

Topic 1: Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life

i **Sanctity of Life** – Life is a sacred God-given gift. It is only for God to decide when it starts and ends. It is extremely precious and should be treated with the utmost respect.

All religions believe that:

- All life comes from God
- Life is special and precious
- God is in charge of life
- Only He should decide when it starts and ends
- God has plans for **all** people's lives



Evidence for 'The Sanctity of Life' (Life is God-given and precious)

Christianity

- ✝ 'Surely you know that God's spirit lives within you...' (Corinthians 3 v 16–17)
- ✝ 'You (God) formed my innermost parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb... in your book were written all the days of my life, before I even had them' (Psalm 139 v 13–16)

Islam

- ☪ 'He is the one who has created you from a single soul' (Qur'an 7 v 189)
- ☪ 'Do not take life... which Allah has made sacred... except for just cause' (Qur'an 17 v 33)

When does a human life start?

1. **Birth** – When the child is born after nine months gestation/pregnancy.
2. Muslims – After **4 months** of pregnancy, when a Muslim believes a child receives its **soul** from Allah, it becomes a full human life.
3. **Conception** – when the sperm fertilises the egg and becomes an embryo.
4. When the embryo **attaches** itself to the womb at **14 days**.
5. When the **heart** begins to beat at **3 weeks**?
6. **9 weeks** – when the child can be felt moving in the womb.
7. When the foetus starts to **breathe** for itself, at about **14 weeks**.
8. **24 weeks** – the UK law holds that life starts here as, with medical aid, the child could survive independently of its mother.



Medical Practices that Interfere with Human Life.

This is a moral issue for religious people because:

- It is like trying to **act like God** – creating human life.
- Many religious people believe God is in charge of what happens in people's lives. He has **planned** out the course of each individual life. To many, medicines and operations interfere with these plans.

'We all have a time to live and a time to die'

A) Medical Practices that Create Human Life.

1. **IVF** – In Vitro Fertilisation. The term 'In Vitro' means in glass. This is where the egg and sperm are collected and after a few days of incubation conception has occurred and embryos (fertilised eggs) have been created. These are then placed in the woman's womb and hopefully result in pregnancy. There is about a 25% success rate and the process is used when a woman cannot naturally conceive.
2. **AID/AIH** – Artificial Insemination by Donor/Husband. The donor/husband produces semen samples by masturbating. A doctor will then inject this semen into the woman's vagina when she ovulates (produces an egg during each month) and hopefully she will get pregnant. AIH is often used when the husband has a low sperm count and AID is used when the father has a genetic disease that he could pass on.
3. **Surrogacy** – This is where another woman carries a pregnancy on behalf of another woman. The resultant child is then brought up by the couple. The surrogate mother has no involvement in raising the child. It is used when a woman cannot medically carry a pregnancy due to having had her womb removed because of cancer or early menopause, meaning that she is infertile. In the UK, it is illegal to pay someone to do it.

B) Medical Practices that interfere with the Course of Human Life.

1. Cloning (or human reproductive cloning)

This is creating a genetically identical human being. Throughout the world this is illegal. There is an idea that if a child is suffering from a disease caused by its genes then its parents could have a clone baby, but have its defective genes altered so that when born, the child could be used to **replace** those defective genes in its older brother/sister. This is known as a '**saviour sibling**'. It is not legal as of yet. However, there is some work being done on cloning cells or body parts for transplant surgery and to be used in the research to help find cures for diseases (**therapeutic cloning / stem cell research**). This is considered to be acceptable by many as it is not regarded as creating life.

2. Genetic Engineering

Genes make us what we are in terms of personality and looks. Genes can be removed from embryos or defective ones replaced to prevent a child being born with a genetic disease which would cause it to be disabled in some way. This is known as '**embryology**'. It could also be used so that a prospective parent could determine the hair and eye colour of their child if they wished to (**designer babies**). Many are fearful of this seeing it as an abuse of genetic engineering.



3. Blood Transfusion

This is where blood from other people is used to replace blood in a patient.

4. Transplantation

This is where an organ in someone's body is replaced with the equivalent organ from someone else. Usually the donor is someone who has died.

5. Human experimentation

This is the testing of medicines on paid human volunteers.

6. Human-animal hybrid experimentation

A human-animal hybrid is an embryo created by putting human DNA and an animal egg together. This has been done with a cow egg for the purposes of research into cures for diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Arguments For and Against the 9 Medical Practices that Give and Preserve Human Life.

1. IVF

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By having a baby you are fulfilling God's wishes: 'go forth and multiply'. (Genesis 1 v 28) Everyone should have the chance to have a baby. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God didn't want you to have children; you are going against his wishes. God has a plan for everyone – in his plan you were not to have children – you are messing with his plans. As these children have not been produced in the 'normal' manner of most human life, they can grow up feeling abnormal and detached from the world and other people. An IVF child may never know its biological father and mother. They may never feel totally connected to the parents that have raised them. Can you ever really love a child in the same way, if it is not biologically connected to you? It will not carry any of your features or family's personality traits.

2. AID/AIH

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the husband has a genetic disease it would be unfair to make the child be born with a disease when there is an alternative which could be used to stop it suffering. They allow you to fulfil God's command: 'Go forth and multiply'. (Genesis 1 v 28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The husband/donor has to masturbate to get the sample. This is immoral. If AID is used it wouldn't be the husband's child – it will never be his child, and thus he may never be able to truly love him/her. As these children have not been produced in the 'normal' manner of most human life, they can grow up feeling abnormal and detached from the world and other people. An AID child may never know its biological father. They may never feel totally connected to the father that has raised them. God is in charge of life. Not humans.

3. Surrogacy

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If everyone who is part of the process wants to do it, then it's fine. If having children makes you happy then this would please a benevolent God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can be classed as adultery on the husband's behalf. If an embryo is put into the womb of the surrogate mother and it is successful, any other embryo is destroyed. This is killing God-given life. As these children have not been produced in the 'normal' manner of most human life, they can grow up feeling abnormal and detached from the world and other people. A surrogate child may never know its surrogate mother. They may never feel totally connected to the father and mother that have raised them. The bond between mother and a growing baby in its mother's womb is the strongest and most precious relationship any human is ever to have. A surrogate child has this important bond destroyed straight away at birth.

4. **Cloning**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would stop diseases that ruin people's lives. • It provides organs for transplants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential to abuse God's plans by messing with them. • It's like trying to be God as He creates life.

5. **Genetic Engineering**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is simply doctors using their God-given talents to improve life. • It can treat genetic disorders that cause pain. God is benevolent and would not want people to suffer. Anything should be done to stop suffering. It is what a loving God would want. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential to abuse this (designer babies). • It is messing with God's human design – we are all meant to be as we are.

6. **Blood Transfusions**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can save lives which are sacred. • It is an act of charity – giving blood to help others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The blood could be rejected by the human body and cause death. • It is messing with God's plans – there is a time to live and a time to die for all of us.

7. **Transplantations**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can save human life which is created by God. • The donor is willing – it is their body to do with as they wish. God gave us all free will. Transplantations is simply exercising this God-given gift. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the donor hasn't agreed to it, it is theft and dishonest and utterly disrespectful to the person. • It is disrespectful to mess with a dead body. We are mutilating God's creature.

8. **Human Experimentation**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To test on humans is to improve human life. It should be done on the species it is to benefit, not animals. • Testing is done in very safe and controlled conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humans are God's greatest creation. To possibly endanger a life is disrespectful to God. • By testing and trying to rid the world of its imperfections is trying to say we as humans know better than our creator.

