Year 11 – PRE – Crime and Punishment: Part 1 – Religion, Crime and the Causes of Crime

Reasons for Crime

Cause of Crime	Explanation/ Examples	Christian Responses	Sikh Responses
Poverty and Upbringing 	Some people may commit a crime as they do not have the money for what they need e.g. they may steal to feed their family. Or, they may have been brought up in an environment where crime is normalised or even expected of them.	- Christians may be more sympathetic to those who have committed crimes for these reasons and show compassion: **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'/ Agape,** **'Blessed are the merciful'** - They would also feel a responsibility to help those in need so that they had no need to steal: **'Faith without actions is dead', 'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat'.** - However, the crime itself is still wrong: **'Do not steal' (10 Commandments)**	- Sikhs would also show some compassion and understanding: **'Show kindness and mercy to all life'** - Sikhs would also feel a responsibility to help, which is why the service of the **langar, an example of sewa**, is so important. There should be no need for people to steal food as the langar is always open.: **'Keep the langar ever open'** - Sikhs emphasise the importance of a strong family network in order to raise children in the right way.
Mental Illness 	Mental illnesses can cause crime; kleptomania is a condition which leads people to steal. Mental illness can lead to anger issues which result in crimes such as assault, and some people feel driven to murder because of their illness.	- Christians would be compassionate towards those with a mental illness as it is not their fault and they are not always consciously committing crimes: **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'/ Agape** **'Blessed are the merciful'** - However, justice for the victim is still important, so Christians would support an appropriate punishment coupled with medical support.	- Sikhs would also show compassion as the criminal was not in full control of their actions: **'Show kindness and mercy to all life'.** - They would support the criminal getting support and treatment, as well as showing compassion for the victim/ their family.
Addiction 	Addiction means the body cannot cope without a substance e.g. alcohol or drugs. This can lead to crime if the person is not in control e.g. they are drunk. They may behave in ways they wouldn't usually, or they may drive while intoxicated and cause an accident. They may also steal to fund their habit.	- Whilst illegal drugs are unacceptable, most Christians do not forbid drinking alcohol (Quakers do not drink at all). However, drunkenness is not encouraged, and it is a sin in Catholicism. - Addicts would be encouraged to seek support: **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'/ Agape**	- Sikh teachings forbid the use of alcohol/ illegal drugs as they take the mind away from God, and a person is not able to worship. - Addicts would be encouraged to seek support: **'Show kindness and mercy to all life'**
Greed 	Greed can lead to crime e.g. stealing because you want more money/ possessions	Christians would not at all accept crime for this reason. One of the 10 Commandments says: **'Do not covet'** which means do not be jealous. In the Bible it says: **'you cannot serve both God and money'** and **'The love of money is the root of all evil'**, showing the problems with focusing on material wealth.	Sikhs are encouraged to be **Gurmukh** – God-centered, and to focus their minds on God and not on money/ possessions. **Worldly Attachment** is one of the 5 evils/ barriers to mukti, so crime for this reason is totally unacceptable.
Hate 	Hatred is a negative feeling which can lead to violence/ aggression. It might be based on a prejudice e.g. racism.	This is a totally unacceptable reason for crime as **'Human beings were made in God's image'** so everyone has the right to be treated fairly.	This is a totally unacceptable reason for crime as **'All are made of the same clay'** so all humans should be treated with love and respect.
Opposition to an unjust law 	There are times in history where people have broken the law as they felt the law was unfair, e.g. Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat in 1950s America. In Britain today, our laws are generally fair but in some countries this is not the case.	- In general, Christians are taught to obey the law: **'Those who refuse to obey the law of the land refuse to obey God'.** - However, if the law was in opposition to Christian beliefs they would perhaps campaign for it to be changed, ideally without breaking the law themselves.	Sikhs have historically protested against laws they felt were unfair or in opposition to their beliefs, e.g. the law on motorcycle helmets. However, they would ideally protest to get the law changed rather than break it.

Types of Crime

Type of Crime	Christian Responses	Sikh Responses
Murder: Deliberately ending someone's life	**'Do not commit murder'** **Sanctity of Life: 'Human beings were made in God's image'**	**Sanctity of Life: 'The Divine Light is within all'**
Theft: Stealing something that does not belong to you	**'Do not steal'**	**Rehat Maryada: (code of conduct) 'No Sikh should gamble or commit theft'**
Hate Crime: Committing a crime based on prejudice e.g. race, age, sexuality	**'Human beings were made in God's image'., 'There is no Jew nor gentile… male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'**	**'All are made of the same clay', 'We are all sons of the one God, there is no Hindu and no Muslim'.**

Good and Evil Intentions and Action

Christian Views:
- The Bible warns Christians against having evil thoughts which lead to evil actions. Avoiding sin and temptation steers Christians away from crime.
- Christians would be more willing to treat an offender who had good intentions with more mercy than one who acted out of evil intentions.
- Christians do not believe that people are evil but that people can be tempted to do wrong and break the law.
- Many Christians believe that we are born with **'Original Sin'** due to the actions of Adam and Eve, so we are inclined to be tempted and should resist this.

Sikh Views:
- There is no such thing as an evil person but humans do all make mistakes.
- Having good intentions and obeying the law etc helps Sikhs to build bad karma; those who commit evil actions with evil intentions should face justice in this life but will also face punishment in the next life.

