

Islam - Beliefs & Teachings

Component Knowledge

Tawhid— means 'oneness'; the fundamental belief that Allah is the one and only God and has no equals or partners.
Risalah (prophets)— the messengers of Allah; including Adam, Ibrahim, Musa, Dawid, Isa and ending with Muhammad.
Malaikah (angels) — heavenly and immortal beings created by Allah; forming a channel of communication from Allah to humans.
Muhammad (pbuh) — the last and greatest prophet to whom the Qur'an was revealed by the Angel Jibril; he established the Shari'ah.
Akhirah (afterlife) — means 'afterlife'; Muslims believe that all souls will be either rewarded in paradise (Jannah) or punished in hell (Jahannam) depending on how faithfully they lived on earth.
Al Qadr— 'destiny'; nothing takes place purely by chance. Allah knows and wills all future events.

Core Questions

How and why do Muslims show 'submission' to Allah?

Is belief in angels still important for Muslims today?

What are Muslim beliefs about the afterlife?

If Allah has a plan for all of us are we truly free?

Why is Muhammad referred to as 'the seal of the prophets'?

Risalah & Malaikah



The channel of communication between God and humanity is called **risalah**; the prophets are our guides. They are human beings but their **wisdom comes from God**.

Angels are invisible and exist throughout the universe. They have no physical bodies and are always in contact with humans, especially during prayer.

Angel Jibril = responsible for delivering the Qur'an to Muhammad.

He told Muhammad to **'recite'** the words from Allah.

GOD'S PLAN

Mika'il (Micheal) - keeps the devil out of heaven; protects faithful worshippers; brings sustenance and rainfall.

Israfil (Raphael) - blows the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.

Azrail—takes souls at death.

Raqid & Atid—noble recorders

Munkar & Nakir—questioning angels

Ibrahim
aka Abraham - first hanif/monotheist - greatest prophet before Isa & Muhammad

Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet - known as the 'seal of the prophets'.

Isa
aka Jesus—descendant of Dawid - a prophet who was 'strengthened by the Holy Spirit'

Adam
1st man—created by God and appointed

Musa and Dawud
Moses & David—great leaders known for establishing the first scriptures (Moses—the Ten Commandments) and Jerusalem as a holy place.

Core Beliefs

5

THE FIVE ROOTS OF RELIGION (USUL-AD-DIN)

Nubuwwah (prophethood) - belief in the prophets.

Adalat (angels) - belief in the justice of God.

Qayamat (resurrection) - belief that on the day of Judgement there will be a physical resurrection.

Tawhid (God) - belief in tawhid (oneness) of God

Imamate (the afterlife) - belief in the 12 infallible imams which lead Islam after the death of Muhammad.

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THE SIX ARTICLES OF FAITH

Risalah (prophethood) - belief in the prophets

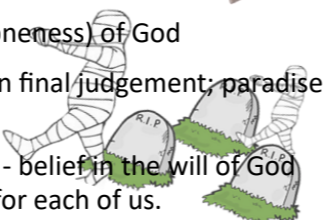
Malaikah (angels) - belief in the angels

Kutub (holy books) - Qur'an, Hadith, Torah, Psalms & Gospels

Allah (God) - belief in tawhid (oneness) of God

Akhirah (the afterlife) - belief in final judgement; paradise & hell

Al-Qadr (God's predestination) - belief in the will of God and the destiny he has set out for each of us.



"So I have warned you of a fire which is blazing, where none will burn except the most wicked... those who have turned away" Hadith

"You must believe in Allah, his angels, his holy books, his messengers, in the Last Day and in fate (both in its good and in its evil aspects)." Hadith

PREDESTINATION

Allah

The Qur'an and the Hadith have 99 different 'names' for God; using words that describe his qualities and attributes. They use names like: King, Protector, Wise, Eternal, Light, etc.

Reciting these names has been a powerful form of prayer for Muslims throughout the centuries. They use prayer beads to help them keep track when reciting them.

ALLAH IS ONE



The single most important belief in Islam is Tawhid, the oneness and unity of God. There is one God (Allah) who is the universal God of all humanity.

Muslims believe that God is:
Immanent: Close by
Transcendent: Beyond all things; not limited by nature
Omniscient: All-knowing
Beneficent: Always kind; loving
Merciful: Fair; God forgives if we are sorry
Judge: on the last day, God will be our judge
Creator: God is the beginning; he is the cause of all that exists

Hanifs

Fitrah

Islam teaches that we are all born with an instinctive need for God called **fitrah**.

Taqwa

Before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, in pre-Islamic Arabia, there were groups of people known as **hanifs**. The hanifs rejected idol/polytheistic worship which was more widely practiced; they believed in one Supreme God.

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The desire for a personal relationship with God. Muslims try to live in a state of **taqwa**, the awareness of God.

Muhammad (pbuh)

Muhammad was born in Makkah in 570CE, but by the age of 6 he was an orphan. He gained a reputation for truthfulness and intelligence. In his twenties he married a wealthy merchant named Khadijah and had four daughters, and two sons (who sadly died in infancy).

Night of Power

One night in 610CE, Angel Jibril appeared before Muhammad and ordered him to recite the words that miraculously appeared before him. Muslims call this event **Laylat-ul-Qadr** (Night of Power) and they remember it today on the 27th day of Ramadan. It is one of the holiest days of the Muslim year.

"I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and the example of my life (the Sunnah). If you follow these you will not fail." (Muhammad's final sermon in Makkah)

It became clear that his life was in danger. Ali (Muhammad's cousin) insisted on staying behind in Makkah, to act as a decoy, whilst Muhammad escaped. This migration of Muhammad from Makkah to Madinah is known as the **Hijrah**. It marks the start of the Muslim calendar.

By 630CE he has gained enough support across Arabia to march on Makkah with an army of 10,000 men. Faced with this overwhelming force, the rulers of the city conceded defeat and opened the gates. Makkah was taken without the shedding of a drop of blood.



Makkah was a centre for pagan pilgrims who came to worship the idols in the Ka'ba, bringing great wealth into the city. Muhammad began preaching openly that the worship of idols offends God and that these idols were no more than useless bits of wood and stone.

Prophet Muhammad's message

The message brought to the people of Makkah was:

- There is **one true God**, Lord of goodness and power
- We need to **show thanks to God** through worship
- There will be a **judgement day**

Akhirah (afterlife)

Barzakh

The souls of people who have died before the Day of Judgement will be taken by the angel of death, Azra'il. They will be kept in a state of **barzakh** (waiting) until the sound of the final trumpet is heard.

Hell (Jahannam) is a state of torment and suffering. The wicked, those whom God has damned, will fail to pass over the **As-Sirat Bridge**. In trying to cross they will fall into hell, which is a place of terror, where the damned will face boiling water, scorching fire and black smoke.

WAITING ROOM

Signs of the End of the World

Earthquakes, chaos, violence, rejection of Islam, return of Isa (Jesus), appearance of the **Madhi** and Angel **Israfil** blows the trumpet throughout the world.



"In Paradise I prepare for you what the deepest mind could ever fathom" Qur'an

Heaven (Janna) is a state of joy, happiness and peace. After judgement, people will pass over the very narrow bridge of **As-Sirat**. Those who have been blessed by God will successfully cross to heaven (Janna) on the other side. Heaven is a reward for living a good life, so everything that one longs for on earth will be found in paradise.

Janna (Heaven)

Islam - Practices

Component Knowledge

Ibadah (worship) – acts of worship performed with the intention to obey Allah including The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and The 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam.

Jihad – means 'to strive/struggle'; the two forms of jihad are 'greater' which is the inner struggle to be a good Muslim; and 'lesser' is the physical struggle or 'holy war' in defence of Islam.

Kutub – means 'books'; refers to the scriptures 'revealed' to humans from Allah; including the Qur'an, Hadith, Sunnah, Sahifah (scrolls), Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms) and Injil (Gospels).

Shari'ah – the 'straight-path'; a clear path of moral and religious laws laid out for Muslims to follow; putting the principles of the Qur'an and Hadith into practice.

Ummah – means 'community'. Refers to the worldwide community of Muslims who share a common religious identity.

Mosque – a 'place of prostration'; where Muslims gather for communal worship or during celebrations, festivals and commemorations.

