

PHILOSOPHY, BELIEFS & ETHICS (PBE)

YEAR 9 REVISION GUIDE



**CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM / CRIME
AND PUNISHMENT / RELATIONSHIPS
AND THE FAMILY**

REVISION TIPS

- 1. Start revising early** – revision is about going over information again and again. The more times you do this, the more you will remember. Cramming at the last minute cannot activate long-term memory.
- 2. Take breaks** – studies suggest breaks every 45 minutes to an hour. Put a timer on and try and focus on completing that amount of revision. To begin with, you may only be able to do 15-20 minutes at a time. Keep practising and your focus will improve. When you begin a focused session, make sure you will not need to get up for any reason!
- 3. Find out about yourself** – People tend to learn more at different times of the day and in different ways. Find out if you are a morning or an evening person and plan your day accordingly.
- 4. Be organised and create a timetable** – Create a timetable to make sure you get through every topic in time. Give yourself manageable targets.
- 5. Practise questions** – Make sure you get enough practice for each question type. You can even have a go at creating your own quiz or questions to help you prepare.
- 6. Make mind maps or re-write notes** – Many people like to use mind-maps or write out notes on a table or in another form that works for them. Remember to summarise and write ideas in your own words as this helps you to remember them.
- 7. Make revision cards** – There are different types of revision cards that can help you revise. Use larger cards to **summarise** key details. You must re-write information in your own words and in shortened form. Simply copying out information has been proven to be ineffective. Reading is also, according to studies, the least effective way of committing something to memory. You can also create very small cards with a key word or topic on one side and the definition or a few bits of information on the other. Use these to test yourself or your friends.

Paper 1 is on Beliefs: You have studied Christianity and Islam
There are two sections: one on 'beliefs' and one on 'practices.' **Paper 2 is on Philosophy and Ethics:** You will study (1) Crime and Punishment, (2) Religion and Life, (3) Relationships and the Family and (4) Human Rights and Social Justice.

1: DEFINITION (1 mark)

Multiple-choice definition - You just need to circle the correct answer.

2: GIVE TWO... DESCRIPTION (2 marks)

Give two examples / types - This just requires a simple sentence at most.

3: EXPLANATION OF TWO BELIEFS (4 marks)

You may need to explain two beliefs or two ideas. This requires that you only mention TWO and develop both sentences. In Paper 2, this can be asked in a harder way. In this case, the examiner could ask you for two CONTRASTING beliefs and you will also need to refer to two different religions.

4: EXPLANATION OF TWO BELIEFS + SCRIPTURE (5 marks)

5 very briefly developed points or 2 well- developed points = 5 sentences. You must use evidence and refer to both sides of the debate. You will lose 1 mark if you do not mention religion at least once.

5: EVALUATE (12 marks)

3-4 PDD chains = 12+ sentences

You must use evidence and refer to both sides of the debate.

You must refer to religious arguments.

You must give a conclusion at the end.

SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. Which one of the following expresses the religious idea that one aim of punishment should be to encourage people not to commit crimes? (1 mark)

(A) Deterrence ✓

(B) Retribution

(C) Reform

(D) Protection

2. Give two examples of religious moral laws which some criminals break. (2 marks) Do not lie / Do not steal

3. Explain two ways that prisoners might be dealt with in the UK (4 marks) They might be put in prison. This is where their freedom is taken away and they are often kept behind bars.

They might also be asked to do community service such as litter picking. This is where they try and give back to the community

OR *The harder type*

3. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the death penalty for murder. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions. (4 marks)

On the one hand, many Muslims and Christians argue that the death penalty is good because it gives justice to families and retribution. In the Bible, it says 'eye for an eye' and in the Qur'an it says, 'life for life.'

On the other hand, many theists believe that the death penalty is wrong because it takes life. Muslims and Christians believe that life is sacred and a gift from God so should not be taken.

4. Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness (5 marks) One belief is that we should always forgive. Jesus taught forgiveness and agape love so many Christians argue that they should always forgive.

Another belief is that forgiveness is not always appropriate. Theists may argue that only God can forgive in some cases and that some crimes are too bad to be forgiven, such as blasphemy.

5. 'Reformation is the best aim of punishment.' Evaluate this statement (12 marks).

In your answer you:

- **should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement**
- **should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**
- **should refer to religious arguments**
- **may refer to non-religious arguments**
- **should reach a justified conclusion.**

Reform is arguably better because it reduces the likelihood of prisoners re-offending. In countries such as Norway, where reform is emphasised, there are very low re-offending rates. Prisoners learn new skills, such as gardening and cookery, and this can help them get a job after prison. Since poverty and mental health problems are linked to offending, this will help to reduce the causes of crime.

However, many argue that retribution is a far better aim of punishment because it gives families a sense of justice. When a crime, such as rape or murder, has been committed, the victims may feel better knowing that the perpetrator has received a harsh punishment. In the Bible, it says 'eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth' and many Christians argue that this justifies the use of capital punishment, particularly in America.

On the other hand, the Bible strongly emphasises reform in the New Testament. Jesus teachings that we should 'turn the other cheek' and show *agape* love to all. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus teaches to look after those in prison. Forgiveness could help the families to move on, even though this will be hard.

Overall, whilst retribution may give families a sense of justice, I would argue that it is not the best aim of punishment. Reform, or reformation, allows prisoners to improve their behaviour and, in the long run, this will keep society safer as re-offending rates will reduce. There is also strong biblical evidence in favour of reform when one considers the teachings of Jesus.

I can...	Revise
Explain beliefs about the nature of God: God as omnipotent, loving and just, and omniscient; beliefs about the Trinity in Christianity	
Describe the Problem of Evil and Christian responses to it, as well as explain the Muslim attitude towards predestination	
Explain Christian beliefs about Jesus and their importance: Original Sin, atonement, crucifixion, salvation, resurrection, ascension	
Beliefs about the Prophet Muhammad and sources of authority in Islam (Shari'ah, Qur'an, Hadith)	
Describe different causes of crime including poverty, upbringing, mental illness, addiction, greed, hate and opposition to an unjust law.	
Describe different religious attitudes to the different causes of crime including poverty, upbringing, mental illness, addiction, greed, hate and opposition to an unjust law.	
Describe different beliefs about the causes of crime, including whether it can ever be good to cause crime and the difference between good and evil intentions.	
Describe and evaluate the different aims of punishment: reformation (or reform), retribution and deterrence.	
I can explain religious attitudes to reformation (or reform), retribution and deterrence.	
Describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to capital punishment, including the use of the principle of utility and the application of the sanctity of life.	
Describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to corporal punishment.	
Describe and evaluate different religious and non-religious attitudes to forgiveness.	
Describe attitudes to hate crimes, theft and murder.	
Describe and evaluate the use of community service and prisons.	
Explain the role and meaning of the sacraments including the significance of different types of baptism (infant and believers') and different beliefs about and celebrations of Holy Communion/Eucharist	
Explain different types of sexuality, relationships and families e.g. Nuclear, single-parent etc.	
Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding family planning and contraception	
Explain religious attitudes to the nature and the purpose of the family, including procreation, stability and faith education, as well as the role of children	
Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding same-sex relationships	
Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding pre-marital sex, adultery and cohabitation	
Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion / lesser of two evils arguments	
Explain and evaluate polygamy	
Explain and evaluate arguments surrounding gender equality, including positive affirmation and women in the Church	

THE NATURE OF GOD & THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Christians believe in the Trinity: the belief that there is one God but that He is present in 3 different forms all at the same time. In the Gospel of John, found in the New Testament, it mentions creation again saying, 'In the beginning was the Word.' This means that Jesus was present from the very beginning alongside God the Father and the Holy Spirit. This, over time, led to the belief that God exists in three forms **at the same time**. However, throughout the Bible, God is also referred to **as one**. This makes the religion **monotheistic** but the belief in the Trinity is unique to Christianity.

