

UNIT 8: RELIGION AND SOCIETY BASED ON CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM



UNIT 8: RELIGION AND SOCIETY BASED ON CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

**THERE ARE FOUR SECTIONS OF THE COURSE.
THEY ARE:**

1. Rights and Responsibilities
2. Environmental and Medical Issues
3. Peace and Conflict
4. Crime and Punishment

UNIT 8: RELIGION AND SOCIETY BASED ON CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

SECTION 1:

Rights and Responsibilities

SECTION 1: Rights and Responsibilities

Bible – the holy book of Christians.

Church – the community of Christians (with a small c it means a Christian place of worship).

Conscience – an inner feeling of the rightness or wrongness of an action.

The Decalogue – the Ten Commandments.

Democratic processes – the ways in which all citizens can take part in government (usually through elections).

Electoral processes – the ways in which voting is organised.

The Golden Rule – the teaching of Jesus that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you.

Human rights – the rights and freedoms to which everyone is entitled.

Political party – a group which tries to be elected into power on the basis of its policies (e.g. Labour, Conservative)

Pressure group – a group formed to influence government policy on a particular issue.

Situation Ethics – the idea that Christians should base moral decisions on what is the most loving thing to do.

Social change – the way in which society has changed and is changing (and also the possibilities for future change).

THE **FOUR** SOURCES THAT CHRISTIANS USE TO MAKE **MORAL** DECISION MAKING:

- Bible
- Church
- Conscience
- Situation Ethics

WHY IS THE **BIBLE** IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS:

- The Bible is the holy book of Christianity.
- It is split into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Christians look towards God and his teachings in the Bible as the ultimate source of authority on what actions are right and wrong.
- It is a book that is inspired and revealed by God.
- The New Testament is centred on Jesus and his teachings. It also explains in detail the key events of Jesus' life, including his crucifixion, death and resurrection.

WHY IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS:

- Church, with a small 'c' is the Christian place of worship. Church with a capital 'C' means that people who go to that building. This is far more important.
- The Christian Church is made up of the clergy who are trained priests and the laity who are the worshipers.
- A priest can help Christians to know what is right because they will have spent several years training and in this time will have studied the Bible and learnt how the Church has interpreted certain passages.
- A person could also pray and worship with others in the church and they could listen to priests who teach the word of God.
- Catholics have a high view of the Church and its place in the salvation of humankind. God has achieved the salvation of the human race through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

WHY IS THE CONSCIENCE IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS:

- The conscience is an inner feeling that seems to know instinctively what is right and what is wrong about an action.
- Conscience does not just tell us something is wrong, it also prompts us that a certain action.
- Our conscience does not make us do anything, it simply informs.
- As humans, we are free to choose how we act.
- Christians believe that conscience is an inner part given to us by God as guidance. Some Christians interpret the conscience as the voice of the Holy Spirit leading them towards doing the right thing.
- For these Christians the conscience is the most important guide when it comes to making moral decisions.
- The Catholic Church believes that the conscience is an inner law that humans must obey, to do good and to avoid evil. It is a place where humans are alone with God and where God's voice echoes.

WHY IS SITUATION ETHICS IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS:

- It was developed by Joseph Fletcher during the 1960's.
- Some Christians decide only to use this principle when making moral decisions.
- Situation Ethics believes that love should be the only consideration when making moral decisions.
- A good action is one which aims to do the most loving thing.
- A person should only obey the rules of the Bible or teachings of the Church if it results in the most loving action.
- Situation Ethics is similar to the teachings of the Golden Rule. The teaching of Jesus that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you.
- The Gospel stories show that Jesus puts this teaching into practice, for instance, when he ignored the rules about working on the Jewish holy day in order to heal someone.

HUMAN RIGHTS – THE FACTS:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written in 1948.
- Human rights are the basic rights that and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that all humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- All citizens of the UK are entitled to life, food, liberty and freedom of speech, racial, sexual and religious equality; education, health care and privacy.
- In the UK human rights are protected by law. Most are covered by the Human Rights Act of 1998.

WHY ARE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS?

