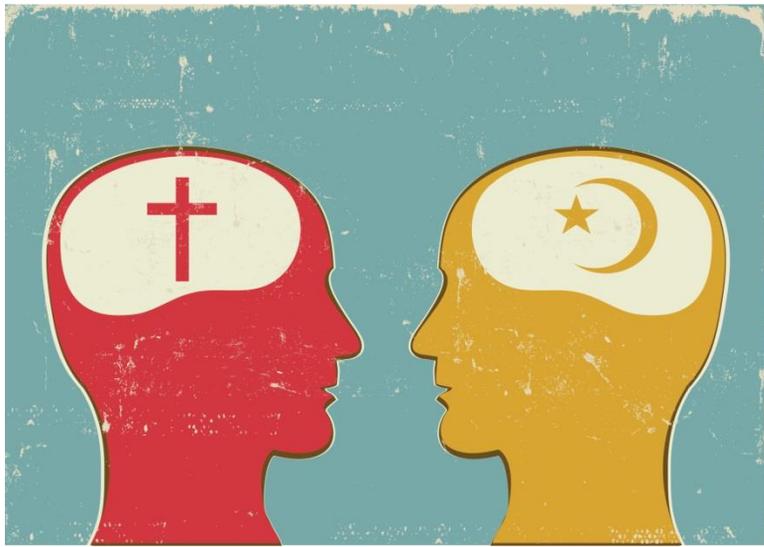


GCSE

Paper 2

Thematic Studies



Christianity & Islam

You must choose four of the six themes for the exam.

You have 1 minute per mark in the exam so you have approx. 25 mins per section when writing.

Part Two- Thematic Studies

Theme four– Religion, peace and conflict

Islam and Christianity



Contents:

1. Introduction - Beliefs
2. Violence, Violent protest and terrorism
3. Reasons for War
4. Nuclear War and weapons of mass destruction
5. The just war
6. Holy War
7. Pacifism and peacemaking
8. Victims of War

Tasks:

1. Read the booklet and highlight key points.
2. Look up any key words you don't know.
3. Make a note of any questions you have on post it notes and stick them next to the text in the booklet.
4. Work through some of the activity tasks in
5. Do practice questions

Theme Four – Religion, Peace and Conflict

General ideas

Introduction to religion, peace and conflict



Beliefs about War

- In war, killings are generally considered to be acceptable or at least inevitable.

Beliefs about Peace

- The intention of those fighting in a war is to create peace once the war is over.

Justice

- Means making up for a wrong that has been committed.
- Often linked with equality to avoid conflict.

Forgiveness

- Important for living peacefully.
Pardoning for someone for what they have done wrong.
Once the wrong is righted, after conflict, forgiveness should follow.

Reconciliation

- Follows conflict
- Rebuilding of relationships
- Both sides of conflict have to play an active part in this.

Christianity

- The Christian Church speaks out against killing and the teachings of Jesus do not support it.
- Individually – some fight for their country or their faith but many try to prevent it from happening.
i.e. Quakers will never take part in a war.
- Peace can also be a feeling of happiness, wellbeing and tranquillity.
- Achieved through prayer and meditation.
- **Isaiah 2:4 “Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more”**
- The above quote from Isaiah looks forward to a time when God, as the ultimate judge, will bring justice between nations and settle their disputes.
- Quakers believe we should use peace, reconciliation as tools for preventing conflict from happening in the first place.
- Quakers are committed to pacifism.
- Christians believe that forgiveness is important for living peacefully.
- God sets the example for forgiveness to all those who are truly sorry and who ask in faith.

Islam

- Main message of Islam is peace and harmony.
- However, if fighting is in self defence or defence of the faith it can be justified.
- Muslims believe that God has given humankind the ability to make choices. If some decide to fight without just cause it cannot be the fault of God or Islam. As it is different to the teachings.
- Emphasis on Peace in the Qur’an. The word ‘Islam’ in Arabic comes from the root word ‘salam’ meaning peace or safety.
- The common greeting among Muslims. ‘as salamu alaikum’ which also means ‘peace be upon you.’
- The ‘Just’ is one of the 99 names for God.
- Muslims believe that God has provided the laws to help people to bring about justice on earth.
- In March 2013 French Foreign minister Laurent Fabius said about the conflict between his country and Mali. “We are in the process of winning the war, We also have to win the peace. And winning the peace involves a whole series of acts to help democracy and development.”
- Country where 90% of population are Muslims.
- **‘The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth, and who, when aggressive people address them, reply with words of peace.’**
(Qur’an 25:63)

General ideas

Violence and Protest



- Right to protest is considered to be democratic freedom.
- Law in the UK allows individuals or groups to protest in public but the police legally have to be informed at least 6 days before it takes place. The police can ask for alterations with marches or ban the march if they predict that violence will be involved.
- There is no right to protest violently.
- No religion promotes violence in their teachings.
- **Terrorism**
- A more serious form of Violent protest is Terrorism.
- This is where an individual or group who share certain beliefs use terror as part of their campaigns to further their cause.
- No religious tradition promotes terrorism.

Christianity

- Important part of the Civil Rights movement in USA
- Christian Pastor Martin Luther King Jr organised peacefully rallies
- His approach reflects the belief shared by many Christians that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable provided violence is not used.
- Christians consider terrorism as wrong especially as the victims are usually innocent people.

Islam

- **Qu'ran 4.29-30 "Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you. If any of you does these things, out of hostility and injustice, We shall make him suffer Fire."**
- Muslims also consider terrorism to be wrong due to the innocent people getting hurt.
- On 7th July 2005, there were 4 suicide bombings in London and although the terrorist attached themselves to the religion of Islam, most Muslims condemned the attacks.

Reasons for War

- Greed can lead rulers and nations wanting to take over countries for land or important resources.
- Most consider fighting in self defence to be morally acceptable.
- Many also believe that defending other nations under threat is also acceptable.



- Christianity warns against greed.
- **"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." 1 Timothy 6:10**
- There is little in the New Testament to justify the idea of fighting in self-defence, an argument can be made for it provided all other ways of solving the problem have failed.

- The Qur'an warns against greed. **"God does not like arrogant, boastful people who are miserly and order other people to be the same, hiding the bounty God has given them." Qur'an 4:36-37**
- Many major oil-producing countries are governed according to Muslim Shari'ah law and principles so any disagreement based on oil can turn into a conflict that can be interpreted as including a religious element.
- The Qur'an permits fighting in self defence but are unlikely to agree unless all other ways have failed.
- **"Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged – God has the power to help them."**

Christianity

Islam

Reasons for war



Retaliation

- **“Do not repay anyone evil for evilIf it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:17-19**
- When Jesus was asked about retaliation he gave this advice.....
- **“But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also” Matthew 5:£9**

- Muslims believe that God knows there is a human need for justice to protest innocent lives and prevent wrongdoing.
- **“Fair retribution (retaliation) saves life for you, people of understanding, so that you may guard yourselves against what is wrong” Qur’an 2:179**
- However, the Qur’an also teaches that forgiveness is the best response. **“If you (believers) have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate, but it is best to stand fast.” Qur’an 2:179**
- Teaches that retaliation must be measured. Torture and mutilation are strictly forbidden under Islamic law.