Year 11 – PRE – Crime and Punishment: Part 2 – Religion and Punishment

Aims of Punishment

Aim	Explanation/ Examples	Christian and Sikh responses
Reformation 	Supports the criminal in **changing their behaviour** for the better. May involve therapy, education, training.	Preferred aim of punishment for Christians and Sikhs: Christian: **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'/ Agape.** **'Do not take revenge but leave room for God's punishment… do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good'.** Sikh: **'Show kindness and mercy to all life',**
Retribution 	Seeking **justice or revenge**. The idea that 'you committed a crime, so you deserve to be punished'.	The Old Testament teaches **'An eye for an eye',** but this really meant that a punishment should be proportionate to the crime. Christians do NOT agree with revenge. Jesus taught to **'Turn the other cheek'** meaning do not retaliate. Sikhs do NOT agree with revenge either: **'If someone hits you, do not hit him back. Go home after kissing his feet'.**
Deterrence 	**Putting people off from committing a crime** – either putting the criminal off from re-offending, or putting society off crime as they see the harsh punishments they could get.	Christians and Sikhs would want criminals to be deterred (put off) from committing crime but NOT in a way that violates their sanctity of life e.g. corporal or capital punishment. Christian: **'Human beings were made in God's image'** Sikh: **'All are made of the same clay'**.

Treatment of Criminals

Type of Punishment	Explanation/ Examples	Strengths and Weaknesses	Christian and Sikh responses
Prison 	A secure building where offenders are kept for a period of time set by a judge	+ Protects society, usually gives opportunity for reformation e.g. counselling, good deterrent - Can lead to poor mental health, many people re-offend as they learn poor behaviour or become comfortable in prison.	Christian: Focus should be on reformation: **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'/ Agape** Sikh: Focus should be on reformation: **'Show kindness and mercy to all life'.**
Community Service 	An offender contributes to society as a punishment e.g. doing unpaid work in the community	+ Benefits the community, encourages reformation - Some see it as a soft punishment	Christian: Good punishment for minor offences as reformation is encouraged. Encourages **stewardship.** Sikh: Good punishment for minor offences; will build good **karma** and could lead to future acts of **sewa**.
Corporal Punishment 	Punishment of an offender by causing them physical pain e.g. whipping, cutting hands off. Illegal in the UK.	+ Good deterrent, brings justice for the victim/ their family (retribution) - Violates human rights, does not encourage reformation, promotes an attitude of revenge rather than compassion and forgiveness.	Christian: Disagree – violates sanctity of life and is a revenge-seeking punishment: **'Human beings were made in God's image', 'Do not take revenge but leave room for God's punishment'** Sikh: Disagree for same reasons: **'All are made of the same clay', 'If someone hits you, do not hit him back. Go home after kissing his feet'.**
Capital Punishment/ The Death Penalty 	Punishment where an offender is put to death for their crimes e.g. electric chair, hanging, firing squad. Illegal in the UK since the 1960s.	+ Good deterrent, brings justice e.g. if you kill, you deserve to lose your life. Supports **principle of utility**; if it benefits society for one person to lose their life, perhaps it is acceptable. - No going back if you get the wrong person, hypocritical, no chance for reformation, violates human rights.	Christian: Disagree – violates sanctity of life. Does not allow for reformation: **'Human beings were made in God's image', Agape etc.** Sikh: Disagree for same reasons: **'All are made of the same clay', 'Show kindness and mercy to all life', 'If someone hits you…' etc.**

Forgiveness: To show grace and mercy, and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.

Christian Views

- Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' teaching.
- Christians would still agree with justly punishing the criminal, but forgiveness is a key teaching within Christianity.
- On the cross, Jesus said **'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do'.**
- In his life Jesus was also asked how many times people should forgive. He replied: **'Not seven times, but seventy-seven times'**, meaning always forgive.
- **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'/ Agape**
- Gee Walker gives Christians a modern role model on the importance of forgiveness.

Sikh Views

- Forgiveness is a key teaching of Sikhism, closely linked with equality.
- Guru Granth Sahib: **'Where there is forgiveness, there is God'.**
- Forgiveness is not a replacement for punishment; fair punishment is still important but forgiveness can also be given.
- The focus of punishment should always be reformation, which is closely linked with forgiveness.



Exam Terminology

Influence: The capacity to have an effect on people's character, behaviour or actions
Contrasting: To show a difference
Contemporary: Occurring in the present time
Sacred Writings: Writing that is believed to contain words of God e.g. The Bible
Evaluate: Consideration of different viewpoints before arriving at a final judgement
Justified Conclusion: A final decision which is based upon a range of evidence.

Year 11 – PRE – Existence of God: Part 1 – Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God

AQA

The Design Argument (Teleological)

Basic Premise and Evidence

- The universe is an intricate, complex design which is too complicated to have come about by chance
- Therefore, a great design needs a great designer: God.
- Telos = 'purpose' – the universe has been designed by God with a clear purpose in mind.

William Paley's analogy of the Pocketwatch

- If we found a watch, we would look at its intricacies and realise it has not come about by chance but had a watchmaker who had a clear purpose in mind. The same is true of the natural world – trees, the human eye, birds' wings and fish gills… they must have been designed by God.




Isaac Newton and the Thumb

- Newton argued that the fact that every single human being has a different thumbprint, and the fact that we have opposable thumbs, was enough evidence for God's existence: ***'In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence'.***

Criticisms

- Perhaps the complexities in the world e.g. the human eye, birds' wings, are the result of evolution, not God
- If God deigned such a perfect world, why is there so much suffering? Yes, humans can be blamed for moral evil, but what about natural disasters e.g. earthquakes? Surely this shows the 'design' of the world is flawed.



