

**A preview of themes 2 and 4 are presented prior to formatting and proofreading. Themes 1 and 3 will be included in the final resource.**



# **Course Companion for GCSE Eduqas**

## Component 1: Themes 1–4

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# Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World. All areas of the specification are covered, and questions and activities are included to test knowledge and ability, and to help students to engage with the topics.

## Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

The information is comprehensive, and images help to illustrate concepts. Keywords and Bible and Qur'an quotes are included to help students to understand the material and to further their grasp of the subjects. Key Concepts are covered in dedicated boxes. A brief introduction to the course and answering exam questions is provided for students at the start, and answers and a mark scheme are included at the end.

This course companion can be used in full as an alternative or complement to a textbook, as a class text or for independent learning or revision. Alternatively, teachers might use a section for a specific classroom activity or homework.

This topic involves studying a number of different arguments, ideas and opinions, from different religious and non-religious perspectives. This should both inform students, and develop their thinking, enabling them to approach issues from different points of view.

This resource focuses primarily on Christianity and different views within the religion, as well as non-religious views where appropriate. In some places different religions are explored briefly.

We have sought a balance between explaining relevant concepts in sufficient detail without oversimplification, while not going beyond GCSE level and becoming too complicated. Throughout we have tried to present all views in a neutral and informative way.

Hopefully, this resource will encourage students in their learning and help to prepare them for their exams. It should take the pressure away from teachers by providing the bulk of the content which they want to teach to their class.

**Note:** this companion covers several controversial and potentially upsetting issues. It is advised that teachers review sections before sharing them with their classes, and warn students about any content which may distress or offend. Examples include: Theme 1 – divorce and homosexuality; Theme 2 – abortion and euthanasia; and Theme 4 – prejudice and discrimination.

## Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates\* made to this resource or other Religious Studies resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

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

Go to **zzed.uk/freeupdates**

# Introduction to the Course and How to Answer

This course aims to cover religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and attitudes on different issues – relationships, life and death, good and evil, and human rights. The course aims to give you a good understanding of these ideas and their influence in the world today. The course will focus on Christianity in particular, as well as focusing on some other religions in certain sections. You will also focus on Christianity, but please note that in the exam you will have to write about any religion(s) you have studied.

This course companion is designed to equip you with the information you need to gain the knowledge and ability to answer related questions. Not all the questions and answers are in exam-style, but those which are should be answered in particular ways.

The exam board will ask you some shorter questions as well as some longer ones. When answering all questions it is important to try to use technical terms where possible, and to write well using a style that is easy to follow and using correct spellings and grammar. More or less writing will be required depending on the number of marks. Try to spend as little time as possible on the shorter questions, to allow yourself more time for longer ones.

For each theme you will get a 2-mark, 5-mark, 8-mark and 15-mark question in the exam – a few extra marks are given for spelling, punctuation and grammar based on the 15-mark question for Theme 1.

Hopefully this resource will be interesting, informative, and help you to achieve good results.

For the **2-mark question** you need to explain what a concept means, which may sometimes involve giving an example of the concept. Give a full explanation without spending too much time.

For the **5-mark question**, you can be asked several different things. You may be asked to describe an example of something, views on something, ways in which something is important, or differences of belief about something – for any of these you must refer to religion. Make sure to refer to how beliefs influence society and refer to sources of wisdom and authority, such as a holy text (e.g. the Bible) or a religious figure or philosopher.

The **8-mark question** you must answer referring to two different religions or traditions from within one religion. You have to give your beliefs/views about something, referring to these different points of view. Again, make sure to refer to how beliefs influence society and refer to sources of wisdom and authority, such as a holy text or a religious figure or philosopher.

The **15-mark question** is the longest, and there is a little more to remember. You will be asked to analyse and evaluate. This means giving arguments and justifications for something (e.g. agreeing with it, and also suggesting an alternative point of view). Make sure you have a clear conclusion; you make and link them together well. Then come to a conclusion; picking the most correct one (based on the arguments you have given!) and saying why you think this is the case. You must refer to how beliefs influence society and refer to sources of wisdom and authority, such as a holy text or a religious figure or philosopher.

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# Theme 2: Issues of Life and

## The World

There are different beliefs about the origin of the universe, religious and non-religious. This leads to different views on what humans believe about their rights over the world and/or their duty to the world.

### Accounts of the Origin of the Universe

#### Keywords:

- ♦ **Big Bang** – a rapid expansion of matter from a tiny central point, which scientists believe was the beginning of the universe
- ♦ **creation** – a religious account of how the world and universe were made
- ♦ **literal** – meaning exact and factual
- ♦ **metaphorical** – something which is symbolic
- ♦ **symbolic** – something which represents something else

### Christian Teachings

There are different Christian teachings about the origin of the universe. Christianity, like many religions, has a **creation** story, and Christians believe that God created the world and entrusted it to humans. Interestingly, the biblical book of Genesis (at the start of the Bible) gives two slightly different accounts of creation, leading to different beliefs about the origin of the universe.

#### Genesis 1 and the start of Genesis 2:

Before the **creation** of the world, there was nothing. But God's Spirit moved, and God spoke, and things began to come into being. Over a period of six days God created light; the water and the sky; land and plants; the sun, moon and stars; fish and birds; animals and humans – in God's image. God gives the world to humans to look after, is pleased with his creation and rests on the seventh day.

One possible explanation for the two creation accounts in the books of the Bible is that they were created by different writers at different times. In the first creation, the world was created in six days and humans were created last. In the second, the world was created in seven days and humans were created first.

*'In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.'* (Genesis 1:1-2)

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.' (Genesis 1:3)

And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. (Genesis 2:2)

#### Genesis 2:

This differs to Genesis 1. There is more detail, and some things even happen in a different order. In this account, God created Adam first, then Eve, and then animals. Furthermore, the **creation** of woman is created after the animals, out of one of man's ribs. Man is commanded to 'be fruitful and multiply'.

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tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (The account also implies that man was created on the Earth, which is not the case in the first account.)

*And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman. (Genesis 2:22 NRSV)*

**Note:** Christianity shares the **creation** account given in Genesis with Judaism, but not everything in the same way as Christians.

Creation will be covered more in the section on *Origins and Sanctity of Humanity*.  
Component 2: Christianity.

### Christian Beliefs and Attitudes

Christians interpret the accounts of the origin of the universe in different ways. They have different attitudes towards them:

- ♦ Some Christians believe that the biblical account is **literally** true; that God did create the world within seven days.
- ♦ Some Christians believe that the creation story is **metaphorical/symbolic**; that God may be responsible for the **Big Bang**, and that the Bible is not necessarily scientifically accurate. Note: this does not mean that they see the Bible as untrue, but rather that it holds **symbolic** truth.

Because Christians believe that God created the universe, they believe that they should look after it – more on this below.

### Quick Questions

1. What is meant by a symbolic interpretation? (2 marks)
2. Explain Christian views about the creation of the universe. (5 marks)

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## Relationship between Christian Views and Non-religious

### Keywords:

- ♦ **atheist** – someone who does not believe in God or gods
- ♦ **Second Law of Thermodynamics** – scientific law that states that things change from a state of order to a state of disorder over time

### Scientific Views of Creation – Stephen Hawking's View of the Big Bang

The scientific view of the origin of the universe is that the universe began at the **Big Bang** - a rapid expansion of matter from a tiny central point.

Stephen Hawking (1918-2018) - an important physicist has published important research on this. His view is that the Big Bang did start the universe, and that the Big Bang was *not* caused by God.

He believes that the universe cannot have existed forever because this would violate the Second Law of Thermodynamics. The Second Law of Thermodynamics basically states that things change from a state of order to a state of disorder and get more disordered over time. This fits with the changing, and expanding nature of the universe. Our everyday experience and science has evidence for this. This also implies that the universe did not exist in the state it is in now (e.g. by a God) – it has to change, and has changed dramatically over time. This conflicts with a possible Christian interpretation of **creation**; that God created the universe (and wanted to be.)

Hawking has also argued that the Big Bang was unlike other physical events. If the universe was squashed together, this created an extraordinary circumstance. The Big Bang and meant that the Big Bang was not subject to ordinary physical laws. After the Big Bang started the laws of physics were back in play. However, his argument is that because the Big Bang was an extraordinary event, it did not need a cause outside the universe itself, such as God. It was purely physical.

While calling himself an **atheist**, interviews with Hawking suggest that he *could* have been created by a God – however he believes that the most logical conclusion is that there is no God, as God is not necessary to explain science, and scientific theories explain the universe better than religious ones.

### Christian and Non-religious Views of Creation – to what extent they conflict

Christians who believe that the biblical account of **creation** is **literally** true, believe that the origins of the universe are described in the Bible. They believe that the **Big Bang** did not happen. They believe that God created the universe, and he did it as it is described in the Bible and not through the rapid expansion of matter. This can create conflict between Christians who believe in the biblical account of creation and the scientific community (and non-religious people).

However, many Christians believe that the biblical accounts of creation are not literal, but are a metaphor for the science of creation, and they have no problem believing that God may have started the Big Bang, or using scientific methods – some may see the six days of creation as a metaphor for the development of the universe and life on Earth. Therefore, there is a more harmonious relationship between Christian and non-religious views of creation.

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between such religious and scientific views. People can be both Christians and believe in God and science.

However, **atheists** who believe scientific accounts of the start of the universe will believe that there was no God (or gods) responsible for the universe, and therefore reject religious views.

**Summary:** Christian views and non-religious views of creation may *not* have a close relationship – if one compares Christians who believe in a six-day creation with non-religious people who believe in the Big Bang. These views conflict completely. However, the Christian view that God created the universe through the Big Bang is closer to the non-religious view. It still conflicts to a lesser extent because non-religious people deny God's involvement in the origin of the universe.

### Quick Quiz

3. What is the Big Bang? (2 marks)

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## Dominion, Stewardship, Environmental Responsibility, Global Citizenship

Different Christian and non-religious people may have different views about responsibilities to the world.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **dominion** – control over something
- ♦ **stewardship** – a state of managing resources in a responsible way
- ♦ **judge** – [by God] evaluate someone's actions and reward or punish appropriately
- ♦ **humanist** – someone who aims to live a good life, without belief in God or religion

### Dominion

Christians believe that God gave the world to humans; they rule it, or have control over it.

'God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food."

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have given them the whole earth (Psalm 8:6 NRSV)

Some Christians believe this means that the world is theirs, to exploit for their own benefit, and do whatever they want, and control animals. Other Christians do not believe dominion means that humans can do what they want with the planet, but rather that they have responsibility for it.

Some non-religious people feel that humans should be able to do what they want with the planet. They may feel that humans are the most intelligent and/or powerful species on the planet, so it is right for them to be in charge of it.

Other non-religious people completely disagree with the concept of dominion. They believe that there is no God, creating humans in his image, there is nothing to separate humans from animals, or place them in charge of the world and its resources.

### Stewardship and Environmental Responsibility

Many Christians believe that **dominion** also comes with great responsibility. God made them **stewards** of his creation; people who manage it and protect it.

'Think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's grace, entrusted to you. We are like gardeners, serving the earth and its people (1 Corinthians 4:1 NRSV)

Therefore, Christians may believe it is important to take care of the world; not just for themselves, but because it is humankind's responsibility if the world becomes uninhabitable (no food, no clean water, no life). Some Christians believe that God will **judge** humankind on how well they have managed the **creation**.

Many people will feel that it is important to protect the world so that there are good conditions for future generations. They may also feel that humanity has a responsibility for the environmental harm caused to the environment is the fault of humans.

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**Humanists** may stress that looking after the world is important, because it benefits everyone.

Some non-religious people may feel no need to look after the world, if they think the planet and the future of humanity. However, most people recognise the need to look after the world.

## Sustainability

### **Key Concept – Environmental Sustainability**

**Environmental Sustainability** means meeting today's needs while protecting the needs of the future. This involves protecting natural resources, such as forests, for future generations. Energy use is also an important part of this: a sustainable energy source (like wind power) can be used forever, whereas fossil fuels are an unsustainable energy source that will eventually be used up.

Many Christians feel that **sustainability** is important, and humans should work to make sure that energy consumption and levels of pollution are sustainable. This links into **stewardship** and protecting God's **creation** – also compassionate for other humans who might be harmed by high levels of pollution.

The Bible also teaches about sustainability – in the Old Testament, God gave the Jewish people commandments about not over-farming land. It can be seen that these are so that the land will continue to be useable.

*For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and olive tree; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of rest for the land. (Leviticus 25:3-5 NRSV)*

Some Christians may not be as worried about sustainability and levels of pollution. They may believe that Jesus will return and the world will end in the near future, and so they are not as concerned about sustainability.

Many non-religious people feel that sustainability is important, to protect the environment for the present and for future generations. *Humanists for a Better World* is a network of **humanists** who are concerned about sustainability and other issues, allowing people to share information and to take practical steps to work for sustainability (and other issues), if they wish. Others may be less worried if they do not feel that it is not their responsibility.

Why do some people and non-religious people care about the environment? You think it is important to make sure the environment is healthy so people respect and treat the world properly.

Whether or not people feel it is important to look after the world will impact on whether the world is treated appropriately, and whether species of plants and animals survive; whether the level of pollution; and whether global warming damages the world.

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## Global Citizenship

Global Citizenship is the idea that everyone's identity involves being linked to a country or race. This leads to the ideas that everyone is worth the same, even if they are from a different country, and decisions made by governments and individuals should take all of the world into account, not just those of their own country and its citizens.

In theory, Christians ought to support this idea, as Christianity teaches that all are part of humanity, and that all humans are equal to God.

*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)*

In practice, many Christians do consider the interests of their own country above those of the rest of the world, or Christians above those of non-Christians.

Many non-religious people do consider themselves global citizens and feel a responsibility to help people in other countries.

However, many non-religious people do not consider themselves global citizens, but are more concerned with the needs of people in their own countries, and are more concerned with the economy than with the needs of people in other countries.

In a time of economic uncertainty, many religious and non-religious people are more likely to take in immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers – feeling that resources should be used to help people in their own country before helping those from other countries. Some have linked a rise in terrorism to such an attitude. This view conflicts with the idea of global citizenship, which is to be more concerned with people from other countries, without necessarily considering that they are more common with them than many people from their own country.

## Quick Questions

4. State the meaning of dominion. (2 marks)
5. Why might there be different beliefs about stewardship within Christianity?

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## The Origin and Value of Human Life

There are different beliefs about the origin of human life; whether it was created naturally. These views can influence positions on **abortion** and **euthanasia**.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **abortion** – terminating a pregnancy and ending the life of a foetus
- ♦ **euthanasia** – sometimes called mercy killing. Generally helping someone die the life of someone who is unable to make such a decision for themselves, for where it is believed they would wish this

### Origin and Sanctity of Human Life

There are different Christian beliefs and teachings about the origin of human life.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **evolution** – the widely accepted scientific theory that organisms such as humans have adapted over time
- ♦ **sanctity of life** – a belief that life is sacred and/or special, implying that life should be protected
- ♦ **sin** – a thought or action against God, which he may choose to punish

### Key Concept – Sanctity of Human Life

**Sanctity of life** is the belief that life is sacred; it is holy, or very special, and should be protected. This usually involves the belief that life should be protected. It is often special life, and therefore implies that humans should never cause the deaths of others. The sanctity of life is generally associated with religious perspectives, but non-religious people may use it to indicate that they believe life is very important.

An argument for the sanctity of life (based on Christian belief) might look like this:

- ♦ God created life and gave it to humans
- ♦ Humans are created in the image of God
  - Human life is sacred because it is given by God and created in his image
- ♦ It is wrong to destroy what is sacred
  - Humans should not destroy human life (for any reason) – support for the prohibition of murder in the Ten Commandments

Therefore, religious people who believe in the sanctity of life may believe that it is wrong to take human life, and humans who take human life are acting against God.

'So God created human life in his image, in the image of God he created them. (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)

'You shall not murder.' (Exodus 20:13 NRSV)



The Damned Soul by Michelangelo Buonarroti

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### Key Concept - Soul

Christians believe that all humans have a **soul**. There are different views about a soul as themselves – the part of themselves which contains their personality and the part which gives them life. This is often thought to be immaterial and not connected to, the physical body. Some Christians believe that their soul lives on after death, separate from their body. Other Christians believe that the soul is dormant (usually considered to be sleeping rather than dead) until the resurrection time, where bodies will be resurrected with their souls.

Many Christians believe that the soul is created by God, and attached to a body at conception. Some may believe that the soul is joined to a body later than conception (views on abortion), or that souls exist before their bodies. Some Christians believe that those who do not go to heaven will be destroyed rather than existing in a state of hell.