Nuclear Weapons



Background:

- During the second World War, 2 nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.
- Around 80,000 people died in Hiroshima as a result of the explosion and the death toll rose to around 140,000 as many more died from radiation poisoning.
- 60% of buildings were destroyed
- Since then, rich countries have made even more of these weapons.
- The justification is that these nuclear weapons prevent World wars
- It is estimated that in 2015, 9 nations possessed around 15,700 nuclear weapons between them.

General ideas

Christianity

Islam



- Weapons that could kill millions of people, especially innocents, goes against the teachings of religions.

- The UK, a generally Christian country, had around 215 nuclear weapons in 2015.
- Fundamental Christian belief that as the creator, only God has the authority to end the life that he created.”
- **“You shall not murder” Exodus 20:13.**
- Weapons of mass destruction is counter to the teachings of Jesus, who was a pacifist and therefore wrong.
- Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CCND) – supports the abolition of nuclear weapons.

- Pakistan had around 120 nuclear weapons in 2015.
- Muslims have a duty and responsibility to care for the Earth and to work for peace.
- The Qur’an gives positive advice that appears to rule out the use of any weapons **“Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good.” Qur’an 2:195**
- Even though Iraq and Syria are both Muslim countries the governments are believed to have used chemical weapons against groups within their own country.

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

The Just War



- The Just War theory seeks to lay out the conditions under which fighting a war is justified and provides rules under which a war is justifiable.
- The Geneva Convention was agreed by the UK government in 1957 and this lays down the rule that must be obeyed in war.
- **Read about the Falklands War on p.133 of the Christian textbook.**

- 4th century – St Augustine was one of the first Christians to write about the morality of war and were developed into a distinct set of criteria by Thomas Aquinas in the 13th Century.
- Criteria:
 - Must have a just cause (Self defence or defending someone)
 - Must be declared by government or lawful rulers
 - War should promote good
 - There must be chance of success
 - Excessive force not allowed.
- Most Christians believe that no war is better than a just war.
- Some Christians completely disagree with the idea of a just war because it allows war in certain circumstances.

- Lesser Jihad obliges Muslims to fight under certain conditions. It covers fighting against non Muslim aggressors and there are strict rules:
- Believe it must be a last resort
 - Must have a just cause (Self defence or defending someone)
 - As lesser jihad is a religious concept, the decision to fight should be made by a state leader.
 - An Islamic country has been attacked – countries are allowed to join a conflict to assist another Muslim state which is under threat.
 - Another state has tyrannised its Muslim citizens – if a country mistreats its Islamic citizens it is allowed for them to fight in support of fellow Muslims.
 - The Muslim rules of war are over 1300 years old but still retain relevance today.
 - Most Muslims oppose the use of chemical weapons because the damage caused is not proportionate.

	General ideas	Christianity	Islam
<p data-bbox="57 164 207 347">Holy War and religion as the cause of violence</p> 	<ul data-bbox="249 164 471 830" style="list-style-type: none"> • To many people the concept of holy War is a contradiction as killing people in large numbers can have no justification. • In the Crusades in the 11th to 14th centuries both Muslims and Christians believed that God was on their sides. 	<ul data-bbox="499 164 913 1825" style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Old testament there are many references to god helping the Jew win bloody battles • For Christians a holy war must be authorised by a religious leader with great authority. The reward is going straight to heaven. • Christians don't widely believe in holy wars but will fight if their faith is attacked. They are more likely to use the power of argument than the power of the military. • In the UK Christians don't see the need to respond violently if their faith is attacked as this is against Christian teachings. • Some denominations of Christians such as Catholics and Protestants have disagreed e.g. The Troubles in Northern Ireland between 1968-1998. This led to violence. • In the old Testament it says <u>"eye for eye, tooth for tooth"</u> <u>Exodus 21:24</u>. this can be seen to justify violence but it was written 3000 years and for most Christians Jesus taught forgiveness in the New Testament <u>"anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgement"</u>. <u>Matthew 5:21-22</u>. • Jesus also said in <u>Luke 22:36</u> <u>"if you don't have a sword then sell your cloak and buy one"</u> and some Christians see this as justification for violent resistance. But most Christians dismiss this ideas and in <u>Matthew 26:52</u> Jesus says <u>"for all who draw the sword die by the sword"</u>. 	<ul data-bbox="942 164 1406 1758" style="list-style-type: none"> • For Muslims the lesser jihad makes holy war an important concept as it defends Muslim rights and rights of Muslims. • Muhammad and his followers were forced to defend themselves from attackers. If they hadn't, it is likely Islam would have been wiped out. • 1400 years later, The Qur'an still retains the importance of jihad. • Holy War cannot forcible convert people to Islam. It cannot be used to take over other countries, nor for financial gain. • It must be fought for God. • For Holy War to be declared, Islam must be under threat. An oppressive ruler can be removed, for example. • It must be a last resort, in self defence, following negotiation and diplomatic efforts. • The Holy War must be declared by a fair religious leader. Muslims have a duty to respond unless their families couldn't survive without them. • Muslims must not run away from battle as this is against God. • Any Muslim killed in battle is promised a place in paradise. • Holy Wars caused the Crusades between Christians and Muslims. • The Pope assured Christians they had God's support. • The Muslims, led by Saladin, believed they were defending holy cities. • Holy War can be used to justify acts of terrorism and groups attaching themselves to Islam, such as Al Qaeda and ISIS, claim they are using Holy War. • <u>Read the story about Charlie Hebdo on p.121 of Islam textbook.</u>

