

RS GCSE

Full Course (Exam 1)

REVISION GUIDE

100% Examination on:

**Religion and Life based on a study of Christianity
and at least one other religion.**

(You have studied Islam)

Exam board: EdExcel - Unit 1

The exam date is: Monday 11th May @ 9am

YOUR RS GCSE EXAM

The exam lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes.

There are 4 sections on *Religion and Life*, from the viewpoint of Christianity and at least ONE other religion. That ONE other religion is Islam for us!!

Section 1 – Believing in God

Answer 1 of the following:

Question 1 a)
 b)
 c)
 d) (i)
 (ii)

Question 2 a)
 b)
 c)
 d) (i)
 (ii)

For all 4 sections, there is a choice of 2 questions. You only need to do **ONE** question but you must do all 4 parts of the question you choose.

I.e. if you choose to do question 2, you answer a, b, c and d for that question.

a) often a simple definition (a sentence, 2 examples). **Worth 2 marks.**

b) Giving your opinion and **your two reasons** about an idea or controversial statement. **Worth 4 marks**

c) **Explaining** an idea/theory or why a religion holds their teachings/beliefs on a topic. **Worth 8 marks**

d) Again, a response to a statement which asks for your opinion and **reasons for your opinion**. **Worth 3 marks.** And then tests your consideration and understanding of **other viewpoints**. **Worth 3 marks**

- 1st Section** **Believing in God**: including reasons why people might believe in God such as having a **religious upbringing**, **religious experience**, such as miracles, conversion and prayer, arguments which try to prove the existence of God, such as the **Design** and **Causation arguments**; reasons why people might not believe in God such as **scientific explanations** of the world, the problem of **evil and suffering** and **unanswered prayers**; two **programmes** about religion
- 2nd Section** **Matters of Life and Death**: including Christian and Muslim beliefs about **life after death**, **non-religious beliefs** about the afterlife and reasons for **non-belief in life after death**; the nature of **abortion** and Christian and Muslim attitudes to abortion; the nature of **euthanasia** and the Christian and Muslim attitudes to euthanasia; and how the **media** deals with matters of life and death
- 3rd Section** **Marriage and Family Life**: including the **changing attitudes** to marriage and family life; **sex outside marriage** and Christian and Muslim attitudes to sex outside of marriage; **divorce** and Christian and Muslim attitudes to divorce; **the importance of family life** for Christians and Muslims; Christian and Muslim attitudes to **homosexuality**; Christian and Muslim attitudes to **contraception**
- 4th Section** **Community Cohesion**: including the **changing roles of men and women**; Christian and Muslim attitudes to **equal rights for women in religion**; the UK as a **multi-ethnic society**; **religions and community cohesion** in the UK; Christian and Muslim ideas about **racial harmony**; the UK as a **multi-faith society**; **issues** for religions in a multi-faith society; the **media** and community cohesion

Section 1 - Believing in God

Reasons Why People Might Believe in God



Religious Upbringing

Parents may read stories from the Bible to their children



Children may attend Sunday schools



Children may attend a Church school



Parents may teach their children to pray



Celebrating religious festivals as a family



Children may be baptised



Parents may help prepare their children to receive sacraments

Parents may take their children to Church regularly



WHY?



Some Christians want to give their children what they believe is the right faith

Parents may want their children to believe and hold important the same things they do

Some Christians promise to raise any children they have as Christians when they get married

This may lead a child to believe in God because they become familiar and used to religious ideas, meet other young people with similar beliefs and share the same experiences as others in their community.

Religious Experience

A religious experience is something that makes a person think that they have come into contact with God. This experience usually leads to the person having a new or increased belief in God.

There are 4 different types of religious experience:

Numinous



Miracle



Prayer



Conversion.



Miracles

A miracle is something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it.

Christians believe God can still work miracles. Many people say incredible events in their life are a miracle. In France, Lourdes gets thousands of visitors every year hoping for a miracle. The Bible contains examples of Jesus performing miracles such as walking on water.



Numinous

The feeling of the presence of something greater than you.

People might experience something that completely takes their breath away. It could be an amazing view. But for some, being in the presence of something awesome convinces them that something greater than them exists; that God is real.



Conversion

When your life is changed by giving yourself to God.

Conversion is all about **change**. Changing from one religion to another or from no religion to following one. Conversion usually follows some **life altering event** that convinces an individual that there must be God.

Prayer

An attempt to contact God, usually through words.



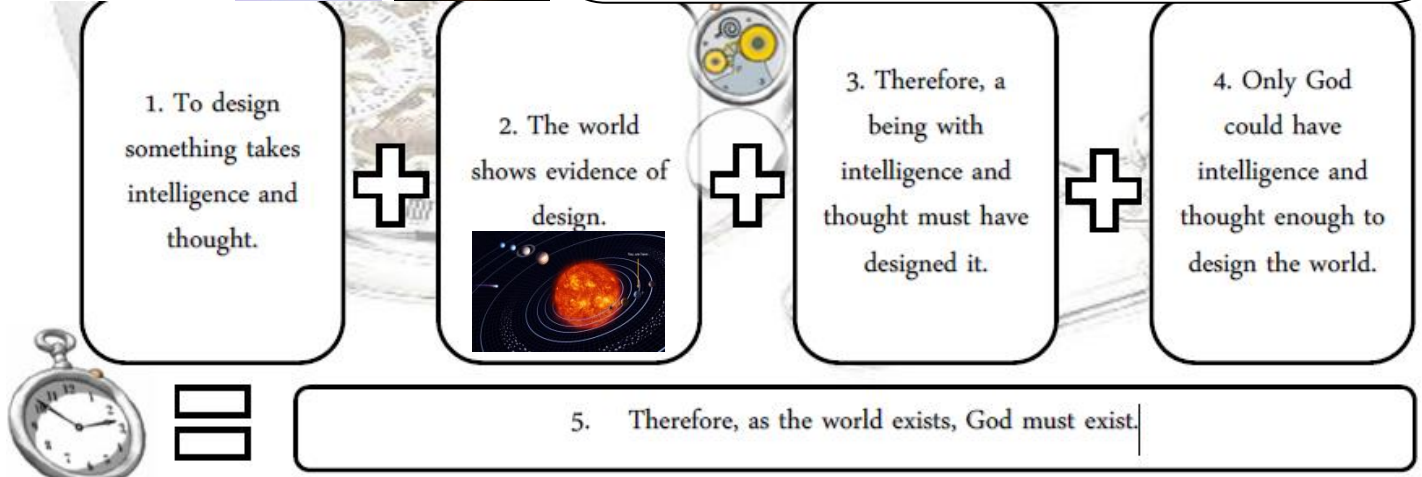
Many people feel they make some form of **connection** with God when they pray, whether they get what they ask for or not. People pray in all sorts of **circumstances**, out of need, comfort, thankfulness, for guidance and for others.

Why religious experience might lead to belief in God	Why religious experience might not lead to belief in God
It proves that God exists	People might be lying about it
It changes people's lives	People might be ill or under the influence of drugs or hallucinating
There must be a reason why such events occur.	People might be capable of these things and we are not yet aware of it
It makes people aware of the presence of God, and that he is real	Science can explain, or will be able to explain, why some things happen

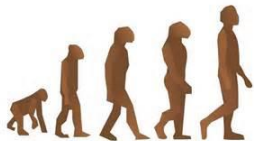
The Design Argument



An argument that tries to prove God exists based on the evidence of the world around us.



The philosopher, William Paley, used the idea of design to try and prove the existence of God. He looked inside a watch and said if something so complex like this requires a designer, then (by analogy) the universe also would need a designer. The only being capable of designing the universe is God ... Therefore God exists.



Arguments against Design are that the appearance of design could be the result of evolution; the argument only suggests a designer and does not prove God's existence; there are examples of poor design in the universe; and it is possible that it came about by chance.

The Causation Argument :

'The argument that everything must have been started off (caused) by something else.' It is used to try to prove the existence of God and is based on the evidence from the world around us.

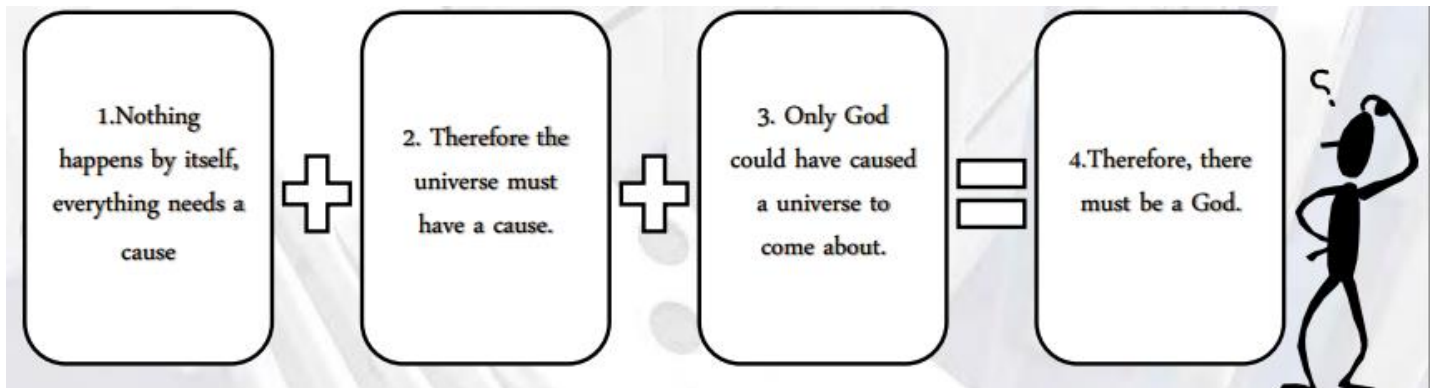


The argument was set out by the philosopher Thomas Aquinas. He argued that the first cause is God.

