

Religious education

Revision guide Y11

- 1. Religious Expression**
- 2. Religion and conflict**
- 3. Religion and Medicine**
- 4. Authority Religion and State**

Y11 Revision

Religious Expression

Key Concepts:

Community: A group of people with something in common. Believers are usually part of a religious community sharing similar beliefs, values and traditions

Evangelism : How some religions spread their beliefs to others, usually through telling them about the faith such as missionaries.

Faith: having belief in something or someone. Religious believers show their faith through prayer, worship and living out the religious teachings of their religious tradition.

Identity: Particular personality and character. Belonging to a religious tradition may be part of someone's identity. They may express this by what they wear, what they eat and their jobs.

Pilgrimage: a journey to a place of special religious significance such as Varanasi or Lourdes

Sacred: Something so special that it is dedicated to God and should be respected. Places of worship often contain sacred items such as the Torah scrolls or Holy books

Key Words

Conversion cremation culture denomination expression idolatry initiation rites miracle mission respect rituals social justice spiritual development symbolism tradition witnessing

Christian Terms:

Bible church iconostasis ichthus incense Jesus Sacred Salvation army Vestments

Hindu terms:

Aum cremation havan mandir moksha shikhara varanasi

Religious teachings to explore

- Expressing faith through actions- the work of a religious charity or organisation
- Expressing faith through what is worn
- Expressing faith through symbols in a place of worship
- Expressing faith through pilgrimage – attitudes to pilgrimage
- Expressing faith through sharing faith with others

Typical exam questions:

- How can faith be expressed through what people wear?
- How can art express one's faith?
- Why do people support others?

- Can religion give a purpose in life?
- Do religious believers need to make their faith explicit?
- How can a belief drive actions?
- Why worship in special buildings?
- What makes a place conducive to worship?
- What makes a journey special?
- Can pilgrimage help a person's spiritual growth?
- Is pilgrimage out of date?
- Is there a purpose or value to interfaith dialogue?
- Is it right for people to share their faith with others?
- How should the media be used for religious purposes?

Expressing faith through what is Worn:

- All religious traditions expect believers to wear modest clothing. In some places of worship shoulders are expected to be covered. Many believers will wear symbols of religious traditions out of choice. These may be special to the believer and passed on to other generations. The colour of clothing may sometimes reflect wedding or mourning ceremonies. Sometimes believers wear things that reflect the culture rather than the religion that they belong to such as saris.

Christianity

- There are no specific requirements for all Christians but believers may make a personal choice to express their beliefs and identity. Often these choices will act as an outward witness of faith.
- Some denominations may wear specific clothing, for example female members of the Plymouth Brethren will often wear a headscarf and members of the Salvation Army will often wear a uniform to remind them they stand for war against evil and suffering and fighting for God and salvation.
- Many believers choose to wear a cross or a crucifix around their neck. It is often worn to show the believer's identity and as a reminder that God is always with them. Some Christians wear the fish symbol as a reminder of ichthus (Greek word for fish) which was said to have been used by early Christians as a secret symbol. It represents the belief in 'Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Saviour'
- In churches, worshippers are expected to dress modestly. Priests, will often wear vestments to show the importance and sacredness of the ceremony.

Hinduism

- No specific clothing is worn. Saris are often worn by Hindu women but they reflect the cultural rather than the religious identity of the believers
- The tilak is often worn as a symbol of a special occasion or of being married.
- The aum symbol is often on a chain around the neck. It is believed to be the first sound ever spoken

- In mandirs worshippers are expected to dress modestly and shoes will be expected to be removed before entering the prayer hall.

How can faith be expressed through what people wear?

Symbols of religion: Believers may wear symbols of their religion such as badges, eg fish sign, on necklaces eg cross or crucifix or aum

Wearing particular clothing :believers may wear specific items of clothing to show what they stand for, such as the uniform worn by members of the Salvation Army

Obedying a commandment or sacred scripture: believers may wear specific clothing because they believe it is a requirement of their sacred texts, eg Salvation Army uniform

Readiness for prayer or worship: believers may wear certain clothing to show they are ready for prayer and worship eg Christian priests might wear vestments.

Do religious believers need to make their faith explicit?

My religion is part of my identity so it's important to show it to others.

It's what happens between you and god that is important people don't have to wear particular clothes.

I believe it is a duty to show the religion I belong to

Expressing Faith through symbols in a place of worship

Each place of worship, even within the same tradition has unique symbols

Symbols are used to aid worship symbols all have a special meaning

There are often different meanings given to the symbols within the tradition

Christianity:

- Use of symbols depends on the denomination of the place of worship
- Chapels are often simpler than churches and cathedrals
- Crosses and crucifixes are often inside and outside the building. They represent the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Stained glass windows are often reminders of Bible stories and Jesus' teachings.
- The altar is a symbol of God meeting his people
- The lectern is where the Bible is read. It is often in the shape of an eagle to symbolise the spread of the 'good news' around the world
- The pulpit is used for preaching. It is usually raised to show the importance of the message
- In many churches there is a font which is used for baptism to symbolise entry into god's family

- In some churches, such as Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic, incense is used to express thanks to god
- In Greek Orthodox churches the iconostasis or screen symbolises separation of Earth and Heaven

Why worship in special buildings?

- It is a duty I am expected to attend each week
- It's important to worship as part of a community
- The place is sacred there is a sense of holiness
- The service teaches me about my religion
- The symbols in the place of worship help me to focus and worship
- It is traditional I have always worshipped there and my parents before me.
- It is the only place that I meet others who have the same beliefs

What makes a place conducive to worship?

- Community worshipping together
- Community activities such as the choir
- Open spaces which remind me of the greatness of God
- Inspirational teachings from faith leaders
- No talking which lets me hear the teachings from faith leaders and allows me to concentrate
- Decorations and symbols such as the stained glass windows
- Ceremonies which I have take part in all my life such as mass
- United sense of purpose and welcome
- Visual support for worship such as stained glass windows.

How can Art express one's faith?

- The symbols in the place of worship remind me of the greatness of God
- The painting of icons is an act of worship
- I think that people shouldn't be represented through art. It goes against the Ten commandments by creating graven images
- It is wrong to draw representations of God as no-one knows what he looks like.