Core Questions

- What issues do you think Muslims face living in Britain??
- What is meant by greater and lesser jihad?
- What is the difference between Sunni and Shi'a?
- Which holy books do Muslims use?
- Which festivals are important to Muslims?

Ibadah - Five Pillars - Sunni Islam

- Shahadah** (declaration of faith) - Muslims must make a declaration in front of witnesses. *"I bear witness there is no God but Allah and Muhammad s his messenger"*
- Salah** (5 daily prayers) - Muslims must perform five prayers a day to ensure they develop **taqwa** (consciousness/awareness of God). *"prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing" Qur'an*
- Zakah** (charity) - Muslims are expected to donate 2.5% of their wealth to those in need. *"The one who looks after the...poor... is like a warrior fighting for God's cause"*
- Sawm (fasting)** - Muslims are expected to abstain from **food, drink, smoking, sex and bad habits** during **daylight hours** for the month of **Ramadan**. Muslims have always been very clear that Islam is a complete **way of life**; worship is a 24/7 reality, to be lived fully, not just as an afterthought to add on to our secular lives.
- Hajj** (pilgrimage) - Muslims are expected to perform the Hajj **pilgrimage** to the holy city, **Makkah, once a lifetime**. **Niyah** means having the **right intention** to worship God. Muslims believe that it is important to have God consciousness (**taqwa**).

"O People, listen to me in earnest, worship God, perform your five daily prayers, fast during the month of Ramadan and offer Zakah. Perform Hajj if you have the means." (Hadith)

Kutub - Holy Books

The Qur'an is the inspired word of God and thus free from any mistakes or distortion.

Muslims have a respect for all previous scriptures from the messengers of God, but they see the Qur'an as the completion of the earlier books.

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the direct and perfect word of God. Sunni Muslims say that it has always existed and is with God in heaven, written in Arabic on a tablet of stone.

Hadith: Sayings of Muhammad

There are collections of thousands of **Muhammad's sayings**, called hadiths. These are not revelations, because they are the **words of the prophet, not the words of God**. However, they have enormous significance for Muslims because the **whole of Muhammad's life is considered to be a 'living Qur'an'**.

The Qur'an names four other holy books, known in Arabic as kutub from the Jewish and Christian traditions and they were true revelations from God however the have been corrupted.

- Sahifah:** The Scrolls of Ibrahim (now lost)
- Tawrat (Torah):** the revelation given to Musa (Moses)
- Zabur (Psalms):** given to Dawud (David)
- Injil (Gospel):** the teaching given to Isa (Jesus)

Celebrations & Commemorations

Id-ul-Adha is the **festival of sacrifice**. It is the most important event in the Muslim calendar and is known as the Greater Id or the 'Big Id'. It marks the **end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage**. Muslims remember the story of Ibrahim who was willing to sacrifice his son, Ishma'il, to show his love for God.

Id-ul-Fitr is a **three-day celebration at the end of Ramadan**. Muslims **thank God for giving them strength and self-control** needed to give up food and water over so many days.

ASHURA - Ashura is an occasion to **thank God for saving the Israelites** from the Pharaoh. **Sunni Muslims** remember Prophet Musa (Moses). Ashura is of **particular importance to the Shi'a Muslim community** because it remembers the **death of Husayn** in battle at Karbala in 680CE. Shi'as believe that Husayn was the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad.

DAY OF SORROW - Key features: Dress in black and march through the streets; processions and religious gatherings; re-enact the martyrdom; some men beat themselves with chains and cut their heads with swords; in the UK people donate blood instead.

laylat-ul-qadr - Laylat-ul-Qadr is one of the holiest days. Marking the date when the **Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad**. The exact day is not known, so this event is **remembered throughout the last ten days of Ramadan**. During this time, Muslims may **stay up all night, reciting the Qur'an, praying and remembering God's mercy and forgiveness**.

Jihad

Jihad is the **struggle to live according to God's laws**. This can mean **striving to serve God**, making an effort to live a moral life or **actively trying to live in peace**.

There are a number of groups who have labelled themselves as **jihadists** in recent years (for example, Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Islamic State).

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) have strongly condemned the actions of IS as 'barbaric'

THE GREATER JIHAD - The greater jihad is a **spiritual struggle with oneself**. It is the **commitment to live a good, Muslim life**. This includes performing the **Five Pillars**, seeking **justice and fairness** for all and **rising above one's own greed and selfishness**.

"The greatest jihad is to battle your own soul, to fight the evil within yourself" Muhammad

THE LESSER JIHAD - The lesser jihad is the **struggle to remove evil from society**. This involves the **whole community**, rather than the individual, and there are strict rules for the use of force in jihad.

"Fight in the way of God whose who fight against you but do not transgress the limits"

Rules for armed struggle:

- > Jihad must never be aggressive
- > Never kill innocent civilians
- > Can only be declared by a Muslim leader and with support of the ummah
- > Must be a last resort after other peaceful methods exhausted

Muslims need to:

- ◆ Control their desires
- ◆ Respect others beliefs
- ◆ Battle against laziness
- ◆ Encourage what is right

Adultery
Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse

Cohabitation
To live together in a sexual relationship without being married

Divorce
To legally end a marriage

Commitment
A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something

Contraception
Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant

Gender Equality
Equal rights and opportunities across the genders

Responsibilities
Actions/duties you are expected to carry out

Roles
Position, status or function of a person; the characteristics and behaviours expected of them



Families:
-The foundation for all human activity
-Where human relationships develop
-**Nuclear:** Two parents and children
-**Extended:** Number of adults and children (all relatives)
-**Reconstituted:** Remarried parents and children from previous marriage
-**Single Parent:** One parent alone and children
-**Childless:** Married or cohabiting couple without children
The Worldwide Family
Christians are all considered 'People of God' and are seen as an extended family.
Pope Francis said that the family was the basis of human society; the role of the mother in passing on religious faith is fundamental.



Role of Men and Women
Traditionally, the man was responsible for providing for the family. However in a modern family, both parents are responsible for the children and domestic life of the family. Today, men and women can share parental leave to care for a new baby.

Families and Religion
-Religious belief is taught in the family
-It is a duty to bring children up in faith
-Parents are expected to take children to church
-Parents teach children how and when to pray
-Parents encourage joining in on festivals



marriage

Christians and Marriage
-Marriage is '*ordained by God*' and is a gift from God
-**Vows** are exchanged, which show the importance of the promises made before God
-God created man and woman in Genesis, setting the example
-Jesus said that marriage was the most important of human relationships
-*"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"*

Christian Wedding Ceremonies
-Performed by a **vicar**, who welcomes everyone and gives a short sermon on the nature and purpose of marriage
-Couple exchange **vows**, which reflect the main Christian beliefs about marriage, *"to love and to cherish"* and *"Til death do us part"*
-The couple exchange rings as a sign of commitment and say:
"With my body I honour you All that I am I give to you All that I have I share with you Within the love of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit"
-Vicar declared the couple married
-**Prayers, hymns** and **Bible** readings
-**Signing the register** (legal requirement)
-In an Orthodox wedding, the couple are '**crowned**' to represent the power of the Holy Spirit
-In an Anglican wedding, the couple marries in front of the **altar**

Contraception: Roman Catholic
-Opposes artificial methods. Only '**natural**' contraception is allowed, e.g. **withdrawal** or **natural family planning**
-Contraception goes against **Aquinas' Natural Law** – to continue the species through reproduction.
-God said, *"Go forth and reproduce"*

Cohabitation
-**Anglicans:** Accepted as part of a committed relationship, but marriage would still be the ideal
-**RC:** Sex should only take place within a marriage as it is sacred. Couples should remain chaste (a virgin) until they are married
-**Baptist:** Some Baptist churches refuse to marry a couple who are cohabiting

Marriage Outside of Religious Tradition
-**Orthodox:** Can only marry if the couple are both baptised Christian
-**RC:** Partner who is not Catholic must agree to any children of the marriage being brought up in the RC tradition
-Sometimes a **blessing**, rather than a wedding ceremony, takes place
Issues faced by inter-faith couples include:
-Which festivals should the family celebrate?
-Which religion should the children be raised in?
-What is there are different expectations about gender roles?



