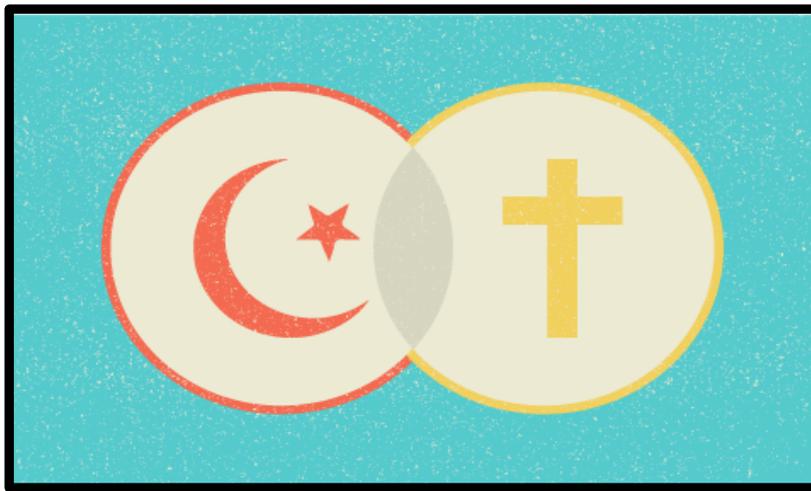


# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## REVISION GUIDE

Paper 2:

Thematic Studies



### Relationships and Families (Theme A)

- Christian teachings about human sexuality.
- Sexual relationships before and outside marriage.
- Religious teachings about the nature and purpose of families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Religious attitudes to gender equality.
- Contraception and family planning
- Christian and Muslim teachings about marriage.
- Divorce and remarriage

### Religion and Life (Theme B)

- The origins of the universe
- The value of the world
- The use and abuse of the environment
- Pollution
- The use and abuse of animals
- The origins of human life
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Death and the afterlife

### Religion, Peace and Conflict (Theme D)

- Beliefs about war
- Violent protest and terrorism
- Reasons for war
- Nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction.
- Just war
- Holy war
- Pacifism
- Religious responses to victims of war.

### Religion, Crime and Punishment (Theme E)

- Crime, law and order
- Why do people commit crimes?
- Aims of punishment
- Suffering
- Forgiveness
- Prisons and community service
- Corporal punishment
- Capital punishment

## Relationships and Families

**Adultery** - A sexual relationship between a couple not married to each other but married to/in relationship with others (affair).

**Age of consent** - According to the law, the age at which a person is considered old enough to give consent to have sex.

**Annulment** - Cancellation of a marriage in Roman Catholic tradition, as if marriage never was.

**Civil marriage** - Non-religious marriage.

**Civil partnership** - Legal union of two people of same gender; now of equality with heterosexual marriage in all respects.

**Commitment** - Making a promise or pledge, in this case, in marriage.

**Celibacy** - Not having sexual relations.

**Chastity** - Sexual purity, e.g. not having sex before marriage.

**Cohabitation** - Where a couple live together without being married/in civil partnership.

**Contraception** - Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy and to protect against contracting/transmitting STIs (sexually transmitted infections).

**Contract** - A binding agreement between two sides.

**Covenant** - An agreement based on promises between two sides, here in marriage where the agreement is made before God (as a witness) and with God (as a partner).

**Divorce** - Legal ending of a marriage.

**Extended family** - Family unit comprising mother, father and children, but also grandparents, cousins etc.

**Family planning** - Planning when to have a family and how big a family to have by use of birth control practices and/or contraception.

**Gender discrimination** - Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender.

**Gender equality** - Belief that both genders have equal status and value, so discrimination against either is wrong.

**Gender prejudice** - The belief that one gender is 'better' than the other.

**Heterosexuality** - Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the opposite gender.

**Homosexuality** - Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the same gender.

**Nuclear family** - Family unit made up of mother, father and their child(ren).

**Polygamy** - The practice of one man having several wives; legal under Shariah law (up to four wives, given specific circumstances).

**Procreation** - Having a child; seen as a duty in many religions.

**Remarriage** - Marriage for the second time, after divorce ending an earlier marriage.

**Responsibility** - Duties; what a person has to do as part of the agreement they have made, or role they have taken on.

**Single parent family** - Family unit in which child(ren) and one parent, either mum or dad, live together.

**Vows** - Promises made by bride and groom during marriage ceremony

## Religion and Life

**Abortion** - Deliberate expulsion of foetus from womb with the intention to destroy it.

**Afterlife** - Beliefs about what happens after we die to our self/soul.

**Animal rights** - The idea that animals should have rights because of respect for life.

**Awe** - An overwhelming feeling often of reverence with a link to God.

**Big Bang** - The scientific view of the beginning of the universe.

**Charles Darwin** - The man who put forward the theory of evolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century/

**Conception** - When the sperm fertilises the female egg so allowing pregnancy to occur.

**Conservation** - To repair and protect animals and areas of natural beauty.

**Creation** - Idea that God created the world/ universe from nothing.

**Dominion** - Idea that humans have the right to control all of creation.

**Environment** - The world around us.

**Euthanasia** - ending life for someone who is terminally ill, or has degenerative disease can be voluntary or involuntary.

**Evolution** - Change in inherited traits in a species.

**Fossil Fuels** - The Earth's natural resources - coal, oil and gas.

**Hospice** - A place that cares for the dying using from an incurable disease.

**Hypothesis** - A proposed explanation of something.

**Natural resources** - The resources the earth provides without the aid of mankind.

**Natural selection** - One of the basic mechanisms of evolution.

**Pesticide** - Chemicals used to kill pests especially on crops.

**Pro-choice** - Pressure groups which campaign for the right of a woman to decide on abortion.

**Pro-life** - Pressure groups which campaign against abortion/euthanasia.

**Quality of life** - How good/comfortable life is.

**Right to die** - The belief that a human being should be able to control their own death.

**Sanctity of life** - Life is special and created by God.

**Stewardship** - Duty to look after the world and life.

**Sustainable energy** - Resources that are renewable e.g. solar, wind and nuclear power.

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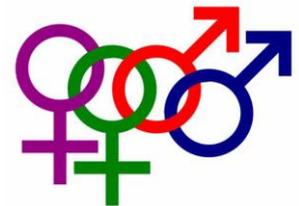
# Relationships and families

## Contemporary attitudes

In the past, the Church was more powerful and the majority of society accepted this viewpoint. However, times have since changed. Contraception and legal abortion have reduced the fear or risk of pregnancy. Today, sex before marriage, multiple sexual partners, children outside of marriage, affairs (adultery) or open homosexual relationships are far more common. In Britain, homosexual relationships are now legal and homosexual couples can now marry or convert civil partnerships into marriage if they wish. These changes to the law broadly reflect contemporary British attitudes to sexuality.

## Human Sexuality

Simply means how people express themselves as sexual beings. A heterosexual relationship is a sexual relationship with a member of the opposite sex (man and woman) and a homosexual relationship between two people of the same sex.



## Christian attitudes:

- In the past many Churches taught that the only valid place for a sexual relationship is within marriage.
- HOWEVER, since times have now changed, contraception and legal abortion have reduced the fear or risk of pregnancy - today sex before marriage, multiple sexual partners; children outside of marriage, adultery, open homosexual relationships are all far more common.
- In Britain homosexual relationships are now legal, as is marriage for homosexual couples.
- Many Christians see homosexual relationships as part of God's plan for humans.
- However some Christians argue that sex should only take place between a man and a woman in marriage because in the Bible it says to be '**fruitful and increase in number**'.
- Those who oppose homosexuality may base their views on Leviticus 18:22 '**Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.**'
- The Catholic Church teaches that homosexual people are not sinful, but they should remain chaste.
- The C of E welcomes homosexual Christians who live in faithful relationships, but it does not allow them to marry in church.
- Some Christians believe the Bible needs to be interpreted in today's society and therefore consider faithful homosexual relationships to be just as holy as a faithful heterosexual relationship. This view contrasts the Islamic view.



relations) is wrong.

## Muslim views on human sexuality:

- Muslims believe that sexuality is part of being human. They agree sex is for pleasure as well as to procreate.
- They believe the body was created by God and all parts have a useful purpose. Islam teaches that celibacy (choosing not to marry and have sexual

- It is expected that Muslims will marry and have a family. A sexual relationship between husband and wife is considered a blessing from God.
- In Islam, sexual orientation is considered a human choice.
- Same sex relationships are forbidden, as it goes against the natural law created by God. Taught in both the Qur'an and the hadith.
- Some Muslims countries punish people for homosexual actions; to be convicted they must confess in front of four eyewitnesses. However some believe that they will be punished on judgement day.
- However in Britain there are some organisations run by Muslims such as the Inclusive Mosque Initiative that believe homosexuality should be accepted.