'Money spent on religious buildings is money wasted' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer , showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer. (8 marks AO2)

- Many founders of religion didn't need a religious building to teach in
- Sacred texts do not state that religious buildings are required
- The money could be used to help the poor and needy
- There are many religious buildings now empty
- For some religious buildings the home is used for worship
- Religious buildings help people worship

- Religious buildings are places where members of the community can meet and worship together
- Religious buildings are places where members of the community can meet and worship together
- Religious buildings have a range of different community uses
- Sacred symbols are housed in places of worship
- Initiation rites often happen in places of worship

Expressing Faith Through Pilgrimage

Although most worship takes place in the home or a local place of worship for some religious believers it is important to make pilgrimage to that has special religious significance. A pilgrimage may be made because a founder of a religion lived there such as Jesus and the Holy Land or a religious duty such as Hindus to Varanasi.

Hinduism

Many Hindus will try to visit Varanasi, the main city of Shiva

They do this to find liberation, accompany cremation ghats and take part in worship

Christianity

It is not a requirement for Christians to go on pilgrimage

Christians from all denominations often go to the Holy Land because of the connection with Jesus' life. They visit Bethlehem where Jesus was born and Golgotha where he was crucified

Roman Catholics visit Lourdes in the hope of a miracle healing where St Bernadette is said to have had a number of visions of the Virgin Mary

What makes a journey special?

It allows you to develop spiritually

You are able to make the journey with other people who share the same beliefs or values

You are able to witness something that you have read about

It is a once in a lifetime journey

It is required by an authority such as a sacred text

Can pilgrimage help a person's spiritual growth?

Pilgrims may feel a sense of God's presence

It helps people affirm their religious identity

Pilgrims can visit places they have read about

Going on pilgrimage demonstrates a connection with the past

Is pilgrimage out of date?

It is part of a tradition that should be passed down through the generations

It is a duty within some traditions such as Islam

Believers can benefit spiritually as they are together

Supports the development of a community of believers

Going on pilgrimage can bring together all different age groups

Many would say it is a waste of money as it benefits so few people

There are no modern pilgrimage sites all the events are of the past

Expressing faith through sharing faith with others

Hindu teachings

Most Hindu traditions do not seek converts to the religion although they don't bar people if they wish to become Hindus

Many Hindus consider it important to take part in interfaith dialogue to understand about other religions

Christian Teachings

Some denominations of Christianity consider it important to spread their beliefs (often called 'the good news') to others. They may do this by holding meetings, evangelising in public places or going from door to door

Some TV channels have been set up to evangelise and try to convert people from other traditions

Many Christians consider it important to take part in interfaith dialogue to understand about other religions.

Is there a purpose or value to interfaith dialogue?

Through learning about other people's traditions, I can understand why people live the way they do.

Through interfaith dialogue people realise all the values they share

Interfaith dialogue can often support peace, such as Corrymeela

I go to my local interfaith meetings as it's important that I know what is happening within my community

In many communities faith groups work together for a common cause, such as campaigning to keep a local library open

Is it right for people to share their faith with others?

I believe it is important for me to pass on the good news of my beliefs to others so they may share it

Through learning about other people's traditions I can understand why people live the way they do

By learning about someone else's beliefs, I realise how much we have in common

Why should I keep my beliefs private? I am proud of them

Prejudice is caused by ignorance. It is important for me to know that others believe

Faith is personal and doesn't need to be shared

Sometimes people can be discriminated against if their faith is known

How should the media be used for religious purposes?

As I can no longer walk to church it is a great comfort the 'Songs of Praise' is on TV

Why are there never any positive images of religious people on TV? They are nearly always stereotypes

The language used by the media about religion can make people become prejudiced

Where are the good news stories about the positive role of religion?

I can't attend my local church anymore so it is good to take part in worship through the TV

I don't pay my TV licence to hear about religion

Where are the TV programmes about my religion?

After we watched the film we had a really good discussion about the existence of God and why people suffer

Expressing Faith through Actions

Religion gives many religious believers their purpose in life. They believe there is a divine plan for all they do. As we have seen, some religious believers express their faith through worship, what they wear and going on pilgrimage. However most religious believers consider that it is through their actions and how they support others that their beliefs are really expressed. This will often include actively supporting the work of a religious charity or organisation.

Can a religion give purpose in my life?

My religion is my guide for all I do in life

Religion is used as an excuse instead of thinking for yourself

My religion will be with me from birth to death

I only have to look in my sacred book to find the purpose of life

How can a belief drive actions?

It gives me a sense of purpose

It gives me the confidence to know what to do

By reading the sacred texts there is a guide for all actions

Why do people support others?

I believe that doing good works on earth will be rewarded

I follow 'the golden rule' to treat others the way I would like to be treated

It's a duty in my religion to help others

We were all made by God and therefore all deserve respect

Religion and Conflict revision

Key Concepts

Conflict: Confrontation between people, for example because of relationship or law

Interfaith Dialogue: Different faith groups talking to each other. There are many examples of interfaith networks locally and nationally; these help to smooth out misunderstandings

Just war: A war justified according to agreed conditions, for example if there is a just cause or when it is the last resort

Non-Violent protest: making a stand using entirely peaceful means, for example through vigils or marches

Pacifism: The belief that any form of violence or war is unacceptable. Pacifists include Gandhi Martin Luther King

Reconciliation: making up after a quarrel or dispute, and working together again. Religions teach about forgiveness as it leads to progress and solution

Religious teachings

Peace, suffering, the nature of suffering, purpose of suffering, support for those suffering, forgiveness and reconciliation, an individual or community working for peace, attitudes to conflict and war, just war and equivalents in other religions, attitudes to non violent protest

Key words

Conflict, conscientious objector, forgiveness, the Golden Rule, interfaith dialogue, Just war, non-violent protest, pacifism, peace, peacemakers, reconciliation, suffering, sanctity of life, beatitudes, Bible, the 'fall', Job, original sin, ahimsa, Arjuna, atman, dharma, Kali, kshatrya, moksha

Religious Teachings about peace

Hindu:

Ahimsa is the main guide for life, and includes peace and non violence

The inner spiritual life of the atman and doing one's dharma (duty) are the main focus of life

Maintaining a peaceful society is important for Hindu: this includes protecting the innocent

Mohandas Gandhi was a pacifist . He taught war is always wrong. He taught **Satyagraha** (stand up for what you believe without using violence)

Christian:

Retaliation when wronged is not helpful; pray for those who are against you

Follow Jesus' example and show love, compassion and kindness to others

Jesus called people to be peacemakers

Corrymeela in Northern Ireland helps protestants and catholics to talk and work together, to stand against prejudice and learn to forgive and share faith.

