

Year 11

# Whole Course Booklet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Nature of God.**

The exam requires you to know these 4 qualities.

Omnipotent – God is all powerful  
Omniscient – God is all knowing  
Benevolent – God is all loving  
Just – Fair

You should be able to suggest whether God can or cannot be all of these things at once. What forms does suffering take? You will need to know examples, such as pain, poverty, and illnesses.

You will also need to be able to say if suffering can ever have a purpose. Remember that suffering can have positive benefits. We can learn from our mistakes, we can understand what is good and bad for our bodies.

**An example to learn:-** If we felt no pain, we would not know if we had cut ourselves. The cut could become infected, and we could lose an arm or a leg by the time we finally noticed the wound. If the pain alerts us to the problem before this, then it has had a positive benefit.

**What is the problem of Suffering?** Suffering is a particular problem for Christians as they believe in a God who is Omnipotent, Omniscient, Benevolent and Just, meaning he is all powerful, all knowing, all loving and fair. Therefore if he were all powerful, he would be able to do something about suffering. If he were all knowing, he would know that suffering is a problem, and he would know what to do about it. If he were all loving, then surely he could want to do something about it. If he were fair, then it makes sense that only those who deserve it should suffer.

Therefore the existence of suffering raises problems for Christians as it challenges what they believe about God.

### **How do we defend God?**

- 1) God is sometimes called Father. At times parents will either act or stand back to let you feel pain. This helps you learn. Maybe God is like this with us.
- 2) Pain is punishment for the bad things we do.
- 3) Pain is a test of our faith in God. He gives us pain to see if we can take it and still believe in him. (Story of Job)
- 4) We learn from pain.
- 5) We need to experience bad things so we can appreciate the good things. Eg If we never went to work we would not appreciate holidays.
- 6) Evil and suffering result from free-will. God allows us to be free, but some people choose to misuse this freedom.
- 7) Don't question God. Accept his will. We, as humans cannot understand God. We should not bother to try.
- 8) The devil causes all of the evil and suffering.

## **The Trinity**

This is the idea that God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each of these is distinct from each other, but they are all fully God. It may be helpful to think of 3 different roles that you play in your life. Another way to look at it could be to compare God to water. The liquid, the steam and the ice are all fully water but they take on different forms.

You will need to be able to suggest ways that the Trinity is confusing, even for Christians.

## ***The Christian Creation Story.***

You will need to know the **Christian Creation story**. It is found in Genesis 1. Christians usually believe that Genesis tells them that God the Father, together with the Spirit are responsible for creation. The story runs as follows....

God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>. He created:

1. Light
2. Sky
3. Land and plants
4. Sun, moon, and stars.
5. Sea creatures and birds
6. Animals and Humans
7. God rested.

When God had finished this he put the first man and the first woman ‘Adam and Eve,’ into the Garden of Eden. This was paradise as it was perfect. God planted the ‘tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil’ in the garden. He told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the garden except for this one. The serpent (representing the devil) tempted Eve to eat from the tree. She did, and also gave some to Adam. God banished them from the garden of Eden, and gave them each a punishment.

Man – To work hard for food.

Woman – To have increased pain in childbirth.

Snake – To crawl on his belly for his whole life. He loses his legs

Christians now believe they are born with a tendency to commit sin. This is why baptism is important, and also why atonement was needed.

## **The Role of the Word in Creation.**

This is found in the Gospel of John 1. Experts suggest that ‘The Word,’ refers to the Son, Jesus, who came to earth. Therefore John is emphasising the idea that the whole of the Trinity was present in Creation.

Jesus has always been there, even before he came to earth. This means that he was not an ordinary man, he was actually God.

### **Are we supposed to understand this fully?**

- The simple answer is 'no.'
- The trinity itself is a mystery, and we cannot fully comprehend how The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit were all present at Creation.
- However, this is part of Faith. If everything made perfect sense, or was easy to understand we would know that God existed or didn't. Therefore logically there must be some mystery that surrounds the concept of God.

### **Heaven.**

#### ***How do you get there?***

- Most Christians believe that entry to heaven is conditional on having led a "good nlife". (Salvation through works/deeds) Matt25 The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats show this.
- Protestants believe that one must accept Jesus as one's saviour, and then Jesus will assume the guilt of your sins. Believers are believed to be forgiven regardless of any good or bad "works" they have participated in. (Salvation through grace.) John14:6 'I am the way the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.'
- Other Christians believe that you must carefully follow all the rules in order to enter heaven. (Salvation through the Law.)

Different Christians accept one, or more of these at the same time. Therefore many like think that deeds and belief are important. This is found in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25. However, this quote does emphasise the deeds bit more than the belief.

John 14:6 says 'I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.' This emphasises the salvation through grace idea.

#### ***What's it like?***

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43  
"In my Father's house are many rooms. I am going to prepare a wonderful place for you."

John 14:2

These 2 quotes suggest that heaven is a physical place and can be used to discuss this idea in the exam.

However, some Christians think of heaven as a more spiritual thing. A soul is a non physical thing, meaning it can't be seen or felt. Therefore it needs NO PLACE to be.

So if heaven is just for souls, you cannot think of it as a place. Some Christians believe that it is a 'state of mind' Your soul will get to know that God exists and is with you. This would be a heavenly state to be in, without having to be in a 'place.'

## **Hell**

### ***How do you get there?***

- Punishment in Hell typically corresponds to sins committed in life.
- In Christianity, however, faith and repentance play a larger role than actions in determining a soul's afterlife destiny.
- Only the really bad that have failed to repent (ask for forgiveness for the sins they have committed) will therefore go to hell.
- Most Christians believe that you will be granted forgiveness if you repent.
- Therefore God can still be benevolent. You cannot be granted forgiveness unless you ask for it. If you don't ask for it then it is assumed you do not know what you have done wrong.

### ***What's it like?***

Revelation 14:10 "he will be tormented with fire and brimstone  
The book of Daniel describes hell as a 'place of unending shame.'

- However, hell is may not actually be a place.
- If it is a state of mind (in the same way as heaven) then your soul would find out that God exists, but is not with you. This would cause unhappiness and pain for all eternity.

## **Judgement.**

In this section you need to refer to many of the ideas in the heaven and hell section. Entry to heaven is condition, so a judgement will have to be made. Entry and therefore salvation, could be

- Through grace
- Through works/deeds
- Through the law.

These are discussed above.

### ***When is this judgement?***

- When you die.
- Not until 'Judgement Day.'
- Catholics often say that people will go to heaven after 'Purgatory.' This is rather like a waiting room before heaven. The time spent here depends on what sins you have committed in life. The more sins, the more time. Catholics often pray for those in purgatory to shorten their time there.

Quotes/stories that can be used are

Matt 25 – parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

John14:6 'I am the way the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father expect through me.'

## **Heaven, Hell and Judgement Summary.**

- Exactly what heaven and hell are, are debatable. Some believe in real places, (Good for heaven and bad for hell.) Whereas others believe they are states of mind. Only your soul exists and it gets the knowledge that God exists, and is with you (for heaven) or is not with you. (for hell.)
- When Judgement happens is also debatable. Some Christians believe that you are sent to heaven and hell straight after death, with Catholics believing that many people spend time in purgatory. Others believe in Judgement Day, where Jesus will come to judge the living AND the dead – no judgement will be made until then. This allows them to believe in the resurrection of the body, as the world will then enter a new realm.

## **The Incarnation.**

- Incarnation means “becoming flesh”.
- In Christian terms the Incarnation means that God became human by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Mary was a virgin.)
- Jesus was born as a human, took on a human body, a full human nature and lived among mankind as one of them.
- In doing this Jesus did not stop being God but, in some way we cannot understand, Jesus had dual nature. He was not part God and part man but wholly God and wholly man.

### *Incarnation quotes.*

**John 1:14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**Matt 1:18** This is how the birth of Jesus Christ 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.

## **The Crucifixion.**

There are many arguments about who is responsible for the death of Jesus. Judas is responsible for betraying him in the first place, the Jewish leaders sent soldiers to arrest him and pass him to the Romans. The Romans pass him around but do not release him, and the crowd chanted for someone else to be released when Pilate asked them if they wanted to release Jesus.

There are also a number of reasons why people would want him crucified in the first place. Some suggestions might be

- He healed the sick
- He worked on the Sabbath
- He claimed to be the Messiah
- He broke religious laws
- He committed blasphemy
- The Pharisees were jealous of him
- To establish a new covenant
- Pilate did not want an uprising
- He was not a warrior Messiah

## **Sin, Atonement, Salvation and the Purpose of the Crucifixion.**

Sins are the bad things that we have done.

Original sin is the sin that Adam and Eve committed in the Garden of Eden.

Atonement is basically the payment for these sins.

### ***So how does all of this link together with the Crucifixion?***

Adam and Eve caused Original Sin. This was because they disobeyed God's single command in the Garden of Eden. This command was not to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Serpent persuaded Eve to eat the fruit, and therefore a divide was created between God and man.

Original Sin also meant that some Christians believe they are born with a tendency to sin.

Add to this the fact that we have free-will and can make our own choices, means that there is no way man could return to God on his own, as sin was too great.

Through the Incarnation God became flesh in Jesus. The Crucifixion of Jesus paid the price needed for man to return to God. This is known as Atonement.

However, Atonement alone cannot guarantee salvation. An individual Christian must also achieve redemption. They must apologise for their sins, and they must believe in God and Jesus. Some Christians also add that you must also do good deeds, or follow all the rules in order to achieve redemption, and therefore Salvation.

## **The Resurrection.**

After the crucifixion, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb. A stone covered the entrance. Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb on the Sunday. They could not go on Saturday as it was the Sabbath day. They found that the stone had been rolled away. Mary went to fetch the disciples, and they saw the linen cloth which had been used to wrap Jesus' body. The disciples left, probably to investigate what was going on. Mary then saw Jesus. At first she did not recognise him, as she thought he was the gardener. However when she recognised him, she went to tell the disciples. Jesus is said to have appeared to many of the disciples, and even showed them the wounds in his hands.

### ***Why is the resurrection significant?***

The resurrection shows victory over death - the power of good over evil.

Jesus' resurrection gives Christians the belief that there is life after death and they too will be resurrected.

Jesus' death and resurrection is atonement for their sins. They believe that their sins have been forgiven and they can inherit eternal life. Christians believe that Jesus died because he loved each and every person. This belief can give a Christian hope in this life and mean that they do not fear death.

## **The Ascension.**

It is an important belief that Jesus did not die after the resurrection. He was 'taken up' by God, which means that death was overcome and not necessary.

### ***What is the significance of the ascension for Christians today?***

The ascension shows Christians that Jesus is now with God in heaven. It marks the beginning of God sending his Holy Spirit to provide comfort and guidance. The ascension shows that Jesus is fully God and has completed his work to show his creation the right way to God.

Practices.

### **Worship**

There are 2 types of worship. Christians will use both types.

Many churches have **liturgical** worship. This is worship with a set pattern. There will be a sermon, prayers, and often Holy Communion. You know what is coming next, as it will be written down and given to you as you enter the church.

Others have **non-liturgical** worship (more spontaneous, based on individual testimony and contributions). This could include singing, dancing or even quizzes. This is much more movement, and there will only be a vague plan of what will happen in the service.

### **Prayer.**

Set prayer. This is a prayer that you learn and say off by heart.

Informal prayer. This is a prayer that you make up as you go along like a conversation.

Private prayer – This is when you pray on your own.

Public prayer – This is when you pray with others.

The Lord's prayer is one of the most famous examples of Christian prayer.

Prayer is important to Christians, as it is the way that they communicate with God. It helps them to build discipline and the ability to cope in times of trouble. It also gives them order and routine in even the busiest of days.

### **The Sacraments.**

A sacrament is an action that channels the presence of God. You are filled with the Holy Spirit whilst doing these actions. Many Christians believe that you are strengthened in your relationship with God through the sacraments.

### **Infant Baptism.**

An Infant Baptism is a ceremony where a child is introduced to the Christian faith. Before the ceremony the baby is dressed in special clothes. This is normally a **white** gown as it is a symbol of **purity** and **goodness**.

Baby, parents, grandparents, family and friends arrive at the Church. Parents and godparents gather around the **font** and take vows on the baby's behalf and promise to help bring them up in the Christian faith.

The parents name the child and the vicar or priest makes the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead.



Holy water is poured from the font onto the baby's head three times, one for each member of the trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). He announces the name of the baby. At the end of the ceremony, some Churches hand a small lighted candle to the baby's parents. This signifies that the baby now belongs to Jesus, the light of the world.

### **Believers Baptism.**

This is practised by churches who do not baptise babies. The person goes into a pool of water with the minister and makes their promises. The minister lowers them down into the water. This is symbolic of their old life ending, and their sins being forgiven by Jesus. They are fully immersed in the water, which represents the death of the person that they were. They then are brought back up, which represents their new life as a Christian. Many Christians feel that this kind of ceremony follows the example of Jesus, as he was baptised as an adult.