Christians believe that there is one God but that God's nature has been revealed to humanity in three distinct ways: (1) as the loving creator who made the universe and who performs miracles; (2) as the saviour who was Jesus; and (3) as the Holy Spirit who is with people today. Christians believe that God is **beyond human understanding** so this is an attempt by humans to explain something which cannot be explained. The Trinity is often expressed as a triangle or even a shamrock to show that the three parts of God make up the one God. **God the Father** is said to be omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent. Muslims believe Islam as a religion has always existed and was gradually revealed to different prophets throughout history, ending with the Prophet Muhammad. It was first revealed to the Prophet Adam. The word, 'Islam' in Arabic means 'peace' and 'surrender.' Muslims believe that they should surrender to the will (want/desire) of God. One of the most important beliefs for Muslims is in the **oneness of God**. This is the belief that there is one God (monotheism) and because there is just one God who has created all things, the world is in perfect balance. In the Qur'an, it says, 'He is God the One, God the eternal... no one is comparable to Him.'

OMNISCIENCE: Many theists are **monotheists**: they believe in one God. Muslims believe that there is one God (**tawhid**) and that this God is **omniscient** (all-knowing). Similarly, Christians believe that there is one all-knowing God, although, unlike Muslims, they believe God comes in 3 forms: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (the **Trinity**). In the Bible, it says, 'Before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely O Lord' (Psalm 139:4). Similarly, in the Qur'an, it says that God is closer to humans than their 'jugular vein' and that He is 'with you wherever you may be.' This suggests that God knows everything.

Atheists, such as Richard Dawkins in 'The God Delusion' and Christopher Hitchens in 'God is Not Great' argue that God cannot be all-knowing if evil exists. This is because it would suggest that God **knows that evil will happen** before it happens but must choose not to prevent it. This suggests that God knew, for instance, that the Holocaust would happen before it did. Some people also argue that it does not make sense to say that God knows everything and say that he gives us free will. If God knows every single decision we will make before we even make it, it suggests that we are not really free in that moment to make that decision. This is another argument used by atheists to suggest that God cannot exist and be said to be all-knowing.

TRINITY: God is one but in three forms

MONOTHEISM: Belief in one God

OMNIPOTENT: All-powerful

OMNIBENEVOLENCE: Theists believe God is **infinitely loving, forgiving and merciful**. Theists argue that God shows His love through miracles and answering the prayers of the needy. As such, Muslims and Christians try to show love through acts of charity. For example, Muslims give 2.5% of their earnings to charity annually. In the Qur'an, Allah is referred to over **160 times as the Merciful**. Since God is all-loving, Muslims believe that evil and suffering in the world are a test where they have the opportunity to show their faith in God and help others to show that they can also be loving and kind. Muslims also believe that God never leaves them alone and may even act, through miracles, to help them. Muslims are influenced by these beliefs when they act mercifully to others and forgive them. For instance, under Shari'ah (Islamic) law, Muslims are often given the option of forgiving criminals who have wronged them.

However, **Richard Dawkins** says that the Bible and the Qur'an do not suggest that God is all-loving because He punishes people, creates unjust laws and even kills people. He also argues that God cannot be all-loving while evil exists in the world. This is because people who are loving want to help others, so an all-loving God would want to help people who are suffering. Since so many people still suffer, it suggests God does not exist.

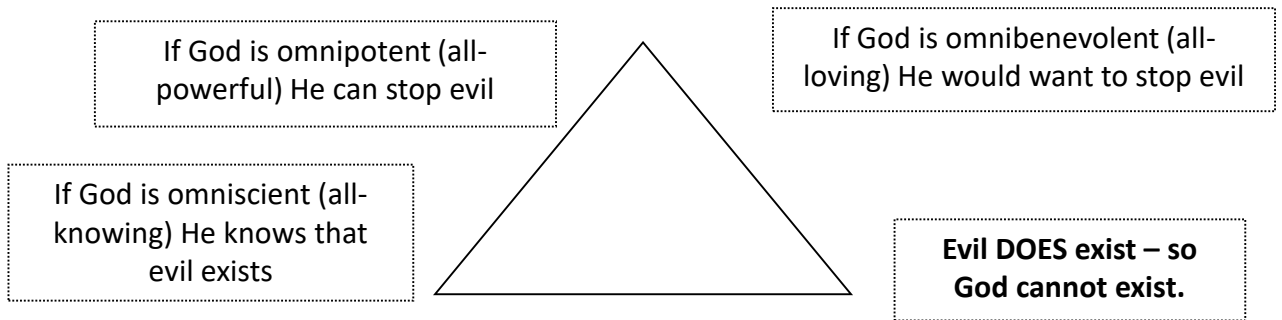
OMNIPOTENT: Monotheists believe that God is **all-powerful**. This means that, apart from something logically impossible (such as creating a round square), that God can do anything. He is **infinitely powerful**. In Islam, this belief is called Al-Qadr. Muslims believe that nothing happens without God willing it to. They often say 'Inshallah' (God willing). This allows God to create whole galaxies and people. The design argument is the argument that the world is so perfect, it must have been designed by God. In the Bible, it says that God created the world from nothing (**ex nihilo**) and **made humans in His image (imago dei)**. Only God could create the world and perform miracles.

Richard Dawkins argues that God cannot be all-powerful because it would suggest that He has the power to stop evil. If God is able to do anything, then He is not loving or does not exist. He also believes that there is no reason to argue that an omnipotent God exists because He does not agree that there have been **miracles**. Dawkins argues that all supposed miracles are **coincidences or hallucinations**. People may believe that a miracle has taken place but they are simply mistaken.

Justice: 'Adalat' in Islam means fairness and doing what is right and just. Muslims believe that Allah can do no wrong and that He is just. Humans must accept that God will **punish** those who have done wrong and reward those who have done well. Justice can also be about **forgiveness** and giving second chances. Muslims are commanded to be just and fair in their actions. In the Qur'an it says, 'and let not hatred of any people seduce you that you deal not justly' which suggests that justice is very important. The Qur'an also says that God will treat people mercifully if they have treated each other fairly as well. This belief influences Muslims in their life to try and do the right thing and to behave fairly as well. Justice is a key part of **Shari'ah, or Islamic, law**. For example, there are set punishments for different crimes and rules for how to behave. Muslims must also avoid doing unfair things such as gaining lots of money through unfair taxes as this is banned in Islam. Since God gives people free will, it is believed that people will be held accountable for their actions on the Day of Judgement.

OMNIBENEVOLENCE: All-loving or beneficent / JUSTICE: The fair distribution of rewards and punishments

EVIL, SUFFERING AND ACCOUNTABILITY



EXPLANATIONS OF EVIL: There are a range of **theodicies** that Christians use to explain the problem of evil. A theodicy is an **explanation of why evil exists**. Christians believe that God cannot behave unfairly because He is God. This means that evil must exist for a reason. Many Christians, for instance, argue it is a test of faith. In the **Bible**, a man called **Job** was tested by Satan. God allowed Satan to make him ill and take his family. Satan realised that he could not damage Job's faith and stopped testing him. Evil helped bring Job closer to God and led to him receiving heavenly rewards. Even today, people can only show how truly good they are in the face of evil and suffering e.g. charity work, like the work of Christian Aid, after a natural disaster.

