

Religion and Life

Topics covered:

1. Origins of the universe
2. Value of the world
3. Use of resources

4. Pollution
5. Use of animals
6. Origins of human life
7. Abortion

8. Euthanasia
9. Death and afterlife

Remember: if a question is asking you for the **similarities** it means **two things the same**. If it says **contrasting** it is asking you to say **both for and against**.

1. The origins of the universe

Christianity:

- ✓ The universe was designed and created by God.
- ✓ They believe God created the world out of nothing, 'ex-nihilo'.
- ✓ The Genesis creation story gives an account of how God created the universe.
- ✓ Christians have differing opinions on whether the creation story actually happened (see Christianity knowledge sheet and creation.)

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'. Genesis 1

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims also believe the world was created by God in six days.
- ✓ Most Muslims understand the original text of six days to mean six phases, or periods of time.
- ✓ Unlike the Bible, the Qur'an does not specify exactly what took place during each period.
- ✓ The Qur'an does not mention a day of rest.

'Your Lord is God, who created the heavens and earth in six Days, then established Himself on the throne'. Qur'an 7:54

Science:

- ✓ The Big Bang Theory is the leading scientific explanation for how the universe began.
- ✓ It suggests that all matter was compressed into a small hot mass. A massive expansion of space took place and the condensed matter was flung in different directions. It has been expanding ever since creating the universe.

2. The value of the world

- ✓ The world is complex and fascinating. When you look at the world you have to wonder how it was all made.

Stewardship:

- ✓ For **Christians** they believe God has given the privilege of living on the earth but with the responsibility of looking after it.
- ✓ The special responsibility to care for and protect the planet is called stewardship.
- ✓ As stewards of the earth Christians believe people have been appointed by God to respect and manage the world. In return we can use it in a sustainable way for our survival.
- ✓ In **Islam** stewardship is known as khalifah. Muslims believe that God gave humans the responsibility of looking after the planet.
- ✓ People should protect the environment. On the Day of Judgement humans will be answerable to God concerning how well they have fulfilled this role.

'It is He who has made you successors on the earth'. Qur'an 6:165

Dominion:

- ✓ In **Christianity** some believe that humans were given the power and authority to rule over the world. This is called dominion.
- ✓ A minority of Christians believe that people can do what they like with the earth and everything in it because humans are in charge.

'Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground'. Genesis 1:28

3. The use and abuse of resources

- ✓ Worldwide over 90 million barrels of oil are used a day.
- ✓ The problem of deforestation is a serious one. Around 7.3 million hectares of forest are lost each year.
- ✓ Many other non-renewable resources are being used up very quickly, and once they are gone the world will have to adapt drastically in order to live without them.

Renewable resources:

- ✓ Scientists are developing alternatives to non-renewable resources.
- ✓ While renewable resources (wind, wave power, and sunlight), can theoretically give us unlimited energy, in practice there are currently lots of problems with them, which is why conserving energy is important to people.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians believe they should avoid waste, conserve energy and reduce the demand for natural resources.
- ✓ They believe they can do things like; walking, cycling and public transport instead of using cars, use products which don't have a lot of packaging, turn off lights which aren't being used and reusing bags when shopping, can all help to save natural resources and conserve energy.

Muslims:

- ✓ In the Hadith Muslims are advised to only take what is necessary from the world.
- ✓ Each Muslim has a responsibility to help look after the environment and not overuse the world's resources.

'Do not seek from it more than what you need'. Hadith.

4. Pollution

- ✓ Pollution puts the health of humans, animals and plants at risk.
- ✓ There are many types of pollution which include: air pollution, land pollution and water pollution.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians believe the world is on loan to humans who have a duty to care for it.
- ✓ The **parable of the talents (Matthew 25)** warns that God will judge how responsible people have been.
- ✓ Polluting the world is not good stewardship, as God's creation is being abused.
- ✓ Pollution also harms people, so it is not **'loving one's neighbour'** or considering future generations.
- ✓ Christians believe they must help to protect the natural world from being harmed by pollution.

'The earth in the LORD'S , and everything in it'. Psalm 24:1

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe that the environment should be nurtured, valued and restored to what God intended it to be.
- ✓ Irresponsible behaviour that leads to pollution is seen as unacceptable.
- ✓ In cases where the consequences are fatal, particularly to human life, pollution is haram (forbidden) in Islam.

5. The use and abuse of animals

Muslims beliefs about animals:

- ✓ Muslims believe God made all living creatures and they all worship him in their own way.
- ✓ Each animal is valuable to God, has rights and should be treated with respect and compassion.
- ✓ Islam teaches that animals have been made for the benefit of humans but they are not to be used abused.
- ✓ They must not be beaten unnecessarily nor used to fight each other for human entertainment.
- ✓ All animal cruelty is to be avoided and factory farming is haram (forbidden).
- ✓ Muhammad is seen as a role model in the way he treated animals. There is a story where he cut off a part of his cloak rather than disturb a sleeping cat.
- ✓ He also told a man to return a bird's eggs when he saw the distress of the mother bird.

'All the creatures that crawl on the earth and those that fly with their wings are communities like yourselves'. Qur'an 6:38

Christian beliefs about animals:

- ✓ Christians believe animals were created by God for humans to use and care for.
- ✓ Many believe God values animals but that humans are more important because they were created in God's image and have souls.
- ✓ The Bible teaches that animals are to be treated kindly, but we have permission from God to use them as food.

'Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you'. Genesis 9:3

'The righteous care for the needs of their animals'. Proverbs 12:10

Muslim beliefs on animal experimentation:

- ✓ In Islam causing harm to an animal, doing anything that may harm an animal's life, body or genetic order is not allowed.
- ✓ Causing them stress and forcing them to do a job beyond their power is not allowed either.
- ✓ If such actions were to protect and preserve human life, such as the development of medicines, an exception may be allowed, as long as the animal is treated humanely and with care.
- ✓ All suffering must be kept to an absolute minimum.
- ✓ For example, forcing an animal to smoke to find the effects of smoking is not allowed.
- ✓ Testing cosmetics on animals is also seen as wrong.

Christian beliefs on animal experimentation:

- ✓ In modern societies Christians generally support limited animal testing.
- ✓ Christians believe that all human life is sacred, using animals to develop new drugs may benefit millions of people and save many lives.
- ✓ They believe animals can be used as long as there is no other way to safely develop medicines and it is carried out as caringly as possible.
- ✓ Testing cosmetics on animals was banned in the UK in 1998, and most Christians support the ban.

Muslim beliefs on the use of animals for meat:

- ✓ Muslims are allowed to eat meat which has been killed according to Shari'ah law.
- ✓ For food to be permissible, it must have been farmed and killed according to Muslim teaching.
- ✓ The Qur'an expressly forbids the eating of pig meat and it is also haram to eat any animal which has not been ritually slaughtered or has died in the wild.
- ✓ To provide food is an example of a just cause but hunting for entertainment and pleasure is not.

'Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement'. Hadith

Christian beliefs on the use of animals for meat:

- ✓ Christians have the choice whether to eat meat or not.
- ✓ They should also be sensitive to the beliefs of others about what they wish to eat.
- ✓ Most Christians eat meat. Those who decide not to, usually do so because they are against killing animals, as they believe that animals should not be harmed.
- ✓ Others object to the animal cruelty which can occur in large factory farms.

'The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them'. Romans

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6. Origins of human life

Science:

- ✓ Charles Darwin came up with the theory of evolution. He suggested that creatures appeared in the sea, which over a long period of time, evolved into other species.
- ✓ Some became able to survive on land as well as in the sea. Some then developed the ability to fly. This is called evolution.
- ✓ According to the theory of evolution, humans evolved over millions of years from other animals on land.
- ✓ Scientists have discovered bones from several extinct species, which they claim as possible ancestors of the human race.

Christianity:

- ✓ Fundamentalist Christians believe that the origin of human life was exactly as recorded in Genesis, with God creating each species separately.
- ✓ Whilst some accept adaptation in species, they do not believe there is enough evidence to prove that creatures evolve.
- ✓ Some Christians believe in God as the creator, but also accept the theory of evolution.
- ✓ They believe the Bible is concerned with 'why' it happened, rather than the 'how'.
- ✓ Some Christians say it happened because God designed and created the beginning of life and set everything in motion to develop over the course of history.
- ✓ They believe that evolution is the way God designed life to advance and evolve.

'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them'. Genesis 1:27

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe that after God made the universe, he made the first human being called Adam.
- ✓ Muslims believe the whole of the human race is descended from Adam and Eve.
- ✓ Some Muslims reject the idea of evolution altogether, believe that God formed all the different species. Others accept all forms of evolution except where it applies to humans.

'You [humans] were lifeless and He gave you life'. Qur'an 2:28

10. Euthanasia

- ✓ Euthanasia means 'good death'. The intention is to end the life of someone who is in pain or has poor quality of life due to a serious illness but they can't take their own life.
- ✓ There are three types of euthanasia; voluntary – where a person asks a doctor to end their life for them, non-voluntary – where a person is too ill to request to die, but a doctor will end it because it's in their best interests and involuntary – where a person is able to consent, but does not and their life is ended anyway.
- ✓ All forms of euthanasia are currently illegal in the UK and treated as murder or manslaughter.

Christianity:

- ✓ Many believe taking a life is interfering with God's plan. They think it is comparable to murder and open to abuse.
- ✓ Most believe it goes against the sanctity of life, and only God has the right to take life away.
- ✓ Some Christians do support euthanasia and believe that it should be used if it is the most loving thing to do.
- ✓ They believe God has given people free will so they should be able to choose when to end their lives.

'Thou shall not kill'. Exodus.

'Blessed are the merciful'. Matthew 5:7

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe in the sanctity of life. They believe all life is a gift from God and therefore should be valued and looked after.
- ✓ No person has the right to take life away, only God decides when it will be ended.
- ✓ No one knows the plan for the person who is suffering, there may be a reason for it.
- ✓ Euthanasia is forbidden in Islam and is considered a sin against God, the community and the individual.
- ✓ To end a life prematurely is going against God, because it is interfering with God's plan.

'Do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right'. Quran 17:33

'No soul may die except with God's permission at a predestined time'. Qur'an 3:145

7. Abortion

- ✓ Abortion is the removal of a foetus from the mother's womb.
- ✓ This can happen naturally through miscarriage, but abortion usually refers to the medical procedure of deliberately ending the pregnancy.
- ✓ Before 1967 abortion was illegal in the UK. Abortion is currently allowed up to the 24th week of a pregnancy, in a licenced clinic if two doctors agree.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians believe in the sanctity of life. God has given each person a purpose in life therefore abortion is wrong.
- ✓ Many Christians believe that life starts at conception, abortion therefore is wrong as you are killing a life. The only time it may be acceptable is to save the mother's life.
- ✓ Others oppose abortion but believe it is acceptable in some circumstances such as the result of rape or if the child would be severely disabled.
- ✓ Some say it is the 'lesser of two evils' and the kindest thing to do, for example if the quality of life for the baby is near non-existent.

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart'. Jeremiah 1:5

'As God's chose people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience'. Colossians 3:12

Islam:

- ✓ For Muslims they are taught to value life. The Qur'an does not explicitly refer to abortion.
- ✓ It is generally forbidden, but should be allowed in particular circumstances, such as if the mother's life is at risk.
- ✓ Some believe it should be allowed if the foetus will be born with either physical or mental disabilities or if conception was a result of rape.
- ✓ The abortion should be carried out as early as possible and definitely before ensoulment (somewhere between 40-120 days of pregnancy).
- ✓ In Islam, having an abortion after ensoulment is seen as taking a life.

'Do not kill your children for fear of poverty – We shall provide for them and for you – killing them is a great sin'. Qur'an 17:31

7. Death and the afterlife

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians believe humans receive eternal life as a gift from God, and so a belief in the afterlife is dependent on a belief in God.
- ✓ The afterlife either begins upon death or at the **Day of Judgement** when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

Judgement:

- ✓ Christians believe it is God who judges the fate of those who die.
- ✓ He will take into account the life of the person and the extent to which they have tried to get close to him.
- ✓ Jesus makes it clear that in serving others, they are serving him.
- ✓ Christians believe that simply treating other people well and in accordance with Christian morality is not enough to guarantee a good afterlife.
- ✓ They believe that Jesus is the Son of God and in order to gain a good afterlife you have to have faith in him and following his teaching.

'And the life everlasting'. The Apostles Creed

'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'. John 14:6

Heaven:

- ✓ Traditional paintings show it as beyond the clouds and where God sits on a huge throne watching the earth.
- ✓ It is seen as a place of peace, joy and freedom from pain. Whether it is spiritual or physical is unclear.

Hell:

- ✓ Often seen as the opposite of heaven.
- ✓ Christians understand it to be a state of existence without God.
- ✓ It is often depicted as a place of eternal suffering, terror, fire and torture ruled by the devil.
- ✓ It leaves a difficult question as to whether if heaven is reserved for Christians where do non-Christians go.
- ✓ Many believe that all those who try to follow God will be accepted by him and not be sent to hell.

The parable of the sheep and the goats indicates heaven is a reward for both faith and good actions – only one is insufficient.

Islam:

- ✓ For Muslims death isn't the end but the start of a new stage of life called Akhirah. After death you lie in the grave waiting for the day of Judgment this is called Barzakh.
- ✓ Angels are sent to question them about their life.
- ✓ If they are good and honest they will be rewarded if they are bad and untruthful they will be punished.

The Day of Judgement

- ✓ When God's purpose for the world has been fulfilled He will destroy it.
- ✓ The world will be transformed into a new world.
- ✓ Everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected and judged by God.
- ✓ If people are given the book of deeds in their right hands they will go to heaven, if it is in their left they will go to hell.

