

Relationships	Life and Death
<p>Attitudes towards adultery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many sacred texts forbid adultery e. g. Ten Commandments • Some religions consider adultery as a sin. Many believe adultery can destroy a special relationship between a husband and wife. • Many believe adultery can harm the family unit. Many believers consider adultery goes against the belief that marriage is a special spiritual union. • Breaks vows made in marriage ceremonies such as Christian wedding services. • Adultery shows a lack of self-control • Goes against social decency. 	<p>Caring for the environment</p> <p>Through acts of stewardship or being khalifahs and living in harmony with nature. • By taking responsibility towards the care for the environment and treating the environment with respect. • To act as global citizens and reduce energy consumption. • Leading campaigns for recycling within their communities. • By looking after the planet's resources and not wasting them. • By promoting awareness and actions at places of worship such as ecosomes. • By respecting animals in the Bible we have dominion . • By acting as global citizens and living sustainable lifestyles. • By not destroying the natural world as it is a gift from God</p>
<p>Same sex relationships</p> <p>Different attitudes are often related to interpretation of holy texts/sources of authority. Some form their beliefs from a literal reading of sources of authority while others place them in the context of the times they were written in.</p> <p>Conservative Christians: Traditionally Christianity has taught that same- sex relationships are wrong. This belief reflected interpretations of sacred texts such as Leviticus 20:13 which refers to punishment for same-sex relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Christians consider same-sex relationships as a sin so reflecting the teaching from 1 Timothy 1:8-10. <p>Catholic: Some Christians, e.g. many Roman Catholics, believe that same- sex relationships are contrary to 'natural law' and that sex should only take place within marriage and when there is a possibility of having children. This belief is reflected in the teachings of Pope Francis. Many Christians believe that there is a distinction between the orientation and the act. This is reflected in the teachings of The Pope.</p> <p>Liberal Christians: Some Christians, e.g. Society of Friends, believe that same- sex relationships should be accepted if they are within a loving relationship. • • Some denominations e.g. Society of Friends and United Reform Church allow same sex-ceremonies in their churches believing God loves all.</p>	<p>Afterlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death is not the end but a gateway to a perfect existence. • Eternal life after death for believers in either spiritual or bodily form at a time of resurrection. Reference may be made to differences between dualists and non-dualists. • Entrance to heaven depends upon responses to Jesus and his teachings. Reference may be made to the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. • Entrance to heaven depends upon how a person responds to those in need on Earth. • Evangelical Christians refer to heaven and hell as if they are actual places. Liberal Christians often consider the places as symbolic. • Some Roman Catholics believe that at death those who have not sinned since last confession go to heaven, the souls of those who have sinned will go to purgatory to be cleansed and those who have committed mortal sins or refused to believe in God will go to some form of hell. Many Jehovah Witnesses take a literal interpretation of biblical passages and believe the majority of those who have died in the past will be resurrected to life on earth, joining those who survive the battle of Armageddon. They believe the wicked and unrepentant will be destroyed eternally at Armageddon. Those not resurrected by God will simply remain dead. They completely reject the concept that God punishes humans with eternal torment in a fiery hell.
<p>Marriage in today's world</p> <p>Statistics show that fewer people are entering marriage than in previous generations so therefore isn't perceived as important in society. • Many people consider they don't need to enter something legally binding to prove the depth of their relationship. • Marriages can be costly and many people feel their money is better spent. • If a marriage breaks down it is a legal and expensive process in gaining a divorce. • In some circumstances it is impossible to be married e.g. in some countries same sex marriages are not recognised or considered legally binding. • The vows made in a wedding ceremony reflect the commitment that is expected throughout a marriage and so builds a stable framework for family life. • Marriage is often considered a model for other relationships as a sustained relationship in which people learn and grow together, this is reflected by the vows in the wedding ceremony. • Some Christians regard marriage as a sacrament.</p>	<p>How to treat life</p> <p>For many religious believers life is a divine gift and therefore not ours to take away (e.g. Genesis Ch:1). • Many religious believers refer to sacred texts or principles which forbid the taking of human life, (e.g. The Ten Commandments); • Many religious believers refer to religious principles forbidding the taking of human life, e.g. Sanctity of Life;. • Some people, e.g. Singer, argue that the quality of life is more important than the length of life. • For some people being in a vegetative state means that their life has no quality. • Atheists and Humanists would argue that people have free will to end their lives when and how they want. • Many religious and non-religious believers consider that euthanasia can be right if a 'living will' has been completed with a request for no resuscitation. • Some people consider that euthanasia to be right to maintain their own personal dignity, e.g. Daniel Jones or to ease chronic suffering. • Attitudes towards the 'Dignity in Dying Movement'. • Many people argue that hospices can ease chronic pain and care for the dying, terminally ill. • Many religious believers argue that there is a fixed time for life and only the Creator knows when that is • sanctity of life. Life is considered by many as God given and therefore only God can take it away. • Some would say that it depends upon quality of life and that it might be the right thing to do to stop pain. • It depends upon the circumstances e.g. utilitarian reasons or in self-defence. • There is a difference between taking the life of a human being and the life of an animal. Reference might be made to Singer's arguments of speciesism.</p>

