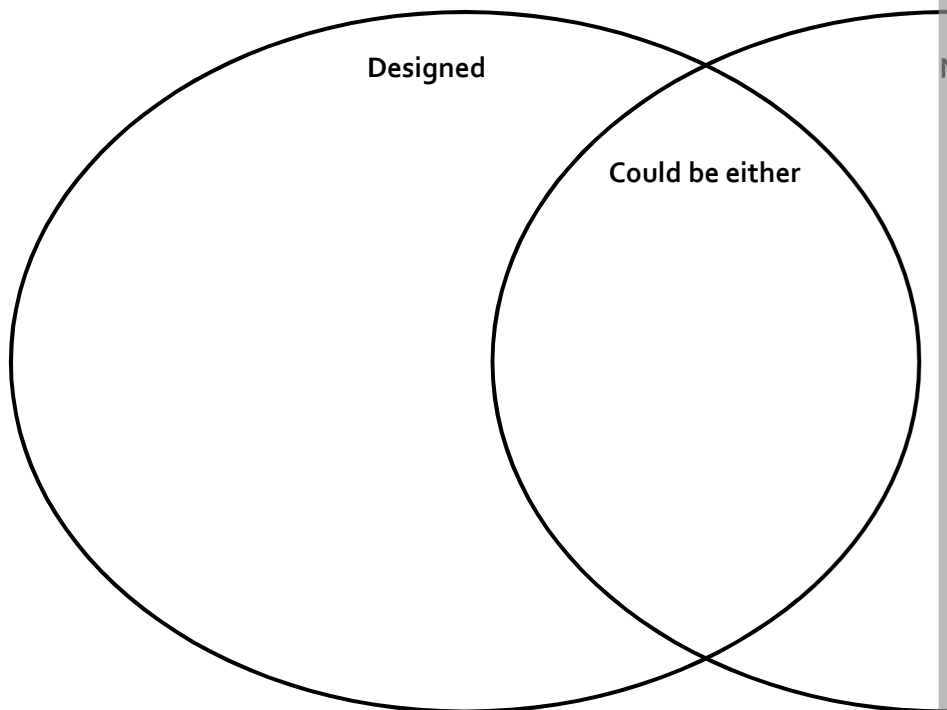
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Activity 9 – 1.6: Design Argument

- a) Add the words below to the diagram to show what is designed, what is not designed or natural.



Humans	Watch	Sewing Machine	Rock	House	
Planet Earth	Computer	Tree	Flowers	Universe	

- b) Explain what designed objects have in common with each other.

.....

.....

- c) Explain what natural objects have in common with each other.

.....

.....

- d) What might someone who believes the world is designed say about the existence of natural objects?

.....

.....

Extension: How might someone criticise the design argument using the following?

1. Suffering

.....

2. Evolution

.....

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Activity 10 – 1.7: Cosmological Arg

A cosmological argument is an argument for the existence of God because there is a world. One famous example of a cosmological argument is St Thomas Aquinas' Five Ways.

- a) Rearrange the fallen tiles to create a paraphrased version of Aquinas' First Way. Reorganise the sentences in the space below the mixed-up words.

cause	a	Everything
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.....

a	and	be	cause	causes	effects	first	no	no	or
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There	the	moment	effects	causes	
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.....

a	Therefore	cause	God	people	there	first
---	-----------	-------	-----	--------	-------	-------

.....

- b) Then give a **strength** or piece of **evidence** which supports this argument.

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Extension: What does this show, or not show, about the nature of God?

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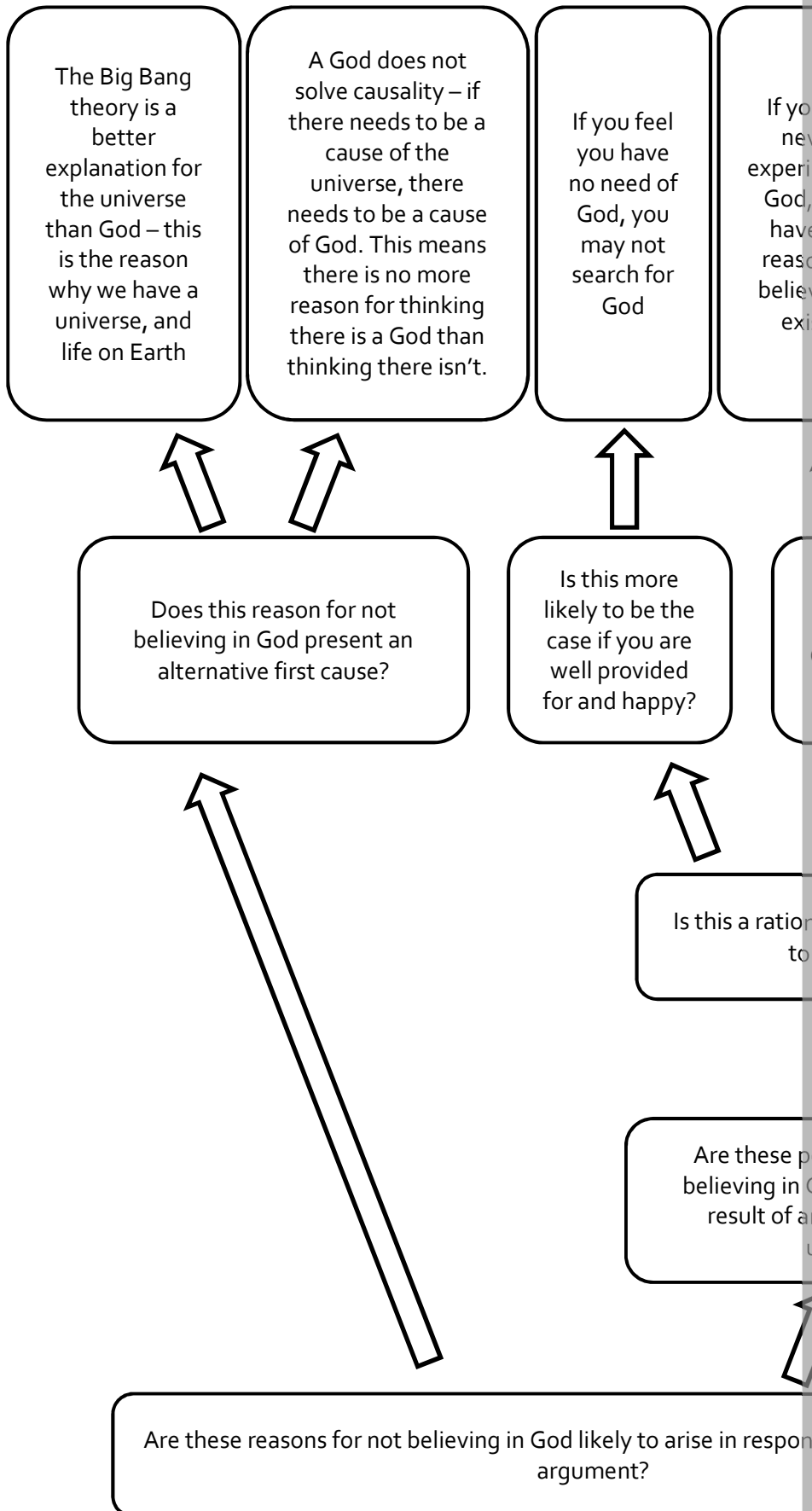
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Activity 11 – 1.6, 1.7, 1.8: Reasons for not Believing in God

Work backwards through this diagram, filling out Yes or No by each arrow and the arguments against the existence of God, and reasons for not believing in God.



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Activity 12 – 1.8: Religious Upbringing

The cards contain some features which may be present in a Christian upbringing. One reason for raising children as Christians is Proverbs 22:6 (NRSV): *'Train up a child in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.'*

Cut up the cards and place them in a hat, jar, or other container. Get the class to pass the hat around. Get them to take it in turns to take out a card and explain how a Christian upbringing might lead to belief in God. Each student could take a turn to add a card if the music stops when the music starts. You could add extra cards if desired.

Extension: Ask more-able students to think of reasons why a religious upbringing might lead to rejection of the existence of God.

✂	
1) Reading the Bible	2) Going to Sunday school
3) Being part of a Christian family	4) Knowing people who have experienced God
5) Celebrating Christian celebrations	6) Being taught to pray
7) Attending a church school	8) Attending church
9) Being told that God exists	10) Seeing the example of Jesus
11) Going to a Christian activity group (e.g. Brownies or Scouts), or a Christian youth club	12) Being baptised
13) Being taught to follow (Christian) rules	

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Activity 13 – 1 Summary: Revision Questions

Choose at least six questions, and write the answers to these questions on the back of the paper. Write your answers in full sentences. If you have spare time, answer more questions.

