



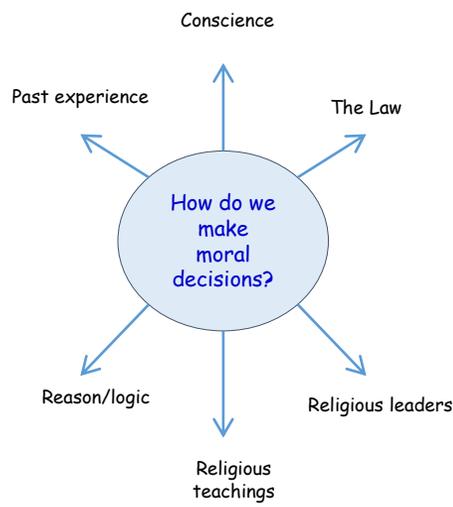
# Knowledge Organiser

# Issues of Good and Evil

Christianity in blue  
 Islam in green  
 Aim for 4 attitudes / beliefs for each

**Key Terms**

**Good** : Something that is considered morally good or right.  
**Evil**: Something considered immoral, wicked or wrong.  
**Forgiveness**: To grant pardon for a wrongdoing.  
**Free Will**: The God-given ability to choose for ourselves.  
**Justice**: Fairness, when everyone has equal provisions.  
**Morality**: Standards which determine whether something is good or bad.  
**Punishment**: A penalty given for a wrongdoing.  
**Sin** : A deliberate immoral action; going against religious rules.  
**Suffering**: Pain or distress caused by wrongdoing, illness or loss.



## Punishment & Justice

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christianity is a religion of forgiveness. However Christians do believe in justice which means that forgiveness and punishment should go together. Christians should try to follow the example of Jesus who forgave those who betrayed him. Jesus taught compassion not revenge. Punishment should enable a person to reform - to change their ways on release from prison.</p>	<p>Although forgiveness is very important in Islam so is the need to protect society and keep law and order. Punishment is a central to justice. Punishment is essential to keep people from straying from what is good and just. Shar'iah law means 'straight path' and gives both the laws to live by and punishments if these laws are broken. Punishment has nothing to do with removing sin - it is a way of keeping law and order.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good".            "Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath".</p>	<p>"Cut off the hands of thieves as a deterrent from Allah."</p>

## Death Penalty

Christianity	Islam
<p>There are two different attitudes to capital punishment (the death penalty) within Christianity, and the Bible supports both.</p> <p>No:            *The Ten Commandments state "thou shalt not kill".            *All life is sacred and God given.            *Jesus taught compassion and not revenge.            *Punishment should be used to reform.</p> <p>Yes:            *The Old Testament says "an eye for an eye".            *Some see it as the only way to get true justice.</p>	<p>For many Muslims there are two acts which deserve capital punishment: Murder. Openly attacking and threatening the Muslim way of life, having previously belonged to Islam.</p> <p>However - Surah 17:33 in the Qur'an forbids the taking of life - "Nor take life - which Allah has made sacred, except in just cause".</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"Thou shalt not kill".            "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life".</p>	<p>"Nor take life - which Allah has made sacred, except in just cause".</p>

## Forgiveness

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christianity is a religion of forgiveness. It teaches that Christians should try to follow the example and actions of Jesus who always demonstrated forgiveness. Prayers such as The Lord's Prayer encourage Christians to follow the teachings of the Bible and forgive wherever possible: "...And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us". Forgiveness is important as all Christians want God to forgive them for their mistakes, so they should try to do the same for other people. Jesus asked God to forgive those who betrayed him when he was on the cross. Examples of Christians forgiving, ie: Gee Walker and Martin Luther King.</p>	<p>Forgiveness is needed when working for peace. There are clear teachings about forgiveness and reconciliation: Muhammad (pbuh) set an example for his followers. "The Rules for Jihad" emphasise the importance of forgiveness. The Qur'an offers clear teachings about forgiveness; for example, that those who forgive others will be rewarded by Allah. Muslims believe that Allah will forgive someone who is truly penitent (sorry or remorseful).</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>The teaching of the Parable of the Lost Son            "Jesus said: Forgive not seven times, but seventy seven times"</p>	<p>"Pardon each others' faults and Allah will grant you honour".</p>

## Cause of Evil Suffering / Free Will

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christians believe that suffering exists due to free will as a result of the 'original sin' which occurred at the time of creation. This led to moral evil and natural evil both of which cause suffering. "God is compassionate and understanding - he will never give us more than we can cope with. "Good will come out of suffering. "Suffering can help develop character and inner strength. "Suffering can test faith and make it stronger (the story of Job). "The example of Jesus who suffered on the cross; because Jesus took the punishment for all the sin in the world those who believe in him will achieve God's forgiveness for their sins.</p>	<p>Muslims believe that everything that happens in life is part of the will and plan of Allah. All suffering comes from Allah, although it might be hard for humans to understand the purpose of it. Suffering is a test. Those who suffer must try to stay faithful and resist the temptation of Satan following the example of Muhammad. Good can result from suffering as it is an opportunity to follow the way of Muhammad. Humans will be rewarded in the afterlife in they survive suffering by resisting temptation.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"We glory in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance".</p>	<p>"If you are steadfast and mindful of Allah, that is the best course".</p>

### Types of Morality

**Absolute Morality**

Absolute morality is when a person has a principle such as 'it is wrong to kill' and never alters it. They apply this principle or moral standard to all situations, no matter what the context or circumstance. E.g.: The Roman Catholic belief that all life begins at conception will ALWAYS mean that abortion is not permitted.