Christians generally believe that only humans have souls, and that animals do not. This is a complex as Christians do believe that animals are alive and have experiences – so what is different between animals and humans which makes humans special? The basic distinction is usually that animals will not live on after death, and humans have a higher level of intelligence than animals, which allows them to think and reason. This is in contrast to Hindu beliefs about souls, where both humans and animals have souls.

### Christian Teachings and Beliefs

As seen in the section on *Accounts of the Origin of the Universe*, Christianity has two different accounts of how the universe and life were created. Indeed, there are two different accounts in the book of Genesis about how life was created. These are important to Christians because they believe that God was loving enough to create life.

Genesis 1 states that God created humans after he had created the universe. It says that he created them in his image.

Genesis 2 states that God made man, out of dust, and before he made animals. It says that God made woman, out of one of man's ribs.

'...then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into him the breath of life; and the man became a living being.' (Genesis 2:7)

Therefore the two different accounts of creation lead to different Christian beliefs about human life:

- Some believe that man and woman were created at the same time, and that the world was created first.

At any rate, Christians believe that God is the origin of human life.

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And it was evening, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31 NRS)*

Christians also believe that human life is important – many believe that it has a special status (see the box on 'Sanctity of Life' above). Apart from the reasons given for this about God creating humanity in his image and forbid murder – another reason for the sanctity of human life is that humans are made in the image of God.

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belief in a **soul** (see the box on 'Soul' above). Many Christians believe that humans are made of its soul; its life and personality given by God, which separates humans from animals.

Christian teaching which supports belief in a soul being given by God, given before they are even a fully developed foetus, includes Jeremiah 1:5:

*'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I dedicated you, O Israel, my servant.'  
(Jeremiah 1:5 NRSV)*

## Christian Beliefs and Attitudes

Christians interpret the **creation** story in different ways:

- ◆ Some Christians believe that the biblical account is **literally** true; that God did create humans as they are, and in his image.
- ◆ Some Christians believe that the creation story is **metaphorical/symbolic**; that God is responsible for creating animals and humans, but that he may have set the process of **evolution** in motion, and that the Bible is not necessarily scientifically accurate. (See the box on 'Evolution' below.) Note: this does *not* mean that they see the Bible as untrue, but rather that it holds **symbolic** truth.

Some Christians see women as inferior to men, because they were created second in Genesis 2. Most modern Christians do not agree with this. Those who believe in evolution would also disagree with the principle as they believe humans evolved at the same time – especially **humanists**, who promote equality).

Christians may also have different feelings about the sanctity of human life:

- ◆ Some feel that all human life always has sanctity – this should be respected in all circumstances, including criminals, during war, and in all other circumstances.
- ◆ Some feel that there are times when the sanctity of life should be overridden:
  - Some find **abortion** acceptable in some circumstances.
  - Some feel that the death penalty for some criminals is acceptable.
  - Some feel that killing in war is acceptable in some circumstances.
  - Some feel that **euthanasia** is acceptable in some circumstances.

(Note: many Christians will agree with some of these points, but not necessarily all.)

## Quick Questions

6. What is a soul? (2 marks)
7. Describe two ways in which the origin of life, and accounts of this, are important to Christians. (2 marks)

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## Non-religious beliefs about Evolution

### Key Concept - Evolution

**Evolution** is a widely accepted scientific theory which explains the development of life on Earth. It is widely attributed to Charles Darwin, a scientist who noticed changes between species. The theory of evolution by natural selection, formulated by Charles Darwin, suggests that organisms change over time and are passed on (because the fittest members of species survive to reproduce) and develop and become better adapted to their environments. The theory of evolution suggests that humans evolved from apes, and were not created as they are now. This can be a controversial topic for Christians who take the Bible literally and people who believe that science is not a valid explanation for the origins of human life.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **agnostic** – a scientist who is not sure whether there is a God, or gods, or not



### Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

Charles Darwin is celebrated as formulating the idea of **evolution** by natural selection. While other scientists were working on similar theories around the same time, he is the most famous. As seen in the box above, evolution explains how organisms develop over time, adapting to their environments. Among other observations, Darwin famously observed some islands which were slightly different to each other – he realised that these may have evolved from a common ancestor, but that the finches had gone on to adapt differently to their different environments and evolved!

Why do you think evolution is important?

Do you agree with evolution?

While the exam board refers to this section as *non-religious* beliefs about evolution, this is slightly misleading. Charles Darwin was not an **atheist** as we would consider him to be. He was an **agnostic** – he was not sure about God and he struggled with faith. Indeed, his struggle with faith were the death of one of his daughters at a young age, and the fact that science was more important to him than religion.

*On the Origins of Species*, Darwin's famous text explaining the theory of evolution, was a religious work, and can be taken as a work explaining how God created life, and the involvement of a God or gods in the origin of life. *On the Origins of Species* was not welcomed by all in the religious community either. Many Christians welcomed Darwin's theory of evolution and accepted it, though some did not.

Darwin and evolution have become *more* associated with atheism and a complete lack of religion in the years, rather than the other way round.



Darwin did not fully develop the theory of evolution as we know it today. Our understanding of DNA, and were able to explain how features necessary for survival were passed on.

### Richard Dawkins (1941 - )

Richard Dawkins, in contrast to Charles Darwin, can definitely be described as an **atheist**, especially for his book, *The God Delusion*.

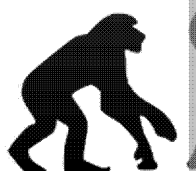
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Several of Dawkins' books have had a focus on **evolution**, including *The Selfish Gene*, *The Phenotype*, and *The Blind Watchmaker*. He has argued that evolution takes place through the passing on of genes (though not consciously) are essentially self-interested – they want to survive. Dawkins is famous for introducing the word 'meme' to English. A meme is a type of behaviour that is passed on culturally in the same way as genes are passed on biologically. Dawkins argues that evolution can explain the complexity in nature which appears designed.

### Relationships between non-religious and religious views

Christians who believe that the biblical account of **creation** is **literally** true reject scientific views about the origins of human life. They believe that the theory of **evolution** is incorrect because God created humans as they are, and that humans did not develop from animals.



Picture portrait

However, many Christians believe that the biblical accounts of creation are not meant to explain creation exactly as it took place. They have no problem believing that God may have used evolution, and some may equate the six creating days as stages in the universe's development, including animal/human evolution. Christians may even believe that God is even more creative and powerful – if God could engineer a process which would lead to the creation of humans in his image. Such Christians may have a better relationship with the theory of evolution than those who hold a closer relationship with non-religious views.

However, **atheists** who believe scientific accounts of evolution do not believe in gods who started this, and so they will disagree with religious views, even if they accept evolution.

### Quick Questions

8. What is evolution? (2 marks)



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## Abortion

### Keywords:

- ♦ **person** – in philosophy, a being with certain qualities, not always the same as a human
- ♦ **quality of life** – how good one's life is; some argue that if life is 'not worth living' it is not preserving it

### Key Concept – Quality of Life

The **quality of life** refers to how good it is to live a particular life – for the person living it. Many people in the modern, developed world have a good quality of life, but many people may not have good lives:

- ♦ Poverty or other circumstances may deprive them of necessities such as water, food, and shelter, meaning that life is very difficult.
- ♦ Illness or injury may reduce their quality of life:
  - ⇒ Physical illness, or some injuries, may make people severely depressed.
  - ⇒ Mental illness, or some injuries, may mean that people no longer have normal cognitive function.
  - ⇒ Some illnesses or injuries leave people in a lot of pain, meaning they find it harder to enjoy other things in life.
  - ⇒ Illness or injury may leave people incapacitated meaning they cannot move around or do other things for themselves.
  - ⇒ Being in some types of coma may mean little or no quality of life.

### Pause for thought:

Consider if you think there are any reasons why it would be preferable to live with a poor quality of life.

### Key Concept – Abortion

**Abortion** involves ending a pregnancy and the life of a foetus. There are different reasons for an abortion and different attitudes to abortion.

The UK Abortion Act 1967 allows for abortions in some circumstances (danger to the woman's life; danger to her physical or mental health or that of her existing children; or if the foetus is born with a severe disability) if two doctors agree that the conditions are met. If the abortion is carried out in an approved medical facility and the case of mental or physical disability (in existing children), it is evaluated whether continuing the pregnancy or having an abortion would be worse for the woman or her children's health.

Normally, abortions are *not* allowed after 24 weeks into pregnancy, though in extreme circumstances (great risk to woman or great chance of severe disability in the foetus).

Some countries do not allow abortion for any reason. In the Republic of Ireland, abortion is only allowed if there is a risk to the mother's life. Other countries allow abortion for different reasons.

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## Reasons for Having an Abortion

There are different reasons why someone might want to have an **abortion**.  
abortion may be allowed in the UK:

Reason	Examples	
The mother's life is in danger, or her health is at risk	Some pregnancies make a woman very ill, such as ectopic pregnancies where the foetus grows in the wrong place  Alternatively, someone may have a medical condition which needs treating, and the foetus would be killed by, or needs to be removed by, the treatment, e.g. chemotherapy for cancer	For people who are against abortion, this is probably the only situation where people would want an abortion, if their health is in danger  Some may consider this a serious and irreversible situation
The pregnancy or raising a child would be too difficult for the woman to cope with mentally or physically (or might endanger the wellbeing of existing children)	If a pregnancy is the result of rape, the woman might find it very hard to carry her rapist's child  Someone might have a mental illness, and would be placed under great strain to go through with a pregnancy  Someone may have several children already and be unable to afford to raise another  In the case of a teenage pregnancy it might be seen that the woman could not cope with pregnancy or raising a child	Many people consider these circumstances unfair to put a woman through, especially rape, or to put a woman through financial hardship  Others feel that a woman should be able to cope, and should be supported through pregnancy, and then through adoption
The foetus would be born with a serious disability	This could be that they will be born without a particular organ functioning properly  The foetus might have a genetic disorder, such as Down's Syndrome	Some people believe that children who are born with a serious disability have a low quality of life, and that it is not in their best place such as a hospital  Some people believe that it is not fair to not make this decision for many disabled people, and often long-term  They might also believe that it is a valuable and worthwhile life, and not a burden on the family

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A young  
people



However, the sanctity of life could also be used to argue for abortion in the case at risk; because the woman's life is sacred and should be protected. This argument is strong in the case that allowing a pregnancy to continue would likely result in the death of the foetus, because in this case abortion would be preserving more life than not aborting.

A diagram of a rectangular box. The left vertical side is represented by a dashed line. The right vertical side is represented by a solid line and is labeled with the letter 'a'.

- ◆ If a foetus is severely disabled and will not have a good quality of life, it is kinder to abort it than let it suffer.
  - People might also argue that caring for a severely disabled child is a burden on the family of the child, reducing their quality of life.
- ◆ A pregnancy due to rape, or one which places extreme mental strain, on a woman's quality of life, that abortion is kinder for her.
- ◆ If a woman does not have sufficient financial and other resources to care for another child into the world might severely diminish the quality of life of existing children and new child).
  - Some people also argue that a woman has a choice about what to do with a child at that moment is not part of her plan then this will damage the argument that a woman should have a choice about what to do with a child. This should be kept separate from arguments about quality of life.



- believe in the **sanctity of life**;
- the Bible tells Christians not to murder, and many consider abortion to be murder; and
- some Christians believe that a **soul** is present in a foetus from the moment of conception, which would mean that killing a foetus is spiritually equivalent to killing an adult.

Many religious people (and some non-religious ones) believe in the existence of someone which is classified as the 'person' at birth. Some people believe that the person is born and that this separates the person from the embryo. People may believe that the person is born at birth, or from some other point, such as from conception. The embryo and foetus are not considered as persons, and are opposed to abortion.

than where an abortion occurs as a side effect to other medical treatment)

Orthodox Churches and evangelical Protestants are also strongly opposed to

*'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I dedicated you, O Israel, my servant.'  
(Jeremiah 1:5 NRSV)*

*'You shall not murder.'* (Exodus 20:13 NRSV)

However, many Christians will accept abortion if the mother's life is in danger, as they feel that it is important to save the mother's life, as her life also has value.

Some Christians, such as Anglicans and liberal Protestants will allow abortion in certain extreme circumstances, such as if the pregnancy is a result of rape, or the potential-mother is very young. Some will allow it in a much wider range of circumstances. If Christians believe abortion should be allowed, this is because they believe that the woman should also be protected and treated with love and consideration. They may feel that they would want an abortion in certain circumstances, and so this should not be denied to others. Some also use the practical argument that women who want an abortion will try to have one whether they can access abortion legally and safely or not, and so abortion should be legal and accepted in order to protect women from unsafe abortions.

*"'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:39)*

*'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the love of God.'*  
(Matthew 7:12, The Golden Rule)

## Islam

Islam permits **abortion** in the case of risk to the life of the mother because of the risk to the mother over the foetus.

Some Muslim scholars allow abortion up to four months into pregnancy, before the foetus is believed to have a soul until this stage. However, there is disagreement about when abortion is permissible.

Some Muslims oppose abortion if it is for financial need – the parents do not have the money to look after a/another child – as the Qur'an teaches not to worry about poverty.

*'Kill not your children for fear of want: We shall provide sustenance for them. Verily the killing of them is a great sin.'* (Qur'an 17:31)

## Judaism

Judaism allows for **abortion** to save the mother's life. Abortion is allowed to save the mother of the pregnancy if the mother's life is at risk. However, if the majority of the pregnancy has passed and body and complications arise, many Jews would not permit hurting it, even if it causes pain. It is now seen more as a baby, with the equivalent human rights of the mother. This is in line with the teachings of Jewish rabbis (teachers), which are based on their interpretation of the Torah.

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Some Jews have argued for abortion to be permitted in some cases of extreme mental strain for the woman, or in cases of severe disability of the foetus, which would mean it would have an extremely short lifespan. Others do not believe that this should take priority over the life of the foetus.

## Non-religious

Non-religious people are likely to have varied personal opinions about **abortion**. Most will allow it in the case of risk to the mother or as comparable to killing a child or adult, and believe that abortion in this circumstance, where the woman does not want to have a child. Many will do some form of birth control but will accept a number of reasons, such as mental health problems or disability of the foetus, as acceptable grounds for abortion.

## Impact and Influence

Different attitudes to abortion have led to campaigns for and against abortion, and changes to abortion laws are often debated – such as whether to reduce how far into a pregnancy a woman can have an abortion.

People campaigning about abortion – people campaign for and against



Abortion carries less social stigma (negative public feeling) in the UK than it used to, however, many people may wish to be private about abortions if they believe they will be judged negatively for their actions.

## Quick Questions

9. What is abortion? (2 marks)
10. What is meant by quality of life? (2 marks)

## Now Try This...

11. Using two different religions **OR** two different religious traditions, explain your views on abortion. (4 marks)

Cons...  
relating to...  
against ge...  
convincing/  
arguments y...  
includ...



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# Euthanasia

## Key Concept - Euthanasia

**Euthanasia**, also known as mercy killing, is helping someone to die, or ending their life if they wish this to be the case, or because it is believed that they would wish this.

Some people believe that there are some situations in which allowing someone to die is a more compassionate thing to do. This may be because they are in great pain, or because they are unable to do anything for themselves; for instance, if they are paralysed, or if they are old and frail.

The issue of euthanasia arises when someone is unable to end their own life and therefore, needs help in order to die. In many cases, killing someone is classed as murder. However, some people believe that euthanasia is different because it is in the best interest of the person.

Killing anyone for any reason, including euthanasia, is currently illegal in the UK. However, some countries such as Switzerland allow it in some circumstances. Some people from the UK have travelled there for this purpose.

## Types of Euthanasia and Associated Concepts (When they may be carried out)

### Assisted suicide

This is where someone wants to die but is unable to do so on their own. They might get a friend to help them, or they might get a doctor to help them. This is called **voluntary euthanasia**.

### Voluntary euthanasia

This is where someone asks to die, but is unable to do so on their own. They might get a friend to help them, or they might get a doctor to help them. This is called **voluntary euthanasia**.

### Non-voluntary euthanasia

This is where someone is unable to ask to die, but it is felt that they are better off dead. For example, someone in a coma, but it is felt that they are not likely to wake up. Friends and family might decide to end their life. This is called **non-voluntary euthanasia**.

### Involuntary euthanasia

This is where people are killed against their will. For example, the Nazis believed it would be better if they were killed. Most people view this as **murder**.

## (How they may be carried out)

### Active euthanasia

This is where someone actually kills the person, possibly by administering a poison. This is illegal in many countries.

