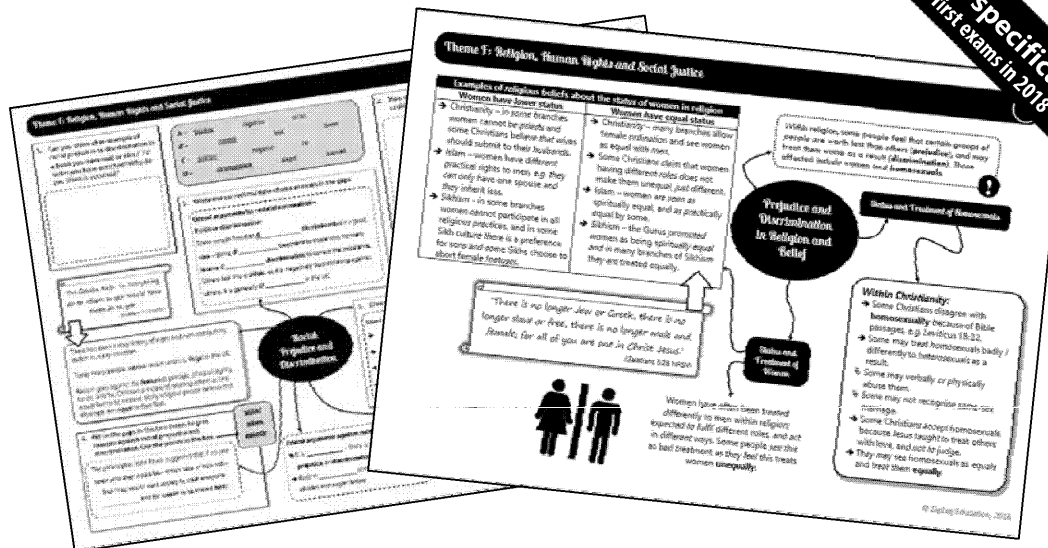


**2016 specification
first exams in 2018**



GCSE AQA A Topic on a Page for Component 2

Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

H Dixon

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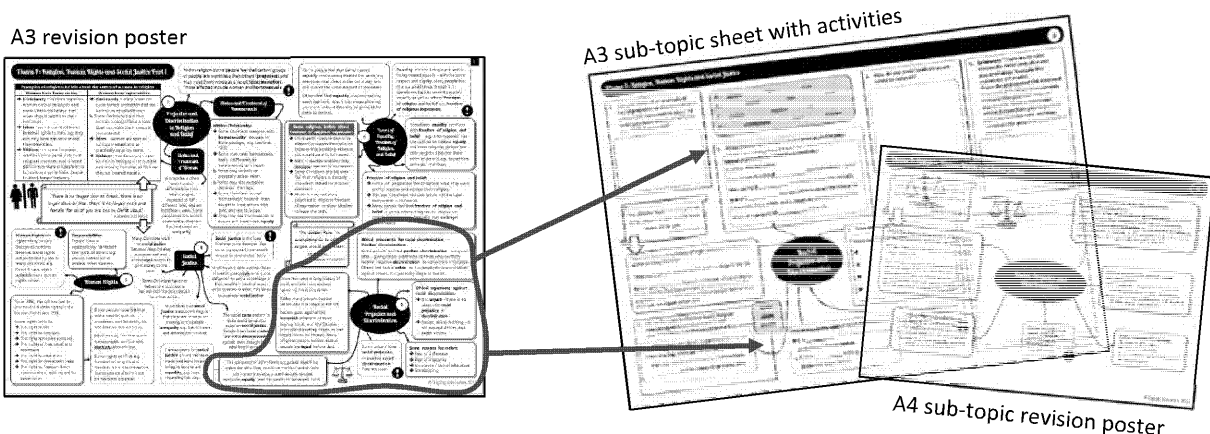
Teacher's Introduction

This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA A specification for Component 2: Thematic Studies; Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies – Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

The sections are as follows:

1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Two A3 revision posters**, between them covering the eleven sub-topics. These are labelled: **1** and **2**. These posters are intended as a summary of all Theme F material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Ten A3 sub-topic sheets with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one sub-topic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A4 sub-topic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles: **F10**. Exam-style questions in the activity sheets are marked by a pencil icon: .
4. **Ten A4 sub-topic revision posters.** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 sub-topic activity sheets. As revision posters, these can be used as a summary for each area, and have enough space for teacher or student annotation. These are labelled with numbers inside black circles: **F10**.
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A4 sub-topic revision posters.

All posters can be displayed on classroom walls, or given to students to learn in lessons or at home.



As a whole, the resource can be used to help students to revise at the end of a topic/subtopic, or before a test or an exam. Different styles and layouts are used to make the information interesting, and to help the students engage with the information in a productive way.

Note: this theme covers several controversial and potentially upsetting issues such as different types of discrimination and people-trafficking. It is advised that teachers review these sections before sharing them with their classes, and warn students about any content which may distress or offend.

H Dixon, October 2016

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* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice Part 1

Examples of religious beliefs about the status of women in religion

Women have lower status

- **Christianity** – in some branches women cannot be priests and some Christians believe that wives should submit to their husbands.
- **Islam** – women have different practical rights to men, e.g. they can only have one spouse and they inherit less.
- **Sikhism** – in some branches women cannot participate in all religious practices, and in Sikh culture there is a preference for sons and some Sikhs believe in the right to abort female foetuses.

Women have equal status

- **Christianity** – many branches allow female ordination and see women as equal with men.
 - Some Christians claim that women having different roles does not make them unequal, just different.
- **Islam** – women are seen as spiritually equal, and in some branches they are treated equally.
- **Sikhism** – in some branches women are promoted to the same level as men, and in many branches of Sikhism they are treated equally.

Within religion, some people feel that certain groups of people are worth less than others (**prejudice**), and may treat them worse as a result (**discrimination**). Those affected include women and **homosexuals**.