	General ideas	Christianity	Islam
Pacifism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pacifist is a person who believes that war and violence can never be justified and that conflicts should be settled in a peaceful way. Promoting justice and religious and human rights is an important part of this. Some pacifists involve themselves in political discussions even when war is not on the agenda. They will always argue against conflict as a solution to a problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian pacifists believe peace can come through religious faith, prayer and meditation. Being at peace with ones self helps people avoid conflict. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God' (Matthew 5:9). Anglican Pacifist Fellowship – 1400 members in over 40 countries. Believe peace and justice should be brought about by non violent means. They have 3 principles, 1) Jesus teaching is incompatible with war, 2) The Christian Church should never support/justify war, 3) Christian witness should include opposing the waging or justifying war <u>Read about Mairead Corrigan, a Catholic from Northern Ireland who formed the Peace People organisation in protest against the Troubles in Northern Ireland.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islam is a religion of peace. Muslims find it difficult to identify themselves as pacifists because of the duty of jihad: <u>'Fighting has been ordained for you, though it is hard for you. You may dislike something although it is good for you, or like something because it is bad for you: God knows and you do not.'</u> (Qur'an 49:9). The Qur'an advises that if peace is offered, then it must not be refused: <u>'but if they [non-believers] incline towards peace, you [Prophet] must also incline towards it, and put your trust in God: He is the All Hearing, the All Knowing.'</u> (Qur'an 8:61). Many Muslims find that a sense of inner peace comes from submitting their lives to God and to their faith.
Responses to victims of war	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casualties are an unavoidable part of war. The impact on families can be great if the main wage earner dies for example. In Britain, if a member of the military is killed or injured, financial systems are in place to help the family. Injured soldiers receive free health care and charities like Help for Heroes support too. Injury and death can, however, have a devastating impact on family and friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Christians support charities because of the belief <u>'love your neighbour as yourself'</u> (Mark 12:31). Jesus explained this to his followers with the <u>Parable of the Good Samaritan</u> (Luke 10:25-37). Caritas is a Catholic organisation who serve the poor and promote charity and justice throughout the world. In 2015, Caritas provided food and shelter for refugees fleeing war in Syria. Christian Aid was set up in the 1940s to help victims of war. They have the slogan 'We believe in life before death'. Recently they have helped people in Gaza, Afghanistan and Syria. Christian Aid Week occurs each May when envelopes are distributed in the UK for people to provide donations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islamic Relief is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) created in 1984. The founders, inspired by Islam, respond to the victims of war by providing short term relief and also during natural disasters and emergencies. They allocate resource regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief. <u>'Whoever saved a life, it would be as if they saved the life of all mankind'</u> (Qur'an 5:32). Muslim Aid is a British charity set up in 1985 by the leaders of 17 Islamic organisations. In 2014, they set up the Beity orphanage in Turkey to give a home to 75 young children whose parents had been killed in the Syrian civil war. They also provide healthcare, spiritual support and in 2015 started building a new orphanage in Syria.

Part Two- Thematic Studies

Theme one – Relationships and Families

Islam and Christianity



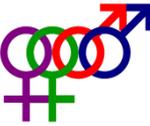
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4. Do practice questions

Contents:

1. Human sexuality
2. Sexual relationships outside marriage
3. Contraception and family planning
4. Marriage
5. Divorce and remarriage
6. Nature of families in the 21st century
7. Purpose of families in the 21st century
8. Gender equality

Theme One – relationships and family

	General ideas	Christianity	Islam
<p>Human sexuality</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human sexuality refers to the way people express themselves as sexual beings. People begin to have sexual feelings at puberty and normally leads to intercourse with the opposite sex and reproduction. A heterosexual relationship is a sexual relationship with the opposite sex and a homosexual relationship is a sexual relationship with a member of the same sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Christian church teaches that the only valid place for a sexual relationship is within a marriage. This was the accepted viewpoint in the past when the church had more power. Recent changes to the law are changing perceptions e.g. legal abortions, legalising homosexual relationships and marriage (not in a church) . In 1885 sexual acts between homosexuals was made illegal and made legal in 1967 for over 21s. In the UK you can legally consent to sex at 16. Christians believe that heterosexual relationships are part of gods plans; Genesis says <u>'A man and a woman should be united together and increase in number' (Genesis 1:28 and 2:24)</u>. This is why so many Christians are opposed to sex outside of marriage and between homosexuals. In the bible it is written that <u>'sexual relationships between men is forbidden' (Corinthians 6:9-10)</u>. The Church of England welcomes homosexual Christians who live in committed relationships and think that the bible should be interpreted in the context of modern society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexual relationships are forbidden in Islam and in most Muslim countries like it was in Britain until 1967. Islam considers same sex relationships to be against the natural laws created by god. Muslims believe that the Qur'an and hadith teach that homosexuality is against gods will and that they should not break gods law. The punishment for homosexual acts can be severe. The Prophet Lut (Lot) spoke Gods words: <u>'Must you, unlike other people, lust after males and abandon the wives that God has created for you? You are exceeding all bounds' (Qur'an 26:165-166)</u>. In 2016 a survey showed that ½ of British Muslims don't approve of homosexuality. Many British Muslims accept that homosexuality is part of life in Britain and some Muslim Organisations like the 'Inclusive Mosque Initiative' believe that homosexuality should be accepted. There is no age of consent for Muslims but they believe that sex should only occur in marriage. Some Muslim parents will arrange marriages but only when they agree and are ready to enter into such a commitment.
<p>Sexual relationships outside of marriage</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, sex before marriage was considered shocking, especially for women. Even today, in some cultures, women can be asked to leave home if they do this. In Britain, sex before marriage is widely accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that people should be sexually pure (chaste) before becoming married. They believe it is wrong to use people for sex, spread STDs or risk an unwanted pregnancy. Some Christians accept that people should have sex before marriage and this is a more liberal (and not widely accepted) view. <u>'You shall not commit adultery' (Exodus 20:14)</u>. 'Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.' (1 Corinthians 5:18-19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslims believe that casual sex is wrong. Sexual responsibility involves moral considerations too. Muslims believe that children have a right to be born into a loving relationship and to know their mother and father. Adultery (sex outside marriage) is considered a sin. <u>'And do not go anywhere near adultery: it is an outrage and an evil path' (Qur'an 17:32)</u>. Under Shari'ah law, the punishment for adultery in some countries is death by stoning. All convictions require a confession or 4 eyewitness accounts of the act. This is therefore very rare.

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

Contraception and family planning



- Contraception is a way of preventing pregnancy when a couple have sex:
- The pill, or injection, which contains a hormone that stops women from producing eggs.
- The diaphragm, or condom, which stop the sperm meeting the egg. Condoms also prevent the spread of STDs.
- Spermicidal jellies which kill sperm.
- The coil and the morning after pill which stop the fertilised egg from implanting in the womb.
- Sterilisation (surgical operation) which a permanent way of preventing pregnancy.

- Christians believe that God's greatest gift is a child to a married couple.
- It is also accepted that people might want to avoid having children.
- Catholics and the Orthodox Church believe that artificial contraception (e.g. condoms) are against natural law.
- Catholics believe the use of contraception is sinful because it is preventing God's plan.
- There are many who criticise this view because of the spread of diseases like AIDs and the world's increasing population.
- Anglicans and non-conformists believe that parents should choose when to have children and that sex shouldn't mean a baby.
- Many believe that the coil and morning after pill are a form of abortion because they act against a fertilised egg.