### **Holy Communion**

This is one of the most important parts of Christian worship. It is known under many different names. 3 examples are:

The Eucharist  
The Lords Supper.  
Mass

This act of worship remembers Jesus' Last Supper. In the Holy Communion ceremony Christians will go to the altar, which is a special table at the front of the church. They will be given some bread, or possibly a wafer to eat, and will be given a drink of wine. These 2 things represent the body and the blood of Jesus. The actions of Holy Communion follow the actions of Jesus at his final meal, which is known as the **Last Supper**.

It is a SACRAMENT which means they believe that by taking part in Holy Communion they are receiving the Holy Spirit.

### **Different ways of celebrating Holy Communion.**

The Divine liturgy in the Orthodox Church.

This is supposed to recreate heaven on earth. A lot of the service is done from behind a screen called an iconostasis. The priest comes through the Holy Doors, and the church is filled with candles and incense to remind people of God's presence.

The Liturgy of the Word involves hymns, and a Bible reading.

There may also be a sermon (religious explanation.)

The Liturgy of the Faithful involves the priest coming through the Holy Doors and selecting a loaf baked by the congregation to be blessed. The Creed and the Lords's prayer are said. The priest goes back behind the doors and says the words of Jesus at his Last Supper. The bread is divided into four, and three of them are blessed. The fourth is broken into pieces and people are given it to take home on their way out. The bread and wine is mixed together on a spoon and given to the people who come forwards. They then say prayers of thanks.

The Orthodox church believes that the bread and wine really do turn into the body and blood of Jesus, but don't attempt to explain how. They call this a Divine Mystery.

## **Mass**

This is for Catholics. The priest welcomes everyone, and there are some prayers.

The Liturgy of the Word.

There will often be three Bible readings, one from the Old Testament, one from Paul's letters and one from a New Testament gospel.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The bread and wine are brought to the altar

The priest says the Eucharistic prayer using the words of Jesus at the Last Supper.

The people say the Lord's Prayer

They exchange a sign of peace – usually a handshake.

The people receive the bread and wine.

The priest blesses them.

Catholics believe that the bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Jesus through a process known as Transubstantiation. .

Holy Communion is Anglican Churches.

This is almost the same as Catholics. The difference is mainly in the meaning. Anglicans believe that Jesus is present with them through the Holy Spirit at Holy Communion, but they think of the bread and wine are more symbolic.

## **Pilgrimage.**

A Pilgrimage is 'A special journey to a place of religious significance.' You cannot give a definite reason why some people go on pilgrimage, but here are some common ideas:

- ✓ Strengthen Faith
- ✓ Become closer to God
- ✓ Show commitment to religion
- ✓ Say thank you
- ✓ Say sorry
- ✓ Ask for help or healing
- ✓ As part of a religious duty

## **Lourdes.**

Lourdes is in Southern France. The story of why it became a place of pilgrimage is as follows:

Bernadette Soubirous, the fourteen year old daughter of devout Catholic peasants saw visions of a white-robed lady 18 times in a small grotto (cave) at Lourdes. In the visions the lady told Bernadette to "go tell the village priests to build a chapel here" and that many people would soon come in procession to the holy place. On the day of the 16<sup>th</sup> vision, March 25, the lady revealed herself as the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. During a trance that day, Bernadette

suddenly rose from her knees, walked a short distance, and fell to the ground. She began to dig in the earth until a small puddle of water appeared. Over the next few days the puddle gradually formed into a pool and eventually became the sacred spring for which Lourdes is now so famous.

It is because of this Sacred Pool that many people go to Lourdes today. They may go because they believe that the pool can heal them from all sorts of ailments, especially physical disabilities.

When people go to Lourdes today, they will visit the site where the Virgin Mary was seen. They may worship at a shrine- that has been set up there. Those who are ill may go into the Sacred Pool, and pray that they will be healed. In Lourdes today there are a number of churches and chapels, and it is common for pilgrims to go to a number of different services. Most services are in Latin. Pilgrims may also take part in various parades that take place around Lourdes.

### **Iona**

Iona is an island off the west coast of Scotland. Some people think that Iona is a 'thin' place, where the veil between the spiritual world and the physical world is thin. The Iona Community hold daily services in the church, led a seven mile hike to the island's holy and historic spots and conduct workshops on Christian themes.

### **Festivals.**

#### **1. Christmas. (25<sup>th</sup> December)**

Christians believe that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. You can look the story up in the Bible if you cannot remember it. (Matthew 1:18)

Christians celebrate with decorations, church services, family gatherings etc. There is a special service called Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. There may also be Carol Services in the period leading up to Christmas Day.

#### **2. Easter.**

Christians believe that Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday he rose from the dead. Christians may go to church, and light a candle to show that Jesus is the light of the world. Christians may go on processions through the streets carrying a wooden cross. Orthodox Christians might walk around the church at midnight, entering the church in darkness apart from candles. This symbolises the tomb. Then the priest will announce 'He is risen.' Many churches organise breakfast for Easter Sunday, often eating eggs, as they are a symbol of new life.

### **The Church in the Community – Food Banks.**

The church is not just a building, it is also a community. This community believes that they have a responsibility to help those around them.

Many Christians feel that teachings like the parable of the sheep and the goats mean that they should help others.

The church also teaches that faith without action is 'dead.'  
Therefore the 'Church' has become involved with helping poor people, religious and non-religious alike.

The Trussell trust is a food bank, which is designed to give people emergency food when they need it. Food which takes a long time to go off is donated. People who need it can get a voucher through a number of different professionals and organisations, and exchange it for a box of food, designed to last them a three days,

### **The Church in the Community – Street Pastors.**

It is a Christian charity, where Christian adult volunteers receive training in order to patrol the streets in urban areas. They do not have the right to enforce the law but provide a reassuring presence in the local community. The initial idea was to challenge gang culture and the use of knives and weapons in the local community in London. As Christians elsewhere made their own little groups the initial focus was changed to dealing with drunkenness, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. Street pastors aim is to help and care for vulnerable people in practical and easy ways. They also aim to work closely with the councils and police in their local area.

Wearing a blue, reflective 'street pastor' uniform their aim is to provide a positive service to their local community. What they do includes listening to people's problems, giving guidance regarding agencies which might be able to help and stop or discourage anti-social behaviour the area. They are backed up by prayer pastors who pray for the street pastors and what they do. Sometimes they communicate with other street pastors by using a mobile phone. Since 2003 street pastors have rapidly grown a lot with nearly 300 locations worldwide with around 14000 trained personnel.

Another organisation was set up called school pastors was set up in 2011 with the aim to reduce antisocial behaviour, illegal drug use and bullying in the community. Within the school, school pastors mentor young people and they patrol within and around the school helping to prevent anti-social behaviour from happening. Recently there has also been the development of college pastors, rail pastors and in the event of a disaster response pastors. The mission of the church is to make a positive contribution to their local community and make it a better and nicer place for everyone to live. It is also to be a good neighbour to everyone whoever they are. Street pastors have resulted in lots more organisations being made like street pastors to help the community and the people in the local area.

### **The Place of Mission and Evangelism.**

The church is not simply a building. It is also a community of believers. These people believe that they have a mission to spread the good news of Jesus to other people. In Matthew it says 'Go and make disciples of all nations.' This is called the Great Commission. Christians believe they have a duty to tell other people about their faith. This can be through words OR actions or a combination of both.

The Alpha Course was started to help Christians understand the basics of their own religion. However, it quickly became an introduction to the Christian faith for those wanting to find out about it. Today the courses are run in various places including people's homes, and offer other things, such as relationship and marriage support with a Christian perspective.

## **Church Growth.**

Worldwide there is an estimated 1.5 to 2.5 billion Christians which makes up about a third of the entire world's population. This includes people who know very little of Christianity however when questioned they will respond as part of some type of a Christian denomination. The church has grown rapidly across Asia, Africa and South America. This is because these continents are made from less developed countries where basic things to live and survive are hard to access due to short supply and it is easier for the inhabitants of these countries to believe in God.

An organisation called CfaN is trying to help spread Christianity across less developed countries like Africa and stands for Christ for all Nation.

CfaN began in 1974 and was formed by Reinhard Bonnke. At first he was disappointed because his attendances were small but had a dream in which God told him "Africa shall be saved". This dream repeated four times.

The churches mission doesn't have to end with people just wanting to become Christians. The great commission said by Jesus was to make disciples, not just new Christians. This can be done by sharing testimonies on Social Media.

## **The Importance of the Worldwide Church.**

The primary mission of the worldwide church is to proclaim that Jesus came so you can restore the relationship between man and God. Christians believe that sin caused this relationship to break and separate the world from God (who is holy).

Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross and rose up he saved human beings from sin and made salvation and atonement possible.

Despite the work of Christians to bring reconciliation and peace, Christians are discriminated against and persecuted by means like forcing Christians to pay extra tax, not allowing them to have good jobs or build churches and even extends to attacks on Christians.

The role of the worldwide church is to restore people's relationship with God and one another. There is lots of violence in the world from all the hatred, and sections of the church have even fallen out – Catholics and Protestants. The Corymeela community works to promote reconciliation, people from various backgrounds gather at the community centre in Ireland for peace-building through the healing of social, religious and political divisions.

The world council of churches has a programme to try and bring about reconciliation between Christians of different denominations and members of other faiths. For example, the pilgrimage of justice and peace initiative, seeks to work together to help heal a world filled with conflict, injustice and pain.

Christians believe that they should work to bring about reconciliation first between God and humans, and secondly with other people who have views different to their own. Many Christians are being persecuted for their beliefs.

## **Persecution.**

Persecution is when people are treated differently because of one thing about them. Christians are persecuted because of their beliefs. Persecution ranges from forcing Christians to pay extra tax, not allowing good jobs or sometimes murder!

Not all persecution has a negative effect. It is seen to some Christians to be a test of faith. Some Christians who are persecuted think that they are sharing an experience with Jesus when he was on the cross. Another idea is that Christianity actually grows because of

persecution. This is because people see how calm and hopeful Christians are and want to join the faith.

Pastor Baber George set up new churches and helped to organise missions and conferences to help the people in Pakistan. Radical Muslims issued him with death threats and his family had to go to Sri Lanka, where other Christians provided them with food and shelter. He was eventually given an asylum in America.

The Church campaigns on behalf of persecuted Christians and supports them. No matter what is said to the Christians, they are still encouraged to show love.

The Barnabas fund helps Christians suffering from discrimination and persecution because of their faith. These projects aim to strengthen Christians, the church and communities by providing lots of different kinds of support. One of these kinds of support is raising awareness for those who are being persecuted.

### **The Church's response to Poverty.**

The church spends a lot of time helping people who are in poverty. There are a few ways to do this. They include evangelism, prayer and the giving of aid. There are 2 types of aid.

1. Short Term Aid.
  - Money
  - Food
  - Water
  - Blankets
  - Tents
  - Medical supplies
2. Long Term Aid.
  1. Train people in
  2. construction skills.
  3. Teach farming skills.
  4. Provide farming equipment.
  5. Build flood defences.
  6. Help rebuild homes.
  7. Continue healthcare including setting up Healthcare centres.
  8. Build schools and train teachers.

CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. It is mainly concerned with Long Term Aid, and works in the poorer countries of the world.

Christian Aid does similar work, but also provides Short term aid. It works with other agencies such as fairtrade, to try and stop poverty altogether.

Jewish Beliefs.

### The Unity and Nature of G-d

Jews are **monotheists** – They believe in only **ONE** G-d. This idea is expressed in the Shema, which is one of the most famous teachings from the Torah

## **The Shema:-**

*Listen, Israel! The Lord your God is the only true God! So love the YOU'RE YOUR God with all your heart, soul, and strength.*

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

## **God is the Creator.**

In the book of Genesis it says that God is the creator of the world. Orthodox Jews believe that this is literal and therefore reject scientific theories. Reform Jews may accept science, but still maintain that God created everything.

Jews remember this story every week when they celebrate Shabbat.

God is also

Omnipotent meaning all powerful,

Omniscient meaning all knowing,

Omni-present meaning everywhere at all times.

They therefore think that God created the potential for evil, as there is no idea that the devil did! Humans have freewill which means they can choose to do wrong things if they want!

God is also the sustainer of life – He keeps it all going. It is a fact that there are enough resources in the world for everyone, but the fact that they are not distributed equally is the fault of humans.

## **The Nature of God.**

### **God as Lawgiver**

God gave humans many rules to follow. This helps them to use their freewill wisely.

The Ten Commandments are very important and were given to Moses. There are 613 commandments in total. They are called mitzvot. These rules form the Halakah which is the Jewish way of life.