1 Prejudice and Discrimination in Religion

Status and Treatment of Homosexuals

Within Christianity:

- Some Christians disagree with **homosexuality** because of Bible passages, e.g. Leviticus 18:22.
- Some may treat homosexuals badly / differently to heterosexuals as a result.
 - Some may verbally or physically abuse them.
 - Some may not recognise same-sex marriage.
- Some Christians accept homosexuals because Jesus taught to treat others with love, and not to judge.
- They may see homosexuals as equals and treat them **equally**.

Status and Treatment of Women

Women have often been treated differently to men within religion; expected to fulfil different roles, and act in different ways. Some people see this as bad treatment as they feel this treats women **unequally**.

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'
(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)

Human Rights are rights many people believe all humans deserve. Some rights are protected by law in many countries, e.g. Great Britain, which upholds many human rights in law.

Responsibilities:

People have a responsibility to respect the rights of others, e.g. people cannot kill or enslave other humans.

Human Rights

Many Christians work for **social justice** because Jesus treated everyone well and encouraged people to give money to the poor.

Some Christians have not helped the poor; some believe that the poor are responsible for their own problems.

Social Justice

Social justice is the idea that everyone deserves the same rights, and that wealth should be distributed fairly.

Muslims have a certain level of obligation to pay a percentage of their wealth (a religious obligation called **zakah**) – much of which goes to those in need. This helps to promote **social justice**.

Some think that **social justice** is too confusing, or that there are reasons for treating some people **unequally**, e.g. the rich earn and deserve their money.

Campaigners for **social justice** ended the slave trade and have helped bring in laws to aid **equality**, e.g. laws regarding fair pay.

The social **caste** system in India could be said to suppress **social justice**. People from lower **castes** are often **discriminated** against, even though this is now illegal in India.

The philosopher John Rawls suggests that if one knew who they would be – whether rich or poor – then they would want social justice for everyone **equally**, and for wealth to be distributed fairly.

Some people believe that certain groups of people, such as terrorists, do not deserve human rights.

Muslims may feel that some human rights conflict with **shari'ah** (Muslim) law.

Some rights conflict, e.g. freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination (some people discriminate on religious grounds).

Since 2000, the UK has had to protect the human rights in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Some rights include:

- The right to life
- The right to freedom
- The right not to be tortured
- The rights of free belief and expression
- The right to education
- The right to democratic vote
- The right to freedom from discrimination, with regard to these rights

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice Part 2

Wealth is money and possessions which people own.

Wealth

'Money is good':

- ✓ It buys things.
- ✓ It may be considered a reward from God.

'Wealth is not that important' /
'Wealth is bad':

- ✗ It is not as important as friends and family.
- ✗ It may be seen as a distraction

The Right Attitude to Wealth

Many people feel that it is alright in more than one way. Some think wealth is not a distraction from more important things.

Some positions on use of wealth:

- Rich people should be encouraged to keep their **wealth** as this motivates people to succeed and build an economy.
- **Utilitarians** may feel that wealth should be given to help those in need as this will produce more pleasure than the well-off keeping it all.

The Uses of Wealth

Examples of religious beliefs about the use of wealth

Christianity

- Some Christians believe wealth is a reward and blessing from God, so can be used as the owner desires.
- Others think wealth should be used to help others because it is taught 'to give more to the poor'.
- Some think wealth should all be given away as it distracts from God.

Islam

- Muslims who own a certain amount must pay zakah (a religious obligation to pay a percentage of their wealth), much of which goes to the poor.
- Muslims are encouraged to give extra charity as well.
- Islam does not suggest that all wealth should be given to the poor – it can be seen as a blessing from Allah.

'... go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.'

Exploitation of the poor

happens in many ways. Issues include **fair pay**, **excessive interest on loans**, and **people trafficking**.

Excessive Interest on Loans

Poor people and countries get into more debt because they must pay interest (extra money) on top of what they borrow.

Many people disagree with charging vulnerable people interest – campaigns such as Make Poverty History have encouraged rich governments to cancel the debt of poor countries.

The Bible teaches against charging interest to poor people and encourages the cancelling of debt. The Qur'an forbids charging interest in general.

Fair Pay

People can choose to buy Fairtrade products; ensuring workers get a better wage.

Not everyone is paid fairly.

The minimum wage may be too low.

Raising the minimum wage may just cause inflation.

Not buying from a company which pays low wages may just mean that its workers lose their jobs and have no income.

Some businesses cannot afford to pay higher wages.

People Trafficking

Some people are stolen and moved voluntarily for sex or labour.

Poor people may be more likely to be trafficked if authorities are less worried about finding them, and they may even go with traffickers willingly, hoping to make money.

The Bible teaches against kidnapping people for slavery.

Responsibilities of those living in Poverty

Some people feel poor people could do more to help themselves – they could:

- get a better education
- learn more skills
- manage their money better

Many people feel poor people should take opportunities given to them, but many also accept that not all poor people have the opportunity to improve their situation.

Some people living in poverty may not be able to improve their situation:

- There are too many people in poverty.
- There are too many people who are poor or pay too much for basic needs.
- They are in a war or conflict zone.
- They are from a disadvantaged background.

'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you will do it to me.'

(Matthew 25:31-46)

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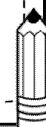
1. Give another example of discrimination against women within religion not given below.

2. Give two reasons why religious people may see women as equal to men. (2 marks)

3. Write the correct multiple choice answer in the box.



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Examples of religious beliefs about the status of women in religion	
Women have lower status	Women have equal status
<p>→ Christianity – in some branches women cannot be A _____ and some Christians believe that wives should submit to their husbands.</p> <p>→ Islam – women have different practical rights to men, e.g. they can only have one B _____ and they inherit less.</p> <p>→ Sikhism – in some branches women cannot participate in all religious practices, and in some Sikh culture there is a preference for C _____ and some Sikhs choose to abort female foetuses.</p>	<p>→ Christianity – many branches allow female ordination and see women as D _____ with men.</p> <p>→ Some Christians claim that women having different E _____ does not make them unequal, just different.</p> <p>→ Islam – women are seen as spiritually equal, and as practically equal by some.</p> <p>→ Sikhism – the F _____ promoted women as being spiritually equal and in many branches of Sikhism they are treated equally.</p>

Prejudice and Discrimination in Religion and Belief

Status of Women

Status and Treatment of Women

5. Fill in the gaps.

Within Christianity

- Some Christians believe that women are not equal to men because of their roles.
- Some may see this as bad treatment as they feel this treats women **unequally**.
- Some Christians believe that women are equal to men and not to men.
- They may see this as bad treatment as they feel this treats women **unequally**.