- * Easier Question
- ** More Challenging Question

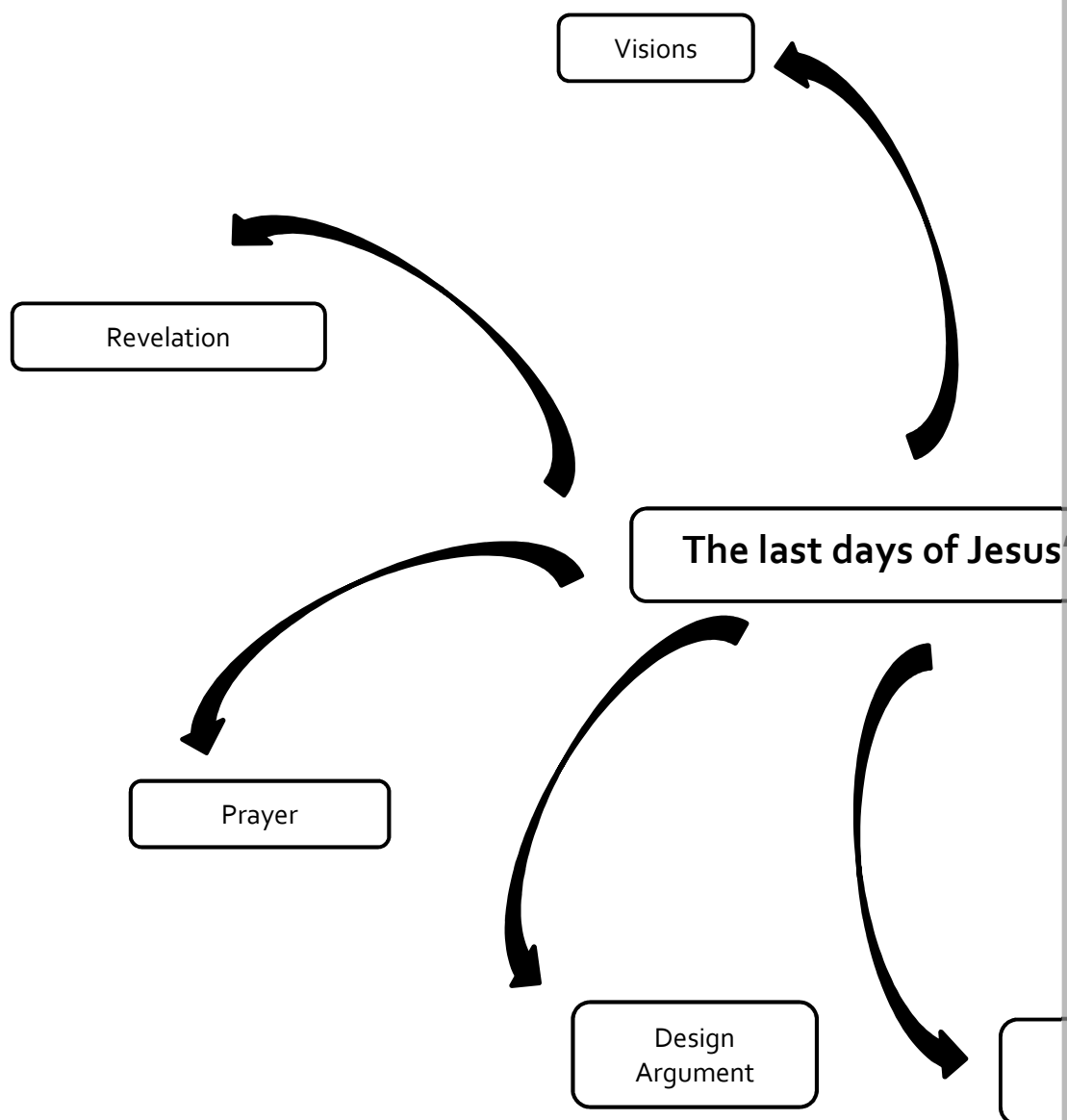
If you are unsure about this topic, answer the easier questions, or if you are confident in your knowledge then challenge yourself by choosing some harder questions.

- 1) * Name three people who God made covenants with, according to the Bible.
- 2) ** What do Christians believe that Jesus revealed about God's nature?
- 3) * How did St Paul's vision affect early Christianity?
- 4) * Write down an example of an Old Testament miracle and a New Testament miracle.
- 5) ** Give three reasons why people might not think that religious experience is evidence for God.
- 6) * Give a reason why Christians may pray.
- 7) ** Give a version of the design argument.
- 8) ** Give a version of a cosmological argument.
- 9) ** Give a point which could be used to argue against the design argument.
- 10) ** Give a point which could be used to argue against cosmological arguments.
- 11) * Give three features which might be present in a religious upbringing.

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Activity 14 – 2.1: Marriage, Christian

In each box, spot and circle the odd one out – the statement that is NOT a teaching about marriage.

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1. Christianity teaches that the purposes of marriage include:

- a) Procreation and raising a family
- b) Friendship and love
- c) Being able to have sex
- d) Financial security
- e) Symbolising the relationship of God and the Church

2. **Marriage is important to many Christians because:**

- a) God taught that people should get married in the Old Testament and Jesus approved of marriage
- b) Divorce and adultery are disapproved of in the Bible, so Christians take marriage seriously
- c) Some Christians see it as a sacrament, and those that don't still see it as an important commitment
- d) Marriage contributes to a stable society
- e) Marriage is the only way that someone can leave their parents

3. The New Test

- a) 'When a man does not go out with any wife or home or wife with him'
- b) 'But from God man and woman are made, and man and woman are one flesh, and they are joined together. Therefore they are joined together'
- c) '... when they are joined together in marriage'
- d) '... he will be with her and he will be with her and do better'
- e) 'Wives, love your husbands as the church loves itself'

Explain why the odd one out is not correct.

1.
2.
3.

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Activity 15 – 2.1, 2.2: Marriage and Sex

There are different views within Christianity and society about sex, marriage (including living together before marriage) and contraception.

Match each point of view to which group of people is likely to hold it by putting the letter in the empty boxes.

<p>Sex should only take place within marriage, but contraception is acceptable. Marriage is important for a stable society.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A</p>	<p>Sex is fine within a committed and loving relationship, so cohabitation is fine if the couple is committed. Contraception is also fine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">B</p>
<p>Sex should take place within marriage, but sex between cohabiting couples and couples in a committed relationship should be accepted as a step towards marriage. Contraception is fine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">D</p>	<p>Sex should only take place within marriage, and no artificial contraception should be used, as sexual acts should be open to the possibility of new life. Marriage has sanctity because it is a sacrament. Marriage is important for stable society.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>
<p>Traditional Catholic View</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="text"/></p>	<p>Traditional Protestant View</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="text"/></p>
<p>Modern Christian View</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="text"/></p>	<p>Modern Secular View</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="text"/></p>

Extension: Give two reasons for one of these views.

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Activity 16 – 2.2: Sexual Relations

Answer the multiple-choice questions about Christian and non-religious

- 1) What is forbidden in the seventh of the Ten Commandments (hint: Ex 20:14)?
 - a) Promiscuity
 - b) Adultery
 - c) Premarital sex
 - d) Homosexuality
- 2) What did St Paul suggest was better than sex within marriage (hint: 1 Cor 7:1-5)?
 - a) Becoming a priest
 - b) Remaining unmarried and celibate
 - c) Celibacy within marriage
 - d) Sex outside of marriage
- 3) Which of these is not a reason Christians might give in response to a suggestion that cohabitation, and sex before marriage are acceptable?
 - a) Being able to cohabit or have sex before marriage might mean couples are not committed without giving it sufficient thought before getting too serious
 - b) Sex before marriage is wrong because the Bible teaches that sex is only for marriage
 - c) Sex before marriage and cohabitation are a bad idea, because if they fail, it can be emotionally damaging, and financially problematic in the case of children
 - d) Sex before marriage and cohabitation are a bad idea because if couples have children in these relationships, and these end, this is bad for the children
 - e) Cohabitation is a bad idea because it means someone might go on to have bad habits before they are married to them
- 4) What did St Paul suggest about the amount of sex a married couple should have (hint: 1 Corinthians 7:5)?
 - a) They should have as much sex as they want
 - b) They should have as little sex as possible
 - c) They should have the amount of sex they want, unless they decide to abstain from sex for the purpose of prayer
 - d) They should never have sex
- 5) Which of these is not taught about sex within Christianity, or a branch of Christianity?
 - a) Wives should have sex as much as their husbands want, and husbands should love their wives as they love themselves
 - b) Sex is given by God to strengthen the bond between a married couple
 - c) Sex is designed to be enjoyed within marriage
 - d) Sex is given for the procreation of children, and God commands couples to be fruitful and multiply
- 6) Which of these is not a reason that many Christians object to adultery (hints: Exodus 20, 1, Corinthians 5–6)?
 - a) They think they will never be forgiven by God
 - b) They are forbidden in the Bible
 - c) Adultery will likely hurt the spouse who is cheated on, and possibly hurt those involved
 - d) Unlawful sexual relationships may harm someone's relationship with God

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Activity 17 – 2.2: Homosexuality

Separate the class into five groups, and give each group a question to discuss and write bullet points about. Then bring the class together to have a class discussion about homosexuality, and different Christian attitudes and non-religious attitudes. Give each group feed back answers to their question, and other students can add more if they wish.