This argument relies on something called 'cause and effect'. Everything that happens (effect) must have something that has made it happen (cause). E.g. a row of dominos fall (effect), someone

pushed the first one (cause) or a universe exists (effect), someone (God) must have made it exist (cause).





Problems with this argument are that a person could ask: 'If God caused the universe, then who caused God?' The Christian answer is that no one made God, he always existed; the Causation Argument cannot be proved.

Reasons Why People Might NOT Believe in God




Scientific Explanations

There are many suggestions as to how the universe began (cosmology) based on scientific theories.


The most accepted cosmology is the Big Bang Theory. Most scientists think that almost 14 billion years ago, the universe came into existence in a rapid explosion. From this Big Bang came everything that exists: atoms, planets, stars, galaxies.

The evidence that the Big Bang occurred is background radiation showing the universe was once much hotter, red light or red shift (expanding light waves make red light) showing that the universe is still expanding



Big Bang

Some scientist believe the universe started as a result of a huge concentration of energy causing a massive **explosion** they call the Big Bang. This can be seen as offering a **scientific** explanation for the universe without the need for a God.



Big Bang

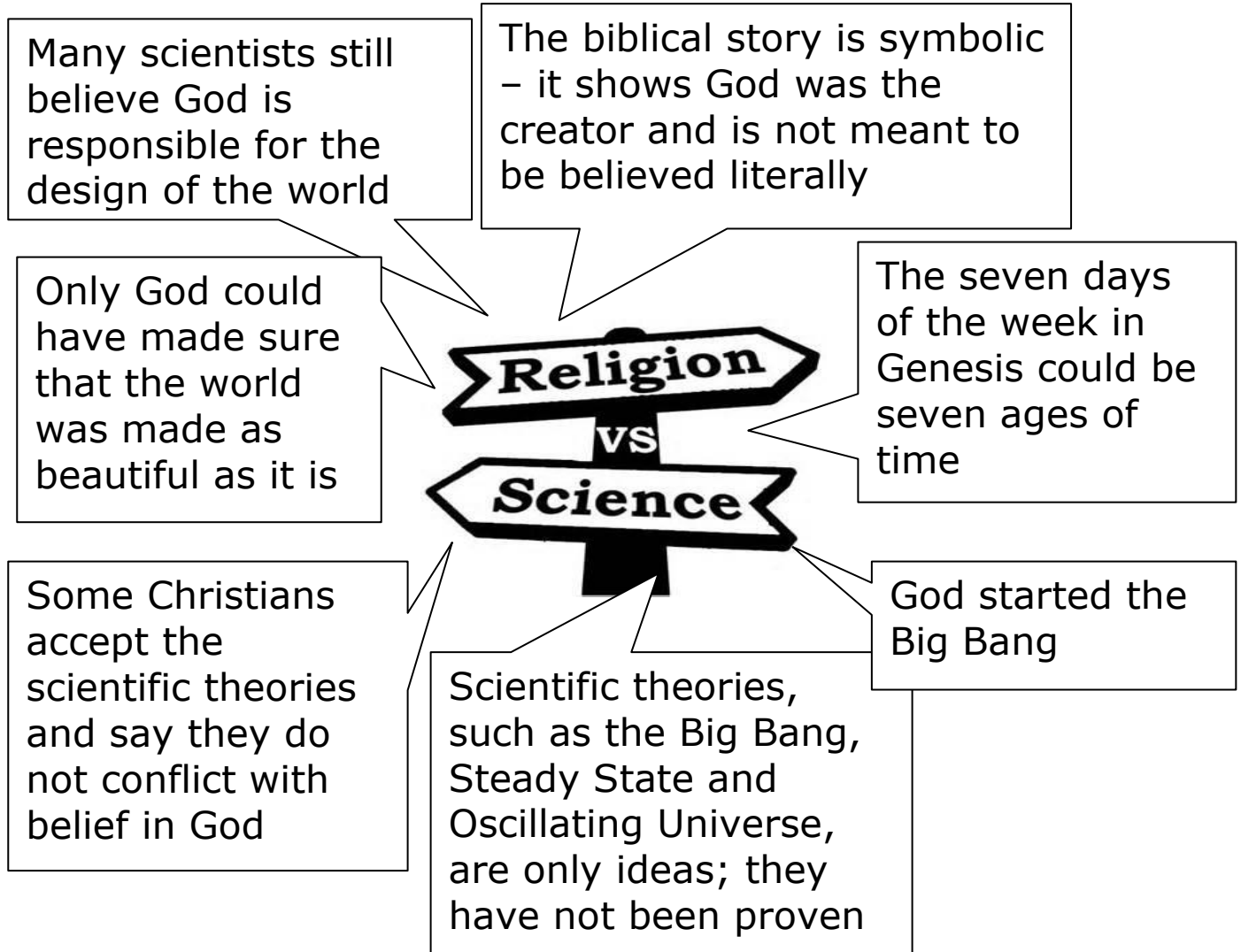
The creation story in Genesis starts by God saying '**Let there be light**' and so many Christians see this as **God causing the Big Bang** which was his way of starting creation. The seven-day creation is seen by many as a **poem** not an historical account

A few Christians believe that science is wrong because it conflicts with Biblical ideas. They are called creationists.

Many people believe evolution and natural selection are more logical explanations for the existence of humanity. **Charles Darwin** believed in order to survive, life forms must adapt (evolve) to their changing environment or die. The strongest and fittest will evolve maintaining the existence of that particular species.



Christians believe humanity is special, made to be able to connect spiritually with God. Although they would not normally believe in evolution (e.g. from an ape) they would accept we have **developed** in skills, thinking and even posture. They point out that there are far too many **missing links** in the chain of evolutionary theories to be acceptable.



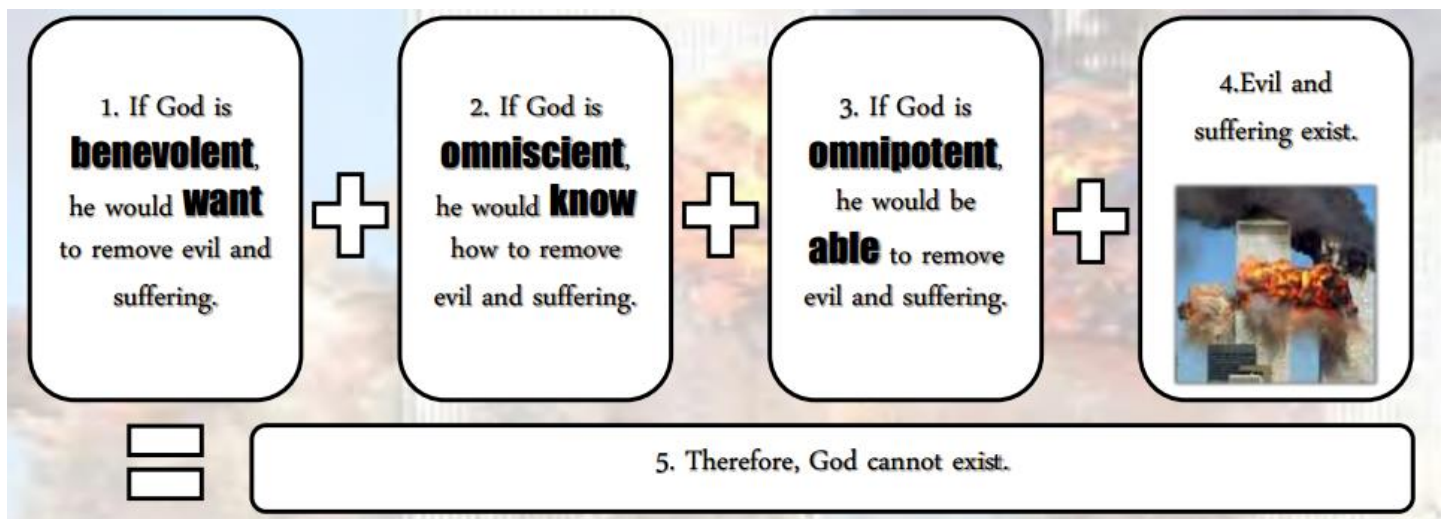
The Problem of Evil

The existence of evil and suffering in the world is one of the strongest arguments **against** the existence of God.

If God made the world, why does he allow them to exist?

Natural evil: 'Things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans.' E.g. earthquake

Moral evil: 'Actions done by humans which cause suffering to others.' e.g. murder.



A Christian response to this would be to say that God gave humanity 'free will'. This means the **ability** and **right** to choose. Christians believe that evil is not a result of **God**, but of choices **humanity** makes. For God to intervene and stop evil it would mean taking away our free will and imposing his will.

Unanswered Prayers

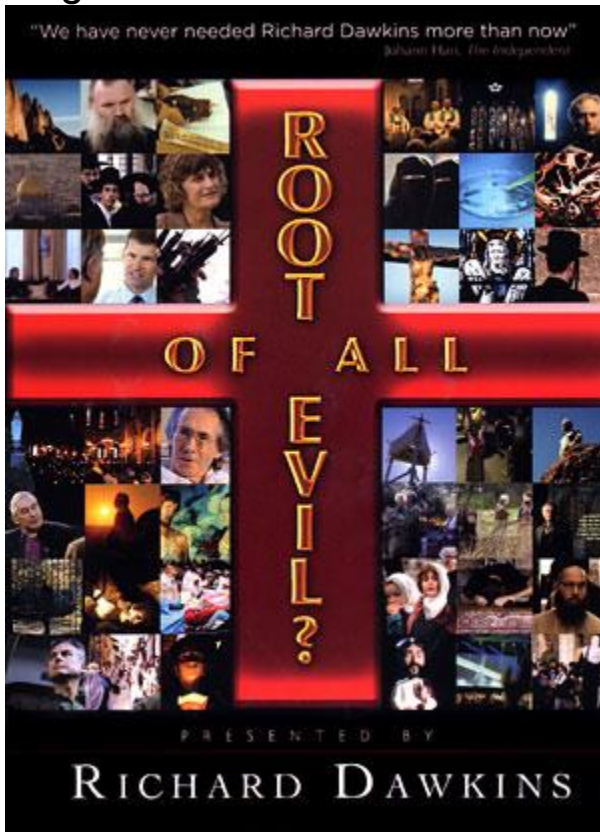
Many people feel they make some form of connection with God when they pray, whether they get what they ask for or not.