Others argue it is a result of 'The Fall'. God created a good world but **Adam and Eve** disobeyed God and this led to evil. This is sometimes called '**The Fall**' because they are said to have **fallen** from God's graces. As a punishment for disobeying God, Adam and Eve were told that they, and future generations of humans, would suffer e.g. childbirth and hard work. **Jesus** was sent to clear people of evil by sacrificing himself. However, some people **still choose to disobey** God and these leads to evil. Finally, many Christians argue that evil is a result of **human's free-will**. He said that people need to suffer because they must **choose** between good and evil. If they did not have the choice, they would be like **obedient robots** and God wants people to choose to worship him. God created humans in **His image ('imago dei')** but they still have to choose to grow into the perfect people God wants them to be.

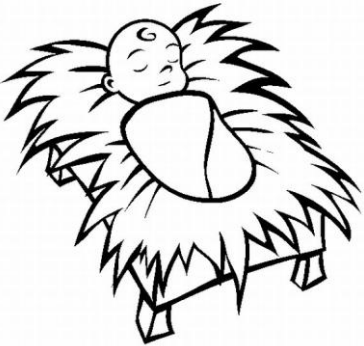
PREDESTINATION AND FREE WILL: Many Muslims also believe in **predestination** or **Al-Qadr**. This is the belief that, because God is omniscient, He must already know what will happen in life. Muslims believe nothing happens without God willing it. For this reason, Muslims often say '**Insha'Allah**' meaning 'if God wills it.' However, God does not decide what will happen. This means that Muslims can be held accountable for how they behave in this world. God is omniscient (knows everything) but humans still have choice. Muslims and Christians believe there will be a Day of Judgement where God will judge us on how we have behaved. For most, this means that God must **know the possible choices we could make (because He is omniscient)** but that we ultimately choose our behaviour and must be held accountable.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: The atheist argument that since evil exists, God cannot.

PREDESTINATION: The belief that God knows everything, including what will happen in a person's life / **JUDGEMENT DAY:** When Allah judges the dead and decides their fate

JESUS

The New Testament explains how God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to restore the broken relationship between people and God which had been caused by human wrong doing. In Genesis, it says that Adam and Eve brought death and sin into the world by eating from the tree of knowledge. Jesus came to teach people God's will for them, and to show them what life would be like in the Kingdom of God. He not only taught people about God, he showed them what God is like.



Although Jesus was born a human being, the Gospels describe his birth as a miracle. Christians believe that no sex was involved in Jesus' birth! They believe that he was born through the power of God. This event is known as the **Immaculate Conception** (getting pregnant without having sex). It is also known as the **Incarnation**, the moment where 'God becomes flesh.' In the Gospel of Luke, women and shepherds are featured. Both of these groups were treated badly in society at the time suggesting that Jesus had come to save everyone and treat everyone with respect.

The Incarnation is extremely important to Christians. Christians believe that God became fully human so that He could save people from sin and restore the bond between God and humanity, broken during the Fall. They believe that this **atoning act** meant that Christians had the possibility of Heaven after death. In the Bible it says, 'God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him.. Shall have eternal life.' This tells Christians that God greatly loved humanity and that they ought to love one another. By coming to the world as a human, God was better able to teach people about His commandments, such as the command to love everyone.



Jesus is said to have known he was going to die. In the Last Supper, the Passover meal he shared with his disciples, Jesus said that he knew he was going to be betrayed by Judas. He also broke bread and drank wine with them and said that they should do this in remembrance of him when he was gone. He was later arrested and, as this was happening, one of the disciples cut the ear of one of the soldiers off. Jesus healed the man.

As he was dying, Jesus spoke to two men who were also being crucified. One asked for forgiveness and Jesus told him that he would go to Heaven. Jesus also asked God to forgive his killers saying, 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34). Thus, even when dying, Jesus taught forgiveness and love. Once Jesus was dead, and the Roman guards made sure that he was by putting their swords into his sides, he was buried in a tomb.

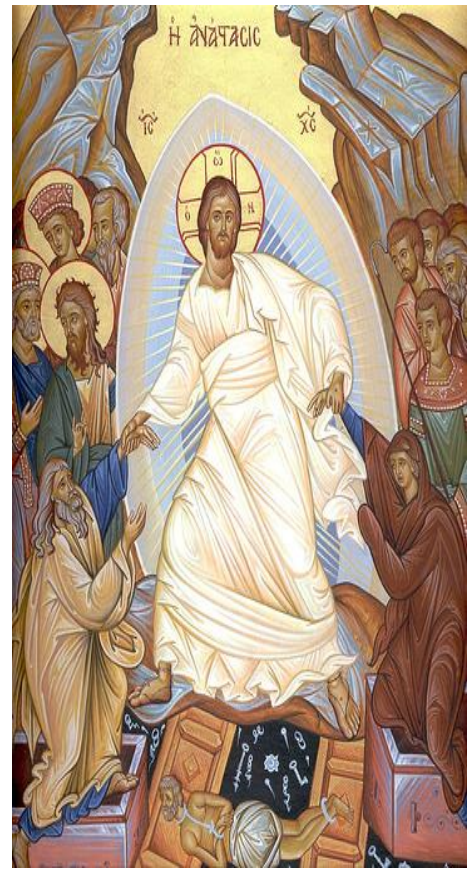
MESSIAH: Saviour; someone who will come to restore the bond between God and humanity

INCARNATION: God becomes flesh / human

AGAPE LOVE: Unconditional love as taught by Jesus

According to the New Testament accounts of Jesus' death, it is said that Jesus was killed and then, **three days later**, he rose again. Rising from the dead is known as **resurrection**. Christians believe that he was killed on the Friday of Sabbath (the day of rest) and this day each year is now known as **Good Friday**. When he rose from the dead, he is said to have appeared to women first, such as Mary Magdalene, another reminder for many Christians that Jesus came for the **oppressed in society** (those who were often treated badly). Angels told women and the other disciples that Jesus was risen from the dead. Over the next few days, Jesus appeared to his disciples which ensured that the news of his resurrection spread quickly.

In Christian belief, salvation means being saved from sin, with the possibility of everlasting life. Christians believe that sin has separated humans from God and salvation enables humans to get close to God again. The Old Testament makes it clear that a person achieves salvation by having faith in God and obeying God's commandments. Christians believe that the death of Jesus made this possible as he **atoned** for the sins of humanity and saved them from sin.



Christians also believe that **salvation happens as a result of grace**. This is the belief that salvation is given by God. It cannot just be earned through good works; it is a **gift from God of grace** that allows people to go to Heaven. Christians believe that God gave the world Jesus to save people from sin. Whether Christians believe that the creation story is factually true or not, they see it as a story about human sin: humans are often tempted to sin and disobey God but this creates a gap between God and humanity. It is this gap that Christians believe Jesus bridged. The resurrection influences Christians by reminding them that Jesus came to save them from sin (salvation) and that they should follow God's commands and hope for God's grace.