- 1) Why does the Catholic Church, and some other churches, forbid homosexuality? Why does it not encourage people to try not to be homosexual?

-
-
-
-



- 2) Why do some evangelical Christians think homosexuals should try to be heterosexual?

-
-
-
-



- 3) Why do some Protestants accept couples in loving homosexual relationships?

-
-
-
-



- 4) Why will some Protestant denominations which accept loving homosexual relationships not accept gay marriage?

-
-
-
-



- 5) Why are atheists and humanists likely to have no problem, or less problem, with homosexuality?

-
-
-
-

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Activity 18 – 2.3: Family

Play noughts and crosses with the class on the board. Split the class into two teams. Ask each side of the room a question from the list, about Christianity and family. Mark the board with a nought/cross. Some questions have multiple answers – it may be worth playing at the beginning of the lesson, and at the end. Students can have new answers, or asking each team the same question for five minutes.

- 1) Give a Bible passage involving, or referring to, family
- 2) What is the purpose of family for Christians?
- 3) Why is family important to Christians?
- 4) How does the Church support families?

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Activity 19 – 2.3: Types of Family

What Am I? Cut up cards and stick onto a volunteer's forehead or back, then to ask the class yes/no questions to work out what type of family they are (some may be 'maybe' depending on how you view them).

Once they guess, they, with the help of the class, should give at least one reason why they approve, and one reason why they may disapprove of this type of family.

You can allow more-able students to try to ask appropriate questions themselves using the sheet of questions if they get stuck / need more assistance.

✂			
Nuclear Family	Single-parent Family	Same-sex parents family	Extended Family

Am I likely to contain two parents who are the biological parents of all the children in the family?

Am I likely to contain two parents?

As they are, is it possible for the parents in the family to conceive naturally?

Does this type of family involve extra relatives than parents and children?

Does this family contain children who are not / are highly unlikely to be biological children of the parents?

Am I possibly formed due to bereavement?

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Activity 20 – 2.4: Local Church and

Correct the mistake in all of these statements about local churches and families.

- 1) Churches play an important part in family celebrations and events such as baptisms and funerals.

.....
.....

- 2) Classes for children which run parallel to church services are often called Sunday schools.

.....
.....

- 3) The Church is particularly concerned with caring for children because it is often difficult.

.....
.....

- 4) Churches have family worship so that parents can keep an eye on their children.

.....
.....

- 5) National Christian activity groups include Rainbows, Pixies, Cubs and Scouts.

.....
.....

- 6) The Church wants to help raise children because St Paul said that parents should bring up their children.

.....
.....

- 7) Churches may run family counselling and parenting classes for parents who are struggling with money.

.....
.....

- 8) The Church community may be helpful to families because they can help them if they are doing wrong.

.....
.....

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Activity 21 – 2.5: Types of Contraception and Family Planning

1. Cut out and place the types of contraception / family planning along the line, depending on your opinion.
2. Next to each, give at least **one** reason why a Christian might approve, **or** disapprove, of each type of contraception / family planning (Catholic and Protestant) if relevant. Give at least **one** opinion an atheist might have.
3. **Extension:** Apply situation ethics to contraception.

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Most Acceptable



Hormonal contraception,
e.g. the pill



Sterilisation



Barrier
contraception

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Activity 22 – 2.6: Divorce and Remarriage

Fill in the table about divorce and remarriage.

Advantages to divorce and remarriage / Reasons divorce and remarriage are acceptable			
Christian	Non-religious	Christian and Non-religious	

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Activity 23 – 2.7: Gender Roles and Gender Equality

Have a look at this example answer to an exam-style question. Annotate well, and make at least three major or five minor alterations or additions of marks which this answer could expect. You could highlight or underline the text where you would make an alteration and list the alterations under so that you can learn from others' ideas about how to create a good exam

Do you think different Christian attitudes to gender roles are justified?

Some Christians think that women should be subordinate because St Paul said that husbands should be in charge of their wives, and Genesis 2 says that woman was created after man. They also think that the woman's role is in the home and as a mother, because this is traditional and because Mary is an important figure within Christianity and is important because she was Jesus' mother.

Some Christians do not think that men and women should have different roles in the family because St Paul said that gender does not matter to Jesus/God and because Jesus was kind to women.

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Activity 24 – 2.8: Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

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- Pair up with someone with Battleships 2.
- Hide a 1-square, a 2-square and a 3-square battleship on your grid.
- Take it in turns to ask the other person a question from your sheet. Suggested answers are given below the questions for checking. Questions can be used multiple times (there are multiple answers).
- If someone answers a question well, they can try to sink one of the opponent's battleships by guessing a square, e.g. C4. Guessing one square of a battleship sinks it. Whoever sinks the most ships in the time given wins!

1. a) What is gender prejudice?

Where someone thinks that someone cannot or should not do something because of their gender; a biased belief about someone due to their gender.

b) Why might Christians be opposed to gender prejudice and discrimination?

Galatians 3:28 says that gender does not matter to God; Jesus loves everyone regardless of gender; because Jesus taught to love one's neighbour (Matthew 7:12); prejudice and discrimination are not loving.

c) Give examples of Christians opposing gender prejudice and discrimination.

Many churches allow women to be ordained; many Christians have equal roles in the home; many Christians have campaigned for equality.

Your grid

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Guess

	A	B
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

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Activity 24 – 2.8: Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

- Pair up with someone with Battleships 1.
- Hide a 1-square, a 2-square and a 3-square battleship on your grid.
- Take it in turns to ask the other person a question from your sheet. Suggested answers are given below the questions for checking. Questions can be used multiple times (there are multiple answers).
- If someone answers a question well, they can try to sink one of the opponent's battleships by guessing a square, e.g. C4. Guessing one square of a battleship sinks it. Whoever sinks the most ships in the time given wins!

2. a) What is gender discrimination?

Where someone forces someone to do, or will not allow them to do, something because of their gender; acting differently towards someone because of their gender.

b) Why might Christians be prejudiced because of, or discriminate against, women?

The doctrine of the Fall and its basis in Genesis portrays women as weak and a temptress; Jesus and the 12 disciples were men, so some Christians believe in male-only ordination; St Paul taught that women should be subject to men in Ephesians 5...

c) Why do some Christians not accept female ordination?

There is teaching in the Bible that women should not speak in church; there is teaching in the Bible in 1 Timothy 2 that women should be subject to men; the Catholic Church believes in male apostolic succession; Jesus and the apostles were male and the priest represents Jesus at the Eucharist...

Your grid

Grid

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

	A	B
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

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Activity 25 – 2 Summary: Revision Questions

Choose at least six questions, and write the answers to these questions on page 3. Write your answers in full sentences. If you have spare time, answer more questions.

- * Easier Question
- ** More Challenging Question

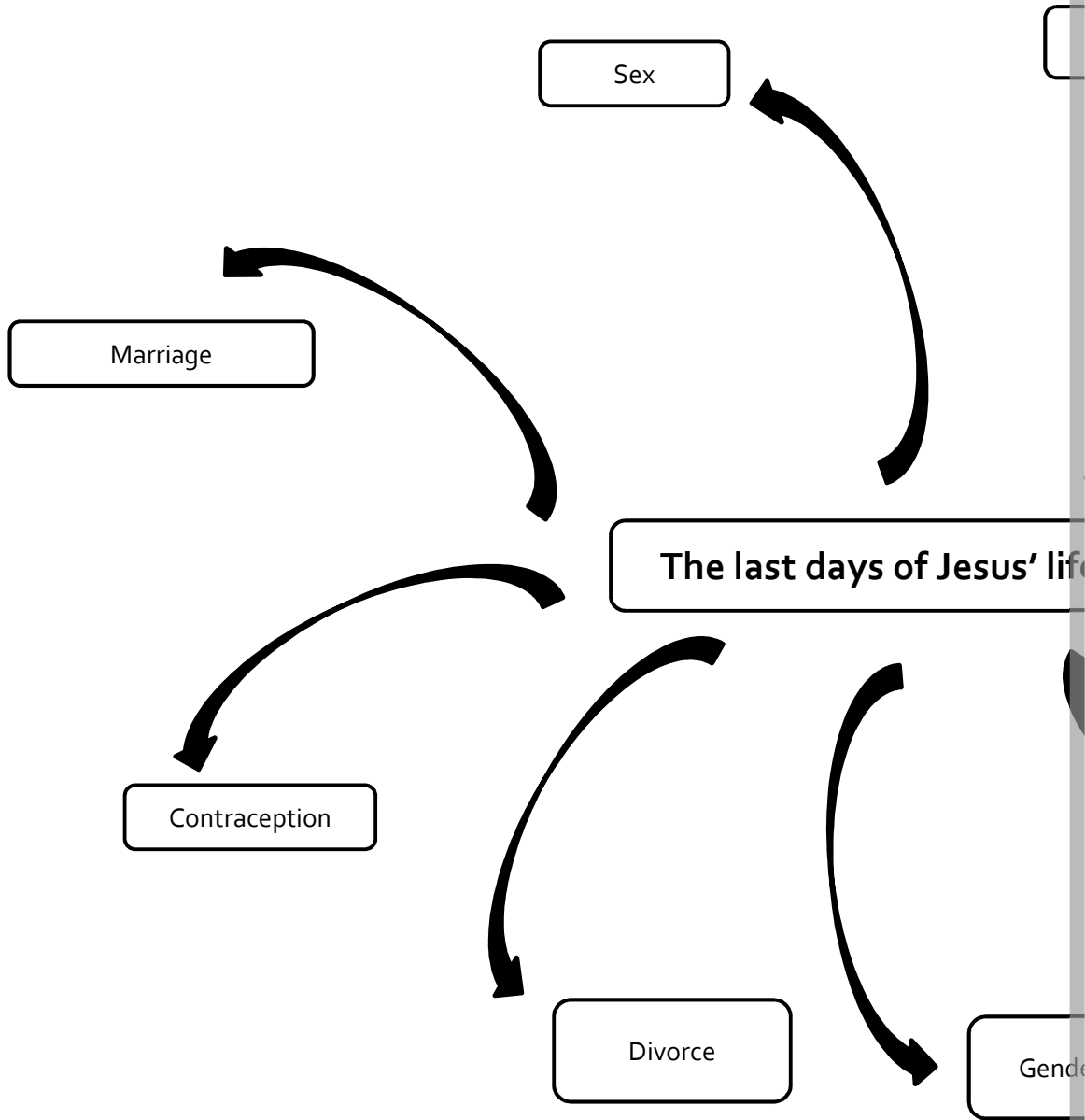
If you are unsure about this topic, answer the easier questions, or if you have good knowledge then challenge yourself by choosing some harder questions.