**Relative Morality**

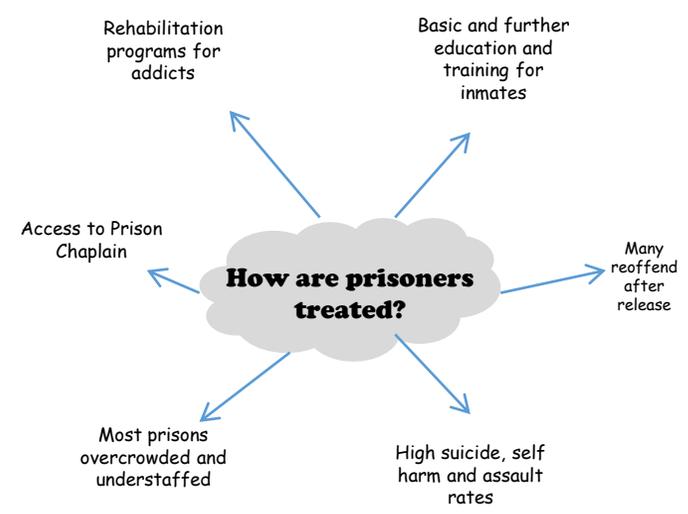
Relative morality is when a person holds a moral principle but is prepared to adapt or adjust it in certain situations. This person might believe that, if it reduces suffering in the future, killing in war might be necessary. Buddhists and many Protestant Christian denominations like the Church of England would be considered relative moralists.



Aims of Punishment	
Aim	Description
Protection	Making sure that all people, and society itself, is kept free from possible recurring of a crime by a criminal; criminals themselves also need protection
Retribution	A form of revenge on behalf of those who are attacked or wronged
Deterrence	To try to deter (discourage) people from committing crimes, because they know what the punishment is, and know it will be given to those caught
Reformation	Trying to ensure the criminal is helped to change their approach and way of life
Vindication	To show that the law and authority are of supreme importance; and ensure that the law is upheld, and justified
Reparation	Criminals should have the right to 'pay' for the wrong they have done - to show they are sorry and 'repair' the damage



- ### Examples of Forgiveness
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu** - after the apartheid government in South Africa was deposed. 'Holding on to your resentment means you are locked into your victimhood - and you allow the perpetrator to have a hold over your life. When you forgive, you let go, it sets you free, and it will probably set free the perpetrator. There is much to be won from making yourself a little vulnerable.' 'Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.'
  - Gee Walker** - practising Christian and mother of Anthony Walker, who was murdered during a racially motivated attack in Liverpool in 2005. 'Unforgiveness makes you a victim and why should I be a victim? Anthony spent his life forgiving. His life stood for peace, love and forgiveness and I brought them all up that way.' 'I have to forgive them. I cannot hate. Hate is what killed Anthony.'
  - Martin Luther King**, Baptist Minister and American civil rights protestor, 1929-68. 'Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.'



### The Problem of Evil & Suffering & God

God is believed to be omnibenevolent (all loving) omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowing). Because of this, evil should not really exist. But it does. There are, therefore, a number of possibilities:

- God is not powerful enough to stop evil.
- God does not know that evil is happening.
- God does not love us enough to want to stop the evil.

None of these are very satisfactory conclusions.

### Answers to Problem of Evil & Suffering: Free Will

Christianity	Islam
Christians believe that <b>free will</b> is given by God to human beings. Humans therefore have the ability to choose to do good and the ability to choose to do evil. Catholics believe that as a result of original sin, humans find it easier to choose to do wrong, but with the help of God can choose to do good. Those who do sin can attempt to atone and gain forgiveness through prayer and, for Catholics, confession and penance.	Islam teaches that every person is <b>free to choose</b> whether or not to follow God. As some do not, suffering occurs. Some Muslims believe God wrote down all that has happened and will happen (on the 'Preserved Tablet'). God has measured out the span of every person's life, their lot of good or bad fortune, and the fruits of their efforts. Again, God does not need to force anyone to do good or evil.
Sources of Authority "We glory in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance".	"If you are steadfast and mindful of Allah, that is the best course".

### Key Terms

**Censorship:** Limiting access to something because it might cause offense or panic.

**Discrimination:** Treating someone differently because of their appearance, race, gender, etc.

**Extremism:** Believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.

**Human Rights:** What we are entitled to to keep us safe, free and equal.

**Personal Conviction:** Something a person strongly feels or believe in.

**Prejudice:** Judging someone before knowing them.

**Relative Poverty:** Feeling that you are poor in comparison to others in society.

**Absolute Poverty:** Not having access to the basics needed for survival.

**Social Justice:** Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity.

### Amnesty International

Why they fight for Human Rights:

All deserve dignity and freedom from oppression.