Good and Evil	Human Rights
<p>Forgiveness Central to Christianity as shown in the Lord's Prayer 'forgive their sins, as they forgive those who have sinned against them'. The teachings of Jesus show the importance of being forgiven The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant and the Parable of the Prodigal Son/Forgiving Father The actions of Jesus show the importance of forgiveness. When dying on the cross he said 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' The importance of forgiving to allow changes in lifestyle is shown through Jesus's actions e.g. Zacchaeus and the adulterous woman . Some Christian traditions e.g. Catholics have acts of atonement such as confession and special prayers. Many Christian role models have shown the importance of forgiveness e.g. Martin Luther King and Gee Walker.</p>	<p>Religious believers promoting HR (actions) Through activism such as writing letters of protest or leading campaigns within their communities. • Lobbying governments for social change. • Support refugee twinning schemes. • Give money to human rights charities. • Pray for those who actively support those working for human rights. • Provide sanctuary in places of worship for those in need. • Examples of dharma/dhamma in action. • Examples of agape in action e.g. education programmes such as those organised by Christian Aid and Cafod. •Organise non-violent protests e.g. Martin Luther King. • Make a stand for a particular human right at the expense of their own safety e.g. Malala Yousafzai and the education of girls; Oscar Romero; Volunteer to help at hostels for the homeless or food banks.</p>
<p>Aims of Punishment Protection. To try to prevent people being victims of crime, criminals may be imprisoned. This removes them from society and the opportunity to commit further crime. Retribution. To get revenge and feel justice has been done. Deterrence. By punishing criminals other members of society realise they will be punished if they commit the same crimes. • Reformation. To try and address the reasons for the criminal acting in that way. This might include education, therapy and counselling. • Vindication. Through punishment the law can prove that it deserves respect and should be followed. • Reparation. Repairing the damage done through crime such as through unpaid community work.</p>	<p>Personal Conviction vs The Law (MLK, Malala, Romero) Genesis teaches that God made all human life. Therefore it is taught that each person is equal and sacred. • Leviticus teaches that strangers must be accepted. • Deuteronomy teaches that everyone deserves human rights 'Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge'. • The actions of Jesus, e.g. he healed women and lepers and befriended Zacchaeus, a tax collector, showed that there should be no prejudice towards anybody. • The Good Samaritan. • Martin Luther King taught the importance of equality, e.g. 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by their colour'. • St Paul wrote that in Galatians that 'there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, for you are all one in Christ'. • Participating in projects to raise awareness of cultural diversity, e.g. Catholic Association for Racial Justice and Church of England's Committee for Minority and Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC).</p>
<p>How do we know what's right and wrong? (inc atheism) For people who don't believe in a God then they would disagree that any form of divine intervention exists. Even for religious believers many would say it has to be themselves rather than God that supports them in making the right decisions. The laws of a country are there to help people know right from wrong. A liberal education might help people to understand right from wrong. Parents/carers and peers would influence whether someone knows right from wrong. This would be considered a religious duty in many religions It is the teachings in sacred texts that helps believers know the difference between right and wrong e.g. the Ten Commandments; Most religions believe that people were given free will and that it is up to people's conscience to do right from wrong. • Many believers pray to a divine being to ask for assistance in making the right actions or choices. • Sometimes there are tensions between whether actions reflect absolute or relative morality.</p>	<p>Religious Traditions Teachings About Prejudice and Discrimination. (links to SOWAs necessary) Disobedience to the law of a country can create social unrest and suffering. This would not be supported by religious authorities. • For most religious believers there is a higher authority in God rather than human made laws. • Religious teachings and practices might conflict with the law of a country. For example the wearing of the kirpan, wearing of the hijab in some countries, euthanasia etc. • Martin Luther King disobeyed the law of the country regarding segregation. He used the teachings from the Bible to justify his actions. • For some believers state punishment is preferable to punishment on Judgement Day. • Some countries do not allow freedom of religious expression which conflicts with some religious traditions which encourage mission and evangelism.</p>