- 1) * Give two purposes of marriage for Christians.
- 2) * Why might Christians think cohabitation is a bad idea?
- 3) ** What types of sexual relationships might Christians disapprove of?
- 4) ** Why is the family important to Christians?
- 5) * What is a nuclear family?
- 6) * Give one way in which the local church supports families.
- 7) * Why might Christians allow contraception?
- 8) * Why might Christians not allow contraception?
- 9) ** Give one advantage and one disadvantage to divorce for Christians.
- 10) ** Why might Christians think that women and men have different responsibilities?
- 11) ** Why might Christians disapprove of gender prejudice and discrimination?

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Answers

Activity 1 Answers – 1.1: Revelation, Old Testament

Other responses for the 'false' statements may be possible

1)	True	
2)	False	Some animals Noah had to take seven pairs of into the arc.
3)	True	
4)	False	The sign of God's covenant with Noah was the rainbow.
5)	True	
6)	False	God told Abraham that his descendants would be slaves, and ex would receive the land God promised them.
7)	True	
8)	False	Abraham and all the male members of his household and his ma circumcised (have their foreskins removed) as a sign of the cover
9)	True	
10)	False	God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac as a test of his comm doing so at the last moment.
11)	True	
12)	False	Many Christians believe that God revealed himself and/or his wi Testament after Moses.
13)	False	Many Christians believe that the revelations of God in the Old Tes destroyed sinful people, but saved good people such as Noah and compassionate, because he promised to never wipe out life on Ear because he gave Abraham a son through his infertile wife, Sarah. showing God's commitment to humankind by interacting with the
14)	True	

Activity 2 Answers – 1.1: Revelation, New Testament

Possible responses:

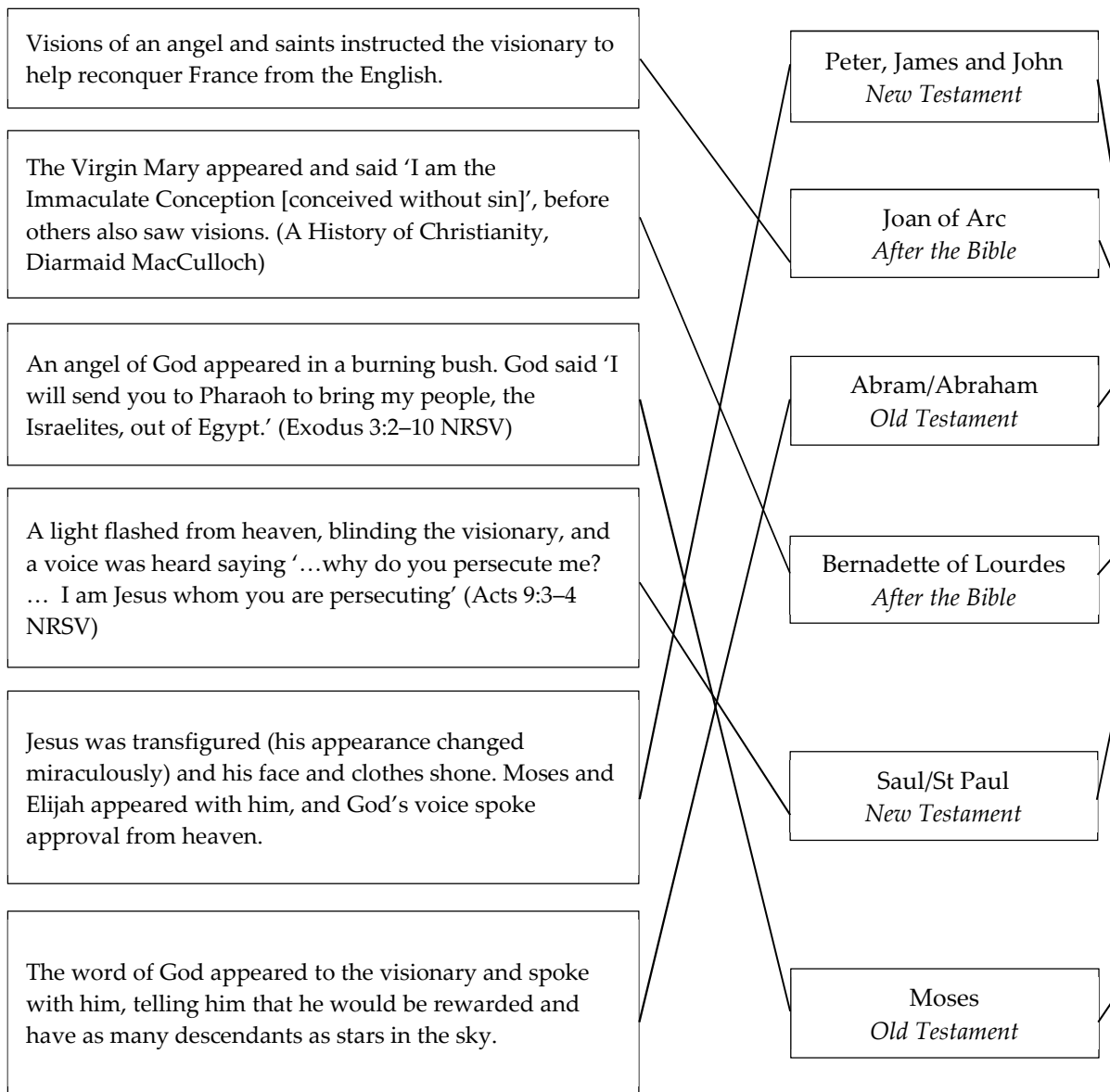
- 1) Many Christians believe that God, revealed in Jesus, had come to fulfil the given to Moses, and show that Christians could come to God by following I symbolised by his transforming the water (Old covenant) into wine (New c
- 2) Christians believe that God revealed his love by sending Jesus as a sacrifice
- 3) Christians believe that not only did God reveal himself through prophets, s himself personally through Jesus to many people, so he does not want to ke
- 4) Many Christians believe that God is revealed in the persons of Father, Son a expressed through three persons – the Trinity.
- 5) God's nature is compassionate and loving, because Jesus cared about peopl
- 6) Many Christians believe that different aspects of God's nature are expresse and that Jesus reveals the Word of God, which helped to create the world, a
- 7) The Transfiguration shows that God is majestic, and the person of Jesus in c full glory of God.
- 8) Many Christians believe that all revelations of God have always been God's through Jesus fulfils his plan, parts of which he had revealed in the past. Th rather than changeable.
- 9) Christians believe that God has power over death and is loving in wanting
- 10) Christians believe that not only did God reveal himself through prophets, s himself personally through Jesus to many people, so he does not want to ke
- 11) Many Christians believe that God wants to reveal himself to everyone, and is n
- 12) Many Christians believe that God is not selective and wants to reveal himse

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Activity 3 Answers – 1.2: Visions



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Activity 4 Answers – 1.3: Miracles

Other reasons for the miracles' importance are possible

Example of Miracle	Old Testament / New Testament / After the Bible	Importance
The parting of the Red Sea	Old Testament, Exodus	The Israelites took this miracle as a sign of God's power and wanted to protect themselves from the Egyptians. It also gave them comfort that God loves them and that he will help them in difficult situations too.
Jesus walking on water	New Testament, Gospels	This miracle can be taken to show that Jesus has control over the elements. Christians believe that God is powerful.
Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead	New Testament, John's Gospel	This miracle reassures Christians that Jesus can bring people back from death and can grant Christians eternal life.
Jesus healing the blind man; people possessed with demons; the official's son; and more	New Testament, Gospels	These miracles not only show Jesus' power but also help people feel that they show God's love and power.
Elijah calls down fire from heaven on an offering drenched in water	Old Testament, 1 Kings	The context of this miracle is that the people of Israel were turning away from God and following the prophets of a false god. This miracle was taken to show that only the true God can do such things and that he wants people to follow him.
None of the people of Oberammergau died from the plague after praying to God and making him a promise	After the Bible	This has been taken as a sign of God's power if they ask for help and serve him. The people of Oberammergau perform a play every 10 years to show gratitude, and to show that they are still alive.
Three men surviving being thrown into a fiery furnace	Old Testament, Daniel	Three men were thrown into a fiery furnace for not worshiping idols. This miracle was taken to show that God will protect those who are faithful to him.
Gideon's Fleece	Old Testament, Judges	Here, God made a fleece wet with dew and the fleece dry, and vice versa, to show Gideon that he was chosen to lead the people into battle. This miracle was taken to show that God will give them signs and that they should follow him to do.
A statue of the Virgin Mary weeps blood	After the Bible	Some people in the vicinity of Lourdes believe that God has given them a sign. They believe that miracles are not important, but that God will perform such a miracle if they need it.