How can peace be made and kept?

Peace is possible if people look to their faith and put it into practice.

Peace needs to be worked at. It doesn't just happen.

Through agencies such as the United Nations.

Making peace will only be possible when all sides are willing to work at it.

Through interfaith dialogue and people talking to each other.

Through the power of prayer

How can good relationships be developed between people?

You need to get to know other people, especially those different from you, if you are going to develop good relations with them

There needs to be a willingness to understand other people to get along with them; that takes effort

When people respect each other's identity and faith, then it is possible to work together and get along despite differences

As long as people focus only on their own ideas and values, they will find it difficult to build relationships with others that are different

How can communities work together?

The word community means 'common unity' so we should seek the things we hold in common and unite in those, the rest is personal

Planning and organising of community events should involve all different 'branches' within the community

When different groups within a community talk to each other and agree to respect each other, things will happen

Most religions have teachings about being good citizens and working for the good of the community- so religious groups can lead the way

Work together on joint programmes such as Corrymeela

How can different religions support peace by talking to each other?

Unless religious believers get together and understand each other, and share their common beliefs for peace, there will always be conflict

By visiting each other's places of worship and looking at what is in common

Through joint religious demonstrations against global warming

Through interfaith Network Meetings and holding an interfaith week

Religion can never bring peace to the world. Do you agree? Give two viewpoints.

Religion is sometimes seen as the cause of difference and dispute

Religious beliefs can lead believers to a sense of avoiding war

There are examples of injustice and acts of aggression or bias that have come from religion itself

The United Nations is a secular organisation

Religions all teach about peace and many people's lifestyles have been affected positively by religion

Through the power of prayer

There are many examples of religious believers standing up against injustices and acts of aggression when no one else would, or when their own lives and livelihoods were at stake

There are also examples from different religions of people who have shown great self sacrifice when working for and campaigning for peace

Religious teachings about conflict and war, and non-violent protest

Hindu:

Ahimsa (non harming) is a fundamental principle in Hinduism

Hindus are expected to work for peace

It is recognised that sometimes conflict or violent action may be needed

Kshatriyas are the warrior class

Gandhi's example was of non-violent direct action

It is important to work for or maintain peace and justice

Christian:

It is sometimes necessary to go to war - known as a just war (as defined by St Thomas Aquinas)

Jesus said, 'those who take up the sword, die by the sword'

Some Christians would say that Jesus' teaching and example require not taking up any kind of violent conflict. Quakers (Society of Friends) in particular share this view

Loving enemies and praying for them is a greater victory

Denominations favour non-violence; Jesus taught it and showed it

St Paul said that Christians should obey governing authorities

Non-violence is humane and creative

Christians are expected to stand up for injustice

Examples from the life of MLK

Is it ever right to fight?

The 'Golden rule' tells you to treat others how you would wish to be treated

Many religious leaders such as Gandhi have used peaceful means

Most religions teach about peace and forgiveness: such as the Beatitudes

It is not in conflict with religious teachings about peace to also protect the innocent and preserve justice

When justice or equality are under threat there is no option but to fight for them

Can a war ever be just?

War has no real winners, and every step should be taken to avoid it

When war is the only option, and all other means have failed, it would be the greatest evil to let injustice and inhumanity take their course

If a war is fought for a just cause, and there is a chance to succeed, then it could be considered just

In one sense , all religions teach that there can be nothing such as a just war; but at the same time, most also teach that there are some things that need to be protected- by force if necessary

Fighting a war justly requires that armies ensure they do not kill innocent citizens or destroy everything in their path

How can war/conflict be avoided?

Following the teachings of religious leaders, for example Jesus and the importance of forgiveness

Through interfaith dialogue and people learning more about each other

Prayer. There are also interfaith weeks of prayer for peace

Discouraging extremism in people's views and in the following of their religion, creed or political philosophy helps avoid future conflicts

Openness to others, freedom and justice for all are unlikely to lead to war

How can non-violent protest be used?

Drawing people's attention to the things that need changing in the community, for example through the media

A strong protest without any violence or damage is a powerful signal to authorities about what the people think

Through petitions and peace marches

Non-violent actions achieve nothing. Do you agree? Refer to religious beliefs and give two points of view.

Unless there is some direct action to make people know you are serious, non violent protests achieve nothing

Non violent protests are weak and the people causing injustice or suffering remain unaffected by them

Most religions have some teaching about the just use of force in certain circumstances, for example the just war

Non-violent protests can gain media attention that can be helpful, for example marches

Non-violent protests can show the strength of feeling people have about an issue or principle

Non-violent actions by Gandhi and MLK brought success

The importance of the sanctity of life

Religious teachings about forgiveness and reconciliation

Hindu:

The example of Hindu, such as Gandhi's practice and sayings such as 'The weak can never forgive, forgiveness is the attribute of the strong' or 'where love is, there God is also'

Dharma (or duty, religious duty to do that which is right and true)

Christianity:

The teachings of Jesus, for example Beatitudes (happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them') and his words from the cross, ('Father forgive them they do not know what they are doing')

His actions, for example zacchaeus- visited by Jesus despite his cheating and selfishness, and given a new sense of life and purpose

Examples of Christians forgiving, eg MLK

The Lord's Prayer (contains the words 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us')

Is forgiveness possible?

Religious leaders' actions show it, for example Pope John Paul 11

It has to come from the heart

Believers may consider that with the help of God it is possible to forgive anyone

There are some things that are just unforgiveable

Services of healing and forgiveness are held to make it possible

Sometimes forgiveness takes a long time. It comes eventually but one never forgets

Believers might think what God has forgiven them and can learn to forgive others

Reconciliation activities such as Corrymeela show it is possible

How important is forgiveness?

If we do not learn to forgive then society becomes hardened and even more selfish

Forgiveness, however hard it is, must come, or people cannot move on with their lives

Part of the Lord's Prayer and prayers from sacred texts make forgiveness a high priority

Forgiveness is the way to reconciliation, so it is vitally important that it is given and received, asked for and offered

Without forgiveness there is no hope only bitterness

How important is it to forgive?