- Muslims believe that contraception should only be used by married couples.
- There is an expectation that married couples should have children.
- They also believe that contraception to aid a woman's health is important.
- The Qur'an doesn't mention contraception but most accept that Islam doesn't want to impose hardship on people and is therefore sympathetic to family planning.
- **'God wishes to lighten your burden; man was created weak'. (Qur'an 4:28).**
- Avicenna, a Muslim doctor in the 11th century, listed 20 different substances used for birth control.
- Some Muslims believe contraception is wrong – 'do not kill your children for fear of poverty – we shall provide for than and for you – killing them is a great sin.' (Qur'an 17:31)

Marriage



- People marry to share their lives with someone they love.
- Marriage used to be defined as the legal union of a man and a woman but in the UK in 2004, same-sex couples were allowed to register for a civil partnership which gave them the same rights as married couples.
- Same-sex marriages became legal in 2014 in Britain and in 2015 in Ireland.
- Some couples choose to live together without getting married, this is called cohabitation.

- Some Christians dislike the changes to marriage laws.
- Churches can opt not to allow same-sex marriages.
- They believe that marriage is a sacrament – a lifelong union blessed by God.
- Couples are meant to support each other through good and bad times.
- Couples should love each other **'as Christ loved the church.'** (**Ephesians 5:25.**)
- The purpose of marriage is to provide a stable, secure and loving environment for family life.
- Some Christians think cohabitation is sinful.
- The Catholic Church agrees: **'the sexual act must always take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin.'** (**Catechism 2390.**)

- Muslims believe that marriage is the foundation for family life.
- Both partners must take full responsibility for their children.
- It is also the best way to have a stable relationship and true sexual fulfilment.
- **The Qur'an teaches that husbands and wives are like garments for each other (Qur'an 2:187).**
- Marriage helps people to develop spiritually and prevents them from sinning (by controlling sexuality).
- Some Muslims have an arranged marriage and some parents help their children find suitable partners.
- A Muslim woman must marry a Muslim but a Muslim man can marry a Muslim, Christian or Jew.
- Muslims have to request permission to marry from their parents.

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

Divorce and remarriage



- In England and Wales in 2012, 42% of marriages ended in divorce.
- A legally recognised civil divorce must be obtained through the courts.
- Remarriage is allowed as many times as people want but to a different person.
- The most common cause of divorce is adultery.
- Sometimes people can fall out of love, one partner may become ill, become addicted to something (e.g. gambling or alcohol) or there can be domestic abuse.

- Divorce can create anger and resentment and churches try to avoid this by offering course to prepare couples for marriage.
- There can sometimes be circumstance where divorce is necessary, such as with domestic violence.
- Jesus said **'anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.'** (Mark 10:11-12).
- Catholics say that a divorce cannot dissolve a marriage between two baptised people.
- Catholics can receive an annulment so they can remarry.
- Methodists accept divorces and allow remarriage. The Eastern Orthodox Church grant divorces and remarriage but only twice.

- Muslims allow divorce as a last resort but believe it to be hateful to God (Hadith)
- The Qur'an guarantees the rights of both men and women to divorce. Muhammad married a divorced woman.
- For a religious divorce, the man must declare it to the woman verbally or in writing and they must wait 3 months (iddah) whilst still living together. This allows time to reconsider and see if the woman is pregnant.
- If a divorce is granted, the woman must repay the marriage gift. The husband must support the children.
- **The Qur'an encourages reconciliation by allowing family members to try and bring the couple back together, if God wills (Qur'an 4:35).**
- **'Divorced women shall also have maintenance as is considered fair: this is a duty for those who are mindful of God.'** (Qur'an 2:241)

Nature of families in the 21st century



- The family is still considered the best environment for bringing up children and keeping society stable.
- The nuclear family – mum, dad and children – is most common in Western Europe.
- 25% of children in the UK live in a 1-parent family.
- There are many stepfamilies (where parents have remarried) and there are more same-sex families.
- Grandparents used to live with their children in old age but this is less common today.

- The Catholic Church describes parenting as **'here one learns endurance and the joy of work... love, generous – and even repeated – forgiveness, and above all, divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life.'** (Catechism 1657).
- Christian parents want their children to grow up with values such as respect for all life, generosity, compassion, loyalty, tolerance, self-discipline and the ability to form loving relationships.
- The commandment to **'honour your father and mother'** (Exodus 20:12) is an important belief today.
- Some people in the bible practised polygamy (more than one wife) but Christians today believe the ideal marriage is between a man and a woman.

- The extended family is the basis of Islamic society.
- Muslims care for their parents because they looked after them when they were young.
- Islam allows for a man to have more than one wife (polygamy) but this is not considered acceptable in Western countries and is illegal in the UK.
- Muhammad had many wives because it was customary at the time.
- Men are expected to work to provide for the family and women look after the home and the children.
- Muslims are expected to bring up their children with an understanding of Islam, how to pray and keep halal food laws.
- Parents often send children to a madrassah (mosque school) to learn the Qur'an in Arabic.

General ideas

Purpose of families in the 21st century



- The basic social unit is the family and serves many purposes:
- It controls sexual behaviour, created stability for family members, protects children and supplies their basic needs, helps children learn how to relate to others, provides security for the sick and old and, in religious families, it's where children are educated in faith.

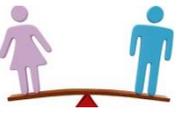
Christianity

- The idea of family is deeply ingrained in belief about God.
- Christians believe that God reveals himself as Father, with Jesus as his son and humankind as his children.
- Christian parents are expected to be good role models and to teach them moral values.
- Many parents will make daily prayer part of the family routine.
- Some parents send their children to faith schools to further this education.
- **'Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.'** (Ephesians 5:25).
- **Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.'** (Proverbs 23:22)
- **Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.** (Colossians 3:20-21)

Islam

- The Qur'an addresses married people as 'protected' and 'guarded' as is these relationships form a fortress against sin, loneliness and outside dangers.
- **'For every tree there is a fruit and the fruit of the heart is the child.'** (Hadith).
- For Muslims, children are a blessing from God and the family is especially important for providing a stable upbringing.
- Children must be respectful to their parents and elders and this must continue into adulthood.
- **'Lower your wing in humility towards [your parents] in kindness and say, 'Lord, have mercy on them, just as they cared for me when I was little.'** (Qur'an 17:24).
- Islam honours elders for their wisdom and experience.
- Muslims have a responsibility to care for their parents in old age.