How they fight for Human Rights:

- Postcard campaigns.
- Email campaigns.
- Lobbying foreign / corrupt governments.
- Passing information on human rights' abuses to the media.
- Employing human rights detectives.
- Concerts and fundraisers.

### Dignity of Human Life

Christianity	Islam
Christians believe that each person is sacred and worthy of respect and dignity. Because of this, Christians feel that each person should be treated with unconditional love. <b>Jesus</b> taught that showing <b>concern</b> for others is a basic duty. This is reinforced in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Helping others is a religious <b>duty</b> - failing to do this is failing <b>God</b> . Everyone is made 'imago dei' - in the image of God. Everyone should have dignity, <b>equal</b> rights and treatment.	Islam teaches that <b>Allah</b> created all humans and are part of 'Allah's family', and that they should be treated with dignity and take <b>responsibility</b> for each other. The <b>Ummah</b> are expected to care for each other 'like a shepherd is responsible for his flock'. <b>Muhammad</b> said that every action to help others was <b>sadaqah</b> - a kindness that pleases Allah. These actions will be rewarded in paradise. Muhammad also said that you are not a true Muslim until you are kind to your <b>neighbour</b> . Muslims also believe that "he who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".
Sources of Authority "do unto others as you would have them do unto you".	"He who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".

### Agape in Action

Christianity	Islam
Agape is selfless love and compassion towards another human being. Agape is shown through the work of individuals like Mother Teresa, the Salvation Army and Street Pastors. <b>Mother Teresa:</b> cared selflessly for the unwanted and unloved ill in Calcutta - opening hospices and orphanages. <b>Street Pastors:</b> volunteers from churches who go into city centres on Friday and Saturday nights - caring for the vulnerable, drunk, lost, and homeless.	The Islamic equivalent of agape in action is called Ummah in Action. Ummah in Action is demonstrated through the giving of zakah and sadaqah, as well as through charities such as Islamic Relief.
Sources of Authority "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."	"He who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".

### Prejudice & Discrimination

Christianity	Islam
P & D are unacceptable because they go against key Christian teachings such as 'love thy neighbour'. The Ten Commandments give guidance on living in harmony with others. Christians follow Jesus' example, i.e.: looking after outcasts and tending to the leper. This proved that all people are equal and worthy of kindness. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches Christians to treat <u>all</u> people with love and kindness. All people are equally valuable and can have a relationship with God "for God does not show favouritism".	All people are equal, although not the same. All people are important in their own right as they are created by Allah. We can learn from Muhammad's (pbuh) example, i.e.: showing respect for women. The ummah (the community of Muslim believers) crosses all cultural, racial and gender boundaries. This proves that everyone is equal and that discrimination is unacceptable. The act of prayer demonstrates equality - EVERYONE prays in exactly the same way, showing that before God everyone is equal.
Sources of Authority "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for all are one in Jesus Christ".	"An Arab is not better than a Non-Arab, a white person is not better than a black person".

### Racial Prejudice & Disc

Christianity	Islam
Discrimination is against Christian teachings such as 'love thy neighbour'. God created all human beings as equals no matter their race, gender or ability. "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for all are one in Jesus Christ". In Genesis it says that God created all human beings in his image. Martin Luther King believed in a fought for the equality of all men, as all deserve equality, dignity and respect.	At Creation, Allah made man from 7 different coloured handfuls of clay. This shows Allah designed human beings to have different races. Discrimination is therefore against Allah. In his final sermon Muhammad said "An Arab is not better than a Non-Arab, a white person is not better than a black person". The Ummah crosses all racial boundaries - anyone and everyone can be a Muslim, so all are equal.
Sources of Authority "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for all are one in Jesus Christ".	"An Arab is not better than a Non-Arab, a white person is not better than a black person".

### Issues with Censorship

According to the convention of human rights, everyone has freedom of speech and expression. However, some question whether you should be able to express views that cause offence or whether there should be censorship of these views. **Censorship** would mean preventing the publication or broadcast of certain content.

### Issues with Religious Expression

Religion is expressed in a number of different ways. Sometimes one person's desire to express their faith can lead to others complaining or being offended. One way religion can be expressed is in the clothes or symbols we wear. In some countries it is illegal to wear religious symbols to school. In France, for example, any 'overtly' religious symbol cannot be worn or displayed in school.

### Issues with Religious Extremism

For some religious believers their beliefs and faith are so important to them that they may feel justified in acting in certain extreme ways to uphold the belief or to try and make others believe it too. These actions can cause harm to themselves or other people. This can lead to extreme anti-social behaviour that the majority within a faith group would disapprove of.