9. **Human-Animal Hybrid Experimentation**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything should be done to improve life and rid the world of terrible diseases that cause suffering and pain. • We are not creating new cross-breed species. It is merely creating embryos, which are not lives, to test on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embryos are living creatures. To test and destroy them is killing precious life when only God is in charge of its creation and destruction. • Cross-breeding of any kind is just simply warped and repugnant.

Religious Attitudes to Medical Procedures that Create and Prolong Human Life

Christianity (Catholic View)

- Only married couples should have sex. Any sexual act outside of marriage is a sin. Therefore, masturbation which AID/AIH/surrogacy/IVF require, is a **sin**.
- It is God who creates human life. Only he should create it and say when it ends, humans should not try to act like God.
'God created man and woman in his image' (Genesis 1 v 27)
- AID – because this involves a donor it can be viewed as being adultery.
- Children produced by artificial means may grow up to feel abnormal. They may feel like a 'bastard' if the sperm was from a donor.
- God has pre-planned everyone's life. He has decided that some people should not have children. We should not try to change his plans by abusing science.
- Cloning, genetic engineering and any experimentation on a living being, including embryos, mess about with DNA. This is playing with God's gift of life. It is a sacred gift, not our property to play with.
- God is in charge of life. He is to decide when we live and when we die, not us. We should therefore not try to act like God and artificially prolong a person's life or alter its course.
- God created all human life. To prolong it is to protect it. This cares for God's creation and follows his instructions to us as Guardians, from the story of creation in Genesis (the first book of the Bible, Old Testament) to do this.
- Humans were made in God's image. To prolong human life is to respect God.
- To love your neighbour is to worship God. When you abide by the second greatest commandment, which according to Jesus was 'love your neighbour', you abide by the greatest commandment, which is 'to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' (Matthew 22 v 37–39). By prolonging a person's life you are truly showing such care and love.



Christianity (Church of England View)

- Using donated sperm can be seen as breaking the marriage vows. Having a child through donated sperm is a form of being unfaithful, as children are the product of a sexual relationship, whatever form it takes.
- However, it can be seen that IVF/AID/AIH, are all gifts from God. Humans using their God-given scientific talents to allow unhappy, childless couples to be happy.
- Surrogacy is wrong. There is a natural bond between the mother and child. This should never be broken. It could mentally scar both the mother and child.
- God has pre-planned everyone's life. He has decided that some people should not have children. We should not try to change his plans by abusing science.
- Cloning, genetic engineering and any experimentation on a living being, including embryos, mess about with DNA. This is playing with God's gift of life. It is a sacred gift, not our property to play with.
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Blood Transfusions and Organ Transplants

The Christian View

- Christians accept blood transfusions and organ donation from living and dead donors. This is because Jesus preached a message of love 'love your neighbour' (Matthew 22 v 39). Donating blood and organs is acting out this teaching.
- Organ donation and blood transfusions help prolong and preserve human life, which is given by God. This is medicine respecting God's gift to us, and using our God given talents to act as a surgeon, to prolong this gift.
- Transplantations, without the permission of the donor, is disrespectful to the person's body, as all human bodies are regarded as 'Temples of God' (1 Corinthians 3 v 16). Christians therefore only agree with transplants where the donor has given permission.
- God is in charge of life. He is to decide when we live and when we die, not us. We should therefore not try to act like God and artificially prolong a person's life or alter its course.

End of Topic Test Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life

- 1) What does the term 'sanctity of life' mean? (2)
- 2) Write out 1 quotation from each of the following religion's holy books, that they use as evidence for the 'sanctity of life'. (3)
(i) Christianity (ii) Islam (iii) Judaism
- 3) When do you believe a human life starts and why do you think this? (3)
- 4) Describe briefly the following medical practices that are used to create human life. (6)
(i) IVF (ii) AID/AIH (iii) Surrogacy
- 5) Describe briefly the following medical practices that are used to interfere with the course of human life. (12)
(i) Cloning (ii) Genetic engineering
(iii) Blood Transfusions (iv) Transplantations
(v) Human Experimentation (vi) Human-Animal Hybrid Experimentation
- 6) Give 2 reasons people would agree with IVF / AID / AIH / Surrogacy. (4)
- 7) Give 2 reasons people would disagree with IVF / AID / AIH / Surrogacy. (4)
- 8) Give 2 reasons people would agree with medical practices that prolong human life. (4)
- 9) Give 2 reasons people would disagree with medical practices that prolong human life. (4)
- 10) For each of the following religious groups, describe 1 reason they would agree with medical practices that create and prolong human life. (6)
(i) Catholic Christians (ii) Church of England Christians (iii) Jewish believers
- 11) For each of the following religious groups, describe 1 reason they would disagree with medical practices that create and prolong human life. (6)
(i) Catholic Christians (ii) Church of England Christians (iii) Jewish believers

Topic 2: Religious Attitudes to Drug Abuse



Key Words

Drug	A chemical substance that can alter a person's mind and/or body
Legal Drug	A drug that the law allows you to consume, e.g. alcohol/paracetamol/tobacco
Illegal Drug	A drug that the law does not allow people to take, e.g. heroin/ecstasy

Drugs can be put into four categories according to what different criteria you use.

Category 1 – Usage

- Social Drug – these are drugs used by people as they socialise. It is a term mainly used to refer to drugs which are **legal**, e.g. alcohol in the pub.
- Recreational Drug – these are drugs which are consumed as part of a recreational activity (clubbing – dancing/music). It is a term mainly used to refer to drugs which are **illegal**, e.g. ecstasy taken at a dance music festival.

Category 2 – Damage to the body and addiction

- Soft Drug – these drugs are supposed to be less harmful to the human body in terms of effects and addiction than those classed as hard drugs. It is a term always used in reference to **illegal** drugs, e.g. Cannabis.
- Hard Drug – these drugs have very damaging effects to the human body, leading to a person's bad health. They are very mentally and physically addictive. Overdose of the drug will lead to death. It is a term always used in reference to **illegal** drugs, e.g. heroin.

Category 3 – The law

- Illegal drugs can be defined according to their classification within the law. The law classes drugs as 'A', 'B' or 'C' according to how harmful/dangerous/addictive they are.
 - ♦ **Class A** – these drugs produce a very strong mental high. They are often very addictive and can lead to very serious health risks including death because of overdose, e.g. cocaine/heroin/crack/LSD.
 - ♦ **Class B** – these drugs are considered to not be addictive and are less harmful to the mind and body than class A drugs. They still produce strong mental highs and can cause users to behave erratically, e.g. cannabis/speed.
 - ♦ **Class C** – these drugs are considered to not be addictive and are less harmful to the mind and body than class B and A drugs, e.g. anabolic steroids.

Category 4 – Physical effects on the body

- Drugs can also be defined according to their physical effects on the human body. They can depress the brain, stimulate the brain, or allow the brain to hallucinate.
 - ♦ **Depressants** – these drugs shut down parts of the brain, e.g. alcohol/paracetamol/heroin.
 - ♦ **Stimulants** – these drugs open up and excite parts of the brain, e.g. caffeine/cocaine/ecstasy/speed.
 - ♦ **Hallucinogenics** – these drugs make people see and hear things which are not real (hallucinate), e.g. magic mushrooms/LSD

Why do people use drugs (illegal and legal)?

