Unit 1 Year 11

GCSE RS Revision booklet

Exam:

Topics:
Relationships
Our World
Is it Fair?
Looking for Meaning
# Relationships

## Key concepts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Concepts</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESPONSIBILITIES</strong></td>
<td>Duties you should carry out. Such as looking after family members. What you are expected to take care of because of vows or promises you have made in front of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMITMENT</strong></td>
<td>Dedication and devotion towards something or someone. This may be shown by being faithful to someone. Making and keeping promises for example wedding vows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONFLICT</strong></td>
<td>Clashes and breakdown of relationships. Faith communities may help with advice and prayer. Disagreements and quarrels. Confrontation between two people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECONCILIATION</strong></td>
<td>Apologising and becoming friends again. ‘Making up’ and starting together again. All religions teach the importance of forgiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHASTITY</strong></td>
<td>Not having any sexual relationships before marriage as sex is seen as sacred. Keeping oneself from sexual activity until married to someone as sex is seen as a gift from God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOVE</strong></td>
<td>To have a deep affection for someone and express it through your actions and words. It can often include a relationship where there is commitment between people. Do religious duties for the sake of love for God.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Religious Teachings

(Christianity)
"To have and to hold until death do us part."
"In the eye's of God you have been joined together."
"They become one flesh."
"What God has brought together let no man separate."
"Anyone who divorces his wife... commits adultery."
"Do not commit adultery."
"Be fruitful and multiply."
"I (God) give life and I take it away."
"If they cannot control themselves they should marry, for it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion."
"A woman wears white in the wedding ceremony.
"Man shall not lie with woman"
"Man and woman he created them."

(Islam)
"You shall encourage those of you who are single to marry."
"He created for you partners."
"Do not commit adultery, it is a shameful thing and an opening to other evils."
"You should not kill your children for fear of want."
"Whoever kills a soul, it is as if he has killed the whole of mankind."
"Guard your chastity."
"Practice your lusts on men in preference to women." (religious teaching against lesbianism)
"You may marry other women... two or three or four. But if you cannot treat them all fairy, then marry only one."
Love

In the Greek of the New Testament, there are four words used to describe the one English word ‘love’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek word:</th>
<th>Storge</th>
<th>Phlia</th>
<th>Eros</th>
<th>Agape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meaning:</td>
<td>Affection for things and animals. Sometimes described a ‘sentimental love’</td>
<td>Love of friends and family; a stronger bond between people</td>
<td>Sexual love; physical love between two people, usually of the opposite sex</td>
<td>Unconditional love, given freely and unreservedly. E.g love a mother or father</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sex

What about Sex?

- Sex is a natural way of life.
- The sex drive is an instinct and is very strong so needs to be controlled.
- Within many religions, finding a partner is considered the natural state.

Chastity

- Chastity means making a commitment not to have sex until marriage and this is the ideal for Conservative and Catholic Christians and Muslims who all believe that sex should only ever occur within a marriage.
- Religious tradition believe making sex something special within only a marriage relationship is not a negative thing, but is actually positive.
- It is a celebration of the joy of sex as a mutual partnership - a complete giving of oneself totally and personally to another.
- It is highlighting of responsibility towards another person - thinking about them and their needs, not just a satisfying of one's own needs.
- It is a stating of the importance of commitment in their relationship - a willingness to spend the rest of one’s life with one's life with someone you love.
- It is an enhancing of the relationship by including a religious and spiritual dimension - an understanding that the sexual. Christians believe that sex is sacred and Muslims believe that sex is an act of worship hence has an important spiritual dimension.
- Casual sex or promiscuity is seen as devaluing both people and sex, therefore is unacceptable.
- In Islam, a hadith says that men and women should not even be alone together unless they are married in case they are tempted by each other.
**Celibacy**

- Celibacy is when people choose not to have a sexual relationship because they are devoting their life to God instead.
- Often people choose celibacy as their lifestyle choice because they don’t want the distraction of sexual relationships.
- Catholic nuns sometimes refer to their celibate lifestyle as being “married to God.”

**Same sex relationships**

- Islam disagrees with same sex relationships in all circumstances.
- The Roman Catholic Church teaches that marriage is faithful and exclusive between man and woman.
- Liberal churches such as the Quakers have welcomed same sex unions for over 20 years.
- Another Christian denomination, Anglicans, allow same sex unions and will bless a couple but not give them a full marriage ceremony.
- There are arguments which suggest that same sex marriages will create a shift in the very nature of marriage which is understood to be between a man and a woman. If the church allows a change in the nature of marriage it could lead to confusion and complication, what stops if being ok to marry more than one person etc, because the boundaries have changed.

**Contraception**

**Islam**

- Islam does not allow sex outside of marriage therefore the discussion about contraception is understood within the bounds of husband and wife.
- Muslims believe that God has a plan for every life and to interfere with that by using contraception is wrong.
- Artificial methods of contraception are not allowed, for example the pill or condoms however natural methods of contraception like the withdrawal method or the rhythm method are allowed as there is still the possibility for life to occur. A hadith says that the Prophet agreed with the withdrawal method. (Is there an argument however that if this form of contraception was allowed at the time then maybe new forms would be allowed today?)
- They would not allow a method of contraception that cause the abortion of a fertilised egg, such as the IUD (coil).
- Permanent methods like a vasectomy or sterilisation are not allowed as the purpose of sex is procreation.
- Use of contraception requires the consent of a woman as it may interfere with her enjoyment of sex or desire for a child.
- Contraception is allowed if not using it will pose a health risk to the mother.
- Some Muslims will interpret the teachings more liberally and allow the use of contraception for family planning.

**Christianity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal Christians allow sex outside of marriage and the use of artificial contraception provided that it does not encourage promiscuity.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Christians allow the use of contraception within marriage for family planning provided that both partners agree to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodists and Anglicans say that humans have been given free will and conscience to make decisions and so contraception can be used in ways the couple deem acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholics agree with the Human Vitae which was issued to the world by Pope Paul VI in 1968 and says sexual intercourse should strengthen the bond between the husband and wife and should always be open to the possibility of creating a new life. The Bible says people should “be fruitful and multiply” and therefore it is a sin to prevent this from happening through contraception and it is immoral because it is against God’s intentions for the sexual act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Catholic Church allows natural contraception like the rhythm method as the possibility of new life being created remains.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marriage

Islam

- Arranged marriage (where the family decide a suitable partner for their daughter/son) is a common practice in Islam and families should consider the beliefs and interests of the other person when deciding a partner. Since it is a contract both the man and the woman must agree to the marriage (if they do not agree it is a forced marriage). There are interesting questions to be raised however about family pressure and expectation is agreeing to arranged marriages.
- As well we arranging marriages Muslims families have a responsibility to help if things go wrong in the marriage.
- If finding suitable partners is successful, a dowry or Mahr is arranged. The dowry given to the bride emphasises the husband's duty to look after his wife and provide for her.
- The Mahr is the payment of an agreed sum of money or some other gift such as jewellery to the wife.
- The money belongs to the wife, and is hers to keep should they later decide to divorce. Marriage is the union of two extended families not just two individuals.
- Marriage is a social contract which Allah has sanctioned and those who can marry should. The contract is called the Nikah and it is agreed by the two families and witnesses.
- Marriage is legally binding between man and woman, never between same sex couples.
- The marriage can take place anywhere, the home, mosque etc as long as witnesses are present.
- At the marriage ceremony an Imam reads ayahs (chapter/verses from the Quran).
- The Quran is the main source of guidance for Muslims, the words of Allah, so it is important for the couple to follow what it says about treating each other with respect and kindness.
- It explains the meaning of marriage and reminds the couple of their duties to each other.
- Bringing up children is an important part of marriage.
Duties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A man’s duties</th>
<th>A woman’s duties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The man has to give the mahr as security.</td>
<td>A woman must protect her husband’s property if he goes away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The man must provide for the woman and family financially; men are the protectors and maintainers of women.</td>
<td>A woman must dress modestly and cover herself when in the presence of the people not in the immediate family and when she leaves the house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A man must treat his wife (wives) and children fairly.</td>
<td>A woman must be responsible for domestic duties and the children even if she works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No extra marital sex is permitted.</td>
<td>A woman must be faithful (no extra marital sex).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>She must obey her husband as long as he does not ask her to break the rules of Allah.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Polygamy