# Islamic Relief

Beliefs	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muhammad said that you are not a true Muslim until you are kind to your <b>neighbour</b>. Muslims also believe that "he who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".</li> <li>References to being charitable and compassionate are throughout the Qur'an.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide 1<sup>st</sup> wave emergency relief after disasters - eg: earthquakes, floods - providing water, healthcare, clothing.</p> <p>Provide famine relief.</p> <p>Run water engineering projects.</p> <p>Run an orphan sponsorship program - providing children with gifts, summer camps, a social worker, etc.</p> <p>Education program - building and renovating schools, stocking them, training teachers and subsidising food.</p>
Sources of Authority	<p><b>"He who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".</b></p>

# Christian Aid

Beliefs	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a Christian organisation they believe in <b>justice, fairness and equal opportunities</b> for all.</li> <li>They believe that <b>caring for others is a basic duty</b>.</li> <li>They believe that <b>showing "love" and respect is a command of Jesus</b> that they must follow.</li> <li>Christianity teaches that <b>everyone deserves dignity</b>, and where there is injustice this is not possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Projects helping farmers work with new tools, equipment, and arid land.</p> <p>Training- including literacy classes for women and management classes.</p> <p>Projects uniting communities through establishing and funding local groups.</p> <p>Projects providing access to essential resources such as water by digging wells and creating irrigation systems.</p> <p>Give access to money through loans a low interest rates to <b>allow development</b>.</p>
Sources of Authority	<p><b>"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."</b></p>

# Case Studies

## Martin Luther King

**Belief/personal conviction:**

All people are made by God and made equally by God. Everyone deserves human dignity as we are all made in God's image.

We should show unconditional love to others - forgiving the evil deed and turning the other cheek.

**Conflict with the law:**

The southern states of America had "Jim Crow" or racist laws which allowed legal segregation of black and white Americans. Blacks were denied equality, protection by the law and the opportunity to succeed due to institutional racism and popularly accepted racist attitudes.

**Actions:**

He moved to Montgomery, Alabama to work in the 'deep south' as a reverend. Helped lead the Bus Boycott in 1955/6. Led the NAACP in peacefully protesting for equal rights. Helped run a student protest group, using the method of civil disobedience. Spoke out publicly against racism and violence. Led the March on Washington where he gave the "I have a dream" speech.

## Oscar Romero

**Belief/personal conviction:**

He knew that all the suffering he saw around him was temporary because when our lives on earth are over we can join God in Heaven. He believed it was his mission to defend the poor and weak. He believed in social justice.

**Conflict with the law:**

El Salvador became a "security state" where Human Rights were suspended and 'enemies' were executed at will. Protests against unfair elections ended in bloodshed as soldiers machine-gunned the crowds.

**Actions:**

He instructed all priests to offer sanctuary to those threatened by government troops. He prayed publicly at length beside his friend's remains, and then buried him without gaining government permission - a criminal offence. He excommunicated the murderers of his friends. He started to openly speak out against the government, and hold meetings which had been banned.

# Acquisition & Use of Wealth

Christianity	Islam
<p>Greed and snobbishness unacceptable. No lending for profit / unfair methods of getting money. Many Christians do not play the National Lottery / gamble.</p> <p>True giving should involve sacrifice. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats teaches us that those who help the needy will go to heaven.</p> <p>The greedy and those who hoard money will not go to heaven either. A love of money will distract you from loving God. "You cannot serve both God and money".</p>	<p>All wealth is a gift and blessing from Allah. It is not wrong to be wealthy but the more you have the more generous you should be. The value of money is in the good that you can do with it (e.g.: by giving sadaqah - extra donations to charity). Allah tests believers on how well they use their wealth.</p> <p>Wealth cannot be acquired in dishonest ways. Wealth should not be used to harm or exploit others - because of this gambling is forbidden, no lending for profit, no dishonesty.</p>
Sources of Authority	Sources of Authority
<p><b>"it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven".</b></p>	<p><b>"Beware of greed for it is ready poverty".</b></p>

## Malala

**Belief/personal conviction:**

As a Muslim Malala believes fiercely in equality and the rights of women to access education. (She also believes that truth must triumph. She believes in forgiveness.)

**Conflict with the law:**

She lived in a region of Pakistan where the Taliban had taken authority. They were denying people freedom to practice their own version of Islam (for example forcing girls to cover their faces, burning books and CDs that they thought were 'offensive') and they were refusing to allow girls to access education or go to school.

**Actions:**

She secretly wrote a blog for the BBC about life under the Taliban.

She publically spoke out against the Taliban and for girls rights to education in Pakistan.

She has continued to work for rights to education for all - especially girls - across the world. She has created the Malalafund which runs projects sponsoring girls education in India, Afghanistan, Nigeria and in refugee camps.

## Key Terms

**Afterlife:** Life after death, what continues after physical death.  
**Environmental Sustainability:** ensuring that we don't overuse the world's resources.  
**Euthanasia:** Mercy killing; purposefully ending a life by medical means.  
**Evolution:** the idea that species gradually change and adapt over time.  
**Abortion:** the purposeful ending of a pregnancy.  
**Quality of Life:** The idea that life should have dignity and enjoyment.  
**Sanctity of Life:** All life is sacred, special and God made.  
**Soul:** The non-physical spiritual part of a person.