Some people would say that unanswered prayers are evidence that God doesn't exist or people would get answers to their prayers, particularly ones that are for the benefit of others in tragic situations around the world.

Evidence that God doesn't exist	Christian response
Cannot be all-good and ignore prayers	God is like a Father, so the answer may be 'no'
Would respond to believers	Responds in unexpected ways
Cannot be all-powerful and not answer everyone's prayers	Some prayers are selfish, would be chaos to answer everyone

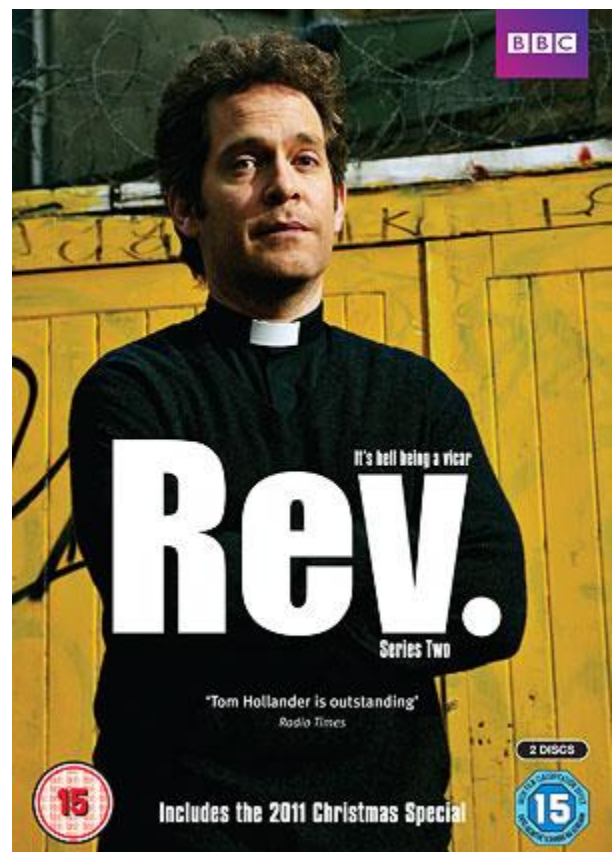
Religion and the Media

The media (TV, radio, film, etc.) can affect a person's attitude towards religion.



The Root of All Evil? is a television documentary, written and presented by Richard Dawkins, in which he argues that the world would be better off without religion.

Rev is a BBC comedy about a vicar of a city parish. It shows him struggling to be a good Christian as well as a husband, etc. He is often shown to be very 'human'.



Some religious programmes show how religion can **benefit** the life of an individual and how it can be a **positive** thing.

Some religious programmes can portray religion as something to laugh at and **ridicule**, or question God's existence. They may suggest religious believers are crazy or there is something **wrong** with being religious.

Section 2 - Matters of Life and Death

Christianity and Life After Death

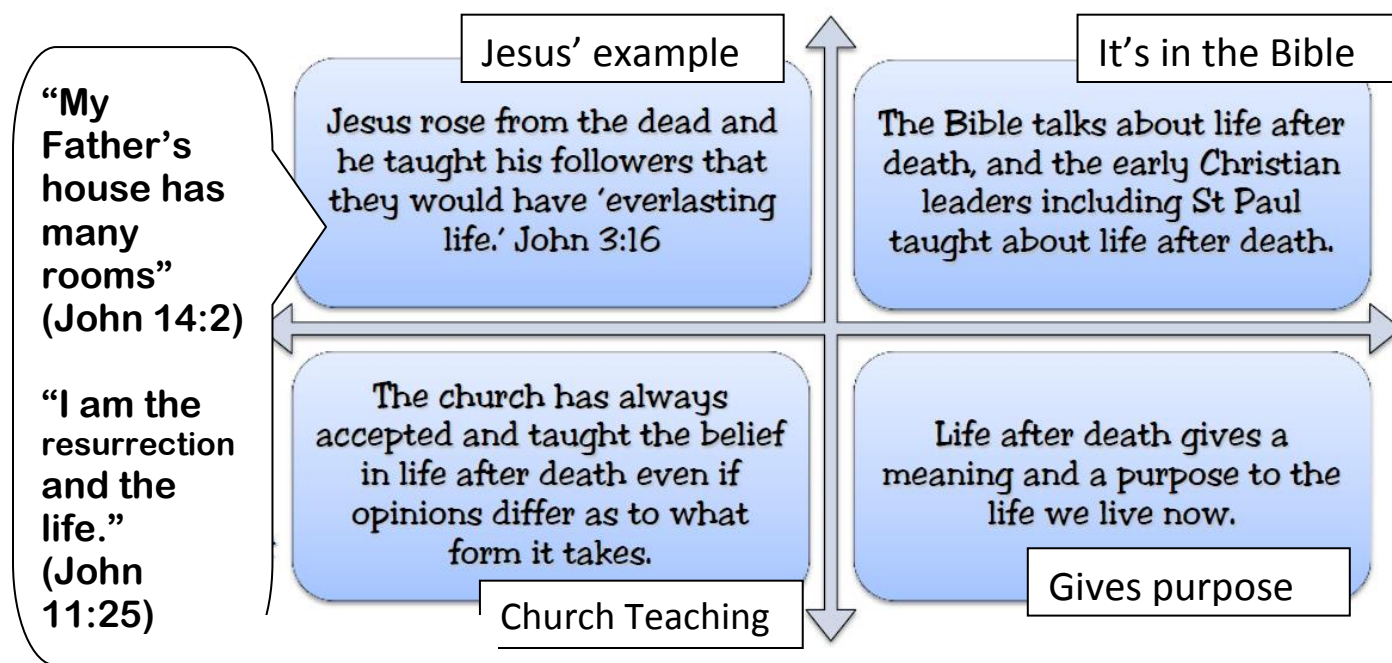
Resurrection: The belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised.

Immortality of the soul: The idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body.

Christians believe in a **life after death**. Most believe that the soul goes to God for **judgement**. Those who have been good will be rewarded in **heaven**, and those who have been bad will go to **hell**. Roman Catholics also believe in a place between heaven and hell called **purgatory** where people's sins have to be forgiven first.

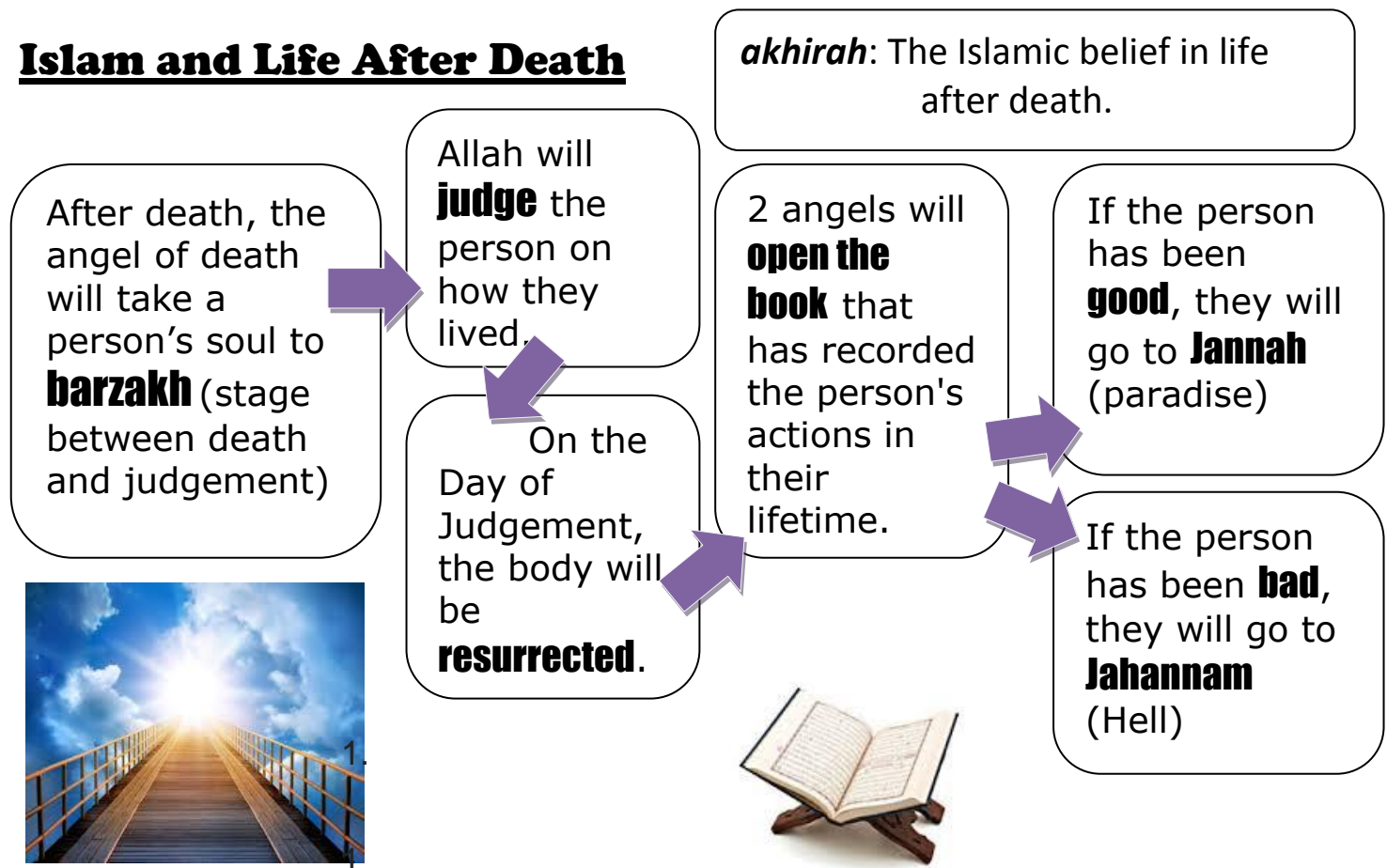


Immortality of the Soul & Life After Death



These beliefs will affect the way Christians live their lives. They will try to live by the teachings of the Bible and the Church because they believe they will be judged. They will try to do good work, put Christian teachings into action, and might pray to God or confess their sins.

