**Is it fair?**

**Key concepts:**

Authority: Right or power over others. It may be a person such as a priest, a set of laws, or the teachings from a sacred text.

Discrimination: Treating people differently because of their race, gender, religion or class. Religious believers would say it is wrong as everyone is part of a divine creation.

Equality: Being treated the same. Many religious believers would say all people are equal in God’s eyes.

Identity: The personality and character of an individual. Each person has their own identity and is unique.

Injustice: Withholding someone’s human rights, for example, imprisonment without trial.

Prejudice: When a person is judged without any evidence. All religious traditions agree that people should treat others as they wish to be treated.

**Key Words:**

Campaign, civil disobedience, dignity equal opportunities, evangelise, the ‘Golden Rule’, human rights, influence, justice, materialism, media, ordained, pray, prejudge, sacred texts, spiritual values, vocation.

Christian Terms:

Bible, Image of God, Jesus, Parable of the Good Samaritan, Zacchaeus.

Hindu Terms:

Ahimsa, Atman, Artha, Dharma, Puja.

**Religious teachings to explore:**

* Human dignity
* Equality
* Use of Wealth
* Charity
* Social responsibility
* Religion & the media
* Religious commitments to promote justice
* Racial, social and gender divisions
* People and organisations who have worked for justice
* Religious responses to injustice

**Typical exam questions:**

* Is equality possible?
* How should we treat others?
* How does the media influence attitudes?
* Why are people prejudiced?
* Why do people treat others differently?
* What do we want?
* What should people’s attitude be towards wealth?
* What is fair?
* What is unfair?

**Key religious teachings on human dignity:**

**General:**

Religious believers are expected to treat all people with dignity. Many religious texts state that God made every human being

**Christianity:**

* Christians believe God is the creator of all and believe all people are ‘One in Christ’ (Galatians 3)
* Jesus showed in his teachings and actions that all people have human dignity
* Jesus mixed with tax collectors like Zacchaeus and showed the importance of caring for all through parables, such as the Good Samaritan
* Christian charities such as the Campaign for Racial Justice (CARJ) encourage racial justice and support refugees and asylum seekers

**Hinduism:**

* Hinduism teaches all people contain atman
* While Hindus are on earth they believe it is important to help others
* One of the four aims in life is artha – to make wealth to support others
* Hindu charities such as Food for Life provide free meals for all

**Issues of justice, injustice and social responsibility:**

Seeking justice for others and responding to injustices are important actions in all religious traditions

Believers take social responsibility and aim to make sure that:

* Human rights are observed
* All people have equal opportunities
* All people are treated without discrimination

**C** ivil disobedience, for example when Rosa Parks’ actions led to the bus boycott

**A** lert the media to the injustices, for example publicise campaigns such as Racial Justice Sunday

**M** ake sermons and speeches in places of worship, such as Martin Luther King Jnr

**P** rotest marches and petitions, such as the Salt March led by Gandhi for Indian Independence

**A** ctivities to raise money for charities, such as Christian Aid and Red Crescent

**I** nform others through pamphlets and interfaith dialogue

**G** roup and individual prayer, such as praying for peace

**N** on violent actions, such as fasting

**Exam Tip**

If you are asked for religious responses or attitudes make sure you include specific religious examples or language

**Evaluation questions on justice, injustice and social responsibility**

There are four issues you should be able to evaluate. These are shown below and are often asked in © and (e) types of questions. Below are some views (both religious and non-religious you could include in your answers,

The Golden Rule states that everyone should be treated as they would like to be treated

**How should we treat others?**

Equally as believers would consider all are God’s creations

Stories in the sacred books show how we should treat everyone with dignity, for example the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the story of Angulimala

Religious believers would say it’s a duty to treat others well according to the teachings in sacred texts

**What is fair?**

* When there are equal opportunities
* When there is justice
* When everyone has similar treatment

**What is unfair?**

* When there are no human right
* When people don’t share with others
* When people are discriminated against
* When there is corruption and injustice

**How does the media influence attitudes?**

* It can show people injustices that are happening in other parts of the world
* It can increase pressure on people to be more materialistic through advertising
* It can distort or censor reality
* It can encourage social responsibility by exposing injustices

**Exam Question;**

**‘People’s attitudes to social responsibility are never changed by the media’. Do you agree? Give reasons 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.**

**Exam Tip:**

To gain full marks you should include a range of moral and religious teachings in your arguments and include religious and general specialist language

**On the one hand:**

Issues people would not know about are raised by the media.