- A** – mothers, priests, wives
B – job, child, spouse
C – politicians, priests, sons
D – equal, incomparable
E – careers, roles
F – guru, messiahs

Women have often been treated differently to men in religion, expected to fulfil different roles, and act in different ways. Some people see this as bad treatment as they feel this treats women **unequally**.

4. Fill in the quote.

(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)



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1. Give two different interpretations of equality.
(Hint: Does equality involve people being treated in the same way?)

1.
2.

2. Put the correct religion into the spaces:

Christianity/Christians
Islam/Muslims

Some religious beliefs exclude freedom of religious expression

- _____ – people should be allowed to express their religion because this is treating others as you would want to be treated.
- _____ – teaches to allow many religions freedom of expression.
- Some _____ and _____ feel their religion is the only one which should be allowed expression.
- _____ may not allow polytheistic religions freedom of expression, or allow _____ to leave the faith.

3. Find the Bible quote and write it in the space below.

The Golden Rule: _____

(Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

4. Give an example of religious practice or expression (not given here) which some people feel should not be allowed.

Issues of Equality, Freedom of Religion and Belief

Freedom of religion and belief:

- In the UK, people are free to believe what they want and to practise and express their religion.
- This was not always the case and is not the case everywhere in the world.
- Many people feel that **freedom of religion and belief** is good; others disagree for religious or practical reasons, e.g. face veils may endanger public safety.

Equality and/or the same people though people freedom

Sometimes freedom e.g. a treated people allow same

5. Do you think it is important and why?

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1. What are human rights? How are they protected?

Human Rights are...

2. Give a responsibility which comes with human rights.

Responsibilities:

People have a responsibility to...

3. Fill in another three rights.

Since 2000, the UK has had to protect the human rights in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Some rights include:

- The right to _____
- The right to freedom
- The right not to be tortured
- The rights of free belief and expression
- The right to _____
- The right to _____
- The right to freedom from discrimination, with regard to these rights

Some people have felt that some people, such as murderers and terrorists, do not deserve human rights.

Muslims may feel that some human rights conflict with **shari'ah** (Muslim) law.

Some rights conflict e.g. freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination (some people discriminate on religious grounds).

5. Find out about another some human rights we denied. Make some notes

4. Do you think it's a good idea for the human rights to be protected by law? Are there any you disagree with? Why not?

Human Rights

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1. Find another Bible quote that encourages social justice and write it here: (Hint: Try Jeremiah 22.)

Reference:

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'

(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)

2. Give two reasons why religious people support social justice. (2 marks)

3. Explain the concept of social justice

Social justice is...

4. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box below.

poor
discriminated
Jesus
zakah

Many Christians work for **social justice** because _____ treated everyone well and encouraged people to give money to the poor.

Some Christians have not helped the poor; some believe that the _____ should help themselves.

5. Give two reasons why religious people support social justice.

1.
2.

Social Justice

Muslims who have a certain level of wealth give _____ religious obligation to _____ (percentage of their wealth) – _____ of which goes to those in need. This helps to promote **social justice**.

Campaigners for **social justice** ended the slave trade and have helped bring in laws to aid **equality**, e.g. laws regarding fair pay.

The social **caste** system in India could be said to suppress **social justice**. People from lower **castes** are often _____ against _____ even though this is now illegal in India.

The philosopher John Rawls suggested that if no one knew who they would be – which or how rich – then they would want society to treat everyone **equally**, and for wealth to be shared fairly.

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1. Can you think of an example of racial prejudice or discrimination in a book you have read or film / TV series you have watched? Why do you think it occurred?

A – positive negative racial
B – normal bad better
C – positive negative no
D – commonplace integrated allowed

2. How could...



The Golden Rule: 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...'
(Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

3. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

Ethical arguments for racial discrimination –

Positive discrimination:

Some people feel that A _____ discrimination is a good idea – giving B _____ treatment to those who normally receive C _____ discrimination to correct the imbalance.

Others feel this is **unfair**, as it is negatively discriminating against others. It is generally D _____ in the UK.

There has been a long history of legal, and even compulsory, racism in many countries.

Today many people oppose racism and it is illegal in the UK.

Racism goes against the **humanist** principle of equal dignity for all, and the Christian principle of treating others as one would like to be treated. Many religious people believe that all people are **equal** before God.

4. Fill in the gaps in the two boxes to give reasons against racial prejudice and discrimination. Use the words in the box.

The philosopher John Rawls suggested that if no one knew who they would be – which race or how rich – then they would want society to treat everyone _____, and for wealth to be shared fairly.

un's
solves
equally

Racial
Prejudice and
Discrimination

5. Give some reasons for...

Some reasons for racism

→
→
→
→

Ethical arguments against racial discrimination:

→ It is _____ – there is no reason for **racial prejudice** or **discrimination**.
→ Racism _____ nothing – it will expand divides and anger victims.

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! **Wealth** is money and possessions which people own.

1. Write A, B, or C next to each additional statement to match it to the correct column of the table.



May donate money to monks to earn good (or other) good actions).



Does not suggest that all wealth should be given away (e.g. from Allah).

Others think wealth should all be given away.

2. Give reasons why wealth may be considered good and why it may be considered unimportant/bad.

'Money is good':

✓
✓



'Wealth is unimportant/bad':

*
*

4. What do you think about wealth? Do you think it is a good idea to have a lot of wealth or not? Why?



Wealth

The Right Attitude to Wealth

Many people feel that **wealth** is alright in moderation if it does not distract people from more important things.