### Passive euthanasia

This is where life support is removed; for example, if a person is in a normal state, or if they are in a coma, giving a poison. However, breathing equipment may be removed, medicine and water may be withheld. This is legal in the UK, though there may be legal grey areas. It is acceptable to withhold food and treatment.

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## Double-effect

This is sometimes associated with euthanasia for a doctor to prescribe a high dosage of painkillers to a patient. These may ease pain but may also have the *additional effect* of killing the patient. So medicines which are used to treat pain are responsible for killing them.

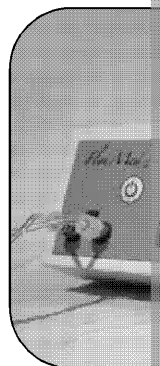
**Do Not Resuscitate orders (DNR)** This is where someone who is seriously ill asks doctors not to save their life; for example, after a heart attack or stroke.

## Arguments for and against Euthanasia

Arguments sometimes given in favour of euthanasia:

(Not all are relevant to both **voluntary** and **non-voluntary**)

- ◆ People deserve *dignity*. If their life is not dignified, they should be allowed to end it, or others should be allowed to end it on their behalf.
- ◆ People deserve **quality of life**; if they do not believe that their life is worth living, they should not be made to endure life because they are told they have to.
- ◆ People have a *right to die*; people should be able to make their own decisions, including if they wish to end their life.
- ◆ Keeping euthanasia illegal is *discriminatory* (in the UK – not necessarily in all countries) because people who are able to commit suicide are legally able to do so. However, it is often those with the most pain, and the people who have the most reason to end their lives who are not allowed to.



A person thinking about euthanasia.

Arguments sometimes given in opposition to euthanasia:

- ◆ **Sanctity of life** – all life is sacred and humans do not have a right to take the life of another for any reason.
- ◆ Euthanasia is *murder* – it is wrong to kill someone.
- ◆ There is a problem with *conscience* – it is wrong to expect someone to kill another, especially medical professionals who have sworn to protect life.
- ◆ It is a *slippery slope* – if euthanasia becomes legal this will make it easier for people to be murdered and it will make disabled and old people feel like they are a burden.
- ◆ Some people might *recover* – it is possible that someone might recover after doctors thought was terminal, or that a treatment or cure might be found for a person who wants to die.

## Christianity

Many Christians oppose euthanasia, because they believe in the sanctity of life, and because they believe that murder is wrong and that euthanasia is murder. (See arguments against *Abortion* in the section above.) Some also believe that all humans, including those who suffer physically and those who suffer mental illness, therefore, to end life and remove this suffering would be wrong if the sufferer believes that they are called by God to protect those who are suffering. Many Christians should protect, rather than harm, those in need.

**Pause for thought**  
What do you think?  
Should it ever be legal?  
Which arguments are most convincing?

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‘... if you hold back from rescuing those taken away to death, those who slaughter... Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it? And will he not repay to their deeds?’ (Proverbs 24:11–12 NRSV)

The Catholic Church, in particular, is opposed to euthanasia. It has issued a statement claiming that euthanasia is always wrong. Many evangelical Christians are also opposed to euthanasia.

*Note:* many of these objections to euthanasia are often to **active euthanasia** – such as where the life-support machine for someone who has switched off – or **DNRs** may be viewed as acceptable.

However, some other Christians believe that euthanasia should be allowed because it is cruel to let people suffer unnecessarily. They believe that Jesus and that in these situations, the most loving thing to do is to allow someone to die with dignity and peace. Protestants have appeared to become more tolerant in recent years.

‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Matthew 22:39)

## Islam

Islam does not allow active **euthanasia**, or the intentional use of **double-effect** drugs. Doctors should always try to save someone’s life when there is hope. Passive euthanasia is allowed in most cases, except when a person is only being kept alive by artificial means and no recovery is possible.

This is because Muslims believe that human life is sacred; people should not take their own lives, even if they are suffering. Also, they believe that Allah is responsible for someone’s death.

‘Nor take life – which Allah has made sacred – except for just cause.’ (Qur’an 17:33)

It is Allah Who has created you: further, He has provided for your sustenance. So when He orders you to die, to die; and again He will give you life... (Qur’an 30:40)

Some liberal Muslims may accept arguments in favour of euthanasia, but this is not the majority view.

## Judaism

Arguments against Euthanasia	For Euthanasia
Many Orthodox Jews oppose active euthanasia for similar reasons to Christians who do so.	Some more liberal Jews are open to the idea in some cases.
If there is a chance of saving or prolonging life, Judaism teaches that this should be taken.	Jews aim not to treat the terminally ill as a burden.
Even depriving someone of support which is keeping them alive is seen as wrong by many Jews, decisions about turning off life-support are seen as a last resort.	Some Jews have suggested that euthanasia should be timed – then the person is beyond help.

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machines, and other types of <b>passive euthanasia</b> become complicated.	try to keep them alive. If they cannot be saved, Jews should provide life support to try to keep them alive. However, other Jewish teaching allows Jewish doctors to stop someone's life-support machine. These points of view make passive euthanasia more complicated.
Some Jews may pray for God to aid the death of someone who is dying, if they believe that God should end the person's suffering, but do not want to break laws against killing the person.	Judaism <i>does</i> allow passive euthanasia. It is a <b>double-effect</b> , where the person also contributes to their own death.

### Non-religious

Non-religious people may have different views about **euthanasia**. Some may believe that allowing euthanasia is a slippery slope, etc. Others, especially humanists, believe that allowing people to die treats them with respect and allows them dignity, and that euthanasia is a necessary part of medicine.

### Humanist 'Dignity in Dying' Movement

The British Humanist Association (BHA) strongly supports **assisted dying** (where a person takes their own life, after being given medication to take by a medical professional), **active euthanasia** (where a doctor administers a lethal injection to a person), and **passive euthanasia**. They believe that people have a right to choose to end their lives if they are suffering for them and their loved ones – if they are terminally ill, or permanently disabled.

The BHA has supported several court cases where people have tried to challenge the law, but though so far these attempts have been unsuccessful.

Dignity in Dying is a campaign which is not specifically religious or non-religious. It aims to change the law in the UK to allow assisted dying for the terminally ill (it is currently illegal in the UK to assist someone to die, or for someone to take their own life, or for assisted dying for those who are not terminally ill). It is not in place, but believe that it is possible to protect people from being coerced into dying – from examples of success of assisted dying laws in other places in the world.

Dignity in Dying is campaigning for assisted dying for terminally ill people. They believe people should have a choice about their death.

- They feel that people should be able to choose where they live.
  - Many travel abroad to places where assisted dying is legal, or where they can get help from a doctor for loved ones, even if that means that people may choose to die earlier than they would have otherwise.
- They believe people should be able to have all the relevant information to make end-of-life choices.

The BHA and the Dignity in Dying campaign both recognise the difficulty of the issue. They want to die face – they want to help them, but face being imprisoned if they do not.

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## Impact and Influence

Changing views on **euthanasia** are influencing legal decisions. Many people have brought cases to court where they wish to die, but do not wish to see friends or relatives imprisoned for committing euthanasia. It is quite possible that laws regarding euthanasia will continue to change – regulations on **passive euthanasia** could be tightened, or **active euthanasia** could become legal.

Active e

## Quick Questions

12. What is voluntary euthanasia?

## Now Try This...

13. Using two different religions **OR** two religious traditions explain attitudes



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## Non-religious Views on the Importance of Human and Animal Life

### Keywords:

- ♦ **animal experimentation** – using animals to test chemicals or medicines before using them on humans, or using animals in other research to learn about human health
- ♦ **cloning** – creating identical copies of existing animals (or other things like plants)
- ♦ **genetic modification** – changing an animal's genes to produce a different characteristic
- ♦ **speciesism** – irrational prejudice and discrimination in favour of one's species
- ♦ **utilitarians** – people who believe that actions are good if they cause pleasure and pain

### Importance of Human Life

Firstly, one importance of human life to non-religious people is the value of life on Earth. Non-religious people who do not believe in an afterlife may place much importance on life on Earth, if they feel that it is the only life they will have. Indeed a slogan of the 1960s was: 'for the love of life'. However, this importance primarily reflects the value of life on Earth. Some religious people believe life has value based on what it gives them. They place importance on a God (or gods), or in achieving a good afterlife. (Note: some people are spiritual and believe there is something after death. Views may vary.)

Secondly, many non-religious people will feel that their lives have value because they make the world a better place – human life is important if it enhances other human lives.

Some non-religious people may feel that human life has some additional value, which is more important than animal life. However, not all do.

### Peter Singer's Views on Speciesism

Peter Singer (1946 - ) is an important, current moral philosopher. He has written many books and if you ever want to do more research on him, it is important to fully understand his views are often taken out of context.

Singer is a **utilitarian**, believing that what is right is the greatest good for the greatest number. He has argued that animals ought to be counted in this, as well as humans. Singer does not believe there to be a special God-given distinction between humans and animals. He places greater scientific similarities between humans and some mammals, than between humans and insects. However, mammals are grouped with insects as animals.

Singer argues that treating one's species as more important than another is wrong, as more important than other species is **speciesism**. In the same way that racism is considered to be unfair, he feels that humans should not assume superiority over other animals because they belong to a different species.

Those who agree with Singer about speciesism are often utilitarians – they believe that life is valued more highly because they can feel pleasure and pain, and they have the ability to be fed, etc.).

Belief that **speciesism** is wrong can lead to vegetarianism, veganism, and animal rights.

Many people disagree with speciesism because they believe, unlike with racism, there are valid differences between humans and animals, including levels of intelligence.

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There are also many practical arguments against treating animals as equal. If animals equal rights would mean expecting them to fulfil equal responsibilities, they may not understand, or be able to maintain. For example, you cannot allow lions to live in the same way as humans – animals do not understand human laws.

## Importance of Animal Life

Humans use animals in different ways, including **animal experimentation**, as a food source, and for use in making materials. Non-religious people have different views on this – they may feel that animal life has importance in itself as animals can feel pleasure and pain like humans, or that animal life is important because it is useful to humans in other ways.

## Animal Experimentation

**Animal experimentation** can take many forms of testing or research, including testing medicines or cosmetic products on animals before testing on humans. Side effects is common.

Scientists have also **cloned** animals, and used them for **genetic modification**. Cloning, which is copying existing cells/organisms, has been used, for example, for medical research. To replicate stem cells (unspecialised cells) or other cells, they may be able to use diseased cells to replace healthy ones, or use healthy cells to replace diseased ones. Scientists might genetically modify animals to study the effects of changing or adding genes to an organism.

There are a variety of responses to animal experimentation:

1

No animal experimentation is fair; animals have a right not to be experimented on by humans. Humans should do research in other ways, including using voluntary humans. Furthermore, animal research is not always helpful, as animals may respond in different ways to humans biologically or psychologically.

Animal experimentation is fully acceptable (if it has a purpose and is not unnecessarily cruel); humans are more important than animals, and if we can help humans by using animals then this should be done.

Animal experimentation for important medicines or treatments which is likely to improve human lives is acceptable, but cosmetic testing is not, because cosmetic testing is not necessary for human health.

Animal experimentation which has a low risk of harming animals is acceptable when it is necessary to minimise pain to animals involved.

Animal experimentation is acceptable if it is kept to a minimum; as few animals as possible should be used to achieve desired results and humans are used where possible.

### Activity

Make a note of your personal response to animal experimentation, based on the information above.

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People of no religion may be for or against animal experimentation. They may have no problem using animals if it helps them and they do not believe they will be judged by God (or gods) for it. However, some non-religious people, including some **humanists**, believe that animals deserve rights, and that animal experimentation is cruel – they do not believe that humans were specially chosen by a god over other animals or have special rights. Peter Singer would argue that it is **speciesist** to use animals instead of humans for experimentation, and that it is unfair to use animals for tests when the results are for the benefit of humans.

### The Use of Animals for Food

Vegetarians are people who do not eat meat and vegans are people who produce; which primarily means milk and eggs, but also includes honey, produce. Many non-religious people (and religious people) are vegetarians. Killing animals in the process of making food products is widely believed to be unethical, and a right not to have pain inflicted on them is believed in because they think that humans do not have more rights than animals. Some people believe that humans are created in God's image – they may believe that eating meat, it is better to do so.

Some non-religious people (and religious people) object to animals which are being treated cruelly. For instance, they may object to battery-farming of animals as being inhumane. This is because many people who believe that it is acceptable to eat meat believe that it is acceptable to be cruel to them.

On the other hand, some people (including non-religious people) see no problem with eating as much meat as they want, or treating animals badly if they are just going to be eaten; they do not believe they need to eat less meat or that animals deserve rights.

Consider the impact of eating meat on the environment and animal welfare.

### Other Uses

Further to food, there are different attitudes about using the bodies of animals to make leather. Some people will feel that this is acceptable, because it is a necessary part of life. Others may feel that this is not acceptable, because there are other materials which can be used. Unlike food, is not a necessity, and so does not justify killing something. Some people may feel that it is acceptable to use animal parts for other uses if the animal has been killed for a good reason. It is sensible and is getting the most use out of an animal.

### Quick Questions

14. What is speciesism? (2 marks)

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# Beliefs about Death and the Afterlife

## Life after Death

Different people have different beliefs about death and the afterlife, for religious beliefs, or lack of religious beliefs. These are likely to impact funeral practices. We will refer back to the Key Concept of **soul**.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **heaven** – a realm where people may go after death and reside with God
- ♦ **hell** – a realm where people may go after death, away from God
- ♦ **purgatory** – a realm where people must make amends for their sins after death
- ♦ **resurrection of the body** – the belief that God will raise people's bodies
- ♦ **immortality of the soul** – the belief that a spiritual part of a person lives on
- ♦ **Judgement** – in Christianity, where God will separate good and bad people

### Key Concept: Afterlife

Non-religious people who do not believe in God/gods often do not believe in an afterlife. They do not believe that there is anything other than the physical world. However, many different and personal beliefs about there being something after death exist. Some religious people believe in ghosts.

In some religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, it is believed that death is followed by **reincarnation**, or rebirth, where a person is reborn again (often on Earth).

There is not one fixed concept of the afterlife in Judaism, though many different beliefs exist. Some religious people believe in an afterlife.

Some religions like Christianity and Islam hold that there is an afterlife; good people will go to **heaven**, or paradise; and bad people/non-believers will go to **hell**.

## Different Christian Beliefs

Within Christianity, heaven is believed to be a realm where people will reside after death. Many believe that heaven is a desirable place to be; some believe that heaven will be a place of eternal life, e.g. there will be great banquets (Jesus compared heaven to a banquet in Matthew 22:1-14). Some believe that in heaven humans will spend their time constantly praising God. Hell is believed to be a place of punishment from God. Some believe that hell's punishment is separation from God. Others believe that hell will involve physical pain and torture. Some Christians believe that those who die without faith can exist. Some Christians believe in **purgatory**, a realm between heaven and hell where people make amends for their **sins** before entering heaven. Heaven and hell are central to the Catholic Church teaching that there is purgatory. Most Protestants do not mention purgatory.

Some Christians believe that only Christians can go to **heaven**, because they have faith in God, though others just believe that people can only know God as 'Father' through him in other ways, and gain entry to heaven.

'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father through me."' (John 14:6 NRSV)

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Not all Christians agree on how life after death works. Some believe that God will raise humans' physical bodies at the end of time (**resurrection of the body**). Others believe that a spiritual part of a person, their soul, lives on after death and goes straight to heaven/hell/purgatory (**immortality of the soul**). Some Christians believe in both; that the soul will enter the afterlife straight away after death, but that there will be a bodily resurrection for everyone at **Judgement** at the end of time. For those who believe in both, they will believe in two judgements – for the individual person at death and for all at the end of time. Christians believe that at judgement, God will separate the good from the wicked – the good will go to heaven and the bad to hell. These beliefs are based on interpretations of different Bible verses.



Resurrection of the body - 'Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out – those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.' (John 5:28-29 NRSV)

Resurrection of the body - 'So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a sowing of a physical body, there will be a raising of a spiritual body.' (1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NRSV)

Immortality of the soul - '[Jesus] replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43 NRSV)

Judgement - 'Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." He will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels..." (Matthew 25:34, 41 NRSV)

Some Bible quotes can be interpreted in different ways – John 11:24-27 (Martha's beliefs), immortality of the soul (Jesus does not die); some may assume that Jesus is contradicting Martha and others. Some Christians feel that this passage implies that eternal life is given to those who believe in him, while those who do not believe in him will not have eternal life.



Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even if they die, will live. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." (John 11:24-27)

Beliefs about the afterlife can affect Christians in their lives and decisions. Some may choose cremation to avoid bad judgement; they may choose burial if they believe in resurrection.

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to convert others to Christianity if they do not believe that non-Christians pray for souls they believe to be in purgatory...

You will learn more about death and the afterlife when you study Component 2, Theme F

### Quick Questions

15. What do Christians mean by immortality of the soul? (2 marks)
16. How is the afterlife important within Christianity? (5 marks)



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# Christian and Humanist Funerals in Britain

Christian and Humanist funerals in Britain reflect different beliefs about t

## Keywords:

- ♦ **vigil** - a religious rite which involves staying awake and often involves pr

## Different Christian Funerals

Some churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church, prefer people to be buried rather than cremated, because they believe in **resurrection of the body** at the end of time. Therefore, such funerals often involve burying the dead, with reference to the belief that they will rise at the end of time.



Many Protestants do not believe in resurrection of the body, but rather **immortality of the soul**. They are often cremated, and cremation is often separate to the funeral service. They may be cremated before or after the service, but their coffin (or urn holding their ashes) is often present at the service.

Some Christians wish funerals to be solemn occasions, others use them as a celebration of someone's life – they do not see death as the end, so it is not such a sad

Many churches are flexible about funeral practices, though the Catholic Church often includes a **vigil**. The vigil involves a time of prayer held before the funeral. This is not done to Catholics because of their belief in **purgatory**, and the belief that their loved one is still a person in the afterlife.

Funerals often contain Bible readings (often about God's love and heaven, or an example about death and hope of new life). People often share memories of the dead. Two people may spend longer talking, or many people may share.

Christian funerals reflect the belief that death is not the end – therefore, people should give thanks to God for their life, and for their belief that life continues. Christian funerals are personal in as much as they are about the person who has died, on God, the Christian faith, and the afterlife.

Christian funerals are often held in a church, or a chapel in a crematorium. The Christian faith is often a central part of the service.

## Humanist Funerals

**Humanist** funerals can be very similar to religious funerals, without the religious elements. Humanists may choose burial or cremation, and there may be music, readings of poetry, and talks about the life of the dead person and shared memories. They are very personal, as they focus on the life of the dead person.

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The British Humanist Association (BHA) has a number of people who take the place of a religious minister (called celebrants, and take the place of a religious minister) who can be called to perform a funeral service.

Humanist funerals may be sad because humanists believe that death is the end of life, but they can also be celebrations, as humanists want to remember the good things about the person who has died.

As humanists would not hold a funeral in a church, the services can be held in a hall, a crematorium and outside locations.

### Quick Questions

17. With reference to Christianity explain views about funerals. (5 marks)



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## Summary for Theme 2: Issues of Life

- ♦ Christians believe that God **created** the world and the universe. Some believe that the account of creation in Genesis is **literally** true, and dispute scientific accounts. Others believe that the creation story is **symbolic** and that religious accounts are compatible with science – God may have started the **Big Bang**.
- ♦ **Atheists**, such as Stephen Hawking, disagree with the belief that God created the world, and think that only scientific accounts of the origin of life, the **Big Bang**, are valid.
- ♦ Many Christians believe that God has given them **dominion** over the world, and that they have a duty to **stewards** of **creation** and that they have a duty to manage the world, though they do not believe that the world was given to them. Religious and non-religious people may or may not believe that human life is **environmental sustainability**, where they can maintain levels of resources for future generations. They are global citizens – members of a global community where all people are equal.
- ♦ Christians believe that God **created** human life. Some believe that the Bible is **literally** true, and others believe that this is **symbolic** and God created life through **evolution**. **Sanctity of life** is the concept that human life is sacred and should not be destroyed, often held for the religious reasons that life is given by God and that destroying life is murder and is a **sin** against God.
- ♦ **Atheists** do not believe that God (or gods) had any part in the origin of life. The theory of evolution, generally credited to Charles Darwin. Modern scientists like Richard Dawkins have added more detail to this theory.
- ♦ **Abortion** is the termination of a pregnancy, ending the life of a foetus. It is a controversial issue in many circumstances. Many Christians (and people of other religions) disagree with it. Some will allow it in certain circumstances, such as if the life of the mother is at risk.
- ♦ **Euthanasia** is mercy killing. There are different types, for example **voluntary** and **active** and **passive**. There are also important related concepts: **DNRs**. Many religious bodies teach against active euthanasia, though some are sympathetic to it. There is more acceptance of passive euthanasia in some countries and not by all believers. **Humanists** have campaigned for euthanasia. Views about euthanasia may influence laws and the lives of several people wishing to end their lives.
- ♦ Non-religious people are likely to find a human life important because of what it can do for other humans. Some people, such as Peter Singer, believe in **speciesism** – humans treat other animals as inferior to themselves, but not all non-religious people feel that human and animal life are equal. Some oppose **animal experimentation** or using animals for food, but many feel that it is acceptable because it can be used to enhance human life, e.g. through testing new drugs.



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- ◆ People of different religious beliefs have different beliefs about an afterlife. Christians generally believe in heaven and hell and some believe in purgatory. Some believe in resurrection of the body, some in immortality of the soul, and some in both. They believe that God will judge people at the end of their lives and/or at the end of time.
- ◆ Christians and **humanists** are likely to have different funerals to reflect their different beliefs about the afterlife. Christian funerals are heavily focused on God and life after death, because Christians believe that death is not the end. However, humanist funerals are much more personal, as humanists do not believe in a God or afterlife. Christians may have different types of funeral, including burial or cremation, depending on how they believe life after death will work.

### Now Try This...

18. 'There are some situations where euthanasia is the best thing to do.'  
Discuss this statement.

Consider more than one view.

Refer to religion and belief. Refer to non-religious belief (e.g. atheist and

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# Theme 4: Issues of Human

## Human Rights and Social Justice

**Human rights** are rights which most people believe humans should have. Rights are enshrined in the Human Rights Act 1998 in law, meaning that it is a legal right. The concept of human rights has an interesting relationship with some religious people have tried to promote **dignity** and **equality**, and in other ways, religious people may not always respect the rights of other people or choices people believe conflicts with the laws of their country.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **dignity** – the state of having worth or importance, commanding respect
- ♦ **equality** – the state where everyone is treated with the same respect and



## The Dignity of Human Life

Christians believe that human lives have **dignity**. This means that they believe human life has worth and importance. It also means that they believe humans should be treated with respect and themselves.

### Keywords:

- ♦ **abortion** – terminating a pregnancy and ending the life of a foetus
- ♦ **Catholic Social Teaching** – teaching from the Catholic Church about ethics
- ♦ **discrimination** – treating someone differently or unfairly because of prejudice
- ♦ **euthanasia** – sometimes called mercy killing. Generally helping someone die the life of someone who is unable to make such a decision for themselves where it is believed they would wish this
- ♦ **inequality** – a lack of equality (not being treated with the same respect)
- ♦ **pacifism** – a belief that violence is wrong and a principle of opposition to war
- ♦ **prejudice** – a biased belief about someone or a group of people

## Christian Beliefs and Teachings

One of the foundations for a belief in the **dignity** of human life is the Bible, which says that humans are created in the image of God. Because humans have worth because:

- They reflect God's worth
- God decided to create them, they have worth to him (if they had not been created, they would not have worth)



*Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, to have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.'*  
(Genesis 1:26-27 NRSV)

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Because Genesis 1:27 refers to both men and women being created in God's image, that men and women have equal dignity as they both reflect God and are made in his image.

Catholicism particularly emphasises human dignity – it is an important part of the foundation for **Catholic Social Teaching** – teaching which Catholics should apply to their lives and interactions in the world.

### Christian Attitudes – Practical Applications

The Christian belief in **dignity** of life leads to many practical applications:

- Many Christians oppose **abortion** and **euthanasia**.
- Christians oppose slavery, trafficking and human exploitation.
- Many Christians oppose prostitution, and some oppose sex outside of marriage and certain sexual practices.
- Christians oppose **inequality** – many oppose inequality and **discrimination** on the basis of gender, race, disability, and other factors.

Many Christians feel that embryos/foetuses and people who are in positions where they may be euthanized (e.g. the elderly and those with serious medical conditions) are vulnerable and should be protected by society and their community. They have worth to God, and it is not up to anyone else to take their life. Also, destroying human life in such situations is seen by many as murder, which is also forbidden in Christianity. Such a view is more likely to be held by Catholics, Orthodox Christians, and traditional and evangelical Protestants. Not only does this view affect individuals, but Christians campaign against existing and proposed laws allowing abortion.

On the other hand, some other Christians, such as liberal Protestants, may actually uphold the dignity of human life – they may feel that people in incurable diseases should be allowed to die rather than forced to endure. Allowing people to die (with dignity) respects them.

Because of human worth, any mistreatment of humans, such as slavery and trafficking, is opposed by Christians. Because humans have worth to God, they should not be devalued.

Christians do not feel that human dignity can *only* be violated by others, that it can also be violated by oneself. Many Christians oppose prostitution because it dishonours themselves, and God, if they sell their body for money. In addition to humans being the image of God, Christians actually contain God in their hearts – and so if Christians dishonour their body, they are dishonouring God.

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*Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Corin*

(Note: fornication is sex outside of marriage.)

Many Christians extend this to other sexual relationships and acts. The Catholic Church and traditional and evangelical Protestants teach that sex should only take place within marriage. One reason for this view is that it can be seen that other sexual activity is degrading to a person's importance if sex is something entered into casually rather than as a commitment. The Catholic Church extends this view to all sexual acts which do not allow for procreation. It feels that only such acts uphold a person's dignity, and that otherwise their body is used for pleasure.

Christians also oppose inequality because everyone has equal dignity, and **Prejudice** and discrimination, which go against equality, will be dealt with to create a fairer society so that this dignity is recognised.

### Quick Questions

2. What is meant by dignity? (2 marks)
2. Describe ways in which dignity of human life is important within Christianity.

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## Promoting Human Rights and Equality

### Key Concept - Human Rights

**Human rights** are rights that many people believe all humans have, things which they deserve. Human rights are not a new concept – many different countries and peoples have had ideas about human rights for centuries. Many countries protect certain human rights by law, though this differs in different countries.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was decided in 1948 by the United Nations, a group of many countries working together, and many countries respected these rights. The Human Rights Act 1998 has been applied in the UK since 2000, and this means that the UK has to protect the human rights given in the act. If someone's rights are being denied, they can take this to court. One important thing is that people can now take a case to court in the UK if it breaches human rights, or they can take it to the European Court of Human Rights in France. The act was passed so that people had better protection of their human rights, and also so it did not cost the government money to take cases about human rights abroad (to the court in France).

However, the government may still make laws which appear to clash with the act. Some also argue that they do not uphold the act when detaining or arresting people. In some cases people have been shot dead on arrest, and British soldiers have been accused of killing enemy prisoners. There have also been proposals from the Conservative government to (withdraw) the Human Rights Act and replace it with a 'British Bill of Rights'. The fact that the act has been passed does not mean that later governments will not want to get rid of it.

Human rights in this act include:

- ◆ The right to life
- ◆ The right not to be a slave
- ◆ The rights to fair treatment; no torture, and a fair trial if accused of a crime
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Rights concerning private life, including marriage and family

Many religious and non-religious people agree with these rights, or most of them. However, some may feel that not everyone deserves them. For example, some people believe that if someone murders someone else, then the murderer forfeits their right to life, and they should be given the death penalty. There is also controversy surrounding the human rights of people from other countries. In some cases, the government can extradite them, or send them to their home country, but some criminals have been allowed to stay in the UK, for example, if their life would be threatened in their home country, or because their family would be threatened if they were sent back. The government has to allow them access to their family.

Some Muslims have disagreed with some human rights, because they follow **shari'ah** law – (Islamic law derived from the Qur'an and other Islamic texts). However, the Universal Islamic Declaration of Human Rights, which includes many of the rights in the Human Rights Act 1998, though in line with Islamic law.

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### Responsibilities Which Come with Rights

Because the law protects people's rights, this also means that it enforces

- ◆ If everyone has the right to life, all have the responsibility not to kill
- ◆ If everyone has the right to freedom, all have the responsibility not to restrict

People have a responsibility to respect the rights of others, and not to infringe on them, even if they disagree with their opinions or beliefs.

Sometimes these rights and responsibilities conflict with each other. For example, the right to marry, and everyone has the right to freedom of religious belief. However, some religious beliefs may mean that they do not acknowledge, or wish to perform, certain types of marriage.

In the UK, the rights of homosexuals to get married have been protected by law. Some religious organisations *not* to perform such marriages have also been protected by law, whether registrars who are religious should have to perform homosexual marriages.

### Keywords

- ◆ **agape** – unconditional and self-sacrificing love
- ◆ **caste** – an inherited group which affects social status
- ◆ **Dalits** – a preferred term for those outside of / below the Indian caste system, formerly 'untouchables'
- ◆ **social justice** – the idea that everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities
- ◆ **Vedas** – important and authoritative scriptures in Hinduism
- ◆ **welfare** – practical or financial support to make sure all people have a basic standard of living
- ◆ **zakah** – the giving of money to the needy (among others) which is compulsory for Muslims with minimum criteria

### Christian practices to promote Human Rights

Many Christians have worked to promote **human rights** over the years. Some Christians, who have worked for human rights laws, such as the ones mentioned above, have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Christians aim to respect human rights in their everyday lives.

Examples of general and specific Christian work for human rights include:

- There are many Christians who campaign against abortion and **euthanasia**, because they believe all humans have the right to life.
- Christians such as William Wilberforce campaigned against the slave trade, managing to get it abolished.

### Equality and ways of promoting it

**Equality** means all people being equal and/or being treated equally. This means treating all people with the same respect and dignity, and giving them the same opportunities regardless of their personal situation or characteristics. In the UK, the Human Rights Act guarantees the right to equality; for example, everyone has the right to be free and not a slave, the right to vote (there are some exceptions; children cannot vote). Equal rights extend to everyone; everyone has an equal right to education, and an equal right to protection from discrimination. Protection for men and women, heterosexuals and homosexuals, for example.

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Many religious and non-religious people feel that equality is a good thing. The person who was enslaved or not allowed to vote, so most people would have these rights; if not because they want to be fair, because they would not want inequality themselves.

However, as covered in the section on *Prejudice and Discrimination* some people put equality into practice with regards to certain groups, such as women. Not all non-religious people treat everyone equally either.

There are some debates about how best to apply equality. Most people agree that in some cases in which people should not be given equal opportunities; for example, a person who has not been trained should not be employed as a doctor over someone who has. A teacher takes the same approach to education. Many people argue that students should be given extra help, and maybe even the extra money spent on their education is a shot at equal opportunities in life by being treated differently (being given extra help).

There is a conflict with other issues in this way – does being treated the same as everyone else, or do people need to be treated differently to be equal? In France, a secular country, religious symbols are banned in schools, including Sikh turbans. Some French people believe that it is important that everyone is treated equally. However, in the UK, Muslim headscarves and Sikh turbans are generally allowed. The UK government recognises that if someone feels that they should dress according to their religion, it is treating them with equality to allow them to do so.

Further, freedom of religion may conflict with equality laws – the Catholic Church is allowed to only employ male priests, when normally companies could not discriminate in this way. Religious people may also not be allowed to fully act on their religious beliefs if these conflict with equality laws.

Christian religious groups for refusing to employ gay people. Owners have the right to allow a gay person to work. These people would not be allowed to work.

## Agape in action

**Agape** is a Greek word, which is often translated as unconditional love. It is the love that God has for humans. Many Christians also believe that humans should love each other with agape. Agape is different from other forms of love (e.g. between parent and child) because it does not depend on who a person is or what they do. It is often demonstrated by sacrificing e.g. when Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to save the world. They should treat everyone with agape, as everyone is worth the same to God. Demonstrating God's love if they do not help others.

*'How does God's love abide in us? One who has the world's goods and yet refuses to share it with the children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in action and truth.'* (1 John 3:17-18 NRSV)

Examples of Christian agape might include:

- Jumping in front of a car to save a child you do not know.
- Being a missionary or charity worker in a dangerous war zone.
- Helping one's enemies.

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Agape in Action is the name of a charity which works to help those in poverty and supports their faith.

Agape is one reason why Christians have worked for equality and why they

## Social Justice

### Key Concept – Social Justice

**Social justice** is the idea that everyone deserves equal legal rights and different genders and races, for instance, should all be equally protected options, and wealth should be distributed fairly. People of different religions in different ways and for different reasons.