Heaven and Hell

Heaven:

- ✓ Described as the gardens of happiness
- ✓ It is a reward for faith and good deeds
- ✓

'A reward for what they used to do'. Quran 56:24

Hell:

- ✓ Described as a place of fire and great torment
- ✓ Punishment for those who reject God and do evil
- ✓

'They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing'. Quran 56:42-4

Crime and Punishment

Topics covered:

1. Crime and Punishment
2. Reasons for crime
3. Law breakers and types of crime
4. Aims of punishment
5. Suffering
6. Treatment of criminals
7. Forgiveness
8. Death penalty

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1. Crime and Punishment

- ✓ A crime is any action which is against the law that has been put in place by the rulers of any state.
- ✓ Offenders who have been found guilty of a crime face a legal punishment.

Good and evil intentions and actions

Christianity:

- ✓ The teachings in the Bible warn against having any evil or wrong thoughts or actions.
- ✓ Many Christians believe that good actions that follow the law, but also others actions such as generosity and love.
- ✓ They also believe that there are wrong actions which are legal such as adultery.
- ✓ Evil actions are those which cause suffering, injury or possible death. Some actions could be considered evil even though they are not against the law.
- ✓ When Christians speak about evil criminal actions, they mean that offence is immoral and wicked rather than directly linked to the devil.
- ✓ Christians claim that there is no such thing as an evil person. Due to the belief in original sin, Christians believe that all humans have a tendency to do things that are evil even though they are not evil themselves.

'You have heard it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder,' and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement'. Matthew 5:21-22

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims also believe that some actions which are legal are still wrong, such as adultery.
- ✓ For Muslims, evil can be linked with the Satan who was originally created by God.
- ✓ When Muslims speak about evil criminal actions, they usually mean that the offence is immoral and wicked as a result of giving in to temptation and going against the will of God.
- ✓ Muslims claim that people do evil things but this is because they are not perfect they have not resisted temptation, not because they are bad people.
- ✓ Shari'ah law puts great emphasis on the beliefs and intentions of people, and even if you have thoughts of committing crime, it is considered as serious as committing the crime itself.

2. Reasons for crime

- ✓ Whilst most people believe crime is wrong, how wrong it is may depend upon why it was committed.
- ✓ Christianity can rarely see any justification for committing a crime, especially as they believe that God put the law-making authorities in their place.
- ✓ Muslims say there is never any justification for committing crimes, especially in countries that follow Shari'ah law that originated in the Qur'an, the Sunnah and the hadith.

'Those who do not judge according to what God has revealed are doing grave wrong'. Qur'an 5:45

Poverty

Some people live in poverty and cannot afford the necessities of life. This can lead people to steal food and essentials that they cannot afford to buy. This is still against the law and people will still be arrested for stealing.

Islam:

Although some Muslims do live in poverty, Zakah is in place to help them. Muslims hope that such community support will prevent Muslims from turning to crime.

Christianity:

Christian condemn stealing, but are keen to make sure nobody is so poor that they use poverty as an excuse for stealing.

Upbringing

Growing up in a household where crime is a way of life may encourage a young person to follow the example of people they live with. Parents may even encourage their children to commit crimes. Once they have started this way of life it is hard to stop.

Islam:

Muslims emphasise a strong extended family to help ensure that children are brought up to respect the law by following the good examples they are set.

Christianity:

Christians believe that both the family and wider society have a duty to help children understand what is right and wrong by setting the right example.

Mental Illness

Some people suffer from a mental illness that causes them to commit crimes. In cases involving major crimes and serious mental illnesses, it is likely that the offender's sentence will ensure that they are kept in a secure unit where they receive the treatment they need.

Addiction

Addiction to drugs means that the human body cannot cope without them. If they do not have the money to get their next 'fix', the only way to get it is to steal it. The drug which causes more crime than any other is alcohol

Islam:

Muslims forbid the taking of illegal drugs and alcohol. They believe that alcohol is a temptation which will lead people to do wrong and should be resisted.

Christianity:

Most Christians do not forbid drinking alcohol, but for Catholics drunkenness is a sin, and no denomination encourages excessive drinking. All Christians are against the use of illegal drugs.

Greed

In the UK, personal possessions and wealth are seen as signs of status. Greed can lead to crime, especially theft or fraud.

Islam:

Muslims do not condone criminal acts out of greed.

Christianity:

In the Ten Commandments, Christians are taught not to covet, which means they should not be jealous of what somebody else has.

Hate

Hatred is a negative feeling or reaction. It can lead to violence or aggression towards whoever or whatever the offender hates.

Islam:

Islam teaches that violence is wrong. You can only use violence in self-defence, therefore hatred is wrong. People should try to resolve their difference peacefully.

Christianity:

Christians also believe violence is wrong. They learnt from Jesus to be peaceful and to try and resolve their differences in a peaceful manner

Opposition to unjust law

According to lawmakers any breach of the law is wrong. Sometimes people have deliberately broken laws which are unjust. Many people believe that a law which is prejudiced or breaches human rights is wrong and should be changed. If breaking the law brings about change it may be acceptable.

Islam:

Muslims believe none of God's laws can be unjust, in countries where Shari'ah law exists it should not be considered necessary to protest an unjust law.

Christianity:

Christians believe it is right to speak out against prejudice and unjust laws, but do not believe it is right to break them.

3. Law breakers and types of crime

Christian attitudes to law breakers:

- ✓ Generally, against people breaking the law.
- ✓ Some Christians believe a punishment should be as severe as the crime, whilst others believe they should be helped to no reoffend.
- ✓ Law breakers rights should be protected and they should be treated humanely.
- ✓ Most Christians believe that offenders should be helped to change their ways so they do not reoffend once the punishment is over.
- ✓ Jesus taught actions which were pleasing to God, which includes treating prisoners well.

'For I was in prison and you came to visit me'. Matthew 25:34-36.

Types of crime:

Murder – the unlawful and deliberate killing of a human being. Christians condemn murder as God created all humans equally. They believe in the 10 commandments, 'thou shall not kill'.

Theft – Christians are understanding of those who commit theft out of need and not greed, but believe that they should be cared for so that they don't need to commit crimes. They believe you should follow 'do to others what you want them to do to you'.

Hate crimes – Christians condemn hate crimes. Everyone should be treated equally regardless of who they are. Christians follow 'love your neighbour' and 'there is neither Jew nor Gentile... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

Muslim attitudes to law breakers:

- ✓ Muslims are against people committing crimes. They believe that God has made it clear that Shari'ah law has to be obeyed, as does any other law.
- ✓ Generally, laws should be respected to promote order in society.
- ✓ Some Muslims believe a punishment should be as severe as the crime, whilst others believe they should be helped to no reoffend.
- ✓ Law breakers rights should be protected and they should be treated humanely.

'God commands justice...and prohibits wrong doing, and injustice...'
Quran 16:190

Types of crime:

Murder – the unlawful and deliberate killing of a human being. Muslims believe that murder is wrong as only God has the right to take life away.

Theft – Muslims may be sympathetic towards people committing theft out of need rather than greed. However, they believe the needy should be cared for by the community, so they have no reason to commit crimes.

Hate crimes – Muslims believe that God creates all humans with equal value and no individuals or groups should be singled out as inferior to others. Hate crimes make the idea of a society without prejudice or discrimination impossible to achieve.

4. Aims of punishment

- ✓ It is generally acknowledged that punishments should not cause unnecessary, intentional harm to the offender.
- ✓ There are three main aims of punishment.

Retribution:

- ✓ It means to get your own back.

Christianity – In the Old Testament

retribution was accepted. **'An eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth'. Exodus 21:23-25** Christians do not take the teaching literally but interpret it to mean that an offender should receive a punishment severe enough to match the seriousness of their crime.

Islam – Muslims favour severe punishment because they believe that actions in breach of Shari'ah law are actions against God. Muslims can grant mercy on the offender or the family can do it on their behalf. **'An equal wound for a wound, if anyone forgoes this out of charity, it will serve as atonement for his bad deeds'. Qur'an 5:45**

Deterrence:

- ✓ Trying to put people off doing a similar crime by giving a severe punishment.

Christianity – Making extreme examples of offenders in an effort to persuade others to obey the law is not acceptable to many Christians. They believe every human should be treated with respect, regardless what they have done.

Islam - Muslims favour severe punishment because they believe that actions in breach of Shari'ah law are actions against God.

Reformation:

- ✓ Trying to change the attitude and behaviour of the offender.

Christianity – Christians prefer this because it seeks to help offenders. It is hope that the offender will become law-abiding members of the community. They believe this because it says **'do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good'. Romans 12:21.** Christians are encouraged not to seek revenge, but to set an example. It should not however, be a replacement for punishment, it should be done at the same time as punishment.

Islam – It is considered necessary for offenders to seek God's forgiveness and to become purified. If they reform, this is more likely to happen.

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6. Treatment of criminals

Prison:

- ✓ Prison is reserved for those who commit a serious crime.
- ✓ Conditions in many UK prisons have been criticised.

Islam – Muslims agree with the use of prison, but under Shari’ah law prisons have less of a role in reforming the criminal and are only normally used while the offender is awaiting trial or punishment. The punishment they usually receive is corporal but some argue that imprisonment may be a far greater punishment than the infliction of pain.

Christianity – Whilst Christians agree that prison should be used for serious crimes, many strongly support trying to help prisoners while in prison and are keen to see education and training facilities well used.

Corporal punishment:

- ✓ Means punishing an offender by causing them physical pain.
- ✓ It is illegal in the UK but allowed in some other parts of the world.

Islam – Public caning is used in some Muslim countries. Corporal punishment is regarded as a violation of human rights but some Muslims argue that imprisonment is far less humane than corporal punishment. Under Shari’ah law punishments are harsh. Whilst some believe that they are too harsh, they are only used under strict regulations and are often not used at all. Where Shari’ah law is used, there is significantly less crime than in the UK.

‘Cut of the hands of thieves, whether they are man or woman, as punishment for what they have done – a deterrent from God’. Qur’an 5:38

Christianity – Christians do not disagree with discipline. They see a positive need for it. However, they may question the method used as Jesus taught to love and care for people. Christians focus on positive sanctions that help offenders.

Community service:

- ✓ Community service offers the offender a chance to make up for what they have done and to receive help in reforming their character.

Islam – These sentences are rarely used in Shari’ah law as they are not considered enough of a deterrent to protect society.

Christianity – As the aims of community service are positive and offer the chance to reform, Christians generally agree that it is a suitable punishment for minor offences. The Church of England condemned programmes for offenders which required unpaid work.

5. Suffering

Muslim attitudes to suffering:

- ✓ Muslims believe God is aware of all types of suffering and allows it to happen, usually for a reason that humans cannot understand.
- ✓ Muslims believe sometimes it is a test from God, or the result of giving into temptation of the devil.
- ✓ It teaches that hope and faith can help believers to endure suffering.
- ✓ Muslims believe it is wrong to blame God for the suffering in the world. They believe God gave free will and therefore can make their own choices.
- ✓ The teachings in the Qur’an, of Muhammad and advice from religious leader teaches Muslims how to use their free will responsibly.

Muslim attitudes to causing suffering to others:

- ✓ It is against the teachings of Islam. They are opposed to causing others to suffer.
- ✓ They share the belief of caring for their brothers and sisters in need.
- ✓ Muslims believe it is inevitable to sometimes cause suffering to others. They believe it is important to be honest with themselves, and to repair the damage they have done.
- ✓ They believe God will forgive anyone who sincerely repents.

Christian attitudes to suffering:

- ✓ Christians believe they should try to help others who are suffering.
- ✓ The Bible explains how good can come out of suffering.
- ✓ They believe they should follow the example of Jesus, who helped many whom he saw suffering, and taught those who believe in God should help those that suffer.
- ✓ Christians believe it is wrong to blame God for the suffering in the world. They believe God gave free will and therefore can make their own choices.
- ✓ The teachings of the Jesus give guidance to help Christians to use their free will responsibly.

‘We also glory in our sufferings; because we know that suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope.’ Romans 5

Christian attitudes to causing suffer to others:

- ✓ Christians are generally opposed to causing others to suffer. Jesus taught humans should love each other and take care of those in need.
- ✓ Christians believe it is inevitable to sometimes cause suffering to others. They believe it is important to be honest with themselves, and to repair the damage they have done.
- ✓ Christians believe they should heal the wrong that has been done and the suffering that has been caused in whatever way they can.

7. Forgiveness

Christian beliefs:

- ✓ A core belief in Christianity and one that Jesus emphasised in his teachings.
- ✓ Christians are expected to forgive others, regardless of what they have done, and Christians believe that in turn, God will forgive them.
- ✓ Many Christians argue that forgiveness is not a replacement for punishment.
- ✓ They believe in both forgiving the offender and justice for the crime that they committed.
- ✓ There is no maximum number of times a person should be forgiven. They believe this as there is no limit on the amount of love God shows them, therefore there can be no limit on forgiveness.
- ✓ They believe they should follow the example of Jesus, which includes forgiving those who do wrong things.
- ✓ They believe reformation should be the primary aim of punishment as it helps forgiveness and the moving on from the crime.

‘Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us’. The Lord’s Prayer.

‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times’. Matthew 18:21-22

‘Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing’. Luke 23:34

Muslim beliefs:

- ✓ Muslims believe that punishment satisfies the demands of society. It reinforces the requirements Islam lays down about how to behave in a way that is pleasing to God.
- ✓ Forgiveness serves no part in the punishment process.
- ✓ Forgiveness, however, plays an important part in Islam.
- ✓ Muslims believe in two categories of forgiveness; forgiveness from God and forgiveness from humans.
- ✓ **Forgiveness from God** – only God can truly forgive and will only forgive those who are truly sorry.
- ✓ **Forgiveness from humans** – Humans should forgive those who ask for forgiveness, and once that has happened, the person who has committed the wrong should then ask for forgiveness from God. If they offend again, they should repeat the process again.