- Rebellion – e.g. teenagers
- Curiosity – to see what the effects are and see what they feel like
- Peer pressure – to feel part of a group
- Family influences – 'Mum and Dad do it, so I will'
- Confidence – to feel more confident in a social situation
- Idols – musicians, pop stars and movie stars take drugs, and people want to be like them
- Boredom – e.g. the unemployed / those disaffected and disillusioned with school, work or just life in general
- Religion – e.g. Rastafarians smoke cannabis to achieve a spiritual high and feel in touch with their God
- Physical pain – to stop this, e.g. suffers of Multiple Sclerosis can smoke cannabis to help relieve the pain of their illness

- Emotional pain – taking drugs can make people forget things whilst they are under the influence of them. Drugs take people out of their reality. They are seeking ‘escapism’.
- Creativity – some people take drugs saying they allow them to be more creative. They help them to see things differently e.g. musicians/artists

Legal Drugs and the Consequences of Their Use

Tobacco (smoking) – the bad effects

Personal Health

- Stains fingers and teeth
- Causes wrinkles and dry skin
- Causes heart disease
- 30% of ALL cancer deaths are smoking related
- 1 in 3 smokers die at a young age
- 120,000 in the UK die every year of a smoking related disease



Social

- The NHS wastes millions of pounds each year on treating people with smoking related diseases. This money could be used to provide better health care for people suffering with illnesses that they have not caused themselves. To use this money for their treatment would be a more deserving cause and a better use of resources.
- 17,000 children under 5 years old are admitted to hospital each year with breathing problems (asthma) related to passive smoking.

Alcohol – the bad effects

Personal Health

- Alcohol is a major contributory factor in people contracting STIs.
- Heavy drinkers are 150 times more likely to get throat, mouth, and bowel cancer than moderate ‘drinkers’. (Heavy drinking is classed as 28 units/week for men and 21 units/week for women.)
- Alcohol abuse can cause brain damage.
- Alcohol damages a man’s reproductive system (sperm & inability to achieve an erection).
- Alcohol abuse can lead to permanent damage of the liver – **cirrhosis**. This means the liver stops working and death is imminent.

Social

- Anti-social behaviour – e.g. fights/vandalism
- Unwanted pregnancies
- 1994 – 60,000 people got a criminal record for offences to do with their drunkenness
- Domestic violence / break-up of families / unemployment



Question

So, why do the government allow tobacco and alcohol to be legal if it damages people’s health so badly? **They make millions of pounds in the taxes from the sale of tobacco and alcohol products.**

However, the government then has to spend millions of pounds on health care and policing trying to sort out the negative consequences of smoking and alcohol abuse.

Caffeine

- This is a legal stimulant drug found in coffee, tea, chocolate and is also used in some headache pills. It makes people feel alert. If it is over used, it can interrupt people's sleep patterns, can cause anxiety and digestion problems, and withdrawal from using it can lead to people suffering from depression. It is the world's most widely used mood-altering drug.



Consequences of Taking Illegal Drugs

- Prison
- Psychological problems – depression/psychosis/suicide
- Addiction
- Overdoses
- Crime – to pay the high price for the drugs
- Unemployment
- Family break-ups / divorce

Question: Should hard drugs be legalised?

Yes

- Hard drugs are very costly and this causes addicts to commit crimes to pay for them. Hard drugs have a high price because they are illegal. Drug dealers charge high prices because of the high risk of being caught and the possible long prison sentences if they are. Addicts will pay high prices because they are so desperate to get a 'fix'. If hard drugs were legalised their price would drop as the risk for the dealer has stopped and they would become more widely available. Addicts would no longer need to commit crimes to get the money to pay for their drug habit.
- By legalising hard drugs, addicts would feel more open to admit their addiction. They would therefore seek help to cure their life as a drug addict. They would no longer fear prosecution by the law or losing their job.

No

- Hard drugs are very dangerous to people's health. The law and the government have a duty to protect people.
- Hard drugs lead to many social problems – e.g. burglary – addicts commit crimes to pay for their habit.
- Legalising hard drugs sends out a message to the public that 'drug-taking is acceptable'. This will lead to an increase in addicts.

Question: Should 'cannabis' be legalised?

Yes

- Cannabis is not physically addictive and is less harmful than alcohol, which is legal. Cannabis has similar effects on the body as alcohol, which is legal. Therefore, cannabis should be legal also. The law does not make sense in keeping cannabis illegal, yet alcohol legal.
- Cannabis is helpful in relieving the suffering of people with illnesses like multiple sclerosis. At present, these people are criminals if they use cannabis. To not allow them to use it is 'inhumane' as we are allowing them to suffer rather than treating it.
- Legalising cannabis would free up police time to deal with more serious offences. They would not, as they are currently, have to waste a lot of valuable policing hours cautioning lots of teenagers who are in possession of very small amounts of cannabis.

No

- Cannabis use has been linked to the development in individuals of psychological illnesses such as schizophrenia. This is a mental disorder where a person has a split personality and can have voices in their head. People with this illness can be very unpredictable and dangerous.
- Cannabis use could lead someone to use hard drugs. They may get bored of the effects of cannabis and search for a greater high from other stronger drugs.
- Cannabis may not be physically addictive, but it is psychologically. People enjoy the way it makes them feel and so will want to use it more and more.



Religious Views on Drugs

Christianity

- ✚ Christians are against the overuse of drugs when a person abuses their body, e.g. 'binge drinking'
- ✚ Christians are against the use of **all** illegal drugs as they harm the body (that is why they are illegal)
- ✚ Christians are against the use of any drug which harms the body, e.g. nicotine – smoking
- ✚ For a Christian, the use of drugs in moderation which do not harm the body is acceptable, e.g. alcohol
- ✚ St Paul said that we should follow the rules of a government as God has put them in power. If they say that a drug is illegal and should not be used it is effectively God saying this. Their rules are his rules. He is working through them.
- ✚ 'your body is a temple of God' (St Paul 1 Corinthians 3 v 16–17) – therefore, you should do nothing to harm your body, e.g. taking illegal drugs which are all harmful (that is why they are illegal) or abusing it with overindulgence of legal drugs i.e. alcohol.
- ✚ 'do not get drunk for this leads to debauchery (immoral behaviour)... and orgies' (St Paul 1 Corinthians 5 9–11 *paraphrased*) – abusing alcohol leads people to act in ungodlike ways. Therefore, you should not get drunk.
- ✚ Drinking alcohol in moderation is acceptable. Jesus used it in celebrations and it is in fact used in Holy Communion by the Church, to celebrate the death of sin.
- ✚ Anyone with a drug addiction/problem should be helped, not vilified. Jesus taught us to 'love your neighbour' (Matthew 22 v 39). Drug addiction is an illness and these people should be helped as this is what Jesus did and what he taught us we should do.

Islam

- ☉ Muhammad taught that all intoxicants (drugs) should not be taken as they pollute the body. Your body was a gift from Allah and should therefore be respected and not mistreated. Muhammad therefore referred to **all** drug taking as '**Haram**' (forbidden).
- ☉ When a Muslim person is intoxicated they no longer think like a Muslim. They lose control of their mind and consequently do not behave like a Muslim which would displease Allah. You should therefore, not take any drugs (legal or illegal) as you as a Muslim should live your life pleasing Allah. It is your duty.

How can we Reduce Drug Abuse?

To simply place a drug addict in prison is ineffective at dealing with the problem. An addict needs support in order to kick their habit. Not all prisons can offer such support and in fact, drug taking is often commonplace in them.