Christians also believe that, **40 days after the resurrection**, Jesus rose to Heaven to be with God. This event is known as the **ascension**. The event is important to Christians as it shows that Jesus is with God. It paves the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit to provide comfort and guidance and is seen as further biblical evidence for the existence of Heaven. The importance of the ascension is linked to the importance of the resurrection: both events show that death is not the end and that there is a possibility of everlasting life for those who follow God.

GRACE: Love given freely by God even though people do not deserve it.

ATONEMENT: The event whereby Jesus sacrificed himself to save people from sin

SALVATION: Saving people from sin

RESURRECTION: Rising from the dead / The event whereby Jesus rose from the dead after 3 days

ASCENSION: The belief that, after 40 days, Jesus went up into Heaven

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD

Scripture is the most important type of revelation for Muslims. The Qur'an is regarded as a special revelation from God (Allah) to the Prophet Muhammad. Born around **570 CE in Mecca** (in Saudi Arabia), **Muhammad** (pbuh) became an orphan at an early age. He was brought up by his uncle and married his employer **Khadjah**, who was a widow. From an early age, he went to a cave on **Mount Hira** to pray. In 611 CE the Prophet Muhammad was meditating when the Angel Jibril appeared to him. Muhammad could not read but three times Jibril ordered him to 'recite'. Over the next 20 years, he received further revelations (information from God) and these were combined to form the **Qur'an**. Muslims believe that God's message had become distorted over the years and that Muhammad received and wrote down the final correct version.



Muhammad remained unable to read and the Qur'an was written down by his friends and followers. The Qur'an has 114 Surahs (or chapters). The words are seen as the word of God and the Qur'an is generally read in Arabic in order to keep it in its original, unchanged form. The example of the Prophet was recorded in the Hadith and Sunnah (way of the Prophet). Muhammad preached the words he had received and encouraged others to **convert** to the belief in one God (**tawhid**). Islam means 'surrender' and 'peace' and Muhammad taught both. He had to escape persecution in Mecca as a result of his beliefs and his followers formed the **Ummah** (the worldwide Muslim community). Once in the new city of **Madinah**, Muhammad gathered an army of 10,000 Muslim converts. They marched into Mecca and destroyed idols at the **Ka'aba**, the monument built by Adam and then Ibrahim. Thus, Muhammad is important for preaching **monotheism (belief in one God)**.

During the early life of Muhammad, pagans (people who worship many Gods) had been ruling Mecca (in modern day Saudi Arabia). Thus, Muhammad is particularly important for preaching the oneness of God. One time, Muhammad entered Mecca and destroyed statues that he claimed had taken over God's house. Muhammad started off as a pacifist and preached in order to encourage people to convert to Islam. His reaction to early harassment of his followers was passive resistance. The Quranic revelations constantly urged him to "reply to foolish mockery with words of peace," to "pay no attention," and to "turn your face away". It was only after 12 years of pacifism, and an attempt on his life, that he decided to fight. Muhammad often would preach about forgiveness and the Qur'an states that, 'whoever kills a soul, it is as if he has killed all of mankind' (Surah 5:28). Thus, he argued that fighting had to be just and a last resort, once forgiveness and peace have failed.

Surah: A verse in the Qur'an (holy book of Muslims)

Ka'aba: the monument built by Adam in Mecca

SHARI'AH LAW, THE QUR'AN AND THE HADITH

As a ruler, he also implemented many laws (known as **Shari'ah Law**) and was a role model to people. His examples were written down in the **Hadith** and things he said were recorded as **Sunnah**. He began a huge empire where many things were invented, from new medicines to new ways of thinking about philosophy. When he began to fight, Muhammad commanded an army and, whilst he fought in many wars, he tried to lay down strict rules on how to fight a war which included not attacking civilians or harming buildings or trees. It has been argued that he only fought in self-defence and never attacked anyone. The Prophet Muhammad taught that there are two types of *jihad*: meaning struggle. The greater jihad is the journey to better yourself as a person. The lesser jihad means holy war. Part of the rules of holy war are that innocents must not be killed and that fair methods must be used.



He also taught that people should look after women and children, as well as the environment. Muhammad had **many wives** as this was a way of providing for women. He also preached equality, teaching that everyone was as equal as 'the teeth of a comb' and all **descendants of Adam**. Muhammad got married at the age of 25 when Khadija proposed to him. He would stay married for the next 24 years and have four children, till her death. For the next 13 years he married a further 9 times, although his was for political reasons which was common at the time. He had no children with his later wives. At this time, women were unable to make money once widowed and, by marrying them, Muhammad was able to offer them safety.

Muhammad is often regarded as a feminist in the sense that he gave women rights under his rule. Women were given the right to divorce, speak in court and receive inheritance from their families. This had not been done before. Muhammad gave many rights to women for the first time. During the time of Muhammad, women were encouraged to go to the Mosque in order to attend lectures and get an education. Women could receive religious degrees (*izazahs*). Women also played an important role in opening the oldest Islamic university in the world in Morocco.

Hadith: The example of the Prophet Muhammad

Sunnah: Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad

Greater Jihad: A spiritual struggle to become a better Muslim

Lesser Jihad: Holy or Just War

Descendants: From the same family line

LAWS AND JUSTICE



Laws are **rules** that govern human relationships and society, making it safer to live in. Under the law, we have to take responsibility for the way we choose to behave. **Justice** is about enforcing the laws in a way that is fair to everyone by punishing bad acts. A **crime** is an action that goes against the law and that is punished. **Justice is supposed to be blind**: it should not matter who the person, only what they have done.

A **sin** is different to a crime. It is an act that goes against the will of God. Many people may not believe that sins exist so these rules do not apply to everyone. Some sins, such as **adultery**, are not against the law, whereas other crimes, such as speeding, are not sins. If people think a law of God is wrong, they do not need to follow it. Sometimes people may protest against the Church, or other religious institutions, if they feel it is behaving wrongly.

However, if the law seems unfair many people are likely to **protest** or **campaign** e.g. against taxes.

Jesus and St Paul both argued that people should obey the government and the government create the law. In addition, laws keep people safe and provide structure in society. If everyone broke the law there would be chaos. The aim of laws is to maintain justice. Laws allow society to punish criminals and reward those who behave well. Furthermore, laws protect us. When a criminal commits a crime, they are punished by judges and this protects us all. When there isn't a law in place, many people are likely to do that behaviour. For example, there is no law preventing adults from smoking and this could explain why so many people are smokers. If the law banned it, there would be less smoking amongst the population.

However, **St Thomas Aquinas** argued that an unjust law is not a proper law because: (1) people will feel that it is acceptable to break bad laws; (2) this may lead people to think that all laws are unjust; and (3) this could lead to negative consequences like rioting and civil war. This would make laws the *cause* of problems in society rather than the solution. In the 1960s, **Martin Luther King** and his followers campaigned against the unjust treatment of black people. They fought for equality because they felt the laws were unjust. Many black people broke the laws. **Rosa Parks** sat down on a bus and refused to move, even though white people only were allowed to sit in that seat. Similarly, in South Africa, **Nelson Mandela** used terrorist techniques to fight against apartheid – the legal separation of black and white people. Many civil wars have also started as a result of having laws that are perceived as being unfair e.g. Kosovo.

The UK has a **Legal Aid system** which gives help to less well-off people who have been accused of crimes. Many people, however, argue that the legal system is still unjust. People cannot always afford a really good lawyer and some people do not pay for their crimes when there is not enough evidence. Certain crimes, such as rape, are very difficult to get convictions on (finding someone guilty in court) because evidence is hard to obtain.