The Uses of Wealth

Examples of religious beliefs

Christianity

- Some Christians believe wealth is a reward and blessing from God, so can be used as the owner desires.
- Others think wealth should be used to help others because Jesus taught to give money to the poor.

→ **A**

Islam

- Muslims believe that certain actions are rewarded by Allah. They pay zakat (religious tax) to pay a part of their wealth to the poor.
- Muslims are encouraged to give extra charity.

→ **B**

Two positions on use of wealth:

- Rich people should be allowed to keep their **wealth** as this motivates people to succeed and boosts the economy.
- **Utilitarians** may feel that excess wealth should be given to help those in need as this will produce more pleasure than the well-off keeping it all.

5. Why do you think the teaching about wealth within Christianity is important?

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Many people feel that there are **responsibilities of wealth**, though others do not.



Responsibilities of Wealth

1. Give some responsibilities which some people think come with wealth.

→

→

→

→

6. **Extension:** Why (Hint: Research)

3. Fill in the gaps. Use the words in the box below.



The _____ John Rawls has suggested that no one _____ **wealth**. This suggests that people with wealth may have a _____ to help others – as they do not deserve to be _____ when others have _____.

nothing **responsibility**
deserves
well-off **philosopher**

2. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

Ways the rich may tackle poverty and its causes:

→ Provide education and **A**

→ Pay workers a **B** _____ wage

→ Help poor people to find jobs and start

C _____

→ **D** _____ in less economic developed countries

A – finance healthcare
B – high
C – businesses relationships
D – invest

4. Give two reasons why those with wealth should help to tackle poverty and its causes. (2 marks)



5. If you were rich and wanted to help people in need, how would you do it?

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1. Write i, ii, or iii next to each way of exploiting the poor to match them to the correct part of the diagram. Also write each way in the correct box on the diagram.

- ☐ People Trafficking
- ☐ Fair Pay
- ☐ Excessive Interest on Loans

Exploitation of the poor happens in many ways. Issues include **fair pay**; **excessive interest on loans**; and **people trafficking**.

2. Fill in the gaps in section B! Use the words in the box below.

ii

people and countries get into more _____ because they must pay _____ (extra money) on top of what they borrow.

Many people interest _____ History _____

The _____ charging interest and encourage debt. The _____ charging interest

Exploitation of the poor

i

The minimum wage may be too low.

Not everyone is paid fairly.

There may be no minimum wage.

Raising the minimum wage may just cause **A** _____.

Some businesses cannot afford to pay **C** _____ wages.

People can choose to buy **B** _____ products; ensuring workers get a better wage.

Not buying from a company which pays low wages may just mean that its workers lose their jobs and have no income.

iii

Some people are stolen and moved involuntarily for sex or labour.

Poor people to be **D** _____ authorities are finding them go with traffickers hoping to

The Bible teaches against **E** _____ people slavery.

3. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps in sections A and C.

- A** – poverty _____
- B** – Fairtrade _____ European _____ basic
- C** – lower _____ higher _____ maximum
- D** – valued _____ paid _____ trafficked
- E** – keeping _____ kidnapping _____ freeing

4. Why might people in the UK face excessive interest on loans?

5. Do you think the church could do more to help with the exploitation of the poor? Why not?

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1. Which things could people in poverty do to help themselves?

Some people feel poor people could do more to help themselves – they could:

-
-
-
-



Some people feel that living in poverty have responsibility to help overcome the difficult face. Some feel poverty is their fault, others do not.

Responsibilities of those living in Poverty

2. Many people want poor people to help themselves, but what do poor people need in order to do this?

3. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box to the right.

Some reasons people living in poverty may not be able to improve

- There may be no _____
- There may not be jobs which pay a _____ wage, or pay enough
- They may have nothing, if they lost everything in _____ or _____
- They may be suffering from _____ health for various reasons

war

4. Give two examples of real-world events which have made people poor. (2 marks)

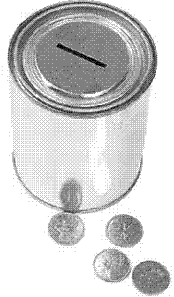


5. What might people do / what might they do to help themselves out of the difficult life situations you gave in Q4?

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1. Give three issues related to giving money to the poor.

Issues related to giving money to the poor:

-
-
-

3. Give at least three things that charities often help those in need with.

Charities often help those in need with things like food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. They may provide practical help with things like finding a job or a place to live.

-
-
-

2. Fill in the Bible verses that relate to giving money to the poor.



Charity

Many religious and spiritual people give money to charity. **charity**: giving to others to help them in need. Charitable organisations help others on their journey.

Christianity teaches to give **charity** – Jesus taught to give money to the poor and for everyone to love their neighbour (and helping others practically through charity puts this into practice).

He also taught that those who gave others charity did this for God, and would go to heaven when judged.

Jesus also taught that giving a little when you had little was better than giving when you were rich.

(Matthew 25:35–36, 40 NRSV)

4. In which parable does Jesus teach about those who help others in need? Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

- a) The two sons
- b) The sheep and the goats
- c) The tenants in the vineyard
- d) The talents



5. Find another Bible verse that relates to charity. (Hint: Try teaching Matthew 5.)

Reference:

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Examples of religious beliefs about the status of women in religion

Women have lower status	Women have equal status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Christianity – in some branches women cannot be priests and some Christians believe that wives should submit to their husbands → Islam – women have different practical rights to men, they can only have one spouse and they inherit half of what men inherit → Sikhism – in some branches women cannot participate in all religious practices, and in some Sikh culture there is a preference for sons and some Sikhs choose to abort female foetuses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Christianity – many branches allow female ordination and see women as equal to men. → Some Christians claim that women having different roles does not make them unequal, just different. → Islam – women are seen as spiritually equal, and as practically equal by some. → Sikhism – the Gurus promoted women as being spiritually equal and in many branches of Sikhism they are treated equally.