- Polygamy (marrying more than one person) is allowed in Islam, provided the law of the land allows it and only men can marry more than one wife not the other way round.
- The sunna (example) of the Prophet was polygamy, he had many wives. This was acceptable at the time to ensure that women, especially widows were cared for and treated with respect.
- However the Prophet made it clear that this was only allowed if the man could treat them all completely fairly.
- The Prophet also later implied that no one ever really could treat more than one woman fairly, hence many Muslims would disagree with polygamy as it was only allowed in the exceptional circumstances of the perfect Prophet.
- Women can specify in the marriage contract that her husband cannot take a second wife.
- In Britain when a husband takes more than one wife, then the marriage is recognised by the Shariah (Islamic Law) but not under British law, where it is illegal.
Christianity

The Christian Marriage Ceremony

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of the ceremony</th>
<th>Symbolism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ceremony takes place in a chapel or church.</td>
<td>The couple are to be married in the eyes of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The woman wears white.</td>
<td>The white dress symbolises the chastity and virginity (purity) of the woman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The purposes of the marriage are explained and the minister asks for the impediments (any reasons why the couple cannot be married).</td>
<td>Marriage is a legally binding contract in the eyes of the law as well as God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vows</td>
<td>This is a life long commitment and promise which must be adhered to even though there will undoubtedly be difficult times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I take thee to be my lawfully wedded husband/wide, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better for worse for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health. To love and to cherish until death do us part.”</td>
<td>The circle of the rings represents the never ending love of the couple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchanging of the rings.</td>
<td>No adultery, divorce etc. These people are joined in the eyes of God and have made a lifelong commitment to each other and God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The union is pronounced: “I now pronounce you man and wife, what God has brought together let no man separate.”</td>
<td>The Bible reading and the sermon from the minister remind the couple of their vows and the sacredness of their new life together with God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Reading (often 1 Corinthians - “love is patient love is kind.”)</td>
<td>Signing of the register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signing of the register.</td>
<td>This is a legally binding contract.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who can marry in a church?

Anyone is allowed to marry in a Church of England church, even if they are of another religion or do not practice Christianity. (Sometimes you may not be allowed to if one of the couple has been married before, that is up to the minister to decide). It is recommended that people marry within their parish boundaries (i.e. in their local church) because there is an expectation that if you have troubles in your marriage you can then easily turn to the church community for help and reconciliation.

Marrying in a catholic church is a little more complex, you have to satisfy the following conditions:

1) One of the couple must be a catholic
2) Neither of the couple can be a divorcee
3) The marriage can only be between a man and a woman
4) The couple must be in 'good standing' with the church, e.g. they must worship regularly and know the minister and show commitment to the church

Cohabitation as an alternative

Lots of couples today see marriage as an out of date institution and prefer to cohabit (live together unmarried). Often couples will write a contract and sign it instead of getting married as they do not think they need a piece of paper to prove they love each other. Many people also want to try out living with someone before they agree to marry them. Some people don't like the idea of marriage at all and never commit to a long term relationship.
Divorce and remarriage

Relationship breakdown happens for many reasons, external things like financial problems, employment, unable to have children, different interests and things within the control of the couple like affairs, religious views, lack of communication/appreciation.

In all religions divorce is an undesirable option but always one that is present if it is the last resort and the best thing for the couple. God does not desire unhappiness for people hence religions do have divorce proceedings.

What can religious communities do when things start to go wrong in a marriage?

- The religious leader can offer help and advice to the couple.
- The community can offer marriage guidance counselling or therapy sessions.
- Older more experienced couples could offer help and advice, especially in those religions where families have a specific role.
- Prayers for or with the couple can be offered.
- A group of ‘young marrieds’ could be run, to help discuss and share experiences and learning.
- A pre-marriage course could be offered for all intending to get married.
- A booklet or leaflet with religious teaching about marriage and family could be prepared and given to the couples when they marry.

Islam

- Divorce is accepted as a last resort.
- The Prophet Muhammad said: ‘of all the things which have been permitted divorce is the most hated by hated by Allah.’
- If the couple decide to divorce then, the husband must state in front of witnesses on three separate occasions that the marriage is over. Only the husband can initiate divorce.
- A period of three months begins (Iddah).
- The couple will stay in the same house but not sleep together.
- This is to ensure that there is no confusion about who is the father of any children born after the divorce.
- If the wife asks for a divorce but the husband has done nothing wrong she may have to give back the dowry if asked.
**Christianity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal Christians allow divorce and remarriage in a church provided that the minister thinks it is acceptable. No minister can be forced to conduct a marriage ceremony in the case of remarriage.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of England allows divorce because it is allowed by UK law. They discourage remarriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Christians say that remarriage cannot happen inside the church but a minister can agree to a blessing if he/she sees it as appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholics see divorce as breaking the solemn made before God and the Christian family. The Catholic church does not recognise divorce and considers it to be a sacrament which cannot be dissolved. Even if people get divorced according to the legal law, they still consider the couple to be married in the eyes of God so remarriage is adultery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Catholic church allow annulment rather than divorce. Annulment is when they can prove that the marriage was not binding in the first place, for example if one of the couple could not speak the language the ceremony was conducted in, or one of the couple was psychologically incapacitated or the marriage has not been consummated (they have never had sex). Annulment means cancelling the marriage, declaring it was never valid in the first place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adultery and extra-marital sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christianity:</th>
<th>Islam:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Marriage is sexually exclusive - sex should not be shared with anyone else (the special relationship - or 'oneness' is destroyed)</td>
<td>• Sex outside marriage is strongly disapproved of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The 10 Commandments (&quot;do not commit adultery&quot;) and teachings of Jesus forbid it</td>
<td>• Sexual desires are to be satisfied, but only in the context of marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It is harmful to a special relationship of marriage</td>
<td>• The ideal is a lifelong union based on trust, morality and devotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The family can be harmed</td>
<td>• Vows/promising to be faithful are exchanged in the marriage ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A partner feels cheated, betrayed or rejected</td>
<td>• Adultery is seen as harmful socially, so against the unity and peace of the Ummah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It is wrong because God himself is involved in the marriage (sacrament)</td>
<td>• Adultery is seen as a form of theft of the worst possible sort and it is based on deceit and lack of trust which can lead to more evils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Family

• Bringing up children is an important part of marriage, the family is where children are taught moral values and their religion.

• One of the ten commandments is to "honour your mother and father" which shows that family is integral to the Christian religion.

• In secular (non-religious) society where single parent couples, reconstituted families (made of up step/half siblings and remarried parents) and divorce are more common there are arguments that the family is no longer as important and people are not taking the ideals of religion as seriously.

• Also the idea of a family is changing especially with same sex marriages being discussed in the media and government which may lead to more same sex couples adopting children which changes the nature of marriage and the concept of a family.

• (N.b. if you are asked a question in the exam about the family, use the teachings and examples from as many other topics as possible to your answer.)
## Key Concepts

| **HUMANITY** | Caring about other human beings, compassion for others. E.g. by serving others voluntarily |
| **SOUL** | The part of human nature that is not just physical. The part of humans which allows people to relate to God; to worship. |
| **CREATION** | What is made is from a design, a plan. Creation means making something unique. |
| **STEWARDSHIP** | To look after and care for the world. A God given responsibility to manage or control the earth |
| **DOMINON** | A word meaning ‘kingship’ or ‘being the boss over something’. Having a form of control and responsibility which was given to humans by God. |
| **TALENT** | The natural ability to do something well. It is a gift from God and should be used in His way. |
| **KHALIFAH** | Agent or steward working for Allah. Has a responsibility in looking after the earth and everything in it. |
| **ENVIRONMENT** | The surroundings in which we live for which religions teach we are responsible, as the earth is a gift from God. |
Religious Teachings

Christianity

“The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.” – Old Testament

“Make man in our image, and let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground.” – Old Testament

“God saw that it was good.” – Old Testament

“God created the heavens and the Earth.” – Old Testament

“In the image of God he created them.” – Old Testament

“And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one: to every man according to his several ability.” (New Testament)

Extension:

Augustine a 4⁴ century Christian thinker said that animals do not feel pain, they are irrational beings that do not even know they are alive.

Islam

“He has made you his ruling agents in the Earth.” (Surah)

“God provided you with livestock, that you may ride on them...” (Surah)

“Animals are communities like you.” (Surah)

“Live in this world as if you were going to live in it forever.” (Sunnah (example) of the Prophet)

“It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon.” (Surah)

Extension:

"Verily in the heavens and the earth are signs for those who believe." (Surah 45:3-5)

(Is this saying that the Big Bang could be a possibility? How?)