## Creation of the Universe

Christianity	Islam
<p>Literalist Christians (ie: Roman Catholics) believe that the story is literally true. They would say: Creation happened exactly as it says in the story; God created the world and everything in it in 6 days; Humans are created in the image of God; Scientific theories are wrong. Some Non-Literalist Christians (ie: Anglicans) believe that the story is not literally true. They would say: The story shows an order of creation but it took longer than 6 days; the point is that God did create the world; Science and religion can work together to explain creation. Other Non-Literalist Christians think that the story is entirely fictional. The story is a myth. It tells us what people once believed. Scientific theories are more acceptable.</p>	<p>•Allah made heaven and earth, and all the animals, birds and fish; the sun, moon and stars; the plants and the rain; the angels.          •The angels were sent to bring seven handfuls of earth - each of a different colour          •From these the first man Adam, was made; and from his side, Eve - the first woman          •They lived in Paradise - a beautiful garden; where they could eat anything, except the fruit of one tree.          •On disobeying Allah, after being tempted by Iblis, they were placed outside the garden as a punishment.</p>
<p><b>Sources of Authority</b></p> <p>'And God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.'</p> <p>'Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness . . ."'</p>	<p>'Is not He who created the heavens and the earth Able to create the likes of them? Yes, [it is so]; and He is the Knowing Creator.'</p>

## Dominion, Stewardship, Environmental Sustainability

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christians believe that if they live sensibly and in partnership with the earth, that it will bring them closer to God (in fact, it will get them into heaven).          Christians believe that their life is a gift from God and that caring for the world and the environment is one of the purposes of humankind. Humans have a special responsibility as stewards to look after the planet for God. They do, however, have dominion (power) over animals and the right to use the earth's resources.</p>	<p>All Muslims believe that Allah created, owns and sustains the world.          The survival of the planet depends upon Muslims maintaining the natural <i>fitrah</i> (balance). Muslims see it as their duty to use their skills to help keep the balance in the world.          When they die, Muslims will have to prove how well they have looked after the world and whether they have been a good <i>khalifah</i> (guardian) in order to get into paradise. Muhammad set a good example by showing kindness to animals (a part of Allah's creation).</p>
<p><b>Sources of Authority</b></p> <p>You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.'</p>	<p>The earth is green and beautiful. God has appointed you his stewards over it.'</p>

## Evolution

...and Charles Darwin

In his book On The Origin of Species suggested that changes and adaptations of animals happened over a period of time because they were beneficial to their survival and prosperity. He called this the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection.

...and Richard Dawkins

Evolution by natural selection is the only workable theory ever proposed that is capable of explaining life, and it does so brilliantly. The 'illusion of design' that is seen by religious believers as evidence of God can only be explained by Evolution by Natural Selection.

## Sanctity of Life

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christians believe that life is created by God, protected by God, and valued by God. God is interested and involved in each human's life. God has created each individual person, and made them unique in their own right, just as He made Adam and Eve. Christians also accept that only God should take life away. Each person contains a reflection of the image of God, which makes every human sacred.          Only God should choose when life begins. Roman Catholics hold strictly to this belief, and as such disagree in practice with artificial methods of contraception and with In Vitro Fertilisation (when an embryo is created outside of the human body in a laboratory using sperm and an egg).          Jesus also showed through his teachings and practice that all life should be valued. The way in which he tended to the leper, visited the sick, and spoke to the Samaritan woman demonstrated that all lives are worthy of respect and compassion because all life is descended from God (and therefore sacred).</p>	<p>Muslims believe that all life is created by Allah, and only he has the right to take it away. This teaching applies to all creations of Allah and murder is explicitly forbidden in the Qur'an: "Take not a life which Allah has made sacred". Every soul has been created by Allah. Allah has a plan for each life, written before each person is "planted as a seed in your mothers' womb". No one has the right to take their own or anyone else's life.          The killing of just one soul carries the sin of killing all of humanity.</p>
<p><b>Sources of Authority</b></p> <p>'Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?'</p> <p>'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.'</p>	<p>"Take not a life which Allah has made sacred".</p>

## Abortion

Christianity	Islam
<p><b>Roman Catholic:</b>          1.Abortion is forbidden in all circumstances as life is sacred and God given. It goes against the Sanctity of Life.          2.Abortion is murder AND against the 10 Commandments.  <b>Other eg: Church of England:</b>          1.All life is precious as made by God.          2.Abortion is not allowed for social reasons.          3.If mothers life is in danger it is permitted.          4. For quality of life reasons is permitted if female has been raped as this follows Jesus' teaching of "doing the kindest thing".</p>	<p>Abortion for purely economic reasons is forbidden in the Qur'an.          Many will allow abortion if the mother's life is in danger or if the child is likely to be seriously deformed or diseased.          The taking of the life of a child is a sin, and on the Day of Judgement a child will have the right to ask why it was killed. The mother's rights are greater than the child's until 120 days after conception, which is when ensoulment happens.</p>
<p><b>Sources of Authority</b></p> <p>"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."          "God created human beings making them to be like himself".</p>	<p>"No severer of womb relationship ties will enter paradise" Hadith.          "Do not kill your children in fear of poverty."</p>



## Christianity & Big Bang

Religious creationists are very critical. It contradicts the truth that God has formed all life through his own power. Even if scientists are correct in saying that the universe began with a 'Big Bang', have they really solved the question 'Where does the universe come from?'. We are still left with the question of what caused the Big Bang.