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'
(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)



Women have often been treated differently to men within religions. They are often expected to fulfil different roles and are treated in different ways. Some people think that women receive as bad treatment as they feel that men receive, but women are often treated **unequally**.

With people treated differently, it can affect their lives.

Prejudice and Discrimination in Religion and Beliefs

Status and Treatment of Women

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Some people feel that being treated **equally** means being treated the same, e.g. everyone must dress in the same way and will receive the same amount of assistance.

Others feel that equality involves treating everyone fairly, which involves allowing people to dress differently, by giving them extra assistance.



Equality means being treated with respect and this is a goal that is hard to reach as others have different needs and freedoms.

Issues of Equality, Freedom of Religion and Belief

Some religious beliefs about freedom of religious expression

- Christianity – people should be allowed to express their religion because this is treating others as you would want to be treated.
- Islam – teaches to allow many religions freedom of expression.
- Some Christians and Muslims feel their religion is the only one which should be allowed expression.
- Muslims may not allow polytheistic religions freedom of expression, or allow Muslims to leave the faith.



The Golden Rule: 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...'

(Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

Freedom of Religion and Belief

- In many countries, people are allowed to practice their religion freely.
- The right to freedom of religion and belief is a fundamental human right.
- Many people believe that their religion is the only true one and that others are wrong.

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

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Human Rights

Human Rights are rights many people believe all humans deserve. Some rights are protected by law in many countries, e.g. Germany, which forbids many human rights abuses.



Responsibilities
People have a responsibility to protect the rights of others and not to kill or enslave others.

Since 2000, the UK has had to protect the human rights in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Some rights include:

- The right to life
- The right to freedom of expression
- The right to a fair trial
- The right to free belief and expression
- The right to education
- The right to democratic vote
- The right to freedom from discrimination, with regard to these rights



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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'
(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)



Many Christians work for **social justice** because Jesus treated everyone well and encouraged people to give money to the poor.

Some Christians have not helped the poor; some believe that the poor should help themselves.

Campaigners for **social justice** ended the slave trade and helped bring in laws regarding fair pay.



The philosopher John Rawls suggested that if no one knew who they would be – which race or how rich – then they would want society to treat everyone **equally**, and for wealth to be shared fairly.

Social
everyo
rights,
be dist

Social Justice

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justi
that
tr
uneq
and

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

The Golden Rule: 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...'

(Matthew 7:12 NIV)



There has been a long history of legal, and even compulsory, racism in many countries.

Today many people oppose racism and it is illegal in the UK.

Racism goes against the **humanist** principle of equal dignity for all, and the Christian principle of treating others as one would like to be treated. Many religious people believe that all people are **equal** before God.

Racial Prejudice and Discrimination

The philosopher John Rawls suggested that if no one knew who they would be, with no idea of how rich or poor they would be, they would want society to be shared **equally**, and for everyone to be shared fairly.

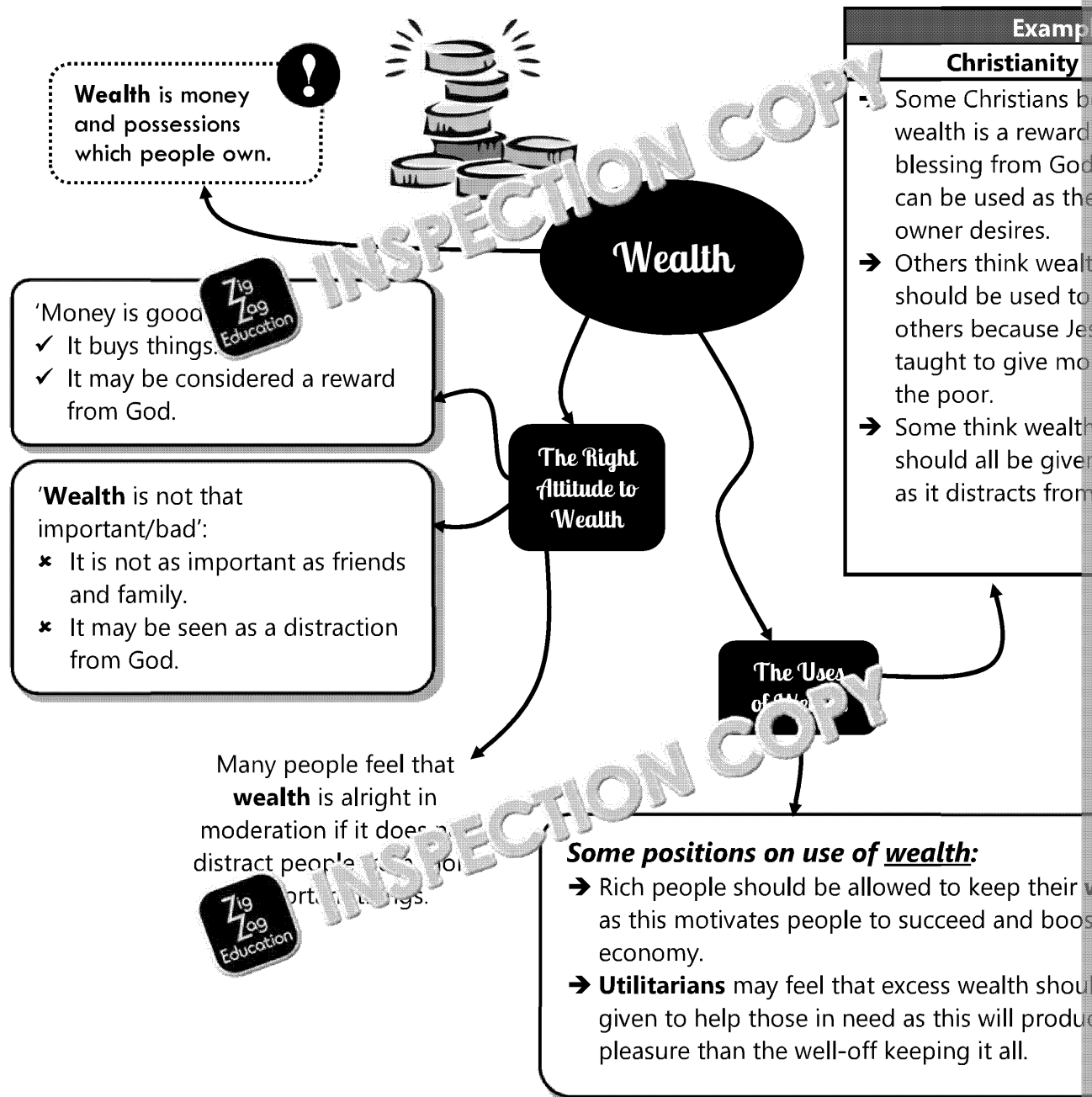
Some people have **racial prejudice**, or practise **racial discrimination** – they are racist.