‘Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not wish that God should forgive you? God is most forgiving and merciful’. Qur’an 24:22

‘Pardon each other’s faults and [God] will grant you honour’. Hadith

8. Death penalty

- ✓ Illegal in the UK since 1969. Three people have been pardoned since its abolition because evidence has shown they were innocent.

Christian beliefs:

- ✓ Some Christians agree with the death penalty as they use Old Testament teachings to support their views. They believe people should have the same punishment as the crime committed.

‘Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed’. Genesis 9:6

‘Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth’. Exodus 21:23-24

- ✓ Christians who oppose the death penalty do so mainly because they do not believe that taking another life is right. They believe only God has the right to take life.
- ✓ Jesus taught about the importance of forgiveness and warned people not to judge each other harshly.

‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn away from their ways and live’. Ezekiel 33:11

‘The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away’. Job 1:21

Islam beliefs:

- ✓ Shari’ah law allows for the death penalty to be carried out.
- ✓ The victim’s family has to decide whether to show mercy and allow the offender to be spared. If they do not the offender will be executed.
- ✓ The Qur’an can be interpreted to justify the death penalty.
- ✓ In countries that operate Shari’ah law, methods of execution can include beheading, firing squad, hanging and stoning.
- ✓ There must be very strict evidence before a conviction of the death penalty will be made.

‘Do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right. This is what He commands you to do: so that you may use your reason’. Qur’an 6:151

- ✓ Some Muslims do not agree with the death penalty. They believe supporting passages in the Qur’an have been misinterpreted.

Christianity beliefs and teachings

Topics covered:

1. Nature of God
2. Evil and Suffering
3. The Trinity

4. Creation

5. The Incarnation

6. The Crucifixion

7. The Resurrection

8. The Ascension

9. Life after death

10. Heaven and Hell

11. Sin and Salvation and Jesus (12).

13. Atonement

1. Nature of God

Christians believe God is:

- ✓ Immanent (present in earth and involved with humanity)
- ✓ Transcendent (outside life and beyond understanding)
- ✓ Omnipotent (all-powerful)
- ✓ Omnibenevolent (all-loving and all-good)
- ✓ Merciful (compassionate and forgiving)
- ✓ Just (fair and judges humans actions)

'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son'. John 3:16

'Nothing is impossible with God'. Luke 1:37

2. The problem of evil and suffering

- ✓ Many question why a loving God would allow people to suffer rather than prevent it.
- ✓ Christians believe God treats all people fairly and is incapable of making the wrong judgement.
- ✓ Christians are therefore sure that they can trust God even when things appear to be going wrong.

4. Creation

Genesis:

- ✓ Christians believe God created the earth and all living things.
- ✓ Genesis chapter 1 tells us the story of creation
- ✓ The story gives an account of how the universe was created, how the earth was made fit for life and finally how God created life including humans.
- ✓ It is believed to have happened in six days after which God rested.
- ✓ For Christians the most important part of the story is the fact that everything was created 'good.'

'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'. Genesis 1:1

Literal Interpretation of creation:

- ✓ They believe it is literally true.
- ✓ Everything that is in the story is the word of God and happened exactly as it is told.
- ✓ God created the world in seven days exactly as described in the story.
- ✓ Evidence of science and fossils is false and should be ignored.

God inspired interpretation of creation:

- ✓ They believe that the account contains the truth but is not literally true.
- ✓ The world was created by God but the story was not dictated by God therefore may have some errors.
- ✓ God did create the world and all that is in it but may not have created it in seven days as described.

Inspired by the world and a sense of God interpretation of creation:

- ✓ They believe that the story should not be taken as truth but is to show that God created the world and the Bible is to show them the message that God has to send us.
- ✓ In the case of creation, it is to show that we were created by a loving God who created us all and created a world for us to live in.

The Word:

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made'. John 1:1-3

- ✓ Experts have debated this teaching for year and specifically the identity of the Word.
- ✓ Most agree the Word, refer to God the Son who entered in history through Jesus.
- ✓ This shows that all three persons of the trinity were present in creation.
- ✓ Therefore, the trinity has existed since the beginning.
- ✓ This passage shows that the three persons are not part of a chain with the Son replacing the Father and so on, they have been present since the beginning.

3. The Trinity

- ✓ The concept of the trinity is that there are three 'persons' all of which are God.
- ✓ God is made up of three persons, not three separate people.
- ✓ God is not a physical being.
- ✓ Think of the three persons as non-physical elements.
- ✓ The trinity describes the following:
 - There is only one God
 - Each person of the Trinity is fully God
 - The persons of the trinity are not the same

The Father

- ✓ The first person of the trinity is the Father.
- ✓ God the Father is believed to be the creator of earth and all living things on it.
- ✓ As the creator, he acts as a good father would towards his children.
- ✓ He is believed to be omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscient.

The Son

- ✓ The second person of the trinity is referred to as the Son of God.
- ✓ The Son became incarnate on earth through Jesus.
- ✓ Christians believe Jesus was both fully human whilst on earth but also fully God as well.

The Holy Spirit

- ✓ The third person of the trinity is the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Christians believe when Jesus left the earth, God sent the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit is there to influence, guide and sustain the earth and all life on it.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit is believed to be the unseen power of God at work in the world.



5. The Incarnation

- ✓ Incarnation means becoming flesh, taking a human form.
- ✓ It refers to the act of when God became human in the form of Jesus.
- ✓ Christians believe that Jesus was both fully human and fully God during his time on earth.
- ✓ The gospels of Matthew and Luke explain clearly that Mary did not conceive Jesus sexually, but rather that it was an immaculate conception.
- ✓ It is a fundamental Christian belief that through the incarnation, God showed himself as a human being for around 30 years.
- ✓ Christians refer to Jesus as Christ, which is translated in to a Hebrew word which means Messiah.
- ✓ Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah, sent to save God's people.
- ✓ When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven was heard and said **'You are my Son' Mark 1:11.**
- ✓ On another occasion Peter referred to Jesus as 'Christ'.

'This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit'. Matthew 1:18

'You may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name'. Mark 14:61b-62a

6. The Crucifixion

- ✓ Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion (where criminals are nailed to a cross and lifted).
- ✓ Christians believe that even though Jesus was the Son of God, it does not mean he was spared the pain and horror of his death.
- ✓ Jesus forgave those who crucified him because they did not realise the significance on what was happening.
- ✓ The crucifixion gives Christians confidence that if they accept Jesus' sacrifice, sin can no longer destroy their lives as God forgives those who faithfully ask for it.
- ✓ It helps them to understand that suffering is a part of life, just as it was for Jesus and God understand what the sufferer is going through.

'Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I coming my spirit.' When he has said this, he breathed his last'. Luke 23:46

- ✓ Once Jesus had died a man called Joseph asked for the body so it could be buried.
- ✓ Due to it being the Sabbath day there was insufficient time to bury it properly, so Joseph laid the body of Jesus in a tomb and rolled a large stone to block the entrance.

Christianity beliefs and teachings

Topics covered:

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7. The Resurrection

8. The Ascension

9. Life after death

10. Heaven and Hell

11. Sin and Salvation

12. Jesus and salvation

13. Atonement

Remember: if a question is asking you for the influence of something on Christians, it is asking you for what it makes them think, say, feel or do!

7. The Resurrection

- ✓ According to accounts Jesus was placed in the tomb late on Friday afternoon.
- ✓ How long Jesus remained in the tomb was unclear because when some of Jesus' followers went on Sunday after Shabbat they found the tomb empty.
- ✓ All accounts make it clear that Jesus' body was nowhere to be found
- ✓ Each story mentions the women meeting men (who may have been angels) who told them that Jesus had risen and to spread the message.
- ✓ The belief that Jesus rose from the dead is called the resurrection and is a key teaching of Christianity.
- ✓ For the next few days or weeks Jesus appeared to several people.
- ✓ He told each of them he had risen from the dead as he has predicted when he was alive.
- ✓ The story spread quickly and there were several different witnesses that said he had risen.
- ✓ Christians believe the resurrection shows the power of good over evil.
- ✓ They believe by accepting Jesus they can also be resurrection in some way.
- ✓ They have no need to fear death.
- ✓ It assures them that God will forgive their sins if they follow the teachings of Christianity.
- ✓ Without the resurrection there wouldn't be a Christian faith.

9. Life after death

- ✓ Christians believe humans receive eternal life as a gift from God, and so a belief in the afterlife is dependent on a belief in God.
- ✓ The afterlife either begins upon death or at the **Day of Judgement** when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

Judgement:

- ✓ Christians believe it is God who judges the fate of those who die.
- ✓ He will take into account the life of the person and the extent to which they have tried to get close to him.
- ✓ Jesus makes it clear that in serving others, they are serving him.
- ✓ Christians believe that simply treating other people well and in accordance with Christian morality is not enough to guarantee a good afterlife.
- ✓ They believe that Jesus is the Son of God and in order to gain a good afterlife you have to have faith in him and following his teaching.

'And the life everlasting'. The Apostles Creed

'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'. John 14:6

12. Jesus and Salvation

- ✓ Christians believe that Jesus' death makes up for original sin and so can bring people back to God.
- ✓ Jesus knew that his death was necessary to restore the relationship between God and humans and make salvation available to all people.
- ✓ Christians believe through Jesus' death and resurrection; humans can receive forgiveness for sin.
- ✓ The fact that Jesus rose from the dead shows that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice and atonement, which means Jesus restored the relationship between God and humans.
- ✓ Jesus made salvation possible because God will now forgive anybody who asks in faith.

'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'. Romans 6:23

8. The Ascension

- ✓ The ascension is a matter of interpretation.
- ✓ If Jesus had the power to be able to rise from the dead, it is possible that the same power meant he could leave the earth physically and return to heaven.
- ✓ After meeting his disciples and asking them to carry on his good work, Jesus left them for the last time and ascended to heaven.

'While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven'. Luke 24:51

10. Heaven and Hell

Heaven:

- ✓ Traditional paintings show it as beyond the clouds and where God sits on a huge throne watching the earth.
- ✓ It is seen as a place of peace, joy and freedom from pain.
- ✓ Whether it is spiritual or physical is unclear.
- ✓ Some Christians believe that only those who believe in Jesus will be allowed in to heaven.
- ✓ Other Christians believe that heaven is reserved for Christians and followers of other faiths who have lived good lives.
- ✓ Other Christians believe that heaven is for those who call themselves Christian regardless of how they have lived their life. Simply being baptised guarantees you a place.
- ✓ All Christians believe that God will forgive sins and this will enable people to approach God's presence.

Hell:

- ✓ Often seen as the opposite of heaven.
- ✓ Christians understand it to be a state of existence without God.
- ✓ It is often depicted as a place of eternal suffering, terror, fire and torture ruled by the devil.
- ✓ It leaves a difficult question as to whether if heaven is reserved for Christians where do non-Christians go.
- ✓ Many believe that all those who try to follow God will be accepted by him and not be sent to hell.

The parable of the sheep and the goats indicates heaven is a reward for both faith and good actions – only one is insufficient.

11. Sin and Salvation

Origins of Sin:

- ✓ Sin is any thought or action which separates humans from God.
- ✓ Christians believe that all humans commit sins as nobody is perfect. It is impossible not to sin.
- ✓ Some Christians believe in the idea of **original sin**. This is the idea that humans are born with an inbuilt tendency to do wrong.
- ✓ The idea is introduced in the story of Adam and Eve where they ate the forbidden fruit and were banished from the Garden of Eden.
- ✓ Christians believe that God gave humans free will in order to choose how to live their lives, but it doesn't mean that they can do whatever they want.
- ✓ Christians believe that the Christian teachings such as the give them guidance on how they should use their free will.

The Ten Commandments. E.g. 'Thou shall not kill' and 'Honour thy mother and father'. Exodus 20:1-19

Salvation:

- ✓ Salvation means to be saved from sin and the consequences of it.
- ✓ Salvation enables humans to get close to God again and be granted eternal life with God.
- ✓ Christians believe there are two main ways to get salvation:
 - **Salvation through good works** – the Old Testament makes it clear that a person achieves salvation through faith in God and by obeying God's law e.g. the Ten Commandments.
 - **Salvation through grace** – salvation is given by God through faith in Jesus and his teachings. It is not earned or deserved but a gift for the faithful.
- ✓ Whilst salvation through works is the most widely believed type of salvation, many Christians believe it is possible to achieve salvation through grace along as there is evidence of it in the Bible

13. Atonement

- ✓ Atonement removes the effect of sin and allows people to restore their relationship with God. This is possible because of Jesus.
- ✓ God is holy and therefore does not overlook sin. The penalty of sin must be paid, and Christians believe it was paid through Jesus

'He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world'. 1 John 2:1-2

Christianity Practices

Topics covered:

1. Worship
2. Prayer
3. Baptism

4. Holy Communion
5. Pilgrimage
6. Festivals
7. Foodbanks

8. Street Pastors
9. Mission and evangelism
10. Church growth
11. Worldwide Church

12. Persecution
13. World poverty

Remember: if a question is asking you for similar beliefs it is asking for two of the same (either for or against). If it is asking you for contrasting, they need to be different (one for and one against).

2. Prayer

- ✓ Prayer is communicating with God in silence our aloud.
- ✓ You can use set prayers or informal prayers.
- ✓ People may pray kneeling down sometimes with hands together. Others pray standing up.
- ✓ Christians believe that prayer will be answered by God but not always in the way the person would like.
- ✓ Private prayer and meditations allows Christians to find peace and a sense of communion with God in their everyday life.
- ✓ The Lord's prayer gives individual Christians a pattern for how to pray as it combines praising God and asking for their needs. This prayer is often said in Christian worship and tends to be said out loud by the whole congregation.