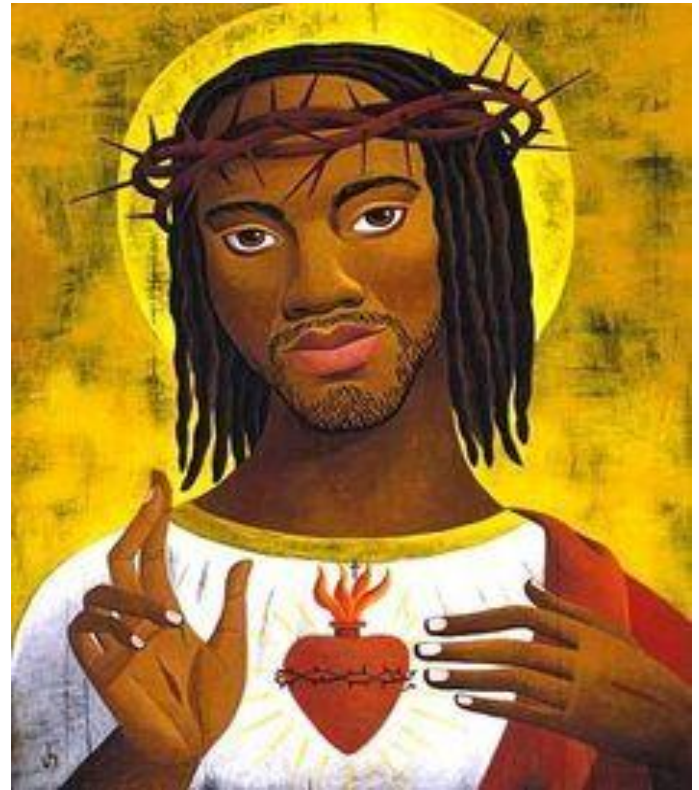
THE BIBLE AND PUNISHMENT

In the Old Testament, there are a number of sins that carry the death penalty, including hitting a parent, witchcraft, working on the Sabbath (day of rest which was a Saturday) worshipping idols and adultery (being unfaithful to your husband or wife.). The punishment for using the God's name when swearing, for example, is that you are taken outside and a group of people throw stones at you till you are dead.

The Old Testament also has the famous quotation, 'Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth' (Exodus 21:24). This meant that what crime someone had inflicted upon another person they were subject to the same thing happening to them. So, if you killed someone, you would also have to be killed.

In the New Testament, Jesus has a very different attitude towards punishment than in the Old Testament as most of his focus is on forgiveness rather than revenge. For instance, he seemed to suggest that it was not bad to work on the Sabbath if you are helping people and also said that blasphemy and other sins can be forgiven.

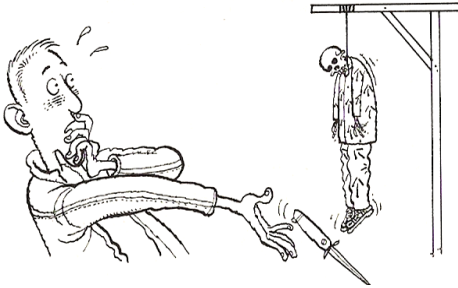
Famously, Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'" But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." (Matthew 5:39). This means that you should not fight back against people. Jesus thought that violence was a bad thing and if you were attacked, you should not fight back but 'offer the other cheek'.



This has led to the more liberal Christian idea that laws can be broken if it is for the greater good. For example, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela all broke the law but argued that it was Christian to do so. They suggested that it is acceptable to break laws if it is in the name of equality or love, since this is what Jesus teaches. This means that it might be acceptable to break other laws if it is in line with the New Testament.

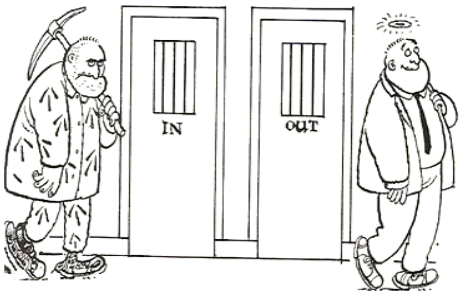
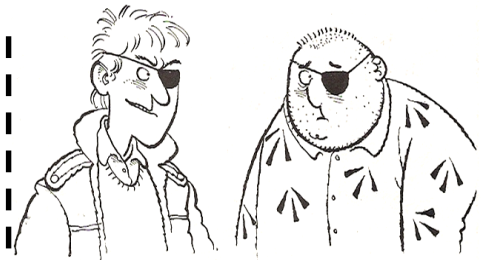
AIMS OF PUNISHMENT

In order for laws to work, there must be consequences when they are broken. However, people strongly disagree about what should happen. In UK courts, everyone is presumed to be innocent until they are proven guilty in court. At this point, the judge decides what should happen. Some people feel that punishments should be strict to **deter** people from committing crimes. Other people feel that this isn't effective because criminals are still very likely to **re-offend** after they have served their punishment. They need to be **rehabilitated** so that they change and do not want to commit crimes again.



DETERRENCE: To deter someone means to prevent or discourage them from doing something that is against the law. Seeing that harsh punishments take place may put people off committing crimes in the first place and, for those who receive punishment, from committing crimes again.

RETRIBUTION: This is the idea that when society punishes someone for wrongdoing it makes the victims of the crime feel a sense of justice and revenge. People who have been victims of crime or who know someone who has been want to see the person suffer and pay for what they have done.



REFORM: Some people think that punishment should help to reform prisoners. This means that it should help criminals see what they have done wrong and make sure they do not do it again. This normally means providing criminals with education and job training, as well as counselling, so they can become law-abiding citizens. This is also known as **rehabilitation**.

PROTECTION: People are frightened by violent criminals and one of the purposes of punishment is to protect the ordinary members of society from such offenders by keeping them locked in prison where they can do no harm. The government has a duty to look after civilians by keeping them from harm.



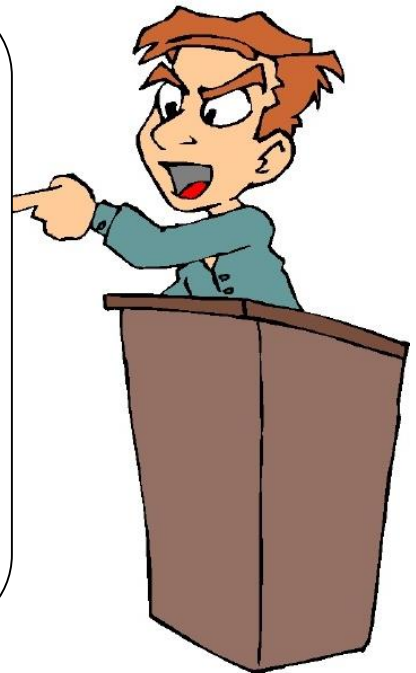
Retribution: Making people pay for their crimes; often involves harsh punishments
Reform / Rehabilitation: Using techniques to change criminals for the better e.g. Education
Deterrence: Putting people off committing crimes e.g. Through the use of public punishment
Protection: Protecting the public from criminals

Deterrence doesn't work! Nearly half of all prisoners commit crime again after they are released and countries with the strictest punishments, like America and China, still have high murder rates. Victims of crime do not feel a sense of justice – they still suffer even when **retribution** is the main aim of punishment.