## Christian vs Scientific Views

Evolution implies that life has developed by chance, whereas religious scriptures teach that God is the creator. Religious scriptures teach that humans alone have a God-given soul, but if we have evolved from animals, there is no special place for the human soul. Evolution challenges the teachings of the Bible, because Genesis says that each species was made 'according to its kind' (i.e. species don't change, they are fixed for all time).

## Christianity & Evolution



# Euthanasia

Christianity	Islam
<p>1.All life is sacred (sanctity of life) and taking any life is wrong. Those who assist are involved in murder, which is against the 10 Commandments.</p> <p>2.Life is a gift from God and therefore is precious.</p> <p>3.Suffering can have a purpose and should be endured.</p> <p>4.Hospices offer an alternative where care and support can be given to the patient. This allows patients to die with dignity whilst their pain is managed.</p> <p>Some Liberal Christians believe that it is acceptable to turn off life-support if there is medical evidence that a person is "brain-dead".</p>	<p>1.All life is made by Allah (sanctity of life) so taking any life is wrong.</p> <p>2.Only Allah can decide when a person dies.</p> <p>3.Suffering has a purpose and is part of Allah's plan for you.</p> <p>4.It is important to show compassion to those who are in pain or are suffering. When this happens there should be no need for euthanasia.</p> <p>5. No matter what state the body is in, the soul is still perfect and that is what matters to Allah.</p>
<p>"Thou shalt not kill".</p> <p>Sources of Authority "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple"</p>	<p>"Take not a life which Allah has made sacred".</p>

# Life After Death

Soul, Judgement, Heaven, Hell

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christians believe eternal life is granted through faith. The timing of death is up to God, and entry to heaven depends on whether a person has responded to Jesus' teachings (i.e.: love thy neighbour) and has been a good steward on earth. Resurrection is expected because of the resurrection of Jesus. The after-life is a spiritual experience where believers will feel no pain, only joy at being with God. There is plenty of room in heaven for all believers. There is a hell - the opposite of heaven - where those who have sinned will be separated from God.</p>	<p>The Qur'an contains many teachings about Akhirah (life after death). Muslims believe that all that they have done on earth will be used as evidence on the Day of Judgement. Throughout life, Muslims believe that an angel has kept track of their good and bad deeds in preparation for this. The soul is released at the point of death. It is taken by the Angel of Death to a place of waiting until the Day of Judgement. Those who have lived a good life go to Paradise [Jannah] - a beautiful garden with rivers of milk and honey. The unrighteous go to hell [Jahannam].</p>
<p>Sources of Authority "My Father's house has many rooms". "Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall have eternal life".</p>	<p>"Those whose good deeds weigh heavy will be successful".</p>

# Funerals - How they reflect beliefs

Christianity		Islam	
Action	Belief it links with	Action	Belief it links with
Prayers are said for the dying person and they can ask God for forgiveness of their sins. Known as Last Rites.	This helps to ease the dying person into the afterlife, enabling them to die at peace, having asked for God's forgiveness.	The <b>Kalimah</b> (other referred to as the shahadah) is whispered into their ears, just as these words were whispered into their ears as a new-born baby.	This emphasises the belief that, at death, we are returning to our creator (God).
Service is held in honour of the dead person: flowers are displayed, prayers said and candles may be lit. The minister reads the words of Jesus: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'	The candles represent Jesus as the 'light of the world', because he guides a path into heaven. The passage 'I am the resurrection' reminds the congregation that those who believe in Jesus will be resurrected, to spend eternity with God.	<small>If possible, funerals take place within 24 hours of death. The dead person's body is washed: this is called <b>ghusl</b>. The body is then wrapped in a white shroud. In Britain it will be put into a coffin, but in some Islamic countries Muslims prefer to be buried without one.</small>	The simple white shroud represents purity and equality: all are equal before God in death.
Psalms 23, 'The Lord is my shepherd', is often read at funerals. It says that even when I am 'in the valley of the shadow of death', God is still by my side.	We are not forgotten by God: he will comfort those who mourn and accompany those who have died.	Muslims do not approve of cremation. Bodies are buried facing Makkah.	Muslims believe that the body must remain intact, facing the Holy City. This will allow the person to be resurrected on the Day of Judgement.
The person is buried, with the words 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust'. Today, many Christians prefer to be cremated, but traditionally the dead had to be buried.	Christianity used to teach that the bones of the dead must be left intact, so that on the Day of Judgement they could reform, rising to bodily resurrection with God in heaven.	Muslims do not usually have gravestones, but the site of the grave is often raised in a mound, above the level of the ground.	Everyone is equal in death.

**Peter Singer**

...and the importance of Human Life

Even though all human life has value, it is not all of equal value. People must possess the qualities of being a person (what he calls 'personhood') to count as being fully alive. Peter Singer also believes that a person who is fully conscious and rational has the freedom to choose whether or not they want to live.

# Differences in Beliefs

Christianity & Purgatory	Islam and Worship at Graves
Roman Catholics believe in purgatory - a place of cleansing that is in between heaven and earth where the soul can prepare for Heaven.	Most Muslims consider worship at graves as Haram (forbidden) as only Allah can be worshipped and it is considered paganistic. <b>Some</b> Sufi Muslims visit and pray at the graves of key religious figures.