### Sex outside of marriage

<u>Christian attitudes</u>	<u>Muslim attitudes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex expresses a deep, loving, lifelong union that first requires the commitment of marriage.</li> <li>• It is important to be sexually pure (chaste) before marriage because having sex is part of the loving, trusting relationship that should be developed within a marriage not just casual/temporary between 2 people.</li> <li>• Paul, in the Bible says: "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin[a] a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body."</li> <li>• Some (liberal) Christians accept sex before marriage as it expresses love between 2 people.</li> <li>• Adultery is wrong as it involves lies, secrecy and betrayal. For Christians it also breaks the marriage promises of forsaking all others and being faithful. Exodus "You shall not commit adultery."</li> <li>• Jesus taught lust is wrong as it can lead to adultery.</li> <li>• Jesus forgave a woman who was caught in adultery, but ordered her to leave her life of sin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex is a gift from God.</li> <li>• Casual sex is wrong and detracts from the dignity of those involved.</li> <li>• Children have the right to be born into a stable and loving family and should know their mother and father.</li> <li>• Casual sex leads to promiscuity and other evils such as rape and adultery/deception</li> <li>• The Qur'an forbids it.</li> <li>• Islamic law considers it is considered the same as adultery and rape.</li> <li>• (Adultery- Punishment for some Islamic countries = stoning)</li> <li>• The Hadith teaches that a Muslim man should not be alone with a woman unless they are related</li> <li>• Qur'an 17:32 "Do not go anywhere near adultery: it is an outrage, and an evil path."</li> </ul>

### Family Life

Family life has changed over the years but the family is still considered the best environment for bringing up children and keeping society stable. The basic unit of mother, father and children (a nuclear family) is still most common in the West, although in the UK approximately 25% of children now live in single parent families.



#### Christian Ideas on the family:

- Christians are commanded to love one another.
- Exodus 20:12 states we should "Honour thy father and mother", particularly when parents are elderly and need of support.
- "Parents ...bring them up in the instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4) an importance of children being guided correctly by the parents so that when they grow up they won't depart from morals and God's law.

- Christian parents are expected to ensure their children receive religious instruction, attend religious schools, participate in rites of passage ceremonies, e.g. christening or attend church.
- God started the family in the book of Genesis, so therefore as Adam and Eve showed importance of family so should we. Jesus was also raised in a family.
- Parents have a duty to marry.
- Children are a gift from God and should be cared for properly and taught about God.
- **"The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honour God, and make good use of freedom (Catechism of the Catholic Church.)"**

**Muslim ideas on the family:**

- Muslims put high importance on the extended family - grandparents and other relatives all living together, they feel this to be part of God's plan for humans. Children care for elderly relatives as they grow older just as they were cared for as a child.
- The family shapes moral values and character of children.
- Islam allows for a man to have more than one wife at a time (unlike Christianity), as the prophet Muhammad did. The original origins for this practice come from the idea to protect women, particularly widows who were unable to support themselves. However now it is believed that polygamy should only happen if the man can love, support and treat all wives equally. In England polygamous marriages cannot be performed as bigamy is illegal.
- Traditional expectations are that men are expected to work and be the providers. Women have an important role in the home - raising children and making decisions about the household.
- Muslims are expected to set a good example for their children and bring them up in the Islamic faith. They may support their child by teaching them how to pray, keep halal food laws and support them in finding a suitable marriage partner.
- Muslims do not approve same-sex partners because the ideal is for children to be brought up with a male and female role model as parents.

**Gender equality**

<b><u>Christian beliefs about gender equality</u></b>	<b><u>Muslim beliefs about gender equality</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Christians believe that all people have been created as equals in the image of God.</li> <li>❑ Jesus treated women with respect, welcomed them as disciples.</li> <li>❑ Galatians 3:28- <b>"There is neither Jew or Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"</b>.</li> <li>❑ For some Christians (Church of England, Methodist, and Liberals etc.) men and women have equal roles in life and religion; Jesus only chose men as his disciples because of the society he lived in and not for any theological reasons.</li> <li>❑ Roman Catholic Christians believe that men and women have equal roles in the eyes of God. However only men can become priests!</li> <li>❑ Also, the priest during Holy Communion is meant to represent Jesus at the Last Supper and it would be inappropriate for a female to fulfil this role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ The Qur'an teaches that men and women were created from a single soul and have the same spiritual human nature.</li> <li>❑ Muhammad worked to unite the tribes in Medina into one community (ummah) under God, with equality and justice for all.</li> <li>❑ Men and women have the same religious and moral responsibilities. Muhammad taught that <b>anyone, man or woman, who does a good deed for God's sake will be rewarded (Qur'an 16:97)</b>.</li> <li>❑ Islamic law recognises the full property rights of women before and after marriage.</li> <li>❑ The Qur'an states that <b>"The male shall have the equal of the portion of two females" 4:11</b> stating that men are entitled to more inheritance than the females in their families. Secondly, the Qur'an seems to state that men are more valued than women- <b>"And call to witness, from among your men, two</b></li> </ul>

- ❑ Some traditional Christians (Evangelical Christians) believe that men are the head of the family and that women should mainly stay at home and care for children.
- ❑ In Genesis 3:16 God punishes Eve for her disobedience, saying- "with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you".

witnesses. And if two men be not found then a man and two women." 2:282

## Contraception



### Christian Ideas

- Catholics believe sex (only between married partners) should be for the purpose of creating children
- Fornication (sex before marriage) is a sin so no need for contraception. Masturbation, contraception and homosexual sex don't allow children to be made so therefore they are forbidden for some.
- Some accept sex before marriage as it's an expression of love
- Some also accept it as you shouldn't have more children than you can care for
- Some believe contraception interferes with God's plans
- The Bible teaches "Thou shall not kill"

### Muslim Ideas

- Only considered in the context of marriage
- There is an expectation that Muslim couples will have children, however contraception can help them plan when they want them
- Artificial methods are only preferred over natural if the woman's health is at risk
- Artificial methods are able to be used to - space out pregnancies or avoid serious financial difficulty. "God wishes to lighten your burden; man was created weak." Qur'an 4:28
- Some believe contraception interferes with God's plans. "Do not kill your children for fear of poverty - we shall provide for them and you - killing them is a great sin." Qur'an 17:31

## Marriage

### Why do people marry?

- Love
- Family expectation
- Religious duty
- Sex
- Legitimise a child and/or relationship



### The Christian Wedding.



- Marriage is a sacrament in some Christian traditions; it brings a blessing from God.
- In the Roman Catholic ceremony marriage takes place as part of the Mass.
- The couple will come to church to be united in marriage by the priest.

- He asks three set questions to the bride and groom to make sure they understand the responsibilities of marriage.
- The couple make their vows to each other.
- The priest declares they have agreed to marry before God and accepts their decision. It is at this point he says: **What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.**
- The rings are blessed and exchanged. A ring is a symbol of eternity because of its circular shape therefore the love never ends.
- The priest blesses the marriage. Marriage is important in Christianity as it provides support and companionship, to have children (procreate), to announce their love to others and it reflects God's idea of monogamy. Marriage for Christians, such as Catholics, as it is the right place for a couple to enjoy a loving sexual relationship. The bride wears white to show purity.

## The Muslim Wedding

### Key terms:

**Nikah:** a contract signed by the husband and wife to acknowledge each other's rights

**Mahr:** Money or property given by the husband to the wife as a gift.

**Walima:** A feast which takes place some days after the marriage ceremony.

Muslims consider marriage to be the foundation of family life. According to the Hadith Islam teaches that a man completes half his religious responsibilities when he marries. Muslim marriage is an important commitment because:

- It is a faithful lifelong partnership where both take full responsibility for children.
  - It is a social contract which brings two families and the community together.
  - It is the best way for people to have a stable relationship and experience sexual fulfilment.
  - It helps them to develop spiritually and adds value to their acts of worship.
  - 'There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer to God than marriage' (Hadith)
- Divorce

### Christian attitudes to divorce

<u>Who</u>	<u>Overview</u>	<u>Why</u>
The Roman Catholic Church	Does not allow divorce  Allows annulment	Jesus said it was wrong (anyone who divorces his wife... and marries another commits adultery) Marriage is a sacrament (given by God) What is made by God should not be broken An annulment would require special permission The couple must prove (one of the following): They did not understand Forced into marriage Marriage not consummated (not had sex) One was not baptised

Protestant (Church of England and Methodist)	Divorce OK in some circumstances  Allows <b>re- marriage</b> in church	Jesus allowed divorce for adultery Humans make mistakes and relationships break down. God forgives sin With forgiveness, those who divorce can still have happiness with another C of E sees marriages a lifelong commitment but understands that some circumstances happen that need divorce to be an option
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### Key teachings:

"A man who divorces his wife and marries commits adultery - unless his wife has been unfaithful."  
(Matthew 19: 9)



"Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and remarries, she commits adultery."