Families deserve justice! When people like Saddam Hussein are executed, most people feel that justice has been served. In the Bible it says, 'an eye for an eye' (Exodus 21:24) which means that even **God would want retribution!**

But Jesus preached forgiveness and **agape love**... we should be helping criminals get better by giving them jobs and education. Many of them have grown up leading very difficult lives. At some point, they will be released and we need to ensure the public are protected.



Educating criminals and letting them have yoga classes or counselling is hardly a punishment! People should be made to pay for what they have done. You can't reform a criminal who commits murder and other serious crimes... the main focus for the government should be spending the tax payer's money on locking criminals away.

WHY DO PEOPLE COMMIT CRIMES?

There are many different reasons why people commit crimes:

Social Reasons: They break the law to fit in with a 'gang' or are pressured by peers. They break the law in order to show off to others. For example, drug addiction or alcohol dependence are because of social reasons. A person may have an addiction which leads them into crime to feed their habit or craving. Similarly, poverty could lead to crime as people steal to get more money or food. They may not be able to provide for their children.

Psychological Reasons: Some may be due to human nature, others due to an illness. For example,, reports show that 90% of young people in prison suffer from mental health problems. Christians and Muslims argue that we should look after the sick and the needy. Some people may have psychological issues that mean they do not feel empathy for others.

Drug Addiction: Highest single cause of crime because when under the influence, people's judgement is impaired. Individual addicts are often drawn into crimes; however there is a low detection rate by the police. Christians and Muslims are against the taking of drugs. Muslims argue that it is *haram* to take drugs (forbidden). They believe that the body is sacred because it is made by God and addiction is not an acceptable reason for committing crime.

Greed, hatred and revenge: Many people commit crimes as a result of hatred or revenge. In the Bible, it says 'eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth' (Exodus 21:24) which suggests that revenge is acceptable. It also says, 'life for life' in the Qur'an. However, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad taught that forgiveness was more important.

Opposition to existing laws: Many religious people have actually broken laws in order to achieve more human rights. During the Civil Rights Movement, Malcolm X (Muslim), Martin Luther King (Christian) and Rosa Parks (Christian) all broke the law in order to achieve more rights for black people. Buddhist monks continue to protest in Tibet for their rights, even though protesting is outlawed, and Nelson Mandela and Gandhi also broke the law when campaigning for independence and an end to segregation. For many people, Jesus is seen as a positive example. He was sentenced to death for his 'crimes' but people argue that he was peaceful in his protests and did it for the right reasons i.e. to show *agape* love.



RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO CAUSES OF CRIME

ATTITUDES TO HATRED AND GREED: Greed can lead to theft, including **fraud** in business, where people lie to gain more money, and **identity theft**, where people steal someone's identity. Theft means that people from the smallest businesses and individuals to the very biggest lose billions of pounds every year. Hatred is also a common cause of crimes such as murder, rape and assault. It is also the cause of **hate crimes**, where people are targeted because of a protected characteristic such as their gender, race or sexuality.

Hatred and greed are both condemned in holy books. For example, in the Bible it says in 1 John that 'everyone who hates his brother is a murderer' and that people who hate shall not receive eternal life in Heaven. In the same chapter, it also says that anyone who says they love God whilst hating their brother is a liar. The most important message of the New Testament is Jesus' message of **agape love**. This is unconditional (for everyone) Christian love. Jesus taught to 'love thy neighbour' and hatred goes against this. Similarly Jesus taught against greed saying, 'be on your guard against all kinds of greed.' All monotheists (people who believe in one God) believe that God is **omnibenevolent (all-loving)**.

ATTITUDES TO POVERTY: Christians and Muslims argue that people should obey their governments. St Paul, for instance, said that we should obey the law. However, they may look mercifully on some crimes or try to help people to prevent more crimes from taking place. For instance, poverty is a major cause of crime. Christians believe that they have a duty to help the poor. Jesus said 'Blessed are the poor,' saying that they would inherit eternal life. In Islam, zakah is also one of the five pillars: where you give 2.5% of your earnings to the poor and needy. Jesus taught, in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, that God would look at who had been kind to prisoners, the poor and the hungry. Those who had been kind in their lives would be separated from those who had not, just as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and the good will go to Heaven. (Matthew 25:31). Jesus often spoke about the need to look after the poor e.g. 'Go and sell everything you have and give it to the poor.' Muslims believe that one of the Five Pillars is to give 2.5% of one's wealth to the poor (Zakat).

ATTITUDES TO MENTAL HEALTH: Jesus and Muhammad also looked after the sick. Some crimes can be linked to mental health problems, and Christians and Muslims may argue that they ought to help criminals for this reason. While mental illness is not usually linked with any form of crime, addiction can be seen as a mental illness which does. People who are addicted are more likely to break the law because most drugs are illegal, such as cannabis or heroin, and because they may commit crimes such as theft to pay for them. In the Hadith, the Prophet Muhammad teaches against alcohol saying it is **haram** (forbidden). Drugs are described in the Qur'an as 'satanic devices.' Similarly, in the Bible, St Paul teaches 'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?' which suggests that people must not harm their bodies.

ZAKAH: The pillar of Islam where Muslims are required to give 2.5% of their earnings to charity
CRIMES AGAINST... The person (hate crime, rape, murder), property (theft, graffiti) and the State (terrorism)

OPPOSITION TO UNJUST LAWS: St Paul and Jesus said that people should 'obey the laws of the land.' This is also true of Shari'ah Law, the law that is written based on the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (**hadith**). However, opposing an unjust law may be seen as acceptable. St Thomas Aquinas argued that an unjust law was not a real law because it went against God's will and would cause unrest in society. Martin Luther King said it was a Christian duty to fight against unjust laws. Arguably, Jesus rebelled against authority in order to do what was right. Jesus spent time with women, healed on the day of rest (the Sabbath) and even destroyed a temple, all in the name of doing what was right. This was why he was crucified (killed on a cross). It might be right to break the law if it is for the greater good (the principle of utility) and if it is done with good intentions. Thus, many theists have also broken the law when they felt it was unfair. Martin Luther King, Malala Yousafzai, Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi are all examples of theists who broke the law in the name of human rights. They may have broken the law but many argue that they did not sin (go against God) because the laws themselves went against God.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UTILITY AND GOOD VS EVIL INTENTIONS: The law differentiates between the action and the intention. *Mens rea* means the intention behind the crime, such as wanting to kill someone or accidentally killing someone; *actus reus* refers to the crime itself, such as killing someone. A crime is worse if someone had an evil intention when committing it. The reason that many people argue that all crimes are bad but the *causes* of crime are not equally bad is because of this. For example, people may argue that someone who steals for fun is behaving worse than someone who steals to save their family. In the latter example, they are stealing to help people so the intention is kinder. In Christianity, one could argue that it is acceptable to break the law in the name of *agape*: unconditional Christian love. For instance, Jesus healed people on the Sabbath, spoke to women and the poor and did other things that were seen as unacceptable, all in the name of *agape*. The principle of utility is a non-religious principle (although it can be used by theists) that states that the right action is the one that will bring about the greatest good for the most people. For example, killing is right if it maximises the greater good, such as helping lots of people survive.