Gender equality



- Most people in Britain agree with the idea of gender equality (that men and women should have the same rights and opportunities).
- Something that prevents this is sexual stereotyping e.g. women are weaker than men and should therefore look after the home.
- This can lead to gender discrimination which has been illegal in Britain since 1975 with the Sex Discrimination Act.
- Many people still think is stereotypical terms e.g. a doctor is a man and a nurse is a woman.

- Christians believe that God created men and women equally.
- The command to love one's neighbour means that discrimination is wrong.
- Jesus treated women with respect, welcomed them as disciples and showed in the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42) that they were capable of more than just domestic tasks.
- Some Christians literally interpret the bible which says that women should stay at home but this reflects the time at which the bible was written.
- In Genesis 3:16, for example, God punishes Eve for her disobedience saying **'with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.'** (Genesis 3:16).

- Muslims believe that God created all people equal.
- The Qur'an teaches that men and women were created from a single soul and have the same spiritual human nature.
- Muhammad worked to unite the tribes in Madinah into one community (ummah) under God.
- Islamic law recognises full property rights for women before and after marriage and a married woman may keep her maiden name.
- Husbands must provide child support for the family.
- In some Muslim countries, women don't have full rights under law, but this is against the teachings of the Qur'an.
- Some people believe that Muslim women suffer prejudice because they wear a veil, for example, but Muslims say this is their choice.

Part Two- Thematic Studies

Theme Five – religion, crime and punishment

Islam and Christianity



Tasks:

1. Read the booklet and highlight key points.
2. Look up any key words you don't know.
3. Make a note of any questions you have on post it notes and stick them next to the text in the booklet.
4. Do practice questions

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Reasons for crime
3. Lawbreakers and different types of crime
4. Suffering and causing suffering to others
5. Three aims of punishment
6. The treatment of criminals: prison, corporal punishment and community service
7. Forgiveness
8. The Death Penalty



Theme Five – Religion, Crime and Punishment

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

Introduction



Criminal Law

- A crime is any action which is against the law of the state. In the UK parliament determines laws, the police arrest the criminal and then they can be charged. They face a hearing in front of a magistrate before going to a crown court in front of a judge and jury of 12 random people.
- Less serious crimes can be dealt with in the **magistrates court** and sometimes the police may just give a caution.
- Offenders found guilty by a court face legal punishment. Serious crimes like murder or rape can carry a life sentence in prison (not actually life) whereas less serious crimes can have short prison terms or **community service** or even just a fine.
- If the court finds them not guilty they are released without punishment.
- No sentence can cause physical harm such as death penalty or flogging.
- Victims can not punish the offender.

Civil Law

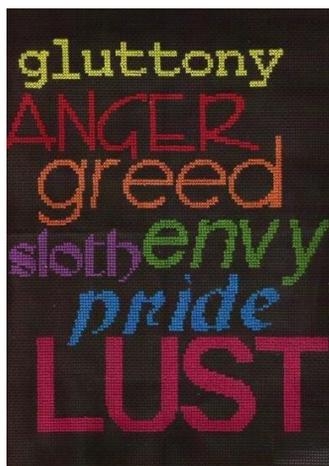
- Civil law concerns disputes between private groups or individuals e.g. divorce, wills, property. Usually dealt with in a small claims court

Good and Evil Actions and Intentions

- Obeying law is a good action but generosity and love are also good actions but not law e.g., supporting charity. Religions encouraged good actions even when not law.
- Evil actions involve suffering for others e.g. violent crime.
- In the UK crime can take into account intention of the guilty person. Did they intend to use violence e.g. road accident. This can affect the length of the punishment.

- The bible teaches against having evil thoughts.
- **Matthew 5:21-22 “you have heard it was said to people long ago, You shall not murder” and anyone who murders will be subject to punishment”.**
- Christians believe that even though some actions, such as adultery, are not crimes, they are wrong.
- Evil is linked to Satan and crimes are considered evil and wicked.
- Christians claim that there aren't evil people just mistakes. Original sin is from Adam and Eve for eating the apple.
- They believe God created people as good and any crime must be down to illness. They deserve treatment as well as punishment.

- Muslim countries e.g. Saudi Arabia and Egypt can give the death penalty.
- In some UK cities Muslims have been allowed to set up their own Shar'iah law courts to make judgments on civil issues in their communities.
- Muslims see evil linked with Satan (Iblis) who refused to bow to Adam and now tries to make man do wrong. Muslims see crime as doing evil against God's will.
- Muslims believe people make mistakes and crime is due to temptation not evil.
- Under Shar'iah law the seriousness of the crime is linked to the religious value breached by the crime. Thinking of committing a crime can be considered as serious as doing it.



General ideas

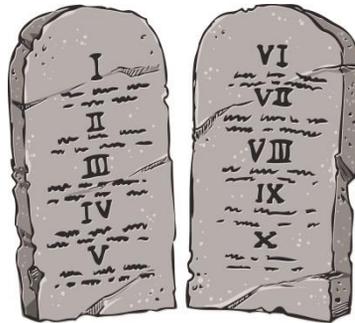
Reasons for crime

- Crime can be **selfish** or sometimes circumstances can make it understandable
- **Poverty** can lead to crime such as stealing food. This is still a crime and will lead to arrest.
- Religious people are encouraged to give generously to help the poor.
- Some people commit crime through **mental illness** e.g. kleptomania which is a mental condition encouraging people to steal.
- **Anger management** issues can lead to violent crime and if found ill then the criminal will avoid trial and be held in a secure hospital.
- **Addiction** to drugs or alcohol can lead to stealing, affect the way people behave and lead to violence
- **Greed** can lead to theft or fraud.
- **Hatred** can lead to violence



Christianity

- Christians rarely see any justification for crime. They refer to the bible.
- **Romans 13:1** "let everyone be subject to the governing authorities for there is no authority except which that God has created".
- Christians do not like excessive alcohol consumption.
- In the **Ten Commandments** Christians are told not to envy other people's possessions as envy is one of the Seven Deadly Sins.



Islam

- Most Muslims do not think there is any reason to break the law especially in countries with Sghar'iah law.
- **Qur'an 5:45** "those who do not judge according to what god has revealed are doing grave wrong"
- Muslims give money to help the poor (Zakah). Muslims hope such community support will stop people resorting to crime.
- Muslims believe strong extended family will bring up children to support the law.
- Muslims forbid the taking of illegal drugs and alcohol. They are temptations that will lead people to wrong.
- Hatred is against Muslim morality.
- Shar'iah law, followed in some Muslim countries, is believed to be God's law so there can be no excuses for breaking God's word.