4. Holy Communion

- ✓ Is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus and his resurrection.
- ✓ Also known as the **Eucharist**.
- ✓ For Catholics, the sacrifice of Jesus is made present again during the ritual and made real again for believers.
- ✓ For Churches who don't believe this is it still an important ceremony.
- ✓ Many Christians consider it to be the most important act of worship as it recalls the Last Supper of Jesus. **(Matthew 26:17-30)**
- ✓ When they celebrate Communion they give thanks to God for his great love in sending Jesus to save people from sin.
- ✓ Holy Communion is interpreted in different ways. For Catholics and Orthodox Christians, they believe the bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Jesus.
- ✓ They believe by receiving Communion they believe that they become present in a mystical way at the death and resurrection of Jesus which saves them.
- ✓ Protestant Christians celebrate Communion as a reminder of Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. The bread and wine are a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice and helps them to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' death.
- ✓ For many Christians, Holy Communion is at the centre of their lives and worship.
- ✓ They believe they receive God's grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus.
- ✓ It brings the community of believers together in unity and strengthens their commitment to the faith.
- ✓ Celebrating Holy Communion can give them support and encouragement.
- ✓ It calls Christians to put they love they have experienced from God into practice by loving others.
- ✓ They welcome everyone, regardless of age, gender or race and everyone is treated equally.
- ✓ It reminds Christians that whilst they break bread together there are many in the world who are starving.
- ✓ It encourages them to work for equality and justice for all people.
- ✓ They collect money during the service to support work being done in developing countries, the elderly, prisoners and the homeless.

'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me'. 1 Corinthians.

This cup is the new covenant in my blood do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me'. 1 Corinthians.

'For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes'. 1 Corinthians.

6. Festivals

- ✓ Important role in helping Christians remember the major events in the religious and to plan public worship.
- ✓ The Christian calendar has two main seasons: Advent. Christmas and Epiphany; Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

Christmas;

- ✓ Commemorates the incarnation of Jesus.
- ✓ The celebrations last 12 days ending with the feast of Epiphany.
- ✓ Homes are decorated with lights to symbolise Jesus being the light of the world.
- ✓ Many churches hold carol services with reading from the Bible.
- ✓ It is seen as a time of 'peace and goodwill.'

Easter:

- ✓ Most important festival. Celebrates Jesus rising from the dead.
- ✓ During the week leading up to Easter, Christians remember the events that lead to Jesus' death.
- ✓ Special services are held on the Friday to remember Jesus' crucifixion.
- ✓ On Easter Sunday, churches are filled with flowers and special hymns are sung celebrating the resurrection.
- ✓ Many churches organise open-air sunrise events and share breakfast together, often eggs which are a symbol of new life.

3. Baptism

- ✓ For many Churches baptism is the initiation rite by which people become members of the Christian Church.
- ✓ The person if formally acknowledged as a child of God and receives God's saving grace.
- ✓ Jesus' baptism set an example for his followers to be baptised in order to receive the Holy Spirit and begin a new life in the Christian community.

'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. Matthew 28:19

Infant baptism:

- ✓ Catholic, Anglican and other churches practice infant baptism.
- ✓ These Churches believe infant baptism is necessary because of original sin.
- ✓ Everyone has a tendency to sin and needs salvation, even babies.
- ✓ Infant baptism removed original sin. The child is welcomed into the Church as soon as possible.
- ✓ Blessed water is poured over the baby's head. God parents and parents promise to bring the child up in the faith.
- ✓ Other symbols are used to such as anointing with oil, the sign of the cross of the forehead and dressing the child in white.

Believer's baptism:

- ✓ Some Christians thinking that a baby is too young to understand the meaning of baptism, so people should wait until they are old enough to make the decision.
- ✓ They believe baptism does not save a person; it is someone's conversion to living a life dedicated to Jesus which is important.
- ✓ It involves full emersion in to a pool, symbolising the cleaning from sin and rising up to a new life with Jesus.
- ✓ The minister usually talks about the importance of baptism.
- ✓ Each person may read a Bible passage or give a testimony of their faith in Jesus.
- ✓ The minister will baptise them in the pool in a similar way to Jesus' baptism.

4. Holy Communion

- ✓ There is a similar pattern in which most churches celebrate Holy Communion:
 - The ministry of the Word which focuses on God's word in the Bible.
 - The ministry of Holy Communion – offering, consecrating and sharing the bread and wine.

USE YOUR REVISION GUIDES/NOTES TO LEARN HOW THE CHURCHES CELEBRATE COMMUNION!

1. Worship

- ✓ Worship is the way in which Christians show their love, reverence and respect for God.
- ✓ It allows Christians to thank God for his blessings, ask for forgiveness or seek help.

Liturgical worship:

- ✓ Follows the same set pattern.
- ✓ Priest leads the congregation.
- ✓ Bible passages are ready out and there may be a sermon.
- ✓ Often will be music, hymns sung and sometimes chanting by the priest.
- ✓ People receive God's forgiveness through the priest.
- ✓ People receive the living presence of Jesus in Communion.
- ✓ Bible readings follow the Christian calendar.
- ✓ A set order which is familiar to all even visitors.
- ✓ Has been passed down through generations giving a sense of tradition.

Non-Liturgical worship:

- ✓ Does not have to be a set order or ritual.
- ✓ May choose an order to suit the theme.
- ✓ The service is usually focussed on Bible readings and sermons.
- ✓ The basic structure may remain the same or the preacher may change it.
- ✓ Follows worship of some early Christians.
- ✓ Faith is expressed in a variety of ways.
- ✓ Christians can share personal interpretations of the Bible.
- ✓ People take an active part by praying out loud or talking without training.
- ✓ May have more of an emotional impact, with a feeling of a personal revelation from god.

Private worship:

- ✓ Allows individuals to spend time with God.
- ✓ Can happen either alone or with close friends or family.
- ✓ May involve prayer, meditation or studying.
- ✓ Sometimes includes aids such as an icon or rosary.

Informal worship:

- ✓ Depends of people's spontaneous prayer or sharing of thoughts.
- ✓ Quaker worship is mainly silent.
- ✓ Some informal worship is 'charismatic' (led by the Spirit) and many involve dancing, singing and clapping.
- ✓ Some worshippers feel it is easier to experience God's Holy Spirit in informal worship.

5. Pilgrimage

- ✓ Pilgrimage is a journey made for religious reasons, alone or with other Christians, to a sacred place.
- ✓ They make a physical journey and a spiritual journey towards God.

Importance of pilgrimage:

- ✓ Grow closer to God and strengthen faith
- ✓ Expresses sorrow for sin and be forgiven
- ✓ Reflect on their lives
- ✓ Pray for something special or thank God for a blessing

Lourdes:

- ✓ In the south-west if France.
- ✓ Dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- ✓ In 1858 a young girl had visions of Mary in a cave near the river.
- ✓ Mary told the girl to dig for a spring of water, which was discovered to have healing properties.
- ✓ Thousands of pilgrims visit to pray and the cave where she appeared and to bathe in the water where it is claimed that 67 miracles and over 6000 thousand other cures have taken place.

Iona:

- ✓ An island off the west coast of Scotland.
- ✓ In the 6th century and Irish missionary who brought Christianity to Scotland established a small monastic community there.
- ✓ It is the home of the Iona Community and a place of Christian pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary.
- ✓ People believe it is a place where the veil between the spiritual place and physical place is thin.
- ✓ Many pilgrims feel like it's a place where nature reveals God's infinite power and presence.
- ✓ They hold daily services at the abbey, lead hikes and conduct workshops on Christian themes,
- ✓ Pilgrims help out with daily chores whilst they are there.

Christianity Practices

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6. Festivals
7. Foodbanks

8. Street Pastors
9. Mission and evangelism
10. Church growth
11. Worldwide Church

12. Persecution
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7. Foodbanks

- ✓ The Church consists of a group of believers under the leadership of Jesus.

'And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body'. Ephesians 1:22-23

- ✓ The role of the Church is not confined to the building. The Church is a major source of social services like schooling and medical care.
- ✓ It has become involved in projects that help the local community. It fits with the teachings to act with compassion to those in need.

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'. Matthew 25:35

The Trussell Trust:

- ✓ Founded in 1977, provides emergency food, help and support to people in crisis in the UK.
- ✓ The aim is to bring people together to work towards ending poverty and hunger in Britain.
- ✓ Non-perishable food is donated to the foodbanks and is sorted by volunteers.
- ✓ Professionals identify people in crisis and give them a voucher for three days of food.
- ✓ Some provide courses designed to help people to eat well and spend less.
- ✓ There are around 420 foodbanks in the UK and in a year they provide food for nearly 1,000,000 people.

The Oasis Project:

- ✓ A community hub in Plymouth with an internet café, creative courses, a job club, training opportunities and a base for meetings.
- ✓ Also runs a food bank.
- ✓ Paid staff are supported by volunteers and session tutors.
- ✓ Around 200 people use the centre each week and both spiritual and practical support are given to those who need it.
- ✓ They help people who have ill health, learning disabilities, domestic violence, substance abuse, low income and housing problems.

9. Mission and evangelism

- ✓ The Church has a mission to spread the good news to non-believers that Jesus is the Son of God and came to the world to be its saviour.
- ✓ Christians are called not only to know Jesus in their lives but also to make him known to others as Jesus instructed.
- ✓ Christians have the responsibility to tell others of their faith. This may be spreading the word to people they meet in everyday life or, for some, through organised events or preaching.
- ✓ Others feel called to go to other countries and become **missionaries**, which involves evangelism and in some cases humanitarian work.
- ✓ The main aim is to persuade people to accept Jesus as their Saviour and to extend the Church to every nation of the world.

'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations'. Matthew 28:19

The Alpha course:

- ✓ The aim was to help church members understand the basics of the faith but soon began to be used as an introduction for those in learning about Christianity.
- ✓ It is designed to be 'an opportunity to explore the meaning of life' through a series of talks and discussions.

12. Christian Persecution

- ✓ The international society for human rights, claims that 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed at Christians.
- ✓ The persecution ranges from forcing Christians to pay an extra tax, not allowing them to have good jobs or build churches, attacks on their homes and family and sometimes murder.
- ✓ It is believed that many thousands of Christians are killed each year because of their faith.
- ✓ It 2015 it was reported that the ten countries where the most serious persecution was taking place are: North Korea, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Iran, Pakistan, Eritrea and Nigeria.
- ✓ Jesus told Christians to expect persecution from the world because if they persecuted him they would persecute his followers too.

'Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted'. 2 Timothy 3:12

- ✓ The World Council of Churches has a programme to try and bring about the reconciliation between Christians of different denominations and members of other faiths
- ✓ When their beliefs are challenged Christians have to decide whether or not to be fully committed to the faith.
- ✓ Whether faced with verbal or physical abuse, Christians are still encouraged to show love.
- ✓ The Church campaigns on behalf of those persecuted and supports them where possible.

'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good'. Romans 12:21

'If one part suffers, every part suffers with it'. 1 Corinthians 12:26

If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also'. Matthew 5:39

8. Street Pastors

- ✓ The network of street pastors in Brixton was an initiative of Ascension Trust, a Christian charity, where Christian adult volunteers receive training in order to patrol the streets in urban areas.
- ✓ Initially the main aim was to challenge gang culture, the use of knives and guns in London. The focus then widened to include responding to drunkenness, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
- ✓ They aim to help and care for vulnerable people in practical ways. Their work includes giving guidance which might be able to help.
- ✓ Since 2003 they have grown rapidly and now operate in nearly 300 locations worldwide, with around 14,000 trained personnel.
- ✓ A sister organisation called School Pastors, was set up in 2011 with the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour, illegal drug use and bullying.
- ✓ Within school, they mentor young people and patrol within and around schools to help prevent behaviour problems.
- ✓ The mission of the Church includes trying to make a positive contribution to the local community and being a good neighbour.

'Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead'. James 2:17

10. Church Growth

- ✓ Estimates of how many Christians there are in the world vary from 1.5 to 2.5 billion. Up to a third of the world's population claim to have some sort of Christian faith.
- ✓ In 2010 there were nearly 1.1 billion Catholics, a big increase on the estimated 291 million in 1910.
- ✓ Despite opposition from the government, it is estimated that in China there will soon be more Christians than in any other country of the world.
- ✓ In 1900 there were no Protestant churches in South Korea, now the capital city of Seoul alone has 7000.
- ✓ It is estimated that churches in Africa are increasing by an average of 34,000 people a day.
- ✓ Worldwide something like 80,000 people become Christians per day, and over 500 new churches are formed.

Discipleship:

- ✓ The mission of sharing Christ does not end with people deciding to become Christians.
- ✓ The Great Commission described by Jesus was to make disciples, not just new believers.
- ✓ So it involves not only evangelism but also the training of new converts in the way of following Jesus.
- ✓ Each individual Christian has a part to play in spreading the faith and encouraging fellow believers.

11. Worldwide Church

- ✓ The primary mission of the worldwide Church is to proclaim that Jesus came so that the relationship between God and people can be restored.
- ✓ Christians believe that when Jesus died and rose again he saved humans from sin, and through his grace made it possible for humankind to be forgiven and become God's friends.
- ✓ The worldwide Church has a role to restore people's relationship with God and with one another.

'For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life'. Romans 5:10

Corrymeela Community:

- ✓ Begun in 1965 to promote harmony and reconciliation.
- ✓ People from various backgrounds gather for a time of peace-building through the healing of social, religious and political divisions.
- ✓ Those who attend are given the opportunity to talk and listen to each other and explore ways of moving on from violence and distrust.

13. World Poverty

- ✓ Many Christian charities follow the teachings of Jesus in working to relieve poverty. **Parable of Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). When Jesus told a rich man to sell everything to give to the poor (Mark 10:21). The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).**
- ✓ Christians believe they should present Jesus to the world through helping the disadvantaged.

CAFOD:

- ✓ The official agency of the Catholic Church.
- ✓ It brings hope and compassion to all people in poor communities such as Africa, Asia and South America.
- ✓ CAFOD helps to increase access to clean water, education and healthcare, and lobbies employers to adopt fair working conditions.
- ✓ CAFOD acts with local organisations to provide food, water and shelter for people.