Islam and Life After Death



Why Muslims believe in life after death

- The Qur'an says so: 🖐️🖐️ *All things shall in the end return to you, Lord ... He who ordains death and life.* 🖐️🖐️
- It is one of the six fundamental beliefs of Islam
- The hadith recorded that Prophet Muhammad described life after death
- Belief in paradise helps a Muslim face the tests of life.

How beliefs about life after death affect the lives of Muslims

- They follow the teaching of the Qur'an
- They will pray five times a day (Salah)
- Muslims will try to fast in Ramadan (Sawm)
- They will follow the Sunnah – the example of Prophet Muhammad
- They will care for others, especially other Muslims
- They will give to charity (Zakat)
- They will recognise that life is a test when they face difficulties and turn to Allah to help them

Non-Religious Beliefs in Life After Death

Why would a non-religious person believe in life after death?

1. They find the idea of death difficult to cope with
2. Sometimes people feel their deceased loved ones are still around
3. A view that those who lead a good life should be rewarded and the bad punished
4. Earthly life can seem so unfair for some – an afterlife would make things right
5. There is a need to feel that something of who we are carries on after physical death
6. Some people have claimed to experience life after death through a near death experience
7. Some people claim to have experienced paranormal activities

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

Claimed by people after they have been classed as clinically dead for a short period. They often describe feelings of peace; out of body experiences; seeing a bright light; and even meeting deceased relatives.

PARANORMAL

Beliefs in give some people reasons to believe that the spirits, or souls, of the dead live on. Mediums claim evidence for life after death by contacting people's dead relatives and telling them things only their relatives could know.

REINCARNATION

Many people believe that after death the soul is re-born into a new body. People believe the memories of past lives can pass into a person's current life offering evidence for life after death.

Non Belief in Life After Death

There is no evidence of an afterlife. Mediums are only tricking people.

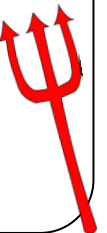


A body decays at death so there is nothing else. Afterlife is impossible..



REASONS FOR NOT BELIEVING IN LIFE AFTER DEATH

Ideas of Heaven and Hell are outdated. The Bible is not relevant.



Science has not proved life after death exists.



Abortion

= the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive



The Law and Abortion

The 1967 'Abortion Act' states **abortion is allowed up to 24 weeks**
TWO doctors must agree that **ONE** of the following is true:

☒ The mother's **life** is at **risk**.

☒ The mother's **physical** or **mental health** may be at risk.

☒ The **wellbeing** of an **existing** child may be at risk with the arrival of an **additional** child.

☒ There is a **substantial risk** the child may be born seriously **handicapped**

The 1990 Act states
abortions cannot take place after 24 weeks unless the mother's
life is at risk.



Whose Rights?

Pro-choice

The belief that the **woman** should be the person to **decide** as it is her **body**.

- A woman should not be **forced** to go through with an **unwanted** pregnancy, especially in rape cases
- Stopping abortions would make women turn to **illegal** 'back street' clinics

• The foetus is a **living** growing being. To destroy it is the same as **killing**.
Disabled children have the **right to life**.
Adoption is an alternative.
True choice would consider the choice of the baby or the father.

Pro-life (anti-abortion)

To protect the life of the **foetus**.
Life begins at **conception**.

Christian Teachings on Abortion

'THE SANCTITY OF LIFE'

Sanctity of Life (SoL): 'Life is precious because God gave it, therefore only God has the right to take it.'

The Bible says,

**'God created
humans in His
own image.'**

Genesis 1:27



The Bible also says, **'The
Lord
God formed man
and breathed
life into him.'**

Genesis 2:7

Almost all Christians will not fully support abortion because of the Sanctity of Life teaching (above). But some Christians will accept that it is necessary sometimes.

Abortion should sometimes be allowed

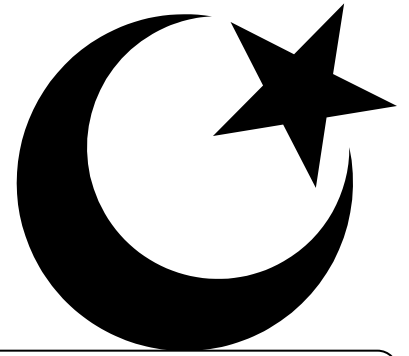
- Life might not begin at conception
- A woman should be able to control her own body
- It could reduce suffering
- Jesus taught compassion
- It might be the kindest action in rape or incest cases
- It is a personal issue

Abortion is always wrong

- Life begins at conception
- Life is sacred
- Ending life is murder: "You shall not murder."
- All life has value
- God has a plan for every human



Muslim Teachings on Abortion



SANCTITY OF LIFE

Life is sacred and a gift from Allah. Abortion must be wrong as it takes away life



ENSOULMENT

Life begins when Allah breathes the soul into the foetus which most Muslims believe happens at 120 days

Some Muslims allow abortion in the first 16 weeks only (before **ensoulment**)

Some argue abortion is allowed in cases of rape

Some Muslims think that the Hadith teaches that ensoulment is at 40 days

Never allowed in situations where parents cannot look after the child because of financial reasons

Different Muslim views on abortion

Unplanned pregnancy is not a reason for abortion

After ensoulment, abortion is allowed if the mother's life is in danger

Euthanasia

= the painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease.

The word 'Euthanasia' comes from two Greek words:



'Eu' (meaning 'good') + 'Thanatos' (meaning 'death') = 'A Good Death'

Or 'The act of bringing about an easy and painless death.'

Different Forms of Euthanasia

Voluntary Euthanasia

- Voluntary euthanasia is carried out at the **request**, and with the **full knowledge** and consent, of the person who dies.

Non-Voluntary Euthanasia

- Non-voluntary euthanasia is ending the life of a person in their **best interest** when they are **incapable** of giving permission themselves.

Assisted Suicide

- Assisted suicide is where an individual provides the means for a terminally ill person to take their own life (e.g. Tablets/overdose).

Active Euthanasia:

Active euthanasia is a direct act of a doctor or other to end the life of an individual. e.g. giving a patient an overdose of pain killers such as morphine.

Passive Euthanasia:

Passive euthanasia is where treatment that would help a person live longer is stopped with the idea of ending the life. e.g. not using life support.



Quality of life = the idea that life must have some benefits for it to be worth living.

The Law

Within the UK there is currently **no law** that **directly** deals with **euthanasia**. However, the act of taking a life is dealt with under **murder** laws, and the 1961 Suicide Act states '*A person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the suicide of another is liable to imprisonment for up to 14 years.*'

Under certain conditions euthanasia is legal in **The Netherlands, Switzerland**



and parts of **Australia**.

Some doctors may give painkillers to ease suffering knowing that the dosage needed would eventually lead to death. This is known as '**Double Effect**' and is the only form of euthanasia the Catholic Church will agree to.



Some people think euthanasia should **remain illegal** because:

- The law protects life
- Some might not want to die but are forced into it
- It is murder and all murder should be illegal
- Doctors should save life, not end it

Some think that it should be **made legal** because:

- It gives a person choice; it allows them to practise their own free will
- Some people want control over what happens in their medical care
- If quality of life is very poor, life is not worth living
- It will allow medical resources to be used to help people who can recover

You can refer to **case studies**, such as:

Tony Nicklinson – who had Locked-in syndrome after a serious stroke – wished for his wife to help him die but not to be prosecuted for murder.

He lost his case and died a week later. (2012)

Also Diane Pretty, Miss B and Christopher Reeve (the Superman actor)



Sir Terry Pratchett died in March 2015. He had campaigned for assisted dying after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. He argued that it was:

"My life, my death, my choice."

Muslim attitudes to Euthanasia



No one should interfere with Allah's creations

Allah chooses how long people live

It is a Muslim's duty to care for sick and elderly

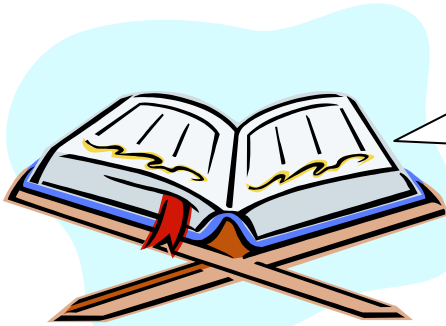
Suffering is a test of faith

Why euthanasia is always wrong for Muslims

All life is valuable

Life is sacred, given by Allah

Euthanasia is suicide which is not permitted

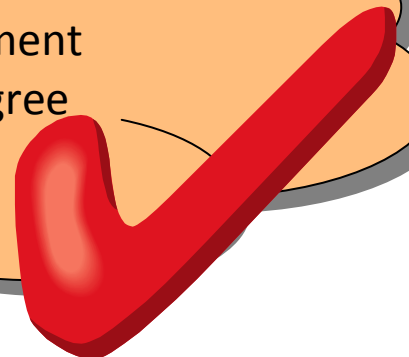


"No one dies unless God permits"

"Those who patiently persevere will truly receive a reward without measure"

Qur'an

Some Muslims do allow terminal patients to choose not to continue with medical treatment if it causing distress. Some Muslims also agree with turning off a life-support machine if nothing more can be done



Christian attitudes to Euthanasia



These are very similar to the Islamic ideas above:

- It goes against the sanctity of life
- It is seen as murder ... “You shall not murder”
- Only God can take life
- Doctors or relatives might make decisions without the patient
- Life should be valued
- No one should judge the value of someone’s life
- Hospices provide good quality pain relief, support and help to prepare the dying and their families.