1. **Education** – school pupils need to be given a knowledge of the harmful nature of drugs and an understanding of addiction, to deter them from using them.
2. **Rehabilitation** programmes for drug addicts – with more investment from the government these could be compulsory for addicts. At present places on such programmes are very limited.
3. More investment could be made in **enforcement of the law** so that fewer illegal drugs reach the streets.
4. **Prison** sentences on dealers could be increased to deter others.
5. More investment in improving life (**social and recreational facilities / skills training schemes for work**) in socially deprived areas might reduce the number of young people starting to take drugs as boredom and a lack of opportunity are large contributory factors in people using drugs (escapism).



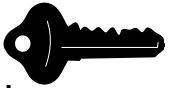
End of Topic Test

Religious Attitudes to Drug Abuse

- 1) What is a 'drug'? (1)
- 2) Describe with an example the following types of drugs. (8)
(i) Social drug (ii) Recreational drug
(iii) Soft drug (iv) Hard drug
- 3) Describe with an example the following classes of drugs. (6)
(i) Class A (2) (ii) Class B (2) (iii) Class C (2)
- 4) Describe 2 reasons people use drugs. (4)
- 5) Describe 1 personal and 1 social problem with using tobacco. (2)
- 6) Describe 1 personal and 1 social problem with using alcohol. (2)
- 7) Describe 2 negative consequences of using illegal drugs. (4)
- 8) Describe 1 reason people use to say that hard drugs should be legalised. (2)
- 9) Describe 1 reason people use to say that hard drugs should not be legalised. (2)
- 10) Describe 1 reason people use to say that 'cannabis' should be legalised. (2)
- 11) Describe 1 reason people use to say that cannabis should not be legalised. (2)
- 12) Describe 2 reasons why a Christian would be against the use of illegal drugs. (4)
- 13) Describe 2 reasons why a Muslim would be against the use of illegal drugs. (4)
- 14) For Christians, how should drugs be used and what reason do they give for this opinion? (2)

(Hint - bullet points 4 and 8 of Christian views on page 21 of the information booklet will give you the answer to this. Please look at it.)

Topic 3: Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment



Key Words

Crime	An action that breaks the law of a country or institution. An offence that is punishable by the law, e.g. stealing. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (11 million crimes are reported each year in the UK)• (20 crimes are believed to take place in the UK every minute, but the majority of these are not reported)
The Law	The rules of conduct for behaviour for a country or institution.
Punishment	The consequences suffered by a person because they have broken the law.
Order	A calm state of affairs to avoid chaos for people's safety.
Conscience	A person's sense of right and wrong behaviour.
Duty	An action we are obliged to do. It is the correct accepted behaviour.
Responsibility	An action we are obliged to carry out to protect ourselves and others. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A duty to care for or having control over something
Sin	The breaking of a spiritual, religious or moral law.
Forgiveness	To stop feeling anger toward someone for what they have done wrong towards you.
Repentance	Someone being truly sorry for what they have done wrong and trying to change one's behaviour so as not to do the same again.
Young offender	A person under the age of 18 who has broken the law. They are sent to young offenders institutes, not prison.





Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment

For all religions law and order is recognised as being important for society. Without it, there would be disorder and chaos. People would live in fear about being the victim of criminal activity. All people have a moral duty to behave in a law-abiding manner or they deserve punishment by the law, to force them to change their behaviour.

Christianity

- ✠ For Christians **'a man reaps (gets) what he sows (gives out)'** (Galatians 6 v 7). Thus, if a person does wrong he/she should have to bear the consequences of their behaviour, and have wrong done to him/her as punishment.
- ✠ Many Christians believe in the Old Testament teaching of **'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'** (Exodus 21 v 24). This means that whatever wrong a person commits, they should have done back to them the same as punishment.
- ✠ However, many Christians see that Jesus taught about forgiveness of all people for the wrongs they commit against others. He showed this in his actions when he dealt with a woman guilty of committing adultery (having sexual relations with another man whilst married). He told her to **'go away and sin no more'** (John 8 v 11). Thus, Jesus' words show that people should forgive others. Punishment should be to try and change the person's behaviour for the better so the sinner learns from their error.
- ✠ Jesus told a parable (a story with a meaning) called **'The Lost Son'**, when trying to teach about forgiveness. He taught that we should forgive all people because we are all sinners. God forgives all people and therefore so should we.

Islam

- ☉ As a Muslim, it is Allah's wish that justice is done, and thus you have a duty to ensure that criminals are punished for their wrongs – 'Allah commands you... that you **judge with justice'** (Qur'an 4 v 58).
- ☉ Whatever a criminal has done, should be done back to him/her as their punishment – **'a life for a life'** (Qur'an 5 v 48).
- ☉ The Qur'an teaches that criminals should be treated harshly to deter and prevent them committing the same crime again – **'a thief shall have his hands cut off as punishment'** (Qur'an 5 v 38).
- ☉ **Violence** can be used on criminals as punishment to teach them a lesson – 'the man and woman guilty of adultery should be flogged' (Qur'an 24 v 2). As the Qur'an is Allah's words, then these are his instructions to a Muslim on how to treat offenders.

The Causes of Crime

- All people have a duty and responsibility to follow the law, otherwise people would do exactly what they wanted to without considering others and society would be chaotic.
- All people have a conscience. It is an inner feeling of right and wrong. A wrong action creates a feeling of guilt to prevent us from acting immorally. We learn our sense of right and wrong individually from
 1. Parents – their example
 2. School – what we are taught
 3. Religion – from its rules
 4. The law – the consequences of not following it
 5. Society – what we see others doing
- Without being taught good behaviour, or constantly observing immoral behaviour, a person's conscience may not bother them if they commit a crime.



1. Social Reasons

- Many young people who commit crimes have been excluded from school. Without any qualifications or employment (and thus money) they are left without anything constructive to do and are bored. Committing crime provides **excitement** and the possibility of gaining some wealth.
- Young people from broken homes may have had poor role models as parents. Therefore, they will have a poor understanding of acceptable behaviour. Furthermore, they may feel rejected and thus **angry** and want revenge on society which they feel has not helped them.

2. Environmental Reasons

- During times of high **unemployment** crime increases as people who are out of work can have financial difficulties and thus turn to criminal activity to earn money.
- Young people often become members of **gangs** to feel part of a community and feel secure. Rivalry between gangs has led to people carrying knives and guns and increased crime.
- People living in **deprived areas** develop an uncaring attitude to the rest of society. They feel as though they are not being helped and thus do not feel responsible to act in a helpful law-abiding manner to others.

3. Psychological Problems

- People can turn to crime to fund their addiction to **drugs**. Likewise, under the influence of drugs, people commit crimes because they act out of character.
- Human nature is naturally selfish and greedy. Some turn to crime to obtain **wealth and power** to satisfy their material desires.
- People can commit crime because they suffer from a **mental illness**, e.g. someone who suffers from pyromania will set fire to buildings.



Types of Crime

1. **Non-indictable** – e.g. travelling in a car over a road's speed limit. People do not go to prison for these crimes but they are punishable by the law, e.g. a person will be given a financial penalty (a fine) for speeding in their car.
2. **Crimes against the person** – e.g. Rape, murder, assault, child abuse, mugging.
3. **Crimes against property** – e.g. Burglary, vehicle theft, shoplifting, film/music piracy, vandalism, arson.
4. **Crimes against the state (country)** – e.g. Terrorism, tax evasion.
5. **Religious offences** – These are not necessarily against the laws of a country but are against the rules of a religion. Breaking them is seen as a sin (against God) by members of the religion., e.g. Blasphemy – this is insulting God. This is not against UK criminal law but religious members would see it as an offence against their religion and God. In a Muslim country, (Saudi Arabia) governed by Islamic law, this is a criminal offence and punishable by death.