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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice



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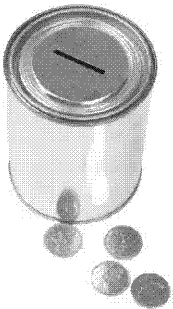
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Many people feel that there are **responsibilities of wealth**, though others do not.



Responsibilities of Wealth



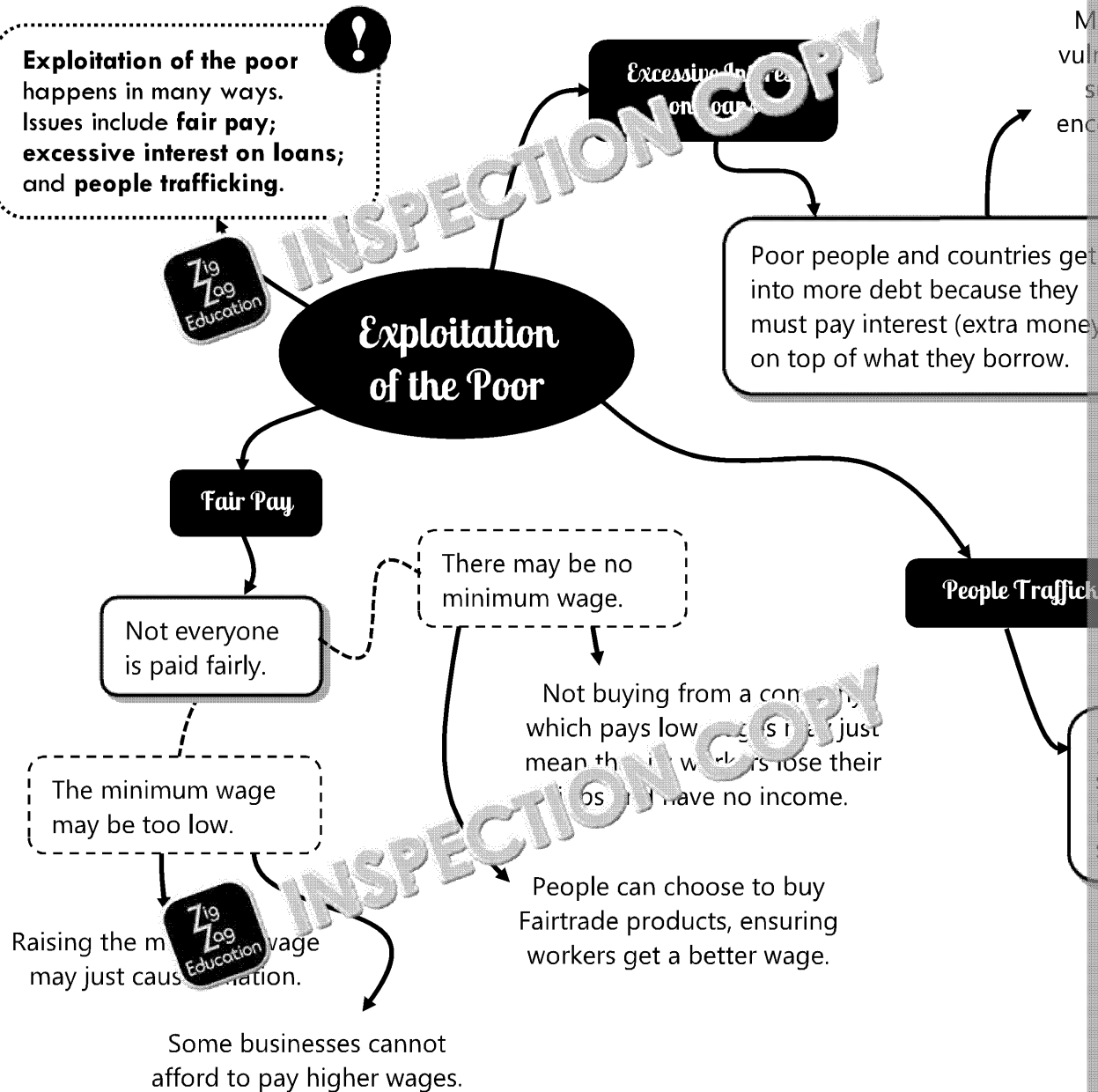
The philosopher John Rawls has suggested that no one should have **wealth**. This suggests that people with wealth have a **responsibility** to help others – as they do not deserve to be well-off when others have nothing.



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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice



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Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Some people feel poor people could do more to help themselves – they could:

- get a job
- get more education
- work more
- manage their money better



**Responsibilities of
those living in Poverty**

Many people feel poor people should take opportunities given to them, but many also accept that not all poor people have the opportunity to improve their situation.



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'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

(Matthew 25:35–36, 40 NRSV)



Charity

Christianity teaches to give **charity** – Jesus taught to give money to the poor and for everyone to love their neighbour (and helping others practically through charity puts this into practice).

He also taught that those who give others charity did this for God and will go to heaven with much joy.

Jesus also taught that giving a little when you had little was better than giving when you were rich.