Media and Matters of Life and Death

It is important that issues about life and death are discussed in the media because they affect everyone, people hold strong opinions and it is good to be aware of different views, they are controversial, there are often developments and the law may change.



Should the media criticise religious views on these issues?



- A variety of views is crucial.
- Religious views may be wrong or out of date
- It is important to debate views as they are always changing



- Religious views should be respected
- They are based on traditional teachings, such as those in the Bible
- The media should present a range of ideas but not criticise

A Short Stay in Switzerland is a film based on the life, illness and death of Dr Anne Turner. She ended her suffering in a Dignitas clinic in Switzerland

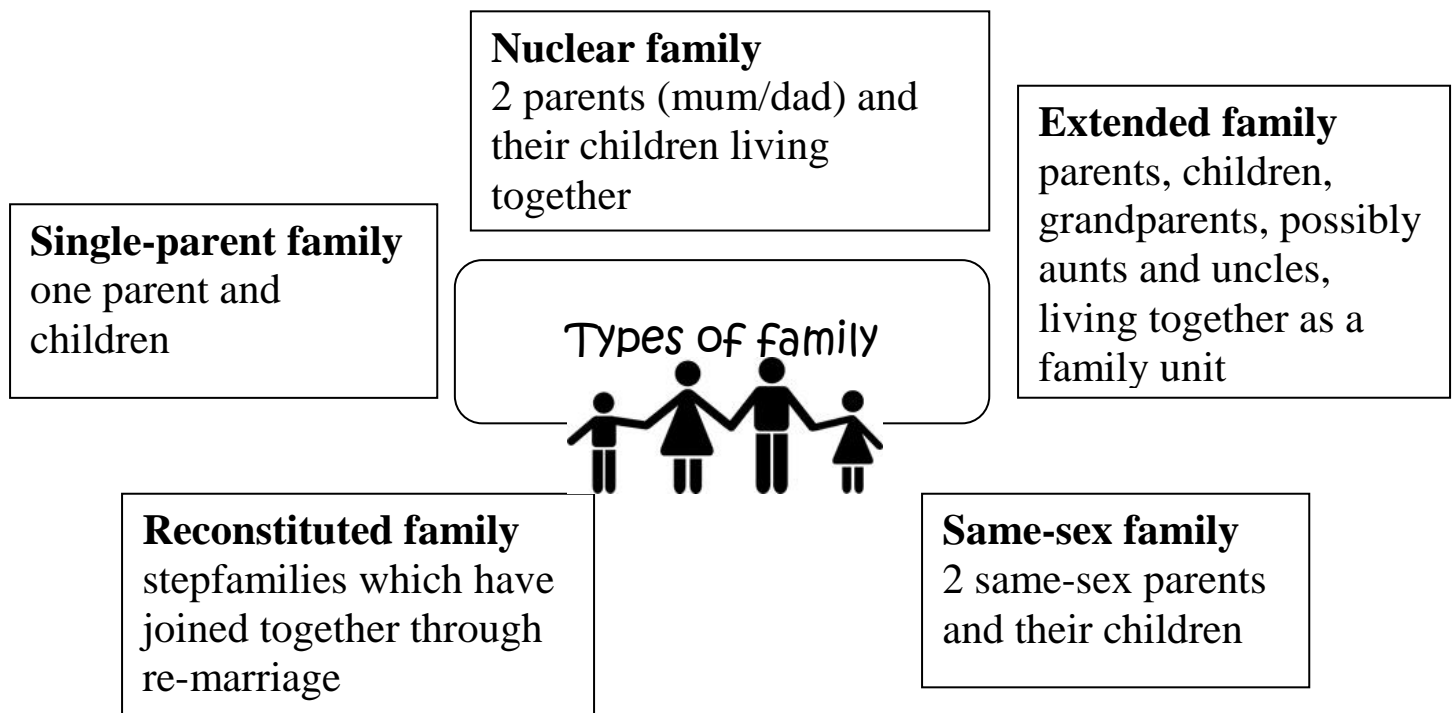
One particular scene in the film involves a religious friend of Dr Turner expressing her concern over suicide. Whilst her opinions are expressed passionately, she is not portrayed by the film makers unfairly as a fundamentalist, and both the woman and her religious views are treated respectfully.



Section 3 - Marriage and Family Life

Changing Attitudes Towards Marriage and Family

1950s			Now
Most young people would not have sex until they were married.	Most babies now are born to unmarried couples.		
Most people would be married in a church.	More single parent families		
Most people would be married by the age of 25.	Many people get married more than once.		
People would have just one or two sexual partners in a lifetime.	Some families have same-sex parents.		
Most households would be a nuclear family.	There are many reconstituted families.		
Divorce was uncommon and shameful	A typical marriage lasts 11 years. Divorce is cheaper and more accepted.		



Christian attitudes to Sex Outside Marriage

Christianity believes these relationships are wrong because:

- Sex was given by God for **procreation** within **marriage**.

'Creation of Humanity'
Genesis Ch 1 & 2

• Jesus says **adultery** and **promiscuity** are wrong.

'Woman at the Well'
John Ch 4

All Christians believe **adultery** is **wrong**:

- It breaks the wedding **vows** to be faithful.
- It is in the **10 commandments**.
- It is condemned by **Jesus** in the Gospels.

Some Christians accept that couples may live together before marriage, but they would say the couple should be committed to each other and marry when they start a family.



• The Church should come to terms with **modern life** and accept this form of commitment.

• Jesus taught that **love** is the most important thing and not **fulfilling rituals**.



Muslim attitudes to Sex Outside Marriage

cohabitation
pre-marital sex



adultery
promiscuity

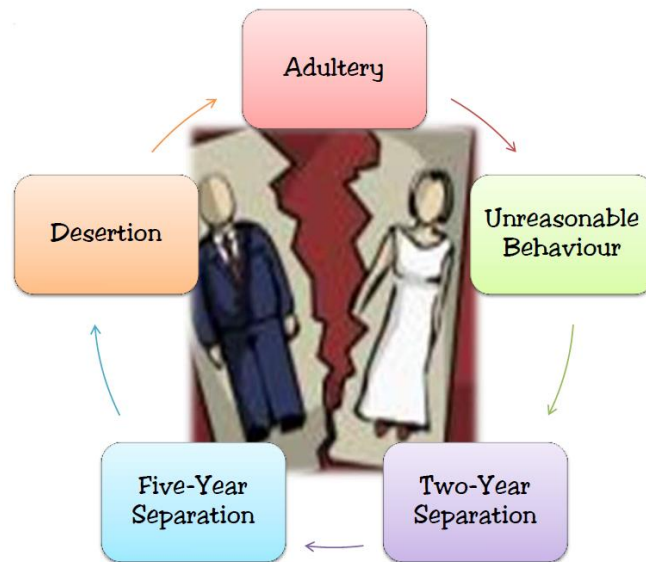
Sex outside marriage is **strictly forbidden** in Islam, because it is taught that:

- Sex should be kept special, only for marriage.
- Adultery is a sin and forbidden by Allah.
- All Muslims are encouraged to marry and enjoy sex, which is for procreation.
- Children should only be born in marriage.
- Shari'ah law gives severe penalties for anyone who has sex outside marriage.

Divorce

= The legal separation of a married couple

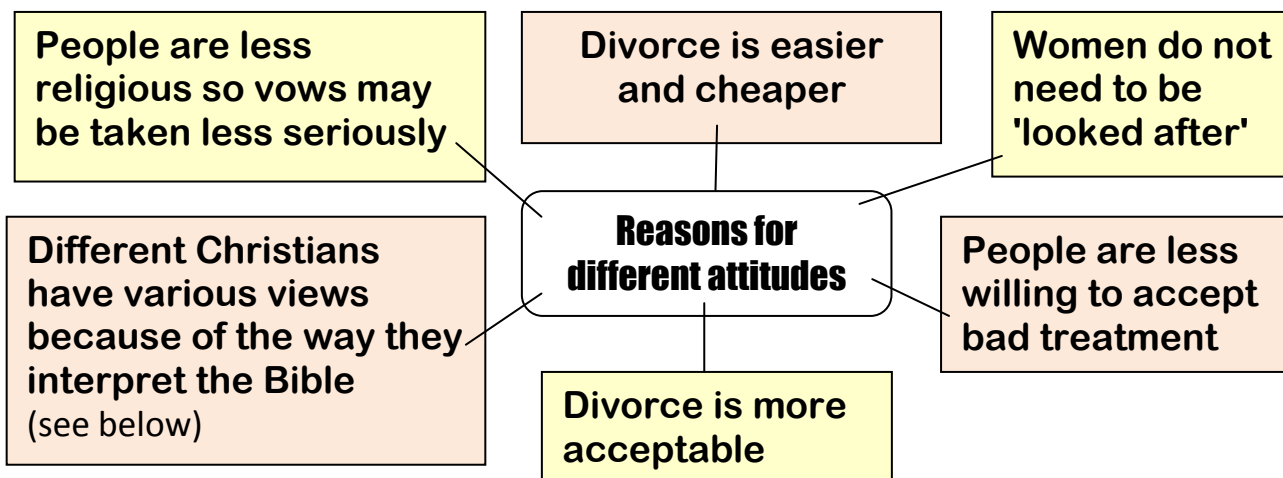
The '**Family Law Act 1996**', states the marriage must have **irretrievably** broken down. The person requesting the divorce must **prove**, to a court of law, one of the following...