The First Cause Argument (Cosmological)

Basic Premise and Evidence

- Everything that exists has a cause (everything is contingent – relies on something else for its existence)
- The universe must, therefore, have a cause too.
- At some point, there needs to be something eternal, which requires no cause, in order to start the process off
- This eternal, 'uncaused cause' needs to be an omnipotent being: God. Therefore, God exists.
- The Bible supports the argument: ***'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'***
- The Big Bang could still be true – but God caused it!



Dominoes

- The argument can be compared to dominoes – one falls because the previous one fell. At some point, someone had to push the first domino. This can be compared to the need for an uncaused cause to the universe: God.



St Thomas Aquinas

- An infinite sequence of cause and effect is impossible; there needed to be a starting point
- We can clearly see that the universe exists so it needed a creator to begin with: God.

Criticisms

- Atheists say the argument contradicts itself; if everything needs a cause, then what caused God?
- If you say that God is eternal and has always existed, why can't the universe just always have existed too?
- The Big Bang was a random, spontaneous event, not an action caused by God



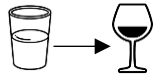
The Argument from Miracles

Basic Premise and Evidence

- There are 2 types of miracles:

1) Events which break the laws of nature and cannot be explained by science e.g. Jesus turning water into wine
2) Events which are happy coincidences which occur at just the right time for a positive outcome e.g. 16 people survived in Stairwell B during the September 11th terrorist attacks.

- This argument says that if there is no scientific explanation for an event, it must be supernatural i.e. caused someone/something who is outside of nature.
- Only God is outside of nature, therefore, God exists.



Examples:

- Incarnation and resurrection are the most important miracles of the Christian faith
- Jesus performed many miracles – turning water into wine, healing the sick, feeding the 5000 etc.
- Lourdes – many miracles have been recorded here which have been investigated by the church.

Criticisms

- Atheists would argue that 'miracles' are just lucky coincidences
- There may be a scientific explanation which we just don't know about yet.
- Miracle healings may be the result of mind over matter, or a misdiagnosis by doctors.
- Some 'miracles' are fake or exaggerated by people wanting fame or money.
- Even if miracles do prove that God exits, they show God to be unfair and as having favourites – why doesn't everyone who needs a miracle get one?

David Hume

- Argued that witnesses to miracles are primitive and uneducated, so the evidence is unreliable. (He was writing in the 18th century).

Arguments against God: Evil and Suffering

- Atheists point to the existence of evil and suffering in the world as proof that God does not exist.
- The argument is that Christians believe God to be all powerful, all knowing, all loving etc. Therefore God should be able to stop evil, would be aware of it and would care enough to stop it. But he doesn't, so he must not exist.



Christian Defence

- Christians may defend God and say that evil and suffering is the result of human free will – Adam and Eve's disobedience brought evil and suffering into God's perfect world. However, this may explain moral evil (human action) but it does not necessarily explain natural evil e.g. earthquakes
- Christians also defend God with arguments such as: without evil we wouldn't appreciate good. Perhaps suffering is a test of faith. Perhaps suffering is an opportunity to show compassion, learn from mistakes and make the choice to do good over evil.

Arguments Against God: Science

- Some atheists and humanists use the developments in scientific knowledge to challenge belief in God.
- In the past, the origins of the universe and life on earth could not be explained, so people assumed it was God. Natural disasters etc were thought to be God's punishment.
- Now, science can explain things that people couldn't previously understand, so people no longer look to religion for answers. Atheists argue that there is no need to 'invent' a God to fill the gaps of what we do not understand.



Christian Defence

- Many Christians see no conflict between science and religion; many Christians do not take the creation stories literally, so the Big Bang/ Evolution can explain the universe and life on earth, but God was the force behind it happening as it did. (Fundamentalist Christians would have an issue, though, as they believe the creation story to be literally true).
- Pope Francis said: ***'The Big Bang does not contradict the divine act of creation; rather it requires it… When we read the creation story in Genesis we run the risk of imagining that God was a magician, with a magic wand… but it is not so. He created beings and let them develop…'***

Exam Terminology

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Year 11 – PRE – Existence of God: Part 2 – The Nature of the Divine and Revelation

ORMISTON SWB ACADEMY

AQA

Key Words

Divine: God, Gods or Ultimate Reality
Enlightenment: A state of spiritual awakening and the gaining of a deeper understanding of reality. E.g. Buddhists are seeking how to end suffering and achieve happiness.
General revelation: Indirect revelation; the idea of being able to see something of God through nature and scriptures which are readily available in everyday experience.
Immanent: A characteristic of God; the belief that God is present and involved in the world, (eg through special revelations/miracles).
Impersonal: A characteristic of God; the belief that God is beyond human understanding.
Omniscient: All-knowing; believed by theists to be an attribute of God.
Omnipotent: All-powerful; believed by theists to be an attribute of God.
Personal: A characteristic of God; belief that humans can build relationships with God.
Revelation: When God is revealed to humans; can be special or general.
Special revelation: Direct revelation; God being revealed directly to an individual or group through experiences such as visions.
Transcendent: A characteristic of God; belief that God is outside space and time.
Ultimate reality: Belief in a supreme and fundamental power in the universe. In Christianity, this ultimate reality is a personal being: one God in three persons. In Hinduism, Brahman is often referred to as the ultimate reality and supreme cosmic power.
Vision: An experience of seeing/experiencing something in the imagination or through a dream.