Christian Aid:

- ✓ Begun in 1945 they aim to encourage sustainable development, stop poverty, and provide emergency relief.
- ✓ They campaign with the Fairtrade Foundation, Stop Climate Chaos and Trade Justice Movement.
- ✓ They are members of the ACT alliance which provide emergency food aid, shelter, water, sanitation, and poverty reduction programmes.
- ✓ Their biggest fundraising event is the annual door-to-door collection in May.

Tearfund:

- ✓ In 1968 Tearfund was set up when there was a terrible famine and in Nigeria.
- ✓ Tearfund's staff follow the example set by Jesus, travelling to places in great need, responding to disasters and helping vulnerable communities to transform out of poverty.
- ✓ Across the UK, churches donate, hold fundraising events, pray and raise awareness of their work.
- ✓ In 2015 Tearfund worked with 90,522 churches.

Islam beliefs and teachings

Topics covered:

1. The Oneness of God (Tawhid)
2. Nature of Allah
3. Angels

4. Life after death
5. Prophethood
6. Predestination
7. Muhammad

8. Holy books
9. Imamate
10. Sunni and Shi'a

1. The Oneness of God

- ✓ One of the most important beliefs for Muslims is Tawhid (the belief that there is only one God).
- ✓ This belief is repeated daily in the Shahadah (one of the five pillars).
- ✓ A Muslim's most important duty is to declare faith in one God.
- ✓ God is unique. No one can picture God which is why there isn't any pictures or statues of Him in Islam.
- ✓ God is the only creator and controller of everything.
- ✓ Muslims believe they should accept whatever happens as the will of God (supremacy of God's will)

'Say, He is God the One, God the eternal'. Quran 112:1-4

'Misfortunes can only happen with God's permission'. Quran 64:11

5. Prophethood

- ✓ God has chosen people to bring the message of Islam to the people. These chosen people are called prophets.
- ✓ They are important because they provide communication between God and humans.
- ✓ In order for humans to live how God wants it is necessary for instructions to be delivered through prophets
- ✓ Around 124,000 prophets of which 25 are named in the Qur'an
- ✓ They are important role models as they were good people who lived according to God's will.

'Every community is sent a messenger'. Quran 10:47

Adam:

- ✓ First man on earth and first prophet of Islam
- ✓ Father of the human race so treated with great respect
- ✓ God created Hawwa (Eve) to stop Adam being lonely
- ✓ They were told not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden but they did and so sin entered the world.
- ✓ Adam is important as God gave him understanding which he passed on through his descendants. God revealed to him the foods they can eat, how to repent for wrong doing and how to bury the dead.

'He taught Adam the names [of things]'. Quran 2:31

Ibrahim:

- ✓ Fulfilled all the tests and commands God gave him.
- ✓ Was promised to be the father of all nations.
- ✓ Demanded people to stop idol worship. Was supposed to be burnt alive but survived (miracle) so people began to follow God.
- ✓ Re-built the Ka'aba after it was destroyed.
- ✓ Important as he stopped idol worship, gave the message of one God and rebuilt the Ka'aba

'God took Abraham as a friend'. Qur'an 4:125

4. Life after death

- ✓ For Muslims death isn't the end but the start of a new stage of life called Akhirah.
- ✓ After death you lie in the grave waiting for the day of Judgment this is called Barzakh.
- ✓ Angels are sent to question them about their life. If they are good and honest they will be rewarded if they are bad and untruthful they will be punished.

The Day of Judgement

- ✓ When God's purpose for the world has been fulfilled He will destroy it.
- ✓ The world will be transformed into a new world.
- ✓ Everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected and judged by God.
- ✓ If people are given the book of deeds in their right hands they will go to heaven, if it is in their left they will go to hell.

Heaven and Hell

Heaven:

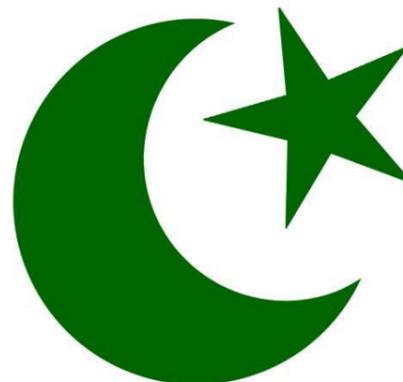
- ✓ Described as the gardens of happiness
- ✓ It is a reward for faith and good deeds

'A reward for what they used to do'. Quran 56:24

Hell:

- ✓ Described as a place of fire and great torment
- ✓ Punishment for those who reject God and do evil

'They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing'. Quran 56:42-44



2. Nature of Allah

Muslims believe God is:

- ✓ Immanent (present in earth and involved with humanity)
- ✓ Transcendent (outside life and beyond understanding)
- ✓ Omnipotent (all-powerful)
- ✓ Beneficent (all-loving and all-good)
- ✓ Merciful (compassionate and forgiving)
- ✓ Just (fair and judges humans actions)

'There is no God but Him, the Creator of all things'. Qur'an 6:102

'He is with you wherever you are'. Qur'an 57:4

3. Angels

Muslims believe angels bring the words of God to the prophets. They have no free will and are made from elements of light. Their roles are:

- ✓ Messengers
- ✓ Guardians of people
- ✓ Recording actions of humans
- ✓ An angel of death
- ✓ Purify hearts
- ✓ Bring natural disasters

'Each person has angels before him and behind'. Qur'an 13:11

Jibril:

- ✓ Archangel
- ✓ Relayed the Qur'an to Muhammad
- ✓ Guided Muhammad through his entire life

Mika'il:

- ✓ Archangel
- ✓ Angel of Mercy
- ✓ Responsible for sending rain, thunder and lightning

6. Predestination

Sunni:

- ✓ Believe God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe.
- ✓ Linked to Sunni belief of the supremacy of God's will.
- ✓ Doesn't mean that people have no choice about how they behave.

'Only what God has decreed will happen to us'. Qur'an 9:51

Shi'a:

- ✓ Believe that God knows everything that is going to happen, but does not decide what is going to happen.
- ✓ Shi'a Muslims do not see conflict between supremacy of God's will and human freed to act freely and make choices as God knows what you will choose but does not choose for you.

'God does not change the condition of a people [for the worse] unless they change what is in themselves'. Qur'an 13:11

Islam beliefs and teachings

Topics covered:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The Oneness of God (Tawhid) | 4. Life after death | 8. Holy books |
| 2. Nature of Allah | 5. Prophethood | 9. Sunni and Shi'a |
| 3. Angels | 6. Predestination | 10. Imamate |
| | 7. Muhammad | |

Remember: if a question is asking you for the influence of something on Muslims, it is asking you for what it makes them think, say, feel or do!

7. Muhammad

- ✓ Muhammad received the final revelation of Islam from God.
- ✓ Known as the last and greatest prophet.
- ✓ Religious from an early age and would go into the mountains to a cave to pray and meditate.
- ✓ In 610CE on Mount Hira received his first revelation from God through the angel Jibril.
- ✓ For more than 20 years received further revelations, which were combined together to make the Qur'an.
- ✓ 3 years after the first revelation began preaching the words he received and continued to do it for the rest of his life.
- ✓ He challenged the people of Makkah to give up their sinful ways (cheating, drinking, gambling and idol worshipping).
- ✓ Was persecuted by the leaders of Makkah and so fled from the city in 622CE. This is known as the **Hijrah (departure)** and marks the beginning of the **Ummah (worldwide community)**.
- ✓ Before the departure Muhammad was taken on an amazing experience where Jibril took him to Jerusalem. Muhammad was carried on a horse like creature with wings. From Jerusalem he ascended to heaven and saw signs of Gods and spoke to prophets such a Isa. This is where he was told to pray 5 times a day. This journey is known as the **Night Journey**.

'Muhammad is not the father of any one of you men; he is God's Messenger and the seal of prophets: God knows everything'. Qur'an 33:40



10. The Imamate

- ✓ When Muhammad died it wasn't clear who should succeed him.
- ✓ Muslims split in to two groups **Sunni and Shi'a**.
- ✓ **Sunni's** elected Abu Bakr as their first Caliph (leader, teacher).
- ✓ **Shi'a** believe that Muhammad named his cousin Ali as his successor so he became the first Imam.
- ✓ For Shi'as it was important that Ali took control because they believe that Muhammad appointed him under divine instruction and leadership should follow in the family line.
- ✓ When Ali died his son became the Imam. Each Imam that followed was the son of the previous Imam.
- ✓ The **Twelver Branch of Shi'a Islam** believe that there have been twelve Imams in total. The last one they believe has been kept alive by God and is hidden somewhere on earth who will return to bring peace, justice and equality.
- ✓ The **Twelver's** believe that the Imams not only rule but are able to interpret the Qur'an and Shari'ah Law without fault.
- ✓ They believe that the receiving of God's law was through Muhammad but guiding people comes through the Imams.
- ✓ **The Imamate** is the name given to the appointment of the Imams and is important because people need divine guidance to know how to live correctly.

8. Holy Books

The Quran:

- ✓ The Qur'an is the direct word of God, which was revealed to Muhammad over a period of around 22 years.
- ✓ Contains the foundation of every believer's faith.
- ✓ Is most sacred of all the holy books.
- ✓ Is infallible (without error and non-changing)
- ✓ Contains a mixture of historical accounts and advice on how to follow God.
- ✓ There are 114 surahs (chapters) in total.
- ✓ Those who can recite the Qur'an from memory are given the title 'Hafiz'.

'This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt, containing guidance for those who are mindful of God'. Qur'an 2:2

Other holy books have been revealed by God. Some Muslims believe these books have been lost, whilst others believe they can be found in the Bible, although the original text has been corrupted so does not have the same authority as the Qur'an.

The Torah (Tawrat):

- ✓ Given to Moses (Musa).
- ✓ Mentioned 18 times in the Qur'an
- ✓ Essentially the first five books of the Bible but additions and subtractions have been made.

The Psalms (Zabur):

- ✓ Revealed to David
- ✓ Mentioned 3 times in the Qur'an
- ✓ Similar to the Psalms in the Bible.

The Gospel (Injil):

- ✓ Revealed to Jesus (Isa).
- ✓ Mentioned 12 times in the Qur'an.
- ✓ It is thought to have been lost but some of its message is still found in the Bible.

Scrolls of Ibrahim:

- ✓ One of the earliest scriptures of Islam, revealed to Ibrahim.
- ✓ Referred to in the Qur'an
- ✓ No longer exist as they have been lost.

9. Sunni and Shi'a Islam

Sunni:

- ✓ When Muhammad died the majority of Muslims thought that **only** the Qur'an and Sunnah had the authority to guide the beliefs and behaviour of Muslims.
- ✓ They elected Caliphs to act on behalf of God and Muhammad. They do not make the laws; they just enforce them.
- ✓ These Muslims became known as Sunni (meaning followers of the Sunnah).

Shi'a:

- ✓ Another group believed that Muhammad named his cousin Ali as his successor.
- ✓ Ali and his supporters thought that the true leader had to be a descendent of Muhammad and chosen by God.
- ✓ Ali's claims to be leader were ignored by many Muslims.
- ✓ Over time a split developed between those who followed Ali (the Shi'as) and the Sunnis.
- ✓ Shi'as have their own interpretations of the Law and only accept sayings of Muhammad which have been passed down through Ali or his followers.

Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam:

1. There is only one God Allah.
2. Angels communicate the message of God to humans.
3. The Qur'an is the most important writing and the highest authority in Islam.
4. Muhammad is the most important prophet of God.
5. The Day of Judgement is when all humanity will be judged by God and sent to paradise or hell.
6. The supremacy of God's will means that God already know but also makes happen everything that occurs in the world and in human lives.

The Five Roots of 'Usul ad-Din' in Shi'a Islam:

1. Tawhid means that God is one.
2. Prophethood means accepting that Muhammad is God's last prophet.
3. God is just and wise and cannot do wrong. He holds humans accountable for their actions.
4. The Imamate means accepting that twelve Imams are the leader of Islam and guard the truth of the religion without error.
5. After death you will be resurrected and judged by God.

Islam Practices

Topics covered:

1. The five pillars
2. Ten Obligatory Acts
3. Shahadah

4. Salah
5. Sawm
6. Zakah
7. Hajj

8. Jihad
9. Id-ul-Fitr
10. Id-ul-Adha
11. Ashura

Remember: if a question is asking you for similar beliefs it is asking for two of the same (either for or against). If it is asking you for contrasting, they need to be different (one for and one against).

4. Salah

Times of prayer:

- ✓ Some Muslims are required to pray at 5 set times during the day.
- ✓ The times alter slightly each day.
- ✓ They pray: just before sunrise, just after midday, afternoon, just after sunset and night.
- ✓ Shi'a Muslims combine the midday and afternoon prayers, and the sunset and night prayers, so they pray 3 times a day.

Preparation for prayer:

- ✓ It is important to be spiritually clean before prayer.
- ✓ Muslims complete ritual washing or ablution which is called **wudu**.
- ✓ They follow detailed instruction on how to was which is in the Qur'an.
- ✓ Mosques have special rooms for washing, one for men and one for women.
- ✓ It is completed with running water, if this is not possible they use sand or dust.

'You who believe, when you are about to pray, was your faces and your hands up to the elbows, wipe your heads. Wash your feet up to the ankles and, if required, wash your whole body'. Qur'an 5:6

Direction of prayer:

- ✓ It is important Muslims face the holy city of Makkah while praying.
- ✓ It means all Muslims are physically and mentally focusing on one place associated with God.
- ✓ If the prayers take place in a mosque, it is easy to achieve as they have a Mihrab. It is a niche built into the wall which shows the direction of Makkah.
- ✓ If prayer takes place outside of a mosque, Muslims used a compass which shows the direction of Makkah.