- Christians believe that every human being is created by God and in his image and therefore all humans deserve respect and equality.
- Christians believe God loves everyone equally so all should be treated equally.
- The teachings of the Bible, for example the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) support most human rights.
- There are many Biblical passages that teach Christians the importance of human rights. In the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, it says: “Adam named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all human beings” (Genesis 3:20), which shows that we are all related.
- The current Pope of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, believes that: “everyone must try harder in their daily life to make sure that all people are treated with fairness and respect”.
- The Gospels tell of times when Jesus went out of his way to ensure people who had been rejected by everyone else received fair treatment.

DEMOCRACY

- Democracy is a political system. A democracy is a form of government in which the people can vote for representatives to govern the state on their behalf. The United Kingdom is a democracy.
- The government makes decisions on how schools will be run, healthcare, defence and the economy.
- As a democracy every UK citizen over 18 can vote for MPs who sit in the House of Commons, local councillors and MEPs.
- Voting allows citizens to have a say about who runs the country.
- People elected through voting are responsible for making important decisions that affect everyone.
- Pressure groups try to influence government policy on a particular issue. They put the “squeeze” in governments or other people who influence policy decisions. It is a gentle squeeze though, designed to draw attention to a cause which that group believes in. Examples of pressure groups are Amnesty International and Make Poverty History.

WHAT DOES CHRISTIANITY TEACH ABOUT MORAL DUTIES?

- There is a close link in the Christian faith between belief and action.
- Christians believe that God gives them moral duties and responsibilities which they must carry out.
- The most important beliefs that a Christian holds are focused on Jesus Christ. Christianity is much more than a set of beliefs – it is a way of life.
- The Catholic Catechism devotes a lot to the Ten Commandments showing that these laws, given by God on Mount Sinai have always played an important part in the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- Christians are expected to follow the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments).
- The Parable of the Sheep and Goats teaches Christians that God will separate his people into those who have helped others during their lives (they will be the sheep) and those who have not helped those in need (the goats). Christians have a duty to help those in need when they can.
- Jesus' Golden Rule teaches Christians that they must treat others as they themselves would want to be treated.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

- This is a modern scientific process where DNA from one life form is taken out, altered and then replaced to continue growing. This can happen to a plant or an animal.
- The UK government has strict guidelines on genetically modified (GM) crops.
- Cloning is a form of genetic engineering that produces a duplicate cell of a parent plant or animal. Cloning plants is nothing new. In fact, you have probably done it yourself by breaking a stem off, putting it in water to grow roots and then planting it.
- Most people are less concerned about cloning plant life than they are about cloning animal life.
- It is illegal to clone human beings.
- Example: Dolly the Sheep.

WHAT ARE **NON-RELIGIOUS** AND **CHRISTIAN** ARGUMENTS **FOR** AND **AGAINST** GENETIC ENGINEERING?

NON-RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTS FOR:

It offers the prospect of cures for currently incurable diseases.

Genetic engineering is an integral part of medical research.

Genetic modification can allow couples to "enhance" their children to be healthier.

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS FOR:

Some Christians accept genetic engineering because Jesus healed people in his day and this offers a twenty-first century form of healing.

Christians believe that if God has given us knowledge and scientific abilities then we should use them for good.

Protestants are more likely to accept genetic engineering, even that involving human cells because they believe it is in the long-term interests of humanity.

NON-RELIGIOUS AGAINST:

It places too much power in the hands of scientists who could use genetic engineering to act like Dr Frankenstein

Embryonic research destroys life; yet human life is inherently valuable and should not be destroyed.

There is too little information about the long-term effects of altering DNA.

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

Catholics do not agree with using genetic engineering on human cells as they believe only God and human parents can create a baby.

The bible teaches Christians that God creates life. This means it is not for humans to interfere.

Genetic engineering is interfering with God's plan.

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SECTION 2:

Environmental and Medical Issues

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Artificial insemination – injecting semen into the uterus by artificial means.

Conservation – protecting and preserving natural resources and the environment.

Creation – the act of creating the universe, or the universe which has been created.

Embryo – a fertilized egg in the first eight weeks after conception.

Environment – the surroundings in which plants and animals live and on which they depend to live.