### **God as judge.**

God judges people on how well they follow his laws. Obviously this happens after they die when God will judge them in order to determine their afterlife

However at the festival of new year called Rosh Hashanah they will be judged on their actions from the previous year

.

### **Shekhinah.**

This is God's Divine Presence. There are many ways that this has been shown. They include the tabernacle, portable tent, a pillar of cloud, a pillar of fire and the original Jewish Temple.

## **Life after death.**

Jews try not to leave a dying person on their own. They have a seven day period of mourning called Shiva. After that there are thirty days of lesser mourning.

## **Afterlife.**

Jews do not have many specific teachings about life after death. Jews used to believe that everyone went to Sheol which was a dark place. These days Sheol is seen more a place of cleansing for souls.

Jews believe in Gan Eden, which is paradise. However, they are not really sure if it is physical or spiritual.

### **Judgement.**

Like Christianity there are a few ideas about when judgement happens. Some say that it is as soon as you die whereas others believe in a Judgement Day where everyone will be judged at the same time.

Some Jews believe in the resurrection of the body, whereas other Jews reject this idea.

Overall, there is the idea that this life is more important right now. Logically if you respond well to God in this life, by following all the mitzvot the afterlife is nothing to worry about.

### **The Messiah.**

The idea of the Messiah is an idea that a leader sent from God will come to unite all the Jews. Orthodox Jews believe that every generation has someone with the potential to be the Messiah.

Reform Jews believe that everyone working together could bring about the Messianic Age.

### **Covenant and the Messianic hope**

A covenant is a special agreement or promise made between G-d and man.

Simply put, the Covenant is, "I will be your G-d if you will be my people".

Throughout Jewish History, there have been many covenants which have shaped how Judaism was and is practiced.

### **Abraham.**

G-d made 3 covenants with Abraham.

1. He promised to make him the father of a great nation. He showed this by changing his name from Abram to Abraham.

2. G-d gave Abraham and his descendants the Land of Canaan to live in, and promised to look after them.

3. G-d enabled Sarah, Abraham's wife to have a child called Isaac.

To show that Abraham and his descendants agreed to this covenant they had to circumcise all males born when they were 8 days old as a sign.

God then tests Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. Because he was prepared to do it, God was very pleased with him.

### **Moses.**

Often called the Sinai Covenant, this was made while the Jews were wandering in the desert.

G-d gave Moses the 10 commandments and 603 other Laws to live by. Moses promised G-d that the Hebrews would keep to these Laws.

### **The 10 Commandments**

1. You shall have no other Gods but me.

2. You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor bow down to it or worship it.

3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

4. You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.

5. Respect your father and mother.

6. You must not kill.

7. You must not commit adultery.

8. You must not steal.



9. You must not give false evidence against your neighbour.

10. You must not covet your neighbour's goods. You shall not be envious of his house nor his wife, nor anything that belongs to your neighbour.

### **The Messianic Age**

The Messianic Age is a term to describe a future time of peace on earth without crime, war and poverty.

In Judaism, they believe this time will come under the rule of a 'Messiah' or anointed one, who will be sent by God.

In this age all people will follow the Laws in the Torah.

There will be no war and suffering.

### **Key Moral Principles.**

1. Justice. God himself is just, and various prophets and the commandments, help Jews to be just too!
2. Healing the world. This involves helping other, and also trying to live the best possible life you can yourself through praise to God and following the commandments. An organisation to use as an example is GIFT.
3. Kindness to others. Jews should respect each other. Many of the mitzvot are about how to do this.

### **The Sanctity of Life.**

This means that life is sacred. Life is a gift from God. Only God gives life, so only God should take it away. This means that things like murder and euthanasia are not allowed as they remove life. However, this is more unclear as technology advances. Is turning off a ventilator same as giving a lethal injection. Many would argue not!

### **Pikauach Nefesh.**

This means saving a life.

This is very important. It is more important than all the Sabbath laws – if you need to work to save someone, then that is what you should do!

### **Jewish practices.**

#### **The Synagogue.**

The Synagogue is the Jewish place of worship.

Jews can actually pray anywhere.

However for some prayers and services a MINYAN is needed. This is ten adult males over the age of 13 for Orthodox Jews, or 10 adults for reform Jews.

Because of this, Jews believe that it is important for them to pray together, and it therefore makes sense that they have a building to do it in!

To recognise a synagogue you should look for

Star of David

Menorah

Hebrew writing.

A Synagogue may have

Stained Glass Windows

Orthodox synagogues often have 2 floors as men and women worship separately.

The main uses of a Synagogue are

- Worship
- Meetings.
- Charity events.
- Social events.
- Youth club/youth events.
- Learning Hebrew.
- Ceremonies like Bar Mitzvah.

### **Inside the Synagogue.**

The Jewish Scriptures are called the Torah Scrolls. These are read aloud in the Synagogue. They are taken out of a special cupboard, which is called the Ark. Above this cupboard you will find the everlasting light, which is known as the Ner Tamid it symbolises the presence of God. Scrolls are then taken to the Bimah which is a raised platform. They will be read using a special pointer called a Yad.

Definitions you will need.

- Bimah – A raised platform where the Torah Scrolls are read. They are usually read by a man called the Cantor. The Rabbi will also use the Bimah to deliver his sermon.
- Ner Tamid – This is a light which is always on. It hangs above the Ark, and reminds the worshippers of the presence of God.
- Ark – This is a special cupboard where the Torah Scrolls are kept.
- Yad – This is a pointer which is used to read the scrolls.
- Menorah – This is a 7 branched candlestick. It is used as a symbol of Judaism. Each candle represents one of the days from the Creation Story.
- Star of David – This is the most commonly used Jewish symbol.

### **Orthodox and Reform Synagogues.**

#### **Orthodox**

- Traditional
- Laws and instructions most important.
- Different roles for men and women in worship
- Belief that the religion should not be changed.

#### **Reform**

- More modern
- Individual choice about how to worship.
- Equality for men and women in worship.
- Importance of moral code rather than individual commandments.
- Belief that the religion should be relevant to modern life.

In the Orthodox Synagogue the men and women sit separately. Women do not play a part in the running of the service. The minyan must be made of ten men. The Rabbi and the Cantor

will face the ark when they are praying, so they will have their back to the congregation. There is singing, but there is no musical instruments. The service is often entirely in Hebrew.

In the Reform synagogue, men and women sit together. Women can do all parts of running a service, including becoming a rabbi. The service is often in the language of the society, although the reading of the scrolls is still in Hebrew. Reform services are often shorter than Orthodox although they do tend to have a more rigid structure.

### **Daily services and Prayer.**

For morning prayer, male Orthodox Jews will wear 2 important items. Reform Jews can choose to wear these items whether they are male or female.

They wear a **tallit**, which is a prayer shawl that is worn around the shoulders. It has 613 tassels (tzitzit) which remind them of the 613 commandments.

They also wear **tefillin**, which are wooden boxes covered with leather. One is worn on the head and one is worn on the arm facing the heart. This is to remind them that when they pray God should be in their heart and mind.

A Siddur is the name of the prayer book used by Jews.

The Shema other prayers and psalms usually start the service.

The services are morning, afternoon and evening.

Orthodox Jews pray three times a day.

Prayer builds the relationship between humans and God.

You need to have a minyan – 10 men (Orthodox) or 10 men and women (Reform) to be able to pray.

The Amidah is the standing prayer. It officially has 18 blessings, although there are actually nineteen.

### **Shabbat.**

- Shabbat occurs between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday.
- No work should be done during this time.
- It is observed by the majority of Jewish people every week.

There are 2 important Shabbat services in the synagogue. These are on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

### **Friday.**

The Friday service is designed to welcome Shabbat.

This service is often family friendly, and will involve music, discussions, games and storytelling.

At the end of the service a prayer called Kiddush is said over a glass of wine. This is to thank God for giving the Sabbath to the Jewish people.

### **Saturday.**

The Saturday service includes prayers, blessings and a Torah reading.

The Torah is taken out of the Ark as the congregation stands. This reminds them of the Jews standing at the bottom of Mount Sinai when Moses returned with the commandments.

The Torah is then 'dressed' in a cover, with ornaments and a breastplate to remind Jews of what priests used to wear.

The Torah is then paraded around the Synagogue, reminding Jews of when the Israelites carried the Holy Ark containing the 10 commandments.

As it passes many Jews will touch it with their tallit, and then put their fingers to their lips. This shows that God's words should be on their lips.

The Torah is read from the Bimah and paraded around before it is returned to the Ark.

The Rabbi will give a sermon.

Jews leave by saying 'Shabbat Shalom, meaning 'have a peaceful Sabbath.'

### **Shabbat in the home.**

The house is prepared carefully for Shabbat. The whole house is cleaned, and the best plates etc are prepared. The wine is ready to bless and there are two loaves of bread called Challot on the table. This is because when Moses and the Israelites were in the desert, God sent 2 loaves on a Friday as he was resting on the Sabbath.

The women of the household welcome the Shabbat by lighting the candles and saying a blessing.

The Friday meal begins with the Kiddush, the blessing over the wine. Everyone has a bit of the bread before the meal begins. It is usually quite a long meal, and scriptures might be told to the children after each course.

On the Sabbath the main rule is no work. Jews will relax and spend time with their family.

The service ends with the **Havdalah** ceremony. The wine is passed round, and a special plaited candle is lit. A spice box is also used to carry the sweet smell of Shabbat into the coming week.

### **Worship in the home – Written and Oral Law.**

Jews believe every day is another chance to worship God.

Prayers should be said three times a day.

Traditionally Jews stand to pray.

If praying alone Jews will be silent.

A Jewish home is organised to meet God's commands.

A Jewish kitchen has two of most things, to allow them to keep the food rules.

Houses also have mezuzot which are small boxes with verses from the Torah.

Jews will attach mezuzah to their doorposts.

They will touch the mezuzah as they move from room to room, to remind them of God's laws.

### **The Tenakh.**

- The Tenakh is divided into three sections.
- 1. Torah – first 5 books of Moses. This contains most of the Jewish laws.
- 2. Nev'im – The prophets. About Jewish history and a bit more on the law.
- 3. Ketuvim – Writings. Poetry, songs, advice and history.

### **The Talmud.**

This is officially the Oral Law.

How to interpret the Torah was passed on by word of mouth. This seemed dangerous as it could change.

In 200CE they were written down and called the Mishnah. The Mishnah itself was debated, and these discussions were written in the Gemara, in about 500CE

The Mishnah and Gemara together form today's Talmud.

Orthodox Jews stress the importance of both the Torah and the Talmud. This means that they spend a lot of time studying them. Reform Jews are more concerned with living a moral life, so study them less.

### **Birth Ceremonies.**

- ▶ For Orthodox Jews, a new baby is taken to the Synagogue to be blessed on the first Sabbath after his birth.
- ▶ The father will recite a Torah blessing, and ask for the good health of his wife and child.
- ▶ If the baby is a girl, the name would be announced. If it is a boy, this will wait until his circumcision.
- ▶ In Reform Synagogues both parents take part, and it will be on *a* Sabbath, but not necessarily the first one!

### **Brit Milah.**

A Jewish baby boy is circumcised when he is eight days old. The reason for this is because God told Abraham that every male in his family should be circumcised. It is a physical and irreversible sign of the Covenant. This means that it is a sign of a special agreement between people and God.

The family will book a Mohel. This is the person who will perform the circumcision. Everyone will take turns to hold the baby. Men gather to perform the circumcision, and it is traditional that women will leave the room. Eventually the baby is passed to a special person called a SANDEK. This is the person who will hold him on a cushion for the circumcision. He is a respected friend or relative.

### **Redemption of the Firstborn.**

This is simply a tradition now. Some Jews give a small amount of money to a kohen, 31 days after birth. A kohen is a descendent of the priests of the Jewish temple. This 'redeems' him from temple service.

Prayers are said, hoping the child will enter into Torah, marriage and good deeds. The ceremony is called Pidyon Ha-Ben.

### **Bar and Bat Mitzvah.**

The boy will be thirteen when he becomes Bar Mitzvah. This means he becomes 'son of commandments.' He is expected to follow all 613 Mitzvot, as he is now an adult in the religion.

He will wear a tallit and tefillin for the first time in public. He will read from the Torah Scrolls in the Synagogue. (He has been learning Hebrew for a few years.) There will often be a party afterwards where the boy usually makes a speech about why Bar Mitzvah is important to him.

Orthodox Jews usually celebrate a Bat Mitzvah with a family meal. However Reform Jews will often have a ceremony very similar to the boys.

### **Marriage.**

- Engagement is betrothal. It is very important for Jews.
- It is usually for 12 months.
- It has status in Jewish law and needs a death or divorce to break it.