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Activity 5 Answers – 1.4: Religious Experiences

Possible answers:

Why are visions and miracles important to Christians?

- They provide evidence of God's existence
- They can help Christians to understand God's will (e.g. St. Peter's vision of animals)
- They can show that God cares about humanity (e.g. healing miracles)
- They can show that God is active in the world

What might Christians believe about God?

- That God is all-powerful
- That God can perform miracles
- That he is present in the world (e.g. the Red Sea)
- That God is good

Why might visions and miracles confirm belief in God / lead to belief in God?

- People who have not experienced God before may feel that visions and miracles confirm God's existence
- A vision may seem to confirm what someone already believes, e.g. a vision of the Virgin Mary as proof for Christianity
- People may have felt they needed to see miracles to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.' John 4:48 NRS
- People may feel that God is the only explanation for extraordinary happenings

Why are other types of religious experience important to Christians?

- Prayer is important to Christians as they believe it allows them to communicate with God
- Experiences where God's awesomeness is felt in the physical world (numinous experiences) are important to Christians if they feel they are connecting to God through his creation

What attitudes might Christians have towards religious experiences?

- Christians may believe that religious experiences are an important part of their faith
- Christians may believe that religious experiences are not necessary to believe in God, as even the Bible contains many experiences of God
- Christians may believe that religious experiences are not necessary to believe in God, as even the Bible contains many experiences of God

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Activity 6 Answers – 1.4: Religious Experience, Arguments against

Beginning	Ending
Some people feel that there is a lack of evidence, not enough to prove that religious experiences take place...	... because many visions are only experienced by a few people, and many miracles are temporary (e.g. the Sea), or could not be verified afterwards (e.g. after Jesus was reported as having turned water into wine, it is impossible to prove that the wine had been there).
Some people may not trust those who report religious experiences...	... because it is always more rational to be sceptical or mistaken about a vision or miracle than to believe it. People are mistaken very often, and the laws of nature are constant and exclude the possibility of miracles. One knows if the people who wrote the accounts were mistaken.
There are those who believe that religious experiences such as visions could be hallucinations...	... partly because science can now explain certain experiences, such as due to mental illness. It is suggested that many visionaries of the past were suffering from other conditions, which caused them to have the experiences which they attributed to God.
Some religious experiences could also be due to the use of stimulants...	... because people who take some drugs can have religious experiences. Religious experiences could be a form of drug-induced experience done where people have been given certain drugs. Religious experiences, and devices have been used to increase brain activity, and claim to be able to produce religious experiences.
Some people believe that people experience religious experiences as a form of wish fulfilment...	... and that people have religious experiences because they want them, or because they are experiencing a need to be soothed by an apparent religious experience.
Supposed religious experiences which most people believe are not real can be cited to argue that no religious experiences are genuine...	... for example, serial killers have claimed to have religious experiences. Psychologists have claimed they are not genuine. If one accepts all religious experiences, then how can one be genuine? If one has not experienced a religious experience, then it comes down to a choice of whether or not to believe it is arbitrary.
Some people argue that many reported miracles today are actually evidence against a God rather than for one...	... because many reported miracles seem to be coincidences. A statue weep blood can seem a silly allegation. Some people claim to have been healed, but it is as to why God heals some people, and not others.

Extension: How might Christians respond to these criticisms that religious experiences (and miracles) are not proof for God's existence and can be explained by science?

- Religious experiences are subjective – they might not persuade someone who does not have them, but they are proof for someone who has.
- Just because some religious experiences may not be genuine does not disprove the existence of God.
- Science may help to explain the way God communicates with humans, e.g. through dreams, but it does not find it easier to experience God.

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Activity 7 Answers – 1.5: Prayer

Possible answers:

Types of prayer:

Adoration – Christians pray prayers of adoration to praise God. This is important because it lets God know how much he means to them, and because the Bible instructs people to praise God.

Confession – Christians pray prayers of confession to tell God what they have done wrong and ask for forgiveness. This is important because Christianity teaches that if Christians confess their sins, God will forgive them, and Christians want to accept Jesus' sacrifice to free them from sin.

Intercession – Christians pray prayers of intercession to pray for others. These are important because Christians may care about other people because they want them to be happy, healthy, and successful, e.g. politicians.

Thanksgiving – Christians thank God because they are grateful for what he has done for them, for Jesus, and for personal things in their lives. These prayers are important because they express gratitude for what God has done for them.

Examples of prayers:

The Lord's Prayer – Christians pray this to ask God for help and guidance, and it is important because it is the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray and Christ wants them to pray.

Rosary – Some Christians, especially Catholics, pray prayers with a Rosary necklace. The Rosary includes prayers of confession and prayers affirming faith. The Rosary is important because the familiarity of the prayers allows Christians to really meditate on their relationship with God.

Psalms – The book of Psalms contains many prayers, which can be prayed if a person is in a similar situation. These are important because they are included in the Bible and can give Christians a better understanding of their relationships with God.

Extension:

If someone thinks their prayer has been answered...

- This may lead someone to belief if they see it as evidence for the existence of God.
- This may reinforce someone's existing faith as they see it as a sign that God is listening to them.

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Activity 8 Answers – 1.6: Design Argument

The most important things are to have the design argument correct, and have the two illustrations together; to have the points in favour of the design argument and the points against the design argument together. (However, it would be acceptable not being well-designed immediately after the paragraph on fine-tuning.)

A version of the Design Argument for the existence of God

The world resembles a designed object.

Humans design many objects.

Therefore, the world is similar to objects designed by humans.

Where there is a similar outcome, there is often a similar cause.

Human designers are the cause of most designed objects.

Because the world is similar to objects designed by humans (from the paragraph above), it is likely that the world was also designed by humans.

The world has a similar designer... which is God.

One example used to illustrate this argument was given by a philosopher called William Paley, who said that if you saw a watch and a rock, you would know that the rock was not designed.

This is because the watch contains organised parts and had a reason, or purpose, for being there. The rock, on the other hand, does not. Paley said that the world also contains organised parts and has a purpose (to have been designed). This is called an argument from analogy because it is an argument from the similarity between the world and a watch).

Another illustration was given by the scientist Isaac Newton, who argued that the world and humans had been designed, because they show that humans are unique and have a natural reason for humans to have different thumbprints.

Christians believe they were designed by God, and, therefore, that he is powerful and creative because he designed an interesting world. They also believe he is loving and wants the world for them to enjoy. Romans 1:20 (NRSV) says that 'Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through what he has made. So people have no excuse. For God has shown his wrath against them by what he has made in the world. They are without excuse. Christians may feel that they can come closer to God through his creation and it is through his creation that they can know him better.

One point in favour of the design argument is that there are many things which exist on earth. For example, the elements oxygen and carbon are essential for human life. They interact in a particular organised way for everything to be as it is, and it can seem unlikely that this is just to be chance. This is an example of a fine-tuning argument, because the world appears to be finely tuned for life.

Another point in favour is that humans may like to believe that they have a purpose. If there is a God, this gives them more purpose than if they were the product of chance.

One point against the design argument is that the world does not actually seem to be designed. There are many parts of life which do not seem optimal.

Also, while the world may be similar to a designed object, it is not identical. The world is not identical. It could have come into being through some process which did not involve a designer.