Global warming – the increase in temperature of the earth's atmosphere (thought to be caused by the greenhouse effect).

In-vitro fertilization (IVF) – the method of fertilizing a human egg in a test tube.

Infertility – not being able to have children.

Natural resources – naturally occurring materials, such as oil and fertile land, which can be used by humans.

Organ donation – giving organs to be used in transplant surgery.

Stewardship – looking after something so it can be passed on to the next generation.

Surrogacy – an arrangement whereby a woman bears a child on behalf of another woman or where an egg is donated and fertilised by the husband through IVF and then implanted into the wife's uterus.

WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

- Global warming is the increase in temperature of the earth's atmosphere (thought to be caused by the greenhouse effect).
- Greenpeace are concerned about the way we treat the environment.
- The environment is the surroundings in which plants and animals live and upon which we all depend for our existence.
- Global warming is the name given to temperature increases on earth that result from human activity and the burning coal, oil and gas. This forms a covering around the earth, just like the gas of a greenhouse.

CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS OF GLOBAL WARMING:

- The use of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas).
- Transport is responsible for 22% of the UK's carbon emissions.
- Aviation is the fastest growing cause of climate change in the world.
- Two-thirds of all energy generated in UK power stations is lost as waste through chimneys and cooling towers.
- Investment in renewable technology, like wind power and wave power.
- Development of low carbon cars .
- Reducing air travel.
- Reducing the use of fossil fuels in industry.
- Stop cutting down trees in rainforests.
- Using energy efficient things in our homes, such as energy efficient light bulbs.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF POLLUTION?

1. Land Pollution

- 25 million tonnes of rubbish a year are dumped on streets and in fields.
- UK offices produce 15 million tonnes of paper a year (to put that in some sort of perspective that is the equivalent weight of about four and a half million elephants). All of this paper comes from cutting down trees.
- Burning rubbish creates toxic gases which are then transferred into our air and water supply.

2. Sea Pollution

- Chemical pollution from factories gets into the seas and into the food chain of polar bears, causing them to be sterile (i.e., not able to produce children or young).
- Polar bears are also threatened by the effects of global warming.
- One million seabirds are killed every year by discarded plastic waste.
- Eight million pieces of litter go into the ocean every day.

3. Air Pollution

- Poor quality air is thought to result in more than 32,000 premature deaths in the UK each year.
- Petrol and diesel engine vehicles emit a variety of pollutions into the air, including carbon monoxide.
- Burning fossil fuels, especially coal and oil, is a major cause of air pollution.
- Air pollution can cause damage to people's lungs and can give them breathing problems.

USING **NATURAL RESOURCES** ARE THREATING PLANET:

1. Overfishing

- 71%-78% of the world's fisheries are now depleted.
- This is due to commercial fishing.
- Part of the problem is that commercial fishing nets not only catch fish but kill lots of other sea life as well. For example, for every tonne of prawns caught, three tonnes of other fish are killed and thrown away.

2. Deforestation

- Deforestation is the cutting down and removal of all or most of the trees in a forested area.
- Mass deforestation is having a devastating effect on our world.
- Around 2,000 trees every minute are cut down in the rainforests
- Trees breathe in the air that we do not want and breathe out the air that we need.

3. Ozone Layer

- The ozone layer is a cover that protects the Earth from the power of the sun and the many other dangers of space. It protects the earth from the sun.
- However it is currently being damaged by the huge amounts of coal, oil and gas that we are using to power our cars, planes, homes and gadgets.
- We depend on the ozone layer to survive. Without it we would die because of the heat of the sun.

CHRISTIAN VIEWS ON THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Most Christians think that the Bible teaches that it is a Christian's duty to care for the environment.
- Genesis 2:15: "Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it."
- God gave humans authority or dominion over the Earth which means that they have a responsibility to care for God's creation.
- At the end of time, the earth must be returned to its rightful owner in good condition. Christians use the term stewardship for this.
- Christians interpret Jesus' Sermon on the Mount to mean that they must share the earth's resources fairly.
- Christians believe that Jesus' Parable of the Gold Coins teaches them that they have a responsibility to hand the earth on to the next generation in a better state than they found it.
- On Judgement Day Christians believe that they will be judged on the ways they have treated God's world.