- Many Jews marry for love, but some Orthodox Jews choose a partner for their children with the help of a Jewish matchmaker.
- It is generally expected that Jewish people will marry other Jews.
- Jews don't live together before marriage. However they will draw up a KETUBAH, or wedding contract in this time.
- For Orthodox Jews this set out legal things, like the duties of each partner, and how the man will provide for his wife if they divorce.
- For Reform Jews this focuses more on spiritual hopes for the marriage.

### **The Ceremony.**

Wedding ceremonies can take place anywhere, although it is traditional to have them outside. The wedding takes place under a canopy called a **chuppah**. It symbolises harmony and the marital home that the couple will build together.

It encloses the couple beneath it. It is open at the sides to signify they belong to the rest of the community.

The bride is brought in by her mother. (And often father too.) She circles the groom seven times, which is symbolic of them having personal space in the relationship.

The groom offers the ring to the bride, and says, "Behold you are sanctified to me with this ring, according to the law of Moses and Israel." The bride accepts the ring as a sign of her commitment.

The vows are exchanged, and they are very similar to the vows exchanged at a Christian wedding.

At the end of the ceremony the groom smashes a glass. This is probably the most well-known ritual of a Jewish wedding. It signifies the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, or a noise that will drive evil spirits away from the relationship.

The couple will spend a short time together in a private room, before the reception begins.

### **Funerals and Mourning.**

A dying person is never left alone.

After death a candle is lit.

The body is not left alone before burial.

Jews are never cremated, always buried.

Every Jewish synagogue has a Chevra Kaddisha, a group of people who take over the arrangements for the funeral. Men are washed by men and are traditionally wrapped in their tallit. Women are washed by women and wear white. Traditionally the body is buried within 24 hours. The body is usually buried in a plain wooden coffin to show they are all equal in death. The tallit used to wrap the deceased man will have had its tassels cut to show that the person no longer has to follow all the commandments.

Jewish funerals do not usually take place in the Synagogue, instead they take place at a cemetery. Jewish cemeteries have prayer halls for funerals. Prayers and a psalm are read in the prayer hall. The rabbi will give a eulogy for the dead person.

A small tear will be made in the clothes of the mourners to symbolise their grief at the death of a loved one.

After the ceremony, Jews will start a seven day period of mourning. The rules for this period are:

- ✧ The family will sit on low chairs
- ✧ They will not comb or cut their hair or shave, and all mirrors will be covered.
- ✧ They wear slippers or soft shoes.
- ✧ They wear their torn clothing.
- ✧ They will not listen to music.

Lesser Mourning.

- ✧ After Shiva there is a period of lesser mourning until the person has been dead thirty days.
- ✧ Normal daily life starts again.
- ✧ BUT there are no parties, listening to music or hair cutting during this time.
- ✧ Males say Kaddish in the Synagogue each day.

Final Mourning.

- ✧ This last for eleven months!
- ✧ There are still no parties.
- ✧ Only children of the deceased say the kaddish.

It is usual for the headstone to be placed at the grave about one year after death. Some families have a small ceremony to mark this. When visiting a Jewish grave you leave a stone to show you have been.

## **Food Rules.**

Jewish Food Rules are called Kashrut.

Something you are allowed to eat is called Kosher. (This means 'fit.')

Something you are not allowed to eat is called Trefah. (This means 'torn.')

A brief summary of the rules is:

- Animals: only ones that have 'cloven hooves' (split feet) and 'chew the cud' (are able to digest grass.)
- Birds: chicken & turkey are kosher; hunted birds aren't kosher.
- Fish: fish that have fins and scales are kosher (eg salmon, cod, haddock); Not prawns, mussels, shellfish.
- Plants: all plants are kosher
- Insects: never kosher

In addition to these rules:-

- Jews may only eat animals and birds that have been killed by a Jewish butcher using the Shechitah method
- Shechitah is killing the animals by slitting the throat with a very sharp knife.
- Many Jews think this is painless to the animals, as causing pain to living things is against Jewish law.
- The animal must not see the knife, as this might upset it.
- A Jewish butcher needs a certificate (called a hechsher) so people know he works correctly

And finally

- There is a quote in the Torah which says "You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk"
- Jews have taken this quote to mean that all meat products and dairy products are kept completely separate during preparation, cooking and eating.
  - Meaty – any part of the dead animal or bird
  - Dairy – anything made from milk.
  - Parev (= neither meat nor milk) – plants, fish, eggs, can be eaten with either meat or dairy.

## **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.**

### **Rosh Hashanah.**

Rosh Hashanah is the **Jewish New Year**. For Jewish people, the New Year is not on the 1st of January. It is in late September. Jews believe that Rosh Hashanah celebrates the birthday of the world.

- During the festival Jews recall how God created the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh.
- Rosh Hashanah is a day of rest and a day for new beginnings.
- Rosh Hashanah is also the start of the most solemn part of the year, which last for ten days. These ten days are called the Days of Repentance.
- Like all Jewish Festivals, Rosh Hashanah starts at sunset.
- At home Jews have a special evening meal. They will usually eat fish, and will have an apple dipped in honey.
- They make bake bread in the shape of a crown to show that God is king.
- There will be a synagogue service, which is similar to the Shabbat service, but a little longer.
- One of the readings is the story of Creation.
- There is also a part of the service where a horn, called a Shofar, is blown many times.
- The Shofar is made from the horn of an animal that is cleaned and hollowed out with a mouthpiece cut into the narrow end. It can produce a very loud note, which reminds people that god is very powerful, and they must listen to him.

### **Yom Kippur.**

- Yom Kippur is the last of the ten days of Repentance.
- Yom Kippur is a very special day for Jews all around the world. Yom Kippur means **Day of Atonement** and this means a day receive forgiveness from God for any bad things that you might have done in the year gone by.
- In the days leading up to Yom Kippur, Jews will apologise to people they might have upset or hurt, so that when the special day comes, God will forgive them for their wrongdoings.
- On this special day there are five prayer services in the synagogue
- At the end of the day the rabbi blows the shofar to tell people that Yom Kippur is finished.
- Rules....
- Fast for 25 hours.
- Do not wear leather shoes.
- Do not wear make up or perfume.
- Do not bathe.
- Wear white clothes



- Jews will also send friends and family greeting cards.

### **Pesach.**

This is the Jewish Festival also known as Passover.

It commemorates the story of Moses, which involved the 10 plagues. The last of the Plagues was the Angel of Death, which killed every first born child of the Egyptians.

The Israelites were given specific instructions to make the angel of death 'PASS OVER,' their houses and leave their children alive.

- The Jews had to sacrifice a lamb.
- They had to smear it's blood onto their doorposts.
- They had to eat quickly, and not put yeast in their bread, so that it would be ready sooner. This is called unleavened bread.

Today, the Passover is celebrated with the Seder meal. Before the meal the house is spring cleaned, and all items with 'chametz' (yeast or rising agents) are removed.

At the meal there is a set order of things to do.

- Each person will have four cups of wine. They are a reminder of the four times that God promised freedom for the Israelites.
- The youngest child will ask 4 questions, and for the answers the story of the Passover is retold.
- There will be 3 Matzot (pieces of unleavened bread) on the table.
- There is also a symbolic plate of food.
- Jews will also eat an ordinary meal.

The red wine reminds Jews of the lambs blood which the Israelites smeared on the doorposts.

The Matzah reminds them of the bread the Israelites made before they left.

Salt water reminds them of the tears of the slaves.

Green Vegetables symbolise hope of the promised land.

Bitter herbs symbolise the bitterness of slavery

Charoset (paste of nuts, wine and apples) symbolises the mortar the slaves used to build with.

The egg and lamb bone are reminders of Temple sacrifices.

### **Families and Relationships Revision.**

Sexuality = The way people express themselves as sexual beings.

Heterosexual = Someone who has sexual relationships with the opposite sex.

Homosexual = Someone who has sexual relationships with the same sex.

Some Christians are against homosexual relationships because of the Creation Story. God creates a man and a woman and tells them to reproduce. Since procreation is not biologically possible in a homosexual relationship, some argue that they are against God's plan.

However, society has changed a lot in recent generations. The actual nature of relationships have changed too.

Some changes that have taken place are:

Sex outside of marriage is more common.

Open homosexual relationships are more common.

Open relationships are more common.

Multiple sexual partners are more common.  
Adultery is more common.  
Children outside of marriage are more common.

There are also a number of possible reasons for this. These might include....

Effective contraception

Legal abortion.

Sex education.

Less religious people?

A more hedonistic lifestyle, meaning that people are basically just living to enjoy themselves.

The Law.

There are no laws against affairs, sex before marriage or open relationships. However, these things were very much 'frowned upon' in the past.

Homosexuality, however, has been subject to a number of laws:

1967 Homosexuality made legal for over 21s. NOT in armed forces.

1994 Homosexual age of consent is reduced to 18.

2000 Homosexuality legalised in the armed forces.

2001 Homosexual age of consent is reduced to 16.

2004 Civil partnerships recognised by law.

2013 Same sex marriage recognised by law.

The age of consent is the same, for heterosexuals and homosexual today. The law tries to prevent under 16s from exploitation.

Some people would think that any legal sexual acts are OK for over 16 year olds. However, most people would say that cheating on a partner is wrong, and that sex should be confined to a relationship.

Some people may still be against homosexuality.

**Corinthians 6:9-1** says *"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."*

However, this was St Paul who was writing to prostitutes, and not talking about everyday society.

**The Evangelical Church** They believe that being a homosexual is a sin. They believe that you can "pray away the gay".

**The Roman Catholic Church** They believe that just being a homosexual is **not** a sin. However they believe that the sexual act is a sin, therefore you should remain **celebrate**.

**The Protestant Church** Most of these churches believe that there should be equality for homosexuals. They believe that the relationship should be fine, in line with the normal bounds of morality.

### **Sex before and outside of marriage.**

Sex before marriage means that you are having sex, but you are not married.

Sex outside of marriage means that you are married, but you are having sex with someone who is not your marriage partner.

Traditionally all Christians believe that sex before marriage and sex outside of marriage are wrong. Most Catholics still feel this way.

Some Christians these days take a more relaxed attitude. They feel that sex in a loving long term relationship is a valid form of expressing love.

However, sex outside of marriage is called adultery – cheating on your partner. The Ten Commandments say ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ Therefore all branches of Christianity are against this!

### **Contraception and Family Planning.**

Contraception is any way of preventing pregnancy when a couple have sex. Different denominations of Christianity have different views on contraception as a whole. In addition to this those Christians that accept some forms of contraception have different attitudes towards different methods of contraception depending on how they work.

There are many different forms of artificial contraception, some of which include:

- The pill, or injection, which contains a hormone that stops the woman from producing an egg.
- The diaphragm, or coil, which stop the sperm meeting the egg- the condom also prevents the spread of sexually transmitted infections.
- Spermicidal jellies or creams, which kill the sperm directly
- The coil (intrauterine device) and the ‘morning after’ pill, which stop a fertilised egg from implanting in the womb.
- Sterilisation (a surgical operation) of either the man or the woman, which is a permanent way of preventing pregnancy.

Most Christians disagree with the IUD (the coil) and the morning after pill. This is because it allows conception to take place. Since the egg and the sperm have met, many Christians would think that this is similar to an abortion, as the life has already begun.

Catholics.

Catholics disagree with all artificial contraception, saying that only natural methods should be used. Natural methods involve only having sex at certain times of the month in order to reduce the chance of pregnancy. For example, with the rhythm method, the woman records the length of her menstrual cycle in order to determine when she should avoid having sex. Not ejaculating inside the woman would also be classed as a natural method. This is often called pulling out. However, none of these methods are actually as effective in preventing pregnancy as the artificial methods.

Modern Attitudes.

In modern Britain there is widespread acceptance of the use of contraception in family planning . Many people think it is more responsible to prevent unwanted pregnancies , both from a personal point of view and also because of concerns about global over-population.

Many religious people think that using some forms of contraception for the right reasons within marriage is acceptable.

All Christian churches agree that having c\_\_\_\_\_ is God's greatest gift to a married couple. Christian couples are called by God to be responsible parents, fully c\_\_\_\_\_ to their children's nurture and guidance . It is God's w\_\_\_\_\_ that children are born within m\_\_\_\_\_, but all Christian churches accept that there are some situations when it may be acceptable to a\_\_\_\_\_ bringing children into the world. The reasons may be economic, environmental, p\_\_\_\_\_ or psychological.

However, as already mentioned Christian churches do not all a\_\_\_\_\_ on the methods couples should use to limit their f\_\_\_\_\_ or to time the births of their children.

### **Marriage.**

People marry to s\_\_\_\_\_ their lives with the person they love. Marriage is a l\_\_\_\_\_ contract that brings security as it protects the rights of each p\_\_\_\_\_, provides various legal and financial benefits, and is a serious, l\_\_\_\_\_ public commitment.