General ideas

Lawbreakers and different types of crime



- Some people can break the law to improve things such as Civil Rights for Blacks or Women e.g. Rosa Parks in the USA and the Bus seat. If human rights are improved breaking the law can be seen as right.
- All lawbreakers are innocent until proven guilty. If there is any kind of reasonable doubt then the person is found innocent.
- Some believe offenders should be helped to reform so they don't break the law again.
- Lawbreakers have rights and these are protected while they are punished.
- Hate crimes- using violence against a person due to race, religion, sexuality, gender or disability.
- Theft- stealing possessions.
- Murder- deliberate killing of another human

Christianity

- Against lawbreakers in general and in the UK there are some laws which Christians don't like but follow to promote order in society.
- Some Christians believe the punishment should be as severe as the crime.
- Some believe prisoners should be helped to reform as Jesus treated prisoners well which encourages Christians to treat prisoners with compassion.
- Christians condemn hate crimes and murder and Jesus taught that all people **"should love thy neighbour" Mark 12:31**
- Jesus mixed with people all over society and never turned anyone away.
- Christians teach the golden rule "do to others what you want them to do to you". Therefore crime is wrong.

Islam

- Against lawbreakers in general and in the UK there are some laws which Muslims don't like but follow to promote order in society.
- Muslims believe God created all humans with equal value and no individual or group should be singled out. Hate crimes are against this idea.
- Muslims may have sympathy for someone stealing out of need but they believe the needy should be cared for by the community.

Shar'iah law's 4 Four crimes:

1. Hadud (unforgivable crimes) e.g. alcohol, drugs banned by Qur'an
2. Al-Jnayaat (forgivable crimes) e.g. murder
3. Al Ta'azir (community crimes) fraud and antisocial behaviour.
4. Al Mukhalafat (crimes against the state law e.g. speeding or parking offences.

Three aims of punishment



Retribution – Get your own back. Criminals should receive the same injuries and damage they've caused e.g. murder = execution

Deterrence – Punish someone severely for a crime and it will put off others from doing the same thing e.g. driving ban for drunk driving.

Reformation – offenders are worked with to explain how their crimes are bad for society. It is hoped they will change their attitude through therapy and counselling. Often they do community service to meet the victims.

- Believe criminals should get a punishment to match the crime. Not literally.
- Christians believe all people should be treated with respect so dislike violent punishment.
- Christians favour reformation as they like forgiveness.
- **Romans 12:19-21 "Do not take revenge. Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good".**
- This encourages Christians to show compassion and to help reform prisoners while they are being punished.

- Muslims believe punishment cleans the offender of sin and protects them from punishment in the afterlife.
- Muslims have the right to forgive Al-Jinayaat crimes with the victim or the family granting mercy and receiving compensation rather than the death penalty.
- Muslims favour severe punishments as crime is against God who created the law
- In the UK adultery is not a crime so not punishable so Muslims believe the punishment will occur in the afterlife.
- Islam allows reform if the offender asks for God's forgiveness.

	General ideas	Christianity	Islam
<p>Suffering and causing suffering to others</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffering is an important part of living possibly caused by illness or behaviour. Many question why a loving God causes suffering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believes good can come from suffering <u>Romans 5:3-4 “we know that suffering produces perseverance”</u> Christians believe we should follow the example of Jesus who helped those who suffered. Christians believe man has free will to behave as we choose. If we choose evil then we are punished by law. Jesus’ teachings showed people how to use free will responsibly. Opposed to causing others to suffer but realise that sometimes mental health can cause accidents. It is up to Christians to repair the damage they may have caused. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaches that hope and faith can help believers endure suffering. They also believe in human free will but think that if man follows the teachings of the Qur’an and stay close to God then they will make good decisions and use their free will responsibly. Causing suffering to others is against the Qur’an and they share a worldwide view of Muslims as a community of brothers and sisters in need. It teaches Muslims to try to stop suffering <u>“Be compassionate towards the destitute” Hadith.</u> Muslims believe that there are tests and temptations in life and any harm done to others must be made up by repairing the damage caused. God will forgive anyone who honestly repents e.g. Adam and Hawwa (Eve).
<p>Forgiveness</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core belief in Christianity, emphasised through Jesus’ teachings. If Christians forgive others then God will forgive them.. <u>“forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” Lord’s Prayer.</u> Many Christians don’t see forgiveness as a replacement for punishment but the purpose of the punishment should be to reform the offender. The bible says that Christians should forgive unlimited times as there is no limit to the amount of love God shows us. Even as he was being crucified Jesus said <u>“forgive them father, for they do not know what they are doing”.</u> <u>Luke 23:34</u> Christians believe sinners should repent and change their ways. <u>Read the story of Maureen Greaves</u> NEPACS (North East prison After Care Society) is a Christian group who helps offenders once they are released. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punishment must satisfy the demands of society and the person wronged. It must be pleasing to God. Forgiveness forms no part of the punishment process. Forgiveness from God – God is compassionate and merciful and will forgive those who are truly sorry. Forgiveness from humans – Humans should forgive those who ask for forgiveness and then the forgiven should ask God for forgiveness. This can happen unlimited times because there is no limit to God’s love. <u>Qur’an 24:22 Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not wish that God should forgive you?”</u> <u>Read the story of Samera Alinejad on page 141</u> 	

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

The treatment of criminals: prison, corporal punishment and community service



- **Prison** – reserved for serious crimes. It means loss of liberty and prisoners are locked in cells for long periods of time, fed a set times and have to do manual work.
- **Corporal punishment** – punishment through physical pain e.g. whipping them. It was legal in UK state schools until 1987 and all schools in 2003.
- Community service – this offers offenders the chance to do something positive to make up for their crimes.
- Community payback is when offenders do between 40-300 hours of service improving their areas such as removing graffiti. They can also receive counselling or treatment for addiction.
- Offenders under 18 may complete a work programme and apologise to the victim.

- Christians believe in supporting prisoners to reform through education and training facilities.
- Imposing physical pain is almost completely unacceptable to most Christians. Because Jesus taught about love and caring for people
- **Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them".**
- In 2007 the Church of England wrote a report commending community service

- Some Muslim countries allowing caning for crimes such as gambling and sexual promiscuity e.g. Iran.
- Muslims agree with the use of prisons but only while awaiting trial. The punishments are usually corporal. Muslims argue long periods in prison is more severe through separating families than short periods of pain.
- Shari'ah law can also amputate the hand of a thief although this is rare.
- **Qur'an 5:38 Cut off the hands of thieves, whether they are man or woman, as punishment for what they have done".**
- Community service is not considered enough of a deterrent under Shari'ah law

The Death Penalty



- Abolished in the UK in 1965 as five year experiment and permanently abolished in 1969. Several campaigns to get it reintroduced but all failed.
- Since its abolition three people executed in the 1950s have been pardoned due to new evidence. Since then some murderers, in prison, have been pardoned and would have been executed if the death penalty still existed.
- The **philosophical principle of utility** suggests that an action is right if it makes most people happy but it doesn't support the death penalty because it is revenge.
- The **sanctity of life** is a teaching that God gave life and only He can take it away. This means the death penalty takes away God's right to take life.
- Others argue God approves of the death penalty because a murderer has taken life instead of God.
- Some people argue that the death penalty protects society by killing killers.