News items prod people’s consciences

The media sometimes leads a campaign that encourages others to join, such as Band Aid, Comic Relief etc.

Many religious charities and organisations use the media themselves in the hope of influencing people

**On the other hand:**

People often think the media gives inaccurate information.

Many religious people follow the teachings of their religion about social responsibility

Many people would follow their own consciences rather than media pressures

Any change is short term, as people soon go back to their usual attitudes.

**REMEMBER;**

**Many students get prejudice and discrimination confused. PREJUDICE is the belief or thought**

**DISCRIMINATION is the action.**

**Issues of equality – Religious teachings on racial, social and gender divisions**

You may be asked questions on the above issues. These are normally (b) and (d) questions. You need to include answers from the two religious traditions shown below.

**General:**

People should be treated as they would like to be treated themselves (the Golden Rule) There is often a difference between religious teachings and the practices that might happen in some cultures or countries. Although people are equal that doesn’t mean they are all the same. Each person is unique/ there are different practices and beliefs within each religion.

**Christianity:**

God created all human beings as equal, regardless of gender or race

Jesus’ example of dealing with lepers and outcasts and his teachings such as the Parable of the Good Samaritan show the importance of caring for all

Many Christians such as Martin Luther King Jnr and Bishop Tutu have led campaigns against discrimination

Although Jesus did not have any female apostles, much of his teaching and miracles were with women

There are different practices depending on denominations as to whether women are allowed to be ordained:

* In the Methodist and Anglican Church women can be priests and ministers
* - In the Roman Catholic Church women cannot be ordained as priests or deacons.

**Hinduism:**

Ahimsa (non violence to any living thing) is a key practice and therefore people shouldn’t be hurt because of their race, gender or social status

Women have a very important role at home where they perform puja (ceremonial worship)

**Evaluation questions on equality**

There are two issues you should be able to evaluate. They are often asked in (c) and (d) questions. Below are some views both religious and non religious you could include in your answers.

**Exam Tip:**

Both questions ask the **WHY** not the **How.** So your answers should show the reasons **WHY** people are prejudiced and treat others differently

**Why are People Prejudiced?**

* I believe the same as my parents (family pressures)
* I don’t know anything about them so I just repeat what I hear from friends (Ignorance)
* My friends think like that and I don’t want to be the odd one out (peer pressure)
* I had a bad experience with someone from that group so I think that they are all like that (stereotyping)
* What happens if there are no people left like me (fear)
* They always do so well (envy)
* At school we didn’t learn about them (education)
* Everyone is different,

**Is equality possible?**

* It is something to be strived for but it doesn’t come naturally
* It depends what it is that is supposed to be equal e.g. equal opportunity or equality of status
* All religions show the importance of treating others as you wish to be treated
* Being equal doesn’t mean that everyone is the same.

**Exam Tip:**

The evaluation questions give you the opportunity to apply all the relevant information you have learnt. Before answering the 8 mark (e) questions it is important that you have thought about the evidence you should use. The **SWAWOS** framework should help you to do this.

**SWAWOS FRAMEWORK**

**S** elect specialist language

**W** hat do I think and why?

**A** pply religious teaching

**W** hat’s another view?

**O** ffer religious teachings

**S** uggest impact

**Issues of wealth & charity**

**Religious teachings on wealth & charity – These are normally b) and d) questions. You need to answer from two different religious traditions. The key religious teachings are outlined below. It is important to remember that there will be different views and practices between believers in the same tradition. Many religions agree on the teachings that are shown in the ‘general’ information**

**General:**

* Material wealth isn’t the most important thing in life
* Your afterlife is not dependent on your amount of wealth at death
* It is important how you use your wealth
* Money should be earned honestly
* Spiritual values are more important
* All have charities to help others