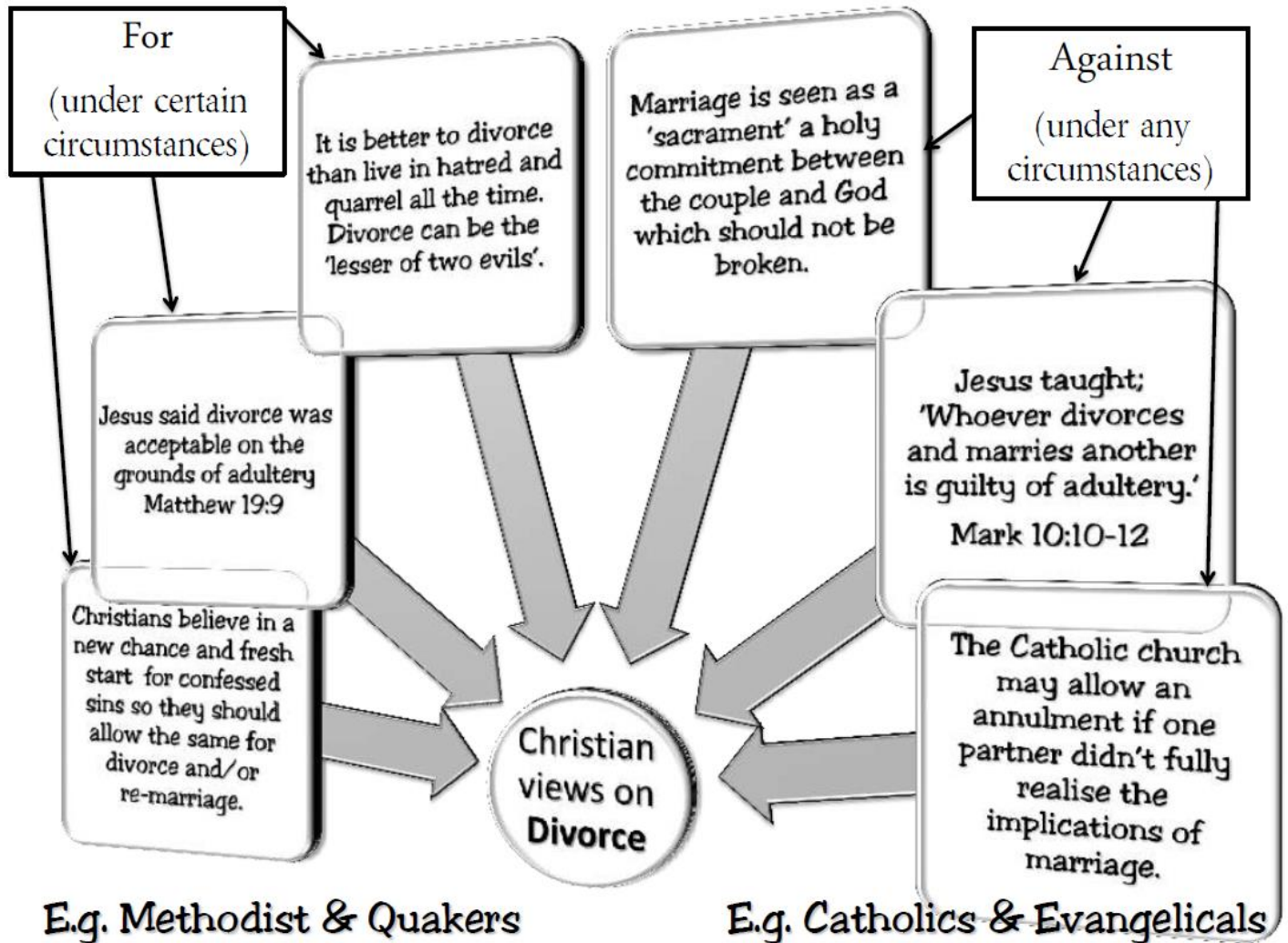
In **1936 King Edward VIII** was forced to give up his position as King as he fell in love and wanted to marry an American divorced woman, **Mrs Wallace Simpson**.



In **2005 Prince Charles**, a divorced man, married **Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles**, a divorced woman. Charles is in line to become the next King of the UK and Commonwealth.



Christian Views on Divorce



Muslim Views on Divorce

In Islam, marriage is a contract, not a promise to Allah, which means Muslims can legally get divorced. The Qur'an allows divorce. It is not liked but is a last resort.

The Hadith says:

The most detestable act that Allah has permitted is divorce.



Family of the couple help the couple to resolve their differences

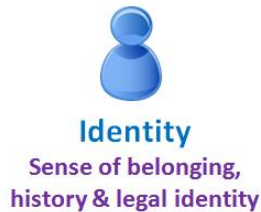
3 month waiting period. Couple live together without having sex.

Husband announces 3 times in front of witnesses 'I divorce you.'

No blame is attached to either party. Both are free to remarry and this is encouraged.

At the end of 3 months, if wife is not pregnant, the marriage ends.

Family Life



The family unit is the most **influential** social group. These relationships **shape** us. Family life has changed over the decades and there are many **different types** of family units. (See above, Types of family)

In both Christianity and Islam, family life is very important.

Family Life in Islam

The Importance of Muslim Family Life

Family life is the first level of community in Islam. It is the foundation.



Families provide care and comfort to one another. The Qur'an says that on the Last Day they will be judged so they must do this to the best of their ability.

'Be careful in your duty to Allah and be fair and just to your children.' (Hadith)

The family is where children are raised as good Muslims.



The Qur'an teaches that children should care for their parents.

The Qur'an teaches that children should treat their parents with honour and kindness.

A Hadith teaches that Muslims should take care of their mothers if they wish

Muslims should follow the example of the Prophet Muhammad.

'... show kindness to your parents. enter paradise.

'Paradise lies at the feet of your mother.'

'Your children have the right to receive equal treatment as you have the right that they should honour you.'
(Hadith)

'I have never seen anyone more kind to one's family that [the Prophet Muhammad].'
(Hadith)

Family Life in Christianity



The Christian Family

The family is where children are raised to believe in God.

They follow the example of the life of Jesus, who was raised in a family.

God started the family in the book of Genesis.

All Christian Churches teach that the family is an important part of society.



The Bible shows that parents and children have specific roles to care for each other.

The family is the most secure place to have children.

The family is where children learn their morals; the difference between right and wrong.

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)

Be fruitful and increase in number.
(Genesis 1:28)

The family remains the most important grouping human beings have ever developed. Children thrive, grow and develop within the love and safeguarding of a family (Church of England Website)

Homosexuality

= The sexual attraction of one person to another person of the same gender.

- **1967** homosexual acts between consenting adults over **21** was legalised.
- **1994** lowered to **18**.
- **2000** lowered to **16**.
- **2005** Introduction of '**Civil Partnerships**' giving a homosexual couple **similar** rights to a **married** heterosexual couple.



The law to allow same-sex marriage in **England and Wales** came in on 13 March 2014



Christian Attitudes to Homosexuality

Christianity is **divided** over the views on homosexuality. There are some who say that it is wrong, some who say that homosexual activity is wrong and there are increasing numbers of Christians who believe that it should be accepted.



↪ Some **fundamentalist** Christian Churches believe homosexuality is a sin. Even homosexual **thoughts** are considered sinful

These Christians will sometimes offer to pray for homosexuals to be **cured** of their sinful thoughts. They believe these things because...

• St Paul writes in the **New Testament**; 'Some men and women have exchanged natural relationships for unnatural ones and have committed indecent acts with each other.'
Romans 1:26-27

• The **Old Testament** in the Bible states; 'It is an abomination for a man to lie with another man as he does with a woman.'
Leviticus 18:11



Some **Conservative & Catholic** Christians feel homosexual **desires** are not a sin. However homosexual **activity** is a sin and people with homosexual desires should remain **celibate**.



The Bible clearly outlines a belief that homosexual activity is wrong.

Christian teaching states that sex should be kept within the marriage relationship. Homosexuals relationships are not classed as marriage.

Homophobia is wrong because the Christian belief in love and acceptance states that people should be accepted irrespective of their sexuality.

Individuals are not responsible for the desires they feel, only for how they act upon those desires.



Some **liberal** Christians believe there should be complete **equality** and acceptance for homosexuals provided that their relationship is a stable and loving one. Jesus said **nothing** about homosexuality but taught **love**. Some Christians believe God does not condemn people for doing what they believe is natural.

Muslim Attitudes to Homosexuality

The traditional teaching on homosexuality in Islam is that it is totally wrong and forbidden. This is because sex should only exist within a marriage in Islam, so any other sexual activity is forbidden.

forbidden in the Qur'an

Punishable by death in Shari'ah law

A threat to society because family life is so central to Islamic society

Cannot produce children

Some modern Muslims do offer support to Muslim homosexuals so they are not excluded



Contraception

= intentionally preventing pregnancy from occurring



People may choose to use contraception because they have decided it is not appropriate for them to have children. This may be because: they want to plan when to a family; they think they are too

young/old; one/both carries a genetic condition; their lifestyle is not compatible with having a child.

Muslim Attitudes to Contraception

Muslims are divided on their views about the use of contraception but all agree that children are a gift from Allah. Because sex is only permitted in marriage, contraception can only be considered by married couples.



Some Muslims oppose the use of contraception ... because having children is very important. Sterilisation is forbidden.



Some Muslims say it is more acceptable if the family, existing children or new child would suffer.



Other Muslims say it is acceptable if the life or health of the mother is put at risk, because Muhammad approved and Muslim authorities allow it.

Christian Attitudes to Contraception

Christians believe life comes from God. They believe God wants people to reproduce. Some think using contraception is stopping God from creating life and humans shouldn't try to stop God doing what he wants.

Creation story in Genesis 1

- God creates humanity in his own image



Creation story in Genesis 2

- God creates concept of marriage
- God tells humanity to reproduce

Others believe we should be responsible and use contraception to stop unwanted pregnancies.