"What God has joined together, let not man separate."  
(Mark 10:9).

### Remarriage

Roman Catholics believe that divorce is not recognised by God.

Other Christians may allow re-marriage but many priests choose not to perform re-marriage ceremonies. As they believe the original ceremony to have sanctity before God and that those promises cannot be remade.

### Muslim attitudes about divorce



Most Muslims believe marriage is a fundamental building block of life. Marriage is a contract between a man and woman to live together as husband and wife. The marriage contract is called a nikah. Prophet Muhammad said:

And among His signs is this, which He created for you mates from among yourselves that you may dwell in peace and tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts). Qur'an 30:21

**What does Islam say about divorce and remarriage?**

Divorce is allowed in Islam, although it is regarded as a **last resort**. Muslims accept that sometimes marriages break down. As a legal contract between two people it can be ended. This is done if the marriage brings **unhappiness** to the couple and to their children and relatives.

A man cannot seek a divorce from his wife until it is certain that she is not pregnant, as he might then change his mind. During a period of three months (called iddah) reconciliation should be attempted. If reconciliation doesn't work then divorce can take place.

A man and a woman can **remarry** twice, but after a third divorce remarriage to each other cannot take place unless the woman has been married to another man in the meantime.

**A woman can also obtain a divorce**, either by an agreement with her husband or because of his treatment of her.

However, there are differences between Muslims about the procedures for divorce and remarriage:

- **Sunni** Muslims do not require witnesses. The husband must express his desire for a divorce on three separate occasions with a waiting period of three months.
- **Shi'a** Muslims require two witnesses, followed by a waiting period before a marriage can end.
- If a woman initiates a divorce it is called **khula**. There must be a waiting period to ensure the woman is not pregnant.

Although **Shari'ah Law** permits divorce, in the **Hadith**, **Abdullah ibn Umar** reported that the **Prophet Muhammad** said, The most detestable of lawful things before Allah is divorce. So although divorce is allowed, Muslims should try to avoid it, if possible.

#### **What does this mean in practice?**

A couple can go to their **mosque** for advice and support from the **Imam** if they are experiencing marital problems. Families also play a vital role in trying to help the couple sort out any issues. However, in some situations a couple might feel divorce is their only option.

#### **Muslim views on Remarriage**

A man and a woman can **remarry** twice, but after a third divorce remarriage to each other cannot take place unless the woman has been married to another man in the meantime.

## Religion and Life.

### **Scientific truth versus Religious Truth.**

**Scientific truth** comes from **making a hypothesis then testing to see if it is true**. Seeing something happen again and again is repeated observation. Science involves things like the earth is in orbit around the sun or that the Northern Lights are a reflection of space dust hitting the atmosphere. In other words, **scientific truth is describing our world and how it works**. It is **open to being developed** and added to as we find out more information. It is challenged and tested by other theories so is **not absolute**.



**Religious truth** comes from religions and holy books. We read it, are taught it or some people were told by God. Many religions are based on a person's experience of God. **Religion tries to explain things like why we are here, who God is, how we should behave and what will happen after we die**. It **gives us answers to ultimate questions**. Religion and holy books can be open to interpretation, but their words do not change. The truth of religion is considered to be **absolute**, that is, **unchanging and relevant** for all times.

### **The Origins of the Universe and Life:**



#### **The Big Bang Theory.**

- Scientists say the universe started about **20 billion years ago**.
- There was **nothing**. A **huge explosion** happened. The explosion made a **cloud of dust and gas**.
- It took a long time for the universe to form into what we know today; the Sun, stars, planets and universe.
- The **earliest signs of life** appeared **millions of years ago** before the land and sea settled.
- The **Earth was very hot**, covered in a primordial soup (a mix of liquids and chemicals etc) and these **fused to give the first life forms which were single cell beings**.
- From these, **all other life forms developed** including humans.

#### **What evidence is there for the Big Bang Theory?**

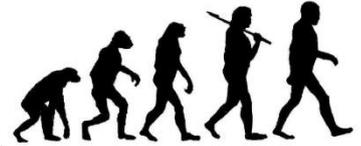
- The universe is **still expanding** and the movement can be **tracked back to a single point** (it is like the explosion is still being felt).

- There is **background microwave radiation**- this radiation has been caused by an explosion and can still be detected in space.

The Big Bang is not the first scientific theory for the creation of the world; it replaced the Steady State Theory and won't be the last theory. This is **the problem with scientific theory and truth; it is open to change, development and revision.**

### Charles Darwin and Evolution.

- Charles Darwin in 'Origin of the Species' in 1859 suggested that the world is a place of change and that the huge variety of creatures and species is the result of thousands of years of change and adaptation (evolution).
- There is a **struggle for survival** between species because of competing demands and limits of resources like food, space etc.
- **Where species failed to adapt, they became extinct, so only the fittest survived.** This is **natural selection.**
- Also different places caused different varieties of the same creature to develop, for example finches have different shaped beaks dependent on where they live.
- The **variety of species** we see in the world is a **result of millions of years of evolution.**



### What evidence is there for evolution?

- We can see that the creatures in certain areas are suited to that environment, for example a **polar bear has special fur** which makes it **possible to live in cold temperatures.**
- We have **extinct species** because they have **failed to adapt to their environment.**

### Does evolution mean that God is not involved?

Darwin claims that **God is involved in the evolution process.** He believed that **God created the original lifeforms with the ability to adapt and change** it is not design to the fine detail; it is design via intelligence and adaptability.



**The Genesis Creation Story:** Genesis means **beginning** and begins with God's creation of the world. There was nothing at the beginning. God decided to create the world.

1. God created **light** and separated light from dark, so there was day and night.
2. God created the **heavens**
3. God collected the water together to give **land and sea.** God created plants of all kinds.
4. God created the **sun, moon and stars** so that there were lights for day/nights/seasons.
5. God created the **fish and birds.**
6. God created **animals** and then **humans**- in His image.
7. God **rested.** Each day, God looked back at the creation and said it was good.

The creation story is what we call a **religious truth; it does not change** and is a **truth for all time.**

- **Fundamentalist Reading:** the creation story is **word for word true** or **literally true.** God is omniscient, omnipotent and omnibenevolent so it is easy to believe that God could do this.
- **Liberalist Reading:** the creation story is true but not word for word. **God told people things but they made mistakes** when they wrote it down and the creation story could work alongside religion, for examples 'days' may mean millions of years.

### Muslim Responses to Scientific theories:

- For some Muslims the Qur'an's creation story closely resembles the modern scientific theory of the Big Bang, for example the Qur'an states the heavens and stars being in 'smoke' material like the Big Bang says.
- The Qur'an explains why the universe came into being, whereas science says how.
- Some Muslim scholars are creationists and reject all scientific arguments.
- Some Muslim scholars accept all forms of evolution except where it applies to humans. God inserted Adam into the natural order and evolution progressed from Allah's first moment of creation.

The Value of the World.