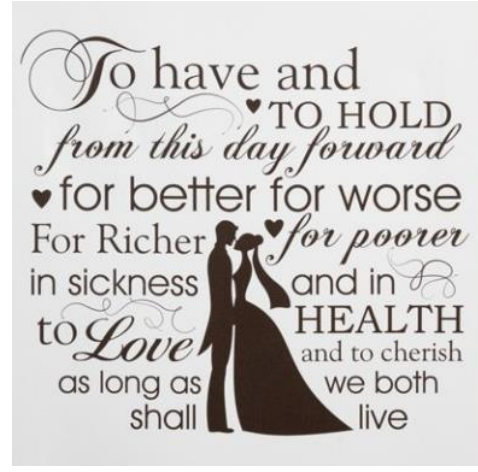
Contraception: Church of England
-God gave humans **free will** and a conscience to do what they think is right in a situation
-**Overpopulation** of the planet is a concern, therefore use of contraception is OK
-Contraception stops the transmission of **STIs** and **STDs**

Adultery
-The law recognises adultery as a justifiable reason for a divorce
-Adultery is a **sin** as it goes against the Ten Commandments
Christianity
-Adultery is wrong because marriage is sexually exclusive and should not be shared with anyone else
-Committing adultery destroys the special relationship of marriage
-Adultery can harm the family unit and cause the partner to feel cheated and betrayed
-The Ten Commandments say, *"You shall not commit adultery"*
Why do some marriages fail?
Unemployment Alcoholism/Addict Cheating Lying
Sexual problems Fall out of love Financial problems Work

Same-Sex Relationships/Marriage
-Legal as of the Marriage Act, 2013
-**RC:** Against same-sex marriage as sexual relationships should only exist between a man and a woman. *"If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both have them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death."* (Leviticus 20:13)
-**RC:** Purpose of marriage is to have children. Same-sex couples cannot do this naturally
-**Anglican:** Same-sex marriage should not take place in a church, although some clergy do not agree with this decision and may perform a church blessing
-**Quakers:** Believe in equality and will conduct a same-sex marriage service, but the couple will also need a civil ceremony in order for the marriage to be legal
-**United Reform Church:** Allow same-sex marriage
-**Humanists:** Humans should find personal happiness and same-sex relationships are a positive expression of this view

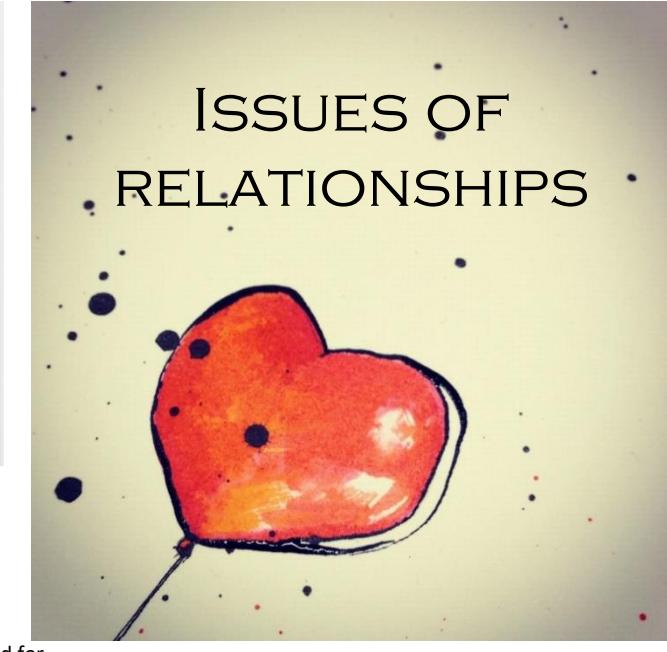


Contraception: Humanists
-It is important to **limit** the size of families
-Sex is an **expression of love** and shouldn't always come with the commitment of parenthood for those who do not choose it
-Can lead to **improved quality of life** for the parents or the children a family already have



SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Purpose of Sex
-Powerful human **instinct** and drive and can be enjoyed for pleasure
-Linked with **procreation**. God said, *"go forth and reproduce"*
-Usually takes part within a committed, **loving relationship**
-Physical **expression of love** for another
Christians
-Sex should take place within a **marriage**
-Sex is a **gift** from God, is holy and **sacred**
-Casual sex (**promiscuity**) is seen as devaluing people
-Concern for children brought up outside of a stable home environment
-**Chastity** is expected (RC) where a person remains a virgin until married
-In America, the '**Silver Ring Thing**' is where unmarried people wear a silver ring on their wedding finger to show they will remain chaste until they are married
-**Celibacy** is when a person decides never to have sex, e.g. a monk or a nun who dedicated their lives to serving God. A vow of celibacy is taken.



Gender Prejudice and Discrimination
-In UK, men and women have **equal rights**. Discrimination on the basis of gender is illegal
Women in the Church
-Jesus' disciples were male
-In Jesus' time it was normal for men to take up positions of authority. Society is different now and men and women are more equal
-Gender is irrelevant according to the Bible: *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*
-Jesus' actions showed that he respected women and had women amongst his closest followers, despite this being unusual at the time
-in the **Parable of the Good Samaritan**, Jesus taught to not discriminate
-All humans are created in the imaged of God, so each human life is equal and sacred
-1 Timothy 2: 11-12 says: *"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet."*



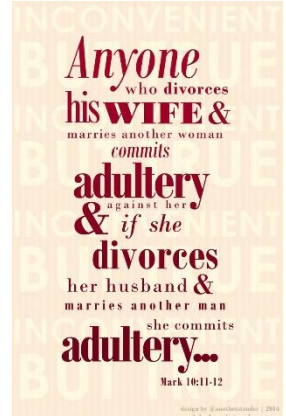
Gender Prejudice: Roman Catholic
-Women can become **nuns**, taking active roles in worship and authority
-Women support the RC Church in a number of ways, e.g. administration or helping ministers to lead worship
-Women may **not**, however, become priests as while men and women are equal, they have different strengths and contributions to make
-**Pope Francis** said that he hopes women will continue to do their important work supporting their families

Gender Prejudice: Church of England
-Women now have **equal roles** in worship as men and can become ministers and bishops
-the Archbishop of Canterbury said that the Church was entering a '**completely new phase of our existence**'
-The numbers of female and male ministers are still hugely **unequal**

GENDER INEQUALITY

When people argue or are in **conflict**, making up is essential and is called '**reconciliation**'. Religious communities can help couples to reconcile, however some couples will not be able to. This might lead to **divorce**, **separation** (deciding to live separately) or **annulment** (cancelling the marriage in RC)

Divorce and Separation
-**RC:** Does not recognise divorce. There is no option but annulment (if granted) or separation. However the people may not remarry or cohabit
-Jesus said, *"Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery."*
-Some RC do get a divorce, but this is not recognised by the Church. Divorced/cohabiting Catholics may not take part in Holy Communion
-**Church of England:** Divorce is accepted as it is accepted by the state (law). Remarriage of a divorced person is up to the individual minister. If remarriage is chosen, a non-church wedding is preferred
-**Annulment** is when a court says that your marriage is not legally valid, e.g. if the marriage has not been consummated (no sex) or in the event that the marriage was forced.
-No minister can be forced to conduct a remarriage service against their will



Afterlife: Life after death; existence continues after physical death

Environmental Sustainability: Demands placed on natural resources can be met

Euthanasia: Good death; Killing of a person who is suffering from a serious illness

Evolution: Living creatures have developed from earlier, less complex forms

Abortion: Ending a pregnancy so that it does not result in the birth of a child

Quality of Life: Extent to which life is pleasurable or meaningful

Sanctity of Life: Life is precious, sacred. Human life holds this special status

Soul: The spiritual part of a human that connects them to God. The soul is non-physical

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is caring for the world. A steward is a caretaker of the world. Christians believe that God gave humans a **duty** to look after the world – God’s creation.. **Global citizenship** is the idea that we are part of a world community. We each have a responsibility to look after the rainforests and to **prevent climate change**, as much as our duties to prevent pollution within our local communities.