MUSLIM VIEWS ON THE ENVIRONMENT:

- The Qur'an tells Muslims that Allah created the world and everything in it for a purpose; it is part of Allah's plan.
- Muslims believe that everything in existence is interlinked, we are all part of "one". If one life form is damaged, it upsets a link in the chain and that harms the planet.
- The Qur'an says that Allah is the Creator of the world.
- Human beings told that they must look after the world for Allah and for future generations.
- Muslims believe that Allah has provided all the resources humans need to live in earth and they can use them, but people should not damage or waste these resources.
- Muslims use the Arabic word "Khalifah" for this idea of stewardship, and a person who acts as Allah's steward is also called a khalifah. Adam first khalifah.

DIFFERENT INFERTILITY TREATMENT OPTIONS:

- **Option 1 – Artificial insemination by husband (AIH).** Sperm is taken from the husband and placed in the woman's uterus.
- **Option 2 – Artificial insemination by donor (AID).** Sperm donated to a clinic by a man is placed in the woman's uterus. This can help couples where the man is infertile.
- **Option 3 – Egg donation.** A fertilised egg is created in the laboratory using an egg donated by another woman but using the partner's sperm.
- **Option 4 – Embryo donation.** A donated egg and donated sperm are fertilised in the laboratory to form an embryo before being placed in a woman's womb.
- **Option 5 – In-vitro fertilisation (IVF).** Egg and sperm are taken from a couple, fertilised in a laboratory and then placed in the womb.
- **Option 6 – Surrogacy.** A woman (the surrogate mother) agrees to become pregnant with someone else's child and then hand that child over after it is born. This can be achieved with IVF.

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST INFERTILITY TREATMENT:

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS FOR:

Some Christians will accept fertility treatment so long as only the husband's sperm and a wife's egg are involved. Otherwise classed as adultery.

God gave humans the knowledge to create children artificially and God commanded humans to be "fruitful and multiply."

It allows infertile couples to experience the joy of having children as God intended.

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR:

Other Muslims argue that every woman has the right to be a mother and medical help should be available to treat infertility.

Infertility is an illness like any other, and doctors should treat a man or woman suffering from infertility.

Having children brings a family together and in the Qur'an it states that Allah wants Muslims to have children. Allah gave human beings free will.

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

Catholics believe child is God's gift. A child should only be conceived through loving, sexual relationship.

Catholics believe in the sanctity of life, that all life is holy and belongs to God. Only God can give life and take life away. God has a plan for each of us.

Artificial insemination require sperm to be produced by masturbation which is a sin for Catholics.

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

Some Muslims believe that nobody has the right to intervene in fertility as Allah has a plan for everyone; he decides who he will give children to.

Sexual relationships can only exist within marriage, anything else is forbidden in Islam as being adultery.

Artificial insemination by donor (AID) is totally forbidden because the donor is not married to the woman. This is therefore classed as adultery.

TRANSPLANT SURGERY:

- Transplant surgery involves an organ being donated by someone which is then used to replace the person's original, damaged organ. It can allow the person to then have a better quality of life.
- Transplant surgery can vary from something small like the transplant of a cornea of an eye to the transplant of a major organ such as the heart. First successful heart transplant in 1967.
- 8,000 people are on the organ transplant waiting list in the UK, number of people waiting for a transplant has increased 80% each year . 3,000 organ transplants carried out each year. 1,000 people on the waiting list die each year.
- Arguments for: people have the opportunity to help people who are ill and loved ones can donate their organs to family members and potentially save their lives.
- Arguments against: it is an expensive form of treatment, how do you decide who receives the transplant and it can lead to family members feeling pressured to donate their organs if a family member is ill.

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST TRANSPLANT SURGERY:

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS FOR:

Living organs are freely given out of love. This follows Jesus' teachings of love your neighbour and the Golden Rule.

The gift of life is precious and it is right to make every effort to preserve it therefore transplant surgery is a good thing to do.

Christianity teaches the importance of sacrifice and helping others – organ donation is exactly that.

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR:

If done to save lives, organ donation is acceptable as Allah would want this.