Religion and Science

Science and religion seek to answer different questions. Science asks how things happen, religion asks why things happen.
Human uniqueness

Humans are unique beings with intelligence, the ability to communicate and express emotion and morality (knowing right from wrong). Humans have free will and a conscience and can make rational decisions rather than act purely on instinct. While animals may have some of these features in small quantities there is no doubt that humans are unique and separate from them and a more advanced species, especially since we have adapted to control animals rather than be controlled by them. Further to this humans have the soul, an imprint of God in humans and the way in which they communicate with God; animals do not pray or worship. Christians believe that humans are made imago dei - in the image of God and they are separate and unique because of this. This links to revelation. Humans are the ones who God trusted with knowledge of himself not animals.

Purposes of humans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christianity</th>
<th>Islam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• To serve God and live for him. (this includes telling others about and sharing one’s faith)</td>
<td>• To live for Allah alone. (there is no God but Allah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To obey God (following the way of life His commandments show and which Jesus taught)</td>
<td>• To respect other human beings and animals (for there is one creator of all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To enjoy the world and its fruits/resources. (they are a gift from God.)</td>
<td>• To act as khalifahs or guardians of the planed (for Allah gave this responsibility to humans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To look after the world for God (stewardship). (this includes sensible use of resources and trying to conserve nature)</td>
<td>• To have sexual relationships and children. (this is a natural part of life and a gift from Allah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To look after and live in harmony with others. (this is also a way of serving God, by serving others in a selfless unconditional way)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To have sexual relationships and children. (this is seen as natural and a God-given ability and calling)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Talents

Every person is given a talent by God, it is a gift and they have a duty to develop them and use them to help others. Not to do so would be seen as wasteful and even an insult to God. God has a bigger plan for humanity, and every talent has been given to people for a reason. Every talent humans have can be used for a good purpose, for example if your talent is cooking you could help feed the poor. If your talent is public speaking you could stand up for human rights. Some people have a talent that it a profession or a vocation like teaching or nursing. Some people use their talents to serve their God even better, like using musical ability to pray and witness to God. Some people use talents to help humanity through charity work.

Creation

How did the universe begin?

- Throughout human history, people have asked this question.
- Most religious believers say God created the earth and all creation.
- Over time, humans discovered more and more about the universe and scientists began to construct theories about its beginnings.
- To some people it seemed such ideas replaced the beliefs in God as the originator of all things.

Christianity

Genesis details the creation story which involves God creating a distinct and separate part of creation over 6 days then resting on the seventh day. Before God created there was just space, with no form. First God created light and the heavens, then and water, then plants, then stars, the creatures then on the sixth day God created man in his image and gave humans the responsibility to rule over all the creatures and Earth. At each stage of creation “God saw that it was good.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LITERALIST VIEWS</th>
<th>NON-LITERALIST VIEWS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The main points of the story actually happened the way they were described -</td>
<td>The main point of the story is not to detail how God created, but to state that he</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literally.</td>
<td>did.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Earth was created 6000 years ago and there were six days of 24 hours</td>
<td>So the story is not a literal account, but does contain important truths, such as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on which God created</td>
<td>• God did create the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adam was formed out of dust of the earth</td>
<td>• That he used the natural process he created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eve was formed out of Adams rib</td>
<td>• That there were clear periods of creation, though not 24 hours as such.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believers of this view see a conflict between science and religion, and are</td>
<td>• Humans are still special and unique and creation is still good and imbued with God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>convinced of the truth of the Bible in a literal and fundamental sense.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People who accept this view, see no real conflict between scientific theories and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>religion, and can see how both weave together to give a full picture of life and the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>earth.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People who think this believe that scientific explanations, based on evidence and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>research are irrefutable, and that religious ideas are a different (and less</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trustworthy) kind of statement.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Whatever position a person takes, it would seem true to say that, in general, Christians agree that the Genesis story illustrates some important key beliefs:

- God created everything for a purpose
- The beginning of the world and life was not accidental
- Human beings are different from other creature, in being in the 'image of God' and sharing some responsibility for the world
- That the world created was basically good.
Islam

- Allah made the heaven and earth, and all the animals, birds, and fish; the sun, moon and the stars; the plants and rain; and the angels.
- The angels were sent to bring seven handfuls of earth – each of a different colour.
- From these the first man, Adam was made; and from his side, Eve – the first woman.
- They lived in Paradise – a beautiful garden; where they could eat were anything, except the fruit of one tree.
- On disobeying Allah, after being tempted by Iblis (devil) they were placed outside the garden as a punishment.

Science

The Big Bang Theory:

- Everything began with a bang.
- The dense matter that made up the universe began to expand and about 15,000 million years ago, bursting out with great force and speed.
- The expansion has continued, with a cool down of the earth and other planets, the fact that the universe is still expanding is possible evidence that the Big Bang did happen.

Important things to note about the Big Bang Theory:

- It is the only a theory and some scientists don’t accept some of the evidence and question its accuracy.
- There are some unanswerable question about this theory such as ‘what caused the bang?’ and ‘where did the matter come from?’
- Lots of Christians accept that God could have been behind the Big Bang, with always the intention of the Earth being created and humans to evolve. The chance of the Big Bang happening and successfully creating a planet that could hold life is so unlikely, there must have been God behind it.
- Aquinas’s first cause argument which says that there can’t be a constant chain of cause and effect going backwards, there has to be a first cause and this first cause was God.
The Theory of Evolution

- Charles Darwin wrote 'The Origin of the Species' in the 19th century after observing how animals who were more adapted to their environment survived and passed on their desirable characteristics to their offspring.
- This led Darwin to believe in evolution by natural selection which raised doubts about the role of God in creation and put God's role in creation and literal creation story into question as complex forms of life (like humans) evolved from more simple of life.
- The ideas suggests that human beings, rather than being created in God's image, had evolved from apes, and were merely a more complex and rational version of them.

Important notes about the Theory of Evolution

- It is a theory and has not been proved absolutely.
- It describes a process of development and adaption within species – the question is still not completely clear about transformation from one species to another.
- It does not explain the origins of first life form.
- It does not explain the order in the universe, or the reason for natural laws that exist within the universe.
- Many Christians believe that God could be behind the process of evolution and God always intended for humans to be created as a special species in his image that would receive revelation but that he created them through a scientific process rather than distinctly.

Science and Religion

- There are many issues raised by creation in particular about science and religion, like 'can a Christian be a scientist.'
- Science asks 'how' questions and religion asks 'why' questions. E.g. How did humans come into existence and why did humans come into existence?
- Religious views can't be disproved and don't require evidence for that to be believed whereas scientific views can become rejected once evidence has been disproved.
The environment

Christianity

- Humans are given the role of being stewards/guardians by God which means not exploiting, harming or wasting the resources of the world. Being a steward is like being a partner with God in looking after the world and honouring the responsibility God has given to humans.
- The earth and everything in it is God's and humans are entrusted with looking after it on behalf of God.
- All of creation should be respected because all of creation is sacred - it is part of the Creator and so should be worshipped and cared for hence humans need to work with nature rather than destroy or harm it.
- All of creation is interdependent and since humans are part of that they must not damage the Earth as it is damaging then to humans too.
- While there is life on the planet people must do all they can to care for it, through care and meditation, and practical helping or even worshipping nature.
- On the other hand there is also a Christian teaching called dominion. Dominion means a God given responsibility to take control and charge of the Earth. Christians who believe in dominion consider that humans can do what they want with the Earth, even exploit and it's resources as they have control over everything in the Earth.

Chico Mendes
An example of a Christian steward is Chico Mendes. He was from Brazil where hardwood trees were being cut down to make furniture and mercury was being used to separate the gold from the land. This was leading to water pollution and deforestation. Chico Mendes was a rubber tapper and he organised the people living there to defend their homes from cattle ranchers. In the 1970's he organised non-violent resistance to the exploitation of the forest. He found ways to use Amazonian resources to support the economic benefit for the local people and to protect the rainforest from logging and cattle ranching. In 1988 he led a winning effort to stop cattle ranchers from deforesting an area the rubber tappers wanted to make into a reserve.
A Rocha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>A Rocha</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>A Rocha is an international Christian organisation which is inspired by God’s love and works across the globe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The main aspects of their work are scientific research, environmental education and conservation projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>They believe that God made the world and loves it and has entrusted humans to take care of human society. Through their commitment to God they want to develop good relationships with local communities. They act because they want to be obedient to God who called on people to be stewards and in the interests of justice because often environmental damage affects the poor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>A Rocha Kenya is persuading communities around the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest that this site of outstanding conservation importance is worth protecting for themselves and for future generations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Rocha

Christians in Conservation
Islam

- Muslims believe that human being was given the role of *khalifah* or guardian/steward to look after the earth and treat it with respect.