### Christianity

Many Christians have been inspired for social justice, because they believe that Jesus loves all people and views them equally. This has inspired Christians to work for equality, such as the abolition of the slave trade. Many also support people being allowed slightly different treatment if this will allow them equality, such as wearing items of clothing due to their religious beliefs.

As well as treating people well, Jesus also promoted helping the poor. Because of him, the tax collector Zacchaeus promised to pay back. Bible verses support helping others, and many Christians believe that they promote **welfare**, and give food and money to help those in need.

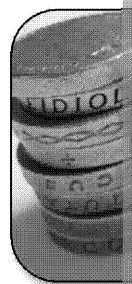
‘... if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the poor, your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.’

However, not all Christians promote social justice, and Christianity has not always promoted justice. In previous centuries the Catholic Church spent much money on priests, bishops and Pope, when this money could have been spent on the poor. The Church supported the slave trade, as the Bible does not forbid slavery.

In modern times, some Christians have felt that *God helps those that help themselves*. Some Christians have often felt that the rich deserve the reward of wealth, which is why they are thinking the poor should be given minimal welfare, as they believe they

### Islam

In Islam, social justice is very important. **Zakah** is one of the five pillars of Islam (five central practices). The Qur'an teaches Muslims should pay zakah, and this is the compulsory giving of a certain percentage of an adult Muslim's wealth (once they possess a certain level of wealth themselves). Zakah can be used for several purposes, including being given to the poor and those in need. Muslims believe that giving zakah is important because it is fair for wealth to be used to help those in need. It is important in helping the poor, and helping Muslims to



Money – a symbol of wealth and power, about how it is used.

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remember that there are people worse off than them. Zakah helps to bring society.

### Hinduism

In Hinduism, the Indian **caste** system poses problems for **social justice**. People are born into a caste which they are born into, which dictates their life choices, and what they can get, and this affects people's social status greatly. Some Indians only belong to certain castes to do 'unclean' jobs, and refuse to allow people from lower castes to do those jobs. The lowest group of people in Indian society are the **Dalits**, who are not allowed to own property.

The government in India is working against discrimination based on caste by employing schemes in order to improve the job prospects of the lower castes. However, **discrimination** is still widespread.

The caste system is not strictly Hindu. As Hindus make up around 80% of the Indian population, it is often Hindus who are carrying out social justice. It is often Hindus who discriminate against people of other castes. The Indian caste system is also often linked to the Hindu class system, which in itself can be seen to discriminate – for example, the lowest of the four classes, the Shudra, are not allowed to hear the **Vedic** scriptures read. However, there are many Hindus who do see caste / class boundaries as immoral and try to treat people equally.

There are four main Hindu classes. The first is the Brahmins, who are the priestly class who perform the rituals. Next come the Kshatriyas, the warriors. Then the Vaishyas, the farmers and traders.

### Other views

Many religious and non-religious people feel that social justice is a good thing. They believe that everyone should have the same rights and opportunities.

One philosophical argument which works in favour of social justice comes from the philosopher John Rawls. He argued that if everyone were behind a 'veil of ignorance', they did not know if they would be rich or poor, male or female, etc. If they were to agree on a set of principles for a just society, one which was fair to all people, and gave them all the same rights and opportunities, they would agree on social justice.

On the other hand, others find the concept of social justice confusing, or even impossible. They argue that there is no fixed definition which can prove if a country or an individual acts in a socially just way. They also argue that people debate about exactly what social justice consists of. Some people argue that social justice requires compulsory redistribution of wealth, e.g. higher taxes for the rich so that the poor can benefit. They may feel that wealth is earned, and so it is unfair to use the money of the well-off to help the poor, if the rich want to keep their money.

### Impact and Influence

Those working for social justice have helped develop women's rights; abolish apartheid (racial separation and **discrimination**) in South Africa; and bring about many other changes.

On the other hand, there is still **inequality** in society, because some groups have more opportunities than others – for example, they may be disadvantaged by gender or ethnicity. Some people are also disadvantaged.

If those in power do not agree with certain methods of social justice – e.g. redistribution of wealth – then their laws may reflect this, and there may be greater inequality between the rich and poor.

### Quick Questions

3. What are human rights? (2 marks)
4. With reference to Christianity explain views about equality. (5 marks)

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**Key Concept – Personal Conviction**

**Personal conviction** is someone's strong belief, often about what is right and what they should do in order to be a good person. Sometimes personal conviction is based on religious teachings and beliefs. An example of a personal conviction is that it is wrong to kill animals – consequently they may be a vegetarian.

**Conflict Between Personal Conviction and the Laws of a Country**

Sometimes **personal convictions** can conflict with the laws of a country.

**Keywords:**

- ♦ **freedom of religion and belief** – being able to follow your faith and/or beliefs and to practise them

**Example 1 – Freedom of Religion and Belief – Freedom to follow one's chosen religion or none and to enjoy the same rights**

Today in the UK everyone has **freedom of religion and belief**. This means that they are free to believe in whatever religion they want, or to have no religious beliefs. It also means they are allowed freedom to worship and to practise their beliefs. The freedom of religion and religious belief only ends if someone's religious belief would lead them to do something illegal, and/or something which went against the rights of others. A clear example of this is that no one is allowed to kill or physically harm someone else in the name of religion.

There has not always been freedom of religion and belief in the UK. For many years following Henry VIII's break from the Catholic Church in the 1500s, when there were Catholic monarchs it was dangerous to be a Protestant, and when there were Protestant monarchs it was dangerous to be a Catholic. Certain branches of Christianity were not allowed full rights to public worship, and neither were members of non-Christian religions. People who did not follow the religious status quo were disadvantaged in other ways. Becoming an MP was restricted to those of certain religious/non-religious beliefs; one could not be a member of Oxford and Cambridge (the only English universities) as a member of a non-Christian religion. Atheists could not give evidence in court. However, during the nineteenth century the UK gradually moved closer to religious freedom.

(Freedom of religion and belief faces even bigger challenges in other countries, either through direct pressure from terrorist groups. For example, while North Korea allows freedom of religion in theory, some have claimed that this is not the case in practice, and that the government is hostile to practising their religions, including Christians.)

Therefore, when there are not laws protecting freedom of religion and belief, there can be a conflict with the law. It may be illegal for someone to practice the religion they believe in. However, someone will believe that their religion is true and they *should* practice it. Someone

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option to lie about their religious beliefs – e.g. pretending to be a Christian to avoid military service. This is not evidence in court (see above). However, if someone's personal conviction is that they should not serve, then they would be faced with a difficult situation.

### Example 2 – Freedom of Religion and Belief where this clashes with other rights

Even today, freedom to practise certain religions does face some challenges in the UK. For example, some religions, such as Islam, require the ritual slaughter of animals. British laws surrounding animal rights can complicate matters, but Muslims can pay licensed slaughterers to perform ritual slaughter for them, which many see as acceptable. Islam also requires that a person's body is buried within a certain amount of time after they have died, but British law sometimes requires a 24-hour wait after death. Hospitals may try to accommodate Muslim deaths to the best of their ability and try to speed up paperwork so that they can be buried quickly. However, if there is a medical need to keep the body, they do not need permission from relatives to carry out post-mortems.

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Some forms of religious dress may also be banned in certain places in certain countries (discussed in the section on *Freedom of Religious Expression* below).

Therefore those who have a **personal conviction** that they should be able to carry out certain religious practices at certain times, or wear certain items of clothing may face difficulties when these are banned or constrained by law. Many Christians should be accommodated as much as possible, so that the law does not make them feel that the UK is (or should be) a 'Christian country' and do not feel the need to make allowances for other religions.

### Example 3 – Pacifism and Violence

Some people are **pacifists** and oppose violence – they have a **personal conviction** that violence is wrong.

However, sometimes the law requires people to fight. During the Second World War, people who fulfilled certain criteria were legally required to fight against their personal conviction and agreed to fights. Some pacifists were imprisoned for disobeying the law (and upholding their personal conviction).

### Christianity and the Law

There is a real split in Christianity about whether laws should always be followed. For example, some Christians feel that laws should not be opposed by the state authority. St Paul made this claim (that God wanted people to follow the law before any ruler was Christian, and when Christians were being persecuted). Therefore, he did not intend this to include following laws which prohibit the observance of another religion, but presumably to laws which were enforced by the state.

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People who hold such views may view people who disobey the law due to negatively, providing their illegal action is something other than following

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except by God's ordinance, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. (1

On the other hand, many Christians believe that *not* all laws are just, and laws which God does not approve of – they will feel that if laws are unjust not to do bad things even if they are legally obliged to, and in many cases convictions and, in doing so, break the law. For example, many Christians because they believed that the persecution (bad treatment) of Jews was are willing to receive punishment for standing up for what they believe. that laws should be followed normally but not if these contradict their d



Jesus told them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' (Matthew 22:21 NR)



A coin bearing an emperor's head, given to the emperor ('things that are the

At what stage should Christians stop giving to the state, if any?

### Quick Questions

5. What is meant by personal conviction? (2 marks)
6. Why might there be differences of belief about conflicts between laws of a country within Christianity? (5 marks)



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## Keywords:

- ♦ **apostasy** – leaving a religion
- ♦ **blasphemy** – something said or done against God or religion
- ♦ **burka** – a Muslim veil that covers the whole face and body, but has a mesh screen for the eyes
- ♦ **fundamentalism** – of religion, often referring to literal and strict belief in the foundations of a religion
- ♦ **niqab** – a Muslim face veil that covers the whole head and face with a slit for the eyes
- ♦ **polytheist** – someone who believes in more than one god
- ♦ **Qur'an** – the Muslim holy book, which the majority of Muslims believe to have been revealed through the Prophet Muhammad. (Note: Muslims usually add 'bismillah' at the beginning of the name of the Prophet in writing or speech to show respect.)
- ♦ **shirk** – often translated 'idolatry' but it has greater scope – worshipping anything other than God, or denying the existence of God
- ♦ **sin** – a thought or action against God, which he may choose to punish
- ♦ **toleration** – allowing a different practice or belief without discrimination



## Key Concept - Censorship

**Censorship** is where there are limits placed on free speech – spoken or written things which someone is not allowed to say/write. There are various reasons for censorship. Different people who censor. Governments may not want military secrets to be leaked. They may ban speech considered to be harmful or offensive. Religious groups may censor information which they feel is insulting to their religion. Some people find something acceptable and others do not. Many people will feel that it is acceptable in some cases to preserve public safety, but not in others e.g. to avoid offense of one group.

## Censorship

**Censorship** conflicts with freedom of speech. With regard to religion, there are two types of censorship:

- ♦ The government making laws about what it is acceptable to say with regard to religion.
- ♦ Religious groups and authorities trying to censor others with regard to religion.

An example of the first type is the **blasphemy** law which used to exist in the early years of the twenty-first century. This prohibited people saying things which were deemed insulting to Christianity (it did not apply to other religions). So even though there was freedom of speech, and people were free to say what they wanted, their rights were restricted to some extent. The reason why the act no longer exists is that it **discriminate** against other religions and those of no religion – people could say things against Christianity, but they were not free to do so against Islam or Sikhism, for example. The blasphemy law was unfair censorship in general, as people are free to say what they want. If someone is not harassing or inciting hatred, this is not normally banned.

Many people feel that it is good that blasphemy is not punishable, as religion is a right not to be insulted. On the other hand, many people feel that extreme religious beliefs are unkind and unnecessary – they should not be illegal, but they should be discouraged.

An example of the second type is the *Behzti Affair*. *Behzti* (meaning dishonour) was a law that was set in a gurdwara (Sikh holy building) about issues within Sikhism. It is set in a gurdwara (Sikh holy building) about issues within Sikhism.

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members of the Sikh community because it contains rape and murder in things. Members of the Sikh community had asked the playwright to change the details to make it less offensive, but she did not want to – these details contributed to the impact of the play. In the night of the play in 2004, Sikh protestors protested the play outside the theatre. The protest became violent and stormed the theatre. The play was cancelled to ensure the safety of the community.

Many people sympathised with the Sikh community's offense – many people, including those from other religions, spoke out saying that such offense to any religion and its religious places was unacceptable. Others felt that while Sikhs had a right to peacefully protest the play, they should not be able to censor a play and stop it being shown because they did not like it.

The cartoon *Hebdo* raised issues of **censorship** and the right to publish. It had consequences for the religious community and members who were angered by the censorship.

### Freedom of Religious Expression

**Freedom of religious expression** is part of freedom of religion and belief. It includes the right to express their religion through religious practice, which includes worship and also through making statements concerning religion.

Religious expression through dress and symbols can be a particularly controversial issue. Some people feel that it is acceptable for people to wear religious symbols, which expresses their faith. Others feel that this should not be the case, or should not be the case in certain places, such as at school or the workplace.

- Some people who disagree with the wearing of religious symbols believe that people should not be able to promote their religion in certain places (e.g. at school or work).
- Others may feel that it is unfair for certain people to be able to wear symbols where others would be forbidden to wear certain items (e.g. it might be unfair that a Sikh can wear a turban where a non-religious person would not be allowed to wear a hat).
- Others may feel that religious symbols or dress should be banned for practical reasons (e.g. a cross necklace could be dangerous in some working environments, and a Muslim face veil might limit communication).

Religious and non-religious people could hold different views on these issues.

This issue can also be complex because some religious dress/symbols can be seen as essential to the religion, while others are optional. For example, some Muslims feel that the **Qur'an** commands them to wear a headscarf. Therefore, to deny them this is to legislate against their religion. On the other hand, nowhere in the Bible does it say that Christians must wear a cross necklace, though many desire to, to express their religion. Some people argue that it is fair to disallow the latter (in workplaces) where others feel it is **discrimination** to allow one group to express their religion if people of other religions can't. Complications arise for Muslims who wear head veils feel they are commanded in religion – they feel it is a religious requirement or because they help them to feel closer to Allah or liberated from worldly concerns.

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*This quote is interpreted by some to command head/face covering, but some do feel without covering the head.*

Debates surrounding veiling in the UK have been controversial. The UK allows also to veil their face. There have, however, been settings where Muslim women their face – such as both teachers and students in schools, where it has been interaction needed for learning. In France, face-covering is banned in public as symbols, including face coverings, are banned in state schools. Some people wholeheartedly support the **niqab** and **burka**, should be banned in public, as they communicate and identity. However, others argue that people have a right to just as they have a right to cover any other part of their body. Some argue that for modesty while allowing others to dress in revealing clothing is unfair and they can choose to dress as they want, this should include being able to dress modestly in ways which some would consider provocative.

Some religious and non-religious people do not agree with freedom of expression (for all).

- ## Christianity

Most Christians accept some **freedom of religious expression** because to treat them as you would want to be treated. Considering Christians w religion, this would imply that they should extend others the same right.

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

Jesus was also kind to people who did not follow the same religion or worship. In John 4 Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman, indicating to her that it did not matter where someone belonged to, or where they worshipped, but that they had the right to worship God.

However, as shown above, in the section on *Conflict Between Personal Conscience and Country*, in practice Christians have not always allowed other types of Christians to practise their religions, full freedom of religious expression; people have been persecuted. There were restrictions on public worship and religious expression for some religions. Today many people may also feel that there should not be full freedom of religious expression in the UK. Lack of tolerance for the religious expression of those who do not share the belief held by Christians that their way of worshipping God is the only way. Christians believe that only through Jesus can you know God and/or go to heaven, because Jesus is the Son of God. He knows God the Father through him. It may also be because of reasons given in the Bible, such as practices such as circumcision and religious dress.

'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."' (John 14:6 NRSV)

## Islam

There are various different attitudes to **freedom of religious expression** in Islam. The Quran has made provision for non-Muslims living under a Muslim government. Religious groups such as Jews and Christians have been allowed by many Muslim states to continue practising their religion, and in some instances have been allowed to carry out actions such as drinking wine (part of the Christian practice of observing the Eucharist), when Muslims were not allowed to carry out such actions. Many Muslims do not feel that they should force Islam on people of other religions or no religion, and that people of other religions should be allowed to practise their religion in peace.

A glass of wine  
Sometimes  
of religious  
expression  
means  
different  
different

'Say: Oh ye that reject Faith! I worship not what ye worship, nor what your fathers worshipped, nor what the Jews and Christians worshipped. I worship that which I see in the Quran. To you be your way, and to me mine.'

However, while Muslims may accept the freedom of non-Muslims to express their religion, many Muslims do not believe that someone should be allowed to leave Islam and become a non-Muslim, which is known as **apostasy**. So there is not freedom of religious expression for Muslims but do not wish to be Muslims any longer. Some hadiths teach that those who left Islam be put to death, and some Muslims agree with this.