Allah gave Muslims free will and therefore many Muslims would allow living donor transplants to close relatives to extend someone's life.

Donations such as kidneys are acceptable as the donor can still live so that person's resurrection would not be affected.

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

The Bible states that humans were created by God and in His image. This means people have no right to interfere with God's creation.

Catholics believe in the sanctity of life, that all life is holy and belongs to God. Only God can give life and take life away. God has a plan for each of us.

Christians believe that God will resurrect body at the end of world and therefore they need their organs.

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

Some Muslims believe that nobody has the right to intervene in life and death as Allah has a plan for everyone; he decides who lives and who dies.

Muslims believe that on the Last Day, the body will be resurrected and therefore all the organs will be needed.

The Qur'an teaches that the body should not be interfered with after death and should be buried as soon as possible.

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SECTION 3:

Peace and

Conflict

SECTION 3: Peace and Conflict

Aggression – attacking without being provoked.

Bullying – intimidating/frightening people weaker than yourself.

Conflict resolution – bringing a fight or struggle to a peaceful conclusion.

Exploitation – taking advantage of a weaker group.

Forgiveness – stopping blaming someone and/or pardoning them for what they have done wrong.

Just War – a war which is fought for the right reasons and in a right way.

Pacifism – the belief that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means.

Reconciliation – bringing together people who were opposed to each other.

Respect – treating a person or their feelings with consideration.

The United Nations – an international body set up to promote world peace and cooperation.

Weapons of mass destruction – weapons which can destroy large areas and numbers of people.

World peace – the ending of war throughout the whole world (the basic aim of the United Nations).

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS?

- Set up after WWII in 1945.
- It aims and works for world peace and tries to prevent another global conflict ever happening again.
- The UN has three basic aims:
 1. To maintain international peace and security.
 2. To develop friendly relationships among countries.
 3. To help countries develop economically and socially.

UNITED NATIONS: PEACEKEEPERS

- The UN works towards peace in two ways:
 1. By trying to resolve conflicts that have broken out. This is done through peace negotiations.
 2. By trying to prevent conflicts happening in the first place. To do this the UN has teams of skilled negotiators who try to get both sides to sort their problems out in a peaceful way, usually through discussions with one another.
- UN Peacekeepers are a force made up of soldiers from the different countries who are part of the UN. They are easily distinguished by their blue helmets or blue berets.
- Peacekeepers help to maintain peace in the world and do not engage in conflict. Yet, over the years this role has changed in some ways. Now in certain situations peacekeepers can fight but only when given permission by the UN to fight as a last resort.

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS WORKING FOR PEACE:

1. The Quakers

- The Quakers are a Christian Church. They are pacifist.
- The Quakers (also known as The Society of Friends) are the only Christian group who are totally committed to pacifism and non-violence.
- Quakers believe: “love is at the centre of all existence and all human beings are equal in the eyes of God.
- Protest against the existence of nuclear weapons.

2. The Corrymeela Community

- Christian community promote reconciliation and peace-building in Northern Ireland and world.
- They try to do this through repairing the social, religious, and political divisions in Northern Ireland.
- Run programmes promoting tolerance and dialogue between conflicting communities.
- Promote message through assemblies and football matches.

3. Islamic Peace Foundation

- Islam religion of peace.
- They state that Islam puts peace before aggression.
- Not attached to any political systems so they are trusted.
- They hold interfaith conferences and meetings, raise money for relevant charities and encourage peace talks.

CAUSES OF WAR:

- **Religious reasons** – religious differences have been the cause of many wars in history. From the medieval crusades when Christians tried to force people to convert to Christianity, through to Roman Catholics and Protestants fighting each other in Northern Ireland.
- **Economic reasons** – when a country grabs land or wealth from another by force. In the past, the wealth may have been gold and silver. Today it is likely to be oil or mineral resources. This can lead to the exploitation of a small country by a more powerful one.
- **Social reasons** – this may happen when one community wants to force another group to behave in the same way as they do, or attacks them because of their ethnic differences.
- **Moral reasons** – this might be because one community feels obliged to attack another to restore the inhabitants' human rights.