- This responsibility is a binding duty on the whole community of Muslims (Ummah). Muslims come from many countries and speak a wide of languages, but they were all created by Allah and are expected to follow the Shariah (the Islamic law based on the Quran and Sunnah).

- Muslims are expected to actively keep the *fitrah* (delicate natural balance of the environment) - the key to survival. Things like dumping waste in the sea, deforestation and hunting of animals which then become extinct are all examples of times when the *fitrah* of the Earth is upset.

- This is considered such an important role that on the Day of Judgement, all Muslims will be called into account for how they have looked after Allah’s creation.

- Muslims have been told to "live in this world as if you were going to live in it forever which means that humans must be cautious about overusing resources and make an effort to be sustainable.

- There are many examples which the Prophet set towards caring for creation even the tiny parts like insects, for example he insisted a fire was put out immediately when he realised ants were running directly into it because of the light. The Prophet also avoided waste and respected the Earth.
**LINE/ Wisdom in nature**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>LINE (London Islamic Network for the Environment) has recently been renamed Wisdom in Nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Wisdom in Nature is the first Islamic Ecological Community Group in the UK and is pioneering Islamic ecological activism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>They run forums and events to discuss environmental issues and Islamic response and involve the Muslims community as well as projects and volunteer work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Many of their projects are about sharing and interdependence which fits with the focus in Islam about maintaining the fitrah of the Earth and doing your part for God’s creation to ensure you are judged favourably by Allah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Wisdom in Nature has produced an exhibition which has got photographs and information about climate change across different parts of the world, especially in Muslim countries. This exhibition can be taken to mosques, events etc to share with people and improve awareness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Treatment of Animals

Christianity

- Early Christians believe that animals did not have rights because they did not have souls or the ability to reason, they were inferior to humans and could be treated in any way. This led them to believe that animals don't feel pain and that any suffering endured in life will be compensated in the afterlife.

- Modern Christians are more in favour of animal rights. They take as an example that Adam and Eve lived in harmony with the animals and this shows God's ideal. They think humans and animals were created by God and animals must be cared for by humans under the role of stewardship.

- Jesus told human beings to be kind to the weak and helpless, and in comparison to human beings, animals are often weak and helpless.

- Quakers believe that animals should be given rights and take an active role in opposing animal cruelty, animal testing and animal hunting. They are also often vegetarian.

Islam

- Animals are part of God's creation and should be treated with mercy and compassion which means Muslims should not use animals to fight with, hunt them for sport or kill them for no reason.

- When the Muslims are in state of ihram or purity for religious reasons, for example when on Hajj, they experience total peace and serenity, and all living things including animals are safe in their presence.

- The slaughter methods for halal food are in place to try and ensure the humane killing of animals and it must be killed in prayer in the name of Allah.

- The animals must go to its death in a calm manner, well fed and watered, not suspecting what is about to happen.

- Animals must not be tied up, or confined to small spaces.

- One day the Prophet passed by a camel that had been mistreated. He taught the listening people, 'Fear Allah in these beasts - ride them in good health and free them from work while they are still in good health.'
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Concepts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUSTICE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INJUSTICE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUTHORITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESPONSIBILITY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PREJUDICE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DISCRIMINATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EQUALITY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTITY</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Religious Teachings (Christianity)

Justice

“I was hungry and you gave me food... I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me.” (New Testament)

“Treat others as you want to be treated.” (New Testament)

“Faith without action is meaningless.” (New Testament)

“There is neither Greek nor Jew, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (New Testament)

“Whoever closes his ear to the poor will himself call out, and will not be answered.” (Proverbs)

“Love your neighbour.” (New Testament)

“All humans are made in the image of God.” (Old Testament)

“Do not mistreat foreigners living in your land. The foreigner must be treated as one of your own. Love him as you love yourself, because you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.” (Old Testament)

When Jesus came, he died for the sins of mankind, all mankind. In his life Jesus did not discriminate, he came to save those who were poor, not only poor in money but poor in the way society treated them. He came to rescues those who were destitute, those who society had turned away. He helped lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes, disabled people and so many more.

Wealth

“Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (New Testament)

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (New Testament)

“For the love of money is the root of all evil.” (New Testament)
Prejudice and discrimination

“Women should be silent in the church.”

“There is neither Greek nor Jew, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.”

“A wife of noble character, she is worth more than rubies.”

“If you do not provide for your family, then you are worse than a non-believer.”

“Listen to your father who gave you life and do not despise your mother when she is old.”

“Do not mistreat foreigners living in your land, because you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”

Jesus came for to save poor people. This means those who were poor because they had no money but also those who were poor because they had no worth in society, he helped prostitutes and healed lepers, blind people, paralysed people.

Extension: In the Catholic church women cannot be ordained as priests only men can. It is suggested that one reason for this is that at a church service when the priest breaks the bread and drinks the wine which represent the body and blood of Christ they are representing Jesus so only a man can do that.
Religious Teachings (Islam)

justice and equality

Salat: one of the 5 pillars, performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day. In the eyes of God all people are completely equal and humble and need to respect God in the same way.

Zakat: one of the 5 pillars, paying an alms (or charity) tax (2.5% of income) to benefit the poor and the needy - helping to ensure justice for all people.

Sawm: one of the 5 pillars, fasting during the month of Ramadan. This helps people remember those less fortunate who go hungry every day and also when breaking the fast Muslims are encouraged to share the meal and provide for others.

Hajj: one of the 5 pillars, pilgrimage to Mecca. All believers must wear ihram, plain and simple white garments which show all people are completely equal in the eyes of God and their duty.

Wealth

Wealth is a gift from Allah but with money comes responsibility. A hadith says: “A man who helps and spends his time and money looking after widows and the poor holds the same position as one who fasts every day and prays the whole night for a number of years.”

Sadaqah - voluntary payments or good actions for charity are also encouraged in Islam

“Strong drink and games of chance are Satan’s handiwork” (Surah)

Prejudice and Discrimination

The primary role of the woman is to raise children and manage domestic (household) affairs.

“If your parents reach old age, do not say a word of disrespect to them.” (Surah)

“Women have the same rights as men, but men are above them in status.” (Surah)

“For all believing men and women... Allah has prepared them great reward.” (Surah)

“He made you into people and tribes - so you may come to know each other.” (Surah)

The golden rule in Islam: “You should want for your brother what you want for yourself.”
Acting for Justice

Christianity

- It is a duty of Christians to show concern for others, especially those in need. Failing to do this is failing God.
- A Christian would not solely be helping the individual who is suffering but it would be as if they were helping Jesus himself.
- Kind and thoughtful actions are just as important, if not, more so than the giving of money. Nonetheless people have to do something to put their faith into action, there is no point in saying you are a Christian and not acting/living it by helping others in any way you can.
- Christians must love all people equally, even their enemies.
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan is an excellent example of loving your enemies and putting your faith into action. In the parable the priest walked past the Jew and the Levite (powerful member of society) also walked past even though society would expect these faithful and powerful men of God to help. The Samaritan who was the enemy of the Jew was the one who stopped and helped even though society would expect him to simply walk by. The moral of this story is to help you enemies and put your faith into action it is not good for people to say they are religious then not show it.

Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa (Christians who worked for justice)

- **MLK** acknowledged the poverty that existed in both white and black communities alike.
- **MLK** did not solely fight for the alleviation of poverty for the black community only.
- **Martin Luther King** fought against the prejudice and discrimination against the black community and the enslavement of this racial denomination.
- **MLK** used non-violent protest in order to champion the awareness of human rights and used his Christian beliefs that violence was wrong and the same outcome could be met in the use of powerful speech and education.
- **Mother Teresa** became a nun in 1937 and vowed a life of service to the poor.
- **Mother Teresa** went into the third world countries and fought against the poverty that existed there by encouraging, helping and educating the individuals who were sick and who needed the help that she gave.
**Christian Aid**

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<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>Christian Aid</th>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
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<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Christian Aid is an international organisation and helps people across the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Christian Aid aims to improve the lives of people in poor countries and support projects run in partner countries. It supports poor people without discriminating, helping them whatever their culture or religion. Finally they educate people about the needs of the poor and raise awareness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>They follow the example of Jesus working with people whom society has ignored and treating all people will love and kindness as Jesus came to save all people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Every year they run Christian Aid week where they deliver bags to people across the community and ask for donations of clothes, toys, supplies etc which they can sell in their charity shops or donate directly to those in need. As well as this they respond to natural disasters and emergencies to provide for those affected. They train and send volunteers to many African countries to spread awareness of HIV/AIDS. They encourage people to get tested, offer counselling for those suffering and to tackle stigma and share hygiene and medical advice for preventing the spread of the disease.</td>
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<td>Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>They work in the UK addressing many social issues and helping the poor as well as people who are often ignored or rejected by society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| A     | They are trying to achieve justice by working with people whom society does not care for, like homeless people, drug addicts, alcoholics etc. They also help those at risk of being excluded by society such as the elderly.  