The Divine/ Knowledge of God – An Introduction

- Every religion accepts that there is an ultimate reality that is eternal and unchanging.
- For Christians, their ultimate reality is a personal being, God, who makes himself known in 3 persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Some theists say God cannot be known because God is transcendent: beyond human understanding. God cannot be described using the limits of human language.
- Most Christians do accept this, but do think that God can be known through revelations – when God chooses to reveal himself to people.
- There are 2 types of revelation: special revelation and general revelation.
- Some experiences can be both general and special revelation.



Special Revelation: Visions

Basic Premise and Evidence	Criticisms
- When people experience God directly in a particular event or direct personal experience. - Could be a dream, a vision, a prophecy, a miracle or 'hearing God's call'. - Could be experienced alone or with a group of people. - The experiences usually have a huge, life-changing impact on people e.g. Nicky Cruz (gang leader turned Christian minister). - They are rare, and many believers never experience such events. **Visions** - A form of special revelation which comes in a picture or image form. - People may see holy people, angels or hear messages from God - Example from the Bible: Saul on the Damascus Road - Saul had sworn to wipe out the Christian church. He was travelling with others on the Damascus road to arrest any follower of Jesus. - On the way, they were struck by a blinding light, and Saul had a vision of Jesus who spoke to him. - Saul's life was changed – he changed his name to Paul (now known as St Paul) and spent the rest of his life committed to Christianity.	- Special Revelations e.g. visions are subjective, open to interpretation and not open to scientific testing. - Many religions have conflicting revelations so some could argue this invalidates them. - Visions could be brought about by alcohol or drugs, or it could be wishful thinking so someone convinces themselves. - It could be a mental or physical illness, or the mind playing tricks. - People could also be lying to gain wealth or power, or they may have just been mistaken.



General Revelation: Nature and Scripture

Basic Premise and Evidence	Criticisms
- Ordinary, every day human experiences that reveal truths about God, - General revelation comes to people through nature, a person's reason, their conscience (inner sense of right and wrong), reading scriptures, through worship etc. - The experiences are available to everyone, but they do not convince everyone that God is real because they depend on people's interpretation. **Nature as a way of understanding the Divine** - Links with the Design Argument: the beauty and order of the natural world gives theists a sense of awe. - Just as a painting gives insight into the artist, nature gives an insight into God. - God is shown through nature to be creative, artistic, clever, powerful and awesome. - ***'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands'*** **Scripture as a way of understanding the Divine.** - Religious scriptures tell believers what God is like, how God acted in the past and how God wants people to live. - E.g. the Bible tells the story of God's covenant with the Jews (Old Testament) and the life and teaching of Jesus (New Testament). - All Christians believe the Bible is inspired by God but they may interpret it differently e.g. some take t literally and others take a more liberal approach. - When Christians read the Bible, they hope to get a better understanding of the teachings of Christianity and receive spiritual strength from God's words.	**Nature** - Humanists – the works of nature are not a divine revelation but are special because they can lead to a grater understanding of the world through human observation and science. - When a theist and an atheist look at a beautiful landscape, one just sees nature and the other sees God's creation – open to interpretation. **Scripture** - Some argue scriptures cannot reveal anything about God because they are merely their author's opinions and these could be wrong. - Even Christians do not all agree on how scripture should be interpreted,





Different ideas about the Divine: God's Nature

- It is difficult to describe the unseen, infinite God within the limits of human language.
- However, God is seen to have a number of characteristics:
- Omnipotent (all powerful) omniscient (all-knowing) and omnibenevolent (all-loving).

Religious thinkers also use the following words to describe different ideas about God:
- **Immanent:** God is present in the universe and involved with life on earth. God acts in history and influences people.
- **Transcendent:** God is beyond and outside life on earth and is not limited by the world, time or space. God does not act in the world or intervene in people's lives.
- **Personal**: God has human characteristics e.g. merciful, compassionate. God loves and cares for every individual and can be communicated with through prayer.
- **Impersonal:** God does not have human characteristics. God is more like a force or an idea. God is an absolute being who is only understood in terms of itself.

Can God be immanent, transcendent, personal and impersonal?
- Many religious believers think that they can experience God and have a personal relationship with him (immanent and personal) but that at the same time, God is the eternal, unlimited creator of the universe (transcendent and impersonal).
- Some religions emphasise one description more than another but others say all descriptions are true, even if they seem contradictory.
- This is because God is a mystery and beyond human understanding.

Christian interpretation:
- God's immanence is revealed in Jesus who was God in human form, and in the Holy Spirit who works through Christians today.
- God is also transcendent as he is the creator of the universe, without whom nothing would exist.
- Christians regard God as personal, a Father who cares for his children and with whom they can have a relationship through prayer.
- ***'You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar'***

Year 11 – PRE – Relationships and Families Part 1: Sex, Marriage and Divorce

Human Sexuality

Heterosexual relationship: a sexual relationship with a member of the opposite sex
Homosexual relationship: a sexual relationship with a member of the same sex
Homosexual couples can now marry, or convert civil partnerships into marriage (as of 2014)

Christian Views

- Catholic Church: homosexual people are not sinful, but the sexual act is.
- Therefore they should not have sex, because the Bible recognises it as a sin:
- ***'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable'.***
- Church of England: welcomes homosexuals who live in a faithful, committed relationship, but they cannot get married in church.
- Liberal Christians: Loving, faithful homosexual relationships are just as holy as heterosexual relationships

Sikh Views

- The Guru Granth Sahib does not mention homosexuality. Some Sikhs may interpret this to mean that the only marriage that should occur is between a man and a woman, as this is the only type of marriage mentioned in the GGS.
- Other Sikhs would not view homosexuality as a particular issue of concern.
- Either way, Sikhs would not discriminate and would ensure homosexuals were treated fairly, in line with their teaches on equality: ***'All are made of the same clay', 'Show kindness and mercy to all life'.***

Sex Before Marriage

- In British society, sex before marriage is no longer considered as unacceptable, however some religious views on the issue remain traditional.