	Definition/Examples	Problems	Solutions
<b>Pollution</b> 	There is too much of something which is toxic and causes damage to the environment. Different types include air, land, water, noise and light.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Air pollution causes acid rain which poisons the land/water, damages the buildings etc.</li> <li>2. Factory waste can leak into water and kill the fish and damages ecosystem</li> <li>3. Land pollution looks bad and harms the wild animals.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Governments can enforce laws to punish polluters</li> <li>2. Sewage plants can be built to ensure no waste enters water supply</li> <li>3. Materials can be recycled</li> </ol>
<b>Global Warming and Climate Change</b> 	The increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere (thought to be caused by the greenhouse effect).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rising temperatures causing crop failure and diseases</li> <li>2. Melting ice-caps and rising sea levels causing floods</li> <li>3. Increased natural disasters- storms, torrential rain, hurricanes etc</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use less energy by turning off electrical devices</li> <li>2. Use alternative types of transports (buses etc)</li> <li>3. Government policies agreeing on restrictions to carbon emissions.</li> </ol>
<b>Destruction of Natural Habitats</b> 	This is humans destroying the environment, for example deforestation. Humans cutting down large areas of trees to make room for buildings, roads, mining etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many species are dying out because their habitats have been removed.</li> <li>2. The lack of trees is contributing to Global Warming because the trees take in carbon dioxide/release oxygen.</li> <li>3. Loss of potential medicines.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replacing the trees lost from deforestation.</li> <li>2. Join in with campaigns and donate to charities.</li> </ol>
<b>Use and abuse of natural resources.</b> 	These include vegetation, minerals and fossil fuels and we are using these in greater quantities. Resources like fossil fuels are limited in quantity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When resources are used up, people will have to find alternatives which are difficult to produce/less efficient</li> <li>2. The prices of resources will get higher and higher</li> <li>3. Some resources are only found in certain parts of the world, causing some countries to have much more money than others and could lead to conflict.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take part in conservation (protecting and preserving natural resources and the environment)</li> <li>2. Reuse products which means fewer new items are being made, reusing plastic bags etc</li> <li>3. Government should provide incentives for recycling and punishments for not recycling.</li> </ol>

Christian Attitudes to the Environment.

- Christians believe **God created the world** and gave humans **stewardship** (the **responsibility to look after the world for future generations**).
- Humans have a **special role on Earth** and how they treat the environment will be **taken into account on the Day of Judgement** (they will be punished if they do not care for the world).
- Some Christians follow the idea of **dominion**, which is **the belief that God gave humans the right to decide what happens to the world** and all the species in it. We have power over nature by permission of God.
- "Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28
- "The good leave an inheritance to their children's children". Proverbs 13:22
- "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it". Genesis 2:15



### Muslim Attitudes to Environment.

- Humans are **Khalifah** or **caretakers** for the world as **Allah created it** and it **should be respected**.
- The **whole world reflects Allah**, and Allah knows who damages the environment so it is a good idea to look after the world, because it will **affect their Day of Judgement**.
- The **Muslim community/Ummah** involves all Muslims past and future. **Everyone has a duty to make sure they pass on to them a world fit to live in.**
- 'Behold thy Lord said to the angels, 'I will create a vice-regent on earth.' And he taught Adam the nature of all things" Surah 2:30.
- The world is green and beautiful, and **Allah has appointed you His stewards over it.** Qur'an.

### Animals and Animal Rights.

#### Christians and animals



- Christians believe that **animals were created by God for humans to use and care for**. Many believe that **God values animals**, but that **humans are more important**, because they were **made in the image of God**.
- In Genesis, **God gave Adam the power to name all the animals**, showing that they are different from humans, with **humans having power over them**.
- Many Christians believe that **humans have a responsibility to look after, care for and respect animals**, and so do not think they should be treated cruelly.
- **St. Francis of Assisi**, a Christian saint, spoke out about animals and their treatment. He was given a fish, which he put back into the water and **thanked God for its life**, and even preached to birds!

#### Should Christians eat meat?

- Christians believe they have a **choice of to be meat-eaters, vegetarians or vegans**, and that they should be sensitive to what others believe they should eat
- Most Christians eat meat (as do 90% of people in the UK), as it is a **good source of protein, vitamins and minerals**, and the **Bible does not say it is wrong**.
- Those that are vegetarian or vegan usually do so because they are against killing animals and cruelty towards animals.
- "Everything that lives and moves will be food for you" **Genesis 9:3**
- "The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them" **Romans 14:3**

## Muslims and animals

- Muslims believe that Allah made all living creatures and that they all worship him in their own way. Each animal is valuable to Allah, and must be treated with kindness and compassion.
- Islam teaches that animals are made for the benefit of humans, but should not be abused. Animal cruelty is to be avoided, and factory farming is haram (not allowed), as they go against the principles of Islam.
- Many do not support the zoos because they object to animals being kept in cages, but would support those which have projects to help conserve animals.
- Muhammad is a role model for how he treated animals. There is a story that he once cut off a part of his cloak rather than wake a sleeping cat, and he once told a man to return a bird's eggs when he saw the mother bird was distressed.



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## Should Muslims eat meat?

- Muslims can only eat meat that is halal (permissible), and so killed according to Shari'ah law. This means killing the animal 'in the name of God', using a sharp knife to cut the throat, and draining the blood. [Qur'an 16:115 forbids the eating of pig meat.](#)
- Providing food is a just cause, but hunting for pleasure is not. Most Muslims eat meat, but some choose to be vegetarians.

## Animal Experimentation.

Vivisection is experiments on live animals which further medical knowledge, test new drugs for effectiveness, test new products like cosmetics, surgical procedures etc.



Non-religious arguments for Animal Experiments...	Non-religious arguments against Animal Experiments...
It is the law- we cannot give drugs or medicines to humans if they have not already been tested on animals.	It is cruel- animals suffer a lot of pain throughout these procedures.
The good done to human beings outweighs the harm done to animals.	Modern science has developed alternatives like testing on human tissues (rather than animals) for accurate results.
Laws are in place to control the conditions, pain and suffering of the animal which are effective. Many licenses are needed for these experiments; therefore it is safe and controlled.	It is a waste of animal life as some of the testing is for diseases they cannot contract.

Christian arguments for Animal Experiments...	Christian arguments against Animal Experiments...
In Eden, God gave humans authority over all life. Some Christians think that this means they can do what they want with animals, including experiment on them (dominion).	The Methodist Church says "The universe as a whole is a product of God's creative will. Men and women are to be stewards and curators, not exploiters of its animals"
Christians support limited animal testing providing there is no other way to develop medicines and it carried out in a caring way.	Quakers "believe the air, sea, earth, animals and ourselves are all connected, and how we treat them reflects ourselves and consequently God."
"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7) Therefore animals can be used in experiments to save the life of a human.	Other Christians think that this means they have a responsibility to look after animals (stewardship), and so should not use them in experiments, or at least treat those animals with care.

Animal experiments are now usually on mice and rats which are bred for that purpose.	Everything, including animals, was created by God and therefore deserves respect and testing would negatively impact a person's afterlife.
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Muslim arguments for Animal Experiments...	Muslim arguments against Animal Experiments...
Animals could be used to preserve life (through testing medicines etc) but animals should be treated humanely.	"A good deed done to an animal is like a good deed done to a human being, while an act of cruelty to an animal is as bad as cruelty to a human being." Hadith Experiments are therefore not allowed.
"It is Allah who provides livestock for you, some for riding and some for food; you have other benefits in them too. You can reach any destination you wish on them: carry you as ships carry you" Qur'an 40:79-80	"Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement" Hadith
Al Hafiz B A Masri- using animals for research may be permitted in Islam but they must not feel pain; 'actions should be judged according to intention' therefore if trying to find a cure for an illness this is a legitimate use of animals.	In Islam, causing harm to an animal is not allowed, as is causing stress and forcing them to do a job that is beyond their power.
	"All the creatures that crawl on the earth and those that fly with their wings are communities like yourselves" Qur'an 6:38

### Abortion: The Law, Non-Religious arguments and Religious Responses.

**Definition:** An abortion is the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive, or is viable. Depending on how many weeks you have been pregnant, the pregnancy is ended either by taking medication or by having a surgical procedure. **Abortion is illegal, but it is permitted in certain circumstances.**



For an abortion to take place certain conditions have to be met. The **1967 Abortion Act** and the **1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act** state that abortion is permitted if **two doctors agree** that;

1. The **mother's life is in danger**
2. The **mother's health** (physical or mental) **is at risk**
3. The **health of the existing children** is at risk
4. The **baby might be seriously ill.**



**Non-religious ideas for and against Abortion.**

**Arguments for Abortion:**

- If the baby is the **result of rape**- the child may be a **constant reminder of that act** and **cause the mother distress and suffering.**
- The **quality of life** for a **severely disabled child** might be so **low** that it is kinder for that child not to be born.
- If we banned abortions, **women would still have them** (backstreet abortions) **but not in a safe way.** **We need to protect women.**
- **Nearly all abortions take place in the first trimester** when the foetus cannot exist independently of its mother and therefore **cannot be seen as a separate entity.**

**Arguments against Abortion:**

- Each person is unique and has something to offer.
- Depression and guilt can follow an abortion leaving mental and physical scars.
- Abortions can be used for selfish reasons- used as a form of contraception.
- Handicapped people can still live happy and fulfilled lives.