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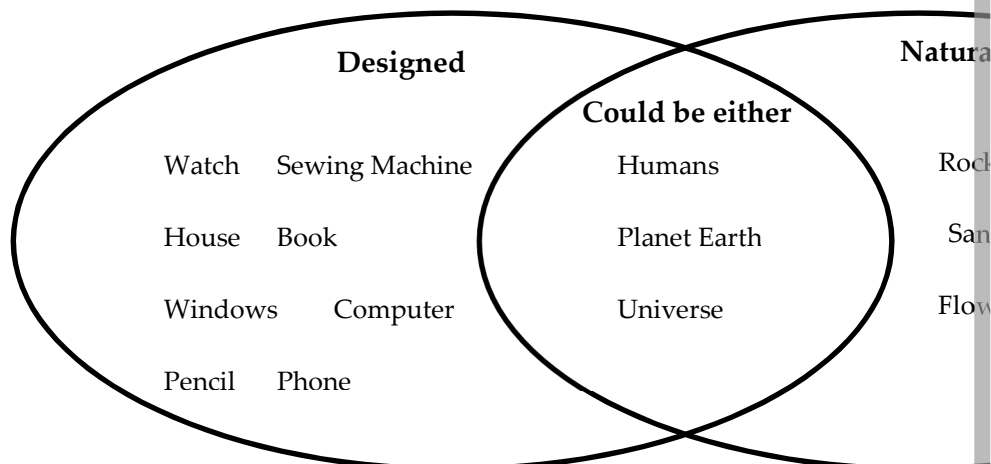
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Activity 9 Answers – 1.6: Design Argument

Compare answers.

It would also be acceptable to place flowers and apples in the middle, as they could be designed by farmers, using cross-pollination.



What the objects have in common: (Possible responses)

- Natural objects all occur in the world.
- Designed objects have been manufactured, and usually contain several components for a purpose.
- Humans, etc. are one entity, but they have many parts. It would make sense to say they are designed. However, they could have evolved naturally.

If someone takes the view that the world was designed by God, then natural objects are designed, but in everyday terms, they are 'natural'.

Extension: Possible responses:

1. Suffering – The world contains suffering, and so it does not seem to be well designed by a loving God. The design argument suggests that the world appears to be designed, then it is either badly designed, or not designed at all. Things which are designed for a purpose, but if God designed the world for humans to live in, allowing volcanoes and viruses seems to counter that purpose.
2. Evolution – Christians might argue that animals appear to be designed well, but they camouflage themselves, and humans are intelligent. However, the theory of evolution explains why these things occur; in short, because genes which make animals adapt to their offspring. This may remove the need for a designer, and show that animals are 'designed' as they are now.

Activity 10 Answers – 1.7: Cosmological Argument

Everything	has	a
Without	a	first cause there would be no other
There	are	causes and effects at
Therefore	there	is a first cause which

Strength/Evidence:

- Everything does have a cause; there is nothing in the world that does not have a cause. God makes sense as an answer to this.
- It would not make sense for there to be infinite effects and causes going back forever.

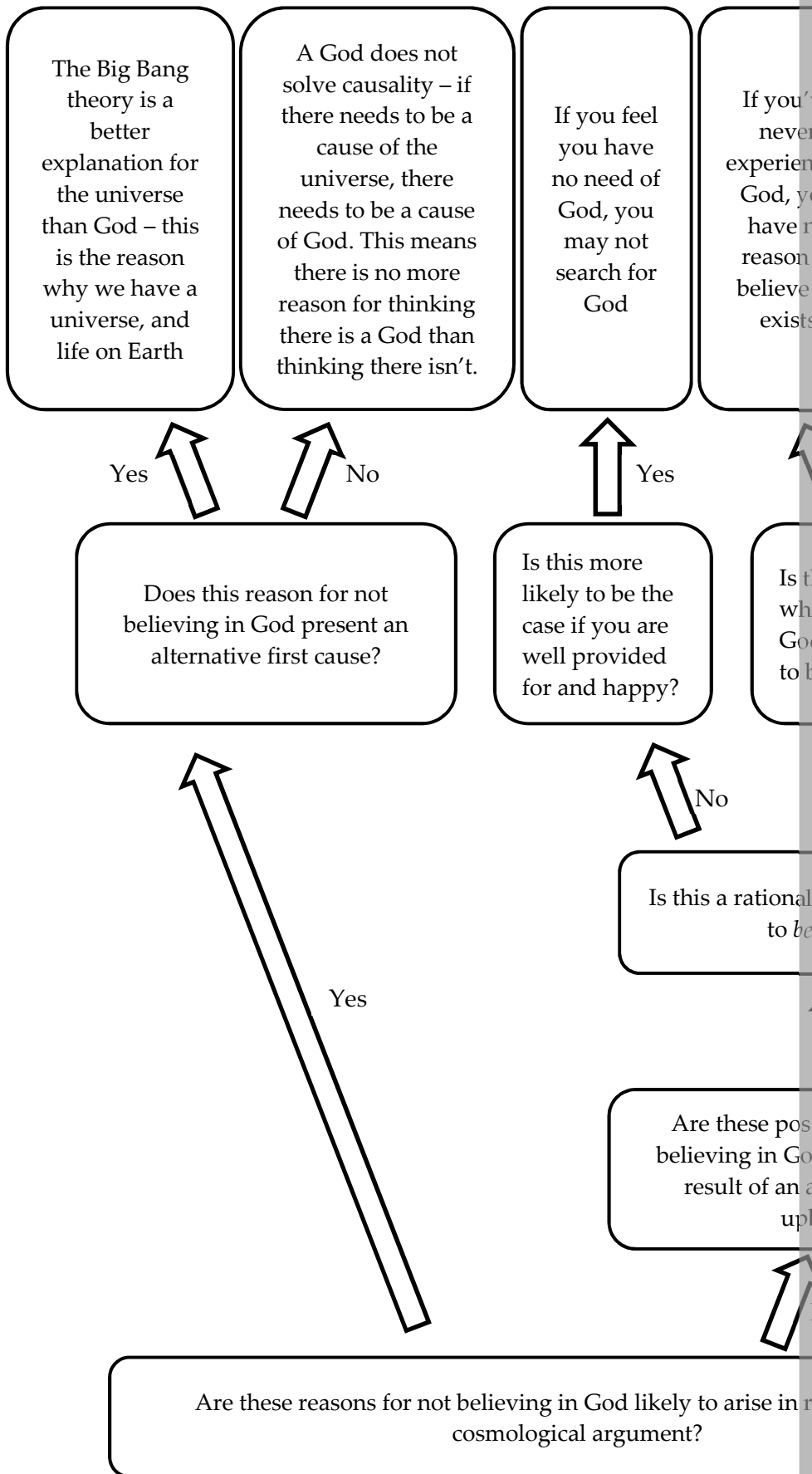
Extension: What does this show, or not show, about the nature of God?

- It does not show much about the character of God.
- It would imply that God is different to everything else, and does not need a cause.

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Activity 11 Answers – 1.6, 1.7, 1.8: Reasons for not Believing in God



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Activity 12 Answers – 1.8: Religious Upbringing

These are possible reasons why these features which can be part of a Christian upbringing and/or lead to belief in God.

- 1) Children who are read, or read themselves, the Bible may become interested and if they believe the stories, they may also believe in God, and what the Bible says.
- 2) If children attend Sunday school and learn about God, they may believe in God because of what is taught about him, and because they believe those who teach them.
- 3) Children often adopt the beliefs of their parents, and if their parents believe in God for a good reason to believe in God (consciously or subconsciously).
- 4) If, through their family or church, children meet people who claim to have faith in God, this may lead them to a belief in God because they are likely to trust the experiences of people they know.
- 5) If children celebrate Christian celebrations this may bring religion to life for them and provide a basis for belief in God, because God may be associated with enjoyable celebrations.
- 6) If children are taught to pray, this may be a particularly strong reason for belief in God. If their prayers are answered, this will make them feel that there is a God answering them.
- 7) If children attend a Christian school, this may reinforce belief in God due to the emphasis placed by the school on teaching Christianity and celebrating Christianity.
- 8) If children attend church services, this may lead to belief in God because they hear about God, and they will be surrounded by people who do believe in God, which may encourage them to believe in God.
- 9) If children are told to believe in God by their parents, belief in God may be part of the beliefs they form about the world through what their parents tell them, such as the Bible.
- 10) If children think that their parents are good people, and put this down to their faith in God, this may enforce a belief in God.
- 11) If children attend Christian activities, these may affirm their belief in the same way as they also encourage them to believe in God because they are surrounded by other people who believe in God.
- 12) Being baptised may encourage children to believe in God, because they know that they are in God, or that their parents are aiming to raise them as Christians.
- 13) Being taught to follow rules, such as the Ten Commandments, may form a basis for belief in God. If children understand to follow the rules and think they are a good idea, they may think that such rules is worth believing in, and they may respect authority figures, such as their parents, which may lead them to believe in God.

Extension: (Possible Answers)

- Children may find the Bible contradictory.
- Children may feel that religious people they know are hypocritical / not loving.
- Children may feel that their prayers have not been answered.
- Children may feel that Christian rules/expectations are unreasonable.