If a person does not forgive then a person becomes full of resentment and anger

Forgiveness helps to restore the one who did the wrong, but also enables the one who was wronged to make a new start

It is important to forgive because God shows forgiveness to humans

If we fail to forgive someone who asks for it, we hinder their chance to deal with the guilt of what they have done

How do people learn to forgive?

By experiencing it from others especially parents as they grow up

People can learn to forgive through the teachings of their religion and the example of great leaders in the faith

Part of the Lord's Prayer

In one sense it is learned by doing there is in everyone an innate ability and wish to forgive

It is very hard to learn but not trying leads to endless hatred and suffering

Realising that punishment comes from God

Forgiveness is a sign of weakness. Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answers, showing you have thought about more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer.

If everyone forgave and did nothing evil would continue

It's God's role to forgive not humans'

Retribution is one of the four main aims of punishment

Once a person has been forgiven they could do the same thing again and expect to be forgiven again

Forgiveness means that the person wronged is able to move on in their life

Forgiveness restores relationships and helps the community to progress

It takes strength to forgive

Teachings from sacred texts show the importance of forgiveness

Religious teachings about the nature and purpose of suffering

Hindu teachings

Suffering: is a natural part of life, caused by Kali in order to encourage people to become detached. It destroys earthly pleasures that people enjoy. Showing compassion to those who suffer is not excluded by belief in karma, and actions that are performed in this life (agami karma) will affect the future

Christian teachings

Suffering has entered the world as a result of; free will given to humanity, the 'original' choice to be selfish or do wrong, human nature not being perfect. Suffering also results from; 'moral' evil: where people choose to do wrong, 'natural' evil: natural events that lead to suffering, a finite world: where there are limits. Suffering can: lead to good things, help develop a person's character, lead to inner strength and ability to overcome suffering and succeed, be a way of participating in the saving work of Jesus. Those suffering should be helped and supported; this is in keeping with the gospel tradition.

Why do the innocent suffer?

Because people don't follow the 'Golden Rule' and treat others as they would like to be treated

The story of Job shows suffering can sometimes be part of God's plan

There is no just reason why innocent people should suffer

The innocent often suffer because they have no one to speak on their behalf in religious terms, the suffering of the innocent is often a means to greater blessings to others

How can those suffering be helped?

If we have any faith at all then helping those that suffer is a duty and a priority

Worshipping communities will help organise furniture and home support for those in need

Prayer for and solidarity with those who suffer is a great way to offer support and help doing any practical thing to help those suffering is worthwhile, as well as giving to charities and organisations that are geared up to helping

Many religions have charities that help those suffering

True religion is this: to visit the orphans, provide for the widows, and to stand up against injustice

Religion cannot give an answer to the suffering of the innocent. Do you agree? Give reasons and evidence for your answers, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer.

Suffering is caused by the choices and decisions people make

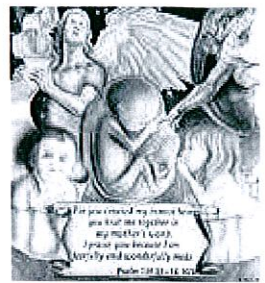
Some people would argue that if God was loving and powerful he would stop the innocent from suffering

Some evils result from human actions, like the papa (sinful acts of Hinduism) and others just happen

Some religions teach that some suffering results from the way the world is

Some religions teach that all life involves some kind of suffering

Suffering can be seen by some Christians as a way of participating in the saving work of Christ



Religion & Medicine

Key Concepts

Conscience - inner voice that keeps a person on the right track. Some religions see this as a God given instinct or characteristic to help people make the right choice.

Free will - Humans have free choices in life. Many religions teach that people can choose to do right and follow God and religious commands.

Hippocratic Oath - A promise that Drs take to preserve life at all costs. This means treating patients to the best of one's ability and never to intend to harm or breach patient confidentiality.

Medical Ethics - Process of deciding what is good and acceptable in medicine, such as through conscience. Most believers would apply their religious values to medical issues too.

Quality of Life - The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable for example, free from undue pain and stress. Many religions have teachings about the way to live life to the full.

Sanctity of Life - Life in all its forms is sacred. Most religions have teachings about avoiding taking life.

Key Words (Christianity):

Bible free will image of God Ten Commandments

(Hinduism)

Ahimsa Bhagavad Gita dharma karma transmigration

Religious teachings on the Sanctity of Life

All the world religions teach life is special and should be protected and valued.

They should regard each life as special and unique valuable beyond measure

Christianity:

God is interested and involved in each human's life

Life is sacred and a gift from God

Only God should take life away. Jesus showed in his teachings that all life should be valued

Hindu teachings

The soul is present in all species of life. Everything that lives and grows is interconnected. Where there is life or soul, there is atman. At death then soul enters another body

Evaluative questions on Sanctity of Life

Why is life so special? - We know so much about bodies and brains, but we really do not know much about what makes life

God has given all creatures the ability to reproduce - and every life is special

Religious scripture

Shows the importance of creation

Life is special because we cannot really create it from nothing - Life is a unique and precious thing

Should people have free will to make life or death decisions?

God created all life so he should decide

People say 'It is my life' but it is not really, for everyone's life affects family and friends around d them

There is no reason why a thinking and clear minded person should not be allowed to make a decision about their life

No one person should ever be called on to make a decision about their own or someone else's life

God gave humans free will but when deciding about life and death people should talk to others affected

What are the moral issues a couple must consider in life and death decisions?

When does life begin?

What is the best thing for the 'person' about whom we are deciding?

What do our scriptures teach, and how can we be true to that teaching in this situation

Are we playing God in trying to make these decisions?

Who can end another's life?

Are we abusing technology in the decisions we make?



EXAM QUESTION: -, Use a range of moral & religious teachings in your arguments and include religious and general specialist vocabulary to gain higher marks

'Religions shouldn't play a part in medical ethics' Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answers showing you have considered more than one point of view (8 marks)

One the one hand:

Religious scriptures have to be interpreted, for example issues of IVF, so might not be relevant

It is up to the doctors to decide they are the medical experts

The role of the Hippocratic Oath

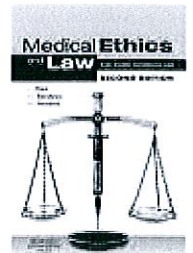
On the other hand:

Religions have different rules for example Jehovah's Witnesses and blood transfusions

The importance of eternal life

The importance of the role of prayers and healing

Important questions, such as when does life begin?