A main part of their work is trying to convert people to Christianity, and the army nature of their work, such as the uniform they wear, shows them trying to win souls for Christ. |
| C     | They follow the example of Jesus who worked with people society were 'disgusted' with like lepers and prostitutes. They show that Jesus came for the sinners to show people the right path not to judge them.  

They also do not discriminate and show love and kindness to all people. |
| T     | On Christmas day they run Christmas lunches in community centres and invite elderly people who may not have family to spend it with.  

They run soup kitchens and shelters for homeless people and have a family tracing service where they try to reconnect people with their families.  

They run rehabilitation programmes and offer counselling for drug addicts. |
Islam

- Islam teaches that Allah has blessed both males and females and as such women have particular rights; they cannot be forced to marry against their will, women have the right to work and develop their talents and education is very important so women have the right to it.
- However there are some expectations of women in Islam which some people may consider to show a lack of equality; women must bring up children, women must dress modestly wearing the hijab.
- The Prophet spoke out against a range of injustices against animals, the poor and widows.
- Zakah established specifically for the poor - to give them basic human rights.

Islamic Relief

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Islamic Relief is an international organisation supporting Muslims and non-Muslims alike across the world. It aims to look after the world’s poorest people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>It responds to natural disasters and emergencies and also provides health programmes and support for orphans as well as education for people to poor to afford school. It also works to promote sustainable livelihoods so people are paid a fair price for their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Zakat is one of the 5 pillars of Islam and a requirement for Muslims to give 2.5% of their annual income to charity. Many Muslims support Islamic Relief as their charity and giving to charity is considered an ibadah (act of worship). Every mosque will have a collecting box and a committee will decide how best to spend the money to support others and ensure that the whole ummah is more equal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| T | Currently Islamic Relief is running a Syria appeal to provide food parcels, clean water and shelter to those affected. It is raising money and awareness to provide for people.  
During Ramadan in particular it runs a project called ‘feed the fasting’ where it ensures that in countries like Bangladesh where over 50% of children are underweight food parcels are sent out so poor people can break the fast and celebrate the end of the holy month on Eid-ul-Fitr |

Islamic Relief is an international organisation supporting Muslims and non-Muslims alike across the world. It aims to look after the world’s poorest people. It responds to natural disasters and emergencies and also provides health programmes and support for orphans as well as education for people to poor to afford school. It also works to promote sustainable livelihoods so people are paid a fair price for their work. Zakat is one of the 5 pillars of Islam and a requirement for Muslims to give 2.5% of their annual income to charity. Many Muslims support Islamic Relief as their charity and giving to charity is considered an ibadah (act of worship). Every mosque will have a collecting box and a committee will decide how best to spend the money to support others and ensure that the whole ummah is more equal. Currently Islamic Relief is running a Syria appeal to provide food parcels, clean water and shelter to those affected. It is raising money and awareness to provide for people. During Ramadan in particular it runs a project called ‘feed the fasting’ where it ensures that in countries like Bangladesh where over 50% of children are underweight food parcels are sent out so poor people can break the fast and celebrate the end of the holy month on Eid-ul-Fitr.
Malcolm X (a Muslim who worked for justice)

- He developed intense hatred of the white race from seeing how black people were treated.
- Malcolm gave all of his time to the nation of Islam, encouraging violence against white people as a way to end inequality. He effectively became racist himself.
- Malcolm made his Hajj to Makkah which had a dramatic effect on him - he witnessed at the Muslims Ummah (community) at Makkah to consist Muslims of all colours and backgrounds.
- He wrote a letter explaining the profound change that had overcome him.
- He publicly declared that he was not a racist.
- He was assassinated by black Muslims.
Prejudice and Discrimination

- Prejudice means to make a pre-judgement on another person or group of people based on inadequate facts through lack of knowledge or experience of them. Prejudice is different from discrimination because prejudice is the belief and discrimination is the action when someone treats someone or a group of people differently or unfairly based on their prejudice. For example, someone may have a prejudice and think old people are useless, it becomes discrimination when they refuse to hire them for a job.
- People are prejudiced and display discrimination for all sorts of reasons, like race (racism), sex (sexism), age (ageism) because of people’s religion, disability or sexuality. A recent form of prejudice stemming from experiences is Islamophobia which is particularly evident in the media and affects the lives of Muslims from all backgrounds.
- There are many legal requirements to ensure that prejudice and discrimination does not occur in the workplace, in hiring people, in schools, in the provision of care etc.
- The Runnymede Commission is a think tank which works against Islamophobia and tries to remove negative language towards Islam and Muslims and ensure there are sanctions for those who show religious discrimination. They want Islam to be fully integrated into the community and education system and for British Muslims to develop their cultural and religious identity.

Why are people prejudiced?

- **Ignorance** - not knowing or wanting to know the facts.
- **Pride/selfishness** - thinking only of self interest and failing to consider the needs of others.
- **Parental/peer pressure** - accepting the views and attitudes of others without questioning or challenging them.
- **Fear** - uncertain of the implication of others: afraid of what might happen.
- **Anger** - perhaps of a particular event thought to be the fault of one particular group of people.
- **Experience** - having had an unpleasant experience previously with a particular group of people or person from that group.
Religious perspectives on prejudice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• All people are equal but not the same</td>
<td>• Prejudice is unacceptable and is against Christian beliefs and teachings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All people are important in their own right as created by Allah</td>
<td>• God created all human beings as equals, whatever race, ability, or gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We can learn from Muhammad’s example (respect for women)</td>
<td>• The Ten Commandments gives guidance on living in harmony with others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Ummah (brotherhood) crosses all national, cultural, political,</td>
<td>• Jesus’ example (such as his treatment of lepers and outcasts) and his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>racial and language boundaries</td>
<td>teachings such as the Good Samaritan Christians believe that all people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The act of prayer stresses the importance of equality; individuals</td>
<td>should be treated equally because they are all equal in the eyes of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stand shoulder to shoulder as equals before Allah</td>
<td>no matter what race, sex or gender because every person is loved equally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The duties if men and women are the same although physical differences require that men have a responsibility to protect and care for women. Women have particular rights though not to be sexually harassed etc.</td>
<td>• Christians argue that racism, which is the use of a person's racial origin to determine a person’s value, is an assault on Christ’s values and a rejection of his sacrifice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Islamic Law is founded upon the spirit of justice which does not allow for any form of prejudice and discrimination</td>
<td>• The Christian view of sexism is interesting since Catholics do not allow women to be priests so women have no leadership positions in the church which shows a lack of equality. All other non-catholic churches do allow women to be priests however. Jesus was especially positive towards women and their rights and he stood up for them when they were a marginalised group in society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wealth

A need is a necessity, something that would lead to poverty if people did not have it. Whereas a want is something we desire but do not need. A right is something we expect to have because every person is entitled to it. Rights are not something that have to be earned or deserved they are something the law and human natures says you must have. A duty is something you must do because it is a responsibility entrusted to you by God or someone in authority, often other humans are depending on you to do this.

Religious believers believe that wealth is a privilege and a gift from God which we must use responsibility. People will be judged at death on the way their used resources.

Christianity teaches that you should be generous in this life because you will have "treasure in heaven." Which means people should share and make sacrifices for others because they will be rewarded by God for this. People should not focus on money or try to 'get rich quick' through unfair methods, profiting from other people's poor fortune (i.e. lending for profit) or gambling. Spiritual values are always more important than material things.

Being generous is crucial in Islam, evident from zakat being one of the 5 pillars of Islam. All wealth is a gift from Allah and it is not wrong to be wealthy; the more wealthy you are the more generous you should be. Wealth should not be used to harm others and earning money should always be through honest means like no gambling, no lending for profit etc. Muslims see all wealth as really belonging to Allah - he is the real owner who is having His fortune looked after. Muslims who earn interest on their accounts with a bank can organise their interest to go straight to their chosen charity.