EVIL AND SUFFERING: A related problem is why evil exists in the first place. There are a range of **EXPLANATIONS** that Christians use to explain the problem of evil... **God allows evil as a test / evil is caused by the Devil (Satan):** In the **Bible**, a man called **Job** was tested by Satan. God allowed Satan to make him ill and take his family. Satan realised that he could not damage Job's faith and stopped testing him. Evil helped bring Job closer to God and led to him receiving heavenly rewards. Even today, people can only show how truly good they are in the face of evil and suffering e.g. charity work, like the work of Christian Aid, after a natural disaster.

Adam and Eve Theodicy: God created a good world but **Adam and Eve** disobeyed God and this led to evil. This is sometimes called '**The Fall**' because they are said to have **fallen** from God's graces. As a punishment for disobeying God, Adam and Eve were told that they, and future generations of humans, would suffer e.g. childbirth and hard work. **Jesus** was sent to clear people of evil by sacrificing himself (the atonement). However, some people **still choose to disobey** God today.

The free will defence: God is omnibenevolent but gave people freedom. If they did not have the choice, they would be like **obedient robots** and God wants people to choose to worship him. God created humans in **His image ('imago dei')** but they still have to choose to grow into the perfect people God wants them to be. Far better for a student to **choose** to follow their teacher, rather than have a student who has been **forced** to follow their teacher!

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO TYPES OF CRIME

A **hate crime** can be defined as crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's: disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. Many religious people, including Muslims and Christians, strongly disagree with hate crimes and discrimination of any kind as there is much evidence against them in the holy texts. Christians follow Jesus' message of agape (unconditional love). Jesus preached that Christians must 'love thy neighbour' which means that must show unconditional love towards everyone. In the parable of The Good Samaritan, a stranger does not show hate towards someone that could have been his enemy but instead shows love and aids someone who is wounded. Muslims follow a Prophet Muhammad's teaching that 'all people are equal as the teeth of a comb' and therefore treating people equally is important. It believed in Christianity that all life comes from God, this means that all life is sacred and a gift. For this reason all life must be respected and not mistreated. This is also believed by Muslims. Throughout the Qu'ran there are many stories when Muhammad taught that reconciliation was the most important thing. This means that understanding other points of view is more important than judging them.

Theft goes against the 10 Commandments and some countries that follow religious law today still use very harsh punishments for theft. However, many religious people feel sympathy for those who commit theft as a result of poverty. In the Qur'an, it makes it very clear that the poor should be looked after. One of the 5 Pillars of Islam is to give **Zakat**. This is where Muslims give 2.5% of their earnings to charity. Jesus taught that it was very important to give riches to the poor. He taught that it would be easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter heaven. In the Bible it says, 'nor thieves nor the greedy shall inherit the Kingdom of God.' Moses was told that whoever steals has to pay whatever they stole in full plus another fifth on top of it. This shows that theft is condemned (criticised).

Murder is treated very seriously. All religions believe life is **sacred** (holy) because it was made by God. Christians believe that God created mankind in His image (Genesis 1:27) and that taking life is wrong. In the 10 Commandments, also known as the Decalogue, it also says 'Do Not Kill' (Exodus 20:13). Both Islam and Judaism describe the taking of one life as akin (the same as) taking the life of everyone. In Islam it says, 'Whoever has killed one soul, it as if he has killed all of mankind.' This suggests that killing is wrong because life is sacred. Christianity also teaches **agape**. Many Christians and Muslims argue that murder is so wrong that it ought to be punished with the death penalty (**capital** punishment). This is because to murder causes immense suffering to families and breaks the Sanctity of Life principle. Other Christians and Muslims argue that the death penalty is wrong because it also breaks the **Sanctity of Life** principle. They believe we should use prison instead. However... Many Churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church, argue that killing is allowed in cases of war.

HATE CRIME: A crime committed against a person because of a PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC e.g. gender reassignment, sexuality, race or ethnicity, disability or religion

PRISONS

Prison is used as a punishment to keep society safe. However, not everyone believes they are successful. Many people have argued that prisoners usually have **mental health problems**, come from **poor backgrounds** and **lack education** and so, if we want them to become better citizens, they should be reformed. Famous Christians, such as **Elizabeth Fry**, have fought for the rights of prisoners and have asked the government to improve the quality of life of prisoners so that they are less likely to re-offend. This aim of punishment is known as **reform**.

The UK has different types of prison. High security prisons are called **Category A prisons** and house the most dangerous offenders. Category D prisons are open prisons where they can work outside of the prison and are not locked in cells. Prisoners who have committed crimes as a result of mental health problems may be put into mental health institutions instead of prison. People under the age of 18 are put in **young offender institutions**.

In the UK, for instance, **carrying** and **selling** drugs is usually given a prison sentence. For Class A drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, prisoners can face sentences of up to 7 years for possession and up to life imprisonment for large-scale distribution.

Terrorism is punished under the 2000 and **2006** Terrorist Acts. Prisoners can receive a life **imprisonment** sentence for planning an attack as well as going through with it. It is also illegal to download terrorist material online and this is also punished with a prison sentence.

Not everyone who is given a life sentence will be in prison for life. **Parole** means that a person can be released early for good behaviour. They will still be supervised for a period of time but will no longer have to stay in prison. The average sentence for a murderer before applying for parole is 15 years. In the UK, people who watch a murder or rape can also receive the same sentence as people who did it under **Joint Enterprise** laws.

Many people disagree with prison because they argue it can make people worse. For instance, people who have killed are often placed in the same prisons as people who have not. It costs over £60,000 a year to keep someone in prison. Many people have argued, following investigations, that prisons in the UK are full of drugs and violence and are doing little to improve behaviour. Others argue that prison should be **harsher** to deter criminals from committing more crimes.

Many other crimes are punished by **fines** or short **prison sentences**. Committing minor crimes many times, such as keeping your children off from school when it isn't necessary or spraying graffiti, can result in short prison sentences. However, minor crimes are usually punished with **community service** whereby criminals do hours of work for free, such as picking up litter for between 40 and 300 hours. They can keep their normal job or still go to school. Police may also give them **ASBOs (Anti Social Behaviour Orders)**, **curfews** and **electronic tags** to limit the amount of time they spend away from the home.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Doing work for the community such as litter picking; it is an example of reformation / **PRISON:** Where someone is locked away and has their freedom removed

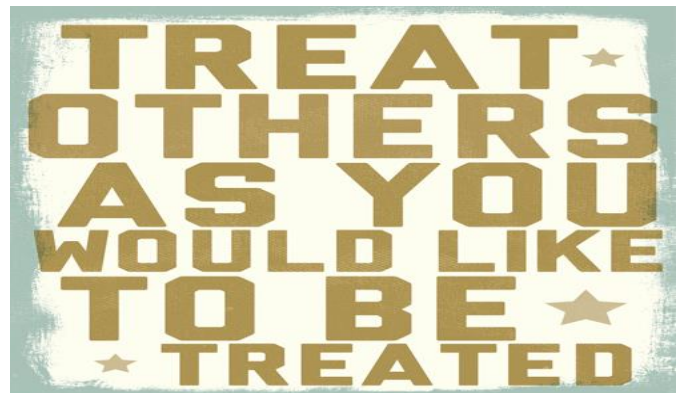
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is punishment intended to cause physical pain on a person. Common methods include spanking, paddling, caning. It has been outlawed in most countries. In 1950 the European Convention of Human Rights, Council of Europe. Article 3 bars "inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". This would mean that inflicting physical punishment on children would not be allowed. It is also against the law to allow violence between adults. Therefore it would not make sense that same law would allow violence from adults on children.