Religious teachings about medical ethics:

For many modern medical issues such as plastic surgery, blood transfusions, testing drugs and organ donations there are no clear religious teachings. However, there are key principles or values from religious traditions that would guide believers in making decisions on these issues. When answering questions on medical ethics you should refer to the points below

How do believers decide what is right in modern medical ethics?

Think about ultimate principles in the religion that will have an impact on the issue

Search sacred texts for references or beliefs that may relate to the issue

Analyse intentions and measure them against other relevant teachings

Discuss the matter with other believers and with 'experts' in the religion and the issue

Consider the effects on themselves and others, and on society as a whole, and weigh up whether these are compatible with basic beliefs

Pray about the issues involved and seek guidance directly from God.

Evaluation questions on medical ethics: There are four issues you should be able to evaluate and are often asked about in (C & E type) questions

How do doctors make ethical decisions?

Drs are expected to take account of someone's faith and beliefs

I think that effects of illness and of treatment on the family of a patient should also be considered by Drs

Long term effects on the patients have to be considered in every case, not just the short term cure

The most important factor is the Hippocratic Oath; it affects every decision dr's make

What are the dilemmas faced by scientific advancement?

Using life support machines is great, unless the person is totally dependent on it

It is not always right to preserve life, sometimes we have to accept that our time is up

There are times when thinking or talking about donating organs raises lots of issues

New drugs need to be tested before they can be used safely, but how is it best to do this?

Some surgery and medical treatments are just cosmetic and not life saving so are they really necessary

I would hate to be a dr where a patient has strong views about treatment, like someone who doesn't want a blood transfusion or something





How does religion help or hinder people making decisions?

It is difficult to get agreement between all people within the same religious tradition, and that makes it hard to decide

For some modern medical issues there are no clear specific teachings in religions or their scriptures

Answers through prayer

Religious teachings and guidance can help people facing difficult decisions

Having clear beliefs and principles can make it easier to make a decision



Does the decision depend on the situation?

The role of conscience

The role of utilitarianism - for the greatest good

Religious believers will look for principles or values to apply to a particular situation

Every situation is different, so there is no one decision

You need to strike a balance between weighing up the situation and following the teachings that matter to you

It can never just depend on the situation - there are some ultimate principles too

Exam Question

“Religion only hinders a person making a decision in medical ethics” Do you agree. Give reasons or evidence in your and show you have considered more than one point of view.

On the one hand:

Religions give people a structure of principles and values that guide them in making all sorts of decisions in life

There are people within faith traditions who have had experiences that can help others

Sacred texts have rules and teachings that can help in deciding what is best

Through prayer and worship people often feel helped and guided in decision making

Support groups are available through faith communities to help, even if a wrong decision is made

On the other hand:

Ancient scriptures cannot provide guidance on modern medical dilemmas

Some rules or principles of religions might result in the loss of life and suffering for families who could have had help

Medical science can provide treatments for most things and should take priority

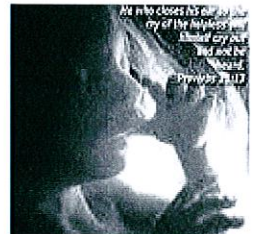
Religion just confuses people and they end up not knowing what to do

Sometimes people are just scared of what others in their faith might say about the decision they really want to make themselves.

Religious teaching about abortion:

Christianity

- **General - most teach that all life is special and should be protected and valued**
- Generally Christians have concerns about abortion because of beliefs in:
 - Sanctity of Life
 - People being created in the image of God
 - All life being sacred
 - References to the 10 Commandments (Thou shalt not kill)
 - Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches generally against abortion in any circumstance
 - Other denominations against abortion for social reasons, but will accept it in certain situations i.e. (such as mother's life being at risk)
 - Many Evangelical Protestants are against abortion in principle, but understand it may be acceptable in some circumstances
 - Many Christian denominations leave the decision to the individual