In some Islamic countries today, members of certain religions face persecution, or face legal sanctions if they practise their religion. There is freedom of religious expression for some religions but not all. In Islam, **shirk** (worshipping something other than God, or denying the existence of God) is forbidden.

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**sin**, and, therefore, those who commit this are seen to deserve punishment. It appears to teach that **polytheists** (those who believe in multiple gods, e.g. of indigenous religions) in areas which Muslims conquered could be put to death. Christians and Jews differ from polytheists because they worship one God. Christianity and Judaism, like Islam, are Abrahamic faiths (with a common ancestor Abraham), and so Christians and Jews are considered by Muslims to be 'people of the book', and are, therefore, allowed to practise their religion in Islamic countries and for protected minorities.

Some Muslims do not wish to extend freedom of religious expression to non-Muslims, and Christianity, if they feel like everyone should follow Islam.

### Non-religious

Some non-religious people feel that everyone should have freedom of religion, and respects their beliefs. Others believe that some religious freedoms should be restricted because **equality** is better achieved by treating everyone in the same way, excepting religious people, or because they feel that certain forms of religious practice are potentially harmful, e.g. circumcision or face veils.

#### Activity

Discuss different attitudes to freedom of religious expression with a partner. What are your views about such issues?

### Key Concept – Extremism

**Extremism** generally refers to beliefs and practices which are very different from the mainstream, often seen as unacceptable to society. Extremism can be purely descriptive, or it can imply a negative view. Extremism is usually a term applied by others, not by extremists.

**Religious extremism** is a hard term to define. It can refer to acts of religious violence, or to religious beliefs which are strongly different (often stricter) than the mainstream of that religion. Religious extremists often feel strongly that their beliefs are correct, and that others' beliefs are wrong) and that their actions are justified.

### Religious Extremism

There are many examples of **religious extremism** in the world today. Some are peaceful, and some have escalated into violence.

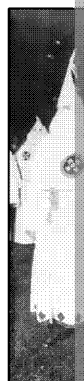
The Westboro Baptist Church is one Christian organisation which can be described as religiously extremist. The Church campaigns strongly against homosexuality. It has also spoken out against other religions, and other organisations such as the United Nations. The Church believes that major disasters and attacks are punishment from God for not following their beliefs. The extent of its beliefs against homosexuality (it has individuals who believe homosexuality punished by death), and its other beliefs are extreme for a Christian organisation – it is widely known for picketing funerals, including those of high-profile figures. However, the Church does not aim to be violent (although members have been violent in the past). The Church has stated that it does not support violence. There are many other extremist groups which are known for beliefs and actions other than violence.

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Christian **fundamentalists** who believe in the literal truth of the Bible, but their actions could be classed as extremists, however fundamentalism is often not extremism as extremism has the implications of violence or at least expressions of violence. Individual fundamentalists and groups of fundamentalists will become extremists when they begin to try to enforce their views on others.

There are also many religious organisations and individuals from all religions which are considered extremists because of their violence – Christian Nazis and the KKK; Islamic groups such as so-called Islamic State; Jewish nationalists (Zionists) in Israel; Saffron terrorists (terrorists fighting in the cause of Hindu Nationalism); the Sikh terrorist organisation Babbar Khalsa International; and militant Buddhist monks in South-East Asia. None of the six world faiths are without violent religious extremists in some form or another, whether the extremists aim to promote the faith, control their country or country's religion, establish a homeland, punish those they consider to be **sinning** against God, or any other cause.



Memorabilia

Many mainstream religious people have spoken out against religious extremism, and many religious leaders from different religions have shown willingness to work together to stand against religious extremism. For example, in 2015, Pope Francis took part in a memorial service for the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks with leaders from other religions. He has spoken against religious extremism, and has shown that he wants to work with others in opposition to it.

### Quick Questions

7. What is censorship? (2 marks)

### Now Try This...

8. From two different religions **OR** two different religious traditions explain religious expression. (8 marks)

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## Prejudice and Discrimination

Christianity teaches against **prejudice** and **discrimination**, and many Christians believe it is wrong and aim to treat people **equally**. However, sometimes within religion there is prejudice and discrimination – some people feel that certain groups of people are different and treat them worse as a result. Groups such as women and **homosexuals** have experienced a lot of such prejudice and discrimination.

### Key Concept – Prejudice & Key Concept - Discrimination

**Prejudice** is a biased belief about someone or a group of people. Prejudice can be based on religion, ignorance, or many other causes.

**Discrimination** is treating someone differently or unfairly because of prejudice. It can be to stop them from doing certain things, or expecting them to do certain things. Many forms of discrimination are illegal in the UK.

#### Keywords



- ♦ **homosexuality** – a sexual orientation where people are attracted to people of the same sex
- ♦ **ordain** – to make someone a member of the clergy such as a priest or a minister, after religious training and have authority to perform services and administer sacraments
- ♦ **procreation** – making/having children

### Christian Beliefs and Teachings

Christianity teaches that prejudice and discrimination is wrong. This is taught in Jesus' teachings:

*'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but may have eternal life.'* (John 3:16)

*'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the love of God.'* (Matthew 7:12 NRSV – The Golden Rule)

Jesus taught that God had sent him to save everyone in the world, and so he did not think badly of people without reason, as God has demonstrated that he loves everyone. Jesus taught everyone to treat others as they would like to be treated themselves, and not to treat anyone badly or worse than others.

There are also other biblical teachings against prejudice and discrimination.

*'As many of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with love, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, but all are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs of the promise.'* (Galatians 3:27-29 NRSV)

This demonstrates a common Christian belief that men and women, rich and poor, different nationalities are all equal to God. If people are all equal to God, then it is wrong to think badly of different groups, or treat them badly – many agree with this.

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## Christians Attitudes – Practical Applications (Women and Homosexuals)

However, practically, not all Christians avoid **prejudice/discrimination**.  
Christian attitudes to prejudice and discrimination regarding women and

### Women

Women have not always been treated in the same way as men within Church teaching. Ways in which women may be treated differently to men

- ◆ Some churches will not **ordain** women (allow them to be priests).
- ◆ Some Christians believe that wives should obey the authority of their husbands.
- ◆ Some Christians have seen the woman's role as being a good wife and mother.

'I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she is to be silent, as the church is, of which Christ is the head, his body, which he saves with his word, and himself the church, which he cleanses by the word, that he may present to himself the church, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind, that he may present it to himself in glory, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind' (1 Timothy 2:12 NR)

'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the church, just as Christ is the head of the church' (Ephesians 5:22-23)



A female bishop

The Catholic Church teaches that women and men are created in the image of God. Jesus and his 12 disciples were men, and the Catholic Church is to have male priests. Some Christians believe that women should be under the authority of men because of the teaching that Adam caused the first man Adam to **sin** (a fall from grace). The Church has emphasised the importance of women as mothers because many important figures in the Bible were mothers, e.g. Mary, mother of Jesus.

Many Christians believe that such views of women differently based on them is discrimination. The Catholic Church has argued that not allowing women to be priests is not treating them in any sense lower, or worse than men – they believe that God has different roles for women and men. They point out that Jesus' mother Mary was a woman.

to focus on childcare, but the Church regards her very highly. Therefore, treating women differently is not prejudice, and treating them differently is not discrimination.

Many Christians, following teaching, e.g. teaching of Jesus and St Paul, believe that men and women should be treated equally in all respects – the New Testament shows that Jesus treated women well and had female followers. Quakers have believed this for centuries. In many other churches, such as the Anglican Church, in recent decades, allowed women to become ordained.



### Homosexuals

There are various different attitudes to **homosexuality** within Christianity. Some believe that being homosexual is wrong (for example, some evangelical Christians), some believe that being homosexual is acceptable, but practising homosexuality is wrong (for example, some liberal Christians), and others accept homosexuality and homosexuals (for example some liberal Christians).

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Belief that homosexuality or homosexual action is wrong is influenced by

‘You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination

This can mean that many Christians are **prejudiced** against homosexuals. Homosexuals are **discriminated** against and treated differently to heterosexuals.

- ◆ Some Christians who oppose homosexuality campaign against homosexuals and may even be physically abusive
- ◆ Many churches will not marry homosexual couples – because they believe marriage is between a man and a woman (and in the case of the Catholic Church, for **procreation**)
- ◆ Some Christians disapprove of homosexual couples, because they believe that families with heterosexual parents should form the basis of society

Therefore, some homosexuals may feel discriminated against by some Christians. They are often expected not to have romantic relationships, are not allowed to be married (religiously), and are frowned upon.

However, other Christians do not discriminate against homosexuals. Many Christians have no prejudice against them, if they feel that everyone is **equal** and should have equal rights. Even some Christians who feel that homosexuality is sinful believe that they should not treat homosexuals any differently. This is because many Christians follow Jesus’ teaching not to judge others.

‘Or how can you say to your neighbour, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,” when a log is in your own eye?’ (Matthew 7:4 NRSV) [Jesus on not judging others, but perfect yourself]

## Impact and Influence

Religious (negative) beliefs about homosexuality have affected UK law. Homosexuality was illegal in some parts of the UK until 1982, homosexual civil partnerships were not legal until 2005, and same-sex marriage has only been legal (in England, Scotland and Wales) since 2014.

## Quick Questions

9. What is prejudice? (2 marks)

## Now Try This...

10. From two different religions **OR** two religious traditions explain why some people believe that homosexuality is wrong. (2 marks)

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## Racial Prejudice and Discrimination

One kind of **prejudice** and **discrimination** is **racial prejudice and discrimination**, or **racism**: believing that there are different races, and that certain races are superior/inferior to others, and treating people differently based on their perceived race. Racism often means prejudice/discrimination against a group with a particular skin colour, but can refer to prejudice/discrimination against a group which is culturally different to one's own – for example, against someone of the same skin colour, but from a different country. Racism is often from a majority group against a minority group, but members of a minority group can still be racist against members of a majority group.

There has been a long history of racism, which for centuries was legal, and encouraged. Countries such as the UK enslaved black Africans, justifying this (in the popular view) with the belief that white people were superior. Some people even tried to argue that black people were closer to their evolutionary ancestors, monkeys, than white people, though there was no scientific basis for this. In South Africa, there was apartheid, or 'separateness' between groups of people with different skin colours until almost the end of the twentieth century. In the US, in the twentieth century, Martin Luther King Jr campaigned for **equal** rights for people of different colours.

Examples of racial discrimination which countries allowed, or insisted upon, in the past include:

- ◆ People of different colours were separated, e.g. in restaurants.
- ◆ Black people were required to give up their seats for white people on the bus.
- ◆ You could choose to give a job to a white person over a black person.

Racial discrimination is now illegal in the UK, and racial prejudice is frowned upon – prejudice itself, if it is not acted upon, is not illegal, because people are free to hold their own opinions.

However, racial discrimination still takes place. People shout racist abuse, and it may sometimes be hard to prove if someone was denied a job on the basis of race. Even if someone was similarly qualified, and in certain professions there is under-representation of certain racial groups in leadership positions. Many media outlets are also criticised for not conveying their interests in the press, which may mean that certain racial groups are presented positively. Policemen and courts are sometimes accused of bias, and certain racial groups are more likely (in certain areas) to be stopped and searched. Some racial groups appear to get harsher punishments.

### Important

Race is different to religion, which is an active choice. People can be racist against someone who is not of their race. 'He's racist against Muslims' – in this sense, it is important to note that race is not a choice. However, some people use the term 'racist' (a controversial term); for example, 'He's racist against Jewish families who are not as Jewish. Similarly, U

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Some people believe that racism stems from fear, either fear of difference or fear of people who have grown up in a multicultural society – where there are people of many different nationalities, there may be less fear of 'difference'. However, there can still be fear. In the UK there are many people who have negative views of immigrants, some believe that immigrants will drain government resources and take jobs, disadvantaging British people. Discrimination against immigrants from other countries is viewed by some as a necessary evil.

Many religious people and non-religious people disagree with racism because everyone is equal and have equal rights.

However, others may be racial, for social or cultural reasons, such as a lack of education about different cultures and a fear of the unknown. People may also generalise or stereotype – if they have had a bad experience with one person of a certain race or group, they may believe that they would have similar experiences with all people of the same group.

### Christian Beliefs, Teachings and Attitudes

Christianity did little to combat **racism** in the past, with the Church supporting the slave trade, as there is nothing forbidding slavery in the Bible.

However, many Christians have campaigned against racism, and many more people of all races **equally**. Many Christians believe that teaching, such as the Golden Rule, means that they should not have **prejudice** towards or **discriminate** against anyone because everyone is equal to God.

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free...  
Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:28 NRSV)

There is no teaching within Christianity against people of any racial background. Indeed, most religions allow people to convert to their faith, and so ethnicity is usually not a barrier to religion. This implies that religious people should not discriminate on racial grounds, because they feel that God accepts everyone.

Christians may use any of the following arguments to argue against racism.

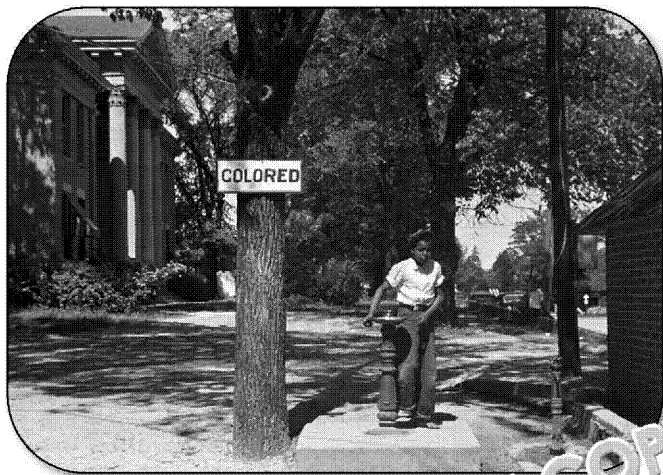
#### Argument from Equality

Again, John Rawls' *Veil of Ignorance* concept – where people would have to choose principles of justice without knowing who they would be, or whether they would be black or white, or where they live, or an immigrant, is useful. Rawls argues that, from a position of equality, people would choose principles which would benefit all groups, and would not allow **racial discrimination**. People would not want to be on the receiving end – they would want equal treatment for everyone.

Teaching from Galatians 3 (see above) backs up this point – if people are equal in the eyes of God, surely they should not be viewed or treated unequally by people.

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Treating people differently, e.g. by dividing them into different water fountains, may not make them feel good positively

### Argument from

People also argue because they believe that it is wrong to discriminate – from a particular perspective, it is better or worse and it may or be potentially harmful. Therefore, discrimination is wrong.

### Argument from

Another argument is that discrimination against particular groups by discrimination against those targeted.

community feel that white police are stopping and searching them or members of the community who are being discriminated against to retaliate and discriminate against them. This would end up reinforcing **prejudice**, and possibly antisocial behaviour. Therefore, this would imply that if people then they should not discriminate, because this will lead to problems.

### Summary

So people should not **discriminate** on the grounds of race because:

- ◆ People would not like to be discriminated against themselves – they would not like to be treated differently.
- ◆ There is no reason to discriminate – people of different races are not different.
- ◆ Racism just makes problems worse – if people are discriminated against they respond negatively against the people they believe are discriminating against them.

### Martin Luther King's Teachings on Equality

Martin Luther King Jr (1929-1968) was a Baptist minister who campaigned against white people in America until he was assassinated. His campaign included speaking and organising marches. He gave rousing speeches including his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech.

Some of King's teaching on equality can be found in this speech – King believed that all people were created equal because they had all been made as equals by God. Much of King's teaching was based on his religious faith, and he also references the American dream – the belief that all people have equal opportunities to do well if they work for it. King felt that this ought to be true for black American citizens at the time he was campaigning.

King felt that people should not be judged on arbitrary (unimportant and irrelevant) differences such as skin colour, but by the type of people that they were. He wanted equality to be achieved by allowing black people the same civil and social rights as white people, increasing the employment of black people (including in better jobs), and by the government spending a lot of money on helping the poorer and less fortunate people of the country.

### Quick Questions

11. What is racism? (2 marks)

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## Issues of Wealth and Poverty

Wealth and poverty are controversial issues. Some feel that wealth is a good thing, but it is a distraction. Some may feel that one can use one's wealth as one wishes. Some feel that wealthy should help others. Many people feel that those in poverty should be helped.

### Ethical Considerations about Acquisition and Use of Wealth

Wealth usually refers to financial wealth – to money, or to possessions which can be sold for money.