Christians and Stewardship

- Dominion:** humans were told to “rule over” nature, meaning that we can use the world’s resources as we wish
- **Stewardship:** We should live in harmony with nature, not exploit it. God told Adam to ‘cultivate and care for’ the Garden of Eden.
- We have a **responsibility** to be global citizens
- ‘**Green Christians**’ are environmental activists who promote awareness and action at church, community and national levels
- Jesus’ commandment to “**love thy neighbour**” can be interpreted to refer to fellow humans, therefore it is acceptable to kill animals. Others interpret “**love thy neighbour**” to mean that we should have respect for all living beings. If God created all life, and all life is sacred, then this must be extended to plant and animal life.

What happens when we die?

Atheists and Humanists
Nothing survives death. The chemicals in our bodies are recycled into the environment

Christians
-There is an eternal life in heaven
-The dead will rise to be judged by God and go to heaven or hell



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|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| The order of Creation in Genesis 1 | Light & Dark |
| Clouds & Oceans | Sun, Moon, & Stars |
| Land, Plants, & Trees | Fish & Birds |
| Man & Animals | God Rested |

“Natural selection...has no purpose in mind. It has no vision, no foresight.” (Richard Dawkins)

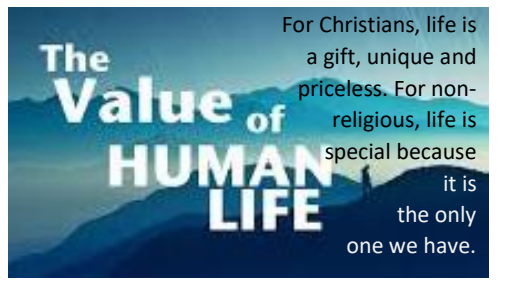
Evolution and the Big Bang

Charles Darwin argued that life came from the slow, natural process of **evolution**. Therefore the earth must be millions of years old.

The Big Bang theory argues that the universe has a beginning. A ‘Big Bang’ happened around 15m years ago, starting the universe from an **infinitely tiny point**. This point expanded and formed the planets and stars.



Humanists believe that we have a responsibility to work for a more sustainable world, causing as little harm to the environment as possible.



For Christians, life is a gift, unique and priceless. For non-religious, life is special because it is the only one we have.

Christian Creation: Different Views

-God created life, it did not happen by chance. God said, “*Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness*”

-Undermining the Bible leads to crime and disorder as it takes away the value of the morals
-Humans have a soul that is God-given. If we are evolved from animals then how can this be true?

-Genesis says that each species was made “according to its kind”, meaning that species don’t change: species are fixed. Therefore evolution is wrong.

-The Big Bang still doesn’t explain what caused the explosion that kick-started the universe. For Christians, the answer is God

“In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1)



Literal Interpretation
Creation happened EXACTLY as it says in the Bible, because “*all scripture is God-breathed*”, meaning that the Bible is the exact word of God.
-The Bible is the inspired ‘**Word of God**’. Evangelical Christians refer to the Bible as ‘God-breathed’ meaning that it came directly from the mouth of God. Scientific theories are wrong because they contradict the Biblical account.

Liberal Interpretation

The creation story is a **myth**, containing symbolic meaning only. The stories carry true meaning, but don’t refer to historical events. The stories are best understood as a **metaphor**. Evolution could have been guided by God or God set down the laws of evolution or the course of the universe’s expansion as a result of the Big Bang

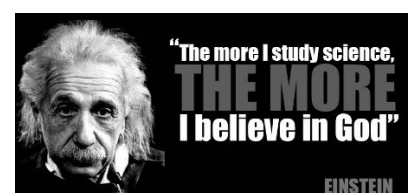


The Design Argument

The fact that the world is beautiful, well-ordered and perfect for life implies that there must have been a creator. **William Paley** used the ‘**watch analogy**’ to demonstrate this conclusion of intelligent design. If you were to find a watch, you know it must have had a designer – a watch-maker. It is so complex that it cannot have come about by chance. Likewise, the world is so complex with its patterns and structures that it **must have had a designer**, i.e. God.

The Illusion of Design

Richard Dawkins argued that the world might appear to have been designed, but this is not true. *“The illusion of design is explained with far greater economy by Darwinian natural selection.”*



Hospices are an alternative to euthanasia. They relieve the symptoms of the terminal illness and allow a patient to die with dignity. *“We should concern ourselves with the quality of life as well as its length.”* (Dame Cicely Saunders)

Passive euthanasia is where life-sustaining treatment is removed, e.g. removing the respirator. Some accept this form of euthanasia because the patient then **dies of natural causes**

The Slippery Slope Argument
The acceptance of euthanasia will inevitably lead to abuse or manipulation. E.g. an elderly woman might be convinced to commit euthanasia in order to no longer ‘be a burden’ on her relatives.



Only God should give and take life. “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

Pro-life campaigners oppose abortion because every human being has a right to life – even embryos. However some people do not consider an embryo a ‘person’



Humanists consider ‘**Situation Ethics**’ and consider what would be the kindest action for that situation. Humanists consider happiness and suffering when making ethical decisions.



Stephen Hawking: We don’t let animals suffer, (we put animals down) so why humans?

Active euthanasia is when a person takes a specific course of action to end their own life, e.g. overdose. Some believe that taking your own life may result in being refused entry to heaven.



Voluntary euthanasia is when a person asks for help to die. Some consider this their human right as they are acting on their (God-given) **free will**.

RC: IVF is wrong because the **embryo is created outside of the human body**. The process also destroys embryos, which are seen as life, because life begins at conception.

Medical Ethics: Euthanasia, Abortion, IVF

Some Humanists believe that **life begins at birth** because the child is now surviving on its own, outside the womb.



Humanists believe that our purpose is to make ourselves and everybody around us as happy as possible because it is **compassionate, kind and the right thing to do**. Life is seen with the highest respect, but sometimes decisions might be made that go against the sanctity of life

“God saw all that he had made and it was very good.”

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.”

RC: Life begins at **conception**. The sperm and the egg are the source of life.

RC: Taking a life in any circumstance is immoral. Abortion, euthanasia and IVF all involve **murder**. The Ten Commandments say: *“Do not murder”*

CoE: Life is precious, however some things can be permitted, e.g. an abortion if the mother’s life is in danger, or if the woman was raped. Jesus said to *“love thy neighbour”* and sometimes the most compassionate course of action would allow abortion.



Some people have a **DNR**, or ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ to uphold their quality of life. It guarantees that if in the event that the patient will have a seriously decreased quality of life, doctors are instructed to let the patient die.



Peter Singer argues that euthanasia should be legalised. Safeguards should be put into place to protect vulnerable people. **Quality of life** is important and forcing someone to live an undignified life is cruel.

DNR

Literal Christians on Euthanasia:

-Those who assist are involved in murder
-Goes against the Ten Commandments
-Suffering can have a purpose and should be endured
-Suffering can be a way in taking part in the suffering of Jesus
- Hospices provide an alternative

EARTH TO EARTH, ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST. IN SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION INTO ETERNAL LIFE. - Book Of Common Prayer



Liberal Christians on Euthanasia:

-Acceptable to turn off life support if **brain-dead**
-They would consider withholding a treatment that prolongs a painful life as they follow Jesus’ teaching of acting in the most **loving and compassionate** way



Good: Morally right, beneficial and to our advantage

Evil: That which is considered extremely wrong, immoral and wicked

Forgiveness: Give pardon for wrongdoings; give up resentment

Free Will: Ability to make choices voluntarily and independently. Nothing is pre-determined

Justice: Fairness; equal provisions and opportunities

Morality: Principles and standards determining which actions are right/wrong

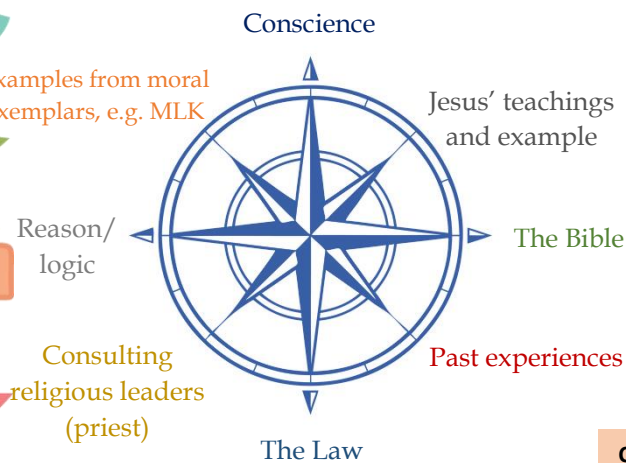
Punishment: Penalty given to someone for a crime or immoral action

Sin: Deliberate immoral action; breaking a religious moral law

Suffering: Pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss

Moral Compass:

How do we make moral decisions?