HUMANISTS

## "Dignity in Dying"

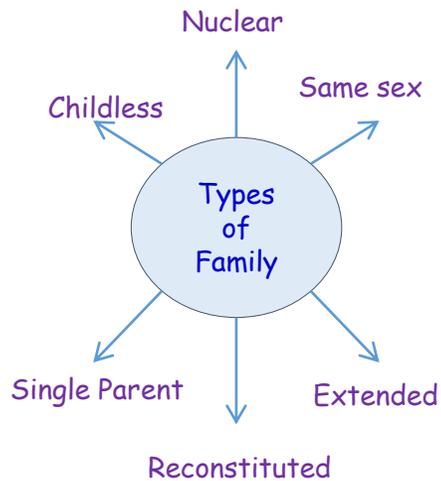
Humanists have long supported attempts to legalise assisted dying, assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia across the UK, for those who have made a clear decision, free from coercion, to end their lives and who are physically unable to do so themselves. In many cases, the person in question will be terminally ill. They also think that the law needs to be responsive to the needs of other people who are permanently and incurably suffering.

They lobby government to change the law to legalise assisted dying or euthanasia.

## "Humanists for a better world"

**Humanists for a Better World** provides a network for UK humanists who'd like to share information and take individual and/or collective action on international ethical and sustainability issues such as peace and international co-operation, global justice, climate change and the environment. The lobby for laws which protect the environment, prevent climate change, and work for global equality and social justice.

**Key Terms**  
**Adultery:** Having affairs whilst married.  
**Commitment:** Dedication and devotion.  
**Divorce:** Bringing a legal end to a marriage.  
**Contraception:** Methods used to avoid pregnancy.  
**Cohabitation:** Living together in a sexual relationship without marriage.  
**Gender:** How you identify whether you are male or female.  
**Equality:** Having the same status or value.  
**Responsibilities:** Obligations or duties you must perform.  
**Roles:** Your status or place in society.



Family	
Christianity	Islam
<p>Family is the first place where children can find out about love, companionship and forgiveness. Parents can set children a good example of how to live a Christian life.</p> <p>The family is the spiritual training ground for children. Parents take children to church, to Sunday School, have their children baptised and confirmed.</p>	<p>Family is where children learn to be religious and grow into a good Muslim. It is a mother's job to teach her children how to pray (salat) and how to prepare for prayer (wudu).</p> <p>The Muslim family is at the heart of the Ummah, so strong families make a strong Muslim community.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"Honour your father and mother"</p>	<p>"Paradise lies at the Mother's feet".</p>

Marriage	
Christianity	Islam
<p>Marriage is a gift from God which allows for a sexual relationship to develop.</p> <p>Marriage is a <b>sacrament</b> - a relationship in which God is directly involved. This is why a couple will want to get married in a church, so God can witness and be a part of the ceremony.</p>	<p>Marriage is the <b>basis of family life</b> and is meant to be for life. It is meant to be a faithful, lifelong partnership; and having children in marriage is a duty.</p> <p>Marriage helps people develop spiritually because it prevents them from sinning (by controlling sexual behaviour). Sex is only allowed in marriage so marriage can protect people from sin.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"It is better to marry than to be aflame with passion".</p>	<p>"There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage".</p>

Marriage Ceremonies	
Christianity	Islam
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The couple exchange their vows which reflect the main Christian beliefs about marriage.</li> <li>The priest declares the couple married.</li> <li>There are prayers and readings and the priest gives a sermon.</li> <li>There are hymns which reflect the themes of love and commitment.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A marriage contract or Nikah is signed by the bride and groom and witnesses.</li> <li>A <b>sermon</b> is given to bless the marriage. There are readings from the <b>Qur'an</b> and <b>ayahs</b> are also read.</li> <li>Vows are not necessary but may be exchanged.</li> <li><b>Prayers</b> for the bride and groom and their families.</li> </ol>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"To have and to hold, From this day forward, For better for worse, For richer for poorer, In sickness and in health, To love and to cherish."</p>	<p>"He created for you mates that you may find tranquility in them".</p>

Cohabitation	
Christianity	Islam
<p>The <b>Catholic Church</b> does not accept cohabitation - expects a couple to not have sex before marriage. Sex before marriage is called fornication and is a sin.</p> <p>The <b>Anglican Church</b> accepts cohabitation where it is part of a committed relationship, although it still believes that marriage would be the ideal.</p>	<p>Although in practice some Muslims may choose to cohabit, according to the teachings of Islam it is <b>always wrong</b>.</p> <p>Muslims believe that for a couple to live <b>together</b> in a sexual relationship they <b>must first be married</b>.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p>"It is better to marry than to be aflame with passion".</p>	<p>"There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage".</p>

**Issues with inter-faith marriage:** Eg: Where should a marriage take place (which place of worship); does one member of the couple need to convert; what faith are children brought up within; will family / the religious community approve of the relationship; what religious festivals will be celebrated.