Christian Views

- Many Christians believe that the intimacy of sex requires the commitment of marriage – it should not be a casual, temporary pleasure.
- In the Bible, St Paul wrote: ***'Flee from sexual immorality… whoever sins sexually, sins against his own body… your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit'.***
- Catholic and Anglican church teaches that unmarried people should not have sex. This would therefore make cohabitation (living together) wrong before marriage as well.
- Liberal Christians accept that for some people, sex is a valid expression of love. Sex before marriage/ living together before marriage could be seen as acceptable.

Sikh Views

- Sex before marriage is not allowed within Sikhism; the Sikh code of conduct (Rehat Maryada) says that anyone who has sexual relations before marriage is not a true Sikh.
- ***'For a moment of sexual pleasure, you shall suffer in pain for millions of days' (GGS)***
- Anything that might lead to **lust**, one of the **5 evils**, should be avoided.
- This would also make cohabitation before marriage wrong.

Sex Outside of Marriage: Adultery

Adultery: Having sexual relations with someone who is not your husband or wife
Regardless of religion, most people in contemporary society view adultery as wrong because it breaks trust, involves secrecy and lies, can affect children and causes pain to all concerned.

Christian Views

- Adultery breaks the promises Christian couples make before God during their wedding.
- One of the **10 Commandments** is ***'Do not commit adultery'***.
- Jesus taught that lust, which could lead to adultery, is also wrong: ***'I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart'***.

Sikh Views

- Adultery is seen as a very serious sin – Sikh marriage is a sacred bond and adultery break that bond, betrays trust and brings shame on the family.
- It is one of the **4 misdeeds (kurahat)** that members of the Khalsa must not commit.
- The **Kachera** (cotton underwear) is one of the 5 Ks as a reminder to keep the body pure.
- ***'The blind fool abandons the wife of his own home, and has an affair with another woman'.***

Marriage

Marriage: A legal union between a man and a woman (or in some countries such as the UK, two people of the same sex), as partners in a relationship.

Christian Views

- Marriage was one of God's gifts at creation. The Bible teaches: ***'A man shall leave his mother and father and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh'.***
- Marriage represents a covenant (promise) before God – it is a spiritual bond of trust.
- ***'Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church'.***
- The purpose of marriage is to provide a stable, secure environment for family life.

Sikh Views

- Marriage is a spiritual act; an opportunity to become one spirit within two bodies.
- The ceremony is called 'Anand Karaj' which means 'blissful union'.
- Marriage is a union witnessed by God, shown by the presence of the GGS at the wedding ceremony.
- The purpose of marriage is companionship and the spiritual development of both partners.
- ***They alone are called husband and wife, who have one light in two bodies' GGS.***

Divorce and Remarriage

Divorce: Legal ending of a marriage
Remarriage: When someone marries again while their former spouse (husband or wife) is still alive.
Annulment: A Catholic Church ruling that a marriage was never valid

Christian Views

- Many churches offer courses to prepare couples for marriage, in the hope of avoiding divorce later.
- Jesus taught: ***'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her'***
- Christians must balance the need to respect the sanctity of marriage with showing compassion for those in difficult situation e.g. domestic violence.
- Catholic Church: a civil divorce cannot dissolve a marriage between two baptised people. Catholics can separate but they cannot marry someone else in a Catholic church while their partner is still alive.
- Catholics can obtain an annulment in certain circumstances if it was never a true marriage.
- Other Christians see divorce as the lesser of two evils
- Methodists: accept civil divorce and allow remarriage in a church, as long as the couple take the vows seriously.

Sikh Views

- Marriage should be for life as the couple are 'one spirit in two bodies' (Guru Amae Das).
- The Rehat Maryada teaches that in general, no Sikh should marry a second time if their first spouse is still alive.
- If divorce was looking likely, the Sikh community and the couple's family would support in helping the couple to work through their problems.
- However, Sikhs reluctantly allow civil divorce – grounds for divorce include adultery, cruelty, desertion, insanity and change of religion.
- Widowed Sikhs who wish to marry again are encouraged to do so in the gurdwara.
- ***Rehat Maryada: 'If a woman's husband has died, she may, if she so wishes, finding a match suitable for her, remarry. For a Sikh man… similar ordinance obtains'.***

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Year 11 – PRE – Relationships and Families Part 2: Families and Gender Equality

Part 1 Continued: Contraception and Family Planning

Contraception: the methods used to prevent a pregnancy from taking place. Natural forms include the rhythm method.
Artificial forms include: the pill, condom, diaphragm, coil, morning after pill.
Family Planning: The practice of controlling how many children couples have and when they have them.

Christian Views



- All Christian churches agree that having children is God's greatest gift to a married couple.
- They also agree that there may be some circumstances where it is not appropriate to bring children into the world e.g. economic, environmental, physical or psychological reasons.
- However, churches disagree on how pregnancy should be prevented.
- **Catholics:** Artificial contraception goes against God's plans as the purpose of sex is to express love and make new life. These purposes should not be separated.
- For Catholics, Only the **rhythm method** is suitable for family planning (having sex at times during a woman's cycle where conception is less likely).
- The Church of England **support use of artificial contraception** so that couples can plan their families in a healthy and sensible way.
- Many Christians do not support using the morning after pill because here, the egg may have already been fertilised. Since many Christians believe **life begins at conception**, preventing a fertilised egg from developing is seen as sinful as it is already a life.