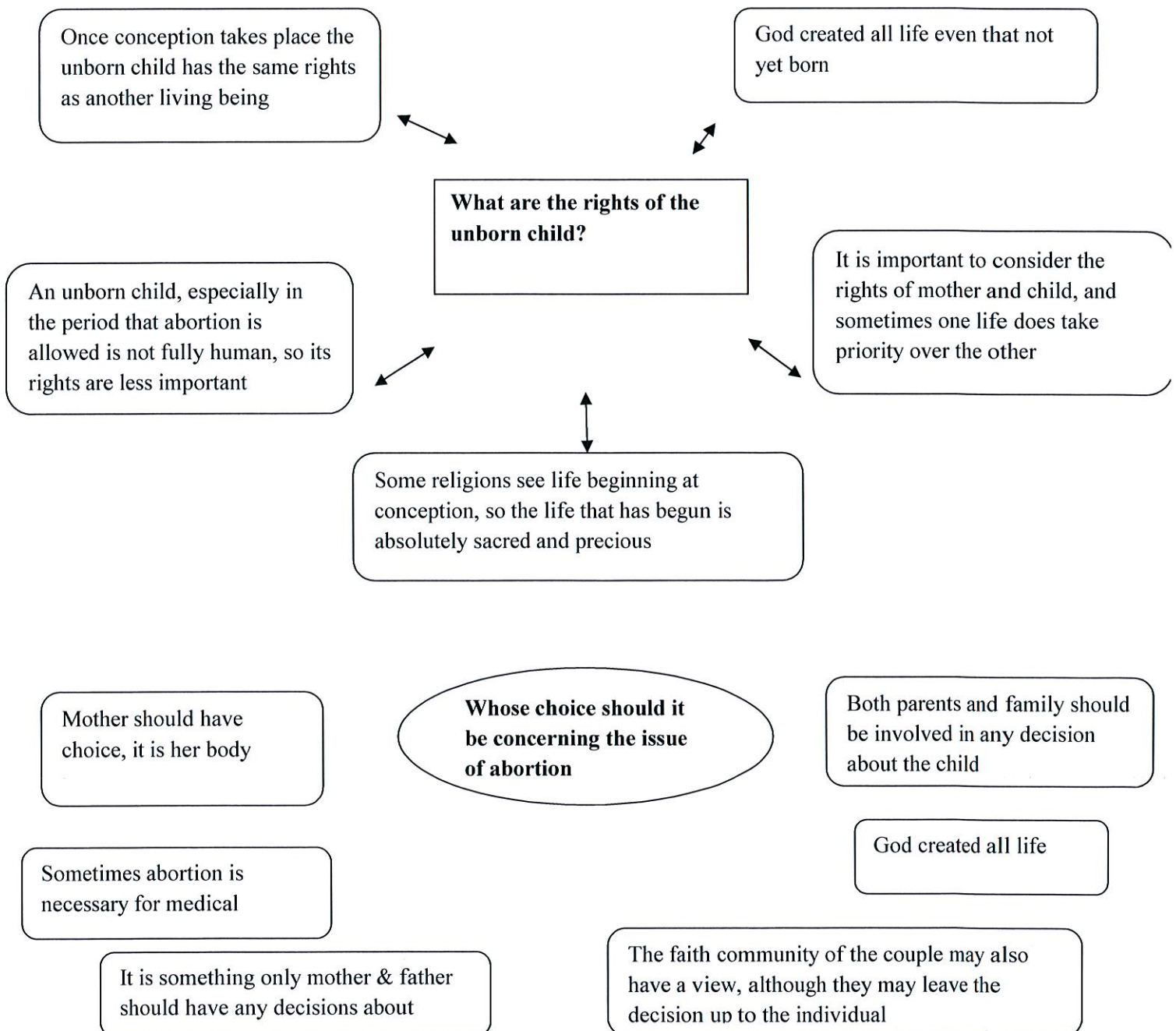


Hinduism

- Abortion is against Ahimsa (non-violence to any living thing)
- Some medical conditions might allow it (if mother's life at risk)
- Some believe a foetus has no soul or personality until after 5 months, so abortion is possible before if there are good reasons

Evaluation questions on abortion

You should be able to evaluate two issues both religious and non religious these are often asked in the GCSE C & D questions





Exam Question

"Abortion can never be justified" Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answer showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer (8 marks)

Exam Tip

To gain full marks in evaluation (e) questions you should include a range of moral and religious teachings in your arguments and include religious and general specialist language. Look at the points in each of the hands in answer to the question above and use them to help you to answer the question, Work out what specific religious terms from two different religious traditions you could add.

On the one hand:

- Abortion is in the end the taking of a life and that is in principle never justifiable
- Religious believers would refer to the sanctity of life to say that taking a life is unacceptable in most cases
- In Britain the law does not allow the taking of life in any other case, so we should not allow it in the case of the unborn child either
- The effects of an abortion on the mother and the family are also a reason to say that abortion is not justifiable

On the other hand:

- Aborting a foetus to save a mother's life is a special circumstance and should be allowed
- Expecting a woman to give birth to a child after a rape is uncaring and monstrous
- Up to the time the law allows abortion, the unborn child is not fully human or independent, so aborting is not the same as killing other human beings
- To allow a child to be born when the mother does not want it, or is unable to care for it well, is not justifiable
- Some religious believers would say that whatever a person decides about abortion, compassion and understanding should be the main attitude.



EUTHANASIA

Religious teachings about euthanasia

You may be asked questions on religious teachings and attitudes concerning issues about euthanasia. These are normally in (b & d) questions. You need to answer from two different religious traditions in (d) questions)

General:

Most religions teach about the sanctity of life, and so have concerns about euthanasia. Most religions see life as sacred and special.

CHRISTIANITY

- Taking a life is wrong, because of the belief in the sanctity of life
- Life is a gift from God, and only he can take it away
- Death is not the final end, but it is a doorway to life after death
- Suffering can have a purpose
- Hospices offer an alternative where patient and family are supported

HINDUISM

- Ahimsa - non violence to any living thing means that euthanasia is generally unacceptable
- Death is a natural part of life, and will come in its time
- Dharma or duty is important in life, and should be followed through
- Sometimes, a 'willed death' for purely selfless motives may be acceptable

Evaluative Questions on Euthanasia. There are two issues you should be able to evaluate and are often asked in (c & e) questions below are the two issues you need to consider. There are both religion and non-religion points you could include in your answers.

Whose life is it anyway?

- ✓ It is my life and I should decide if I want to go on living if my quality of life is reduced
- ✓ If I am unable to do anything for myself and it is too much for my family to have to cope with. I should have the right to decide when to end that kind of existence

- ✓ No one owns their own life, every life affects other people too
- ✓ I believe life is from God and so belongs to him alone

Is it ever right to end someone's life?

- ✓ Only God can decide when a person's life should end
- ✓ No one should ever make a decision to take another person's life
- ✓ Life is sacred, there is nothing else to say
- ✓ I believe that a person can decide the future of their own life

EXAM QUESTION

'Euthanasia is taking the easy way out of suffering' Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answer showing that you have thought of more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer (8 marks)

On the one hand:

- ❖ There are ways to control and alleviate suffering
- ❖ New aids for disabled people help them to lead better lives
- ❖ Taking one's own life can affect the feelings and emotions of family members even more than a normal death
- ❖ There are religious teachings that make euthanasia wrong
- ❖ Research in medicine can lead to cures for diseases or conditions becoming available
- ❖ God gave life, it is God's to take away
- ❖ The Ten Commandments say 'Thou shalt not kill'

On the other hand:

- ❖ The decision to go through with euthanasia is not an easy one at all
- ❖ Sometimes it is not their own suffering that drives people to consider euthanasia but the effect that their suffering has on their family
- ❖ Some medical conditions lead to degeneration of the body so euthanasia is a way to preserve the quality of life
- ❖ It depends on the type of euthanasia - voluntary or involuntary
- ❖ The role of free will and conscience



IVF

In the examination you may be asked questions on religious teachings and attitudes concerning IVF treatments. These are normally in (b) and (d) questions. You need to answer from two different religious traditions in (d) questions. It is important to remember that there will be different views and practices between believers in the same religion

Key Religious teachings about IVF

General:

- ✓ All religions have some teaching about not harming living things
- ✓ Interpretation of scriptures
- ✓ Responses depend on circumstances in countries
- ✓ Moral considerations of the costs

Christianity:

Roman Catholic Church

- ✓ Life is given by God and no one has the right to children
- ✓ All embryo technology is banned because it involves throwing away some fertilised eggs, children have a right to know who their parents are, and fertilisation takes place outside of the sex act.