The nature of marriage has recently been keenly debated in the UK. *Marriage used to be defined as the legal union of a m\_\_\_\_\_ and a w\_\_\_\_\_.*

In 2004, same sex c\_\_\_\_\_ were allowed to register their union in a civil p\_\_\_\_\_ that gave them the same l\_\_\_\_\_ rights as married couples. But many same sex couples felt that having separate civil partnerships seemed to imply that H\_\_\_\_\_ relationships were not as valid as heterosexual ones.

Same – sex marriages became l\_\_\_\_\_ in England, Wales and Scotland in 2014, and in Ireland in 2015.

Many Christians o\_\_\_\_\_ this, not because they were against equal rights, but because it seemed to be changing the n\_\_\_\_\_ of marriage. Marriage was being redefined to mean simply a c\_\_\_\_\_ relationship between adults, whereas many Christians consider it to be a unique r\_\_\_\_\_ between a m\_\_\_\_\_ and a w\_\_\_\_\_ that involves their ability to create n\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ in the form of children. The law does p\_\_\_\_\_ churches that oppose homosexual marriage and they are not f\_\_\_\_\_ to conduct same sex marriages against their beliefs.

Christians believe marriage is a g\_\_\_\_\_ from G\_\_\_\_\_ and is a c\_\_\_\_\_ (special promise) made before Him. They aim to live f\_\_\_\_\_ together until death. Their p\_\_\_\_\_ intimacy expresses their l\_\_\_\_\_ and they share companionship through g\_\_\_\_\_ and b\_\_\_\_\_ times.

Cohabitation.

Sometimes the c\_\_\_\_\_ of marriage prevents people from marrying immediately. In contemporary British society many couples l\_\_\_\_\_ together without being m\_\_\_\_\_. This is called c\_\_\_\_\_. Some want to see if their relationship is going to w\_\_\_\_\_, and then may decide to \_\_\_\_\_ together in a loving partnership.

Christians against Cohabitation

Christians who are opposed to sex before marriage believe cohabitation is s\_\_\_\_\_. The Catholic Church says: "The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin."

Some reasons why less people marry these days might be

1. It c\_\_\_\_\_ too much.
2. Too many e\_\_\_\_\_ in divorce.
3. They don't see the p\_\_\_\_\_ in it if they are not r\_\_\_\_\_.
4. They feel it is o\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Modern lives are too b\_\_\_\_\_ to settle down.

### **Divorce and re-marriage**

A divorce is the l\_\_\_\_\_ ending of a marriage. There is n\_\_\_ limit of how m\_\_\_\_\_ times are you allowed to get divorced. Remarriage, is getting married a\_\_\_\_\_ after you have been d\_\_\_\_\_. This is usually to a different person, although remarriage to the s\_\_\_\_\_ person is allowed too. You can r\_\_\_\_\_ in some churches, but not in a\_\_\_\_ of them.

Marriages may fail for a number of reasons. Some examples might be

- As the couple grow up they find they are just too d\_\_\_\_\_.
- One or both of them commit a\_\_\_\_\_.
- Domestic a\_\_\_\_\_
- Arguments about m\_\_\_\_\_.
- Arguments about c\_\_\_\_\_.
- Any kind or unr\_\_\_\_\_ behaviour.

Both d\_\_\_\_\_ and arguments between p\_\_\_\_\_ can cause instability for children in the f\_\_\_\_\_.

Christian churches try to prevent this by offering c\_\_\_\_\_ that prepare couples for marriage. They may also offer counselling for those who are not getting along and may at some point consider a d\_\_\_\_\_

Christians have to balance ethical arguments between the sanctity of their marriage v\_\_\_\_\_ and compassion for those who are going through a breakdown of their m\_\_\_\_\_.

many would say that vows made before God are sacred and should never be broken, there may be circumstances when it might be more compassionate and loving to divorce, for example in cases of domestic violence that risk the health and safety of a partner or their children.

Different church views on Divorce.

Catholics.

The **Catholic Church** teaches that a civil divorce cannot dissolve a marriage between two baptised people. Catholics can separate but they cannot marry someone else in a Catholic church while their partner is still alive. For Catholics, marriage is a sacrament that is permanent, exclusive and lifelong, and the couple make vows before God that can never be broken.

However Catholics can obtain an annulment under certain circumstances if it was never a true marriage. Catholics whose marriage has been annulled are free to marry in church.

Protestants.

Divorced **Anglicans** can marry someone else in church with the bishop's permission, as long as the priest in that church is willing to perform the marriage ceremony. Priests who are uncomfortable with this may instead offer a blessing after a civil ceremony.

Other Protestant churches, for example the **Methodist or United Reformed Church**, accept civil divorce and allow remarriage in church as long as the couple take the vows seriously. They think that the Church should reflect the forgiveness of God and allow people who have made mistakes the opportunity to find happiness in a serious marriage.

The **Eastern Orthodox Church** grants divorces and remarries couples but usually not more than twice.

Useful quotes.

Luke 16:18<sup>18</sup> "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

In 1 Corinthians 7 it says "A wife must not separate from her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife."

However, as with many other topics Christians are also taught to "Love your neighbour" Therefore to accept that some marriages don't work out, might be the most logical thing to do.

**The Nature of Families.**

A 'nuclear' family is the '\_\_\_\_\_l' family unit for western societies. It is a father, mother and their children l\_\_\_\_\_ together.

However, there are many different sorts of families in society today. Some examples could include

Step families.

S\_\_\_\_\_ parent families.

Same-sex p\_\_\_\_\_ with children.

Foster f\_\_\_\_\_.

Families with a\_\_\_\_\_ children.

Families with c\_\_\_\_\_ from a surrogate.

Families are expected to p\_\_\_\_\_ for their children and relatives in terms of l\_\_\_\_\_ and basic needs. Religious people are also expected to bring their children up in the f\_\_\_\_\_.

1 Timothy says "8 Anyone who does not p\_\_\_\_\_ for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the f\_\_\_\_\_ and is worse than an unbeliever."

When in a marriage, partners are also expected to meet each other's needs. St Paul tells the early Christians communities that it is actually best to n\_\_\_\_\_ marry and remain c\_\_\_\_\_. However, he also recognises that this would n\_\_\_\_\_ be p\_\_\_\_\_ for most people, and says that if they are going to have s\_\_\_\_\_ then they must get m\_\_\_\_\_. Within a m\_\_\_\_\_, it is expected that the couple do have s\_\_\_\_\_ with each other and produce c\_\_\_\_\_.

"2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband."

### **Gender Equality.**

Gender D\_\_\_\_\_ = Acting against someone based on their g\_\_\_\_\_.

Gender P\_\_\_\_\_ = Unfairly judging someone without knowing all the f\_\_\_\_\_.

Gender S\_\_\_\_\_ = Having a fixed idea of how m\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_ will behave.

Gender E\_\_\_\_\_ = Giving the same rights to all people, r\_\_\_\_\_ of whether they are male or female.

### **Traditional Society.**

- Men used to earn all the m\_\_\_\_\_.
- Women would stay at h\_\_\_\_\_.
- Women would do h\_\_\_\_\_.
- Women would look after the c\_\_\_\_\_.

- Women used to do first what their f\_\_\_\_\_ wanted, and after marriage, what their h\_\_\_\_\_ wanted.

The situation today.

- Women generally e\_\_\_\_\_ less than man. Sometime this can be for doing the s\_\_\_\_\_ job.
- Women do make up about h\_\_\_\_\_ of the workforce, but there are more men in s\_\_\_\_\_ positions.

There are many reasons that there may still be a gap in p\_\_\_\_\_. Some of these reasons MAY include

- Men are seen as being physically s\_\_\_\_\_.
- Women may be expected to take more time o\_\_\_\_\_ for m\_\_\_\_\_ leave than paternity leave.
- Women are often still seen as the primary c\_\_\_\_\_ for children, and so might be seen as less focussed on their j\_\_\_\_\_.
- Women may HAVE to be the primary carer for some b\_\_\_\_\_ as they may choose to b\_\_\_\_\_ feed them.

However, it is important to note that just because roles are different in a h\_\_\_\_\_, doesn't mean they are un\_\_\_\_\_. Many parents play an equal r\_\_\_\_\_ in childcare. What suits a family may depend on finances, individual s\_\_\_\_\_, and the amount of support from e\_\_\_\_\_ family.

Christian views.

Galatians says "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there m\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

BUT in Genesis God says to E\_\_\_\_\_ "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will r\_\_\_\_\_ over you."

Most m\_\_\_\_\_ Christians will agree with g\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_. You could again use the L\_\_\_\_\_ your n\_\_\_\_\_ quote to explain why this might be.

## **Religion and Life.**

### **The Creation Story**

In the creation story God creates the world in 6 days and rests on the \_\_\_\_\_.

On the first day he creates \_\_\_\_\_.



On the second day he creates \_\_\_\_\_ .

On the third day he creates \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

On the fourth day he creates the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

On the fifth day he creates \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

On the sixth day he creates \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

On the Seventh day God \_\_\_\_\_.

After he finished creating, God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_. God tells them to eat from any tree except the Tree of \_\_\_\_\_ of good and evil. A \_\_\_\_\_ tricks Eve into eating the f\_\_\_\_\_ and they are cast out of the garden.

They are all punished. The woman has her pain in \_\_\_\_\_ increased, the man has to work hard, and the serpent loses his \_\_\_\_\_.

### **How to view the story.**

Some people think that this story is true, others think that it needs some i\_\_\_\_\_.

Here are some of the most common ideas.

F\_\_\_\_\_ think that it is literally true.

Others think that it tells them the o\_\_\_\_\_ God created, but 'day' is not our concept of a day.

It could tell people that G\_\_\_\_\_ created everything, but not what order.

It is like a p\_\_\_\_\_ – a story with a meaning. It is designed to tell Christians and J\_\_\_\_\_ that God c\_\_\_\_\_ the world. However it does not tell them how he did it, just that what he did was 'g\_\_\_\_\_.'

There are also some non-religious ideas about it. These might include...

It is just m\_\_\_\_\_ up.

It was designed to answer an unanswered q\_\_\_\_\_. Now we have s\_\_\_\_\_ there is no need for it

### **The Big Bang.**

- The Big Bang Theory is a s\_\_\_\_\_ account of how the universe began.
- This means it is the best *evidence-based* explanation we have at present for how e\_\_\_\_\_ began.

Around 13.7 b\_\_\_\_\_ years ago... Everything – matter, energy, time and s\_\_\_\_\_ - began. Then there was a massive e\_\_\_\_\_. Over time the material from the Big Bang began to c\_\_\_\_\_ down and clump together. These clumps of gas, and space dust formed galaxies, s\_\_\_\_\_, and, eventually, planets, o\_\_\_\_\_ of which is ours.

### **Evidence for the Big Bang.**

Stars and galaxies are moving further a \_\_\_\_\_ from each other at a known rate of speed – ‘Red Shift.’ This implies they were once MUCH c\_\_\_\_\_. (If you imagine everything rewinding you get to a point where everything must have exploded).

The relative abundance of elements with everything we need to make the u\_\_\_\_\_ seems to have been created with the Big Bang. e.g. the proportion of Hydrogen and Helium is exactly what it should be if there was a Big Bang.

Background r\_\_\_\_\_ from the Big Bang is still around now (it’s the fuzzy noisy stuff you get on TV sets that don’t have digital).

### **Fundamentalists and the Big Bang.**

- It’s not in the B\_\_\_\_\_ – Scripture is e\_\_\_\_\_ free and science is w\_\_\_\_\_!
- Evidence is circumstantial – no proof. Science has been w\_\_\_\_\_ in the past.
- Thus the Big Bang Theory just that – a t\_\_\_\_\_. There are others...
- It d\_\_\_\_\_ God as creator/designer, and therefore removes the sense of p\_\_\_\_\_ from creation
- Belief in Bible more i\_\_\_\_\_ than scientific evidence.

### **Other Christian Responses.**

- The Big Bang Theory confirms idea that universe had a b\_\_\_\_\_.
- Big Bang might be God’s method of c\_\_\_\_\_, this cannot be ruled out.
- The fact of creation is more important than the way in which it h\_\_\_\_\_.
- God may have created the World in 6 day/stages – the Big Bang o\_\_\_\_\_ of them.

Many Christians see n\_\_\_ contradiction between the B\_\_\_\_\_ account and S\_\_\_\_\_ accounts. They answer different questions – Science tells us h\_\_\_\_\_, but religion tells us w\_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Value of the World.**

Many religions think that the world is b\_\_\_\_\_

Many people say that the world inspires a\_\_\_\_\_, w\_\_\_\_\_ and amazement.

Christians and Jews think that the world is valuable, because of the C\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_.

They believe that God can r\_\_\_\_\_ things about himself through the world around us.

Stewardship – This is the idea that God is the o\_\_\_\_\_ of the world. He has given us the position of m\_\_\_\_\_. As such, we have a responsibility to l\_\_\_\_\_ of the world around us, as this is what G\_\_\_\_\_ wants us to do. Much like a manager in a company, we cannot just do what we w\_\_\_\_\_, as this will displease God.