JUST WAR THEORY:

- To be a just war, the war must meet certain criteria:

1. Just Cause

2. Right Intension

3. Public Declaration

4. Proportionality

5. Probability of Success

6. Last Resort

CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS ON WAR:

- Bible teachings for war:
 - “The Lord your God will deliver those nations to you...no one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them” (Deuteronomy 7: 22-24).
 - “The Lord is a warrior” (Exodus 15:3).
 - “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” (Exodus 21: 24).

- Bible teachings against war:
 - “Blessed are the peacemakers ” (Matthew 5: 9).
 - “If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5: 39).
 - “Love one another, as I have loved you” (John 13: 34).

- Jesus’ teachings on war
- Pacifism
- Work of CAFOD

MUSLIM TEACHINGS ON WAR:

- The word Islam means “peace” although the Qur’an teaches this will not be easy.
- The Qur'an teaches that sometimes war is necessary.
- Jihad: a Muslim’s life is directed towards pleasing Allah and this involves getting rid of evil and establishing a peaceful society on earth.
- Muslims must also fight to preserve Islam if the religion comes under attack.
- Muslims have rules about how war must be fought:
 - War must be a last resort.
 - Muslims must not be the first to start the war.
 - It must have a just cause.
 - Aim must be to bring about good.
 - Innocent civilians must not suffer – these particularly include the elderly, women and children.
 - Once the aim has been achieved, fighting must stop, mercy be shown and peace restored.
- Muhammad (pbuh) fought in wars and taught that Muslims should fight in just ways. The Qur’an teaches that anyone killed in a just war goes straight to heaven.

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS BULLYING:

- Christians are against all forms of bullying because it makes people suffer.
- Christians believe everyone was created equality by God and in the image of God.
- Discrimination goes against everything Jesus taught, in particular the Golden Rule.
- Many Gospel stories that teach people the importance of treating each other as equals, such as the Adulterous Women and Good Samaritan.
- “Love one another” (John 13: 34).
- Christians reminded in Parable of Sheep and Goats that their actions on earth will determine if they receive eternal life.

MUSLIM ATTITUDES TOWARDS BULLYING:

- Islam totally condemns all forms of bullying.
- Islam is a religion of peace and bullying goes against everything the religion stands for.
- The Qur'an teaches Muslims that Allah created every human being and everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah. This means that everybody should be shown respect as part of Allah's creation.
- Bullying is a form of injustice and Muslims are taught that it is their duty to fight injustice.
- Muslims are taught to show compassion to the weak.
- Islam teaches Muslims that they are all brothers in the ummah, so it would be wrong to bully a fellow Muslim.
- "Allah will not show mercy to the one who does not show mercy to others"
- Muslims believe that Allah will judge humans on how they have behaved in their life.

REASONS FOR RELIGIOUS CONFLICT IN FAMILIES:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLhahNB
MXw0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLhahNBMXw0)

- Arranged marriage.
- Same sex relationships.
- Dress.
- Diet.
- Who has authority in the family?
- Which religion to follow?
- Attitudes towards sexual relationships.
- Traditional roles of men and women.

CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS ON FORGIVENESS:

- Forgiveness and reconciliation are at the heart of Jesus' teachings; Jesus not only taught forgiveness, he practised it in his own life.
- For example, when Jesus was dying on the cross, he said, "forgive them Father! They do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23: 34).
- Christians should forgive others an infinite number of times.
- If Christians do not forgive people who hurt them, they cannot expect God to forgive them for their sins on the Day of Judgement.

MUSLIM TEACHINGS ON FORGIVENESS:

- The Qur'an teaches that important to forgive someone who has done them wrong because Allah will forgive them their sins: "He who forgives and seeks reconciliation shall be rewarded by God" (Qur'an 42: 38-43).
- The Qur'an also states: "show forgiveness, speak for justice, and avoid ignorance" (Qur'an 7: 199).
- Prophet Muhammad offers Muslims examples of how forgiveness and reconciliation worked at a time when arguments and conflict were common.
- On many occasions the Prophet Muhammad freed people who had sinned and were expecting to be put to death.
- Allah will judge Muslims on the way they have lived their life on earth, and whether they have showed forgiveness.