**Christian Ideas for and against Abortion.**

Christian Arguments for Abortion	Christian Arguments against Abortion
Even though abortion is seen as a great moral evil, if continuing with the pregnancy risks the mother's life then abortion is acceptable.	The <b>Sanctity of Life</b> ; humans are made in the image of God. Life is sacred, precious and a God-given blessing.
The Church of England and Methodist churches say that abortion is 'the lesser of two evils' and the kindest thing to do, for example if the quality of life will be poor then abortion is justified.	God has given each person a purpose in life: "Before I formed in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" Jeremiah 1:5.
"As God's chosen people...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience". Colossians 3:12. When discussing abortion we should act with compassion.	Life starts at conception therefore abortion is murder as you are taking away a life.
Situation Ethics (a Christian theory to help a person make decisions) states that an abortion is allowed if it is the most loving thing to do, for example in the case of incest or rape.	God created us in the image of Himself (which is known as Imago Dei) and therefore a foetus should be respected.

**Muslim Ideas for and against Abortion.**

Muslim Arguments for Abortion	Muslim Arguments against Abortion
Abortion is generally haram (forbidden) but it should be allowed in particular circumstances. For example if a situation arises where a choice must be made over the child's or the mother's life the mother is more important.	"If anyone kills a person- unless in retribution for murder... it is as if he kills all mankind" Quran 5:32. Abortion is ending the life of a person which is like ending the life of all mankind.
Abortion can be the lesser of two evils, for example if a child that is kept will cause severe physical or mental harm to the mother.	Human life is precious because it is God given. As God created life, it is sacred and so only God should decide when life should end.
Abortions should be allowed if the foetus will be born with either physical or mental disabilities or if conception was the result of rape.	The Qur'an forbids abortion if the reason given is that the parents are unable to afford another child. "Do not kill your children for fear of poverty- We shall provide for them and for you- killing them is a great sin". Qur'an 17:31.
The mother's life is seen as more important as she has duties and responsibilities to her family and she is an actual life (the foetus is a potential life).	In Islam, having an abortion after ensoulment (when the foetus gets its soul 40-120 days into pregnancy) is seen as taking a life and is recorded in the Hadith as murdering an innocent soul.

**Euthanasia: The Law, Non-Religious arguments and Religious Responses.**

**Definition:** mercy-killing. It is ending life for someone who is terminally ill, or degenerative disease. This can be **voluntary** (a person deciding for themselves) or **involuntary** (being decided by others as the individual as incapable).



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Euthanasia is **illegal in the UK**. It can be seen as assisted suicide, so **breaking the Suicide Act of 1961**, which **forbids anyone from helping someone else to die** and carries a **fourteen year sentence**. It can also be **viewed as manslaughter or murder** which carries a life sentence.



Doctors do switch off life-support machines when patients have no sign of brain activity, and they do administer drugs to ease pain, which also shorten life. These are not seen as euthanasia in the UK.

### Arguments for the Right to Die

- Everyone has a **right to die as they choose**- humans make all other decisions in their lives therefore should make this decision as well.
- It allows a person to die a **gentle and pain free death** when they choose to meaning they can say goodbye to everyone and avoid a painful death.
- It **relieves the family of emotional and financial burdens**.
- It is **compassionate** to put animals in pain to sleep, so **we should allow the same compassion to humans**.

### Arguments against the Right to Die

- If we legalised euthanasia we would be encouraging it so that **people would force it on others for their own advantage**, for example making an elderly relative feel like a burden.
- Doctors and nurses take **oaths to protect life not to end it**.
- **Doctors can make mistakes** and say a case is terminal but this may not be true.
- It is a **slippery slope**- if euthanasia was legalised then it **could lead to legalising other things**.

Christian Arguments for Euthanasia	Christian Arguments against Euthanasia.
Dutch Protestant Church see <b>euthanasia as an act of love and compassion</b> and a good use of the medical knowledge God has granted us.	<b>"I, your God, give life, and I take it away"</b> (Old Testament) therefore <b>God decides when our lives should end</b> .
We have <b>free will</b> so should be able to end our own lives.	The Catholic Church teaches that <b>life must be respected from conception</b> until natural death therefore euthanasia is wrong.
Doctors do not have an <b>overriding obligation to prolong life by all means possible</b> (Church of England).	The <b>Sanctity of Life</b> ; humans are made in the image of God. Life is sacred, precious and a God-given blessing.
<b>"Love thy neighbour"</b> - allowing a person to end their life could be the loving thing to do.	<b>Suffering can bring people closer to God</b> and can help them understand Jesus' suffering.

Muslim Arguments for Euthanasia	Muslim Arguments against Euthanasia.
Passive euthanasia is not always wrong; it could be accepted where there is no hope.	All life is specially created by Allah, and <b>Allah has a plan for each life</b> and euthanasia goes against this plan. For example, <b>the suffering may be a test of faith</b> .
	<b>"No soul may die except with God's permission at a predestined time"</b> (Qur'an). We should not interfere with Allah's plan.
	<b>Neither kill nor destroy yourself</b> (Qur'an) therefore <b>euthanasia is always wrong</b> ; it is <b>haram</b> (forbidden) and <b>zulm</b> (wrong doing against Allah).
	Prophet Muhammad told the story of a man who helped a friend die because he was in so much pain. The man and his friend were <b>both denied entry to paradise</b> as result.

**The Hospice Movement:** This is a home for those who are terminally ill (dying). People may go there until they die or to give their families respite from looking after them. Their aims include:



- To relieve the physical symptoms of illnesses.
- To care for the emotional and spiritual well-being of the patient.
- To support the families of patients who also suffer too.

### Beliefs in life after death

#### Christian beliefs about Death and the Afterlife.



- Christians believe that death is not the end and that God judges whether a person will spend eternity in heaven or in hell.
- The Catholic Church believes in purgatory, where souls go through purification.
- Some Christians believe in immediate judgement on death while others believe that judgement will happen when Jesus returns.
- Some Christians believe that they will receive a new body and others believe it is their soul that lives on for all time.
- Heaven is wonderful and is where God resides. There will be no more death, pain, crying or mourning according to the Book of Revelation.
- Hell is a place of punishment for the unrighteous. It is a place for torment, blazing furnace and weeping and suffering.
- Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- Jesus claimed to be the 'resurrection and the life' (John 11:25)

#### Muslim beliefs about Death and the Afterlife.

- Death is not final, but rather the beginning of a new stage of being.
- The soul does not die but continues on to a new physical existence after this life which ends in either paradise (Jannah) or hell (Jahannam). This is known as akhirah (afterlife).
- The current life is a test for the next realm of existence and will determine our afterlife.
- The Day of Judgement- the dead will be resurrected into new bodies, each person will be brought in front of God and their Book of Life will be opened. Their good and bad deeds will be weighed against each other and Allah will decide the fate of each individual.
- Paradise/Jannah- after judgement people will cross the Sirat Bridge. Jannah is described in the Qur'an as an eternal beautiful garden of physical and spiritual pleasures. There is no suffering and all wishes are fulfilled.
- 'And whatever good they do - never will it be removed from them. And Allah is Knowing of the righteous'. (Surah 3:115)

**Hell/Jahannam**- it is a **place of fire and punishments**. Any Muslim who has not performed enough good deeds will eventually have their punishment ended but non-believers will stay in Jahannam for eternity. **Peace**

**Civil war** - armed conflict between factions within the same country.

**Conflict** - conflict which escalates.

**Conscientious objector** - a person who refuses to do something, here fight in war, because of their conscience.

**Conventional (warfare)** - war using conventional weapons - weapons acceptable under Geneva Conventions.

**Forgiveness** - willingness not to blame a person any more for the wrongs they have done.

**Holy war** - rules around fighting a war acceptable to Islam.

**Justice** - making things fair again.

**Just war** - rules around fighting a war acceptable to Christianity.

**Nuclear weapons/war** - a weapon/war of mass destruction.

**Pacifism** - a belief that all violence is wrong.

**Peace** - the opposite of war; harmony.

**Protest** - voicing disagreement with something.

**Reconciliation** - making up between two groups after disagreement.

**Retaliation** - to pay back for harmful actions.

**Terrorism** - use of violence and threats to intimidate, especially for political purposes to create a state of fear in a population.