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13 Answers – 1 Summary: Revision Questions

Possible answers:

- 1) According to the Bible, God made covenants with Noah, Abraham and Mo
- 2) Christians believe that Jesus revealed that God was loving, because he sent world, and that he is powerful, because he could raise Jesus from the dead, because Jesus spoke to and healed gentiles as well as Jews...
- 3) Because St Paul had a vision and heard Jesus' voice, many people were con his letters helped guide Christians.
- 4) In the Old Testament, Moses parts the Red Sea, and in the New Testament,
- 5) People might not think that religious experiences are genuine because they untrustworthy, or wish-fulfilment.
- 6) Christians may pray to ask God for guidance.
- 7) Things which are designed have a designer.
The world appears to be designed.
Therefore, it must have a designer: God.
- 8) Everything has a cause.
Without a first cause there would be no other causes and no effects.
There are causes and effects at the moment.
Therefore, there is a first cause which people call God.
- 9) • The world may not be designed, it could have evolved to work effectively
- 10) • The first cause of the universe could be the Big Bang
- 11) Going to Sunday school, being taught to pray and celebrating Christian fes
Christian upbringing.

Activity 14 Answers – 2.1: Marriage, Christian Views

- d) Financial security is the odd one out. This is because marriage is not a Christianity, but about love and family. The purposes of marriage have the Church.
- e) Marriage being the only way that someone can leave their parents is the people left their parents to get married, but not that they could not live to. The other reasons why marriage is important have been taught in t
- Quote a) is the odd one out, because it comes from the Old Testament, as p Moses. The next two are attributed to Jesus, and the last two to St Paul.

Bible Quote References:

'When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be ch shall be free at home one year, to be happy with the wife whom he has ma

'But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one sep

'... when [people] rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in heaven.'

'... he who marries his fiancée does well; and he who refrains from marria

'Wives, be subject to your husbands... Husbands, love your wives...'

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Activity 15 Answers – 2.1, 2.2: Marriage and Sex, Views

Sex should only take place within marriage, but contraception is acceptable. Marriage is important for a stable society.	A
Sex is fine within a committed and loving relationship, so cohabitation is fine if the couple is committed. Contraception is also fine.	B
Sex should take place within marriage, but sex between cohabiting couples and couples in a committed relationship should be accepted as a step towards marriage. Contraception is fine.	D
Sex should only take place within marriage, and no artificial contraception should be used, as sexual acts should be open to the possibility of new life. Marriage has sanctity because it is a sacrament. Marriage is important for stable society.	E
Traditional Catholic View	E
Traditional Protestant View	A
Modern Christian View	B
Modern Secular View	C

Extension:

Possible Answers:

- The Tolerant Protestant view is held because tolerant Protestants think that married couples because this is taught in the Bible, but the most important is the Golden Rule.
- Many non-religious people do not think sex with multiple partners is a problem. They have no concept of 'sinful' sex, if the sex is consensual. Because they are not trying to impose their decision of those involved, rather than due to God's decision as to whom they may not see marriage as important because cohabiting couples can also provide a stable society.

Activity 16 Answers – 2.2: Sexual Relationships

- b Adultery
- b Remaining unmarried and celibate
- e Cohabitation is a bad idea because it means someone might go off their habits before they are married to them
- c They should have the amount of sex they want, unless they decide to tell their purpose of prayer
- a Wives should have sex as much as their husbands want, and have no say
- a They think they will never be forgiven by God

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Activity 17 Answers – 2.2: Homosexuality

Possible discussion points:

- 1)
 - Homosexual activity is prohibited in the Old Testament (e.g. Leviticus 18:22)
 - Sexual immorality is prohibited in the New Testament letters, and some include homosexuality as including homosexual sex. Anal sex and male prostitution are also mentioned (1 Corinthians 6:9)
 - Being homosexual is not seen as a sin, if people do not act on their inclination
 - Sex is for procreation, and homosexual couples cannot procreate naturally
 - Homosexual couples will undermine the role of the traditional family in society
- 2)
 - Some see homosexuality as a sin in itself (see above paragraph)
 - Evangelical Christians may believe that if people pray to God, he will help them overcome their homosexual inclination
- 3)
 - Some Protestants (and other Christians) may feel that being loving is the most important thing in the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)
 - Some Christians may feel that everyone sins against God, and homosexuality should not be stigmatised, as Jesus taught not to judge others ("Or how can you say to a brother, 'Remove this speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3-5))
 - Some Christians may think that the commandments against homosexuality are not as important as the adulterous woman in John 8)
 - Some Christians may think that the commandments against homosexuality are not as important as the requirements to love God and neighbour – Christ fulfilled the law – Christians should follow his requirements and many of the other laws
 - Jesus did not say anything against homosexuality
- 4)
 - Even if homosexuality should be allowed, marriage is between a man and a woman in the Bible, including Jesus in Mark 10
 - If churches allow homosexual marriage, this may mean that vicars/pastors may be forced to perform homosexual marriages or face lawsuits
- 5)
 - If homosexuality is not seen as a sin against God, there is no reason to discriminate against homosexuals
 - Homosexuals can have consensual sex, the same as anyone else, and this is not a sin

Activity 18 Answers – 2.3: Family

Possible answers:

- 1)
 - Families are important in the Old Testament, e.g. Adam and Eve had a family, Jacob and his family, Israel and his family, etc.
 - Egypt as a slave, Solomon's wives drew him away from God... There are many examples of family in the Bible
 - Jesus' parents are very important in the birth stories at the start of Matthew and Luke
 - Jesus travels with his family to Jerusalem for the Passover in Luke 2
 - Christians are described as 'God's family' in several New Testament letters
 - Ephesians 6:1-4 talks about family – children obeying parents and parents loving children
- 2)
 - To procreate, to have children, because God told people to be fruitful in Genesis 1:28
 - To provide a safe and caring environment in which to raise children (see above paragraph)
 - To bring children up in the Christian faith
 - To care for the members of the family, to love and support each other
- 3)
 - So that children are safe and well looked-after
 - Because the family provides a basis for a stable society
 - Because it provides a loving environment for all
 - Because the human family reflects God's family
 - Because Jesus took part in family life, so he approved of the family
- 4)
 - It provides all-age worship so that families can worship God and live out their faith together
 - It provides Sunday schools to help teach children about God and the Bible
 - It provides activities for children to do with their families
 - It provides baptism or thanksgiving services to celebrate the birth of children
 - It provides support at marriages and funerals and other family occasions
 - It may provide parenting courses or family counselling
 - Members of the Church may help families with childcare responsibilities

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Activity 19 Answers – 2.3: Types of Family

Am I likely to contain two parents who are the biological parents of all the children?

Yes Nuclear, Extended

No Single parent (not two); Same-sex (impossible to procreate without medical help) (each parent may have their own children, but at least one has had a child)

Am I likely to contain two parents?

Yes Nuclear, Same-sex, Extended, Blended

No Single parent

As they are, is it possible for the parents in the family to conceive naturally?

Yes Nuclear, Extended, Blended

No Single parent (needs a partner/fertility treatment); Same-sex

Does this type of family involve extra relatives than parents and children?

Yes Extended (grandparents, etc.)

No Nuclear, Single parent, Same-sex, Blended

Does this family contain children who are not / are highly unlikely to be related to the parents?

Yes Same-sex, Blended (parents have children from previous relationships)

No Nuclear, Extended, Single parent

Am I possibly formed due to bereavement?

Yes Single parent (may have lost partner); Extended (a family member may have lost a partner, e.g. a grandparent or aunt/uncle), Blended (a bereaved partner)

No Nuclear, Same-sex

Possible answers:

Nuclear

- Christians approve of a family with two parents and children
- Christians may disapprove if the couple are unmarried

Single-parent

- Christians may approve if one partner raises their child(ren) alone after a bereavement
- Christians may disapprove if someone is a single parent due to being promiscuous or having a relationship when they conceived, or if they have left their spouse

Same-sex

- Christians may approve if a same-sex couple have given an unwanted child
- Christians may disapprove of a same-sex couple in general, or if they are not good models of both genders in their life

Extended

- Christians may approve of families being close to all relatives and helping each other
- Christians may not approve of family members scrounging off their relatives

Blended

- Christians may approve that bereaved or separated partners have formed a new family and raised their children
- Christians may disapprove of divorced partners remarrying