Prayer in a mosque:

- ✓ Mosques have carpets which look like rows of prayer mats to give each person suitable room to pray properly.
- ✓ Prayers are led by an imam who is positioned at the front but also facing the Mihrab.
- ✓ Men and women pray at the same time but in separate spaces.
- ✓ It is normal for the imam's voice to be broadcast in to the women's prayer room at the same time so he can lead their prayers.

The rak'ah:

- ✓ The daily prayers are made up of a number of rak'ah. It is a set sequence of actions and recitations.
- ✓ The rak'ah changes slightly depending on which prayer it is used in but all include basic actions such as; standing and reciting the first chapter of the Qur'an and after bowing, standing upright and making a recitation praising God.
- ✓ Once the number of rak'ah in completed, in a kneeling position Muslims turn their faces to the right then the left, reciting in Arabic 'peace be upon you, and the mercy and blessings of God'.

'So woe to those who pray but are heedless of their prayer'. Qur'an 107:4-5

Jumah prayer:

- ✓ The midday prayer every Friday is considered to be special, and is called the Jumah prayer.
- ✓ All male Muslims are expected to attend a mosque for this prayer, and women may do so if they wish.
- ✓ Once the prayer is finished, the imam will deliver a sermon to remind Muslims of their obligations and duties to God.

Prayer at home:

- ✓ Muslims are allowed to pray at home.
- ✓ They still have to perform Wudu.
- ✓ Many Muslims use a prayer mat, which they position facing Makkah.

Significance of prayer:

- ✓ Prayer is important as it is what God commanded them to do.
- ✓ It creates a greater awareness of God, which motivates them to do God's will.
- ✓ It unites Muslims worldwide, because they all pray in the same way.
- ✓ Reciting the Qur'an during prayer reminds them of its importance.

5. Sawm

- ✓ Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the time when they focus on fasting.
- ✓ Muslims fast during daylight hours, so will wake up before sunrise to eat and drink enough to keep them going until sunset.
- ✓ The command to fast can be found in the Qur'an, and it has been obligatory for Muslims to do it since the seventh century.
- ✓ For Muslims fasting is not just about food or drink, smoking and sex are also forbidden in daylight hours.
- ✓ The whole focus during the month of Ramadan is on God, for which purity of thought is required in order to cleanse the soul and free it from harm.
- ✓ Fasting requires self-discipline, but allows Muslims to show they can sacrifice their physical needs as evidence of their submission to God.

'It was in the month of Ramadan that the Qur'an was revealed as guidance for mankind... So any one of you who is present that month should fast'. Qur'an 2:18

Exceptions:

- ✓ Not all Muslims have to fast, although those excused are supposed to make it up later if they can.
- ✓ People can be excused for:
 - health reasons – for example pregnant women
 - those who are too ill to take part
 - young children who need to eat
 - nursing mothers
 - those who are taking long journeys

The Night of Power:

- ✓ An important festival which marks the beginning of God's revelation to Muhammad.
- ✓ Observing the Night of Power gives Muslims the benefit of worshipping for a thousand months.
- ✓ Muslims try to keep awake throughout the night on each of the possible dates, devoting themselves to prayers and studying the Qur'an.

'Read! In the name of your Lord who created: He created man from a clinging form. Read! Your Lord is the Most Bountiful One who taught by the pen, who taught man what he did not know'. Qur'an 96:1-5

'What will explain to you what that Night of Glory is? The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months'. Qur'an 97:2-3

6. Zakah

- ✓ Zakah is giving alms (giving money to the poor).
- ✓ For Muslims who have enough savings it is compulsory to give 2.5 percent every year to help the poor.
- ✓ Many Muslims work out how much they owe and give it at the end of Ramadan.
- ✓ By giving Zakah, Muslims acknowledge that everything they own comes from God, and that they should use their wealth to remember God and give to those in need.
- ✓ Only Muslims who have savings greater than a certain amount are required to give Zakah.
- ✓ Zakah can be donated directly to a charity such as Islamic relief or can be put into a collection box in the mosque to be distributed.
- ✓ The Qur'an makes it clear who should receive Zakah.
- ✓ In addition to giving Zakah Muslims are encouraged to voluntarily give their money and time to charity at any point of the year. This is called Sadaqh.

'Alms are meant only for the poor, the needy'. Qur'an 9:60

Significance of Zakah:

- ✓ Muslims are fulfilling a duty imposed by God.
- ✓ Gives Muslims a good attitude towards money. They learn to share wealth and not be greedy.
- ✓ Strengthens communities by making the rich support the poor.
- ✓ Links well with Salah. Zakah put the prayers of concern for others into action.

Khums:

- ✓ An important part of Shi'a practice in addition to Zakah.
- ✓ Requirement for Muslims to give 20% of excess earnings as a donation.
- ✓ Half goes to Shi'a religious leaders, to be spend on the behalf of God on things for religious matters and the other half is given to charity or the poor.

1. The Five Pillars

- ✓ Central to Muslim practices, and they have a great impact on daily life.
- ✓ They support the main principles and beliefs of Islam, just as pillars are used to support a building.
- ✓ They help give Muslims an identity as one community and enable them to show their obedience and dedication to God.

Five pillars are:

1. Shahadah – declaration of faith in God.
2. Salah – prayer.
3. Zakah – charitable giving.
4. Sawm – fasting.
5. Hajj – pilgrimage.

2. Ten Obligatory Acts

- ✓ For Muslims who follow the Twelver Shi'a Islam, there are ten duties they must follow.
- ✓ They include the five pillars except for Shahadah.

Ten Obligatory Acts:

1. Salah – prayer.
2. Sawm – fasting.
3. Zakah – Charitable giving.
4. Khums – a 20 percent tax on income once all expenses are deducted.
5. Hajj – pilgrimage
6. Jihad – the struggle to maintain the faith and defend Islam.
7. Amr-bil-Maruf – encouraging people to do what is good.
8. Nahi Anil Munkar – discouraging people from doing what is wrong.
9. Tawallah – to be loving to the friends of God, including Muhammad and the Imams.
10. Tabarra – disassociating from the enemies of God.

3. Shahadah

- ✓ The basic belief of Islam is expressed in the Shahadah.
- ✓ 'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah'.
- ✓ Sincerely reciting this in front of Muslim witnesses is the only requirement for joining the Muslim community.
- ✓ It is recited many times during a lifetime. E.g. when a baby is born and in the daily prayers.
- ✓ It provides the foundation for the other four pillars. The other four are actions which put a Muslims faith (expressed in the Shahadah) into action.

Shi'a Islam:

- ✓ Many Shi'as add an extra phrase to the Shahadah.
- ✓ 'And Ali is the friend of God'.
- ✓ This demonstrates their belief that Ali, was the true successor of Muhammad, and that only he and his descendants know the true meaning of the revelation given to Muhammad (the Qur'an).

Islam Practices

Topics covered:

1. The five pillars
2. Ten Obligatory Acts
3. Shahadah

4. Salah
5. Sawm
6. Zakah
7. Hajj

8. Jihad
9. Id-ul-Fitr
10. Id-ul-Adha
11. Ashura

Remember: if a question is asking you for similar beliefs it is asking for two of the same (either for or against). If it is asking you for contrasting, they need to be different (one for and one against).

7. Hajj

- ✓ Hajj is a pilgrimage. It should be made at least once in a Muslim's lifetime, provided they are healthy and wealthy enough to do so.
- ✓ Hajj starts and ends in the holy city of Makkah.

'Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it'. Qur'an 3:97

Origins:

- ✓ Around 4000 years ago, Ibrahim was told to take his wife and son to Arabia by God. He was told to leave them there with some supplies of food and water. After several days the supplies ran out and they were suffering from hunger and dehydration.
- ✓ Hajira tried to find help by running up the two hills but she couldn't find any. She prayed to God for help. Ishmael struck his foot on the ground and water gushed up from the earth. They traded the water for food.
- ✓ When Ibrahim returned, he was told to build a shrine to God. This became the **Ka'aba**.
- ✓ Centuries later the city was established using the water from the well (named the Zamzam). Over the years, people started to worship idols which were kept in the Ka'aba.
- ✓ Muhammad journeyed to Makkah with a large group of Muslims, and in 630 CE the Ka'aba was returned to the worship of one God alone.
- ✓ This story is reflected when Muslims complete Hajj.

How Hajj is performed

State of Ihram – Before Hajj begins Muslims must enter a sacred state called Ihram. This involves ritual washing, praying and putting on special clothing. After this they are ready for the pilgrimage to begin.

Circling the Ka'aba – Pilgrims circle the Ka'aba anti-clockwise seven times. If possible they try to touch the black stone built in to the Ka'aba. Many Muslims believe that this is the only stone from the original Ka'aba in existence. As they circle the Ka'aba they recite the pilgrims' prayer.

Travelling to Arafat – The crowd walks along a walkway linking the hills of the story of Ibrahim and his family. After completing seven circuits of the walk they return to Ka'aba to collect bottles of water from the Zamzam. Muslims then either walk of travel 13 miles to Arafat. Halfway there, they stop for the night at Mina, where they pray and read the Qur'an.

Standing at Arafat – At dawn pilgrims walk from Mina to Arafat, where Muhammad preached his last sermon. They spend the whole afternoon praying. Islam teaches that God will forgive the sins of all who complete the standing at Arafat, as it is a hard time, but only if they know they have done wrong, are determined not to do it again, and prepared to try and make up for their sins.

Throwing pebbles at Mina – At the end of the day, Muslims walk the Muzdalifah, where they spend the night. On the way they collect 49 small pebbles to be used the next day at Mina. At Mina, there are three stone walls which represent the devil and temptation. Pilgrims throw the pebbles they have collect at the walls to show that they reject evil. Many pilgrims then sacrifice an animal. The food that is not eaten, is frozen or canned and given to the poor. To follow the teachings of the Qur'an and the example of Muhammad pilgrims then cut their hair.

Returning to Makkah – The next day, pilgrims return to Makkah to circle the Ka'aba seven more times. They then return to Mina and spend two more nights there, remembering God and reflecting on his blessings.

'Safa and Marwa are among the rites of God, so for those who make major or minor pilgrimage to the House it is no offence to circulate between the two'. Qur'an 2:158

The significance of Hajj:

- ✓ Many Muslims go a number of times even though it is a requirement to only go once.
- ✓ It can bring about a deep spiritual transformation that makes them a better person.
- ✓ It teaches sincerity and humility in a person's relationship with God.
- ✓ It produces inner peace, which is shown in the values of justice, honesty, respect, kindness, mercy and forgiveness.
- ✓ It shows self-discipline. The physical and mental demands it imposes are great.
- ✓ It emphasises unity and equality.
- ✓ It reminds Muslims of the faith and examples set by Ibrahim, Hajira and Ishmael.
- ✓ It can lead to forgiveness of sin.

8. Jihad

- ✓ Jihad is an important concept for Muslims. It refers to struggling against evil, either as an individual or as the collective fellowship of Islam.

'But those who have believed, migrated, and striven for God's cause, it is they who can look forward to God's mercy: God is most forgiving and merciful'. Qur'an 2:218

Greater Jihad:

- ✓ A personal inward struggle of all Muslims to live in line with the faith.
- ✓ They must observe the five pillars to bring them closer to God.
- ✓ Muslims must devote their lives to God by avoiding temptations like drugs and alcohol.
- ✓ Some try to improve life for people in the community
- ✓ By completing these things, Muslims improve themselves spiritually and deepen their relationship with God.

Lesser Jihad:

- ✓ Less important than greater Jihad. It is the outward struggle to defend Islam.
- ✓ There are texts in the Qur'an which appear to allow extreme violence but they cannot be used to defend terrorism.
- ✓ Muslims must follow the rules set about by Holy War when taking on the task of lesser Jihad.
- ✓ Neither lesser Jihad nor holy war should be used to defend terrorist attacks. However lesser Jihad in misinterpreted in modern times

10. Festival of Id-ul-Fitr

- ✓ Means the 'festival of breaking of the fast'.
- ✓ It has several other names such as, **the sugar feast, the sweet festival or lesser Eid**.
- ✓ It marks the end of the month of Ramadan. During this time Muslims do not only celebrate the end of a month of fasting, but are thanking God for the strength he has given them to fast for a month.
- ✓ Muslims are also thanking God for giving them his guidance and wisdom through the Qur'an.

How is it celebrated?

- ✓ Celebrated for either one, two or three days.
- ✓ Muslims gather together in mosques or outdoor areas to say prayers. There is also a sermon from the Imam reminding them to forgive and forget issues during the year.
- ✓ Everyone wears their best clothes and homes are decorated.
- ✓ Special foods are eaten, and there are processions through the street.
- ✓ In areas where Muslims live, they may be given the day off to enjoy the festival.

11. Festival of Id-ul-Adha

- ✓ It is the festival of sacrifice or **Greater Eid**.
- ✓ Last for four days.
- ✓ It remembers and honours the Prophet Ibrahim, who was willing to sacrifice his son on God's command. **(Qur'an 37: 100-112)**
- ✓ Ibrahim was going to sacrifice his son on God's command even though he loved him dearly. As he was about to do it, God prevented it and gave him a ram to sacrifice instead. He passed the test of being willing to carry out God's commands.

How is it celebrated?

- ✓ Forms part of Hajj, but is celebrated all over the world. People will visit family and friends and enjoy festive meals.
- ✓ Begins with prayers in the mosque and a sermon from the imam about sacrifice. Animals are slaughtered to remember Ibrahim's sacrifice. Some Muslims buy slaughtered meat from their local butchers which has been slaughtered in a specific way. They share the meat between them or give money to charity.
- ✓ Cards and presents are given and community celebrations organised.
- ✓ People living on their own receive invitations to go their neighbours to share meals. Those in hospital will receive visitors to make sure that everyone is included in the celebrations.