Sikh Views



- Sensible family planning is accepted by the Sikh community as morally responsible behaviour, since this would only be relevant to a married couple.
- Sikh scriptures give **no specific guidance on contraception** so Sikh couples choose their own methods.
- Contraception should not be used to prevent having children altogether, or to cover up an adulterous affair.
- Some Sikhs would not agree with the morning after pill (reasons as above) and some would also view excessive sex, without allowing children to be conceived, is **lust.**

The Purpose of Families

Procreation: bringing babies into the world
Stability: safety and security, being able to live peacefully
Educating children in a faith: bringing up children according to the religious beliefs of the parents.

Christian Views



- The idea of family is ingrained within the Christian faith – God reveals himself as a Father, with Jesus as his son, and humankind as his children.
- Christian parents are expected to be good role models for their children and to teach them moral values.
- Many Christians make prayer part of the family's daily routine, and some send their children to faith schools or groups run by the church.
- Parents and children all have responsibilities to each other:
- ***'Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old' Proverbs.***
- ***'Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him'***

Sikh Views



- Family life is the highest path to spirituality
- The Sikh community itself is also a family as humans beings are sons and daughters of the same universal father (God).
- Guru Arjan describes the ideal family where the mother is central to its happiness:
- ***'She is the most noble of all the family. She counsels and advises her hope and desire'***
- Raising a child in the Sikhs faith is very important, according to the Sikh code of conduct:
- ***'It is a Sikh's duty to get his children educated in Sikhism'*** Rehat Maryada
- Grandparents would play a large role in a child's upbringing – a married couple often move in with the groom's parents after marriage, and most Sikhs would also not consider putting their elderly parents in a care home, as it would be an honour to look after them themselves.

The Nature of Families

Family: A group of people who are related by blood, marriage or adoption
Nuclear Family: A couple and their children regarded as a basic social unit
Stepfamily: A family that is formed on the remarriage of a divorced or widowed person and that includes a child or children
Extended Family: A family that extends beyond just parents and their children, by including grandparents and other relatives as well
Polygamy: The practice or custom of having more than one wife at the same time
Bigamy: The offence of marrying someone while already married to another person (illegal in UK).
Same-sex parents: People of the same sex who are raising children together

Christian Views



- Christian parents want their children to grow up with values such as respect for all life, generosity, compassion, loyalty and the ability to form loving relationships.
- Christians are commanded to love one another, so they place very high value on family life.
- The book of Timothy teachers***: 'Anyone who does not provide for their relatives… has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever'.***
- 10 commandments: ***'Honour your mother and father'.*** The importance of family, helping elderly relatives, supporting extended family etc is still crucial today.
- Though there are examples in the Bible of people who practised polygamy, St Paul made it clear that each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband to avoid sexual immorality.
- Whilst some Christians disagree with same-sex parents, believing the ideal is for children to have a male and female role model, other Christians believe the most important thing is for a child to be in a loving household.

Sikh Views



- Family is the **essential social unit** in Sikh society.
- Guru Nanak preached that the life of the householder was the **highest path to spirituality**.
- The family is where children are trained in **sewa** (selfless service) and where religious traditions are passed down. Learning the values of the family are needed for prosperity and world peace: ***'Gazing upon his family, he blossoms forth like the lotus flower'.***
- Sikhs believe in monogamy; having only one husband or wife).
- Within Sikh families, men and women are equal but may have different role e.g. the mother usually takes the main role with children for the first few year while the father takes on household duties.
- Amritdhari (baptised) Sikhs and many non-baptised Sikhs would not cut their children's hair.
- When the children are older, Sikh parents would often support their child in finding a suitable marriage partner, and grown up children would support their elderly parents.
- Sikhs do not generally approve of same-sex parenting, although more liberal Sikhs may support it.

Gender Equality

Gender equality: the idea that people should be given the same rights and opportunities regardless of whether they are male or female
Gender prejudice: Unfairly judging/ holding biased opinions about an individual or group based on their gender
Sexual stereotyping: Having a fixed general idea or image of how men and women will behave
Gender discrimination: To act against someone on the bases of their gender

Christian Views



- All people have been created equal in the image of God: ***'Human beings were made in God's image'***
- Jesus treated women with respect, and the key teaching of ***'Love your neighbour'*** shows that discrimination is wrong.
- Some traditional Christians believe that men are the head of the family and that women should mainly stay at home and care for children. This may stem from literal interpretation of Bible texts that reflect the time in which they were written: ***'Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you'***
- Most Christians today see marriage as an equal partnership where the different gifts of men and women strengthen family life.