Christianity & Contraception

FOR:

- God has given humanity a 'gift from medical science' so it is right to use. (Baptist Church)
- God wants people to be responsible and not have more children than they can look after. It is better to use contraception than have an abortion (Church of England)
- Sexual intercourse was not solely designed for procreation but as a means of uniting a couple. (Methodist Church)

AGAINST:

- Intercourse was designed by God as a means for procreation. For humanity to artificially stop that event is to block God from doing his will.
- Any action used as a means to make procreation impossible is intrinsically evil. People should use natural forms of birth control.
- Contraception is a major cause of sexual promiscuity, broken families and a rise in the rate of STIs. (Catholic Church)

Section 4 - Religion and Community Cohesion

Community Cohesion

= a shared sense of belonging for all groups in society

The UK as a multi-ethnic society

Multi-ethnic Society

= many different races and cultures living together in one society



The **advantages** and **disadvantages** of living in an multi-ethnic society are:

BENEFITS

- *People of different ethnic groups will form relationships and bring more peace.
- *More progress will happen due to more people with different ideas.
- *Life is more interesting with a greater variety of food, music and culture.
- *UK has highly skilled workforce from migrants

PROBLEMS

- *Cultural differences can lead to clashes, e.g. Oldham race riots
- *Ignorance can lead to racial discrimination, e.g. being turned down for job
- *Racism and discrimination can lead to groups like the BNP stirring up hatred.



What can be done to promote community cohesion?

Passing laws such as the **Race Relations Act** (1976) and the **Crime and Disorder Act** (1998) and the **Race and Religious Hatred Act** (2006) which make it illegal to discriminate against people or encourage hatred due to race or religion.

The Law & Racism

The Race Relations Act 1976

- It is unlawful to **discriminate** against anyone because of race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin in regard to jobs, training, housing, education, and services.
- It is unlawful to use **threatening, abusive or insulting** words in public that could stir up in racial **hatred**.
- It is unlawful to **publish** anything that is likely to cause racial **hatred**.

Leading to...

The Commission for Racial Equality

- An organisation set up by the Government in 1976 to **enforce** the Race Relations Act.
- To **advise** the **Government** on how the law was working and any necessary **alterations**.
- To **promote** the concept of **equal opportunities**.



The **government** tries to encourage all people in the UK to live and work together peacefully by: getting different communities to live together; getting people to appreciate and value differences; making strong and positive relationships; ensuring equal opportunities for all.



Religions are working to promote community cohesion in the UK by:

- working together to promote Community Cohesion
- meeting together to complete community projects
- holding open days to educate people of different faiths
- representatives working with the government on policies
- producing booklets to help others understand their beliefs
- joining interfaith groups
- supporting events like Interfaith Week
- raising money for charities together

Racial Harmony

= different races/colours living happily together

Islam and Racial Harmony

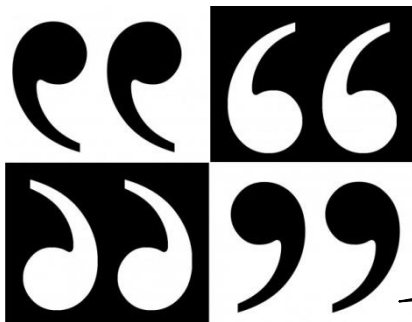
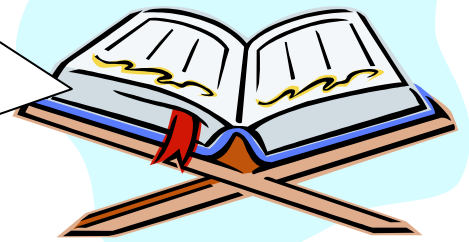
Islam is expected to promote racial harmony because of passages in the Qur'an, the teachings (Hadith) and example (Sunnah) of the Prophet Muhammad and the idea of Ummah

"I am the Messenger of Allah to you all"

"We have created you ... peoples and tribes that you may know one another."

"the diversity of your tongues and colours. Surely there are signs in this for all mankind."

Qur'an



"All people are equal ... as the teeth of a comb"

"All Allah's creatures are His family."

Hadith

Muhammad said in his last sermon: "Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood."

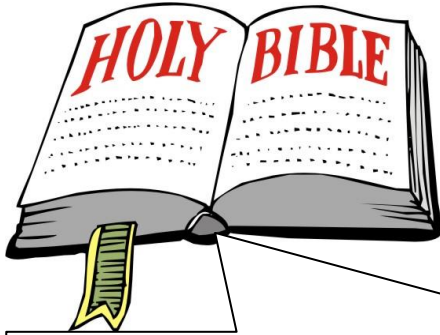
Muhammad also chose Bilal, a black African Muslim, to call people to prayer.

Ummah - which is the brotherhood of Islam - is an important idea. Muslims show unity by standing shoulder to shoulder in prayer and when they go on the pilgrimage Hajj to Makkah.



Christianity and Racial Harmony

All Christians believe racism is wrong as the **Bible** teaches that everyone is equal. So the Christian churches have united to fight racism.



The Parable of the **Good Samaritan** teaches that people should follow God's command to love one another, not judge others and not treat others badly because they are different.

"From one human being he created all races on earth and made them live throughout the whole earth." (Acts)

"So God created human beings, making them to be like himself." (Genesis)

"God treats everyone on the same basis." (Acts)

Jesus encountered people of other races and there is evidence that he mixed with them freely. All Christians believe racism is wrong as the Bible teaches that everyone is equal.

There are examples of **modern Christian leaders** who have campaigned against racism. For example, Archbishop Desmond Tutu worked for equality in South Africa whilst Nelson Mandela was in prison.



Archbishop Dr John Sentamu campaigns against racism and all forms of discrimination because he has been a victim of racist hate mail.

Also Martin Luther King fought for equal rights for black people in America because of his Christian belief that all people should be treated equally.



Multi-Faith Society

Multi-faith society = Where people of different faiths live together in one society.

Religious pluralism = Accepting all religions as equally valid and correct and can all coexist.



Religious freedom = the right to practise and change your religion.

As the UK has become more multi-ethnic, it has also become a more multi-faith society. It encourages religious pluralism and offers religious freedom to all.

There have been challenges such as some people not always being understanding towards the beliefs of others; examples of religious hatred; tension between religious groups and the beliefs of some religious groups being ignored. However, there are many benefits to a multi-faith society.

Do not see other religions as a threat, but can join in with the fun

Increased understanding reduces conflict

Development of interfaith marriage ceremonies

Can experience other religions first hand rather than from prejudiced reports

The many benefits of living in a multi-faith society

Encouragement of bringing children up in more than 1 faith

Working together to share festivals and other religious times

No one faith can control the views of the population

People can freely worship as they wish



Issues for a Multi-Faith Society

Conversion: one group of religious believers may try to convert another to their faith, which could cause conflict

Issues raised for multi-faith society

Interfaith marriage: when 2 members of different religions get married, which may cause conflict between families



Raising children: within interfaith marriages, both parents may want to raise the children in their own faith. This might cause confusion.



Paths to God

Exclusive

Some Christians are **exclusive**, this means they believe **only** those people who follow **Jesus**, and live by his **teachings**, will go to **heaven**. They might try to convert others.

Inclusive

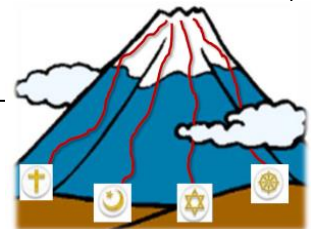
Some Christians believe you should only go to heaven by accepting Jesus, and his teachings, but, some **non-Christians** may also be able to go to heaven.

Religious Pluralism

Accepting **all** religions as equally **valid** and **correct**. Hick pictures **religion** like **mountain paths**. People take different **routes**.



Community Cohesion in the Media



The **media** deals with religious and community cohesion issues. The news might present issues of public concern but must not encourage racism; discussion programmes have debates on religious themes; soap operas often promote understanding on an issue in society; and documentaries deal with controversial issues.

The film, Bend it Like Beckham, portrays Sikhs living in a multi-faith environment. Sikh values are seen as positive;. Jesminda lives a normal "British" live in many ways, playing football and doing school work. The film laughs at both cultures, showing how life is difficult for parents and teenagers in both cultures. It is the difficulties between generations which cause problems, not between religious groups. It shows how people can get on together and share interests. It shows that we have more in common than differences. It shows that the problems can be overcome if we listen to each other.

Gender Equality

Equality = The state of everyone having equal rights.

Changing role of Women



- Traditionally women had stayed at home to look after the children
- During the World Wars. Women had to take on the jobs of men
- Women were given the right to vote
- Then women given equal pay rights

Changing role of Men



- Traditionally men had gone out to work to provide for the family
- Men will now have a more active role in raising children and in the home
- Men are more willing to do tasks and jobs that had been seen as 'women's work'.

Women make up **84%** of workers in the **service industries** (care assistants, child minders, hairdressers, checkout staff etc.).
Men make up **66%** of all **senior officials** (managers and business professionals).
(2001 Census)

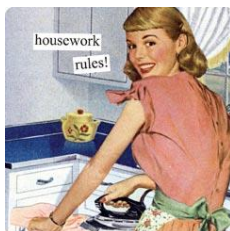
Why have the roles changed?

- Easier to divorce from 1969
- Availability of contraception from 1960s
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- Paid paternity leave from 2011
- UN Declaration of Human Rights includes equality for all no matter of race or gender.



Equality now?

- Men and women have equal rights
- Inequalities still exist
- Girls achieve higher grades in exams
- Men can earn 17% more than women for same job



Religious Attitudes to Equal Rights for Women

Christian Attitudes to Equal Rights for Women



Most Christians believe men and women are **equal** whilst Catholic Christians believe they are equal but were given **different roles** by **God**.

Women and the Church

The **Catholic Church** do not accept women as priests:

'The **Lord** chose **men** to form his **12 disciples** and the **apostles** did the same when they chose their successors. For this reason the **ordination of women** is not possible.'