11. Ashura

- ✓ Shi'a festival which means 'tenth'.
- ✓ Sunni Muslims refer to Ashura as the Day of Atonement. They remember it as the day when the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Others believe it remembers the day when Noah left the ark after the flood.
- ✓ Muhammad nominated Ashura as a day of fasting from sunrise to sunset.
- ✓ It is a day of mourning for Shi'a Muslims as it remembers the death of Husayn the son of the Imam Ali, and grandson of Muhammad. It is a day of mourning for the martyrdom of Husayn.
- ✓ It remembers the battle fought Shi'a Muslims under Husayn and Sunni Muslims under the Caliph Yazid I. Husayn and his army were defeated and the men were killed by being trampled upon by horses and set on fire. Their possessions were taken and the women were taken captive.
- ✓ Husayn's martyrdom is widely seen by Shi'as as a symbol of the struggle against injustice, tyranny and oppression.

How is it commemorated?

- ✓ In many Muslim countries, a public holiday takes place. During the day Shi'a Muslims take part in a public expression of grief and mourning. Some even hurt themselves to connect with Husayn's suffering and death. However, religious authorities have condemned these acts saying they are wrong for Muslims to do.
- ✓ Muslims in the UK, will go for a procession and to listen to speeches. They are encouraged to donate blood to remember the sacrifice instead of hurting themselves. In Iraq, many Shi'as will go on pilgrimage to the shrine which is believed to hold the tomb of Husayn. Ashura has become a point of difference between some Sunni and Shi'as and in many countries security is heightened for the occasion.
- ✓ For Sunni Muslims, Ashura is a day when many will voluntarily fast. Many give to charity, show kindness to their family and to the poor, recite prayers and learn from Islamic scholars.
- ✓ It is not such an important festival or as solemn an occasion as it is for Shi'a Muslims.

Relationships and Families

(Unit 3)

Topics covered:

1. Sexuality
2. Homosexuality
3. Sex outside of marriage

4. Contraception
5. Marriage/Cohabitation
6. Divorce/remarriage
7. Nature of family

8. Purpose of family
9. Polygamy
10. Gender equality

Remember: if a question is asking you for the **similarities** it means **two things the same**. If it says **contrasting** it is asking you to say **both for and against**.

1. Sexuality

- ✓ Human sexuality refers to the way people express themselves as sexual beings.
- ✓ A **heterosexual relationship** is a relationship with a member of the opposite sex.
- ✓ A **homosexual relationship** is a relationship with a member of the same sex, either between a man and another man or a woman and another woman.

Christianity:

- ✓ The Church teaches the only valid place for a sexual relationship is in a marriage.
- ✓ In the past, the Church was more powerful and the majority of society accepted this view point. However, times and laws have changed and so views on sex have also altered.

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe sexuality is part of the human being, not wrong or unhealthy.
- ✓ Islam teaches that sexuality must be used in a responsible way, there are certain expectations surrounding sex.
- ✓ It is expected Muslims will marry and have a family.

Age of Consent:

- ✓ In the UK, the 'age of consent' for anyone to have sex is 16 years old.
- ✓ The law tries to protect anyone under the age of 16 from exploitation and abuse.
- ✓ Children under 13 are protected by additional specific laws to prevent abuse.

2. Homosexuality

- ✓ A homosexual relationship is a relationship with a member of the same sex.
- ✓ In the UK, homosexuality was **illegal** until 1967. In some Muslim countries it is still illegal and can be severely punished.
- ✓ In 2004 same-sex couples could have a **civil partnership** (the same rights as marriage).
- ✓ It was only in 2013 that same-sex marriage was recognised in law.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians have differing opinions on homosexuality.
- ✓ Some Christians disagree with homosexuality because it says in the Bible that sexual relationships between two men are forbidden.
- ✓ The Catholic Church teaches the homosexual people are not sinful because of their sexual orientation but they should remain **celibate** in order to not commit a sin.
- ✓ Church of England welcomes homosexuals who have a faithful, committed relationship, but they cannot marry in church.

'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable'.

Leviticus 18:22

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31

Islam:

- ✓ In Islam, sexual orientation is considered a choice.
- ✓ Considers same-sex relationships to be against the natural law created by God.
- ✓ Most Muslims believe that the Qur'an and Hadith teach that homosexuality is against God's will.

'Must you, unlike [other] people, lust after males and abandon the wives that God has created for you? You are exceeding all bounds'. Qur'an 26:165-166

3. Sex outside of marriage

- ✓ In the past, sexual relationships outside of marriage was considered shocking, especially for a woman.
- ✓ Times have changed and it is becoming more accepted to have a sexual relationship before marriage happens.

Christianity:

Sex before marriage:

- ✓ Many Christians believe it is important to be sexually pure before marriage, because sex is a part of the loving, trusting relationship that should be developed in marriage.
- ✓ Christians believe it is wrong to use people for sex, and irresponsible to spread STI's.
- ✓ Although Anglican and Catholic churches teach that unmarried people shouldn't have sex some Christians do accept sex before marriage.
- ✓ They say sex before marriage is acceptable if it is within the boundaries of a stable relationship as a way to express their love for each other.

'Flee from sexual immorality'. 1 Corinthians 6:18-19

Sexual relationships outside of marriage:

- ✓ Christians believe adultery (cheating) is wrong because it involves secrecy, lies and a betrayal of trust.
- ✓ Adultery breaks the promises couples make before God to be faithful to each other.
- ✓ It threatens a stable relationship and breaks up families.

'You shall not commit adultery'. Exodus 20:14

Islam:

Sex before marriage:

- ✓ Muslims believe casual sex is wrong. They believe it can lead to promiscuity and other evils such as rape and deception.
- ✓ The Qur'an expressly forbids sex before marriage. Under Islamic law it is considered to be a sexual offense.

'A man should not stay with a woman in seclusion unless his is a Dhu-Mahram (relative)'. Hadith

Sex outside of marriage:

- ✓ Adultery is considered a serious sin. Muslims should avoid situations which could lead to this sort of sin.
- ✓ They believe it is wrong because it is a betrayal of trust and goes against the marriage promises.
- ✓ In some countries governed by Shar'ah law the punishment for adultery is death. However, it is very difficult to get a conviction.

'And do not go anywhere near adultery: it is an outrage, and an evil path'. Qur'an 17:32

5. Cohabitation

- ✓ Living together before marriage.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians who are opposed to sex before marriage believe cohabitation is wrong.
- ✓ Catholics are opposed to any sexual relationship outside of a marriage.
- ✓ Anglicans accept that although marriage is best, people may live together if they are in a loving and committed relationship.

'The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage'. Catechism 2390

Islam:

- ✓ Believe it's wrong as sex should only occur within a marriage.

4. Contraception

- ✓ Contraception is a way of preventing pregnancy.
- ✓ There are several different methods of contraception:
 - The pill
 - Condoms
 - Coil
 - Implant
 - Injection

Christianity:

- ✓ The Catholic Church teach that artificial methods of contraception goes against God's laws.
- ✓ God's purpose of marriage and sex is to have a family.
- ✓ Catholics are not against family planning, but think parents should use natural forms of contraception to regulate their family.
- ✓ Anglicans accept people should only have as many children as they are able to care for therefore would accept contraception, not to stop children completely but to regulate the amount of children.
- ✓ Many Christians agree that some forms of contraception shouldn't be used because conception has already taken place which they would see as abortion which is wrong.

'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth'. Genesis 2:24

Islam:

- ✓ Contraception is only acceptable in the context of marriage, not for unmarried people.
- ✓ There is an expectation that Muslims will have children, but they believe the couple should be able to decide when to have the family and how many children to have.
- ✓ They accept contraception as long as it's not used for preventing children altogether.
- ✓ There are some Muslims who believe it is wrong as it interferes with God's plans.

'God wishes to lighten your burden.' Qur'an 4:28

'Do not kill your children for fear over poverty – we shall provide for them and for you – killing them is a great sin'. Qur'an 17:31

5. Marriage

- ✓ Marriage is a legal contract that brings security as it protects the rights of each partner and is a serious lifelong commitment.
- ✓ In 2004 same sex couples were allowed to register their union in a civil partnership which gives them the same rights as married couples in the UK.
- ✓ Same-sex marriage became legal in the UK in 2014.

Christianity:

- ✓ Marriage was a gift from God at creation.
- ✓ Some believe it is a lifelong union blessed by God, that reflects the love of Jesus and an agreement before God which cannot be broken.
- ✓ For Christians the purpose of marriage is to provide a stable environment for family life.

'This is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh'.

Islam:

- ✓ Consider marriage to be the foundation of family life.
- ✓ The Qur'an and Hadith make it clear that marriage was intended by God for the sharing of love.
- ✓ Adults are considered to marry because it is a normal part of life. It helps them to develop spiritually because it prevents them from sinning.

'There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage'. Hadith

Relationships and Families

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6. Divorce/remarriage
7. Nature of family

8. Purpose of family
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Remember: if a question is asking you for the **similarities** it means **two things the same**. If it says **contrasting** it is asking you to say **both for and against**.

6. Divorce and remarriage

- ✓ Divorce is allowed a year after marriage if the marriage cannot be saved.
- ✓ A legally recognised divorce must be obtained through a court.
- ✓ People divorce for many reasons such as: people changing, addiction, abuse, inability to have children, work and money pressure, disability and adultery.
- ✓ People can get remarried as many times as they wish to different people or their original spouse.

Christianity:

- ✓ Jesus taught that anyone who divorced and remarried was committing adultery.
- ✓ Catholics argue that marriage is permanent and therefore even if couples have a divorce through the court in the eyes of God they are still married. They therefore cannot get remarried.
- ✓ Other Christians argue sometimes divorce is the lesser of two evils. They can marry in a church with the Bishop's blessing.

'Anyone who divorce his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her'. Mark 10:11-12

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims allow divorce as a last resort but it believed to be hateful to God.
- ✓ The Qur'an encourages Muslims to reconcile their difference by allowing family members to bring them back together if it fails they can then divorce.
- ✓ The Qur'an guarantees rights of both men and women to divorce.
- ✓ Muslims are also allowed to remarry after divorce. Muhammad set this example by marrying a divorced woman.

9. Polygamy

- ✓ Polygamy is where a man or a woman has more than one married partner.
- ✓ It is consented, the other party has to welcome the next husband or wife in to the family. If it is done in secret this is **bigamy**.

Christianity:

- ✓ There are examples in the Bible of people who practiced polygamy and there are laws in the Bible to protect the rights of the first born child (**Deuteronomy 21:15-16**).
- ✓ Christians however, believe the ideal marriage is one man and one woman for life, like it was created in the beginning.
- ✓ Paul makes it clear that each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband to avoid sexual immorality (**1 Corinthians 7:2**).

Islam:

- ✓ Islam allows for a man to have more than one wife at the same time, but only under certain circumstances.
- ✓ The prophet Muhammad had several wives, which was normal at the time.
- ✓ Originally the reasons for polygamy were to protect women, who were unable to support themselves if their husbands died.
- ✓ A man can only have multiple wives if he is able to love them, support them and treat them all equally.
- ✓ He can also only do so with the formal consent of his first wife for moral and practical reasons.

8. Purpose of family

- ✓ The family serves a number of purposes: it controls sexual behaviour, it creates stability for society, it provides protection of children, it is where children learn to relate to others, it helps to provide security for the sick, elderly and disabled and for those who are religious it is where children are educated in the faith.

Christianity:

- ✓ The Church teaches that both parents and children have responsibilities to each other.
- ✓ The commandment to honour your mother and father applies to all ages, so it includes the respect and care given to elderly relatives.
- ✓ Christians believe children are gifts from God.
- ✓ Children also have responsibilities to obey, love and respect their parents for all they have done to help them grow in to mature adults.

'Listen to you father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old'. Proverbs 23:22

'Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him'. Psalm 127:3

'Children, obey your parents in everything, for this please the Lord'. Colossians 3:20

Islam:

- ✓ For Muslims, children are a blessing from God and the family is especially important for providing a stable environment for their upbringing.
- ✓ Parents have a duty to raise their children to be good Muslims.
- ✓ Children also have a duty to be respectful to their parents and elders, which continues into adulthood.
- ✓ Islam honours the elderly because they have a great deal of wisdom and experience to offer the younger generations.
- ✓ Muslims have a responsibility to care for their parents when they become ill. They would not put them in a home, and many have them living with them. It is an honour to look after them.

'Lower your wing in humility towards [your parents] in kindness and say, 'Lord have mercy on them, just as they cared for me when I was little'. Qur'an 17:24

'It is one of the greatest sins that a man should curse his parents'. Hadith

10. Gender equality

- ✓ Gender equality means that men and women should be given the same rights and opportunities as each other.
- ✓ There are many examples where gender equality does not happen. Gender prejudice and sexual stereotyping often prevents equality between genders.
- ✓ Traditionally, men held more positions of power and had more rights than women.
- ✓ In a family, the mother brings new life into the world and is usually the baby's prime carer. The father may help and will support the wife and the baby.
- ✓ Just because roles are different doesn't mean that they are unequal. Each family decides what will work for them.

Christianity:

- ✓ Believe that all people have been created equal in the image of God.
- ✓ For Christians discrimination is wrong, due to the commandment to love one another.
- ✓ Jesus treated women with respect and welcomed them as disciples and showed that they were capable of more than just completing domestic chores. **Story of Mary and Martha. (Luke 10:38-42)**
- ✓ Some traditional Christians believe that men are the head of the family and women should mainly stay home to care for the children. This belief could stem from a literal interpretation of the Bible where Even is punished for her disobedience.
- ✓ Most Christians today see marriage as an equal partnership where the different gifts of each person, male and female strengthen family life.