The Two Types of Morality:

1. **Absolute Morality (RC/Quakers)**

A moral law or principle, e.g. 'do not kill' is wrong in all situations. Even if we are at war, it is still not permissible to kill.

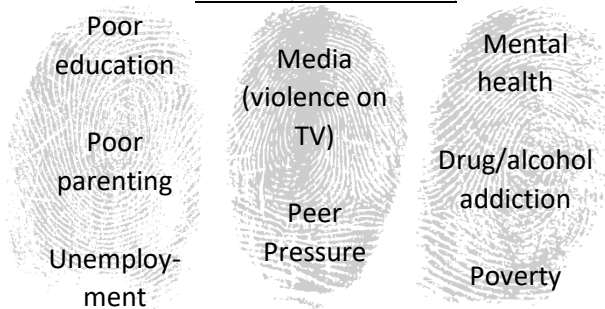
2. **Relative Morality (Church of England)**

A moral law or principle, e.g. 'do not kill' is either right or wrong, depending on the situation. In war, it might be permissible to kill.

The **WWJD** (What Would Jesus Do?) movement was started in America in 1990s by Evangelical Christians. This prompts Christians to make decisions that will be in keeping with the life and teachings of Jesus.



CAUSES OF CRIME



Arguments For the Death Penalty (Conservative Christians)

- Life terms in prison are expensive - £40,000 per year
- Some people cannot be reformed, e.g. the criminally insane
- It is closure for the victims
- There must be an ultimate punishment for the worst crimes
- Execution is the only way to protect society from dangerous people

Arguments Against the Death Penalty (Liberal Christians)

- It is just state-sanctioned murder
- Innocent people have been executed
- It does not deter murderers
- Two wrongs don't make a right
- Forgiveness is important
- Only God has the right to end a life
- "Do not murder"

Conservative Christians (Roman Catholic)
- "An eye for an eye"
- The Old Testament specifies 36 crimes deserving of capital punishment, implying that it is approved of and created by God
- It upholds the commandment 'do not kill' by showing the seriousness of the crime of murder

Humanists and the Death Penalty
- Killing is wrong as the state could be wrong – the person could be innocent
- The sentence cannot be reversed if new evidence comes to light



Liberal Christians (Quakers/Church of England)
- Execution goes against the sanctity of life
- Quakers have campaigned against the death penalty since 1818
- Every person is a reflection of God/contains a little of God. "Do not repay evil for evil" (Romans 12:17)

Why become a chaplain?

There is something of God in everyone
Following Jesus – showing compassion, love and kindness
"People are more than the worst thing they have ever done in their lives" (Helen Prejean)

Prison Chaplains

Some chaplains are non-religious and provide counselling, e.g. bereavement support, for inmates. This is important if an inmate is unable to attend the funeral of a loved one.

Prison Chaplains

Traditionally, chaplains are ministers, priests, etc. They have a pastoral role, looking after the emotional and spiritual welfare of the inmates.

AIMS OF PUNISHMENT

- Protection:** Stopping more people from becoming victims of crime, e.g. prison sentences for murderers
- Retribution:** Revenge or getting even. The criminal suffers as much as the victims have suffered
- Deterrence:** To put people off doing the crime. It warns other potential criminals of the consequence
- Reformation:** To reform a criminal. It addresses the cause of the crime and tries to rehabilitate offenders
- Vindication:** Proves the authority of the law. Reminds people that without law there is chaos
- Reparation:** Repairing the damage done through crime, e.g. community service to make amends



Good, Evil, Free Will and Suffering

-Problem of evil: God is omniscient, omnibenevolent and omnipotent, so why is there evil in the world?
- God made the earth in Genesis 'and it was good'
- God gave people **Free Will**. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, causing the **Fall** and releasing 'original sin' into the world
- The **Ten Commandments** show how to live a good life.
- Breaking God's rules leads to suffering and 'evil'
- Jesus demonstrated 'good' qualities, e.g. tolerance, compassion and love. Christians have a **duty** to practise these in their everyday lives
- **Moral evil** (human sin) vs **Natural evil** (from nature)
- Evil can be **soul-making**. It allows people to develop and achieve the proper virtues
- **Irenaeus** believed that evil allowed for spiritual growth

- **John Hick** said we could never understand God's plan. The soul-making we go through allows us to grow closer to God
- Life is a **test**, e.g. the **Story of Job**. Faith will be rewarded.
- Suffering helps humans to take part in the **suffering of Jesus**
- **Good cannot exist without evil**, just as light cannot exist without dark and up cannot exist without down
- Suffering might be **part of God's plan**, allowing us to appreciate the world and what is good



Christians and Forgiveness

- Jesus and other leaders (MLK) or exemplars (Gee Walker) famously forgave following the Christian teachings of **love and compassion**
- Gee Walker forgave her son's killers
- "Do not judge and you will not be judged... forgive and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37)
- "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7)
- Jesus forgave **Zacchaeus** the tax collector, despite his cheating and selfish ways
- Jesus forgave the **adulterous woman**, telling her to 'go and sin no more'
- Parable of the Forgiving Father** reminds us of the power of forgiveness
- Parable of the Unforgiving Servant** reminds us that we must forgive in order to be forgiven ourselves



For Roman Catholics, forgiveness is achieved through atonement and the Sacrament of penance. God's forgiveness is given through a priest's pardon after confession.

Evangelical Christians believe that forgiveness is given by God and reliant upon faith.

Christianity is a religion of forgiveness. It supports justice, but forgiveness and punishment should go together. Jesus forgave those who betrayed him. On the cross Jesus said, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do".

Jesus taught compassion, not revenge. Punishment should reform a criminal and address the cause of the criminal behaviour. Some Christians have become prison chaplains to help prisoners to reform effectively.

Prison reformers, e.g. Elizabeth Fry used their Christian beliefs to change the way criminals were treated and to improve the state of British prisons.

Elizabeth Fry is famous for teaching female prisoners to read and write and holding Bible readings for inmates. Another Christian, John Howard, also recommended to parliament that conditions and practices within prisons be improved, e.g. clean running water and access to doctors. The government recently announced a change in the prison system, to treat inmates as 'potential assets, not liabilities.'

Utilitarianism is the belief that a good act is one that brings the greatest good for the greatest number. Also known as the **Principle of Greatest Happiness**.



CHRISTIANITY & PUNISHMENT



Justice is fairness. The punishment must fit the crime in order for it to be considered justice. Punishments must also **address the cause of the crime**, to prevent the offender from repeating the crime.

CRIME SCENE

- Crime is any offense punishable by law
- Some **sins** are punishable by law, but not all sins are crimes, e.g. 'to keep the Sabbath holy' (Ten Commandments)
- Consequences for sins are **suffering**, offending God, excommunication and exclusion from heaven
- Consequences for crimes is **punishment**, sanctioned by the criminal justice system
- Cybercrime is on the rise
- The most danger is posed by anti-social behaviour, including extremism, terrorism and sexual offenses
- Sins include: pride, greed, lust, envy, wrath, gluttony, sloth

ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Censorship:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that **'everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media'**


In UK, people are free to express their views unless the content is likely to incite violence or discrimination. However, some people think there should be censorship of these views, which would mean preventing the publication or broadcast of certain content.

I believe in a world of justice and human rights for all. A world where girls can grow up free of fear of abuse. A world where women are treated with the respect and dignity that is their right. A world where poverty is not acceptable. My dear young friends, you can make this your world.
Ban Ki-moon

Human Rights and Social Justice

The dignity of human life is a common belief for all religious and non-religious traditions. Each life, regardless of age, gender, ability, etc, is of worth and value and should be treated as such.

> Set up in 1960 by Peter Benenson
 > Works worldwide to protect and campaign for people whose basic human rights are denied
 > Uses non-violent methods to raise awareness, e.g. marches, writing letters, etc
 > Achieved Nobel Peace Prize in 1977



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS.