Sikh Views



- Guru Nanak spoke up on behalf of women which was unusual at that time.
- The Gurus changed Indian society as more women began to take part in social, religious and political matters.
- Within Sikhism, all are treated equally and judged on their actions, not their caste, gender or race.
- Amritdhari Sikhs use the name 'Kaur' which frees them from having to take their husband's name when marrying.
- Many Sikh women are well educated and encouraged to pursue professional careers.
- Some Sikh women feel that traditional Indian culture, rather than Skhism itself, has limited their chance for education etc, but Sikhism itself fully promotes equality.
- ***'Without woman, there would be no one at all'.***

Year 11 – PRE – Religion and Life Part 1: The Origins and Value of the Universe

The Origins of the Universe

Christian Views



- Creation story found in first book of the Bible: Genesis
- Christians believe the world originated from a specific act of God and not by chance
- Genesis 1 v 1: ***'In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth***
- **Fundamentalist Christians**: take the creation story literally – God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. Also known as Literalists as they believe the Bible is the exact, literal word of God. ***'God said 'Let there be light', and there was light'.***
- **Liberal Christians**: believe God did create the world but the Bible can be taken metaphorically, so it did not happen exactly as the Genesis story says (also known as non-literalists)

Sikh Views



- The universe was not an accident, but was a deliberate act of God (Waheguru)
- Waheguru spoke and his word created everything
- He willed the whole of creation into existence
- ***'As he commands, so they exist'***

Scientific Views



- Big Bang Theory: Suggests around 13.8 billion years ago thee was a massive expansion of space
- All the matter that formed the universe kept expanding and cooling, forming the stars and galaxies
- This was random, not a deliberate act

Can religion and science co-exist?

- Fundamentalist views on creation are NOT compatible with science – creation story vs Big Bang
- Both Liberal and Sikh views on creation could co-exist with science, however the key conflicting point is that the religious views argue the universe was a deliberate creation by God, whereas science would argue it was random.







The Value of the World and the Duty of Humans to Protect it

Christian Views



- The world has value because God made it.
- Christians would view the world with a sense of **awe and wonder** – amazement at God's wonderful creation.
- Christians have a duty to protect the world – **stewardship**: ***'The Lord took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it'***
- However, the Bible also states that 'Human beings were made in God's image' (Imago Dei), suggesting humans are set apart from God's other creations and have authority over the world – **dominion**
- ***'They may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air'***

Sikh Views



- The world has value because God made it.
- Sikhs would feel a sense of awe and wonder: ***'Beholding His wonders, I am wonder-struck'***
- Sikhs support **stewardship** - they must live in harmony with all of God's creation and take care of the earth: ***'The sky, the earth, the trees and the water – all are the Creation of the Lord'***
- There is a **divine spark** in all living things that is part of God, and this spark or soul is taken back to God when released from the cycle of rebirth.
- For this reason, Sikhs do NOT support the idea of dominion, and do not believe they are superior creations.

Use and Abuse of the Environment

How do we damage the natural world?

- Use of natural resources: overuse of oil, gas and other non-renewable resources, deforestation.
Pollution: gas emissions, industrial waste etc.



Christian and Sikh Responses

- Both religions would encourage stewardship – taking care of the environment by recycling, generating less pollution by walking more etc, saving electricity, encouraging sustainable development, voting for people who support environmental issues, supporting charities such as Greenpeace or World Wildlife Fund and praying to God.

Use and Abuse of Animals: Animal Experimentation

What are the issues?

- Animals used to be tested on for cosmetics e.g. makeup but this is less common today
- Animals are still tested on for medicinal purposes, to advance science/research and benefit humans



Christian Responses

- Testing for cosmetics is **not essential** and does not show good **stewardship**, so would not be supported.
- Testing to **benefit human life** may be supported as humans have **dominion**, and ultimately human life is sacred.
- Whilst it is not ideal (due to stewardship), many would see it as acceptable for the **greater good** to humans.

Sikh Responses

- Sikhs would not encourage animal testing of any kind because animals have a **soul** too.
- **Stewardship** is important and humans should not abuse their power. It will also have a negative effect on someone's **karma**.
- However, a Sikh may not actively protest against testing for research/ medicine if it is done as humanely as possible, and with the right **intention**.

Use and Abuse of Animals: Food

What are the issues?

- Many people choose not to eat meat, perhaps for ethical, environmental or religious reasons.
- Vegetarian: does not eat meat
- Vegan: does not eat animals products



Christian Responses

- There are no dietary requirements within Christianity – individual choice.
- The Bible states that ***'Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you'*** which suggests animals can be consumed however, Christians would not promote the cruel conditions some animals face for the production of food.

Sikh Responses

- Most Sikhs would be vegetarian, especially if they have joined the Khalsa
- Animals have souls, and the Guru Granth Sahib forbids killing living beings.
- Food served in the langar is always vegetarian
- ***'Show kindness and mercy to all life'***

Year 11 – PRE – Religion and Life Part 2: The Origins and Value of Human Life

The Origins of Human Life

Christian Views: Summary

- Day 6 of creation: story of Adam and Eve found in first book of the Bible: Genesis
- Adam was created from the dust of the earth, then Eve from one of Adam's ribs.
- God 'breathed life' into Adam's nostrils
- ***'Human beings were made in God's image':*** 'Imago Dei'.



Contrasting Christian Views

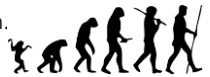
- **Fundamentalist Christians**: take the creation of Adam and Eve to be literally true. Also known as Literalists as they believe the Bible is the exact, literal word of God.
- This view cannot co-exist with science - Adam and Eve vs Evolution
- **Liberal Christians**: believe God was the creator but the theory of evolution explain *how* it happened, whereas the Bible addresses *why*. Evolution is the way God designed life to advance and evolve. (Also known as non-literalists)
- This view can co-exist with science, other thn the idea that evolution was by chance.