'With painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you'. Genesis 3:16

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe God created all people equal. The Qur'an teaches that men and women were created from a single soul.
- ✓ Men and women have the same religious and moral responsibilities.
- ✓ Muhammad taught that anyone, man or woman, who does a good deed for God's sake will be rewarded. (**Qur'an 16:97**).
- ✓ Islamic law recognises the full property rights of women before and after marriage.
- ✓ In some Muslim countries women are not given full rights under the law, but this is against the teachings of the Qur'an.
- ✓ Muslim families place high value on the mother's role in bringing up the children in Islam. Men are expected to provide for the family and make decisions about their general welfare.
- ✓ Many non-Muslims assume that women suffer gender prejudice such as wearing the veils, girls' education and restrictions on women's freedom. Muslims point out that in some countries discrimination does happen but this is due to cultural practices rather than because of the teachings in the Qur'an.

'People, we created you from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognise one another'. Qur'an 49:13.

7. Nature of family

- ✓ There are several different types of family (look up key words).
- ✓ The role of parents in a family is very important. It is their duty to bring the child up to know right from wrong.

Christianity:

- ✓ They place very high value on family life, as love is at the heart of all relationships and this is where children learn to love.
- ✓ Christians believe it's important to look after the elder generations of the family and to respect their parents because of the commandment **'honour your mother and father'. Exodus 20:12**
- ✓ Some traditional Christians disapprove of same sex parents because they feel the ideal is for children to grow up with a male and female role model. Others would say it's more important for children to be in a secure and loving family regardless of the gender of their parents.

Islam:

- ✓ For Muslims the extended family is the basis of Islamic society and part of God's plan.
- ✓ The family shapes the moral values and character of the child.
- ✓ Muslims care for their elderly parents and grandparents with love and respect as they cared for them when they were young.
- ✓ Muslim parents are expected to love and care for their children, set a good example for them and bring them up in the faith.
- ✓ Women have an important role in looking after the home, raising children and making decisions about the household. Traditionally, men are expected to work and provide for their family. **'Heaven is under the feet of the mothers'. Hadith**

Peace and Conflict

(Unit 4)

Topics covered:

1. Peace and justice
2. Forgiveness and reconciliation
3. Violence

4. Terrorism

5. Reasons for war
6. Nuclear weapons
7. Just War

8. Holy War

9. Pacifism
10. Victims of war

Remember: if a question is asking you for the **similarities** it means **two things the same**. If it says **contrasting** it is asking you to say **both for and against**.

1. Peace and Justice

Peace:

- ✓ Peace is defined as the absence of war.
- ✓ It can also be thought of as a feeling of happiness.

Justice:

- ✓ Justice is bringing about what's right or fair, or making up for a wrong that has been committed.
- ✓ Justice is often linked with equality. If people don't have the same opportunities this is seen as unfair.

Christianity:

- ✓ In the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah looked forward to a time of peace.
- ✓ Peace is important to Christians. They should aim to make peace.

'Nation will not take sword upon nation'. Isaiah 2:4

- ✓ Christians look forward to a time when God, the ultimate judge, will establish justice between nations and settle disputes.

Islam:

- ✓ There is an emphasis on peace in the Qur'an. The word Islam in Arabic means peace.

'The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth, and who, when aggressive people address them, reply, with words of peace'. Qur'an 25:63

- ✓ In Islam, 'the Just' is one of the 99 names of Allah.
- ✓ Believe that God has provided the laws because they help bring about justice on earth.

4. Terrorism

- ✓ A serious form of violence.
- ✓ Where an individual or group who share certain beliefs use violence or threat to further their cause.
- ✓ The violence is usually committed against innocent people and takes place in public.
- ✓ Terrorists believe that killing innocent people will make the rest of the population more aware of their cause and the authorities will give in to their demands.
- ✓ **No religious tradition promotes terrorism, so you will never answer a question on why it is acceptable.**

Christianity:

- ✓ Most Christians believe terrorist acts are wrong
- ✓ Victims are usually innocent people and it is wrong to kill innocent people.
- ✓ They believe you should use peaceful ways to resolve issues.

'Thou shall not kill'. Exodus 20:13

'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Mark 12:31

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe terrorist attacks are wrong and they go against the wishes of God.
- ✓ Victims are usually innocent people and it is wrong to kill innocent people.
- ✓ There is no justification for terrorist attacks in the teachings of Islam.

'Do not take life, which God has made sacred'. Qur'an 17:33

3. Violence and Protest

- ✓ The right to protest is a fundamental democratic freedom.
- ✓ Protest is an expression of disapproval which is often in public.
- ✓ Protests have to be carefully planned out and requested before they go ahead.
- ✓ Police have to be informed in case they become violent.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians do not promote violence.
- ✓ Christian teachings generally say that violence should be avoided if possible.
- ✓ Sometimes Christians understand that violence is needed in order to stand up for injustices.
- ✓ They believe certain rules should be followed when violence occurs.

'Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called sons of God'. Matthew 9:5

'If there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth'. Exodus 21:23-24

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims believe that fighting and violence is only allowed in self-defence.
- ✓ They say you should only fight those who actively fight against you.

'Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you. If any of you does these things, out of hostility and injustice, We shall make him suffer Fire'. Qur'an 4:29-30

'If you have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate, but it is best to stand fast'. Qur'an 16:126

2. Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiveness:

- ✓ Defined as showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.

Reconciliation:

- ✓ Restoring relationships after conflict or a disagreement.

Christianity:

- ✓ Believe that forgiveness is important for living peacefully.
- ✓ The wrong should be righted (justice) but once that's happened forgiveness should follow.
- ✓ God sets the example by forgiving those who ask through faith. We should do the same.
- ✓ Believe that reconciliation is important. It is more than apologising.
- ✓ Reconciliation involves a conscious effort to rebuild the relationship.

Islam:

- ✓ Forgiveness is an important element of living peacefully.
- ✓ Allah sets the example regarding forgiveness by forgiving those who are truly sorry and ask for forgiveness in faith.
- ✓ Also believe that reconciliation is important. It is more than apologising.
- ✓ Reconciliation involves a conscious effort to rebuild the relationship.

5. Reasons for war

Greed:

- ✓ War has been used to gain land or territory or regain land lost.
- ✓ It is used for countries to control resources and make countries richer and more powerful.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christianity warns against greed so a war for this reason is wrong.

'For the love of money is the root of all evil'. 1 Timothy 6:10

'it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God'. Luke 18:25

Islam:

- ✓ Muslims also warn against greed.

'God does not like arrogant, boastful people, who are miserly and order other people to be the same, hiding the bounty God has given them'. Qur'an 4:36-37

Self-defence:

- ✓ When a country attacks another it expects to meet resistance from the invaded country.
- ✓ Fighting in self-defence is usually considered to be morally acceptable as you are protecting the lives of the innocents that live there.

Christianity:

- ✓ Whilst there is little in the New Testament to justify the idea of fighting in self-defence an argument can be made for it.
- ✓ Christians believe it is acceptable as long as all other ways of solving the problem have been attempted and failed.

'Do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

Islam

- ✓ The Qur'an permits fighting in self-defence, as long as all other ways of solving the problem have been attempted

'Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged – God has the power to help them'. Qur'an 22:39

Retaliation:

- ✓ Retaliation is deliberately harming someone as a response of them harming you.
- ✓ Wars are sometimes fought in retaliation against a country which has done something wrong.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians are taught by Jesus not retaliate.
- ✓ Many Christians find it difficult to follow the teaching when it comes to war.

'Do not repay anyone evil for evil'. Romans 12:17

'But I tell you do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also'. Matthew 5:39

Islam:

- ✓ Islam teaches that retaliation should be measured.
- ✓ Torture is forbidden.
- ✓ Muslims believe that God offers innumerable rewards for those who choose reconciliation over retaliation.

'If you have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate, but it is best to stand fast'. Qur'an 16:126

'There is cause to act against those who oppress people and transgress in the land against all justice...though if a person is patient and forgives, this is one of the greatest things'. Qur'an 42-43

Peace and Conflict

(Unit 4)

Topics covered:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Peace and justice | 4. Terrorism | 8. Holy War |
| 2. Forgiveness and reconciliation | 5. Reasons for war | 9. Pacifism |
| 3. Violence | 6. Nuclear weapons | 10. Victims of war |
| | 7. Just War | |

Remember: if a question is asking you for the **similarities** it means **two things the same**. If it says **contrasting** it is asking you to say **both for and against**.

7. Just War

Christianity:

- ✓ A war which is fought using certain criteria for fairness.
- ✓ A theory developed and introduced by St Augustine.
- ✓ Contains 8 criteria:
 1. Must be fought for the right cause.
 2. Must be started by the right authority (government etc.)
 3. Must have the right intention
 4. Must be a last resort
 5. Must be a reasonable chance of success.
 6. Must use a proportional amount of force
 7. Must be fought by the right means (no harming innocents)
 8. Must use appropriate force (weapons etc.)
- ✓ All criteria must be met in order for the war to be a 'just war'.

Islam:

- ✓ Lesser jihad obliges Muslims to fight under certain conditions
- ✓ There are strict rules to follow
- ✓ Although there is no specific theory in Islam codes of conduct have been developed.
- ✓ War is allowed if it follows the 6 circumstances:
 1. It is the last resort
 2. It is done in self-defence
 3. The decision is made by a state leader
 4. It is done for a just cause
 5. Other countries can assist another Muslim start which is under threat
 6. If another state has tyrannised Muslims it is permissible to fight in support of Muslims
 - ✓ If the conditions are met, the war is just and those who fight in it will receive the reward of God.

6. Nuclear weapons

- ✓ Weapons that work by a nuclear reaction which devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people.
- ✓ It is estimated that in 2015, nine nations had around 15,700 nuclear weapons between them.
- ✓ The usual justification for NW is that they prevent world wars from occurring due to the fear of the consequences.

Christianity:

- ✓ Christians believe that the problem with nuclear weapons is their use rather than the device themselves.
- ✓ It is a fundamental belief that as God is the creator only he is the one who is able to take away life.
- ✓ Some believe that nuclear weapons which kill masses of innocent can never be justified.
- ✓ Others believe that they can be used as a threat for self-defence.

'Thou shall not kill' Exodus 20

'If there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth'. Exodus 21:23-24

Islam:

- ✓ Believe life is sacred and using weapons which could kill millions of people and destroy the earth goes against the teachings of Islam.
- ✓ In warfare innocent civilians must be protected, with nuclear weapons this is not possible.

Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good for God loves those who do good'. Qur'an 2:195

Other types of weapons of mass destruction:

Chemical – a weapon which contains lethal chemicals which when released causes death, mainly by choking.

Biological – a weapon which introduces harmful bacteria and viruses into the atmosphere. They can cause illness and death on a massive scale.

8. Holy War

- ✓ Fighting for a religious cause or God. Normally controlled by a religious leader.

Christianity:

- ✓ In the Old Testament there are many references to holy wars such as the Crusades.
- ✓ A holy war must be authorised by a religious leader with great authority.
- ✓ It should be to defend Christianity from attack.
- ✓ Those who take part will receive spiritual rewards and go straight to heaven.
- ✓ Christians will stand up for their faith but are much more likely to use the power of argument than violence.

Islam:

- ✓ Lesser jihad makes the concept of holy war important to Muslims, as it defends Islam and the rights of Muslims.
- ✓ Holy war cannot be used to force people to convert to Islam.
- ✓ The war must be fought for God and not for a leader to demonstrate their power.
- ✓ For a holy war to be justly declared the faith of Islam must be under attack.
- ✓ Holy war must be a last resort
- ✓ Muslims must remain in battle until it is won with a holy war.
- ✓ A Muslim who is killed fighting in a holy war in defence of Islam is promised a place in paradise.

9. Pacifism

- ✓ The belief of people who refuse to fight in war that all violence is wrong.
- ✓ They believe violence can never be justified.
- ✓ Pacifists strongly believe that it is best to work at preventing war from becoming a possibility.
- ✓ They believe it is even wrong to fight in self-defence.
- ✓ Humans lives are so valuable that nothing can justify putting them under threat.

Christianity:

- ✓ Not all Christians are pacifist.
- ✓ Christian pacifists believe that peace is needed. It is not just an absence of conflict but a sense of well-being and security.
- ✓ Peace can be achieved through religious faith, supported by prayer and meditation.
- ✓ Many pacifists take their inspiration from Jesus, who taught non-violence.
- ✓ They believe to follow non-violence is to follow the way of Jesus.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God'. Matthew 5:9

Islam:

- ✓ Islam is a religion of peace.
- ✓ It is difficult for Muslims to call themselves pacifists because of the duty of Jihad.
- ✓ In most circumstances Muslims share principles of pacifism, and sympathise with the cause of pacifists.
- ✓ Muslims believe being at peace with yourself helps you to avoid conflict.
- ✓ They believe this inner peace comes from submitting your life to God and becoming part of the **Ummah**, which gives them solidarity and support.

10. Victims of war

- ✓ Casualties are unavoidable in war.
- ✓ Many religions believe that you should help the victims of war after it has ended.

Christianity:

- ✓ Support organisations that help victims of war because of the belief in **'love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31**

Caritas: Catholic organisation who help serve the poor. Inspired by the teaching of Jesus and the Church. Provide a practical response to those suffering through conflict by saving lives and relieving suffering. Provide food and shelter for refugees. Provide translators and legal aid.

Christian aid: Aim to bring an end to poverty. Work with the victims. Establish basic human rights and fairness in society. Support the local organisations to help deal with the issues. Raise awareness of conflict around the world. Fundraise through Christian Aid week. Distribute envelopes with a donation inside.

Islam:

- ✓ Also support organisations out of a duty to help others

Islamic relief: Independent charity which respond to the needs of victims by providing short term aid during disasters and emergencies/. Inspired by their faith and the teaching of Islam. Allocate resources regardless of race, politics, gender or belief. Expect nothing in return. Follow the teaching **'whoever saved a life, it would be as if they saved the life of all mankind'. Qur'an 5:32**

Muslim Aid: Governed by the principles of Islam. Give homes to orphans who have lost parents to war. Provide beds, and education. Make sure victims receive health care and give support to those who need it, especially spiritual support.