The Aims of Punishment

Often a punishment or penalty for a crime fulfils more than one of the aims of punishments. There are six main aims of punishments.

1. **Protection**, e.g. Prison
Sending a criminal to prison protects the rest of society from being harmed by their activities. Murderers, rapists, drug dealers are all sent to prison because of the danger they pose or injury they may cause to the public. It **keeps them away** from the opportunity to commit crime and the public.
2. **Retribution**, e.g. Capital punishment (the death penalty)
The punishment should fit the crime. Whatever a criminal has done, should be done back to him/her. It is so that society and the victim or victim's relatives can get revenge on the criminal for their crime.
3. **Deterrence**, e.g. Banned from driving for 'drink-driving'
Punishments, and the prospect of receiving them by potential criminals, will **put people off** (deter them) from committing a crime. Being banned from driving may have devastating consequences for a person such as losing their job.
4. **Reformation**, e.g. A criminal guilty of assault attending 'anger management' therapy sessions
Some criminals may require help to understand that they need to change their attitude and behaviour to become a responsible member of society. These punishments intend to reform / **change the criminal's behaviour.**
5. **Vindication**, e.g. A driver is fined for ignoring a red traffic light
The purpose of these punishments is so that **the law is respected.** Without respect for it, people would do what they want and the result would be chaos. If all drivers ignored traffic lights there would be chaos on the roads.
6. **Reparation**, e.g. 'community service' – a vandal cleaning graffiti off walls
The idea behind these sorts of punishments is to achieve justice for society. For the crime they have committed, the offender must do something to make up for it (make amends).



Religious attitudes to the aims of punishments

Christianity

- ✝ Christians do feel that **vindication** and **protection** are important aims of punishment of criminals. However, the most important aim should be **reformation**. Jesus taught forgiveness of all people and punishments should reflect this allowing the criminal a second chance and to change – 'if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him' (Luke 17 v 3).

Islam

- ☪ **Deterrence** and **vindication** are the most important aims of punishment of criminals for Muslims. In an Islamic society (Saudi Arabia), public humiliation, with criminals being beaten in public, is a means by which they achieve these aims of punishment.

Prison



In the UK the current prison population is approximately 80,000 people.

Why do we send people to prison?

- **Protection** – to protect society from dangerous criminals. In the UK, a criminal can be given a life sentence. This theoretically means they will stay in prison until they die because they are such a threat to the rest of society. However, in the UK a life sentence often means 25 years, with the prospect of release after 15 years in prison, depending on the offender's behaviour.
- **Retribution** – to isolate from friends and family those who deserve punishment.
- **Vindication** – to ensure the law is respected.
- **Deterrent** – to deter others committing crime.
- **Reform** – it gives offenders time to reflect on their actions and decide to change.

The disadvantages of prisons

- Prison is **expensive**. It costs the taxpayer around £30,000 a year to keep someone in prison.
- Approximately 70% of all prisoners **reoffend** within 2 years of being released from prison. Thus, to say prison reforms criminals is untrue.
- Up to a third of prisoners require **psychiatric care**. They would be better served by a mental health system.
- Only a third of prisoners have committed serious crimes (drugs/violence/murder/rape) but many who have committed less serious crimes are able to mix with such people who are a bad influence on them. Prisons become '**schools of crime**' for further bad behaviour.
- Prison breeds **bitterness** within prisoners and a determination to get back at society when they are released.
- A prison record makes it very difficult for an offender to get **employment** once they are released. This leads them back to a life of crime in order for them to gain money.
- Prison breaks up **families**, so children are deprived of a parent.



Prison Reform

- Prisons do not seem to be working as an effective punishment of criminals. The fact that the majority of criminals reoffend shows that prison has not made them reform, respect the law, deter them or protect society from their anti-social behaviour. Thus, the aims of prison as a punishment are clearly not working.
- Therefore, for many, the prison system needs to be reformed. It is believed to be not working due to four main reasons.
 1. **Overcrowding** – too many prisoners are mixing with criminals guilty of very serious crimes. Those guilty of less serious offences are influenced into more anti-social behaviour rather than improving and reforming their character.
 2. **Psychiatric care** – more needs to be done to help those with mental health issues. At present very little is done and so those criminals with such problems are not being helped and will reoffend on release as nothing has been done to alter their mental state.
 3. **Education** – prisoners need to be offered skills training and education, so that on their release they can gain employment more easily, rather than turn to crime for finance.
 4. **Medical programmes** – Many prisoners have abused drugs. It is one of the major causes of crime. More needs to be done to help offenders recover from their addiction whilst in prison.



Alternatives to prison

1. **Community Service** – *(reformation/vindication/reparation/retribution/deterrence)*
This is where the offender has to do a number of hours of unpaid work as to repair the damage they have caused to society, e.g. a vandal cleaning graffiti off walls.
2. **Fines** – *(vindication/deterrence/reformation)*
People do not like to lose their money. By having to pay financially for a crime, a person will in future abide by the law.
3. **Electronic tagging** – *(Protection/deterrence/vindication/reformation)*
The offender has to wear a tag so that he/she can be located and their behaviour monitored. They are only allowed out of their house between set hours of the day, usually 7 am – 7 pm.
4. **Probation** – *(Protection/deterrence/reformation/vindication)*
Offenders are given a suspended sentence. They are released, but if they commit a crime, within a specified time, then they will go to prison. The offender has to visit a probation officer every week.
5. **Parole** – *(protection/reformation/vindication)*
A prisoner is released early from prison, before their sentence is fully served. It is a gesture of goodwill from the judicial system. The offender has to report to a parole officer every week.

Capital Punishment



A punishment where a prisoner is put to death for crimes they have committed. It is also known as the 'Death Penalty'. Capital punishment has not used in the UK since 1965. However, it is used in some countries around the world including Saudi Arabia, China and by various states in the USA.

Arguments for the use of Capital Punishment

1. **Retribution** – murderers deserve to die. They have taken someone's life and thus deserve to have theirs taken from them – 'a life for a life and a tooth for a tooth' (Exodus 21 v 24). A victim's family will come to terms with their loss better by taking revenge on the murderer.
2. **Deterrence** – the death penalty deters people from committing horrendous crimes because they know if they get caught they will die.
3. **Protection** – the public needs protection from murderers. Killing such people ensures they can never be a threat to the public again.
4. **Finance** – it is unjust to keep a murderer alive in prison at a cost of £30,000 per year, whilst his/her victim is dead.
5. A life sentence of **25 years is not long enough** punishment for murderers. They have taken someone's life; to only impair their life by 25 years is simply not fair and is unjust.



Arguments against the use of Capital Punishment

1. **Mistakes** – people have been executed who are innocent; they have been later found to not be guilty of crimes they were accused of committing.
2. **Protection** – we do not need to kill criminals. Putting them in prison protects society.
3. **Deterrence** – capital punishment does not work as a deterrent. There are still murders in countries where this is used as a punishment for such crimes.
4. **Forgiveness** – all people deserve a second chance to repair the damage for their behaviour. Capital punishment does not show a forgiving attitude. We all do things wrong and thus we all require forgiveness.
5. **God gives life** and thus only he has the right to end a person's life.
6. The **law is hypocritical** if it uses capital punishment. It states that murder is illegal, then it murders also by using the death penalty.
7. **Martyrdom** – to use capital punishment on a terrorist turns them into a 'martyr'. They become a hero to the cause they were fighting for.