**Christianity:**

* Jesus taught ‘Blessed are you who are poor, yours is the Kingdom of God’
* The Bible teaches the importance of sharing, e.g. John the Baptist taught that those with two coats must share one
* Many Christians will try to work in vocational jobs where they are helping others
* Giving to charity has always been important and some Christians tithe/give a regular amount to charity
* Some Christian denominations such as The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and Methodists do not take part in gambling nor the lottery
* The Bible states ‘The love of money is the root of all evil’

**Hinduism:**

* Wealth is loaned by God and therefore it is important how it is used
* Personal wealth should be gained through lawful means (artha)
* Material possessions aren’t of lasting value
* What’s called worldly possessions is impermanent for by things unstable the stable cannot be obtained (Katha Upanishads)

**Evaluation Questions on wealth & charity:**

There are two issues you should be able to evaluate. These are shown below and are often asked in c) and d) questions. Below are some views both religious and non religious you could include in your answers.

**What do we need and what do we want:**

* A necessity is something without which we would have extreme hardship or maybe die, e.g. oxygen, water and food
* A want is a wish or longing for something, without which we wouldn’t suffer hardship
* Religions teach that we need spiritual values rather than money

**What should be people’s attitudes towards wealth?**

* It is important in all religions that wealth is used wisely
* Those with wealth have a responsibility to support others
* There is a difference between spiritual wealth and financial wealth
* Many religious traditions show the importance of using wealth to help others e.g. tithing or Zakah

**Exam Question:**

**‘Wealth should be used for oneself first’ Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. You must include references to religious beliefs in your answers.**

**On the one hand**

* Everyone has to look after themselves and their families, this is a duty even in many religious traditions
* People should not rely on others to help them out all the time
* How people choose to use their wealth is their own decision
* When a person has worked hard and responsibly, they deserve to enjoy the benefits

**On the other hand**

* Religious teachings often refer to the importance of the needs of others as well as one’s own
* In many religions wealth is often seen as belonging to God, so how a person uses it is important
* Many people, religious or otherwise, think it is good to help others when you are able to
* Spiritual values are often seen to be more important than wealth

**EXAM TIP:**

Exam questions will often ask you about the work of individuals or groups. It is important that you always relate your answer to the impact of the person or group on the issue. As your answer will always be about a religious believer or organisation, it is important that you include how their faith has influenced or impacted on their actions

**QUESTION**

In this topic, question d) questions will often ask you about the **IMPACT** of the individual or groups on issues of justice and equality. You could use the **IMPACT** formula below to help you organise your answer. An example has been given for Christian Aid.

**I**dentify the correct name of the person or agency

**M**ention the religious tradition to which they belong

**P**recis the context in which the person or agency is working

**Acknowledge** some of the main aspects of their work

**C**onsider how their work demonstrates the teachings of the religion to

which they belong

**T**ell of specific examples of long and short-term projects

**EXAMPLE**

d) Explain how a religious organisation has worked for Justice.

**Identify: What is Christian Aid**

Christian Aid is a charity that supports people in over 60 countries

**Mention:** **which religion it belongs to**

Although Christian Aid promotes justice for people of all religions and of none, it is a Christian charity which is supported by more than 40 different denominations

**Precis: What are the main aims?**

Christian Aid’s main aim is to work towards a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty

**Acknowledge: What are the main things they do?**

Christian Aid seeks justice and equal opportunities for all people. They do this through both urgent, practical support, such as emergency food relief, and by longer term work to improve the chances of the poorest people of the world, such as through teaching literacy and setting up health and vaccination clinics. They also campaign for fair trade and raise funds through events like Christian Aid Week

**Consider How the work of Christian Aid demonstrates the teachings of Christianity**

* Their work reflects the Christian belief that all people should treat others as they would like to be treated because God created everyone
* They follow the example of Jesus through speaking out against injustice
* Their work reflects the beliefs of the global Christian community. The Christian community will hold many fund-raising activities and offer prayers for the work of Christian Aid

**Tell: Give a specific example of a project they are involved with**

* In Senegal, Christian Aid works with local farmers to support their literacy and farming skills. They give access to money through loans at low rates so that people don’t have to borrow money from corrupt loan dealers