Activity 20 Answers – 2.4: Local Church and Family

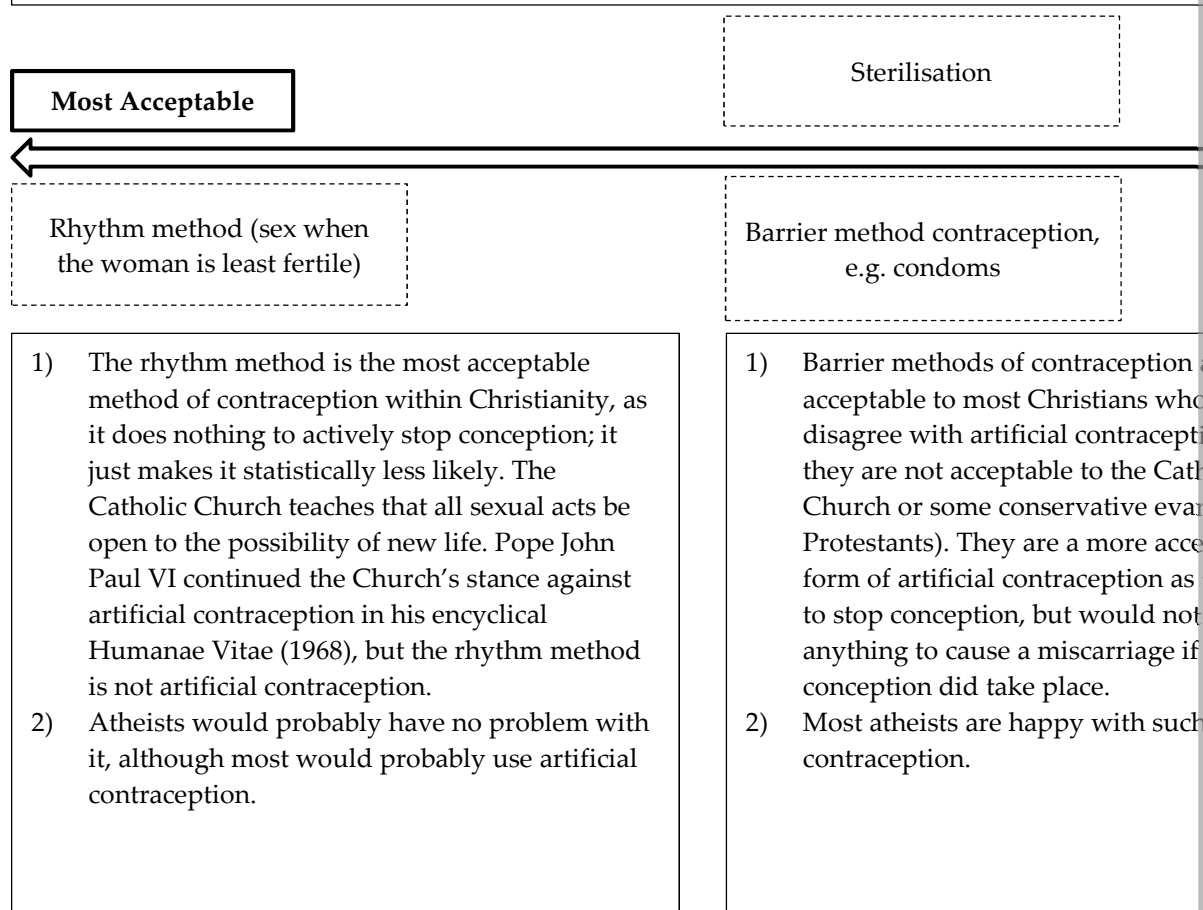
- 1) Churches play an important part in family celebrations and events such as baptisms, marriages, funerals, and Christmas.
- 2) Classes for children which run parallel to church services are often called Sunday schools.
- 3) The Church is particularly concerned with caring for children because **Jesus said to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs** (NRSV)
- 4) Churches have family worship so that parents can **worship with their children and support their faith**.
- 5) National Christian activity groups include Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts.
- 6) The Church wants to help raise children because **St Paul reminded children to obey their parents, so the Church wants to help the family so that the parents will be able to raise their children well**. **St Paul also warned children, so the Church wants to help the family so that the parents will be able to raise their children well**. (See Ephesians 6:1–4 for references.)
- 7) Churches may run family counselling and parenting classes for parents because **the Church wants families to be happy and functional so that they can have good relationships with each other and God**.
- 8) The Church community may be helpful to families because **they can give parents support with raising their children**.

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Activity 21 Answers – 2.5: Types of Contraception and Family Planning, Acceptability

- 1) The Catholic Church forbids sterilisation, as an artificial means of contraception. However, if a necessary medical procedure produces sterilisation as a side effect (ovaries being removed due to ovarian cancer, for example), this is acceptable. Many Protestant Christians feel that sterilisation is acceptable, especially after having a family, but others may disagree if they think there should always be a possibility that conception could take place in the future. Many Protestant Christians agree with forms of contraception because they believe God created sex for married couples to enjoy and because they think they should be able to plan the size of their family. There is nothing in the Bible which forbids contraception.
- 2) Most atheists will not have a problem with sterilisation, so long as it is thought through.



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Activity 22 Answers – 2.6: Divorce and Remarriage

Example answers:

Advantages to divorce and remarriage / Reasons divorce and remarriage are acceptable			
Christian	Non-religious	Christian and Non-religious	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is forgiving and will forgive mistakes and failings, such as marrying the wrong person and divorce. • Situation ethics promotes whatever is loving, and allowing divorce and remarriage is often loving. • While churches such as the Church of England expect people to be serious about marriage, they will accept divorce and allow remarriage. • Jesus seemed to accept divorce and remarriage in the case of unfaithfulness (e.g. Matthew 19:9). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be able to be with whom they want to be with, and should never feel tied to anyone, even if they made a commitment. • People should be free to remarry when they want to, there is no reason not to make new commitments. • Utilitarianism promotes the greatest good for the greatest number. If divorce and remarriage will make people happy, this is good. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It may be better to be divorced than to live in a loveless relationship. • It may be better to be divorced than to live with an unfaithful or abusive partner. • Remarrying can be beneficial, as it allows people another chance at a relationship. • Remarrying can be beneficial because it provides stability for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus taught that if they were divorced, they were not to marry again. Matthew 19:9. • The Catholic Church teaches against divorce, but some Catholics believe in the annulment of a marriage in some circumstances. This was forced on some Catholics in the 1960s. • Certain divorcees are allowed to remarry in the Church of England. • If marriage is a sacrament, then divorce is a sin against God, as it is a violation of God's law. • If marriage is a sacrament, then divorce is a sin against God, as it is a violation of God's law.

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Activity 23 Answers – 2.7: Gender Roles and Gender Equality in the Pa

Possible annotation, and possible alterations and additions to improve the answer

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Good reference to Mary and her role as a real-life example

Good to give different attitudes, rather than just one point of view

Do you think different Christian attitudes to gender the family are justified?

¹ Some Christians think that women should be **subord** men because St Paul said that husbands should be in c their wives ², and **Genesis 2** says that woman was crea man ^{3,4}. They also think that the woman's role is in the and as a mother, because this is traditional and becaus an important figure within Christianity and she is imp because she was Jesus' mother. ^{5,6}

Some Christians do not think that men and women sh have different roles in the family because St. Paul said gender does not matter to Jesus/God **7** and because Jes kind to women. ^{8,9,10}

- 1) The answer could refer to the term 'gender role' more explicitly in the answer by saying 'Some Christians think that men and women have different that women should be subordinate to men...'
- 2) The answer could add that St Paul said husbands should be in charge of the quote it.
- 3) The answer could explain why woman being created after man was important a companion for man.
- 4) It might be worth saying that in Genesis 1 there is no mention of man being
- 5) The answer could add that Mary is particularly important in the Catholic a Catholics may see Mary as a role model for Christian women, which would
- 6) It is very important that the answer says whether the roles are justified! The Christian attitude seems justified because Christians follow the teachings o Bible assign men and women different roles in the family.'
- 7) It would be good to clarify what St Paul said, with a reference to Galatians and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus' (NRSV), and use this to sa difference to God, then gender should not affect someone's role in the fami
- 8) It would be good to give an example of Jesus interacting with women in a f Jesus supporting a woman called Mary listening to him rather than helping tasks in Luke 10:38–42.
- 9) Again, it is important to justify that these Christian attitudes to gender role
- 10) There is no conclusion, or personal opinion, which is asked for in the quest marks – a good end to the question would be to say 'Christian attitudes wh Christian attitudes which do not see the need for gender roles in the family the Bible, but I do not think that the Christian attitude that there should be justified overall. This is because Christianity is a religion of love where Jes everyone, and so men and women should not have to play different roles. should conform to gender roles in the Gospels. I think that the religious att outdated.'

Getting the word 'equal' or 'equality' into the answer would be good for showing relevant terminology, as would using any other key words such as 'inferior'.

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Activity 25 Answers – 2 Summary: Revision Questions

- 1) Christians may marry to procreate and in order to enjoy lawful sex.
- 2) Christians might think that cohabitation is a bad idea because couples may easily without necessarily thinking about the future of their relationship.
- 3) Christians might disapprove of promiscuous relationships, because the Bible and monogamous commitment. Christians might disapprove of adultery because it may hurt the spouse of the unfaithful person, and because faithful disapprove of homosexual relationships, if they think they are sinful because and cannot naturally produce children.
- 4) The family is important to Christians because it is a source of love and stability.
- 5) A nuclear family is a family made up of two parents and their children (who are not married).
- 6) The local church supports families by providing family worship so that families can worship together.
- 7) Christians may allow contraception because they believe that sex is given for pleasure and that people should be able to plan the size of their family.
- 8) Christians might not allow contraception if they believe that sex was given for procreation and that sex should be open to the possibility of conception.
- 9) One advantage to divorce for Christians is that it might free them from an unhappy marriage. One disadvantage to divorce for Christians is that Jesus taught against divorce.
- 10) Christians might think that women and men have different roles in the family. Wives should submit to their husbands in Ephesians 5.
- 11) Christians might disapprove of gender prejudice and discrimination because all are created in the image of God in Galatians 3.

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