A 'gurney', which is used to perform executions by lethal injection in the USA



Religious attitudes to Capital Punishment

Christianity

- ✝ Some Christians are in favour of capital punishment, following the statement from the Bible – '**an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth**' (Exodus 21 v 24).
- ✝ However, most Christians oppose the death penalty as one of Jesus' most important teachings was **forgiveness** and to not seek revenge – 'if a man hits you on your left cheek, offer him your right also' (Matthew 5 v 39).

Islam

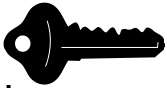
- ☪ Many Muslim countries use capital punishment. The Qur'an, for a Muslim is Allah's words and instructions. In it, it states – '**if anyone is killed unjustly, we have granted the right of retribution to his heir**' (Qur'an 17 v 33). Thus, capital punishment can be used on a murderer as punishment for his/her crime.

End of Topic Test

Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment

- 1) Describe what the following terms mean. (9)
(i) Crime (2) (ii) Punishment (2) (iii) Forgiveness (1)
(iv) Repentance (2) (v) Young Offender (2)
- 2) Why may a Christian agree with harsh punishment of a criminal? (3)
- 3) Why do most Christians agree with forgiveness of criminals? (3)
- 4) Describe how criminals should be treated according to Muslims. (4)
- 5) What are the 3 causes of crime? (3)
- 6) Describe a: (6)
(i) Social reason for crime (ii) Environmental reason for crime
(iii) Psychological reason for crime
- 7) Describe with an example what the following terms mean. (6)
(i) A crime against the person (ii) A crime against property
(iii) A religious offence
- 8) Describe with an example the following 6 aims of punishments used by the law. (12)
(i) Protection (ii) Retribution (iii) Deterrence
(iv) Reformation (v) Vindication (vi) Reparation
- 9) For the following groups of religious people, what should punishments aim to do? (6)
(i) Christians (ii) Jewish believers (iii) Muslims
- 10) Describe 2 good reasons for sending criminals to prison. (4)
- 11) Describe 2 disadvantages of using prison as a punishment. (4)
- 12) Describe 2 reasons people believe that prisons need to be improved (reformed). (4)
- 13) Describe 2 alternatives to prison used by the law for punishing criminals. (4)
- 14) Define the term 'capital punishment'. (2)
- 15) Describe 2 arguments for the use of capital punishment. (4)
- 16) Describe 2 arguments against the use of capital punishment. (4)
- 17) Why may a Christian disagree with the use of capital punishment? (2)
- 18) Why may a Jewish believer disagree with the use of capital punishment? (2)
- 19) Why may a Christian agree with the use of capital punishment? (2)
- 20) Why may a Muslim agree with the use of capital punishment? (2)

Topic 4: Religious Attitudes to World Poverty



Key Words

Poor	This means to have very little money or other resources to have a comfortable life.
Poverty	This means to be poor. It will involve having an inadequate standard of living displayed in hunger, malnutrition, sickness, insufficient housing, health facilities, medication and education.
Standard of living	This refers to the daily life that you have in terms of comfort – provision of luxuries and necessities.
LEDC	Less economically developed country – where people do not have a comfortable standard of living, e.g. Sudan (Africa).
EDC	Economically developed country – a country where most people enjoy a comfortable standard of living being able to afford luxuries, e.g. UK.



World Poverty – some facts

- In many developing countries (e.g. found within South America and Africa) 10% of the population own 90% of that country's wealth. So therefore, 90% of the population within these countries own 10% of the wealth. Thus, a small number of people are very rich, but the majority are extremely poor.
- At least 1 in 8 people in the world has inadequate food. They are malnourished or facing starvation.
- Hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries die and develop diseases each year due to consuming dirty water as they do not have a basic clean water supply.
- In developing countries, only 40% of adults can read and write.
- Hundreds of millions of people in developing countries do not have employment and simply feed themselves with what they can grow on the land.

What are the Problems Faced by LEDCs Which Cause Poverty?

1. **Exploitation / Unfair Trade** – some LEDCs produce food products such as wheat and rice. Many western companies, knowing these producers are desperate to make a living, give them under market values for their products.
2. **Debt** – many LEDCs have massive debts to western banks. They therefore are constantly paying this money back and cannot spend money to help the poor or develop the industries/trades in their country. Furthermore, LEDCs buy products which they need but at western market prices they cannot afford. This leads them into more debt.
3. **War** – e.g. Sudan (Africa) – different groups have been fighting for political power to run the country. Therefore, infrastructure is destroyed and money which could be spent on helping the poor is spent on weapons instead.
4. **Corruption** – People in government in LEDCs keep money for themselves rather than helping the poor.
5. **Natural disasters** (earthquakes/volcanoes) – when these hit LEDCs, these countries have little resources to cope with their effects and rebuild housing and other infrastructure.
6. **Climate** – 92% of all African countries have insufficient rainfall to grow crops effectively.
7. **Disease** – this is often caused by LEDCs having poor clean water supplies. HIV is also a major problem due to poor contraception availability.
8. **Population growth** – due to inadequate availability of contraception, LEDCs have increasing populations. Therefore, food resources and housing become even more limited per person.



How do Charities Help Developing Countries?

1. **Campaigns** – these are to raise awareness in the general public of issues facing developing countries. For example, 'Live 8' made the public in western countries more aware of the fact that developing countries were in billions of pounds of debt to western countries, and called for this debt to be cancelled. With public awareness raised and with public support, this could pressurise governments to cancel these debts.
2. **Education** – by educating the young people in rich developed western countries, about the poor living conditions of people living in continents such as Africa, it is hoped that future generations will be less greedy and will more effectively deal with these problems. They will pressurise their governments to be more 'just' and less wasteful.

3. **Raising money** – charities organise events and have shops where people donate goods for them to sell to raise money to give to developing countries. This money is used in two ways – short-term aid and long-term aid.
- ◆ **Short-term aid (direct aid)**
This is aid which is given to countries in times of emergency following disasters such as earthquakes. Countries are given immediate emergency supplies of food, water, shelter and medical care.
 - ◆ **Long-term aid (indirect aid)** – (sustainable development)
‘Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime’.
Charities fund projects where people of developing countries can be educated or provided with something that will allow them to support themselves and improve their country in the long term.
e.g. 1 – building water wells which will provide villages with fresh drinking water everyday
e.g. 2 – educate people on farming techniques to grow their crops
e.g. 3 – educate communities on safe sex to decrease the spread of HIV

Religious Charities

- **Christian Aid** – this was established in 1964. It has provided emergency aid in El Salvador after the 2001 earthquake. It has funded AIDS projects in Jamaica providing medical support and education.
- **CAFOD** (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) – this was established in 1962. It has raised awareness of people’s rights such as farmers in developing countries to achieve a fair price for their crops, from western countries. CAFOD has also been heavily involved in educating children in UK schools about the issues facing developing countries.
- **Islamic Relief Worldwide** – This was established in 1984. This provided emergency aid to Muslims fleeing Bosnia during the conflict there during the 1990s. It has also established a free hospital for all people in Kashmir.



Why Should People Help the Poor?

All people should help the poor as they are part of the human race. To be human is to have the ability to demonstrate through life the following three characteristics.

1. A sense of **justice** – we should try to make society fair and equal. People should not suffer because of the greed of others.
2. A sense of **stewardship** – all people have a shared humanity. We have a duty to care and protect each other because we are simply part of the human race.
3. A sense of **compassion** – as humans we should have the ability to feel compassion for our fellow man. It is a natural human feeling we all have and we should act on this emotion.