(See the earlier pages for lots of religious teachings on wealth which can be used in exam questions).
**Media**

The media has an effect on many people. Many organisations are now making sure that the message given is a responsible one, particularly about bad language, violence or body image. The media is used to both promote and discredit religion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages of Media</th>
<th>Disadvantages of Media</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Spread God’s word through a powerful tool</td>
<td>• Has the power to portray religion in a negative light, although it does have free will so maybe it should be allowed to do this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The message can reach thousands</td>
<td>• Sometimes the media lies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Entertaining way to learn about religion</td>
<td>• Ignorant people will accept the point of view without questioning, even though the programme may not be accurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Good documentary/visual information</td>
<td>• Programmes can be biased, not necessarily accurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Media is very influential</td>
<td>• Media will show what they want people to know, not the whole truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Removes ignorance, creates understanding and can reduce hatred and prejudice</td>
<td>• Media should only be used for entertainment, for relaxing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The media should not lie and should treat religious issues fairly showing the whole picture</td>
<td>• It may cause people to doubt their religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The media can be used to promote interfaith dialogue and create a better sense of community</td>
<td>• Religion should not be forced upon people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Freedom of speech</td>
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## Looking for Meaning

### Key concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOD</strong></td>
<td>- Supreme Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Divine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- All Powerful Creator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deity which is believed to be the One behind everything.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SYMBOLISM</strong></td>
<td>A sign which has a particular meaning. Something regarded as a representation. E.g. the cross for Christians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGNOSTIC</strong></td>
<td>A person who is not sure if you can know if there is such a thing as God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATHEIST</strong></td>
<td>A person who believes there is no God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AWE</strong></td>
<td>So struck by the beauty of something that you are left almost breathless and speechless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Completely overwhelmed by a sense of God's presence and feeling small and insignificant in comparison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVELATION</strong></td>
<td>Something or someone enables others to learn more, or see something for themselves, about God, life or eternity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFTERLIFE</strong></td>
<td>Another kind of 'existence' that follows bodily life. Where souls go when the body dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY</strong></td>
<td>A group of people with something in common; faith communities share beliefs and practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Religious Teachings

Christianity

“There will be no more death, sadness, crying or pain.”

“Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

“Even if I walk through the dark of death, I will not be afraid because you are with me.”
The nature of God

Islam and Christianity are both monotheistic religions, they believe in one God.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Omnipotent (all powerful)</td>
<td>• One – Tawhid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Omniscient (all knowing)</td>
<td>• All knowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Omni-benevolent (all good)</td>
<td>• Creator of the world/humans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Omnipresent (all present/everywhere)</td>
<td>• Most Merciful and Gracious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Creator of the world/creatures/humans i.e. a great designer</td>
<td>• Requires submission to him in obedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• God is best seen in Jesus.</td>
<td>• Sent His last and greatest Prophet Muhammad to lead and guide his people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wants a relationship with humans.</td>
<td>• Will judge the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Will judge the world</td>
<td>• 99 attributes of God, e.g. the wise, the eternal, the first, the last, the protector, the light but these are only a glimpse of Allah, humans are too imperfect to ever truly understand him - humans are not supposed to really understand since they can only compare God to human qualities and God is so much more than this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A father figure, protector</td>
<td>• A judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A man?</td>
<td>• God is transcendent, which means that He is outside and beyond everything that He created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The person of Jesus, a helpful and forgiving man is a helpful reminder of the character of God.</td>
<td>• God is immanent, which means that He is closer to each human than their heartbeat and knows even our unspoken thoughts, fears and hopes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A judge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although Christians believe in one God they believe that God is experienced or known as three distinct persons. This is called the Trinity and is made up of the Father, Son (a sacrifice and Holy Spirit of all). It means accepting that God

Tawhid is the most basic belief about God.

• Means the 'one-ness' 'unity' 'the absolute' or 'the alone'. This is one of the hardest concepts to grasp of all.
- **God the Father:** Creator and Sustainer of all things. Nothing exists outside God's power.

- **God the Son:** Jesus Christ came to earth incarnate (in human form) so Jesus could show people the right way and die for the sins of the whole world. Christians know him as the Saviour, Friend, redeemer and Lord. Christians believe that "God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that all who believed in him could have eternal life."

- **God the Holy Spirit:** having returned from the dead, Jesus when returned to his Father in heaven. Before he did so, however, he promised that God's spirit would enter into people's hearts and minds. The Holy Spirit is God's love and power working in the world today

---

Looking at the characteristics of God there are many attributes which seem to contradict each other. How can God be omnipotent and omni-benevolent? If God has all the power then why can he not stop bad things like suffering happen, and if he chooses not to use this power then how can he be all good?

People's view on the nature of God are often influenced by a range of things:

- Family background
- Views formed after reading sacred and other texts
- Own experiences

- **Belief in Tawhid means that Muslims have ultimate faith and surrender to the will of Allah, they are responsible and answerable to God and trust absolutely in God.**

- **Pride or arrogance breaks Tawhid ad ignorance of God's supremacy breaks Tawhid.**

- **When a person tries to liken God to any created thing is to suggest that other things in the universe somehow share in God's creative power, or have His knowledge or ability to guide or forgive - this is known as the sin of shirk.**
The existence of God

There are many arguments for and against the existence of God which influences the views of religious believers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Teleological argument (design argument)</th>
<th>The Cosmological argument (first cause argument)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• William Paley argued for God’s existence because the world looks like it has been designed, which means it must have a designer. There is no way the perfect and intricate workings of the world could be coincidence or chance, which means God the designer must be behind it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Aquinas was a Christian who came up with this argument. He said that everything we see around us is a product of a cause and effect chain. But the cause and effect chain can’t go back forever ad infinitum (forever) therefore there must be a first cause which was completely uncaused and this is God.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Big Bang
(See Our World notes to think about whether the Big Bang theory means God can still exist or definitely doesn’t.)

Evolution
(See Our World notes to think about whether the Theory of Evolution means God can still exist or definitely doesn’t.)

Why do some people believe in God and some do not?

There is a God because:

• My family believe in God and worship regularly
• The world must have been created by someone
• So many people have had religious experiences
• Some just feel there is a God - I can’t explain why

There is no God because:

• None of my friends believe in God
• The Holy Books all contradict themselves
• There is too much suffering in the world
• To believe in something we have to see it - we can not see God, therefore he does not exist
Symbolism

Within many religions believers will wear or use certain symbols that they consider have a deeper meaning or help them express their belief in God. Often these symbols are considered sacred by the believers and can be used to aid worship.

Christians wear the cross to remind them of their duty as a Christian towards God and his people.

Muslims use the subha (prayer beads) to help them worship, there are 99 beads to remind them of the 99 attributes of God. A hadith says that “there are 99 names of Allah, and whoever recited them shall enter into paradise.”

Experiencing God

People experience God in many different ways; each experience is an individual for every person. God can be experienced through in the following ways:

Miracle

- Usually regarded as something that is a wonder.
- Supernatural happening; something that wouldn't happen in the normal course of events.
- Something that occurs because of prayer or faith e.g. Jesus calming the storm or enabling paralysed people to walk again.

Acts of benevolence

- A miracle happens is experienced almost as if it were an act of generosity by God.
- E.g. a Muslim who went on pilgrimage to Makkah, and escaped from a raging fire that tore through the tents in Mina.

Worship

- Many people feel they have direct communication/relationship with God through Worship.
- Worship can take place at home or in special place of worship.
- Worship can be private or public.
- Worship can be a set ritual that can be repeated, or it can be through personal meditation, prayer, thought or other activities the individual person finds helpful or meaningful.
Prayer

- Prayer is something very real.
- Prayer can consist of asking God for something, thanking God, repenting, just talking etc.
- Feeling that life is different as a result of praying.

An inner feeling

- Sometimes people feel God is there, helping and supporting them.
- The feeling of surrounded by God's love and mercy, the feeling of being blessed.

Reading Sacred Texts:

- Many religious believers find sacred texts have a special meaning for them at a particular time and moment in their life.
- Through reading holy books they feel moved/inspired.
- It is as if God is speaking to them directly.
- Yusuf Islam said, after reading a copy of the Quran, 'a feeling of belonging ran through me. I was a stream that had found its ocean.'