Dominion – Whilst most Christians accept the concept of S\_\_\_\_\_, a few think the idea of D\_\_\_\_\_ is more important. This is the idea that since we are God’s best creations, (we are the only creatures with a s\_\_\_\_\_) we are fully in charge. The Bible says that we should rule over the animals and subdue them, so these Christians might think we can do w\_\_\_\_\_ we want.

### **The use and abuse of the environment.**

The key ideas of how we should respond to the world are

- God c\_\_\_\_\_ the universe.
- We are given the j\_\_\_\_\_ of r\_\_\_\_\_ the world.
- We are allowed to use the e\_\_\_\_\_ for our own good.
- God gave human beings the r\_\_\_\_\_ to care for it.

These ideas are contained in Genesis 1.

So God created H\_\_\_\_\_ beings, making them to be like himself. He created the male and f\_\_\_\_\_, blessed them, and said, ‘have many c\_\_\_\_\_, so that your descendents will live all over the earth and bring it under their c\_\_\_\_\_. I am putting you in c\_\_\_\_\_ of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of g\_\_\_\_\_ and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and b\_\_\_\_\_ I have provided g\_\_\_\_\_ and leafy plants for food ‘ – and it was done...the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of E\_\_\_\_\_ to cultivate it and \_\_\_\_\_ it.

A Summary.

- As humans were are in charge of the world. We a\_\_\_ seen as better than animals (we have dominion) but we are also in a p\_\_\_\_\_ of great responsibility. (Stewardship.)
- Whilst we are permitted to u\_\_\_\_\_ the resources the world provides, we are not permitted to a\_\_\_\_\_ the world.

For many religious people this is abuse of the world is all too regular t\_\_\_\_\_. We must look for s\_\_\_\_\_ development.

Examples of sustainable power are W\_\_\_\_\_, S\_\_\_\_\_, and Wave power. These are very environmentally friendly, but can be unreliable, as they depend on the weather to w\_\_\_\_\_.

The Assisi and Ohito Meetings.

These meetings brought together religious leaders from five different world r\_\_\_\_\_. They met in A\_\_\_\_\_ in 1986 and in O\_\_\_\_\_ in 1995. They concluded that being in c\_\_\_\_\_ of creation is a big r\_\_\_\_\_. It does not give humans the right to abuse, spoil, waste or d\_\_\_\_\_ the environment.

### **Pollution.**

Air pollution. This is caused by f\_\_\_\_\_, car emissions etc. It could be a major cause of G\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_, otherwise known as the Greenhouse effect.

Water Pollution. This could be caused by people dumping their w\_\_\_\_\_. However, the most usual cause is farmers using f\_\_\_\_\_ and p\_\_\_\_\_. These get into the water and make the algae g\_\_\_\_\_ much quicker, and k\_\_\_\_\_ the fish.

Land Pollution. This is usually caused by people not taking responsibility for the disposal of their own r\_\_\_\_\_. It can cause health problems in h\_\_\_\_\_, and can often kill or deform a\_\_\_\_\_.

Christians are seen as S\_\_\_\_\_ of the world, meaning that they do not o\_\_\_\_\_ it, but are responsible for looking after it for G\_\_\_\_\_. This means that they should naturally work towards r\_\_\_\_\_ pollution.

Pope Francis wrote a long, open letter to the world about the environment. It was called, 'On the Care of our Common H\_\_\_\_\_'

It's key ideas include.

1. We all must work t\_\_\_\_\_ to protect our planet.
2. The climate is a "common g\_\_\_\_\_"
3. Creatures are not just r\_\_\_\_\_, but have v\_\_\_\_\_ in and of themselves.
4. Creation does not just mean n\_\_\_\_\_, it is also about God's loving p\_\_\_\_\_.
5. All of creation speaks of God's l\_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 24:1 says The earth is the LORD's, and e\_\_\_\_\_ in it.

H\_\_\_\_\_ is a Christian organisation that encourages churches to interact with their local c\_\_\_\_\_. It has encouraged big town c\_\_\_\_\_ ups, where C\_\_\_\_\_ and other community members have a chance to m\_\_\_\_\_ and share a c\_\_\_\_\_ goal.

### **The Use and Abuse of Animals.**

In modern society animals are used for many things. Examples might be

For a p\_\_\_\_\_.

As a form of t\_\_\_\_\_.

To help with work eg a p\_\_\_\_\_ dog.

To help a human with a d\_\_\_\_\_ Eg a guide dog.

To test a new product or conduct e\_\_\_\_\_.

For s\_\_\_\_\_. Eg Horseracing.

For e\_\_\_\_\_.

For f\_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 7:2 says "You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; This shows Christians that animals are obviously i\_\_\_\_\_ to God, as these instructions were given to N\_\_\_\_\_ to save the animals from the f\_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 9:3 says [3"Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.](#) This quote means that many Christians think that it is acceptable to eat m\_\_\_\_\_.

Stewardship is the idea that G\_\_\_\_\_ is the owner of the world. Humans are like his m\_\_\_\_\_. We are to l\_\_\_\_\_ after the world on his behalf.

Dominion is the idea that we are f\_\_\_\_\_ in control of the world. There are a few C\_\_\_\_\_ who might argue that this means that we can do exactly what we w\_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1 says 'I will make humans to have *dominion* over the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and all the wild animals on the Earth. Humans will spread over the Earth and *subdue* it.'

You can see from this that there is not just o\_\_\_\_\_ view about animal treatment in C\_\_\_\_\_. Most Christians will see S\_\_\_\_\_ as more important than d\_\_\_\_\_. A lot of Christians will eat m\_\_\_\_\_, but will be concerned with the fair treatment of the a\_\_\_\_\_ before its death.

Quite a lot of Christians will a\_\_\_\_\_ animal testing if there is no other a\_\_\_\_\_. The Bible does make it clear that h\_\_\_\_\_ are 'better' than animals, as they are the ones with a s\_\_\_\_\_. (God gave Adam the b\_\_\_\_\_ of life.) Therefore it may sometimes be a\_\_\_\_\_ to sacrifice the life of an a\_\_\_\_\_ to save the life of a h\_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Origins of Human Life.**

In the Bible it claims that h\_\_\_\_\_ were created on the s\_\_\_\_\_ day. They were created by God, and it gives the impression that they are a 'completed creation,' not something He was intending to c\_\_\_\_\_.

Later in the book of G\_\_\_\_\_, more information is given.

**18**Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." **19**Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20**The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. **21**So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. **22**The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

Science.

- Science generally uses the T\_\_\_\_\_ of E\_\_\_\_\_ to explain the origins of life.

- This theory says that as the earth cooled down, the conditions became right for life.
- The first life was simple celled creatures, but they evolved and changed in different ways into the creatures we have today.

This theory was made famous by Charles Darwin. He actually set out on a voyage to prove the world was created by God. However, with the fossils he saw, and the different varieties of creatures on different islands he came up with a very different conclusion.

He said that for a species to survive it must be able to adapt. If your species cannot adapt, it becomes extinct.

Within a species, only the 'fittest' creatures (the best adapted) survive long enough to reproduce. The creatures pass on what is good about them to any future generations. Every generation is more adapted to its environment.

Christian views.

Fundamentalists reject Evolution, as they believe that the Bible is literally true. Therefore Evolution must be false.

Other Christians are more prepared to accept Evolution, although how they do it varies. Some might say that the Creation Story is to tell us that God created everything 'good'. But it doesn't tell us exactly how he did it.

Some might say that the Creation Story tells us where the world was created, but not necessarily how.

Some might say that Evolution is God's means of creation. His help did not look like today's human, but that doesn't matter.

### **Abortion.**

Purposeful termination of pregnancy with intention other than to produce a live born infant or to remove a dead foetus.

The loss of a pregnancy by artificial means. The public often refers to "abortion" as any artificial means to induce the loss of a pregnancy.

In summary, an abortion must be something that is done to the lady on purpose to prevent her having a live child.

Most people, including Catholics take a relative approach to abortion. This means that whilst they think abortion is a 'bad' thing, they are willing to accept it in some situations.

There are 2 other views on abortion.

Pro life people believe that the baby should always be born. They are therefore against abortion in all circumstances.

Pro choice people believe that the woman or the couple should always be free to get an abortion if they make the choice to.

Abortion is allowed up to 24 weeks if certain criteria are met, although most people who know that they want/need an abortion will try to do it as quickly as possible.

5 circumstances where a lot of people may accept abortion are

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

3 reasons that some people may never accept an abortion are

- 1
- 2
- 3

Catholics are against abortion in all situations. They are pro-life. The book of Jeremiah says "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." This shows that God could have a purpose for that baby, and by aborting it you are ruining his purpose.

Other Christians may hold similar or different views. Many modern Protestants use the teaching 'Listen to your neighbour'. This means that they would try to imagine themselves in the position of the woman who wants an abortion and try to understand why she feels this way. In cases such as rape, an abortion could be seen as the 'lesser of two evils.' This means that although it is an 'evil' act, it is kinder to all concerned, rather than continue the pregnancy.

### **Euthanasia.**

Euthanasia is the act of bringing about the early and gentle death of a person, usually someone who is terminally ill or in great pain. For this reason it is often called a 'mercy killing'. Euthanasia is illegal in the United Kingdom.

2 types

Active euthanasia = Killing someone by accelerating their d\_\_\_\_ by giving them extra drugs / painkillers or the lethal injection - also known as 'assisted s\_\_\_\_\_'.

Passive euthanasia = Withdrawing m\_\_\_\_\_ help from people who are being kept alive artificially.

3 categories.

Non voluntary - When a person is too \_\_\_\_\_l to give consent but the d\_\_\_\_\_ believe it is for the best.

Voluntary - When the person gives their c\_\_\_\_\_ for their life to be ended.

Involuntary - When the person does not give their consent, because they do not w\_\_\_\_\_ to, or they are not a\_\_\_\_\_.

Individual Christians will have different thoughts about e\_\_\_\_\_.

Some Christians might agree with it in some situations.

Jesus taught 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you.' Perhaps helping people out of \_\_\_\_\_ is the right and most l\_\_\_\_\_ thing to do.

Jesus taught to be compassionate and caring to others: 'Love your neighbour' All Christians will feel compassion for the terminally i\_\_\_\_\_, and a few Christians might support their efforts in trying to achieve a 'h\_\_\_\_\_ death'.

Important note.

More Christians are likely to agree with p\_\_\_\_\_ Euthanasia than active. This is because the death could still be seen as n\_\_\_\_\_. They are not actually doing anything to k\_\_\_\_\_ the person.

Other Christians will disagree with E\_\_\_\_\_

Roman Catholics are opposed to all forms of euthanasia. They believe it would be breaking the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment 'Thou shall notk\_\_\_\_\_'. They believe very strongly in the s\_\_\_\_\_ of Life: God grants life, only G\_\_\_\_\_ should take it away.

All Christians believe in life after d\_\_\_\_\_. Because of this, the majority of Christians do not accept that ending life prematurely is a\_\_\_\_\_. Suffering may be serving some p\_\_\_\_\_

Placing someone in a h\_\_\_\_\_ might be a more caring thing to do than h\_\_\_\_\_ them kill themselves.

**Death and the Afterlife.**



This is the final section of each topic area. It is covered in more detail elsewhere.

### **The Existence of God and Revelation.**

Words which describe belief/unbelief.

Atheist – Someone who d\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_ believe in God.

Theist – Someone who d\_\_\_\_\_ believe in God.

Agnostic – Someone who is n\_\_\_\_\_ sure.

Monotheist – Someone who believes o\_\_\_\_\_ God.

Polytheist – Someone who believes in m\_\_\_\_\_ than one God.

Free-Will – Humans have free will. They can decide how to a\_\_\_\_\_ and what to b\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Arguments for and against the existence of God.**

#### **The First Cause Argument.**

This is also called the ‘C\_\_\_\_\_ Argument.’ It says that:

1. Something can’t come from n\_\_\_\_\_, everything has a c\_\_\_\_\_.
2. There must be a f\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_.
- C This first cause is G\_\_\_\_\_. God e\_\_\_\_\_.

This argument has many ‘for’ and ‘against’ points, which you will need to decide upon for yourself. Some examples are:

For.

If there is no first cause, where did e\_\_\_\_\_ come from?

If we accept a first cause, who else could it be apart from G\_\_\_\_\_?

For our life e\_\_\_\_\_ we can see that something can’t come from nothing.

Against.

Does there have to be o\_\_\_\_\_ cause of everything? Why not m\_\_\_\_\_ causes?

Does everything h\_\_\_\_\_ a cause?

Could c\_\_\_\_\_ be circular?

Why does the argument seem to j\_\_\_\_\_ to G\_\_\_\_\_ in the conclusion.