#### Keywords:

- ♦ **dukkha** – suffering
- ♦ **enlightenment** – becoming aware of a/the truth
- ♦ **humanist** – someone who aims to live a good life, without belief in God
- ♦ **karma** – action. Buddhists believe that there are good moral actions and bad moral actions. The laws of karma mean that good actions will result in good consequences.
- ♦ **utilitarians** – people who believe that actions are good if they cause pleasure.

### Attitudes to Wealth



Some religious and non-religious people think that wealth is a good thing because having money allows you to do what you want, provide for your family, and meet your needs. Some religious people feel that wealth is a blessing from God, and so is a positive thing.

'The Lord has greatly blessed me with wealth...' (Genesis 1:2)

Some people feel that wealth is a bad thing, or is not important – because it is not as important as family, friends or health, and that money cannot buy happiness. Some people feel that an obsession with wealth, will make someone unhappy, because they are missing out on other things which matter, e.g. some religious people feel that wealth is a distraction.

'And [Jesus] said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a person's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'" (Luke 12:15)

'No one can serve two masters. For you will either hate the one and love the other, or you will love the one and hate the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.' (Matthew 6:24)

'Jesus took a scribe and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"' (Luke 18:24 NRSV)

Many people have a moderate view of wealth. They believe that money can be used to a certain extent to buy food and clothes and provide security. However, they also believe that wealth is a bad thing because it is a distraction.

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## Acquisition of Wealth

Acquisition of wealth means getting wealth, in other words how someone acquires wealth. There are various ethical considerations surrounding this:

- Has wealth been earned, or has it been stolen?

Christianity teaches that stealing is wrong, and so it is bad to take wealth from others.

*You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15 NRSV)*

- Has wealth been earned by moral means?

While most people will agree that it is not ethical to gain wealth by stealing, there are unethical ways of making money which do not involve stealing. For example, slavery is illegal e.g. slavery – most people recognise that selling human beings is wrong, but it is legal, or legal in some places.

Some people feel that making money via means such as prostitution is immoral, as is selling one's body for sex devalues someone as a person. Many people feel that interest on pay-day loans is also immoral, because you are making money from poor people.

Christian views tend to align with those of society – slavery is wrong, and day loan companies as immoral.

*Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the time of their distress.*

Islam and some other religions have more restrictions on how people can acquire wealth. For example, charging interest on money, selling alcohol, or selling pork. Muslims would not acquire money by doing these things (they see interest as exploitative and Islam forbids pork). This has proved difficult for some Muslims working in shops such as supermarkets to sell anyone alcoholic or pork products!

“Those who devour usury will not stand except as stands one whom the wind strikes and drives to madness. That is because they say: “Trade is like usury,” but Allah has forbidden usury. Those who after receiving direction from their Lord, desist from it, their case is for Allah (to judge); but those who repeat (the offence) are cursed by Allah and will abide therein (for ever).’ (Qur’an 2:275)

(Note: Usury is charging interest.)

Ethical considerations of the acquisition of wealth could also include considering how wealth should be used – is it ok to keep a lot of wealth, or should excess wealth be given to charity? We will be looking at this more below.

## Use of Wealth

Different people feel that wealth should be used in different ways. There are various ethical considerations surrounding this:

Some people feel that those who earn wealth deserve to keep it, or use it as they see fit. This view could stem from the view that wealth comes to those who work hard, or

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Other people believe that those with wealth should not just use it as they help others. They might believe that wealth should be used to help other charity. Or they might believe that wealth can be used however a person for instance, wealth should not be used in ways that would damage the environment, flying everywhere by private jet; or in ways which will harm the livelihood of others, deliberately selling products more cheaply than all competitors until they go bankrupt. Some people believe that taxation is important, so that wealth can be used where it is needed for justice. This could be believed by a religious person, if they feel this is what is required (of biblical teaching to help others), or a non-religious person such as a humanist, who believe it is right because it helps people.

However, it can be argued that if people with wealth are *not* able to use it to help others, then this will mean that people are no longer motivated to do so. Some people demanding professional help for important medical or technological advances. Some arguments suggest that it is beneficial for wealthy people to use their money because it boosts the economy and advances society, and this in itself is a good thing for the wealthy.

**Utilitarians** would argue that wealth should be used in whichever way will bring the most pleasure and least pain overall. In general, this would imply that wealth should be used to help those in need, and redistributed until people have roughly equal levels of wealth. This is because someone with little wealth ought to get much more pleasure from being able to pay for food and shelter, than someone who has lots of wealth would feel pain at not being able to buy luxury items which they want. Peter Singer has argued that people should work out how much money they need, with a reasonable quality of life, and give all the rest away, because they can help someone whose life could be greatly improved with this money.

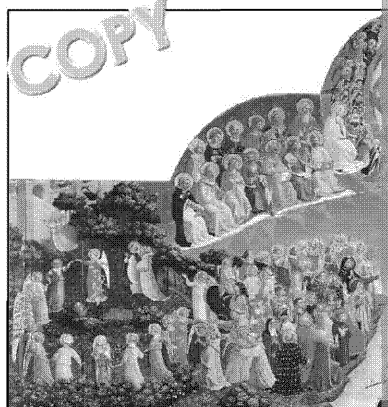
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Any of these ethical arguments could be used by religious people.

### Christianity

Some Christians feel that they can use wealth as they want to (within reason), because it is a reward from God. Some branches of Christianity, such as charismatic Christianity, teach that wealth is a reward and blessing from God. Christians who believe this may feel justified in using their wealth if they feel that God blesses those who follow him, and so it is not their responsibility to redistribute wealth.

Jesus separating people  
Angelico, 1432-1435. Jesus  
whether or not the



However, many Christians believe that wealth should be used to help others.

Jesus taught that people should aim for spiritual rather than worldly wealth to help others because it showed love and compassion for those

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strengthen a relationship with God. Jesus said that what people did for some Christians see using wealth to help others as doing something dire

‘... go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will  
(Mark 10:21 NRSV)

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are member  
(Matthew 25:40 NRSV)

Some Christians believe that it is best to give up all possessions and wealth and follow God – some become monks and nuns and focus their lives on God and no possessions.

Christians are warned against storing up too much wealth and not helping others. The story of the rich man and Jesus in Luke 16 reminds Christians that if they have plenty and do not help others, then they will be punished in hell.

#### Luke 16:19

Jesus tells a  
in luxury,  
outside h  
When the  
heaven and  
The rich  
torment, a  
reach the s  
that it is ne  
are alive, or  
there will be  
those v  
rewarded

### Islam

In Islam, it is very important to share wealth with others – see the information on **zakah** in the section on *Social Justice* above. Islam also teaches that all wealth is the property of Allah, and so Muslims believe that the rich do not have a complete right to their money, as it is really Allah's.

‘Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to Truth); for those in b cause of Allah; and for the wayfarer: (thus is it) ordained by Allah, and A wisdom.’ (Qur'an 9:60)

The **Qur'an** also encourages charity.

‘It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces towards East or West to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the angels, and the Book, and th substance, out of love for Him, for verily for orphans, for the needy, for and for the ransom of slaves, to be steadfast in prayer, and practise regula which ye have made (to be) firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearin

However, Muslims also feel that they can use the rest of their wealth the appropriate amounts to others. Wealth can be seen as a blessing from A in Islam to give all one's possessions to the poor, whereas some Bible ve Christians should do this (see Mark 10:21 above).

### Buddhism

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One focus of Buddhism is to escape suffering, or **dukkha**. Buddhists believe that greed, anger, and attachment include greed and attachment, and therefore Buddhists are likely to seek to escape attachment to wealth. They may wish to redistribute their wealth, as large amounts of wealth can contribute to attachment to money and possessions. However, the Buddha taught that people should follow the 'middle way' – not having too much and having too little. The Buddha taught from experience – according to legend, he began life with all material comforts, but felt that this shielded him from suffering. He then spent time with a group who practised extreme austerity (denying themselves everything) but found it difficult to become **enlightened** either – he could not focus on what was important. He eventually achieved enlightenment while in the middle – not too much, not too little.

Further, Buddhists believe that good actions result in good consequences and bad actions result in bad consequences; this is known as **karma**. Being selfish about wealth is likely to be seen as bad karma, and using wealth to help others as good karma. One way Buddhism teaches that Buddhists can achieve good karma is by donating to monks, so Buddhists are likely to use some of their wealth to help provide for monks, to try to gain good karma.



Buddhists

### Quick Questions

12. What is wealth? (2 marks)
13. With reference to Christianity explain views about acquisition and use of wealth.



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## Actions and Attitudes of Christian Charities in Twentieth Century Britain whose Aim is to Alleviate Poverty

Many people feel that they should give **charity**. Giving charity can involve giving food or clothing; or giving time to help others. Many people give to charitable organisations such as Oxfam, or religious ones such as Christian Aid – so that they can help people on their behalf.

### Key Concept – Relative and Absolute Poverty

**Relative poverty** is poverty compared to something else. For example, someone who is poor, but most (or all) of them are *relatively* poor, they cannot afford to go on holiday, or eating in restaurant. Some may not be able to buy a car or put the heating on for long periods. Many people will argue that in the UK levels of poverty are not as bad as in other countries, as they do not represent a decent standard of **welfare**. In the UK means that most people have somewhere to live, food to wear, and compared to many people around the world they do have a better life. For homeless people, there are many places which provide food and clothing.

However, some people live in **absolute poverty** (many people in other countries live in absolute poverty). This is usually seen to be when someone lives on the edge of survival. It is sometimes described as living on less than a pound a day.

Note: Sometimes people will do challenges for charity where they try to live on less than a pound a day. This is a good eye-opener and fundraiser, but remember: there are many people who live on less than a pound a day. People may try to consume food for the day which costs less than a pound, but this is a challenge! However, they are still living somewhere, which almost certainly costs more than one pound a day, and they are also likely to be using facilities such as electricity, education, transport, a mobile phone, and other things which cost money on a daily basis, but do cost a lot of money.

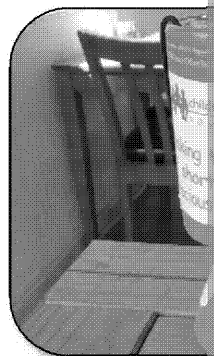
### Keywords:

- ♦ **sadaqah** – voluntary charity – extra to the money Muslims have to give as zakat

### Christian Aid – Attitudes and Actions

There are many charities which work worldwide to help others, for example Christian Aid. Christian Aid aims primarily to support people (Christians and non-Christians) practically. They do a lot of their work in less economically developed countries, responding to natural disasters, helping the hungry, providing medical care, shelter and education, and helping refugees.

Christian Aid aims to stop, and in the meantime alleviate (make less bad), poverty. They do this because of the biblical teachings to help others, and out of compassion for those who need to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. Christian Aid feels that everyone should have a fulfilling life, without living in poverty, and wants to help make this happen.



Some charities

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One of the main projects which Christian Aid has been working on in recent years is the Syrian crisis – the Syrian people need food, shelter and medical supplies, as well as education.

Christian Aid often works with small, local organisations in the places it helps. It gives the best support which people actually need. It often tries to use sustainable methods. For example, giving a family a chicken, and then when the chicken lays eggs, they can sell them for and/or income.

Christian Aid also campaigns for change, hoping that governments will vote for policies that help people in need.

Christian Aid campaigns in various ways, including television and internet adverts and door-to-door fundraising. In May every year they hold Christian Aid week, where volunteers put donation envelopes through people's doors and then go back to collect them. Many churches hold collections for Christian Aid.

### Reasons for Giving Charity - Extension

Religious people have many reasons to give charity. Many Christians feel that giving charity is a duty, and do good things to help others. Jesus taught Christians to love their neighbours, and shows how much he helped others; charitable gifts and actions are a practical way of following his teaching. Therefore, for Christians who give charity, they are following Jesus' teaching.

'Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who asks of you.'  
(Matthew 5:42 NRSV)

Jesus also taught that doing charity for others was doing good for God, and the goats Jesus teaches that those who help others will be the ones who enter heaven, and those who do not, will not.

Other religions also have charities, which help people in need; for example, the Red Cross works to help people in need. Islam also has strong teaching to help others.

'Those who believe, and do deeds of righteousness, and establish regular charity, will have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear.'  
(Qur'an 2:277)

Muslims are supposed to pay **zakah**, which is in many ways more like a tax than charity. It is mentioned in the sections on *Social Justice* and *Use of Resources*, and are also encouraged to give voluntary charity.

### Quick Questions

14. What is the benefit of giving charity? (2 marks)
15. Describe one example of a Christian charity which works against poverty.

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- GCSE AQA A Course Companion: Component 2, Theme F

# Answers

## Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An understanding which does not take something literally.</li> <li>And understanding where something is believed to be represented</li> <li>A symbolic interpretation of creation would understand God to have created the universe, but not in the way given in Genesis.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christians believe that God created the universe. 'In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind swept over the face of the waters.' (Genesis 1:2)</li> <li>Christians who interpret the Bible literally may believe that the universe was created in six days. 'And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.' (Genesis 2:2 NRSV)</li> <li>Christians who interpret the Bible symbolically may believe that the universe was created by God, but not in six days. They may be happy to accept science.</li> <li>Christians who interpret the Bible literally may not be entirely sure that everything was created in six days, as Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 give different accounts.</li> <li>Christians believe that because God created the universe, they should follow his commands and they may put this into practice.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding. 2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority. 4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout. Accept any relevant points.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Big Bang is a rapid expansion of matter from a tiny central point.</li> <li>Science suggests this started the universe.</li> <li>Non-religious people tend to believe in this and some religious people also believe in it.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominion is control over something.</li> <li>For Christians this often refers to control over the natural world, given by God to humans.</li> <li>Some people feel this means absolute control to do whatever is wanted, but this also involves looking after what is controlled.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>

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5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some Christians feel that they should look after God's creation because they believe they are made stewards. 'Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries' (1 Corinthians 4:1 NRSV)</li> <li>Some Christians feel that they do not need to look after creation because they believe in their dominion over it – control to do whatever they like. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put them under their feet (Psalm 8:6 NRSV)</li> <li>Christians may want to protect the environment and be stewards because they believe they should protect the environment for their children.</li> <li>Christians may want to be good stewards because they believe they are made in the image of God and should protect the planet for present and future generations in other countries. 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)</li> <li>Some Christians do not feel the need to worry about the environment because they believe that the end of the world will come soon.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points..</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A soul can be thought to be an immaterial part of person.</li> <li>A soul might be thought to contain life force and personality.</li> <li>Many Christians believe that the soul survives death.</li> <li>Some might say a soul is what separated humans from animals.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The origin of life is important to Christians because they believe that God created them enough to create them.</li> <li>The origin of life is important to Christians because they believe that humans are made in God's image, and so their lives are important and have sanctity. 'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)</li> <li>Because Christians may believe that life has sanctity because it was created by God, they may influence them to oppose abortion and euthanasia.</li> <li>For some Christians, the biblical accounts of origin of life are important because they show male dominance, because Eve is created after Adam in Genesis 2.</li> <li>The accounts of origin of life in the Bible are important to some Christians because they feel that science is wrong as it explains the origin of life differently. '...then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.' (Genesis 2:7 NRSV)</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>

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8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution is a scientific theory which explains the origin of life.</li> <li>Evolution is the theory that life adapted to its environment over time created as it is now.</li> <li>The theory of evolution is often credited to Charles Darwin.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy resulting in the death of a foetus.</li> <li>Abortion is a method used to end an unwanted pregnancy, save a woman's life or destroy a foetus because it has a disability/medical condition.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of life is how good it feels, or is, to live.</li> <li>Quality of life can be reduced by factors such as poverty and illness.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>
11	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many Christians disagree with abortion because they feel that it is forbidden in the Ten Commandments. 'You shall not murder.' (Exodus 20:13 NRSV)</li> <li>Many Christians disagree with abortion because belief in sanctity of foetuses have this, and so their life should be protected.</li> <li>The Catholic Church is very strictly against abortion – for these reasons that the foetus has a soul from conception. 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born you... (Jeremiah 1:5 NRSV)</li> <li>Some Christians allow abortion in limited circumstances, such as if there is a risk, as they feel that this is the most loving thing to do, and the woman's life to be protected.</li> <li>Christians may protest against abortion laws if they are strongly against it.</li> <li>Some Christians may try to support those who make the difficult decision to abort.</li> <li>Islam allows abortion to save a mother's life because her life is seen as more important.</li> <li>Some Muslims allow early abortions if they do not believe that the foetus is a human at this stage – so Muslims may be more likely to have early abortions.</li> <li>Most Muslims oppose abortion on financial grounds because it is believed that Allah will provide. 'Kill not your children for fear of want: We shall provide sustenance for you. Verily the killing of them is a great sin.' (Qur'an 17:31)</li> </ul> <p>1-2 marks for a weak answer with little knowledge and understanding showing diverse views or influence.</p> <p>3-4 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and understanding of diversity and their influence. Some use of technical terms and wisdom and authority.</p> <p>5-6 marks for a very good answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and very good understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and authority are used well and throughout.</p> <p>7-8 marks for an excellent answer showing really good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and wisdom and authority used accurately and lots throughout.</p> <p>Accept any other relevant points and religions.</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary euthanasia is a form of mercy-killing.</li> <li>Voluntary euthanasia is where someone is killed because they ask for it.</li> <li>Voluntary euthanasia generally occurs to the terminally ill or those with severe mental health problems.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>