Natural beauty and wonder:

- There are many beautiful things in the world of nature.
- A person can be overwhelmed by the beauty or complex structure of nature.
- To comprehend if nature is this amazing, how amazing must be the Creator?
- A person feels a sense of awareness that God is involved in it all, somewhere.
- Often people feel a sense of awe and wonder when they are faced with immense natural beauty, they feel small and insignificant compared to the magnitude of God.
Responding to God

- **Prayer** - sometimes people pray as a response to God’s command to worship Him. There are particular times or patterns of praying that believers follow.

- **Preaching and teaching** - sharing faith with others and helping each other to grow in faith is an aspect of all religions too.

- **Pilgrimage** - many religions have places of special significance and believers make special journeys to them.

- **Changing lifestyle** - all religions have ‘rules’ or expectations about the way to live one’s life. Leaving old/bad habits and lives how God wants you to live.

- **Service and Commitment** - many religions encourage their members to see all that they do as a service, or response to God and those he has placed in their care. One of the greatest responses to God is the commitments made by believers - they are prepared to give everything: time money, experience, even life itself to God.

- **Retreat or Study** - sometimes people need to get away from the distractions of life that have a negative impact on religious faith and practice. So many traditions try to help believers by offering places and times of retreat so as to concentrate fully on worship, prayer, studying the sacred texts.

- **Acts of Kindness** - all religions command acts of kindness to others. Some are expected to pay charity, help the less fortunate, on a social and global level.

- **Vocation:**

  For some people, responding to God is a matter of what they do, in terms of job or career, in their life. Some religious traditions have monastic callings - when people dedicate themselves entirely to God, and are involved in a life of service or ministry.

  But for majority of religious believers, vocation is in the way they do things in their everyday life - the sense of ‘calling’ they have to live their lives in a certain way - and this is their response to God or the ‘faith’ that they have. e.g.

  ‘I owe everything to Christ; so I try to live my life for him, and in the way he asks. This is my calling as a Christian.’

  ‘God is the centre of my life. After all, He gave me all things to enjoy; and I serve others too - it’s my duty.’

  ‘Allah calls all believers to worship Him alone, and to look after the world; this is our duty.’
Afterlife

Death is important for many people in making sense of life. For some it is a reward for the life they have led. All religions have funeral rites, to help people come to terms with loss and make sense of the suffering. It also gives hope to people who have lost someone that they are with God now. Both Islam and Christianity believe that God has a plan for every person and everything happens for a reason, even death.

Christian Views

- Christians believe they will be rewarded for their actions in the life after death; they will enter heaven if they have accepted Christ into the hearts and have worked to help others. They believe that to face death as Christian is hopeful because it says in the Psalms “even as I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, because you (God) are with me.”
- They will be rewarded with heaven where God is whereas sinners will be separated from God and go to hell. Those who make it to heaven will be redeemed and live without sorrow or pain.
- Roman Catholics believe there is a state of existence called purgatory where people who deserve some punishment or are not fully prepared for Heaven will go to be cleansed and made ready to meet God.
- In the New Testament, Hell is sometimes called Gehenna. This was a reference to the valley of Hinmon, a rubbish dump outside Jerusalem where rubbish was burnt.
- Christians believe life with God is something so Good and beautiful that it is beyond human imagination but they have a glimpse of it because in some ways eternal life, Heaven and Hell begin here on earth.
### The funeral service

(In Catholic churches the coffin is taken to the church the night before, and prayers said for the soul of the dead person)

The service happens at a church or chapel, beginning with the words from John 11: ‘I am the resurrection and the life’, or other passages from the Bible. Hymns and prayers, together with a Bible reading and possible short sermon will take place.

Then there is a service of committal either at the graveside or the crematorium if the body will be burnt. The final words are 'Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection and eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ This reminds Christians that life has come full circle.

Some churches have the Eucharist or communion service. (A Mass service always happens in Catholic churches).

A cross or memorial stone is often erected so families can visit and remember the deceased.
Muslim Views

- Life after death is known as Akhirah
- Muslims believe all they do on earth will be judged and used as evidence on the Day of Judgement.
- There are many stages in the afterlife.
- The first stage is in the grave, 2 angels (Munkar and Nakir) come to you, they ask you 3 questions:
  - Who is your Lord?
  - What is your religion?
  - Who is Muhammad?
- If the answers are correct then the time in the grave will be bliss, if the answers are wrong then your punishment will start in the grave.
- The world will end and there will be a Day of Judgement. Everyone will be accountable for everything they have done on earth.
- Angels will have recorded a person's deeds during their life-time. This will include what they believed, and how they lived, this evidence will be presented in their book of deeds on Day of Judgment. The righteous will go to paradise and the unrighteous will go to Hell.
- Hell and paradise are described in the Quran. Paradise is described as a beautiful garden with rivers of milk and honey while Hell is described as terrifying place of heat and torment.

Islamic Funeral Rites:

- In Islam bodies are never created because the Shar'ah forbids Muslims to use fire on their creation.
- Family members gathered around the dying person to read from the Quran and offer prayers, and help the person repeat Shahadah
- After the death the body is washed at least three times – by the spouse or close relative (same gender as the deceased will wash the body).
- Apply perfume to hair, beard, forehead, nose, palm of hands, knees and feet
- The body is wrapped in a shroud (3 pieces for a male, 5 for a female), if a person was a haji the ihram would be used.
- The imam leads the prayers in the Mosque – the prayer is called Janazah
- The funeral should take place within 24 hours of death, attended only by men.
- The deceased must only be buried – as it is believed Allah will raise up bodies on the Last Day.
- The body is laid on the right side facing Makkah.
- Expensive memorial should not be set up, and mourning should only last no more than three days.
The value of religion

Secular means separate from religious beliefs and practices. Technically Britain is not a secular country since the Queen runs the country and she is the head of the church, however arguably the majority of people who make up Britain are secular and not follow the Christian religion. There is no obligation to follow the Christian religion in Britain and it looks like Britain is becoming much more a secular nation.

On the one hand....

• Religious beliefs are timeless and will always be relevant to the believer
• Religion can bind people and communities together
• Religion has produced great works of art
• Religion has often inspired courage and self-sacrifice, so many people do amazing things in the name of religion
• Religion gives people comfort
• Religion is a huge part of people's culture and tradition, it forms their identity
• Is religion becoming more important now that Britain is becoming more diverse and multi-cultural?

On the other hand.....

• Fewer people worship in Britain today
• Education and government are not led by religion today in the UK
• Society has changed since holy books were written, lots of things are not relevant today any more
• Many tradition have changed, e.g. Sunday trading, shops open on Christmas Day
• People pick and choose what parts of religion they follow now
• Some parts of holy books have been disproved, e.g. creation stories, how can we trust the rest of it?
• Some practices in holy books are outdated, even barbaric, they do not fit with modern values and human rights
**Mark Scheme**

2 **Mark questions (Question A)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Level Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No statement of relevant information or explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A statement of information or explanation which is limited in scope or content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>An accurate and appropriate explanation of a central teaching, theme or concept.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 **Mark questions (Question B)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Level Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No statement of relevant information or explanation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>An accurate and appropriate explanation of a central teaching, theme or concept.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 **Mark agree or disagree questions (Question C)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Level Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No statement of relevant information or explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A statement of information or explanation which is limited in scope or content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>An accurate and appropriate explanation of a central teaching, theme or concept.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 6 Mark Question (Question D)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Level Descriptor</th>
<th>Mark Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Makes no relevant point of view.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A relevant statement of information or explanation which is limited in scope.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>An accurate account of information or an appropriate explanation of a central teaching, theme or concept. Limited use of religious language.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>An account or explanation indicating knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas, practices, explanations or concepts. Uses and interprets religious language in appropriate context.</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A coherent account or explanation showing awareness and insight into religious facts, ideas, practices and explanations. Uses religious language and terms extensively and interprets them accurately.</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8 Mark Questions (Question E)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Level Descriptor</th>
<th>Mark Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Makes no relevant point of view.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1     | Communicates clearly and appropriately.  
**Either:** A simple justification of a point of view, possibly linked to evidence or example and making a simple connection between religion and people’s lives.  
**Or:** two simple appropriate justifications of points of view.                                                                                         | 1-2        |
| 2     | Communicates clearly and appropriately using limited specialist language.  
**Either:** An expanded justification of one point of view, with appropriate example which includes religious teaching and/or illustration **AND** either a second justification. | 3-4        |
| 3     | Communicates clearly and appropriately using and interpreting specialist language.  
**Either:** An expanded justification of one point of view, with appropriate examples which includes religious teaching and/or illustration. There is also an adequate recognition of an alternative or different point of view. | 5-6        |
| 4     | Communicates clearly and appropriately using specialist language extensively and thorough discussion, including alternative or different views of the religious teachings and moral aspects at issue and their implications for the individuals and the rest of society. Using relevant evidence and religious or moral reasoning to formulate judgement. | 7-8        |
How to answer GCSE exam questions

**Question A (2 marks)**

Explain the word then give an example.