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SECTION 4:

Crime and Punishment

SECTION 4: Crime and Punishment

Addiction – a recurring compulsion to engage in an activity regardless of its bad effects.

Capital punishment – the death penalty for a crime or offence.

Crime – an act against the law.

Deterrence – the idea that punishments should be of such a nature that they will put people off (deter) committing crimes.

Judgement – the act of judging people and their actions.

Justice – due allocation of reward and punishment/the maintenance of what is right.

Law – rules made by Parliament and enforceable by the courts.

Reform – the idea that punishments should try to change criminals so that they will not commit crimes again.

Rehabilitation – restore to normal life.

Responsibility – being responsible for one's actions.

Retribution – the idea that punishments should make criminals pay for what they have done wrong.

Sin – an act against the will of God.

LAW AND JUSTICE:

- Laws are rules made by Parliament and enforced by the courts.
- Without laws, normal day life breaks down completely.
- The weak would be exploited and the strongest would rule.
- For rules to be effective, they have to be set up by an authority.
- In a democratic society, like the UK, these rules are agreed by Parliament and called laws.
- Justice is giving out the correct rewards and punishments for the action committed. Justice ensures people treated fairly.
- A sin is an action that goes against the will of God.

THEORIES OF PUNISHMENT:

1. Protection:

Punishing a wrongdoer to protect society from the criminal, e.g. prison.

2. Deterrent:

This is having a sufficiently harsh punishment to discourage others from breaking the law.

3. Retribution

Punishing a person in order to make them pay for what they have done. This is also known as revenge.

4. Reform

A method of punishment that aims to stop a criminal re-offending. Reform can be achieved through a programme of education and training in prison.

5. Reparation

Through punishment, a criminal is made to pay for their crime by doing something to help society or the victim e.g., community service.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS ON JUSTICE:

- The Bible teaches God is just (fair) and expects his people to treat each other with love, care and compassion.
- Treating people unjustly is sin and those who do this will pay the price on Judgement Day.
- Old Testament: “Punishment shall be life for a life, eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth...bruise for a bruise” (Exodus 21: 23-5).
- New Testament: “do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, then let him slap you on your left cheek” (Matthew 5: 38-39).
- Jesus’ teachings about justice were revolutionary.
- Jesus taught his followers that retribution was not the best way, but that they should use love to overcome injustice.

MUSLIM BELIEFS ON JUSTICE:

- Justice is extremely important to Muslims because they believe that Allah is just.
- He created everybody equal and treats his creation with justice and fairness.
- Allah expects everyone to treat each other in the same way.
- Those who do not treat other people with justice will be judged accordingly when they go before Allah on the Day of Judgement.
- *Shari'ah Law*: The Islamic legal system is called Shari'ah Law. It is based on the idea of justice for everyone and it puts the teaching of the Qur'an into laws.
- *Interest*: The Qur'an teaches that it is unjust for someone to loan money to another person and charge them interest

WHAT IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT:

- Capital Punishment – the death penalty for a crime or offence.
- Only governments/recognised authority can sentence someone to death.
- Capital punishment is still used legally in 71 countries around the world; abolished in UK in 1998.
- Non-religious arguments for death penalty:
 - It is an excellent deterrent.
 - The death penalty removes dangerous people from society.
 - Cheaper than keeping a criminal alive in prison.
- Non-religious arguments against death penalty:
 - Innocent people get convicted by mistake.
 - Life is special/sacred; no one has power to murder anyone.
 - Life in prison is a greater deterrent.

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT:

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS FOR:

In the Book of Genesis, it states: “if anyone takes human life, he must be punished”.

St Paul: “everyone must obey the state authorities” (Romans 13:1). Therefore, if capital punishment is part of a country’s legal code, Christians must obey.

The Christian Church has a tradition of using the death penalty for heresy.

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR:

Shari’ah Law permits the death penalty for deliberate murder, undermining and denying the religion of Islam.

Muslims believe that death is a just punishment for serious murders as set out by Allah in the Qur’an.