Other Denominations:

- ✓ Also accept that embryo technology involves disposing of some fertilised eggs, children have a right to know who their parents are, and that fertilisation is outside of the sex act, **but might also say:**
- ✓ It provides happiness for the couple
- ✓ Technology is also a gift, although it can be abused too
- ✓ The cost isn't always justifiable when so many children are starving.



Hinduism

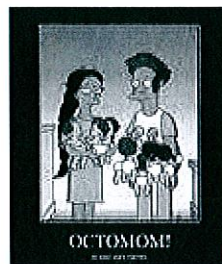
- ✓ The Law of Manu encourages couples who are infertile to adopt children
- ✓ IVF is acceptable if the sperm and the egg from the husband and wife are used
- ✓ Discarded embryos do not have souls as they are not mature enough
- ✓ Embryo donation is not allowed as caste is passed down through the father.

Evaluation questions concerning IVF

There is one issue you should be able to evaluate. This is often asked in the (C & d) questions.

'Is it right to spend so much money on IVF when people are starving in the world?'

- Some believe that IVF is God-given
- Importance of families in many religious traditions
- Greater quality of life with IVF
- Life is too sacred to place in the hands of human beings
- When there are unwanted babies needing adoption, it seems wrong spending so much money on fertility treatments.



Authority – Religion and State

Key Words

Authority – someone or something with a right or power over others. Secular authority is the law of the land and religious authority is the teachings of sacred texts or faith leaders.

Duty – what is expected because of someone's job or responsibility. Someone's duty can be because of a contract they have entered into or because of their religious beliefs.

Justice – where everyone has equal opportunities and human rights. Many religious believers campaign for social justice

Human rights – the things a person should expect to be able to have or do. Basic human rights are shelter, food and freedom from fear.

Personal conviction – something a person feels strongly about. This may be based on belief or experiences

Punishment – to make someone suffer pain or loss for a wrongdoing. There are 3 main aims of punishment – to deter others; to get justice; and to protect society.

There are 4 main areas you will need to know about for this topic:

1. Issues about duty
2. Issues about punishment and capital punishment
3. Issues of authority
4. Issues about human rights

1 - Duty

Christians –

- The 10 Commandments
- Jesus taught it was important to love God with all your heart, mind and strength
- Jesus taught to love your neighbour as you love yourself
- Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan which shows how it is important to treat others as you want to be treated.
- Christians are expected to use their talents widely

Hindus –

- Dharma or duty is an important aim in life. Through performing your duty moksha is achieved.
- For many Hindus, their dharma depends on their age and stage of life (ashrama), e.g. students have a duty to learn well at school and listen to their parents.

Questions -

'The only duty I have is to look after myself.' Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must include references to religious beliefs in your answer. (8 marks) AO3

On the one hand:

- We have been given free will
- If I don't look after myself who will?
- If we all looked after ourselves then there would be no need for support from others

On the other hand:

- The 'Golden rule' states that you should treat others as you would want to be treated.
- In Hinduism there are specific dharma for each ashrama.
- There are the teachings of Jesus, e.g. about love your neighbour, and others, plus the example he set.
- Belief in human rights for all.

2 - Issues about punishment and capital punishment

Punishment

A common belief among religious believers is that if you do not do your duty then you will be punished. For some believers this punishment may take the form of living with a guilty conscience or part of a divine plan after death.

All religions agree that the main aims of punishment are:

- To try to stop others from breaking the law
- To protect the rest of society
- To gain justice or vindication

Justice doesn't include getting your own back. Forgiveness is an important principle of all religious traditions.

Within prisons there are faith members of different traditions who seek to reform criminals so that they won't break the law again.

Christians –

- They believe that everyone was created with free choice to accept or reject God's ways.
- If people do sin or commit crimes then justice must follow, but Jesus also taught the importance of forgiveness.
- Most Christians believe that to gain justice, punishment should be given and forgiveness sought
- Most Christians believe that at the end of life God will be the final judge.

Hindus –

- Any sin is against the dharma of self control and religious and social duty.

- Most Hindus consider that a wrong act will produce bad karma which will have an effect on the atman's reincarnation.
- Most Hindus believe that to gain justice, punishment and forgiveness should be sought.

Capital Punishment

This is when a person is put to death as a punishment for a crime. It is sometimes called the death penalty. In the UK it has been abolished since 1970, although it's still used for a range of crimes in other countries.

Religious believers have personal considerations and there will therefore be difference between each tradition.

All religious traditions believe that life is precious and shouldn't be wasted. Justice is more important than revenge. Forgiveness is an important concept as is the role of sanctity of life.

Christians –

- All life is sacred and only God has the right to take life away.
- The Old Testament teaches 'an eye for an eye'.
- One of the Ten Commandments states 'thou shalt not kill'.
- Quakers (one Christian denomination) have campaigned against capital punishment since 1818 as they believe all life is sacred and punishments should be used to reform.

Hindus –

- Capital punishment in India used to depend on the caste to which Hindus belonged.
- Although there will be different personal views, the taking of life goes against the principle of ahimsa (non-violence).

Questions -

How should we deal with offenders?

- With compassion because Jesus taught the importance of forgiveness and not judging others
- We should punish them so that the law is upheld (vindication).
- The punishment should fit the crime
- We should not try to get our own back. In the Bible it says 'Repay no one evil for evil', (Romans chapter 12 verse 17)
- We should try and reform them so they will change their behaviour.

Is it ever right to take a life?

- All human life is sacred and belongs to God
- God decides when it is time for all life to end
- It might be the wrong person killed
- It depends on the circumstances and whether it is for the greater good, e.g. war

- Many sacred texts state it is wrong to take a life
- If someone has taken a life, then theirs should be taken as vindication

'A life for a life. All murderers should have the death penalty.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer. (AO3 8 marks)

On the one hand:

- In the Bible it states 'an eye for an eye'
- If God wills someone to die then they will
- Some people say capital punishment deters others from crimes and is the only way to get justice
- It's too expensive to keep murderers in prison for life
- Some sacred texts state that certain crimes deserve the death sentence
- If the criminal escapes or is released then they can murder again
- Some criminals prefer their life to be taken than spend it in prison

On the other hand

- Jesus taught the importance of mercy
- All life is sacred
- Taking a life won't bring another life back
- In the Ten Commandments it says 'thou shalt not kill'
- Some people are executed for crimes that don't involve taking a life such as drug trafficking
- Mistakes can be made and the wrong person can be executed

3 - Issues of authority

There are many different forms of authority which all people follow, for example their conscience, the law, rules in a school, etc. Religious believers also follow the authority of their religious leaders and the teachings in their sacred texts.