**Violence** - causing harm to someone.

**War** - armed conflict between two or more sides.

**Weapons of mass destruction** - weapons which cause uncontrollable and untold damage for example, nuclear weapons.

## **and Conflict**

**[Introduction to religion, peace and conflict](#)**

<p><b>Peace</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peace is often described as the absence of war or a feeling of tranquility.</li> <li>• In the Bible, it says 'He will just between the nations and settle disputes for many peoples'</li> <li>• The word Islam in Arabic means peace or safety.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Justice</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many wars are fought to achieve justice.</li> <li>• In Islam, 'the just' is one of the 99 names of Allah.</li> <li>• Muslims believe that Allah has provided laws to help people to bring about justice on earth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Forgiveness</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians and Muslims believe that forgiveness is important for living peacefully.</li> <li>• They believe that God sets the example regarding forgiveness, by offering forgiveness himself to all those who ask for it in faith.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reconciliation</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconciliation follows conflict, when two people or groups of people who have disagreed or fought with each other makeup.</li> <li>• Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said 'We are in the process of winning the war....And winning the peace involves a whole series of acts to help democracy and development.'</li> </ul>

### Violent protest

- The right to protest is a fundamental democratic freedom.
- The police can request alterations to the route or even apply to a court for an order to ban the march, if they predict that violence might be involved.
- In 2011, there was rioting in London and other towns and cities in the UK, sparked by the police shooting dead a local man in Tottenham.
- Martin Luther King's peaceful protests during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s reflect the belief shared by many Christians that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable, provided violence is not used.
- In Islam, fighting is allowed only in self-defence and only against those who are actively fight against you.
- Qur'an 4:29-30 - 'Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you. If any of you does these things, out of hostility and injustice, we shall make him suffer Fire.'

### Terrorism

- Terrorism is where an individual or group who share certain beliefs use terror as part of their campaign to further their cause.
- While a person who commits terrorist, acts may claim to do so in the name of a religion, for example Christianity or Islam, no religious tradition promotes terrorism.

- Both religions are against terrorism because acts of violence go against the wishes of God, especially as the victims are usually innocent people going about their normal daily business.

## Reasons for war

Reason for war	Greed	Self defence	Retaliation
			
<b>Definition</b>	Selfish desire for something	Acting to prevent harm to yourself or others.	Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you.
<b>What does it say in the Bible?</b>	In the Bible, it says 'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil' (1 Tim 6:10)	Whilst there is little in the New Testament to justify the idea of fighting in self-defence, an argument can be made for it provided other means have been tried first.	In the Bible it says, ' <b>Turn the other cheek</b> '. (Matthew 5:39)
<b>What does it say in the Qur'an?</b>	In the Qur'an, it says ' <b>God does not like arrogant, boastful people</b> ' (Qur'an 4:36-37)	In the Qur'an, it says ' <b>Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged</b> ' (Qur'an 22:39)	In the Qur'an it says, ' <b>If you have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate, but it is best to stand fast</b> ' (Qur'an 16:126)

## Nuclear weapons



- Nuclear weapons are weapons that work by a nuclear reaction that devastates huge areas and kills a large number of people e.g. the bomb dropped on Hiroshima by American forces during WW2.
- The usual justification for nuclear weapons is that they prevent world wars from occurring due to the fear of the consequences of nuclear escalation.

### Christian attitudes

- Only God has the right to end the life he created and nuclear weapons go against the commandment of '**Do not murder**'.

- Policy adviser Steve Hucklesby said 'Faith groups in the UK are united in their conviction that any use of nuclear weapons would violate the sanctity of life'.

**Muslim attitudes**

- Muslims also believe in the idea of sanctity of life and using weapons could kill millions of people and possibility destroy the earth.
- In the Qur'an it says, 'Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands but do good, for God loves those who do good' (Qur'an 2:195)

Weapons of mass destruction

Weapons of mass destruction can kill large numbers of people and/or cause great damage.

There are two types:

1. Chemical weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment. It is believed that they have been used by governments of countries such as Iraq and Syria against groups that they perceive to threaten their leadership.
2. Biological weapons are weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease e.g. they infect the food chain or the water supplies.

The Just war

<p><b>Conditions of a just war in Christianity</b></p> 	<p><b>Conditions of a just war in Islam</b></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It must have a just cause.</li> <li>✓ The war must be declared by the correct authority.</li> <li>✓ The intention of the war must be to defeat wrongdoing and promote good.</li> <li>✓ Fighting must be the last resort.</li> <li>✓ There must be a reasonable chance of success.</li> <li>✓ The methods used to fight in the war must be proportional to achieve success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It is the last resort.</li> <li>✓ It is done in self-defence.</li> <li>✓ The decision to fight must be made by a religious leader.</li> <li>✓ It must be done for a just cause.</li> <li>✓ An Islamic country has been attacked.</li> <li>✓ Another state has tyrannised its Muslim citizens.</li> </ul>

On one occasion, before his arrest Jesus advised his disciples, 'if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one' (Luke 22:36). However, many Christians believe that although fighting in a just war is acceptable, it is much better if there is no war, just or not. Working together to avoid situations where war is possible outcome is preferable to fighting. This is because in the Bible, Jesus said 'Put your sword back in its place...for all who draw the sword die by the sword' (Matthew 26:52). The United Nations, founded in 1945, encourages countries to resolve disputes peacefully. Some Christians disagree with the theory of a just war because it defends the concept of war in certain circumstances. This could lead to lead to general acceptance of war.

## Holy war

Holy war: fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader.

<p><i>Christianity - doesn't feature widely in current Christian belief.</i></p> 	<p><i>Islam - lesser jihad</i></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It must be authorised by a religious leader with great authority.</li> <li>✓ It should be to defend the Christian faith from attack.</li> <li>✓ Those who take part believe they will gain spiritual rewards and if they die in battle they will go straight to heaven.</li> <li>✓ Example of a holy war: The Crusades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lesser jihad</li> <li>✓ Muhammad was forced to fight to defend themselves from attackers who disagreed with their teachings.</li> <li>✓ Holy war cannot be declared to convert people to Islam and it must only be declared by a fair religious leader.</li> <li>✓ It should only be fought for God and not to take over countries or for financial gain.</li> <li>✓ For it to be justly declared, the faith of Islam must be under threat or the right to worship Islam must be denied to individuals or groups.</li> <li>✓ It should be the last resort.</li> <li>✓ During a holy war, Muhammad gave instructions that some had to remain in their villages to defend the women and children if they came under threat.</li> </ul>

## Pacifism

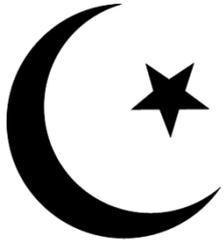
**Pacifism - the belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence.**

### Christianity

- Many Christian pacifists take their inspiration from the teaching of Jesus: **'Blessed are the peacemakers'** (Matthew 5:9)
- Conscientious objectors are those people who refused to fight in the First and Second World Wars and faced punishment as a result.
- Quakers are pacifist Christians who believe that there is something of God in everybody and that each human being is of unique worth. Therefore, Quakers value all people equally and oppose anything that may harm or threaten them.
- In 1976, Mairead Corrigan, Betty Williams organised peace marches throughout London that gave people the opportunity to show they wanted peace rather than violence and killings that were a tragic feature of Northern Ireland at the time.



### Islam



- Islam is a religion of peace.
- It is difficult for Muslims to identify themselves as pacifists because of the duty of jihad.
- It says in the Qur'an 'Fighting has been ordained for you, though it is hard for you. You may dislike something although it is good for you, or like something because it is bad for you: God knows, and you do not' (Qur'an 49:9).
- However, the Qur'an also advises that if peace is offered then it must not be refused 'But if they incline peace, you must also incline towards it and put your trust in God' (Qur'an 8:61).
- Muslims find peace from being part of the ummah (brotherhood of Muslims) and from submitting their lives to God.

### Religious responses to the victims of war

Casualties are an unavoidable part of war. In the UK, if a member of the military is killed or injured, financial systems are put in place to look after those left behind. Injured military personnel receive free health care, with some specialised care being provided by charities such as Help for the Heroes. However, injury or death still has devastating effects on families and friends and can cause long term emotional wounds.

There are many organisations that offer help and care for victims for war, wherever they live and whichever side of the conflict they fought on. Many Christians support organisations like this because a basic Christian belief is to 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31), which is explained further through the parable of the Good Samaritan. Furthermore, many Muslims also support organisation like this because in the Qur'an it says, 'whoever saved a life, it would be as if they saved the life of all mankind' (Qur'an 5:32).