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Theme F Topic on a Page Activities A

Exam-style questions here are not exactly the same as they would be in an exam. Some focus primarily, or solely, on Christianity, whereas the exam would allow any religions to be used, and might expect additional religious coverage in some questions. Some also focus on views which are not specifically religious, whereas the exam would ask about religious views. This is to allow students to practise the ideas taught in this resource.

1. Prejudice and Discrimination in Religion and Belief

- 1) For example: Within Islam, a woman's testimony is often interpreted to be worth less than a man's. In some cases, evidence is given less weight in court.
- 2) For example:
 - The Bible teaches that God created both man and woman in his image, so man and woman are equally important.
 - Jesus taught that we should treat others as you would like to be treated, and treated wrongly. If we believe that women should be treated worse than men, this can be taken to imply that we are not following Jesus' teaching.Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2).
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) See summary sheet
- 5) See summary sheet
- 6) For example:

'Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", and not see the plank in your own eye? (Matthew 7:4 NRSV) – Jesus taught not to judge others when no one is perfect.
- 7) For example: I think that prejudice and discrimination in religion against women is wrong. I think everyone should be treated equally, and that there is no good reason to discriminate. However, I understand that if you believe your religion to teach that treating women differently is right, then it may be hard to understand that this is not accepted by everyone.

2. Issues of Equality, Freedom of Religion and Belief

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: Some people feel that male circumcision (practised by Jews and Muslims) is wrong because it is an irreversible surgical procedure carried out without the consent of the person.
- 5) For example: I think equality is more important than freedom of religion and belief. Everyone should be treated the same, and people who have a religion do not deserve extra special treatment. Freedom of religion and belief are more important than equality – I don't think this extends to everyone, but if you have a belief which is important to you, others should not have to respect your belief, just so that everyone is the same.
- 6) For example:
 - One argument for and one against, with justification
 - Detailed arguments for and against, with justification
 - OR Detailed linked, justified arguments for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Allowing face veils may endanger public safety, because terrorists can use them to hide their faces.
- Some religious practices are seen to be harmful – circumcisions can go wrong, and some argue that religious slaughter of animals is inhumane.
- It can be argued that people will be more equal if people are not expressing their religion. However, this makes them different, e.g. through religious dress, as this can create barriers to equality.

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- If some religious expressions and practices are allowed which would not be a (e.g. certain aspects of religious dress in work roles, or animal slaughter with draw a line between practices and expressions which are allowed and ones w can wear a cross in the workplace, or whether people are allowed to sacrifice can cause bad feeling if certain religious practices and expressions are denied

Points and Justification against

- It is better to live in a tolerant society than in one where people are not allowed
- Much religious practice and expression does not hurt people – if terrorists do something which is not usually dangerous.
- If people are not allowed freedom of religious expression and practice this can lead to attacks, or lead to people rebelling against the law, e.g. if someone carries on with staff, this would be more dangerous than allowing legal circumcision.
- Some people feel that freedom of religious expression and religious practice is as different people have different practices. However, allowing freedom of religion can also be seen to allow equality, as if some people are not allowed to express their religion then the ones who cannot express themselves will feel that they are being treated unfairly. Religious expression and practice can allow equality, as everyone can express their religion. Accept any relevant point or justification – other religions should be accepted

- 7) For example:
- France has suggested that it would consider banning Muslim headscarves in schools. Some see Muslim values as clashing with French values. However, others have argued that university students have a right to dress as they like – France should provide equal equality with being the same, e.g. dressing the same. Others feel that people should have religious freedoms.¹
 - There has been controversy surrounding burkini bans in France. Some argue that swimming shows that people are not integrating and conforming to French values. Some item of clothing and it is insensitive to dictate what people should wear to the beach. It is not equal equality if people have religious freedoms, while others feel that being equal is the expected way.²

3. Human Rights

- 1) See summary sheet
 - 2) See summary sheet
 - 3) See summary sheet
 - 4) For example: I think it is a good idea for all the human rights to be protected by law and stop governments being able to discriminate against people.
 - 5) For example: Saudi Arabia is accused of committing many human rights abuses. Corporal and capital punishment are legal and carried out. Women are not allowed to drive. Men are not allowed to work in certain areas. There are no LGBTQ rights. Religious freedoms are probably not allowed. It can be dangerous. Even Muslims who do not follow the main branch of Islam in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to practice their religion.
 - 6) For example:
 - Many Christians feel that all people should have human rights. They feel that no one should be mistreated or given special treatment.
 - Some Muslims do not feel that everyone should have all human rights suggested in the Western world. For example, the Quran commands corporal and capital punishment. Some Muslims do not feel that these punishments go against people's rights. They believe that Allah. The Quran can also be interpreted to deny women equal rights. However, human rights are in line with shari'ah law.
- Any additional relevant points should be accepted.
- Accept any relevant point
- 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)
- If the two beliefs are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks
- 7) For example: The UK still follows the Human Rights Act 1998. The UK leaving the EU means that the UK to decide not to subscribe to the act, if the government wanted to repeal it.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/13/french-pm-ban-islamic-headscarves-universities-muslims>
² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/26/nice-france-burkini-ban-response-after-bastille-day>

4. Social Justice

- 1) For example:
‘Thus says the LORD: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow who dwell in this place.’ (Jeremiah 22:3 NRSV)
- 2) For example:
 - Religions teach to treat people well and help others, e.g. the Bible teaches to love your neighbour and the Qur’an teaches to pay zakah.
 - People may desire equality because they feel compassion for those who are in a worse situation.

Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) See summary sheet
- 5) See summary sheet
- 6) For example: Over time, people have protested for better rights. When they have won, these rights have been written into law (e.g. slavery being banned in the UK). Governments are often afraid of becoming unpopular, so these laws protect social justice to some extent.
- 7) For example: Rich people and companies do not always pay tax, or as much tax as they should. This happens because some people are greedy, and do not want to use their wealth to help others. People in power are often those with wealth, and so do not want to make laws which limit their wealth. Homosexuals and women are not always treated equally, because society is often based on a male perspective. The law permits discrimination against certain groups. If people feel threatened by those who are different from them, this may create boundaries within society.