Religious Attitudes to Poverty

Christianity

- ✚ Jesus helped many people, regardless of their race, wealth or status (class) in society. He taught how people should follow this example when he told the story of 'The Good Samaritan' – (a Samaritan helps a Jew, despite the two races being in conflict). Jesus also showed it through his actions in healing a person who was regarded in Jewish society as being of a very low status – a Roman soldier's servant.
- ✚ Jesus told the parable of 'The Rich Fool'. The rich man's harvest is too big to store in his barns. Instead of sharing his good fortune with others, he has new barns built. He did not see God had blessed him with this wealth and should have used it to help others. Therefore, that night God takes his life from him; he was unable to enjoy his wealth. Jesus was trying to show that if we have the means, we should help others and realise we have what we do as a result of God providing it for us.
- ✚ Jesus told a parable named 'The Final Judgement'. In this story, the sheep are sent to heaven because they helped those in need. The goats are denied going to heaven because they did not. Jesus says that by helping others you are showing love for God; you are caring for his creation – 'when I was hungry you fed me... when I was thirsty you gave me something to drink... when I was naked you clothed me... Whatever you did for the least of my brothers you did for me' (Matthew 25 v 35–40).

Islam

- ☉ One of Muhammad's teachings (known as Hadith) to Muslims says that those who do not help the poor are 'miserly' (mean) at the expense of their own soul. In other words, not helping others is not what Allah wants and you may not enter into the paradise afterlife. This comes from a teaching in the Qur'an which reads 'Those who store up possessions in this lifetime... their works are fruitless in this world and the hereafter and they will lose all spiritual good' (Qur'an).
- ☉ Muslims have five duties to carry out to be considered to be a good Muslim. These are called 'The Five Pillars of Islam'. One of them is a duty called 'Zakah'. This is where they give 2.5% of their annual income to the Mosque. The money is to help the poor in the local community or to give to charities. This is a duty; it is not optional. It is something a Muslim must do if he/she is practising their faith properly.
- ☉ Muhammad taught that if a Muslim does not help the needy, then they are not acting like a Muslim. You are not following Allah's will for you – 'He who eats and drinks whilst his brother goes hungry is not one of us' (Hadith).
- ☉ Muslims should reflect Allah's love for his creations through their actions. Care should be given to those who need it as Allah loves every one of his creations – 'For the love of Allah give from your wealth to your relatives, to orphans, the needy, to the traveller, to those who ask' (Qur'an).

How can a religious person help the poor?

1. **Campaigning** – to raise public awareness for charities raising money which help poor countries so that people donate to the causes.
2. **Education** – giving their time to go into schools to talk to pupils about world poverty.
3. **Raising money for charities** which help world poverty.
4. **Volunteering** their skills to practically help in poor countries, e.g. a doctor may offer their services to vaccinate children. Through the Voluntary Service Organisation, they may do this for a year.
5. Volunteer to work in a **charity shop** which raises money to help world poverty.
6. **Pray** for those people suffering in poor countries.
7. Buy '**fairtrade**' commodities in supermarkets. Fairtrade products are goods where it has been ensured that the producers from LEDCs have received a fair price for them (global interdependence and world trade).

Who Should Help the Poor in the Developing World?

(Responses from contemporary religious leaders)

All religious leaders would agree that there is a corporate responsibility of the population of the world to take action to alleviate the problem of poverty in the world. Every human should campaign to force those in power and in control of wealth to use it to prevent world poverty. Those in Governments with such power and control of money should then act with the public's demands.

Eduardo Galeano clearly sees that the responsibility of world poverty correction lies with the governments of the Northern Hemisphere of the world. To equally share the wealth of the North with the countries and continents of the South.

'They sell newspapers they cannot read, sew clothes they cannot wear, polish cars they will never own and construct buildings where they will never live. They cannot make history, they are condemned to suffer it... as wealth drains ever faster from the South to the North of the world'

Eduardo Galeano (a Christian leader)

Religious authorities and religious people must lead by example so all people follow and lead a life which is not selfish but as God would want people to live with care and concern for humanity.

'A Church that is in solidarity with the poor can never be a wealthy church. It must sell all... to follow its master (God). It must use its wealth for the sake of the least'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu (a Christian leader)

When visiting the developed world of the Northern Hemisphere, Mahatma Gandhi was asked by a reporter what he thought of 'Western civilisation'. He responded saying, 'I think it would be a good idea'. In the Western world of developed countries we are supposed to be civilised. However, how can we be truly civilised when we know about the devastating poverty that exists, yet we do so little about it? We all have a responsibility to world poverty and its correction as we have a shared humanity with those people who suffer it in their daily lives.

'Recall the face of the poorest and the most helpless man whom you have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him'.

Mahatma Gandhi (a Hindu leader)



End of Topic Test

Religious Attitudes to World Poverty

- 1) Define the following terms. (4)
(i) Poverty (2) (ii) LEDC (1) (iii) EDC (1)
- 2) Describe 3 reasons why poverty is caused. (6)
- 3) Describe how campaigns by charities help LEDCs. (3)
- 4) Describe how education, funded by charities, helps LEDCs. (3)
- 5) Describe what the following 2 phrases mean. (4)
(i) Short-Term Aid (2) (ii) Long-Term Aid
- 6) Name a Christian charity that has helped LEDCs and describe what they have done. (3)
- 7) Name a Muslim charity that has helped LEDCs and describe what they have done. (3)
- 8) Describe the 3 reasons all people should help the poor. (6)
- 9) Describe 2 reasons why a Christian should help the poor. (4)
- 10) Describe 2 reasons that a Muslim should help the poor. (4)
- 11) Describe 2 ways a religious person can practically help the poor. (4)
- 12) Describe the thoughts on world poverty and who should correct it, of 1 modern religious leader. (4)

Answers for End of Topic Questions

Look up the page references to find the answers.

Topic 1 – Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life

1. What does the term 'sanctity of life' mean? (2) – page 3
2. Write out 1 quotation from each of the following religion's holy books, that they use as evidence for the 'sanctity of life'.
 - (i) Christianity (1) – page 1
 - (ii) Islam (1) – page 1
 - (iii) Judaism (1) – page 1
3. When do you believe a human life starts and why do you think this? (3) – page 3
4. Describe briefly the following medical practices that are used to create human life.
 - (i) IVF (2) – page 3
 - (ii) AID/AIH (2) – page 3
 - (iii) Surrogacy (2) – page 3
5. Describe briefly the following medical practices that are used to interfere with the course of human life.
 - (i) Cloning (2) – page 4
 - (ii) Genetic engineering (2) – page 4
 - (iii) Blood Transfusions (2) – page 4
 - (iv) Transplantations (2) – page 4
 - (v) Human Experimentation (2) – page 4
 - (vi) Human-Animal Hybrid Experimentation (2) – page 4
6. Give 2 reasons people would agree with IVF/AID/AIH/Surrogacy (4) – page 3
7. Give 2 reasons people would disagree with IVF/AID/AIH/Surrogacy (4) – page 3
8. Give 2 reasons people would agree with medical practices that prolong human life (4) – page 5
9. Give 2 reasons people would disagree with medical practices that prolong human life (4) – page 5
10. For each of the following religious groups, describe 1 reason they would agree with medical practices that create and prolong human life.
 - (i) Catholic Christians (2) – page 5
 - (ii) Church of England Christians (2) – page 5
11. For each of the following religious groups, describe 1 reason they would disagree with medical practices that create and prolong human life.
 - (i) Catholic Christians (2) – page 5
 - (ii) Church of England Christians (2) – page 5