Arguing For Religious Expression:

- France has banned religious symbols in public as it is a **secular** country
- It can be considered **disrespectful** towards others' beliefs

Arguing Against Religious Expression:

- Evangelism is an important part of a person's faith. Jesus said to, **'make disciples of all nations'**
- It may be a person's mission to share their faith with others or convert others to their religion
- It is a duty in the Gospels to speak and preach about faith

Freedom of Religious Expression:

- Through **clothes**, e.g. Salvation Army uniform represents the fight against injustice and poverty
- Through **symbols**, e.g. wearing a cross or crucifix, to represent the belief that Jesus was sacrificed and resurrected for the sins of humanity
- Through **actions**, e.g. through the work of religious charities, such as Christian Aid

Why? CA base their actions on their love of God and their Christian values of love, justice, compassion, stewardship, equality and dignity

What? Charity working in over 60 countries to stop poverty and challenge unjust systems



What? From 1941, CA have been running campaigns and raising awareness about global injustice

How? By challenging the systems that favour the rich over the poor and marginalised

CA support work that empowers individuals

Oxfam indicates that there are 2 million malnourished people in UK. Food poverty is on the rise and more people are relying on services like food banks. **Barnardo's** suggests that there are 3.7million children living in poverty in UK.

Christians and Wealth / Poverty

- A person's value should be judged by their actions, not by money or possessions
- Some Christians, e.g. **Quakers**, are against gambling because it encourages a love of money for its own sake and encourage greed
- Jesus taught that **wealth doesn't make people happy**. He warned that money can take the place of God in people's hearts
- The **Parable of the Rich Young Man** warns people against the greed of material wealth. *"The love of money is the root of all evil"*.
- Some people, e.g. monks and nuns, take a vow of poverty to give up material wealth in exchange for spiritual wealth
- The **Parable of the Sheep and the Goats** tells us how God will judge people on their treatment of the poor, not on wealth
- Christians **tithe** (give 10% of their wealth to charity) or do voluntary work to express their faith. Some Christian charities are set up to combat social injustice and poverty around the world, e.g. **CAFOD** and **Christian Aid**



Many companies are now **Fairtrade Providers** to be socially responsible and to ensure that our products do not exploit people or the environment. Fairtrade works to benefit small-scale farmers, workers and those who are **marginalised**.

PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

Prejudice and Discrimination

Laws protect people in UK, but many would say that **discrimination still exists**, e.g. some buildings do not have disability access

Interpretation of the Bible can lead to discrimination, e.g. the **role of women** in the Christian Church. In RC Church, women cannot become priests as Jesus' disciples were all male.

Religious discrimination is based on **prejudice** and formed by **ignorance**. **Islamophobia** stereotypes all Muslims as extremists. As a result, activities organised by Muslim communities have been set up to educate and inform people about Muslim beliefs and practices and counter harmful stereotypes. Days such as **'Visit my Mosque'** invites people in to ask questions and understand the role that mosques play in local communities and in national charity and welfare activities

Christians and Prejudice & Discrimination

- All life was created by God; each person is equal and sacred
- Jesus' example and teachings were about the marginalised and discriminated, e.g. **Zacchaeus** the tax collector
- The **Parable of the Good Samaritan** teaches us about how we should **'love our neighbours'**
- "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"*
- The CoE's Committee for Minority and Ethnic Anglican Concerns (**CMEAC**) encourages ethnic people to become a part of the church, supports race awareness initiatives throughout society and creates links with other faiths and cultures through inter-faith dialogue
- CARJ** (Catholic Association for Racial Justice) seek to value, respect and celebrate the equality and dignity of all God's people
- Martin Luther King** followed Jesus' teachings to turn the other cheek and not return hate for hate. He did this through organising non-violent protests and acting on his personal convictions that all are born equal before God.

Humanists and Prejudice & Discrimination

- All humans belong to the **same species**, 'Homo Sapiens', and share ancestors
- We should **treat people as individuals**, not stereotype or discriminate
- Stephen Fry** has spoken out against the damage that prejudice can create. He has campaigned to counter the prejudice in society regarding mental illness
- We should **counter prejudice and discrimination through education**



Show Racism the Red Card

that's humanism!

Religious Extremism

There is a fine balance between freedom of speech and action, and actions and speech that are considered **extreme**.

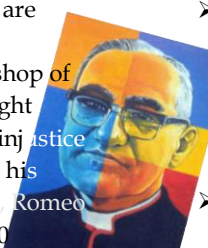
For some believers, they may feel justified in acting in certain extreme ways because of a **personal conviction**. This might happen because people:

- Interpret the religious scripture** in a way that makes them believe that this is the way to behave or react
- Think that such actions will be **rewarded** in the afterlife
- Are **influenced** by family or friends who act in a similar way
- Believe that they are doing the **work of God**

The **Westboro Baptist Church** are well-known for their homophobia; the KKK are well-known for their racism and murder




Liberation Theology:

- Jesus' actions and life were about trying to **liberate** (free) people from injustice
 - Jesus is often portrayed as a **freedom fighter**
 - Liberation theology is the idea that God has the power to change situations in the world that are unjust
 - Oscar Romero** was Archbishop of El Salvador in 1977. He fought against the corruption and injustice he witnessed. As a result of his campaigning and influence, Romero was shot on 24th March 1980
- 
- 

Humanists:

- We should have **respect for all** humans as worthy of equal consideration
- Support for freedom of belief and expression
- Tolerance** for all beliefs and ways of life as long as they do not harm others
- Campaigning for human rights and social justice is important
- The International Humanist and Ethical Union support the **empowerment** of oppressed people

Campaigned against the lack of education for girls in Pakistan

The Taliban had banned girls from attending school. For Malala, this was against the right 'to education' The Taliban issued a death threat against her when she campaigned using her blog and promoted her views on the media

A gunman shot Malala in the head, but she survived



Christians on Human Rights

- All people are children of God and created in God's image
- Human life should not be destroyed or mistreated
- "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them"*
- People should be treated with unconditional love - **'agape'**
- Jesus set the example of agape - a selfless, unconditional love that voluntarily suffers for the benefit of another, without expecting anything in return
- Christian charities try to replicate this unconditional love in the work they do, e.g. the **Salvation Army** work to provide kindness and compassion to those in need



- Discrimination:** Treating people differently, based on prejudice
- Censorship:** Limiting access to information considered obscene, offensive or a threat
- Extremism:** Believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from the norm
- Personal Conviction:** Something a person strongly feels or believes in
- Human Rights:** Basic entitlements a person should be able to have or do
- Prejudice:** Pre-judging someone without any evidence
- Relative Poverty:** Poverty in relation to the standards of the society in which the person lives
- Absolute Poverty:** Deprivation, where a person cannot access their basic human needs
- Social Justice:** Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity

C2.1 Christian Beliefs & Teachings

Component Knowledge

Omnipotent—the all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God.
Omnibenevolent—The state of being all-loving and infinitely good—a characteristic often attributed to God.
Trinity—The three persons of God; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Incarnation—God becoming human in the form of Jesus.
Atonement—The belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God.
Resurrection—The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death.

Do all Christians accept the Genesis creation narrative?

Core Questions

- What is monotheism?
- Why are Walsingham and Taizé important places for Christians?
- Do you think Britain is becoming a more secular society?
- Why are there different denominations?
- Do you need to go to church to be a Christian?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- If God loves us why do we suffer?
- Are heaven and hell real places?

Creation

Genesis One → **1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

Genesis Two
 God creates a woman from Adam's rib "bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh".
 Adam names her Eve.
 God gives Adam and Eve one command, which is to not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil that grows in the garden of Eden, God says, "You must not touch it, or you will die." (Genesis 2: 3)

Role of the Spirit
 Most Christians believe that 'the Word' represents Jesus - therefore the quote 'in the beginning was the Word' means that Jesus was present when God created the world.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

Interpretations
 Literal = word for word (Fundamentalist)
 Liberal = the narrative should be interpreted as a metaphor

'Day': There are diverse views on how the word 'day' should be interpreted. A literal Christian (a fundamentalist) would mean that a day is 24 hours exactly. A liberal Christian may read 'day' as a period of time and may actually represent millions of years.



Genesis 3 describes 'The Fall' – when Adam and Eve are tempted by a serpent (the devil?) to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil against God's will.