The Prophet Muhammad made statements suggesting he agreed with the death penalty, while ruler of Medina, he sentenced people to the death penalty for murders that they had committed.

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

Jesus’ message was one of love and compassion. He emphasized the importance of forgiveness rather than retribution.

God has a plan for everyone and murdering someone for the crimes that they have committed may go against God’s plan.

Passages in the Bible teach Christians that only God can give life and only God can take it away

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

The Qur’an permits other forms of punishment that could be used instead of death penalty.

Many Muslim countries have chosen not to use the death penalty for a number of years.

Only Allah can give life and take it away; Allah has a plan for everyone.

LAW ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:

- It is illegal to give a child under five an alcoholic drink except under medical supervision in an emergency.
- Children under the age of 16 are not allowed in a pub/bar unless they are with an adult.
- Young people aged 16 or 17 can drink one beer, wine or cider with a meal if it is bought by an adult and they are accompanied by an adult.
- Nobody under the age of 18 can buy alcohol.
- Illegal drugs are divided into three categories: Class A e.g. heroin, Class B e.g. codeine and Class C e.g. cannabis.
- It is illegal to be in possession of a controlled drug.
- It is a serious offence to supply drugs or to intend to supply them. This includes giving as well as selling drugs to someone.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL: WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- 25% of hospital admissions are alcohol related.
- 40% of domestic violence involves alcohol.
- 33% of child abuse cases involve alcohol.

What are the effects of alcohol and drugs on a person?

- Cause accidents
- Can increase crime
- Harm that they can do to appearance
- Health related problems
- Leads to addiction
- Can lead to failed relationships
- Costs a lot of money.

CHRISTIAN ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE:

- Many Christians accept that alcohol can be enjoyed in a responsible way; Jesus drank wine.
- Wedding at Cana tells of Jesus turning water into wine.
- As a Jew, Jesus drank wine to welcoming in the Sabbath.
- For Roman Catholics, during Mass, the wine becomes the Blood of Jesus Christ. Central to Mass.
- The Methodist Church and Salvation Army instruct their members to abstain from alcohol completely. Use non-alcoholic wine for the celebration of Holy Communion. This is due to negative affects that alcohol can have on people.
- Reject the use of illegal drugs because in the Bible the body is described as a “temple of the Holy Spirit” therefore, drug use is wrong as it is destroying your body and God’s creation.
- Prescription drugs acceptable if they are helping to heal someone.

MUSLIM ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE:

- Islam rejects all forms of alcohol and illegal drug use.
- Islam treats the subject of alcohol and drug abuse very seriously.
- Taking alcohol or drugs is haram – totally forbidden by the Qur'an.
- Both are intoxicants that can lead to addiction. They can destroy a person's body, which no one has the right to damage because Allah is the owner of our bodies. Not only harm individuals, but families and society are hurt by drug and alcohol abuse.
- Medical drugs: Muslims are permitted to take medical drugs to heal themselves.
- Muhammad taught about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
- The effects of drugs could mean that Muslims are likely to commit other sins.
- Use of certain drugs is against carries severe punishment in Islam.

UNIT 8: RELIGION AND SOCIETY BASED ON CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

EXAM REMINDERS:

1. Remember to put your name and candidate number on your exam paper.
2. Read the instructions on the front of the paper. Write in black pen.
3. There are **four** sections of the paper.
4. In each section you must answer **one** question from a choice of two. Answer the question above the line **or** below the line. For example, in Section 1 answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2. In Section 2 answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4. In Section 3 answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6. In Section 4 answer **either** Question 7 **or** Question 8.
5. When you have decided which question to answer, place a **cross** in the box on the next page to show what question you are answering. You can put a **line** through the question you do not want to answer.
6. When answering each question you must use the **structure** that your teacher has taught you.
7. You will have **22 minutes** to answer each question therefore you have 1 hour and 30 minutes overall. Keep an eye on the clock.
8. Remember in Section 1 four marks are available for **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar**.
9. Remember in (d) questions you must include whatever **religious views** the questions wants you to include (either Christian or Muslim). **In Section 1 you must only use Christian views.**
10. **Good luck** – complete **all** questions and you will do **amazingly well!**

GOOD LUCK!