Sikh Views

- The 'how' and 'when' humans came to exist is not as important as the 'why'.
- Sikhs do not oppose evolution, but nothing would happen if it wasn't for hukam (Waheguru's Divine Will)
- Waheguru oversees the natural process of evolution – it isn't left to random chance
- ***'Without God, there is nothing at all… He is woven into His creation'***

Scientific Views

- Charles Darwin published 'The Origin of Species..' in 1859 and outlined the theory of evolution.
- Single-celled creatures appeared in the sea which eventually evolved into other species.
- Humans evolved over millions of years from other animals on land.



Sanctity of Life vs Quality of Life

- Sanctity of Life is the concept that life is sacred and given by God; both Christians and Sikhs believe in this.
- **For Christians.** Sanctity of Life only applies to human life and not the life of animals. Sikhs see animals as more valuable as they believe they have a soul too.
- ***'God breathed life into Adam'*** supports the Christian view that human life is sacred and symbolises that a part of God lives within all of us – for Christians this is our soul
- **The quality of life** refers to the **general wellbeing** of a person e.g. their health and happiness.
- When faced with matters of life and death Christians have to consider the quality of a person's life and this can often conflict with the **Sanctity of Life**
- **Christians and Sikhs would largely view the sanctity of life as more important than the quality of life.**

Exam Terminology

Influence: The capacity to have an effect on people's character, behaviour or actions
Contrasting: To show a difference
Contemporary: Occurring in the present time
Sacred Writings: Writing that is believed to contain words of God e.g. The Bible
Evaluate: Consideration of different viewpoints before arriving at a final judgement
Religious Traditions: Viewpoints from either a religion or religious denomination
Justified Conclusion: A final decision which is based upon a range of evidence

Attitudes Towards Abortion

- Deliberate ending of a pregnancy.
- England: can take place before 24 weeks and 2 doctors have to agree.
- Reasons may include: physical or emotional wellbeing of the mother, or potential wellbeing of the foetus or existing children.
- After 24 weeks: can only take place if there is a serious risk of disability or illness, or if the mother's life is at risk.
- Pro-life arguments: Against abortion, due to respecting the life of the foetus
- Pro-choice arguments: May support abortion due to respecting the choice of the mother

Christian Views





- Sanctity of Life – many Christians do not support abortion as the foetus' life is sacred from conception: ***'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you'***
- Roman Catholics – do not support abortion at all (only perhaps if the mother's life was as risk): ***'Do not commit murder'***
- Liberal Christians – generally oppose it, but it's acceptable in some circumstances e.g. mother's life at risk, rape, child would have severe disability (arguments relating to **quality of life**): ***Agape, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself', 'Blessed are the merciful'.***

Sikh Views



- Sanctity of Life – Sikhs do not generally support abortion because it interferes with God's creative work: ***'You were cast into the womb by the Lord's command'.***
- It is still not acceptable even if the child may have a disability – **sanctity of life is more important than quality of life.**
- Only acceptable circumstances might be rape or if the mother's life is at risk.

Attitudes Towards Euthanasia

- Euthanasia is assisting with the ending of life for a person who is terminally ill or has a degenerative illness.
- **Active euthanasia:** life is ended at the request of the patient via lethal injection or poison (assisted suicide). This is also known as **voluntary euthanasia**.
- **Passive euthanasia** : whatever is keeping the patient alive is taken away e.g. life support, medication. Their illness is then what kills them. This might be **non-voluntary euthanasia**, as they may not be able to give consent.
- Active euthanasia is illegal in UK. It is allowed in some countries e.g. Switzerland

Christian Views

- Sanctity of Life – many Christians do not support euthanasia as life is still sacred, even if its quality is poor: ***'Human beings were made in God's image'***
- Roman Catholics – do not support euthanasia at all; only God has the right to end life: ***'Do not commit murder'***
- However, if large doses of painkillers are used to help a person's suffering, and as a result, the person dies, this is OK in the yes of the Catholic Church and is called the **Doctrine of double effect**
- The Bible teaches that ***'There is a time to be born and a time to die'*** and therefore people shouldn't meddle in God's plans.
- Some Christians might argue that humans have been given freewill to make their own choices.
- Liberal Christians – whilst euthanasia would not be encouraged, it may be acceptable if it will relieve unbearable suffering (arguments for **quality of life**): ***Agape, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself', 'Blessed are the merciful'.***

Sikh Views

- Sanctity of Life – Sikhs do not support euthanasia because only God has the right to take life; he created everyone so their life is sacred: **'He created the creation and watches over it'.**
- Suffering in this life may be a result of bad karma from a previous life, so escaping this suffering with euthanasia would only lead to more suffering in the next life.
- Helping those who are ill and suffering is a good opportunity for sewa (selfless service): ***'Through selfless service, eternal peace is obtained'.***
- A Sikh would most likely support withdrawing medical provision e.g. life support if there is no chance of recovery.

Death and the Afterlife

Christian Views





- Death is not the end – God judges whether people go to heaven or hell
- Our eternal life is more significant than our temporary life on earth. Heaven is a place where God can be found ; indescribably wonderful. ***'God will wipe every tear from their eyes'***
- Hell is a place of torment, where God is not present: ***'Throw them into the burning furnace'***
- Christians vary on whether heaven and hell are literal or spiritual places.

Sikh Views



- Death is not the end – good or bad karma in this life dictates what our afterlife will be like
- We are all in a cycle of samsara – birth. death and re-birth
- Those who have built bad karma will stay in the cycle, and be reincarnated into lower beings.
- Those who have built good karma will be reincarnated into a higher being or, eventually, reach mukti (union with God).
- Each life is, therefore, a preparation for the next and should be used wisely.
- ***'They die, over and over again, only to be reborn, over and over again'.***