The serpent tricks Adam and Eve into thinking that if they eat from the tree, they will become 'like God' and be as omniscient as God. Eve gives in to the temptation and then gives some of the fruit to Adam.

They confess to God but, as a punishment, God sends them from the Garden of Eden. They are no longer able to eat from the Tree of Life and therefore they are no longer immortal and will die.

For Christians, this represents the point where God's perfect relationship with humans breaks. For some Christians, this is why humans are born with 'original sin'.

This broken relationship is the reason Jesus eventually dies on the cross to restore the human relationship with God.

The Bible and Salvation

Christians believe that they are born with **original sin**, which came into the world as a result of The Fall. Adam's sin has been passed down through the generations. It is original sin that causes humans to go against **God's law** and separates humans from God.

The Bible is a **source of authority** and advice. Readings from the Bible are an important part of church services.

A book of **revelation** (God revealing his truths to mankind). Through the Bible, God is revealed so Christians can know and understand God.

The Bible is a record of **divine law** – rules and laws of God given to mankind by which all Christians should live for example **The Ten Commandments & Parables**.

Interpretations
 The Bible is the 'Word of God' and the content is literally true.
 The Bible requires **interpretation** as it was written in a specific time and culture, different to ours.

Grace and the Spirit
 God grants anyone who repents their sins and shows faith will be given the **forgiveness** they don't deserve.

Christians believe in special 'rites' or rituals called '**Sacraments**', for example **baptism** and the **Eucharist**.

SALVATION
 During the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit comes down on the believer

Sin separates humans from God, however Jesus' death atones from human sin. Jesus' sacrifice means we have a chance to live with God for eternity after death. Jesus was a sacrifice that paid for human sin.

Roman Catholics believe that by taking part in the Sacraments, they will be able to achieve salvation and go to heaven. They believe that Baptism washes them clean of sin. Confession allows for the Christians to be absolved (freed) of sins committed in life. Protestants, e.g. Church of England, believe that they must have faith in Jesus and repent their sins to achieve Salvation.

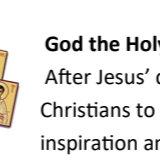
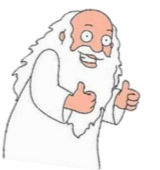
The Nature of God

All Christians sign up to the beliefs stated in the creed.

The most important beliefs are:

- God is an all-powerful creator
- Jesus was born of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus was crucified, buried and rose from the dead and ascended to heaven.
- There will be a day of judgment
- There is one holy and universal Church
- God will forgive our sins
- There will be a resurrection of the body and an eternal afterlife

APOSTLES CREED



OMNIBENEVOLENCE - 'For you Lord are a compassionate and gracious Lord, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness'
OMNIPOTENCE - 'And God said 'Let there be light' and there was light'
CREATOR - 'In the beginning God created the heavens and earth'
JUDGE - 'There is only one lawgiver and judge; He who is able to save and destroy'

Christians are often **blessed** in church services by a minister saying "In the name of the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"
 Roman Catholics might bless themselves by making the sign of the cross and reciting, "In the name of the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

God the Father
 Jesus taught to refer to God as 'God the Father'. This refers to God as the all-powerful (**omnipotent**) and all-knowing (**omniscient**) part of God.

Jesus Christ:
 Christians refer to Jesus is the Son of God, but more accurately to Christians, Jesus *is* God. This belief is known as the **incarnation**. Christians believe that by coming to earth as a human, by doing this God revealed knowledge about himself to the world.

God the Holy Spirit:
 After Jesus' death and resurrection God then sent the Holy Spirit into the world to guide Christians to live in the best way possible. The Holy Spirit is able to: Give comfort, courage, inspiration and guidance to all Christians.

Jesus Christ

"And the Word became flesh" John. 1,14

Jesus was crucified for **blasphemy** and treason by Pontius Pilate. His was given a crown of thorns for punishment and mocked as he died. Jesus' death **atoned** (made up for) the sins of mankind and gave people a **symbol of hope**. From then, if people accept Jesus as their **saviour** and follow his teachings they can also be saved from eternal death (hell).

After the crucifixion God sent down the Holy Spirit to act as the guide and **power of God on earth** from that point on.



God became **flesh** as Jesus Christ. The **Nativity** story from the **Gospels** teaches Christians about the **miracle** birth of Jesus. During his life Jesus performed miracles to prove the power of God and he **baptised** people with the Holy Spirit. He established the catholic church.

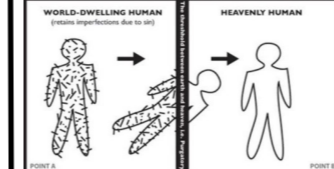
THE RESURRECTION
 The **resurrection** is essential to the Christian faith. It is the greatest miracle recorded in the **New Testament** and is evidence that Jesus was God. All Gospels agree that on the Sunday following Jesus' crucifixion, some of Jesus' followers went to his tomb. They found that the stone covering the entrance to the tomb had been rolled away and Jesus' body missing.

THE ASCENSION
 During the forty days after his crucifixion:

- Jesus appeared to the **disciples**
- Jesus appeared to other people
- Jesus finally **ascended** (rose) to his Father in heaven

Death & Afterlife

The Bible refers to heaven a lot, however it does not describe it much. Some people believe that heaven is an actual, physical place. Others believe heaven exists in a more spiritual dimension – it is beyond this world. Heaven is described as a reward for redeemed and worthy souls.



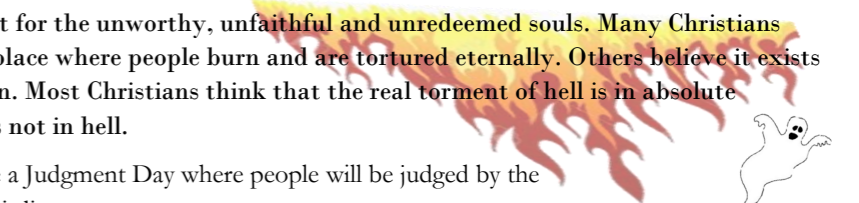
Hell is a place of punishment for the unworthy, unfaithful and unredeemed souls. Many Christians believe that it is a physical place where people burn and are tortured eternally. Others believe it exists in a more spiritual dimension. Most Christians think that the real torment of hell is in absolute separation from God as he is not in hell.

Purgatory

Roman Catholics believe in Purgatory – a waiting room and a place of **cleansing and purification** before entering heaven
 On Judgment Day, all those who are in purgatory will go to heaven
 It is important to pray for the souls of the dead and those in purgatory

There will be a Judgment Day where people will be judged by the quality of their lives
 On Judgment Day, Jesus will return to earth in a 'second coming' Judgment Day marks the end of human existence on the earth.
 This belief is known as the 'Parousia'
 Jesus will separate the people who go to heaven from those who go to hell, like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

- Christians believe:
- That Jesus was **resurrected** and that they, too, will resurrect
 - Life is a preparation for an afterlife to be with God in heaven
 - Jesus' death and resurrection proved that death is not the end
 - The physical body dies and the immortal soul lives on
 - The cross is symbolic of death and resurrection
 - Jesus says that anyone who believes in him will never die (John 14:6)
 - The way to heaven is through faith in Jesus (John 3:16)



AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME." JOHN 14:6

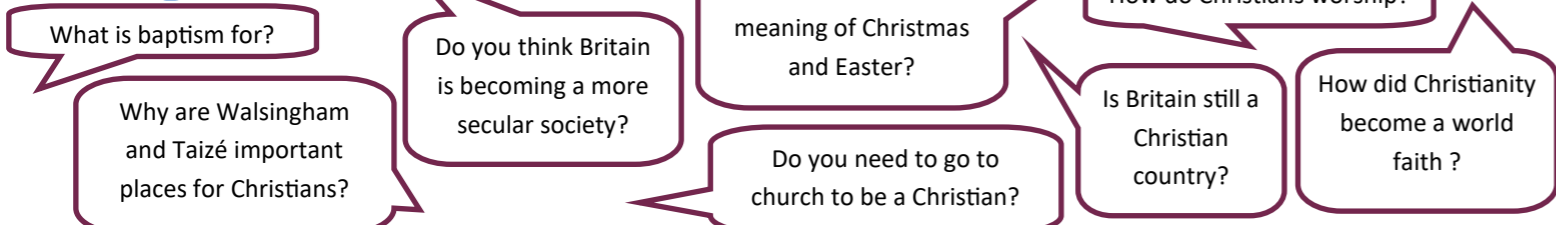
C2.2 Christian Practices

Key Concepts

- Sacraments**—An outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God, for example baptism, Eucharist
- Evangelism**—Preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith
- Atonement**—The belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God.
- Commitment**— A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something
- Ecumenical**— Representing or promoting unity within the different Christian Churches
- Persecution**—hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs; oppression.