Link this argument with the account of c\_\_\_\_\_ if you are asked to discuss it.

#### **The Design Argument.**

This argument says that:-

1. The universe shows e\_\_\_\_\_ of design.
2. There must be a d\_\_\_\_\_.
- C The designer is G\_\_\_\_\_. God e\_\_\_\_\_.

This argument has many 'for' and 'against' points, which you will need to decide upon for yourself. Some examples are:

For.

The universe does seem really well s\_\_\_\_\_ to our needs. Could it be d\_\_\_\_\_?

If there is a designer who else could take on such a task but G\_\_\_\_\_?

Against.

Why not l\_\_\_\_\_ of designers?

The universe could be here by c\_\_\_\_\_.

If we accept that there is a d\_\_\_\_\_, why should it be G\_\_\_\_\_?

Link this argument with all accounts of C\_\_\_\_\_ too, if you are asked to discuss it.

### **The Argument based on Miracles.**

This argument works with the idea that miracles h\_\_\_\_\_, and require an explanation. The explanation is, of course, G\_\_\_\_\_.

Part 1 Miracles h\_\_\_\_\_ in our world.

Part 2 This requires an e\_\_\_\_\_.

Conclusion. God is the explanation, G\_\_\_\_\_ exists.

You will need to know a m\_\_\_\_\_ story for this part of the course too. Summarise one on the next 3 lines.

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You also need to consider for and against points of this argument.

For.

If miracles do happen, then they are h\_\_\_\_\_ to explain. God would certainly e\_\_\_\_\_ them!

If God created the l\_\_\_\_\_ of n\_\_\_\_\_, then it would make sense that only he could break them.

Against.

We cannot prove that miracles h\_\_\_\_\_ anyway.

No one will accept a miracle unless they have s\_\_\_\_\_ it for themselves.

You cannot just use God as an e\_\_\_\_\_ for things if you cannot find anything else that fits!

### **General Arguments for and against the Existence of God.**

You can really write about what you want for this section, as long as it makes sense. Here are some examples.

For

The world seems d\_\_\_\_\_.

Prayers have been a\_\_\_\_\_.

You have had a r\_\_\_\_\_ or a religious e\_\_\_\_\_.

It seems l\_\_\_\_\_ to you.

Against

They see no n\_\_\_\_\_ for God in their life.

They were not b\_\_\_\_\_ up as r\_\_\_\_\_.

They prayed and n\_\_\_\_\_ happened.

The problem of s\_\_\_\_\_.

They cannot really find or see any e\_\_\_\_\_ that God exists.

### **General and Special Revelation.**

General Revelation – God is revealed through things a\_\_\_\_\_ us, eg nature/religious leaders/sacred texts/prayer/through people/worship.

Special Revelation – God is revealed through s\_\_\_\_\_ or particular events, eg miracles/dreams/worship/prayer.

The most famous example of a SPECIAL revelation is the story of SAUL who was a J\_\_\_\_\_, who became PAUL the C\_\_\_\_\_.

Saul hated Christians and k\_\_\_\_\_ them. He pursued them to foreign cities in his attempts to wipe them out. One day, whilst he was travelling to the city of Damascus he saw a brilliant l\_\_\_\_\_ from heaven, brighter than he had ever seen. He fell to the g\_\_\_\_\_, and he heard the voice of J\_\_\_\_\_, asking why Saul was persecuting him. The men with him could see the light, but could not hear the v\_\_\_\_\_.

Saul went to the city, but he had been b\_\_\_\_\_. A follower of Jesus called Ananias came and cured him, and his sight returned. Saul then became a C\_\_\_\_\_, and changed his name to Paul.

## Types of Revelation.

### Miracles.

Miracle. An event contrary to the L\_\_\_\_\_ of N\_\_\_\_\_. Some think it has a supernatural or Divine cause.

You will need to think about the advantages and disadvantages of a Miracle as a form of revelation. (A way of finding out information about God.) There are too many of these to list here, so I have included a few to help you.

#### Advantages.

1. How else do we explain m\_\_\_\_\_?
2. If we believe in God, then it is easy to believe he p\_\_\_\_\_ miracles.
3. God would surely want us to be h\_\_\_\_\_, and most 'miracles' make at least a small number of people happy.

#### Disadvantages.

1. If you see a miracle who will b\_\_\_\_\_ you?
2. Why should miracles come from G\_\_\_\_\_?
3. In time we can explain more and m\_\_\_\_\_ about our world. What seems like a miracle now might be easily e\_\_\_\_\_ in 50 years time!

### Nature

People may feel that they can get to know God through the w\_\_\_\_\_ around them. This seems obvious, because if you believe that God made the w\_\_\_\_\_, there will be aspects of the world which show what he is l\_\_\_\_\_.

Eg –You could see that God valued b\_\_\_\_\_ whilst looking at a particularly impressive sunset, or see that God was p\_\_\_\_\_ whilst in the middle of a storm.

#### Advantages.

1. The information is a\_\_\_\_\_ to all who choose to respond.
2. It makes sense that a creator would put some of himself into his c\_\_\_\_\_.
3. God may choose to r\_\_\_\_\_ himself in lots of different ways..

#### Disadvantages.

1. IF God didn't create the world, it cannot show us a\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why doesn't everyone get revelations all the t\_\_\_\_\_?
3. Sometimes the world could give us contradictory i\_\_\_\_\_ about what God is like.

### Conscience.

The human conscience can be defined as an inbuilt sense of what is r\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_. No vone knows exactly where our conscience comes from, and there seems little d\_\_\_\_\_.

that it is affected by our upbringing. However, SOME C\_\_\_\_\_ claim that their conscience is the voice of G\_\_\_\_\_.

Advantages.

1. Everyone has a c\_\_\_\_\_.
2. We cannot prove that conscience is not the v\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_.
3. We can choose to r\_\_\_\_\_ to our conscience if we wish.

Disadvantages.

1. We cannot p\_\_\_\_\_ that conscience IS the voice of God.
2. People's consciences may tell them d\_\_\_\_\_ things.
3. Psychopaths do not have a conscience – does this mean God has g\_\_\_\_\_ up?

Worship.

Prayer, Meditation (d\_\_\_\_\_, q\_\_\_\_\_ thinking) and charismatic worship (worshipping together, with music and preachers) all count as worship. What can be revealed about God depends upon the worship involved and the individual person.

### **Sacred Texts/Scripture/Holy Books.**

Another way God is revealed is through Sacred Texts.

You will need to know about the ways which believers may choose to read these texts.

Idea 1 - The Fundamentalist View.

The texts are from God and free from e\_\_\_\_\_.

Everything in the texts is t\_\_\_\_\_, and it should be used to effect how they live their lives.

Idea 2 - The texts need interpretation.

The writers were inspired by things around them which they believed to be w\_\_\_\_\_ of God. The writers had a d\_\_\_\_\_ understanding of God than most people. They put their ideas down on paper, but they were only h\_\_\_\_\_ so they may be m\_\_\_\_\_ in places. The writings include symbolism and metaphors, and therefore need to be i\_\_\_\_\_. It does not matter that stories contradict each other as it is the m\_\_\_\_\_ of the story that is important.

Again, you need to consider the advantages and disadvantages of using Sacred Texts as Revelation. There are many advantages and disadvantages which you can work out for yourself. I have included a selection to help you.

Advantages.

1. The information is available to all who wish to h\_\_\_\_\_ or read it.
2. Many think that Holy Books come from G\_\_\_\_\_, so they are good authority.

3. Holy books have been passed down through generations, so maybe the story they tell IS important.

Disadvantages.

1. Who wrote the books?
2. Who decided what went into the Holy Books?
3. Why would God need a book if he can communicate people in other ways?

### What can be revealed about God in a revelation?

Keywords.

T\_\_\_\_\_ – God is beyond and outside of the world. He is not limited in what he can do.

I\_\_\_\_\_ - God is involved in the world and not separate from it. He can have a direct effect.

P\_\_\_\_\_ - God is an individual being, like a human. This limits his power, but makes him more accessible and approachable.

I\_\_\_\_\_ - God does not have any human characteristics. This means we can't really understand what he is like.

O\_\_\_\_\_ - all powerful

O\_\_\_\_\_ - all knowing

B\_\_\_\_\_ - all loving.

Transcendent – Advantage = He is not limited by the limitations of nature. He can do anything.

Disadvantage = It will be difficult to have a personal relationship with Him.

Immanent – Advantage = It is easy to have a personal relationship with him.

Disadvantage = He is limited by our world.

Personal - Advantage = He can answer personally, and we can know things about him.

Disadvantage = He cannot be everywhere at once.

Impersonal – Advantage – He can be anything we want him to be.

Disadvantage = We can never know anything about him.

### The Value of Revelation and Enlightenment.

Revelation can completely change someone's life. A good example to use to prove this could be the story of Nicodemus.

Nicky was part of a lonely family and did not get much attention. He rebelled at school and was punished physically by his father. He was sent to live in New York with his brother. Whilst there he became involved in a gang called the Mad Mads. He was so mean and cruel he became the gang leader. A preacher called David W. felt he was sent by God to help members of the gangs. He eventually managed to convert Nicky, who in turn converted many other gang members.

This shows us that revelation has the potential to convert somebody who is not religious.

It could also start a new r\_\_\_\_\_ if people think that have new m\_\_\_\_\_ from God.

It may s\_\_\_\_\_ or weaken someone's faith.

It may encourage some to completely c\_\_\_\_\_ their life.

How do we know if revelation is real?

If the revelation has not h\_\_\_\_\_ to you, and you don't believe in God, there really is no reason for you to a\_\_\_\_\_ any revelation.

For people who want to actually check whether to accept a revelation or not they may want to consider

1. Does it actually fit in with the r\_\_\_\_\_ world?
2. Does it fit with other r\_\_\_\_\_?
3. Does it fit with the rest of the r\_\_\_\_\_?
4. Does it have the power to c\_\_\_\_\_?
5. Is the person r\_\_\_\_\_?
6. What might the person have to g\_\_\_\_\_ from 'faking' a revelation?

Obviously there is still no p\_\_\_\_\_ that the revelation is real, but looking at these things may really h\_\_\_\_\_ someone to make their decision.

Some common problems with accepting revelations include

- I\_\_\_\_\_. Different people will interpret their experiences differently.
- Different r\_\_\_\_\_ say different things about G\_\_\_\_\_.
- Revelations may tell us d\_\_\_\_\_ things about God.
- We have no way of t\_\_\_\_\_ if something is genuine.
- They may c\_\_\_\_\_ each other.

If revelations are not real, then you will need to be able to consider the alternatives. These will include

- Drink
- D\_\_\_\_\_
- W\_\_\_\_\_ thinking
- M\_\_\_\_\_ illness
- Genuine m\_\_\_\_\_

- Epilepsy
- Fakes for f\_\_\_\_\_ gain.

## **Religion, Peace and Conflict.**

### **Introduction**

The reason for going to war always comes down to settling d\_\_\_\_\_. This could be reasonable disputes, or the disputes could be to do with the g\_\_\_\_\_ of the leaders of a country who want resources or m\_\_\_\_\_.

Conflict is when two people or groups or p\_\_\_\_\_ are against each other. Therefore it can be anything from an a\_\_\_\_\_ all the way to a w\_\_\_\_\_.

Peace is more d\_\_\_\_\_ to define. It should be obvious that p\_\_\_\_\_ is a lack of conflict, but it is so much more than that. It is about people being in a situation where they can feel h\_\_\_\_\_ and contented, because there is no threat to them. It is about the a\_\_\_\_\_ as well as the actions of people. Religious people wish for w\_\_\_\_\_ peace, so everyone can be content.

Isiah 2:4 says 'He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.'

This means that Christians should look f\_\_\_\_\_ to a time when all d\_\_\_\_\_ are ended. People will be so sure of this peace that they will turn their w\_\_\_\_\_ into tools, as they are no longer needed.

Justice is f\_\_\_\_\_ behaviour or treatment.

Forgiveness is to stop feeling a\_\_\_\_\_ or resentful towards (someone) for an offence, flaw, or mistake.

Reconciliation is the restoration of a f\_\_\_\_\_ relationship.

After a war, people must seek to ensure that j\_\_\_\_\_ has been done. This will allow for f\_\_\_\_\_ to take place. Once people are forgiven it leaves the way open for r\_\_\_\_\_ between the former enemies.

### **Violent Protest and Terrorism**

- The right to p\_\_\_\_\_ is considered to be a fundamental democratic freedom.
- The law in the UK allows individuals and groups to protest in p\_\_\_\_\_ to demonstrate their point of view.

Examples of protests could include s\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_, letters of c\_\_\_\_\_, boycotting certain things, or in some cases breaking the r\_\_\_\_\_ or law that they believe is unfair.