<p><b>Caritas</b></p> 	<p><b>Christian Aid</b></p> 	<p><b>Islamic Relief</b></p> 	<p><b>Muslim Aid</b></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Catholic organisation</li> <li>✓ Mission is to serve the poor and promote charity throughout the world.</li> <li>✓ In 2015, they provided food and shelter for refugees fleeing the war in Syria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Aim to bring aid to end poverty.</li> <li>✓ They work with victims of war, including refugees.</li> <li>✓ Recent campaigns have included raising awareness of refugees in and from Gaza, Afghanistan and Syria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Respond to the victims of war.</li> <li>✓ Provide short term aid during disasters and emergencies.</li> <li>✓ They allocate resources regardless of race, political affiliation gender or belief.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mainly funded through donations from supporters, including money given through Zakah.</li> <li>✓ In 2014, set up Beity orphanage in Turkey to give home to 75 young children whose parents had been killed in Syria.</li> </ul>

# Crime and Punishment

**Capital punishment** - death penalty

**Community service order** - punishment; criminal has to do a set number of hour's work in the community as their punishment.

**Conscience** - sense of right and wrong; usually with a guilty voice in our head.

**Corporal punishment** - physically hurting the criminal as a punishment.

**Crime** - breaking the law; can be against a person (e.g. assault), against property (e.g. arson) or the state (e.g. terrorism).

**Deterrence** - aim of punishment; where the punishment puts someone off committing the crime.

**Duty** - something we are bound to.

**Evil** - something (or someone considered morally wrong; wicked; often linked to the idea of a violent force, e.g. the devil.

**Forgiveness** - letting go of anger towards someone if they have done us wrong.

**Hate crime** - a crime committed because of prejudice, e.g. beating someone up because you think that they are gay; in UK law, it can mean doubling of the sentence if found guilty.

**Imprisonment** -locking someone up as a punishment.

**Justice** - making things fair again.

**Law** - the rules which govern a country to keep us safe.

**Order** - the enforcement of rules, e.g. by a police force.

**Parole** - release of a criminal from prison but continuing to monitor their behaviour.

**Probation order** - punishment; monitoring of behaviour with the threat of greater punishment for offending again.

**Protection** - aim of punishment; to keep people safe.

**Reformation** - aim of punishment; helping the person see how and why they should behave better.

**Reparation** - aim of punishment; getting back at the person for what they have done.

**Retribution** - aim of punishment: getting back at the person for what they have done.

**Victim** - the one against whom a crime is committed.

**Vindication** - aim of punishment: the punishment exists because the law does.

**Young offenders** - person under 18 who commit crime.

## Crime, law and order

- Every society has laws, which are rules intended to protect individuals, property and ensure that society remains a safe place for everyone. If someone breaks a law, they have committed a crime.
- Men are more likely to commit crimes than women, and most crimes are committed by people under the age of 25.

**Laws**- There are two types of laws in the UK:

- Bye-laws: These are made by elected councillors, and apply to a local area, are cover things such as parking restrictions, alcohol-free zone and littering. If you break these, you risk being fined.
- Parliamentary laws: These are made by the government and apply to everybody. They are in two categories- Non-indictable offences, which are minor crimes and driving offences, dealt with in a Magistrates' Court, and indictable offences, for more serious crimes, dealt with by a Crown Court, with a judge and a jury, carrying harsher penalties.

**Crimes**- There are 3 types of crime:



Type of Crime	Explanation	Example
Crime against the person	Something that causes direct harm to a person	Murder, rape, hate crimes

Crime against property	Something that damage or take away someone's property	Burglary, trespassing, arson
Crime against the State	Something that can potentially endanger everyone, or affect how society runs	Terrorism, perjury, selling state secrets

### Why do people commit crimes?

- Why does crime happen? If we can find this out, then we should be able to prevent it. There are many reasons why people commit crime, but they are not always separate reasons.

Reasons for Crime	Explanation
<b>Upbringing</b>	This involves the environment of which a person is brought up in- if they are brought up in a family or neighbourhood surrounded by crime, they may view it as acceptable. This can also involve a person's social and financial status growing up- crime may be a way to change this.
<b>Opposition to existing laws</b>	Some crimes are committed in protest, because they are considered unfair or to protect an elite few in society. This can sometimes lead to these laws being changed.
<b>Poverty</b>	A person may commit crime because it is their only way to survive. If they have no money and no job, crime may be the only way they can provide for their family.
<b>Mental illness</b>	Someone's state of mind can lead them into crime. Examples include serious psychological issues restricting their view of right and wrong; a lack of guilt or compassion; an enjoyment of hurting others; or even have been a victim of an event which has disturbed their minds.
<b>Addiction</b>	A person may be addicted to something, such as drugs, sex or money- crime can be a way for them to provide for their cravings. They may even be addicted to crime itself.
<b>Greed/hate</b>	People are often influenced by their emotions. Some people commit crime because they are inherently greedy, and it is a way to get more stuff. Others may commit crimes as revenge against someone they hate.

### Religious views on crime

#### **Christianity:**

St. Paul says in Romans 13 that everyone should "**obey the laws of the land,**" and so Christians believe that crime is never right. Nonetheless, sometimes a Christian may think that a law is morally wrong and challenge it.

- However, they do understand why crime may happen, and many Christians would argue that criminals need our love rather than our judgement. They would argue that if all people "**loved their neighbour**", then the causes of crime might disappear.
- Jesus mixed with all kinds of people in his life, particularly those who were outcasts of society, such as criminals. Due to this, Paul writes in Galatians 3 that "**there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**" Many Christians apply this to all people, including criminals, and so treat them with love and kindness.

#### **Islam:**



- Murder is forbidden by Christianity and Islam- **“Thou shall not kill” (Exodus), Do not take life- which Allah has made sacred” (Qur'an)**. This is because life is viewed as sacred, to be protected and cherished- murder is the opposite of this, and is an insult to God's creation.
- Theft is also against the laws of both religions- but the punishment is less harsh. It shows disrespect to someone, which goes against the fundamental belief in equality held by Christians and Muslims.
- Hate crime refers to the reason why a crime is committed, not the type of crime itself. Any crime can be a hate crime, if it is motivated by prejudice, **for example, the murder of Anthony Walker in 2005** because he was black, or the theft of silver/gold from churches under the belief that the Church can afford it.
- Often, offences against children or vulnerable people are viewed as the worst crimes. This is in the case of **James Bulger, a 3-year old boy who was murdered by John Venables and Robert Thompson**. Venables and Thompson are often viewed as being inherently evil for their crime, as they were only 10 when they committed the crime.

### What are the aims of punishment?

- When an offender is found guilty by a court face a legal punishment. These punishments vary according to the crime. More serious offences, such as murder and rape, carry a life sentence in prison, with less serious offences receiving a shorter spell in prison, or community service or a fine. A victim is never allowed to punish the perpetrator of a crime themselves.
- There are 3 main aims of punishment. They are deterrence, retribution and reformation

Aim of punishment	Explanation	Religious views
Deterrence	A punishment is meant to be unpleasant, so that the offender is put off from committing crimes in the future. For instance, a burglar who gets sent to prison for 5 years will hopefully not want to experience that again, and so will find a legal means of obtaining money.	Both religions agree with deterrence, because if it always works, then there would be no crime. Islamic law has tough consequences for criminals, in the hope that this will deter them. Christians agree with deterrence, but not through harsh punishment like the death penalty.
Retribution	This means to get revenge on the offender- when people break the law, someone usually gets hurt, and as most people follow the law, it is not fair when people do what they please and ignore the rules.	Religions have a similar view to this as they do to deterrence- the punishment should fit the crime, sometimes to the point where it can be seen as revenge. The Qur'an allows for harsh punishments for crimes such as murder, rape and theft, but these are not widely used in modern times. Many Christians believe that a criminal should serve their time, but a death penalty makes the law as bad as the criminal, following the teaching of Jesus to "turn the other cheek."
Reformation	Many punishments intend to make lasting changes to an offender's nature, as they will continue to be a part of society. This means that the punishment will attempt to make the offender see the effects of their actions on others, in the hopes that this will prevent them from doing something similar again. Examples	Most Christians prefer reformation as an aim of punishment, as it is intended to work with offenders to change their attitudes. In Romans, Paul writes "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good," suggesting to Christians that they should ensure that offenders are given the opportunity to reform. Muslims believe that with reformation, it is more likely that offenders will seek Allah's

	include a graffiti artist doing community service, or education and work programmes in prison.	forgiveness. In some countries that follow Shari'ah law, this can come from harsh punishments, such as lashings.
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- There are other aims of punishment that are less important. These are:
- Protection- keeping criminals off the streets protects society.
- Vindication- if the law imposes proper punishments for crimes, it is more likely to be followed.
- Reparation- aiming to make up for the damage caused to the victim or society.