## Adultery

Christianity	Islam
<p>Adultery is against the <b>Ten Commandments</b>, the laws handed down from God. The Ten Commandments forbid adultery: 'You shall not commit adultery.'</p> <p>Committing adultery destroys the special <b>spiritual</b> relationship between a husband and wife which involves God.</p>	<p>Adultery is seen as harmful to society, as it goes against the <b>unity and peace</b> of the <b>ummah</b> (brotherhood). Shariah law dictates harsh punishments for those guilty of adultery.</p> <p>Adultery is seen as a form of theft of the worst possible sort.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">'You shall not commit adultery.'</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">'And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.'</p>

**Humanists & Issues of Relationships:**

As humanists do not believe in God they do not accept that sex before marriage is wrong or that marriage is God's design for humans. Humanists believe in marriage as commitment is a morally good thing. They believe in same-sex marriage and women having full roles in worship as they believe all humans are fully equal. Divorce is accepted as the law accepts it and it is often the humane thing to do.

**Remarriage**

Roman Catholic: Remarriage not permitted in a Catholic Church. Civil ceremony may be chosen.

Anglican: is up to the personal discretion of the minister.

Muslim: remarriage permitted as marriage is considered the ideal state.

## Divorce & Separation

Christianity	Islam
<p>Roman Catholic - do not recognise divorce. It is not God's intention and solemn promises / vows made to God in the marriage ceremony cannot be broken.</p> <p>Liberal Christians and Church of England - divorce is allowed but not encouraged as it follows Jesus' teaching of 'doing the most compassionate thing'. Remarriage is discouraged and it is up to a vicar whether or not this can be done in a Church.</p>	<p>Divorce is permitted but it is hated by Allah. Attempts to reconcile must have already been made. Couple must live together sleeping separately for 3 months (known as iddah) in case there is pregnancy. Remarriage is encouraged as marriage is the ideal.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">"To have and to hold, From this day forward, For better for worse, For richer for poorer, In sickness and in health, To love and to cherish."</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">"There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage".</p>



## Sex

Christianity	Islam
<p>Roman Catholic / Fundamental / Conservative Christians - sex is a gift from God and should only take place in marriage. Sex outside of marriage is called fornication - this is a sin.</p> <p>Liberal / Church of England Christians - sex before marriage is an expression of love between a couple. They accept it as long as the couple are in a committed relationships that will ultimately lead to marriage.</p>	<p>Sex is an act of worship and should only take place between a man and a woman in marriage.</p> <p>The Qur'an condemns sex before marriage. Under Shariah law it is considered to be an offense similar to rape and adultery (zinah).</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">"It is better to marry than to be aflame with passion".</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">'And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.'</p>

**The Purity Movement**

Started in America, members of the purity movement make a commitment (to themselves, God and often to their father) not to have sex until marriage. This is a Conservative Christian movement, featuring events like the Purity Ball (led by the Wilson family). 3 of 10 teenagers in America are part of this movement.



## Contraception

Christianity	Islam
<p>The Bible does not say anything directly about contraception. 2 main views:</p> <p>Catholic and Fundamental (like the Duggars) - The Bible commands people to have children; sex should always be open to the possibility of having children.</p> <p>Anglicans -</p>	<p>Some Muslims do not accept its' use as they feel it goes against the duty to have children in marriage.</p> <p>Most Muslims accept its use as long as the methods are not permanent and it is not used to encourage promiscuity (sleeping around).</p> <p>Contraception cannot be used to stop a couple from having children altogether.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">"God said to Adam &amp; Eve: Be fruitful and increase in number".</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty".</p>

## Same Sex Marriage

Christianity	Islam
<p>Roman Catholic / Fundamental / Conservative Christians - same-sex marriage is not permitted as God intended marriage to be between a man and a woman for the purpose of creating new life. This cannot happen in a same-sex marriage.</p> <p>Liberal Christians accept that commitment in any relationship is to be valued. The Church of England will bless same-sex relationships and Quakers have been welcoming same-sex unions for 20 years as it follows Jesus' teachings of equality and compassion for others.</p>	<p>Islam does not recognise same-sex marriage. Islam forbids same-sex marriages / relationships as sex should only take place between a husband and wife.</p> <p>Marriage was designed by Allah to be a contract between a man and a woman only.</p> <p>It is a religious duty to have children and this cannot take place within a same sex relationship.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">'A man should not lie with a man as he would with a woman'.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">'And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.'</p>

## Gender Equality

Christianity	Islam
<p>Roman Catholic - women can take up an active role in the Church by becoming a nun. Women CANNOT become a priest or lead worship in a Church. Women's role in life is not too have authority in Church but to have authority at home and in their communities.</p> <p>Church of England / Anglican / Liberal Christians allow women to be ordained as vicars and bishops and take up positions of authority and leadership in the Church. Women have equal authority to men - reflecting the belief that God made all equal and that Jesus had female as well as male disciples.</p>	<p>Muslims are against discrimination as all people are made from the same soul.</p> <p>The Qur'an does not mention whether women can be imams or lead prayers, but traditionally only men are imams.</p> <p>In the hadith there is mention of 2 of Muhammad's wives leading prayer.</p>
<p>Sources of Authority</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">"I permit no woman to have authority over men".</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">"Your Lord.... created you from one soul and created from it .....men and women".</p>