Topic 2 – Religious Attitudes to Drug Abuse

1. What is a 'drug'? (1) – page 7
2. Describe with an example the following types of drugs.
 - (i) Social drug (2) – page 7
 - (ii) Recreational drug (2) – page 7
 - (iii) Soft drug (2) – page 7
 - (iv) Hard drug (2) – page 7
3. Describe with an example the following classes of drugs
 - (i) Class A (2) – page 7
 - (ii) Class B (2) – page 7
 - (iii) Class C (2) – page 7
4. Describe 2 reasons people use drugs. (4) – pages 7-8
5. Describe 1 personal and 1 social problem with using tobacco. (2) – page 8
6. Describe 1 personal and 1 social problem with using alcohol. (2) – page 8
7. Describe 2 negative consequences of using illegal drugs. (4) – page 8
8. Describe 1 reason people use to say that hard drugs should be legalised. (2) – page 8
9. Describe 1 reason people use to say that hard drugs should not be legalised. (2) – page 8
10. Describe 1 reason people use to say that cannabis should be legalised. (2) – page 8
11. Describe 1 reason people use to say that cannabis should not be legalised. (2) – page 8
12. Describe 2 reasons why a Christian would be against the use of illegal drugs. (4) – page 8
13. Describe 2 reasons why a Muslim would be against the use of illegal drugs. (4) – page 8
14. For Christians, how should drugs be used and what reason do they give for this opinion? (2) – page 10, points 4 & 8

Topic 3 – Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment

1. Describe what the following terms mean.
 - (i) Crime (2) – page 12
 - (ii) Punishment (2) – page 12
 - (iii) Forgiveness (1) – page 12
 - (iv) Repentance (2) – page 12
 - (v) Young Offender (2) – page 12
2. Why may a Christian agree with harsh punishment of a criminal? (3) – page 13
3. Why do most Christians agree with forgiveness of criminals? (3) – page 13
4. Describe how criminals should be treated according to Muslims. (4) – page 13
5. What are the 3 causes of crime? (3) – page 13
6. Describe a:
 - (i) Social reason for crime (2) – page 14
 - (ii) Environmental reason for crime (2) – page 14
 - (iii) Psychological reason for crime (2) – page 14
7. Describe with an example what the following terms mean.
 - (i) A crime against the person (2) – page 14
 - (ii) A crime against property (2) – page 14
 - (iii) A religious offence (2) – page 14
8. Describe with an example the following 6 aims of punishments used by the law.
 - (i) Protection (2) – page 15
 - (ii) Retribution (2) – page 15
 - (iii) Deterrence (2) – page 15
 - (iv) Reformation (2) – page 15
 - (v) Vindication (2) – page 15

- (vi) Reparation (2) – page 15
9. For the following groups of religious people, what should punishments aim to do?
 - (i) Christians (2) – page 15
 - (ii) Jewish believers (2) – page 15
 - (iii) Muslims (2) – page 15
 10. Describe 2 good reasons for sending criminals to prison. (4) – page 16
 11. Describe 2 disadvantages of using prison as a punishment. (4) – page 16
 12. Describe 2 reasons people believe that prisons need to be improved (reformed). (4) – page 16
 13. Describe 2 alternatives to prison used by the law for punishing criminals. (4) – page 17
 14. Define the term ‘capital punishment’. (2) – page 17
 15. Describe 2 arguments for the use of capital punishment. (4) – page 17
 16. Describe 2 arguments against the use of capital punishment. (4) – page 18
 17. Why may a Christian disagree with the use of capital punishment? (2) – page 18
 18. Why may a Jewish believer disagree with the use of capital punishment? (2) – page 18
 19. Why may a Christian agree with the use of capital punishment? (2) – page 18
 20. Why may a Muslim agree with the use of capital punishment? (2) – page 18

Topic 4 – Religious Attitudes to World Poverty

1. Define the following terms.
 - (i) Poverty (2) – page 20
 - (ii) LEDC (1) – page 20
 - (iii) EDC (1) – page 20
2. Describe 3 reasons why poverty is caused. (6) – page 20
3. Describe how campaigns by charities help LEDCs. (3) – page 21
4. Describe how education, funded by charities, helps LEDCs (3) – page 21
5. Describe what the following 2 phrases mean.
 - (i) Short-Term Aid (2) – page 22
 - (ii) Long-Term Aid (2) – page 22
6. Name a Christian charity that has helped LEDCs and describe what they have done. (3) – page 22
7. Name a Muslim charity that has helped LEDCs and describe what they have done. (3) – page 22
8. Describe the 3 reasons all people should help the poor. (6) – page 22
9. Describe 2 reasons why a Christian should help the poor. (4) – page 23
10. Describe 2 reasons that a Muslim should help the poor. (4) – page 23
11. Describe 2 ways a religious person can practically help the poor. (4) – page 23
12. Describe the thoughts on world poverty and who should correct it, of 1 modern religious leader. (4) – page 24

Practice Analysis and Reasoning Exam Questions

- When answering these types of questions in the examination (which are all usually worth 6 marks) you should look at each point you **explain well** as being worth 2 marks. Therefore, always try to include three points in your answer.
- **To explain** a point well is to support it with detail and/or evidence.
- You must always agree and disagree with the statement if you expect to gain more than 3 marks for the answer that you give.
- Likewise, you must always refer to a religious belief, or teaching or use a quote from a religious book to support at least one of the points you make in your answer if the question says 'refer to religious arguments', if you expect to gain more than 3 marks for your answer.
- Make sure you manipulate the information to answer the question.
- Each point you make should refer back to the question.

Topic 1 – Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life

- 'All people should have the right to be a parent'.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Page 1 quotes.*
 - ◆ *Page 3 – Arguments for and against IVF/AID/AIH/Surrogacy.*
 - ◆ *Pages 5 & 6 – Religious attitudes to medical procedures that create and prolong human life.*
- 'It is not God that is responsible for life, but people'.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Page 1 quotes.*
 - ◆ *Page 3 – Arguments for and against IVF/AID/AIH/Surrogacy.*
 - ◆ *Pages 5 & 6 – Religious attitudes to medical procedures that create and prolong human life.*

Topic 2 – Religious Attitudes to Drug Abuse

- 'Religious people should not take cannabis or other illegal drugs'.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Page 9– 'Should Cannabis be legalised'?*
 - ◆ *Page 10 – Religious views on drugs.*
- 'Athletes should be allowed to take performance-enhancing drugs'.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Page 10 – Religious views on drugs.*

Topic 3 – Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment

- 'Capital punishment should be used'.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Pages 17 & 18 – Arguments for and against capital punishment.*
 - ◆ *Page 18 – Religious attitudes to capital punishment.*
- 'Criminals should be forgiven for their crimes'.

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)

- ◆ *Page 13 – Religious attitudes to crime and punishment.*

Topic 4 – Religious Attitudes to World Poverty

- ‘Religious believers should help the poor, more so than other people’.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Page 22 – Why should people help the poor?*
 - ◆ *Page 23 – Religious attitudes to poverty.*
 - ◆ *Page 23 – How can a religious person help the poor?*
 - ◆ *Page 24 – Who should help the poor in the developing world?*
- ‘It is wrong to be rich when so many poor people exist in the world’.
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.
Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (6)
 - ◆ *Page 22 – Why should people help the poor?*
 - ◆ *Page 23 – Religious attitudes to poverty.*
 - ◆ *Page 23 – How can a religious person help the poor?*
 - ◆ *Page 24 – Who should help the poor in the developing world?*