- Christian attitudes vary. The Old Testament says "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth"
- Christians believe that it is not right to take another life and that only God has the right to take life as He gifted it to humanity.
- Jesus taught about the importance of forgiveness and warned people not to judge each other harshly.
- The Christian belief is in reform and hope that offenders can be reformed and become members of society.



- Shari'ah law allows for the death penalty however a family can forgive the offender upon payment of blood money (compensation).
- **Qur'an 6:151 If the culprit is pardoned..the culprit shall pay what is due".**
- In Shari'ah law death penalty can be for: treason, leaving the faith, terrorism, rape, adultery, homosexual activity.
- Methods vary from country to country but include stoning, firing squad, hanging and beheading.
- It is usually in public to deter others.
- In the Qur'an it is preferable to forgive, even on the day of execution.
- Some Muslims oppose the death penalty The Muslim Peace Fellowship is devoted to Muslim non-violence

Part Two- Thematic Studies

Theme six – religion, human rights and social justice

Islam and Christianity



Tasks:

1. Read the booklet and highlight key points.
2. Look up any key words you don't know.
3. Make a note of any questions you have on post it notes and stick them next to the text in the booklet.
4. Do practice questions

Contents:

1. Human rights
2. Social justice
3. Religious freedom
4. Prejudice and discrimination
5. The status and roles of women
6. Wealth
7. Exploitation
8. Giving money to the poor



Theme six – religion, human rights and social justice

	General ideas	Christianity	Islam
<p>Human Rights</p>   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1948, the United Nations (UN) passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which set out the basic rights that everyone should be entitled to, regardless of nationality, language, gender, religion or status. • There are 30 articles in the UDHR which set out the minimum rights for human beings to enjoy. For example, Article 1 says, <i>'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood'</i>. • The UK passed the Human Rights Act (HRA) in 1998 which includes the rights from the European Convention on Human Rights e.g. right to life, liberty, security, privacy, marriage, education and free elections. • With rights come responsibilities e.g. with freedom of speech comes the responsibility not to insult others. It is the role of each country to protect the rights of their citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bible says that God is a God of justice <u>'all his ways are just' (Deuteronomy 32:4).</u> • It emphasises the importance of social justice and a duty of care for others. • The prophet Amos told the people of Israel that God was not pleased with the way they were oppressing the poor. He said <u>'let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!' (Amos 5:24).</u> • Jesus said <u>'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31).</u> • Many Christians have campaigned for social justice e.g. anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce and prison reformer Elizabeth Fry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all Muslim countries agree with the UDHR. Saudi Arabia, for example, argued that Shari'ah law already gave human rights to those living in their society. • The Qur'an says <u>'help one another to do what is right and good' (Qur'an 5:2).</u> • In 1990, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), an group of 57 countries, adopted the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights (CDHR) which summarised the Qur'an and the <i>Sunnah</i> (practices of Muhammed). • All elements of the CDHR are subject to Shari'ah law. • Article 22 says that 'everyone shall have the right to express themselves in such a manner as would not be contrary to the principles of Shari'ah law. • Some Muslims still think change is needed regarding the rights of homosexuals and sex outside of marriage.
<p>Social Justice</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life is unfair: some people are born wealthy, some are not, some people have good health, some don't. • Social justice is about trying to protect people's civil liberties and taking care of the most disadvantaged in society. • People who campaign for social justice want to create a world in which people are treated more fairly and given equal opportunities. • <u>Read about Rupon Miah on p.149 of the Islam textbook.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many examples illustrating the need to help others in the bible including the Parable of the Good Samaritan and of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46). • James says that Christians have a responsibility and duty to promote social justice as <u>'faith without deeds is useless' (James 2:20).</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Muslims believe it's their religious and social responsibility to work for justice and just causes. • Giving help to poor people is a central part of Islam. • British Muslims believe it's important to be involved in social and community projects. • <u>'God commands justice, doing good, and generosity towards relatives and He forbids what is shameful, blameworthy and oppressive.'</u> (Qur'an 16:90)

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

Religious Freedom



- The official state religion in Britain is Christianity but no one can be forced to join the church.
- The government protects freedom of religious expression i.e. the right of an individual to worship in whatever way they choose.
- People are free to practice their religion providing they don't preach hatred and intolerance.
- During the reign of Elizabeth I in the 16th century, people who failed to attend church were fined 12 pence (equivalent to £11 today)!
- During the 18th century, a number of different churches developed who, although Christian, did not conform to the beliefs of the Church of England. They were called non-conformists e.g Quakers and Baptists.

- Christian teachings encourage tolerance and harmony.
- In the gospel of Mark, there is the story of the disciples who saw a man driving out demons in Jesus' name. **'Do not stop him' Jesus said, 'for no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me' (Mark 9:39-40).**
- **'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.' (Ephesians 4:2).**
- **'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.' (Romans 12:18).**

- The Qur'an says its an individuals choice whether to adopt Islam.
- **'Now the truth has come from your Lord: let those who wish to believe in it do so, and they those who wish to reject it do so.' (Qur'an 18:29).**
- In Pakistan, blasphemy laws exist which makes it illegal for Muslims to criticise the Qur'an or any of the prophets, including Mohammed or Jesus.
- In Saudi Arabia, there is little religious freedom and tolerance of other faiths. Non-Muslims are sometimes discriminated against.
- Giving up Islam is seen as a sin and in some countries is a punishable offence.
- In Britain, Muslims are free to worship as they want.

Prejudice and discrimination



- Prejudice means thinking less of someone because of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation (for example).
- Discrimination means treating a group of people differently because of your prejudice.
- Prejudice can lead to genocide, for example the Holocaust during World War Two or in Bosnia in the 1990s when 1000s of Muslims, Serbs and Croats were killed.
- Sometimes discrimination can be positive such as allowing people in wheelchairs to sit in the front row to see an event.
- In Britain, the Equality Act (2010) protects people against discrimination.
- The UN's Convention of Disability Rights (2006) helps to enforce, protect and promote the rights of disabled people.
- **Read about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on p.167 of the Christian textbook.**

- Christians oppose discrimination because it does not show Christian love (agape).
- Jesus healed the sick and disabled and taught his followers to 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31)
- Most Christians also oppose racism in all forms. Despite this, the Dutch Reformed Church did support apartheid in South Africa (segregation of blacks and whites until 1994).
- **'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28).**

- Muhammed said, in his final sermon, that 'an Arab is not better than a non-Arab and a non-Arab is not better than an Arab... Learn that every Muslim is the brother of every other Muslim and that Muslims form one brotherhood.'
- The Muslim brotherhood of the ummah makes no distinction between people of different races or social status. During the Hajj, for example (pilgrimage to Mecca) all pilgrims wear simple white clothes.
- Many Muslims believe homosexuality is a sin and is a punishable offence.
- Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen all have the death penalty for homosexuality.
- In Britain, there are some Muslims that believe that you can be gay and a Muslim.