### Suffering

Often, crime can lead to suffering. Christianity and Islam condemn human actions that cause the suffering of others. They would argue that the Bible and the Qur'an provides humans with a guide to do actions without causing suffering, but human nature makes it impossible to do the right action all the time, causing suffering.

- Christians and Muslims often feel that it is their duty to look after people who are suffering, particularly those who are suffering because of crime. Christians believe that they should also try to repair any suffering they have caused, **following Jesus' example when he healed the ear of the man who was arresting him, after one of his disciples cut it off.** For Muslims, a key hadith is "**be compassionate towards the destitute,**" showing their belief to help those who are suffering.

### Forgiveness

- Forgiveness is the process wherein the victim of a crime can move on from the offence and be able to no longer hold ill feelings towards the perpetrator. It is a key value for both Christianity and Islam.
- **Jesus says** that we should forgive "**not seven times but seventy times seven**", which, in the context it was originally said, means that we should always forgive others. In the Lord's Prayer, this is further shown, as it says, "**forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**" Due to this, Christians advocate forgiveness.
- **For Muslims**, punishment satisfies the demands of society and the person who was wronged, and therefore reinforces the requirements of Islam for pleasing Allah. Due to this, forgiveness should not be used in the punishment process.
- Despite this, forgiveness is still important for Muslims. They believe in two kinds of punishment:
- **Forgiveness from Allah**- only Allah can truly forgive and will do so for those who are truly sorry;
- **Forgiveness from humans**- humans should forgive those who ask for it, as it establishes goodness over evil. A hadith states "pardon each other's faults and Allah will grant you honour, and in the Qur'an, it states that "**whosoever forgives and makes amends, his rewards is upon Allah**", showing that Allah sees it as favourable for Muslims to forgive.
- While forgiveness is an important quality for the religions, it is also true that they have an emphasis on justice when the law is broken. Forgiveness can sometimes be a part of a process, wherein the crime is committed, the criminal is punished, after which they may begin to show repentance, allowing the victim to show them forgiveness as a response to seeing the regret of the offender.
- However, forgiveness comes from the victim, and so is not dependant on if the victim shows repentance or not for their crime. Christians often use prayer to help them forgive, and do so with the help of God, because forgiveness is a quality of God which Christians wish to emulate.



- A movement to encourage forgiveness and to try to help both the victim and the offender is called restorative justice. This is where an offender and a victim meet (with other people present) to discuss the crime and the impact it had on the victim, with the intent of giving the victim closure, and allowing the offender a chance to reform.

## Prisons and Community Service



- Punishment can be either custodial (detaining the offender) or non-custodial (alternatives to prison). Custodial sentences usually mean that the offender will end up in prison but could end up in a mental health institution or a young offenders' institution dependent on the individual who has committed the crime. Non-custodial sentences can be varied, and range from ASBOs, community service, a curfew, fines and restorative justice.
- Prison is a punishment across the world, arising from a need for a society to feel safe from dangerous people. **Christians** support the use of prisons, but many have a concern about the way they are run and the levels of reoffender that happens upon a criminal's release. They would say that prisons contain troubled individuals, who need social care, education, medical help and life skills, and that as Christians, they have a duty of care. An example of a Christian who tried to influence this was Elizabeth Fry, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century prison reformer, who worked hard to show that even criminals deserve a fair and humane treatment, which would allow them to reform rather than reoffend.
- However, some Christians believe that prison should be tougher, and in doing so would ensure that criminals do not reoffend. This view is shared by the **Islamic viewpoint**, which argues that a harsh punishment can lead to reform itself, more so than reformative actions themselves. Under Shari'ah law, prisons are often used as a waiting area before a more serious form of punishment, such as corporal punishment, takes place.
- Community service is where an offender has to do unpaid work in the local community, such as cleaning a park. Time spent doing this can be between 40-300 hours, and can be done in a way that offenders can work during the day and do their community service in the evening.
- Christians look favourably upon this- in 2007, the Church of England produced a report that commended programmes for offenders doing unpaid work in the community. In Islam, community service is not used in Shari'ah law, as it is not viewed as a good enough deterrent.

## Corporal punishment

- Corporal punishment is using physical pain as a punishment for a criminal act. This can be through whipping, branding, or amputation.
- Corporal punishment is an effective deterrent and can quickly fulfil the aims of retribution and often reformation.
- **In the Bible**, there are some references to corporal punishment. In Proverbs 26, it says "and a rod for a fool's back", and Psalm 89 says "I will punish transgressions with the rod." However, most Christians disagree with corporal punishment, as they think it does not reform criminals, and is more about taking revenge on to offender. Due to this, no Christian country uses corporal punishment today, and it is viewed as a breach of human rights.
- Some Christians use quotes such as "He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them" (Proverbs 13), as legitimisation for some minor physical punishment for children. In schools in England and Wales, corporal punishment was made illegal in government-funded schools in 1987, and in all schools in 1999. Most Christians agree with this ban though, as they feel that causing physical pain to anyone is completely unacceptable.



- **Islamic law** allows corporal punishment. In the Qur'an, it says "A thief male and female cut off the hand of both" (Qur'an 5:38), and "If a woman or man is guilty of adultery, flog each of them 100 stripes" (Qur'an 24:2). While some extreme Muslim groups use these punishments regularly, many Muslim countries use the Law of Compensation, which swaps corporal punishment by paying compensation.



### Death Penalty

- Capital punishment is the death penalty. Where it is used, it is for extreme offences, such as murder, although around the world, crimes ranging from blasphemy and adultery to treason and war crimes.
- 58 countries in the world still retain the death penalty- 88% of all executions this century have been in China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the USA.

Arguments for capital punishment	Arguments against capital punishment
It is a deterrence for the worst crimes	Most murders are spur of the moment, so this won't deter.
It brings justice to the victim and their families	Victim's families will still grieve- killing the murderer does not end their pain
Life sentences do not mean life- most walk free after 16 years (on average)	Retribution is uncivilised- two wrongs do not make a right
Housing criminals for their entire life is a waste of resources	The legal system can fail- innocent people could be killed
It is the only way to truly protect society from the worst murderers	All life is sacred and so murderers should be given a chance to reform
Principle of Utility- an action is right if it brings happiness to the greatest number of people. This could be capital punishment.	It is inhumane and degrading to put anyone through the mental torture of death row.

- **Some Christians** may believe that the death penalty should be allowed. This is often justified by teachings from the Old Testament, such as: "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed" (Genesis 9:6) and "Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (Exodus 21:23-24).
- However, many Christians disagree with the death penalty. For this, they focus on the main teachings of Jesus, who preached forgiveness. This is shown in the quote from Matthew 5:38-39, where Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." Further to this, Christians believe that only God has the right to take life away, and that he would rather see criminals reform- it says in Ezekiel 33:11 "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn away from their ways and live."
- **In Shari'ah law**, the death penalty is allowed for a series of offences, including murder, rape, terrorism, homosexual activity and apostasy (leaving the religion). Those who are found guilty of these are likely to be sentenced to die. However, an expression of mercy is greatly valued, so the victim's family has to decide whether to show mercy upon payment of compensation (blood money), in which case the offender would walk free. If mercy is not shown, the offender will be executed. The death sentence is usually carried out in public so to deter others from committing offences, but must go



through a very strict court process first. The Qur'an says "... do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right. This is what He commands you do: so that you may use your reason," and also "if the culprit is pardoned by his aggrieved brother, this shall be adhered to fairly, and the culprit shall pay what is due in a good way." These quotes are used by Muslims to justify the death penalty, but can also be used to go against it.

- Amnesty International completely disagrees with the death penalty, saying that it is cruel, inhumane and degrading. They are critical of the practice in the USA, which they call savage, barbaric and prejudice, as the USA has executed people who offended as a child; people with mental illnesses; black people sentenced by all-white juries, and other seemingly unfair cases.
- Many would argue that corporal and capital punishment **goes against the sanctity of life**. Both Christians and Muslims believe that life is sacred to God, and so to cause pain or to end it is incompatible with that idea.