*E.g. Explain what religious believers mean by duty. (2)*

*A duty is something that a religious believer has to do, because they have made a commitment. For example, in Islam a duty is to pray five times a day because it is one of the 5 pillars of Islam.*

**Question B (4 marks)**

*Do this model at least TWICE!*

*Choose Islam or Christianity*

*Make a point related to the question - use key concepts of the unit where possible*

*Use a religious teaching (quotation from the Bible/Qur'an/example of Jesus or the Prophet)*

*Explain how the religious teaching links to the question and interpret it*

*E.g. Explain how having a faith might influence a couple who want to have sex before marriage.*

*In Christianity it is believed that sex is special and sacred and should be reserved for only one person because it shows commitment to chastity. We can tell this because in the Bible it says "if they cannot control themselves then they should marry." This shows that if people are feeling eros (erotic love) towards a person they should not just have sex outside of marriage but they should get married. Also in a Christian marriage ceremony the bride wears a white dress and this shows that she is pure and a virgin so we can tell from this that Christians believe you should not have sex before marriage.*

*In Islam it is believed that sex is an act of worship and God is actually involved in the marriage act. Since the Prophet did not have sex before marriage this means that Muslims should follow that example and protect the sanctity of sex.*
E.g. 'Animals have souls too'

Give two reasons why a religious believer might agree or disagree with this statement.

A Christian would disagree with this because they believe that only humans are unique and have souls. A religious teaching which supports this is that in the Bible it says "God made man in his own image." This means that animals do not also have souls because it is only humans which are made imago dei (in the image of God) and so animals are not marked out as special. This is why animals do not worship God or have a special relationship with God, because they do not have souls. An implication of this on society though is that humans still have to care for animals because they are still part of God's creation even if they do not have souls.

A Muslim would agree with this because animals are still important creatures and have some features like humans do. It says in the Qur'an "animals are communities just like you" which shows that animals might have a soul and that is why Muslims believe animals will be rewarded in heaven too. This means that animals have some things which make them maybe have a soul, like some animals can communicate or show morality and they are intelligent. If this is the case then an implication is that animals must be treated with a lot of respect because they have souls which are precious to God.
Question D (6 marks)

Islam (3 marks)

- Do this model twice.
- Use two different religious teachings to try to show two points of view or an exception to the teaching.

Make a point related to the question - use key concepts of the unit where possible

Use a religious teaching (quotation from the Bible/Qur'an/example of Jesus or the Prophet)

Explain how the religious teaching links to the question and interpret it

Christianity (3 marks)

- Do this model twice.
- Use two different religious teachings to try to show two points of view or an exception to the teaching.
- Consider any denominational differences

Make a point related to the question - use key concepts of the unit where possible

Use a religious teaching (quotation from the Bible/Qur'an/example of Jesus or the Prophet)

Explain how the religious teaching links to the question and interpret it
E.g. Explain from two different religious traditions the teachings about contraception.

Muslims believe that contraception is not allowed, even within a marriage. They believe this because sex must only happen within marriage as it is a natural act not for pleasure and so there must be the possibility for the natural outcome of life to result from sex.

On the other hand Muslims do allow some forms of contraception, particularly natural forms. In the Hadith it says that the Prophet allowed natural forms of contraception like the withdrawal method. This is because it is still natural and pregnancy can still happen. Also Muslims allow contraception for health reasons. In Islam it says in the Qur’an that the mother’s life is very precious and so this means contraception can be used to protect the life of a woman.

Catholics are against contraception because it says in the Bible “I give life and I take it away.” This means that it is not up to humans to use contraception and decide when a life should be created, it is up to God. On the other hand there are lots of exceptions when Christians do allow contraception. For example Conservative Christians do allow it but only within marriage because people are supposed to be chaste until they are married as this is a commitment. The reason when they do allow contraception within marriage is to help with family planning because God loves his people and does not want them to struggle if they cannot afford more children or if it will put a strain on the family of health of the mother.

Finally liberal Christians are even more accepting of contraception. They believe that sex is about love and so you should be able to express your love through sex without having a child or if you are not married. They do say though that you should only use contraception in a committed relationship not to encourage promiscuity.
**Question E (8 marks)**

**SWAWOS**

Select specialist language (restate the question, explain which key concepts of the unit it relates to and explain why the question is important or being asked.)

What do you think and why?

Apply at least 2 religious teachings or examples (Use clear quotations from the Qur'an or Bible or example from Jesus or the Prophet and link it to the question.) (4)

What’s another point of view?

Offer a religious/moral teaching/example (Use clear quotations from the Qur'an or Bible or example from Jesus or the Prophet and link it to the question.)

Suggest the impact and implications on the individual and society and religious community (imagine what would happen if everyone believed this...)

(8)
Practice exam questions

4 marks

Explain how having a religious faith might influence a couple who don’t want to have sex before marriage.

Explain how having a religious faith might influence a couple who want a divorce.

Explain how having a religious faith might influence a couple who want to use contraception.

Explain how having a religious faith might influence someone to use their talents.

Explain how having a religious faith might make support the view that animals have rights.

Explain how having a religious believer might treat animals.

Explain how having a religious faith might influence a person’s use of wealth.

Explain how having a religious faith might encourage people to be socially responsible.

Explain how having a religious faith might influence actions against injustice.

Explain how having a religious faith might encourage someone to treat other people.

Explain how having a religious faith might influence a believer having difficulties in life.

Explain how having a religious believer might use symbols to express beliefs about God.

Explain how having a religious believer might experience God.

Explain how having a religious believer might worship God.

4 marks (agree/disagree)

‘Adultery is always wrong.’

‘Sex before marriage harms no one.’

‘Same sex couples should be allowed to marry in a place of worship.’

‘Chastity is out of date.’

‘You should only be allowed to marry in a church if you worship there.’

‘Humans are just animals with souls.’

‘Life has not in build purpose, you make it yourself.’

‘There is no need to care for the environment.’

‘There is enough for people’s need but not for people’s greed.’
‘Discrimination is always bad/wrong.’

‘God must exist because people believe in him.’

‘Everyone’s ideas of God are influenced by their family.’

‘Everyone has to respond to God at some time or other.’

6 marks

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about contraception.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about sex before marriage.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about sexual relationships.

Explain from two religious traditions the main features of a marriage.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about divorce.

Explain from two religious traditions why believers choose to marry.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about creation.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about caring for the environment.

Explain from two religious traditions the work of organisations of individuals who have cared for the planet.

Explain from two religious traditions how people care for the planet.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about equality.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about wealth.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about charity.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings about prejudice.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings on equality between men and women.

Explain from two religious traditions the work of organisations of individuals who have worked for the justice.

Explain from two religious traditions how people respond to God or the ultimate.

Explain from two religious traditions the teachings on the afterlife.

Explain from the funeral rites of two religious traditions.
8 marks

‘Using contraceptives is disrespectful to God.’

‘Family life is still important.’

‘People who marry as virgins will have a stronger bond of trust and commitment.’

‘The best marriages are those where the couple fall in love with each other.’

‘Marriage is not important any more

‘Marriage is for life.’

‘Couples with marriage problems should always turn to a religious community for help.’

‘Human beings are more than just intelligent animals.’

‘Believing that the world was created is not in line with modern knowledge.’

‘The world is there for humans to enjoy, that is all that matters.’

‘Religious creation stories are out of date.’

‘Religion not science provides the solution to the world’s problems.’

‘Everyone is prejudiced.’

‘Winning the lottery will make you a better person.’

‘All religious believers do is pray. This can’t stop injustice.’

‘A religious believer has not choice but to campaign for racial justice.’

‘If you follow a religion seriously you are less likely to be prejudiced.’

‘The media should always show religion in a positive way.’

‘Belief in God is still important today.’

‘All human beings should believe in life after death.’

‘Religion is still important today.’

‘The only true response to God is to offer worship and praise.’

‘People who believe life belongs to God should not mourn.’

‘Belief in the afterlife is the most important belief of any religious believer.’