Are there any common beliefs and features in the Christian churches?

Core Questions



Christianity in Britain

59.3%

ROLE OF THE CHURCH



Christianity was introduced to Britain by the Romans almost 2000 years ago. This long history means it is deeply embedded and The Church of England is the 'established' religion of England. In 16th Century, King Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church and the authority of the Pope and made himself the head of the Church of England

LAW

Church of England has a direct role in shaping UK law. Meetings of both houses of parliament open with Christian prayers and many of the laws of the UK reflect the teaching of some of the Ten Commandments, e.g. 'Do not kill' and 'Do not steal.'

FESTIVALS

The Christian calendar influences UK public holidays, e.g. Christmas and Easter are still widely celebrated in UK. School holidays fall over these times and many businesses will close

TRADITIONS

Traditionally, Sunday is the 'day of rest' for Christians to go to church. As a result, shop opening hours on a Sunday are restricted. In a UK court, most witnesses still swear on the Bible that they are telling the truth. Christian hymns and readings are often used at public events, for example at Remembrance Sunday. Lots of people in UK mark important life events, like marriage in a church, even if they might not be religious.

Primarily a church is a place of worship, but as part of living out the values Jesus demonstrated in the Gospels, churches reach out into communities in a variety of ways.

- Refreshments after Sunday service
- Meals for the homeless
- Food banks
- Coffee mornings for the elderly
- Youth clubs
- Crèche facilities for young mothers
- Summer fairs/fetes
- Organisations like cubs and brownies
- Fitness classes or slimming groups
- Family and community centres
- Emergency shelters
- Blood donations

Sacraments

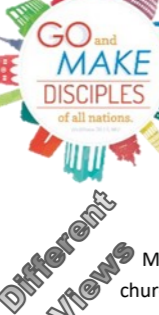
EUCCHARIST
Also known as Mass or Holy Communion. Started by Jesus at the Last Supper. Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples, telling them they represent his body and blood. He said that they should do this in his memory after his death. Taking the Eucharist brings Christians closer to God 'Eucharist' means 'thanksgiving'. It is an act of thanksgiving for the life and death of Jesus and for the Christian faith. Eucharist services are an example of liturgical worship – they have a set structure and the same rituals happen each time.



- Baptism:** Initiates people into the Christian church. Catholics believe that it washes away sin. Many churches practice infant baptism, though some only allow adults to be baptised.
- Confirmation:** When a baptised person becomes old enough, they commit to the church themselves. They remake the promises made by their parents and godparents.
- Eucharist:** Worshippers share bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus' death.
- Penance:** (Also known as Reconciliation or Confession). Catholics confess their sins to a priest, can 'absolve' (free) them from their sins after they do something to atone for their wrongdoing.
- Marriage:** Spiritual union of the couple and God.
- Holy Orders:** Joining the priesthood of the church. This is known as being 'ordained'.

BAPTISM

It is seen as the first sacraments – a 'covenant' between humans and God. Jesus said: "No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." It follows the example Jesus set, who was baptised as an adult by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Original sin is removed through baptism.



Most denominations only recognise Baptism and Eucharist as Sacraments—only the Catholic church recognised all seven! They are still considered holy rituals but not given the title of

Worship & Prayer

Prayer is how someone communicates with God. Jesus taught the early disciples to pray 'Go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father in Heaven' Matthew 6:6. In the Church of England, they believe that each Christian is, in their own way, a priest and can have direct access to God through Christ. Many people pray alone, but many find spiritual support from praying together, believing that they are following the instructions of Jesus, who encouraged his followers to pray together 'Where two or more are gathered in my name I am there with them'

Prayers can be:
Spontaneous Informal Set
Set prayers are useful because they are part of the tradition and ritual of worship that goes back centuries. Set prayers were originally passed on by word of mouth before being written down. Many Protestant denominations, e.g. the Church of England, use the set prayers in the Book of Common Prayer.

Informal Worship

Worship that doesn't have a set pattern. It is spontaneous in structure. Services in Evangelical denominations are often more informal than traditional worship.

Individual Worship

This takes place in addition to worshipping together in a church. Christians believe that it is important to form a personal relationship with God and worshipping alone is a part of this. Set and informal prayers are an important part of all Christian worship. Worship can also involve:

- Music
- Singing hymns
- Liturgical Worship
- Follows a set pattern
- Has established rituals
- Public church worship
- Can include the Lord's prayer (important for Protestant denominations, like Church of England)
- Eucharist, Holy Communion or Mass, is a form of liturgical worship (important for Roman Catholics)

Evangelical Worship

Evangelical worship is informal. Christians are moved by the Holy Spirit during worship. This may involve them falling into trances or even speaking in unknown languages (speaking in tongues). Movement and participation is encouraged and there is often music, singing and dancing in the congregation.

Worldwide Church

Jesus was a martyr (died for his faith) and he warned the disciples that they would be persecuted for their faith. Christians believe they were given a divine duty from Jesus to spread the good news of the Gospel and this may be in the face of personal danger. Even nowadays Christians are treated unjustly in societies where Christian faith is a minority religion.

Evangelism is the way the gospel is spread and means, 'preaching the good news.' Every Christian is considered an evangelist (preacher of the gospel). It is the mission of the Church to help Christians live a life of faith and spread the message of salvation to all.

Many Christians see it as a duty or mission to convert other people to Christianity, whether they have no faith at all or belong to another religion. Missionaries also brought education and health support to poor and disadvantaged people around the world.

tearfund
Tearfund are a Christian charity who aim to put Christian beliefs and Jesus' command to 'love your neighbour' into action. Christians believe they are putting into practice the unconditional or unselfish love (agape) that Jesus talks about in the Bible. Tearfund help the poor in over 50 countries, providing emergency aid when disasters occur and carrying out long-term projects to support local communities. In UK, many people support Tearfund by raising money through coffee mornings and buying Tearfund Christmas cards.

Ecumenical Movement

'Ecumenical' means many Christian Churches. The movement aims to, unite all Christians. Although denominational differences still exist, today many Christians believe there should

World Council of Churches

"The aim of these churches is to be a 'visible sign, deepening communion, sharing the Gospel together and making connections.'"

Each year the World Council of Churches (WCC) holds a special week of prayer for Christian unity. It brings together churches in more than 110 countries. The Roman Catholic Church isn't a member of the WCC but it does take part in some organisations.

Open Doors
Open Doors was established in 1955. They:
- Distribute Bibles to support Christians' faith
- Provide practical support for Christians who have been victims of disasters
- Speak on behalf of persecuted Christians to raise awareness

Pilgrimage

In Christianity, pilgrims might travel to the Holy Land to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus'. Pilgrims believe that life itself is a journey towards God. A pilgrimage is faith in action, the journey representing the journey that all Christians undertake from earth to heaven.

Walsingham

Walsingham is in Norfolk. It has been a holy place since 1061 when the widow of the Lord of the Pava had a dream where she asked her to build a of Nazareth where the birth of Jesus took place – by the Angel Gabriel that child. Walsingham is important because our human and Walsingham is a shrine to the place where Jesus' birth was foretold.

Other places of pilgrimage are:
Jerusalem Lourdes

Taizé

Pilgrims from all Christian denominations - travel to Taizé to live a life of communal prayer. It is unusual because it is Ecumenical, meaning it represents unity within the different Christian churches. It is one of the world's most important pilgrimage sites for young people. Over 100,000 people make pilgrimages to Taizé each year. Young people pilgrimage to Taizé because:

- Adventure
- Act of remembrance
- An attempt to walk in the footsteps of people of faith
- Act of atonement
- Act of supplication (asking God for something)

Holy Lands/Israel

Many visit the places where Jesus lived, especially during the Christian festivals (for example, Bethlehem, where he was born, at Christmas; Jerusalem, the place where he died, at Easter).