- By law, a march or group protest is allowed. However the p\_\_\_\_\_ can request alterations to the route or even apply to a court for an order to ban the march.
- They may do this if they feel that the march might intimidate other people or if they predict that v\_\_\_\_\_ will be involved.

An unplanned protest that descends into violence is called a r\_\_\_\_\_.

In 2011 there were riots in L\_\_\_\_\_. They were originally about the police s\_\_\_\_\_ a man in Tottenham. It remains unclear whether this man was carrying a g\_\_\_\_\_ or not, and many people thought his killing was unj\_\_\_\_\_.

However, as the r\_\_\_\_\_ increased, many people joined in because they felt they could get a\_\_\_\_\_ with it, rather than because they cared about the original cause. This led to shops being looted and businesses d\_\_\_\_\_.

#### Religious Protest.

M\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_ K\_\_\_\_\_ was a famous Christian who was the leader of the Civil R\_\_\_\_\_ movement in the 1950s and 60s. He wanted equal rights for b\_\_\_\_\_ people, yet he did not believe in using v\_\_\_\_\_ to get them. Many of his ideas came from G\_\_\_\_\_. He urged his followers to break unfair l\_\_\_\_\_ but to always be polite and p\_\_\_\_\_. He was in j\_\_\_\_\_ a number of times, but did not back down. Through protests such as the B\_\_\_\_\_ Boycott, the law was eventually c\_\_\_\_\_.

Martin Luther King's peaceful protests reflect the b\_\_\_\_\_ shared by many Christians that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable, provided v\_\_\_\_\_ is not used.

No religion promotes violence in their t\_\_\_\_\_, and all are generally agreed that conflict should be a\_\_\_\_\_ if at all possible.

Within religions there are different teachings on when v\_\_\_\_\_ and c\_\_\_\_\_ may be justified.

Christians often have to make the difficult decision between 2 quotes when considering their attitudes to this topic.

L\_\_\_\_\_ your n\_\_\_\_\_ would suggest that you should help protect any innocent p\_\_\_\_\_.

However, 'Do not k\_\_\_\_\_' might stop many Christians going to join a w\_\_\_\_\_, whatever it was for.

In the past, Christians have got round this issue by h\_\_\_\_\_ the war effort with jobs like d\_\_\_\_\_ and a\_\_\_\_\_ drivers, rather than actually getting involved in the f\_\_\_\_\_.

#### Terrorism.

- A much more serious form of violent p\_\_\_\_\_ is terrorism.
- This is where an individual, or a group who share certain b\_\_\_\_\_, use terror as part of their campaign to further their cause.
- Their violence usually deliberately targets c\_\_\_\_\_ and takes place in p\_\_\_\_\_.

Suicide bombers, car b\_\_\_\_\_, and gunmen shooting into c\_\_\_\_\_ of people are all tactics of terrorism. Terrorists believe that by k\_\_\_\_\_ people in this way, the rest of society will become more aware of their c\_\_\_\_\_, will be s\_\_\_\_\_ of them and push the authorities into giving way to their demands.

It is very important to remember that whilst a t\_\_\_\_\_ may associate their cause with a religion, including Christianity, no r\_\_\_\_\_ promotes or accepts terrorism.

Most Christians consider terrorist acts of violence to be w\_\_\_\_\_, especially as the victims are usually i\_\_\_\_\_ people going about their normal daily business.

#### Reasons for War.

There may be many different reasons for war. Sometime they will be reasons given by the country, but sometimes people will have i\_\_\_\_\_ reasons for wanting to join in with a war. These could include s\_\_\_\_\_ their country, making their f\_\_\_\_\_ proud or even wanting to be viewed as a h\_\_\_\_\_.

Some people find it difficult to understand why \_\_\_\_\_ would fight in a war, or why their c\_\_\_\_\_ wants to go to war.

In the UK, full time personnel, volunteer personnel and conscripted people have all been used.

Full time personnel are people who actually join the f\_\_\_\_\_, such as the a\_\_\_\_\_ or n\_\_\_\_\_.

Volunteer personnel are people like the TA who support the forces in their spare time, and would fight if they were n\_\_\_\_\_.

Conscripted people are people who are t\_\_\_\_\_ that they are going to fight. They are not given an option and usually conscription would be all the men in the country within a certain a\_\_\_\_ group.

As mentioned there are lots of causes of war. However it is said that they will all fall into 3 categories. These are G\_\_\_\_\_, S\_\_\_\_\_, D\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_.

#### Greed.

Timothy says 'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.'

This means that people should not want loads of m\_\_\_\_\_. Having a lot of money will actually distract people from their r\_\_\_\_\_, and cause them problems.

Self Defence.

There is little guidance in the B\_\_\_\_\_ about this. However the quote 'L\_\_\_\_\_ your N\_\_\_\_\_' means that a lot of Christians think that it could be justified to protect i\_\_\_\_\_ lives.

Retaliation.

Retaliation is f\_\_\_\_\_ back when someone attacks you. This is more extreme than s\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_ as it would usually use more f\_\_\_\_\_ than what is necessary to protect yourself. It is difficult to tell whether a country is retaliating, acting in self defence or starting the c\_\_\_\_\_ in the first place. Romans says 'Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.'

### **Nuclear War and Weapons of Mass Destruction.**

Nuclear weapons = a b\_\_\_\_\_ or missile that uses nuclear e\_\_\_\_\_ to cause an explosion.

Weapons of mass destruction = a w\_\_\_\_\_ that destroys a large a\_\_\_\_\_ and everything in it.

Chemical weapons = releasing things like g\_\_\_\_\_ or other chemicals to k\_\_\_\_\_ people.

Biological weapons = releasing certain b\_\_\_\_\_ or germs to k\_\_\_\_\_ people.

Many people feel that any of these kinds of weapons can never be j\_\_\_\_\_, as they cannot have o\_\_\_\_\_ target. By definition they d\_\_\_\_\_ everything in a certain area. They cannot distinguish between i\_\_\_\_\_ people/civilians and the a\_\_\_\_\_ forces, nor can their target be small enough for it to be justified.

Obviously many C\_\_\_\_\_ would agree with this too. They may disagree about whether WAR can be justified, but m\_\_\_\_\_ if not all Christians think that the use of these weapons cannot be justified.

However Christians do have d\_\_\_\_\_ views about whether nuclear weapons should be allowed or not! Some Christians do not have a problem with countries actually h\_\_\_\_\_ nuclear weapons, they just oppose their u\_\_\_\_\_. (So they are ok as a deterrent.)

Other Christians feel that simply h\_\_\_\_\_ the weapons is very serious and something that needs to be dealt with.

CCND

- Christian CND is a specialist section of the Campaign for N\_\_\_\_\_ Disarmament with its own separate membership. CCND provides a focus for C\_\_\_\_\_ who want to witness on the basis of their \_\_\_\_\_ against nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass d\_\_\_\_\_ – and for peace.

- Over the years, they have organised at the local, national and international level many conferences and m\_\_\_\_\_ as well as acts of p\_\_\_\_\_, liturgies and services at military bases and government sites. Being seen publicly is only one aspect of their work: they are also engaged in letter w\_\_\_\_\_, lobbying and educating for peace and disarmament.
- In some parts of the country they have l\_\_\_\_\_ groups, and we work closely with all Christian justice and peace organisations, on nuclear issues as well as working alongside C\_\_\_\_\_ for Nuclear Disarmament.

Exodus 21.

‘But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot’

For many Christians this quote justifies s\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_. However, it does suggest that you should n\_\_\_\_\_ use nuclear weapons as the force used can never be p\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Just and Holy War.**

Just War: A war that the C\_\_\_\_\_ Church defines as a \_\_\_\_\_; this must fit certain criteria.

Holy war: Fighting for a r\_\_\_\_\_ cause or God, probably controlled by a religious l\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Just War.**

All r\_\_\_\_\_ oppose war. However many of them believe f\_\_\_\_\_ is justifiable if it is only course of action that will prevent real \_\_\_\_\_.

Over many years Christian thinkers developed conditions for a ‘J\_\_\_\_\_ War’ Augustine (a Christian leader in the Middle Ages) came up with the JUST WAR t\_\_\_\_\_. The Christian thinker St. Thomas Aquinas also added to this list.

The United Nations added to this and produced a list of reasons to j\_\_\_\_\_ going to war.

The Theory.

The war must be fought for a JUST CAUSE JUST – the war must be started for a good reason – e.g. self-defence, and not because of greed

The war must be lawfully declared by a PROPER AUTHORITY, a government or the United Nations. The politicians must make the most important decisions

It must be fought with the intent to ESTABLISH G\_\_\_\_\_, or fought with good intention. It must be fought to restore \_\_\_\_\_.

The force used in the war must be P\_\_\_\_\_ to the cause.

It would not be proportional to drop a nuclear weapon on a s\_\_\_\_\_ country for invading a small island. SUFFICIENT FORCE to w\_\_\_\_\_ is all that is required.

A war is just if it is begun as the LAST RESORT.  
All non-violent means of solving the conflict must have been tried and failed before you turn to war.

There must be a REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.  
You cannot go to war and waste the lives of brave soldiers for something which you have very little chance of winning, lives should not be wasted.

There must be CONTROLLED VIOLENCE. Every effort must be made to make sure that as little violence as possible is used to achieve victory and methods should AVOID KILLING CIVILIANS, those not in the military should not be harmed

War must only occur when the GOOD OUTWEIGHS THE EVIL that has led to the war.

### **Holy War.**

Most people today find the idea of 'holy war' a contradiction. Killing thousands of people seems far from holy.

However, in ancient times people believed God was on their side and had called them to fight his enemies.

In the Old Testament there are many accounts of battles fought under God's protection. The Crusades were seen by both Christians and Muslims as holy wars, defending places sacred to their faith.

Holy wars have religious aims or goals. They were authorised by God or by a spiritual leader and because of this those who take part will receive a reward such as going to heaven when they die.

Religious leaders may declare holy war to defend their religion or their followers who are being persecuted in another country.

Some holy wars have been fought to strengthen the faith or win back a country that used to follow the beliefs of a particular religion.

### **Pacifism and Peacemaking.**

Pacifism is the belief that violence and war cannot be justified. Pacifists believe people should use non-violent means to end conflict in times of war.

People who are firmly opposed to warfare are called Conscientious Objectors. They may refuse to fight but they may help in other ways such as driving ambulances.

There is much discussion about whether Jesus was a pacifist or not. Jesus said phrases such as 'turn the other cheek' and 'He who lives by the sword dies by the sword.' However he also got very angry and turned over tables when he discovered that people were trading in the Temple.

The Quakers are a group of C\_\_\_\_\_, who are famous for being p\_\_\_\_\_. They recognise there is e\_\_\_\_\_ in the world but believe evil cannot be overcome with v\_\_\_\_\_ which will lead to more evil.

Quakers also believe that there is something of G\_\_\_\_\_ in everyone and to achieve results you should appeal to this aspect of people's nature and fight evil with p\_\_\_\_\_, truth and l\_\_\_\_\_. They believe Jesus taught about peace and love not w\_\_\_\_\_. They believe that people can fight injustice and aggression but in a non-violent w\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Religious Responses To The Victims of War**

There are many very s\_\_\_\_\_ consequences of war. Some examples may include

Injuries and d\_\_\_\_\_

Cost

Captivity/liberation

Victory/d\_\_\_\_\_

Contamination of l\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_

Famine and d\_\_\_\_\_

Refugees

Destruction of b\_\_\_\_\_ and land.

There are 2 ideas very relevant to C\_\_\_\_\_ responses to the victims or w\_\_\_\_\_. The quote 'L\_\_\_\_\_ your n\_\_\_\_\_' suggests that Christians should be compassionate to v\_\_\_\_\_ of war. This may involve p\_\_\_\_\_ for them, sending them m\_\_\_\_\_ and resources or even joining an aid organisation to go and h\_\_\_\_\_. However it often involves giving support to a c\_\_\_\_\_ that supports them.

The other teaching is the story of the G\_\_\_\_\_ Samaritan. This story tells Christians that they should help a\_\_\_\_\_ in need, including those who are opposed to them.

Organisations to mention include

Christian Aid.

C\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ aim to bring aid to e\_\_\_\_\_ poverty. They work to establish basic human rights and fairness in s\_\_\_\_\_, in the hope that wars will not be seen as necessary. They support local organisations because they believe that l\_\_\_\_\_ people, if well provided for, are likely to be the best people to deal with p\_\_\_\_\_. Their main fundraising activity is

Christian Aid W\_\_\_\_\_. This happens in May each year. Special envelopes are distributed to homes in the UK and then collected with a d\_\_\_\_\_ inside.

Caritas.

C\_\_\_\_\_ is a Catholic organisation. In 2015, they provided f\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ for refugees fleeing war in Syria. They also provided translators and l\_\_\_\_\_ services for the refugees so they would know their r\_\_\_\_\_ and options in order to make informed decisions.