The **Church of England** have officially accepted the **ordination of women**; but some churches still **refuse** to employ a woman as a their **vicar**.

'Ordination' is when the Church officially recognises a person as a priest/vicar etc.



The **Methodist Church** has allowed women to hold **any level of leadership** within the church for many years.

'Wives submit to your husband... for the husband is head of the wife.'

Ephesians 5:22

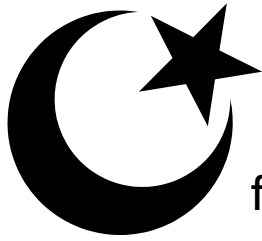
'Women must remain silent in church, they are not allowed to speak.'

1 Corinthians 14:34

'God created humanity in his own image, male and female he created them both.' Genesis 1:27

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ.' Galatians 3:28

Muslim Attitudes to Equal Rights for Women



In Islam, the traditional attitude is that men and women have different roles because the Qur'an teaches that men should support women and provide for family.

But the **modern attitude** is that both sexes have **equal rights** because the Qur'an teaches men and women are equal in religion and education. There were women **religious leaders** in the early days of Islam. There are many effective **female imams** around the world.

It is written in a Hadith:

"All people are equal ... as the teeth of a comb."



Equal but different?

Men	Women
The Qur'an says that men should protect women.	Required to have children.
Men should provide for their wife and children.	Expected to look after the home and children.
Should dress modestly in loose clothing from naval to knee.	Should dress modestly in loose clothing.
Should attend the mosque for prayer.	Are not expected to attend the Mosque for prayer, but many do.
Worship separately.	

Keywords

The (a) question always asks for the simplest form of knowledge and for you to give the meaning of a key word. It is worth 2 marks. Learn the keywords ...



Section 1

Believing in God

- Agnosticism :** Not being sure if god exists or not.
- Atheist :** Believing that God does not exist.
- Conversion:** Changing from one religion to another or from not following a religion to following one.
- Free Will:** The idea that humans are free to make their own choices.
- Miracle:** Something that breaks the laws of science and makes you think only God could have done it.
- Moral Evil:** Actions done by humans which cause suffering.
- Natural Evil:** Things which cause suffering but were not caused by humans.
- Numinous:** The feeling of the presence of something greater than you.
- Omnipotent:** The belief that God is all-powerful.
- Omniscient:** The belief that God is all-knowing.
- Omnibenevolent:** The belief that God is all-good and kind.
- Prayer:** An attempt to communicate with God, usually through words.



Section 2

Matters of Life and Death

Abortion: the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive.

Assisted Suicide: helping a seriously ill person to commit suicide.

Euthanasia: bringing about a premature but painless and gentle death.

Immortality of the Soul: the idea that the soul lives on after death.

Near-Death Experience: when someone about to die has an out of body experience.

Non-Voluntary Euthanasia: ending someone's life painlessly in their best interest when they are incapable of requesting death themselves .

Paranormal: unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes e.g. ghosts, mediums.

Quality of Life: the idea that life must feel like it is worth living.

Reincarnation: when souls, after death, are reborn in a new body.

Resurrection: when after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised.

Sanctity of Life: the belief that life is holy and comes from God.

Voluntary Euthanasia: ending life painlessly when someone in great pain requests death.



Section 3

Marriage and Family Life

Adultery: A sexual act between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner.

Civil Partnership: A legal ceremony giving a homosexual couple similar legal rights as a husband and wife.

Cohabitation: Living together without being married.

Contraception: Living together without being married.

Faithfulness: Staying with your marriage partner and having sex only with them.

Homosexuality: Sexual attraction to the same sex.

Nuclear Family: Mother, father and children living as a unit.

Pre-marital Sex: Having sex before marriage.

Procreation: To bring about a new life in the form of a child.

Promiscuity: Having sex with a number of partners without commitment.

Re-constituted Family: Where two sets of children (stepbrothers/sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other.

Re-marriage: Marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage.



Section 4 Community Cohesion

Community Cohesion: A shared sense of belonging for all groups in society.

Prejudice: Believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them.

Discrimination: Treating people unfairly because of their race, colour, gender, class, age, etc.

Ethnic Minority: An ethnic group smaller than the majority group.

Sexism: Discriminating against people because of their gender (sex).

Racism: Discriminating against people because of their race or colour.

Multi-Ethnic Society: Where different races and cultures live together in one society.

Racial Harmony: A society where different ethnic groups live together happily.

Multi-Faith Society: Where people of different faiths live together in one society.

Religious Freedom: The right to practice your religion and change your religion if you want to.

Religious Pluralism: Accepting all religions as equally valid and correct and can all coexist.

Interfaith Marriage: Marriage where each partner is from a different religion.

The (a) question - this will be the definition of a keyword, worth 2 marks, only write a short sentence

e.g. **What is atheism? (2)**

Partly correct answer	1 mark
Correct answer	2 marks

The (b) question - this will be a question asking for 2 reasons for your opinion

e.g. **"Do you think abortion should be legal?"**

Do you agree? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Level 1	Your opinion + brief reason	1 mark
Level 2	Your opinion + 2 brief reasons OR Your opinion + 1 expanded reason	2 marks
Level 3	Your opinion + 1 brief reason and 1 expanded reason	3 marks
Level 4	Your opinion + 2 expanded reason	4 marks

The (c) question - this question tests your understanding, it **does not** ask for your opinion. Starting with **Explain how / why ...**

Level 1	One brief reason Not explaining but describing the issue	1-2 mark
Level 2	Two brief reasons OR One expanded reason	3-4 marks
Level 3	Three brief reasons OR One fully-developed reason OR Two reasons with one expanded	5-6 marks
Level 4	Four brief reasons OR Two expanded reasons OR Three reasons with one expanded	7-8 marks

The (d) question - again asking for your opinion and reasons about an issue as well as alternative views and reasons. It will have a **statement** then ...

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (3 marks)

Explain why some people may disagree with you (3 marks)

Level 1	One brief reason	1 mark
Level 2	Two brief reasons OR One expanded reason	2 marks
Level 3	Three brief reasons OR One fully-developed reason OR Two expanded reasons OR Three brief reasons	3 marks

Sample questions to test yourself:

(a) questions – worth 2 marks – use the keywords list (above) to test yourself

- What is **sanctity of life**?
- What does **numinous** mean?
- What is **pre-marital sex**?
- What does **religious pluralism** mean?
- What is meant by **interfaith marriage**?
- What is **immortality of the soul**?
- What does **adultery** mean?

(b) questions – worth 4 marks – for each one you are asked:

“Do you think that ... ? Give two reasons for your point of view.

- ‘... all religious people should accept divorce.’
- ‘... religious people do enough to combat racism.’
- ‘... Christians must believe in life after death.’
- ‘... men and women can never be equal, biology has fixed that.’
- ‘... Muslims should never allow euthanasia.’
- ‘... the causation argument proves there is a God.’

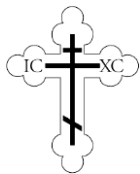
(c) questions - worth 8 marks

- Explain why abortion is a controversial issue.
- Choose *one religion other than Christianity* and explain why its followers should work to create racial harmony.
- Explain why the scientific explanations of the origins of the world may lead some people not to believe in God.
- Explain how an issue of religion or community cohesion was tackled by one form of the media.
- Explain why unanswered prayers may cause some people to believe that God does not exist and some to remain believers.
- Explain why followers of *one religion other than Christianity* believe in life after death.

(d) questions – worth 6 marks – for each one you are asked:

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion and (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you and to refer to at least one religion

- ‘Euthanasia is just another name for murder.’
- ‘Christians don't believe in sex outside of marriage.’
- ‘Making laws to outlaw racism is the best way to encourage community cohesion.’
- ‘Capital punishment can never be fair.’
- ‘Promoting community cohesion is the best thing a religion can do.’
- ‘God should not allow evil and suffering to happen.’
- ‘Programmes and films cannot affect a person's beliefs in God.’



The Mark Scheme

EdExcel Religious Studies

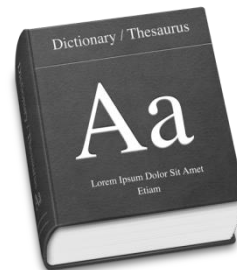


The (a) question

KEYWORDS:

Remember to
learn all
keywords

Partially correct definition/answer	1 mark
Correct answer	2 marks



The (b) question

OPINIONS:

LEVEL 1	▪ Your opinion + brief reason	1 mark
LEVEL 2	▪ Your opinion + two brief reasons ▪ Your opinion + one expanded reason	2 marks
LEVEL 3	▪ Your opinion + one brief and one expanded reason	3 marks
LEVEL 4	▪ Your opinion + two expanded reasons	4 marks

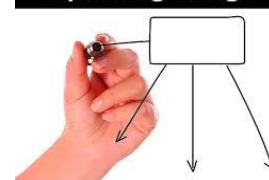


The (c) question

EXPLANATION:

LEVEL 1	▪ One brief reason ▪ Not explaining but describing the issue	1-2 marks
LEVEL 2	▪ Two brief reasons ▪ One expanded reason	3-4 marks
LEVEL 3	▪ Three brief reasons ▪ Two reasons with one expanded ▪ One fully-developed reason	5-6 marks
LEVEL 4	▪ Four brief reasons ▪ Two expanded reasons ▪ Three reasons with one expanded	7-8 marks

Explaining Things



The (d) question

EVALUATION:

LEVEL 1	▪ Opinion + brief reason	1 mark
LEVEL 2	▪ Opinion + two brief reasons ▪ Opinion + one expanded reason	2 marks
LEVEL 3	▪ Opinion + one brief and one expanded reason ▪ Opinion + three brief reasons	3 marks



Do You Know? A and C questions are about **KNOWLEDGE**
What do you think? B and D questions are about your **OPINIONS**