Islam

The status and role of women



- Muslims believe that men and women have been designed by God for a different purpose; it's the role of the husband to provide for his family financially and the role of the woman to look after the home and children.
- At home, a woman's role is to prepare halal food, teach the children the basics of Islam and recite verses of the Qur'an.
- In Britain, many Muslim women have professional jobs such as doctors, teachers and lawyers.
- Women don't have to attend the mosque 5 times each day for prayers. They do pray in a different part of the mosque from men.
- Many Muslims believe that an imam (leader of a mosque) has to be a man but Islam does allow women to become imams.
- Amina Wadud (and American professor) lead Friday prayers in New York in 2005. In 2008, she visited Oxford and lead prayers for both men and women.
- In Saudi Arabia, women in public must be fully covered and girls attend separate schools from boys. Muslims there believe the law protects women although many Western countries see the restrictions on women as severe.

Christianity

Wealth



- In the Old Testament, God promised that if Israel followed him and obeyed the law he gave to Moses, he would bless them: **'The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity' (Deuteronomy 28:11).**
- King David acknowledged that wealth comes from God **'wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things' (1 Chronicles 29:12).**
- People used to thank God by giving a tithe (one tenth) of their earnings to the church. **'Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your field produce each year' (Deuteronomy 14:22).**
- The New Testament focuses on the dangers associated with wealth, greed and selfishness.
- Jesus told a rich young man to sell all he had, given it to the poor and follow him and then he would have treasure in heaven.
- **'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' (Mark 10:25).**
- Striving for riches brings danger of people ignoring God, neglecting their spiritual and even committing crimes. Jesus said, **'no one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money' (Matthew 6:24).**
- Jesus told the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) in which the rich man ended up in hell because he had not helped the beggar at the gate.
- The Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25: 31-46) says that those who help the disadvantaged receive the reward of eternal life in heaven whereas those who ignore the needy are thrown into 'the eternal fire'.

Islam

- Muslims believe that all wealth is a blessing from God should be for the benefit of everyone.
- Muslims have a responsibility to help the poor.
- Islam teaches that there is nothing wrong with lawfully obtaining and having money, but hoarding an excessive amount of wealth is not encouraged.
- **'Tell those who hoard gold and silver instead of giving in God's cause that they will have a grievous punishment (Qur'an 9:34).**
- The exploitation of others is not allowed and greed and selfishness must be avoided: **'beware of greed for it is ready poverty.' (Hadith).**
- Receiving money through honest work, property, business or an inheritance is permitted but Islam prohibits fraud, deception and gambling.
- Muslims are taught not to take part in raffles, play the National Lottery or visit a casino.
- Investments should not be in any companies involved in gambling nor producing or selling alcohol.
- The third pillar of Islam is Zakah – giving alms to the poorest members of society.
- It is recommended that 2.5% of a person's wealth be given to charity (in Christianity, the Old Testament recommends 10%!).
- Sadaqah is giving money to charity voluntarily. Shi'a Muslims pay 20% tax called Khums. Half goes to charity and half goes to religious leaders.
- Charging interest on loans is forbidden (called riba). 'God blights usury (interest on loans), but blesses charitable deeds with multiple increase.' (Qur'an 2:276).

General ideas

Christianity

Islam

Exploitation



- Many multinational companies pay their workers in LEDCs small wages in order to make large profits for shareholders.
- 200,000 people work on tea plantations in West Bengal, India, for just £1 a day.
- Many workers in developing countries endure poor working conditions, long hours and low wages.
- In Britain the National Minimum Wage Act was passed in 1998 which set the lowest amount an employer could pay a worker. It was an attempt to end exploitation and benefitted 1.5 million workers.

- **Read about the Rana Plaza disaster on p.172 of the Christianity textbook.**
- In Britain, some poorer people are lured into borrowing money at high interest rates and find themselves unable to pay off the loan.
- This is often linked to organised crime.
- The British Money Advice service has reported that one woman borrowed £500 and ended up owing £88,000 in repayments.
- People trafficking is a multi-billion pound industry in which people pay smugglers to get them from poverty stricken countries into developed countries. Criminal gangs then force migrants to work for free or to become prostitutes to repay the debt.

- Muslims regard the relationship between employers and employees as a brotherhood which means they have responsibilities to each other.
- Shari'ah law protects workers of different faiths and requires that employers offer adequate sick leave.
- In Egypt, female workers are entitled to 90 days' paid maternity leave and are guaranteed two breast-feeding breaks every day for up to two years after giving birth.
- The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (IOC) passed a declaration in 1990 to sum up the rights of workers.
- There is no mention in the Qur'an of forbidding slavery but it is seen as a worthy act to 'liberate those in bondage'.
- Muslims given to the poor through Zakah and Sadaqah.
- Islam encourages budgeting and the responsible use of money to avoid poverty (Qur'an 7:31)

Giving money to the poor



- In the UK, the government is responsible for looking after those people who are unable to look after themselves due to illness, disability or old age.
- They are also responsible for encouraging people to find a job.
- Giving money to poor people and countries indefinitely isn't always the right thing to do because they can become reliant on aid.
- Emergency aid is given to countries following a natural disaster or war.
- Long term aid means providing education and training

- Many Christians buy Fairtrade products which means that ingredients for the product have been produced on small-scale farms that meet standards for fair wages, workers' rights and the environment.
- In Britain, many Christians support soup kitchens and charities that help people to find work.
- They encourage people to use their gifts and talents (Matthew 25:14-30) to provide help and charity.
- They also support campaigns that promote greater equality such as the Living Wage campaign.
- **Read about the Send A Cow campaign on p.175 of the Christian textbook.**

- The UK Islamic Mission promotes Islam in Britain and educates others about the faith.
- Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid and Ummah Welfare Trust aim to reduce poverty around the world and the suffering of the poorest people in society.
- Many are inspired by the words '**if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind.**' (Qur'an 5:32).
- **Read about Muslim Hands, Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid on p.160-262 of the Islam textbook.**