The role of sacred texts - sacred texts are an important source of authority for many religious believers. For many believers they are viewed as a revelation of truth and so the message is eternal. Sometimes there will be direct guidance or teachings for believers to follow. However, often believers need to interpret sacred texts themselves or follow the interpretations of religious leaders in order to make their message relevant to contemporary issues.

Sacred texts can also be a source of hope and inspiration, such as by following the examples of the life of Jesus, etc.

Sacred texts act as a guide:

- On how to worship
- On how to live your life

- On special days of celebration and days of rest
- To answers to ultimate or important questions, such as 'what happens when we die?'
- To medical issues, such as 'should I have an abortion?'

Christian –

B – Bible is the name given to the Christian Scriptures. It is made up of two parts, the Old and New Testaments. Altogether there are 66 different books in the Bible (written in Hebrew and Greek), covering many centuries of life and faith. The Bible has a special place in worship, and many Christians read from it every day.

I – Inspired by God. For some Christians this means it is literally 'the Word of God'; for others, it's believed that God speaks through the Bible, by inspiring Christians as they read and consider its insights and the timeless stories and messages that were written by people inspired by God.

B – Basis of faith – the bible is the source book of the Christian faith, and it is, particularly in Protestant Churches, seen as the supreme authority in matters of doctrine and belief. This means that it needs to be read, studied and interpreted, by individuals and communities.

L – Living Word is the term used by Christians to describe Jesus. They believe him to be 'God made flesh', and so the clearest way through which God and his will and purpose can be known. This is why the Gospels are so important; they tell of the life and teachings of Jesus, and were written to inspire faith in him.

E – Essential reading – the Bible has been translated into many different languages, as Christians believe people should read it for themselves and be inspired by it, and try to live according to its teachings and examples.

Hindu-

G - Gita or Bhagavad Gita is also known as 'The song of the Lord' and forms part of the Mahabharata

I - Inspirational It is a much loved book and many Hindus can recite at least a part of it. It is told in story form and in plays and films. Gandhi kept a copy of it with him at all times. It's often used for personal study and group recitation. Verses are often recited at funerals

T - Treated with respect, It's not placed on the floor nor touched with the feet or dirty hands. Copies are sometimes wrapped in silk cloth

A - Arjuna's conversation with Krishna is a particularly important teaching text. In his conversation Krishna advises Arjuna that although he may live or die the outcome is in the hands of God. He should focus on truth and justice. Many Hindus will consult the dialogue for teachings on varnashramadharma (the rules and laws which govern the duties of one's particular caste and stage of life).

Questions -

Why should we obey authority?

- The Bible states we must obey the law of the country
- I don't want to be punished
- To ensure that society runs smoothly
- It is the only way to ensure that there can be a just society

What influence can sacred texts have?

- When my mother died it was a great comfort to read the Psalms in the Old Testament
- I don't regard the teachings of the Bible to be literally true
- I try to live my life according to the teachings of Jesus which can be found in the Gospels

How far should people follow authority of the written word?

- The written scriptures happened a long time ago and don't relate to today
- My sacred book tells me what I believe to be true and should be followed at all times without ever changing
- Sacred texts are important but need to be interpreted for modern day situations

What if the authority is wrong?

- I do as my conscience tells me to do
- Religious believers such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi have shown it's important to stand up against authority that is wrong
- Some people consider all authority is divinely chosen and therefore we should obey it
- Many founders of religions, such as Jesus spoke out against authority they considered wrong

What if the law conflicts with religious beliefs?

- Religious believers will make individual judgements on which is the greater authority
- When Jesus was asked how taxes should be paid he showed the importance of being a good citizen by distinguishing how people should obey Caesar (earthly authority) and God (divine authority)
- Religious leaders can be consulted for advice
- I always consult my religious leader if the law is asking me to do something I think is wrong

'There's no point following sacred texts – they were written so long ago'. Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must refer to religious beliefs in your answer. AO3 8 marks

On the one hand:

- Many of the texts are revelations from God therefore the message is eternal
- The sacred texts are considered as a guideline for life
- The texts reinforce the beliefs and values of the religion – they are like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle
- Sacred texts can support believers in time of suffering
- Many sacred texts are used as part of daily life, for example people swear on holy books in a court of law
- Readings from sacred texts are an important part of communal and personal worship

On the other hand:

- Sacred texts were written so long ago and relate to another time

- So many texts from holy books have to be interpreted that it depends on people's views.
- People should rely on their own conscience
- People living today have to deal with issues and circumstances not mentioned in holy books
- There are different holy books and they do not all say the same

4 – Issues of human rights

You may be asked about examples of individuals or communities working for justice and human rights.

Christian –

Oscar Romero protested against the corruption he saw in El Salvador (www.romerotrust.org.uk). As the Archbishop of San Salvador he spoke out against injustices and held meetings banned by the government. He believed that the law of God prohibited people from killing others. In his church sermons he spoke out against the corrupt practices of the army.

Hindu –

Mahatma Gandhi lived in India at a time when it was governed by British rulers (www.mkgandhi.org). He used non violent protest to campaign for Indians to govern themselves. He was committed to the principle of ahimsa. He led a campaign to burn identity passes and a march against the salt tax. Whenever he was treated with violence he reacted with pacifism.

Questions -

How can human rights be maintained?

- By everyone supporting the right of justice for others
- By everyone acting on their conscience
- Campaigning when rights aren't being maintained
- Lobbying parliament

How can people get justice for others?

- Through prayer
- Interfaith dialogue where religions join together to protest
- Through campaigns using petitions and protest
- Joining organisations such as Amnesty International which will look globally at different human rights issues

What makes people try to get justice for others?

- They believe each person should be treated how they would like to be treated
- They consider it important to act fairly to all of god's creation
- They believe they will be rewarded by God in this life or the next
- They obey the teachings on duty from sacred texts

- The conscience tells them to

Should everyone have the same human rights?

- Yes because God created everyone
 - We all deserve the same human rights if we are to be equal
 - It's impossible to have the same human rights as it depends on where you were born
 - It depends on what has happened in a past life
-