5. Racial Prejudice and Discrimination

- 1) For example: Shakespeare’s Othello is seen as inferior because he is black. This was acceptable at the time.
- 2) For example: I think racism could be countered by better education – teaching people to understand and fear from people they see to be different from them.
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) See summary sheet
- 5) See summary sheet
- 6) For example:
 - One argument with justification
 - Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Stereotyping is inaccurate – just because one person may have done something bad, it doesn’t mean all people of their ethnicity or nationality are like them.
- There are no good reasons for racial prejudice – so racism is unfair.
- People would not want to be treated badly themselves so should not treat others badly.
- Religions and humanism teach against treating people badly.
- Racism will not solve problems because it creates bigger divides.
- The Bible teaches that everyone is equal to God in Galatians 3:28.

Points and Justification against

- It can be argued that positive racial discrimination can help people from minority groups as you would want to be treated, and some might want to be helped to improve their situation.
- There might not be good reasons, but fear of insecurity is one reason for racism. As different ethnicities or nationalities are eroding their culture or stealing their jobs, people may feel threatened and create boundaries (even if they are bad reasons).

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- There are reasons for racial prejudice and discrimination in our society – the teach people not to be racist – if there was more education, then there would be less prejudice and discrimination.

Accept any relevant point or justification – other religions should be accepted.

- 7) For example: Martin Luther King challenged racism. He promoted boycotts and people and white people were no different and deserved to be treated the same. He contributed to laws for equal rights.

6. Wealth

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: I think some wealth is good because it enables you to live comfortably because it distracts you from important things such as friends and family.
- 5) For example: I think there are different approaches to wealth within Christianity. The Bible can be interpreted in different ways. The Bible teaches that God will reward people who give away all they own. Some will choose to believe that their wealth is for use, and some will feel they must give everything away. There are also different considerations. Many Christians may feel that they should give everything away in modern society, so they try to give away what they can while still relying on wealth.
- 6) For example:
 - Some Christians believe that they should give away all their money to the poor. They feel that wealth is a distraction from God, and that people cannot truly rely on worldly possessions.
 - 'Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'" (Matthew 19:16-21)
 - Muslims feel that they should pay zakah once they have a certain amount of wealth. Zakah is mentioned in the Qur'an and is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims feel that this is important and reminds them that all wealth is Allah's. Many Muslims also feel that they should help others.

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant points and reference to Scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for reference to Scripture. If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture.

- 7) For example: Judaism does not teach to give away all wealth – this is not seen as a duty. Judaism teaches that the rich should help the poor, and have a responsibility to do so. Like Muslims, Jews have money to help others – this is called tzedakah and it is generally regarded that the rich should help the poor. Jews may also give additional charity.

7. Responsibilities of Wealth

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
 - Many religions teach that the rich have a duty to help the poor, e.g. Muslims believe that Christians should give all their wealth to help the poor.
 - Rich people do not really deserve their wealth – factors which make people rich are often beyond their control and so the rich should help the poor to redistribute this wealth they do not deserve.
- 5) For example: I would donate money to hospitals, so that there was more money for medical research, which is necessary, which anyone could need, and makes a real difference.

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- 6) For example: If you make rich people give their money away then you are stealing it – the philosopher Robert Nozick argues this. Also, if people feel they do not have to work, mean people have less reason to work hard to make money, and this will harm the economy.
- 7) For example: Bill Gates has said he will try to give away 95% of his wealth. He has worked, for example, working on providing clean water in the developing world. He has also funded research, including work to help those with Vitamin A deficiency.

8. Exploitation of the Poor

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: People in the UK might have to pay high interest on loans if they borrow from a bank, alternatively if they have a poor credit rating and borrow from a credit card company.
- 5) For example: In some ways the government could do more to stop exploitation of the poor, such as reducing debts of the poor, or raising the minimum wage. However, the government already works to help victims of trafficking. Also, raising the minimum wage while the government should work for a strong economy, if there is a weak economy, it might be worse. Any additional religions should be accepted.
- 6) For example:
 - Most Christians believe that charging interest is acceptable as a form of business, but high rates of interest are unfair, especially for those in need.
 - Most Muslims believe that charging interest is wrong, because it is forbidden to exploit people, and different from trade, which is allowed.

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant point

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)

If the two beliefs are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks
- 7) For example: William Wilberforce was a UK politician and Christian who campaigned to abolish slavery, raised public awareness, was involved in organising protests and campaigned in Parliament, and eventually abolished in the UK in his lifetime.

9. Responsibility of the Poor

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
 - The financial crisis of 2008.
 - The war in Syria which has displaced millions from their homes.

Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 5) For example: Many people have had to work longer hours and spend less money on goods and services since 2008. Many Syrians have left their homes in the hope of finding a better future elsewhere.
- 6) For example: I think both have responsibility. I think the rich have responsibility to help, and the poor deserve their wealth. However, I also think the poor have responsibilities given to them, such as jobs, so that they can improve their situation. The rich should provide opportunities to the poor, and the poor have a responsibility to take these opportunities.
- 7) For example: I think the poor have more of a responsibility to help themselves if they have faults, such as gambling, or if they have the opportunity to work and do not. I think the poor have a responsibility to help themselves if they are poor through no fault of their own, such as no way of making money if there are no jobs.

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10 Charity

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) b) The sheep and the goats
- 5) For example:
'Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.' (Matthew 23:23 NRSV) – Jesus taught to give charity without holding back.
- 6) For example: CAFOD is a Catholic charity. They want to help people worldwide, especially in Africa. One campaign they have is to help with famine in Ethiopia. They try to help the people take their lives back by training them, and helping them to earn an income. They also help people with such as HIV/AIDS, and those who face natural disasters. They campaign for a better world.
- 7) For example: Sikhs believe in giving charity. The Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh holy book) says that giving is a virtue. However, it is not the most reward if done in God's service. Also, devotees are not viewed as good to keep all one's wealth.



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