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13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many Christians oppose euthanasia because they believe that it is forbidden in the Ten Commandments. 'You shall not murder.' (Exodus 20:13 NRSV)</li> <li>Many Christians disagree with euthanasia because belief in sanctity of life is the belief that all life should be protected.</li> <li>Some Christians feel that euthanasia is allowable because it is unloving to let someone suffer. 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)</li> <li>They may feel that passive euthanasia should be allowed, as this is letting someone die.</li> <li>Christians might feel that euthanasia is a happy option, as the Gospel teaches to save people, even from death. There may also be someone who chooses euthanasia to recover. They may also feel that euthanasia should remain banned, keeping it illegal. If they feel that this is a slippery slope to forcing people to '... if you turn back from rescuing those taken away to death, those taken away will be a snare for you... Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know that you will be judged according to their deeds?' (Proverbs 24:11–12 NRSV)</li> <li>Jews have mixed views on euthanasia, like Christians.</li> <li>Jews believe that if there is any chance of taking someone, then they will try that all options are tried.</li> <li>Jews may believe that they should pray to God to end someone's life rather than killing them themselves.</li> <li>Judaism does allow euthanasia by double-effect, because it is seen as necessary not to kill.</li> <li>Some Jews will not turn off a life-support machine because they feel it is to remove something keeping someone alive.</li> </ul> <p>1-2 marks for a weak answer with little knowledge and understanding showing diverse views or influence.</p> <p>3-4 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and understanding of diversity and their influence. Some use of technical terms and wisdom and authority.</p> <p>5-6 marks for a very good answer showing good knowledge and understanding and very good understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and authority generally used well and throughout.</p> <p>7-8 marks for an excellent answer showing really good knowledge and understanding and an excellent understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and wisdom and authority used accurately and lots throughout.</p> <p>Accept any other relevant points and religions.</p>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speciesism is treating animals of another species (not humans) differently.</li> <li>Some people believe speciesism is valid because there is no important difference between animals and humans.</li> <li>Some people feel that speciesism is not a valid form of prejudice because many differences exist between humans and animals, and so they should be treated differently.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immortality of the soul is the belief that the soul survives after death.</li> <li>Christians who believe this then believe that the soul goes to heaven.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>

16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The afterlife is important within Christianity, as it motivates people they do not want to go to hell. Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels..." (Matthew 25:41)</li> <li>The afterlife can be important to Christians in encouraging them to believe that only Christians will go to heaven. 'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."' (John 14:6 NRSV)</li> <li>The afterlife is important within Christianity because it can affect people's choices. For example, choosing to get buried for someone who believes in the resurrection, or praying for the dead for someone who believes in purgatory. 'Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.' (John 5:28-29 NRSV)</li> <li>Christians are often uncertain about the afterlife, as they believe that death will be their final answer with limited understanding.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within Christianity many funerals are celebrations of someone's life and people believe that death is not the end.</li> <li>Many Christians feel that funerals are an important time to remember the deceased, allowing them to have life after death.</li> <li>Some Christians believe they should hold vigils before funerals because the dead can help them.</li> <li>Some Christians want to have burials as part of their funerals because they believe in the resurrection of the body. 'It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.' (1 Corinthians 15:44 NRSV)</li> <li>Many Christians have cremations as part of their funerals because they believe in the immortality of the soul. '[Jesus] replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43 NRSV)</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>

18

Points in Favour:

- Some people are brain-dead and will never recover; there is no point prolonging life for their relatives (non-religious and some religious)
- People have a right to dignity; people may prefer to die than be unconscious (non-religious and some religious)
- People may feel they have no quality of life and prefer not to live in pain (non-religious and some religious)
- It may be more loving to kill someone / let someone die, than to let them suffer (Christianity)  
'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

Points Against:

- It violates the sanctity of life (life is a gift from God, humans are made in God's image) (Christianity and Judaism)  
'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)
- The Ten Commandments forbid killing (Christianity and Judaism)  
'Thou shalt not murder.' (Exodus 20:13 NRSV)
- It may be up to God to decide the hour of death (Islam)  
It is Allah Who has created you: further, He has provided for your sustenance; then when you will cause you to die; and again He will give you life... (Qur'an 30:40)
- If you allow euthanasia in some circumstances, this is a slippery slope (non-religious)
- Unless someone is brain-dead, there is a possibility they will recover (non-religious)
- Both sides may wish to campaign for laws – allowing euthanasia or not. Some people may be happy to euthanize others, while many will not, whatever the circumstances.

1-3 marks for a weak answer with little knowledge and no judgement. No discussion of influence. Little or nothing on influence, or non-religious belief. Little or no technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

4-6 marks for a limited answer with some knowledge, different viewpoints and some understanding of influence. Weak judgement and little on non-religious belief. Little or no technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

7-9 marks for a good answer with good knowledge, different viewpoints and some understanding of influence. Decent judgement and treatment of non-religious belief. Use of some technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

10-12 marks for a very good answer with accurate knowledge, different viewpoints and some understanding of influence. Very good judgement and treatment of non-religious belief. Use of technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

13-15 marks for a complete answer with detailed knowledge, full use of different viewpoints and some understanding of influence. Very good judgement and treatment of non-religious belief. Strong use of technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority throughout.

Accept any relevant point.

## Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dignity is the state of having worth.</li> <li>Christians believe that human lives have dignity because they are created in God's image.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dignity of human life is important in Christianity because Christians believe they are created in God's image and have worth. 'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:26-27 NRSV)</li> <li>It is also important because it impacts how Christians live – they believe they should not be sexually immoral because it undermines their dignity. 'Shun fornication! Every one who commits it is outside the body of the church, the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are to be holy?' (1 Corinthians 6:18-19 NRSV)</li> <li>It is important because it shapes views on the importance of life – many Christians oppose abortion and/or euthanasia because they feel that these destroy lives with dignity – as dignity implies they should not be destroyed.</li> <li>Because Christians feel that all humans have equal dignity, this may lead to opposition on prejudice and discrimination. Most oppose slavery and racism. Many forms of prejudice and discrimination.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding. 2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority. 4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout. Accept any relevant points.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human rights are rights which many people believe all humans should have.</li> <li>Human rights are protected by law in countries such as the UK.</li> <li>Human rights include rights such as the right to life and the right to a fair trial.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer. Accept any relevant points.</p>

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4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most Christians believe that everyone is equal because everyone was created in the image of God. 'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:26-27 NRSV)</li> <li>Some feel that equality involves treating everyone in the same way and giving everyone the same treatment.</li> <li>Some feel that sometimes in order to treat people equally, some people need to be given different treatment to others, e.g. to help them to the same level, as people with disabilities.</li> <li>Many feel that people can get closer to equality through practicing the Bible teaches that people should help others who have less than they do. '... if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the thirsty, then light shall rise in the darkness and your foot will be like the noonday.' (Isaiah 60:1)</li> <li>Also, Jesus spent much time with outcasts and helping those who were rejected by society. An example of helping others is Christ who got the slave trade abolished.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal conviction is a strong belief which someone holds.</li> <li>Personal convictions often concern what is right or wrong.</li> <li>Personal convictions may conflict with other things, such as the law.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some Christians believe that personal conviction is very important. If the laws of a country then it should still be followed – the most important thing is to do the right thing and follow God. '... [Jesus] said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."' (Matthew 22:21)</li> <li>Some Christians feel that the laws of a country should almost always be followed because leaders have been instituted by God, even if this conflicts with their personal conviction. 'Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.' (Romans 13:1 NRSV)</li> <li>Some Christians may have never felt that their personal conviction should override the laws of a country, so they may not have strong beliefs about it.</li> <li>Others, have had to break the laws of a country, if they were pacifists, for instance.</li> <li>Some Christians feel that laws should change to make sure that the rights of all are protected, such as religious beliefs which require wearing a headscarf. Others may feel that the UK is a Christian country and has a duty to accommodate other religions.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>

7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Censorship is where free speech/writing is limited in some way or</li> <li>• This may be due to a need for safety, or it may be due to offense.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within Christianity, many Christians support freedom of religious expression. They are taught people to treat others as they would like to be treated, and, in return, freedom of religious expression themselves, they should allow others to do the same. 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...' (Matthew 22:39, the Golden Rule)</li> <li>• However, not all Christians support freedom of religious expression. Some may feel that the UK should be a Christian country and not all other religions should be allowed. They may be intolerant of other beliefs. Christianity is the only true religion. 'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 NRSV)</li> <li>• Also, some Christians support freedom of religious expression to an extent, but they may feel that practices such as circumcision are cruel, and that practices such as face-veiling are potentially dangerous.</li> <li>• Islam teaches Muslims to be tolerant of others and to allow certain forms of religious expression e.g. Jews and Christians. Many Muslims feel that Islam is forced onto people, but give them freedom to express their beliefs. 'Say: Oh ye that reject Faith! I worship not that which ye worship, Nor do ye worship that which I worship. And I will not worship that which ye have been commanded to worship. Nor will ye worship that which I worship. To you be your way, and to me be my way. (Qur'an 109:1-6)</li> <li>• However, Islam does not allow Muslims to leave Islam, which is known as apostasy. Muslims do not necessarily allow other Muslims freedom of religious expression. They want to change their beliefs.</li> <li>• Also, while many Muslims accept Christianity and Judaism, they may not accept polytheistic religions – worshipping more than one God is known as shirk and this is forbidden, so Muslims may not respect freedom of religious expression. They believe such expression to be shirk.</li> </ul> <p>1-2 marks for a weak answer with little knowledge and understanding showing diverse views or influence.</p> <p>3-4 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an understanding of diversity and their influence. Some use of technical terms and wisdom and authority.</p> <p>5-6 marks for a very good answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and a very good understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and wisdom and authority generally used well and throughout.</p> <p>7-8 marks for an excellent answer showing really good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and wisdom and authority used accurately and well throughout.</p> <p>Accept any other relevant points about religions.</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prejudice is a biased view about someone or a group of people.</li> <li>• Prejudiced views are often seen to be unfair and inaccurate.</li> <li>• People may treat people differently as a result of prejudice; this is discrimination.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>

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10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within Christianity, there are different views on discrimination. Most argue that discrimination is wrong because Jesus taught that everyone should be treated with love, and treated as someone would want to be treated. Jesus also taught that God loves everyone. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' (John 3:16 NRSV) 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the love of the prophets.' (Matthew 7:12 NRSV – The Golden Rule)</li> <li>Many Christians also feel that there should be no discrimination because everyone is believed to be equal to God, and therefore no one should be treated differently. '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)</li> <li>However, some Christians feel that it is acceptable to discriminate against certain groups. The Catholic Church does not allow women to become ordained because they believe that the Bible teaches against this. 'It is not proper for a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she is the church, which was formed first, then Eve' (1 Timothy 2:12 NRSV) Some Catholics may also feel that husbands should have authority over wives. 'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the church is the body of which Christ is the head, of which he is the saviour, who cleanses the church by the word, so that he may present the church to himself in splendour, without a stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind, so that he may present the church to himself in splendour, without a stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind, so that he may present the church to himself in splendour, without a stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind.' (Ephesians 5:22-27 NRSV)</li> <li>The Catholic Church also believes that people should not engage in homosexual activity, and they will not marry homosexuals – this is because they believe that homosexuality is a sin, and the church believes that marriage is for procreation. 'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.' (Leviticus 18:22 NRSV)</li> <li>However, many Protestants, including Quakers disagree with these views on discrimination. They believe that women should be allowed to preach and be equal to their husbands. They feel that biblical teaching against feminism is out-of-date, and women should be treated equally because Jesus taught equality.</li> <li>Quakers also do not discriminate against homosexuals – they feel that everyone should be treated equally and not judge others. 'Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when the log is in your own eye?' (Matthew 7:4 NRSV)</li> </ul> <p>1-2 marks for a weak answer with little knowledge and understanding showing diverse views or influence.</p> <p>3-4 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and understanding of diversity and their influence. Some use of technical terms and wisdom and authority.</p> <p>5-6 marks for a very good answer showing good knowledge and understanding and very good understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and wisdom and authority generally used well and throughout.</p> <p>7-8 marks for an excellent answer showing very good knowledge and understanding and an excellent understanding of diversity and their influence. Technical terms and wisdom and authority used accurately and lots throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points and religions.</p>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racism is racial prejudice and/or racial discrimination.</li> <li>Racism is believing someone to be inferior and/or treating them differently because of their race/nationality.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>

12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wealth is money or possessions which someone owns.</li> <li>Wealth is generally thought to belong to someone, but some people can be used in particular ways e.g. to help others.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most Christians believe that wealth should be acquired honestly, with hard work. 'You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15 NRSV)</li> <li>Many Christians also feel that wealth should be acquired morally e.g. not make money from selling others as slaves, or from exploiting the poor. 'Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate. (Leviticus 19:10-11 NRSV)</li> <li>Some Christians believe that the poor should be able to use wealth as they wish. 'The Lord has made me rich, and he has become wealthy because of my honesty. (Job 1:21 NRSV)</li> <li>Many Christians believe that wealth should be given away and used for good. Jesus taught that spiritual wealth was more important, and that the poor will be the ones to go to heaven. '... go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven...' (Mark 10:21 NRSV)</li> </ul> <p>'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are with me, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)</p> <p>1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.</p> <p>2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and understanding of their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.</p> <p>4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and an excellent understanding of their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charity is giving to others, often money, but also other things such as food and time.</li> <li>Charity can refer to an organisation which collects money (and sometimes food) in order to help people.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for a weak answer, 2 marks for a more developed answer.</p> <p>Accept any relevant points.</p>



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- Christian Aid is a Christian charity which works against poverty.
- Christian Aid helps people in practical ways, such as by providing for medical care.
- Christian Aid often works in less economically developed countries, partners so it can help people effectively.
- Christian Aid aims to relieve and stop poverty because it believes in a decent life, and because Jesus taught people to help others.  
'... go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will enter the kingdom of heaven...' (Mark 10:21 NRSV)  
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are here, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)
- Christian Aid tries also campaigns to encourage governments to make help to stop poverty.

1 mark for a weak answer with limited understanding.

2-3 marks for a good answer, showing knowledge and understanding of beliefs and values, and their influence. Some use of technical terms and sources of authority.

4-5 marks for an excellent answer showing good knowledge and understanding of beliefs and values, and their influence. Technical terms and sources of authority used accurately and throughout.

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Points in Favour:

- Jesus seemed to imply that all/much wealth should be given to the Christians such as monks and nuns give away all of their wealth to God.  
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are in my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)
- Utilitarians may argue that all wealth which is not needed should be given away as this will produce more pleasure.
- Buddhists may want to give all wealth above a certain level away so as to avoid attachment.

Points Against:

- Jesus seemed to imply that all/much wealth should be given to the poor, not just above a threshold.  
'... go, sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven...' (Mark 10:21)
- People have a right to their money, if they have earned it.
- Muslims believe a percentage of wealth should be given away (zakat). They need not be wealthy, or give away all wealth above a certain level. It is Allah's reward / they have already done their part to help others.
- 'Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer the affairs of those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to Truth); for those in debt; in the cause of Allah; and for the wayfarer: (thus is it) ordained by Allah, who is full of knowledge and wisdom.' (Qur'an 9:60)

1-3 marks for a weak answer with little knowledge and no judgement. No discussion of influence. Little or nothing on influence, or non-religious belief. Little or no technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

4-6 marks for a limited answer with some knowledge, different viewpoints and some understanding of influence. Weak judgement and little on non-religious belief. Little or no technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

7-9 marks for a good answer with good knowledge, different viewpoints and some understanding of influence. Decent judgement and treatment of non-religious belief. Use of some technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority.

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13-15 marks for a complete answer with detailed knowledge, full use of different viewpoints and excellent understanding of influence. Very good judgement and treatment of non-religious belief. Strong use of technical terms and sources of wisdom and authority throughout.

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