Some religious people argue in favour of corporal punishment and others disagree. In the Old Testament it is strongly recommended that parents use corporal punishment to discipline their child. It says, "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him" (Proverbs 13:24). It could be argued that corporal punishment teaches children immediately that there are consequences for their actions and that they would behave much better if we had it in schools. Others argue that corporal punishment can be used as a **deterrent** to publicly put others off committing crimes. It also gives families of victims and victims a sense of justice as they see that the perpetrator of the crime is in pain.

However, many Christians would disagree and argue Jesus preached non-violence and therefore corporal punishment is not a very Christian act. There are significant psychological impacts of violence. This would damage both the person committing the violence and the person receiving it. The person receiving violent treatment is less likely to be sorry for what they have done and more likely to be filled with rage and want revenge.

People think that corporal punishment is highly unnecessary. There are other means of education that are effective too. A common alternative is to educate why the action was wrong. Christians believe in the 'Sanctity of Life' this means that life is sacred and that all life is special as it has been given by God. It would not therefore make sense to suggest that we can abuse children as they too are sacred and a gift from God. The Golden Rule can also be applied: if you would not like to be hit, then you should not do it to others!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Christians and other theists (people who believe in God) try to follow the Golden Rule: to treat others as we wish to be treated. They may even apply this to prisoners by trying to help them be better people, rather than severely punish them. In New York, for instance, the program Puppies Behind Bars gives inmates the challenge - and joy - of raising guide dogs.

"Joshua has given me back my peace of mind," says Roosevelt Lewis, an inmate in the program. His puppy shares his cell and wakes him up in the morning. "He lets me know I'm still a human being." The dog has taught him much, he says, about "pure, unadulterated love."



Dartmoorh prison has introduced gardening projects and a range of prison offer daily counselling in the hope that these types of projects and activities will reform prisoners. Educating them and improving their self-esteem and mental health may stop them from committing crimes in the future. Elizabeth Fry was a famous Christian who argued for prison reform. She argued that it was important to follow Jesus' teachings. In the Parable of the Goats and the Sheep, Jesus said that people who visited those in prison did something for him too.

Following the Golden Rule, used in all religions, we could argue that we should help prisoners reform as this is how we would like to be treated. Many prisoners have had very difficult lives and have significant mental health problems so counselling may help them become better citizens and not commit crimes in the future. Reform, or reformation, is about giving people a second chance and this is emphasised in many holy texts.

Others have argued that we should not be making prison easy – if it is too enjoyable, criminals will not feel the need to leave and may become **institutionalised**. They may also not experience enough negative consequences for what they have done and families may feel that it is unfair. whilst this may protect society in the future, it may also fail to make punishment meaningful. How will families of victims feel if they know the criminal is gardening or getting a puppy?

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Doing work for the community such as litter picking; it is an example of reformation / **PRISON:** Where someone is locked away and has their freedom removed

FORGIVENESS

Christians believe it is important to forgive because:

- God sent his son **Jesus** to save the world from Original Sin through his death. Jesus died to bring salvation. Even when he was dying, Jesus asked God to forgive the people who had crucified him.
- Jesus said that God will not forgive people who haven't forgiven others (**Lord's Prayer**). Jesus told his followers to 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' This teaching leads many Christians to treat others with love and **compassion**.
- All the Churches teach that Christians should forgive others and try to end conflict
- Jesus said, "Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone" (*John 8:1-1*) when a woman was about to be stoned for committing adultery. This shows that Christians should not judge others because everyone makes mistakes.
- Many famous Christians, such as **Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu**, forgave people even though they had been discriminated against for years in apartheid South Africa.

However... Some Christians argue that forgiveness is never possible. Many American states, for instance, which are Christian still argue for the death penalty for 'unforgivable' crimes.

Muslims believe it is important to forgive because:

- Muslims believe that on **Judgement Day**, they will be judged for how they have behaved towards others and whether they forgave.
- During the **Hajj**, many thousands of Muslims pray on Mount Arafat for forgiveness. If they would like forgiveness, they should offer it to others (the Golden Rule).
- The Prophet Muhammad's examples of forgiveness have been recorded in the Qur'an and Hadith. In many Shari'ah Law courts today, people try to encourage forgiveness rather than harsh sentencing.
- They believe that God is **just** and they should be too.

However... In September 2005, a Danish newspaper published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Many Muslims found this **blasphemous** (sinful) and unworthy of forgiveness.



FORGIVENESS: Stopping blaming someone and/or pardoning them for what they have done wrong

SALVATION: Saving people from sin through God's grace

HAJJ: The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca (5th Pillar)

THE DEBATE SURROUNDING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Capital punishment, or execution, means taking away the life of someone for a crime. It is also called the death penalty. Whilst it was abolished (got rid of) in the UK in 1973, many countries continue to use this form of punishment e.g. China and the USA. It is estimated that there is one execution per day somewhere in the world, with the greatest number being in China. Methods include hanging, lethal injection, the electric chair and death by firing squad. People feel that capital punishment **deters** people from committing crimes, protects society and gives families **justice**. It is a form of punishment designed for **retribution**.

Religious people disagree about the use of capital punishment. The Qur'an, for instance, teaches that capital punishment may be applied for some crimes but people disagree as to whether it should apply today. The death penalty may only be applied after a fair trial and as a last resort. The victim's family must also agree to the punishment according to Shari'ah law. Four witnesses must also testify to having seen the crime and it is said that during Muhammad's time nobody was executed apart from for adultery. That said, many Islamic countries still use capital punishment for a range of things including murder, rape, homosexual acts and for anyone working against Islam. Muslims around the world often strongly disagree with this interpretation of the Qur'an. With regards to Christianity, many feel that they should follow the laws of the land and that capital punishment may be justified for certain crimes. Other Christians argue that this is not in-keeping with Jesus' teachings in the New Testament. They argue that Jesus' message of love outweighs any arguments for revenge in the Old Testament.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UTILITY AND THE DEATH PENALTY: The principle of utility is the argument that an act is right if it is for the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Some people argue that capital punishment is a good thing because it maximises happiness. The death of one person protects all of society and gives happiness to the victims and their families. This means that MORE people are made happy by the death penalty.

SANCTITY OF LIFE ARGUMENTS AND THE DEATH PENALTY: Many argue that life is too holy to ever be taken. The sanctity of life principle is the belief that life is sacred because it is made by God.



Sanctity of life: Life is sacred and a gift from God
Capital Punishment: the death penalty

ARGUMENTS FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT	ARGUMENTS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The death penalty acts as a warning and deters criminals from committing crimes • The value of human life is made clear by executing those who choose to ignore it • It can make the criminal confess to crimes or be used to make plea bargains where criminals give up important information to avoid punishment • The death penalty means that society can rid itself of the most dangerous people and provides protection for civilians • Execution provides justice for families and retribution for the crime committed. It helps society to realise that you will have to pay if you commit a crime. • It protects society and benefits the majority. This is known as the principle of utility: the greatest good for the greatest number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In countries such as America and China where the death penalty is legal, there are high murder rates • If murder is wrong because everyone has the right to life, we should not let the government take life either – we should be more forgiving towards criminals and show mercy • Many people have been executed who were later to be found to be innocent. Just as with torture, criminals may admit to things they haven't done to escape the death penalty • Some people feel that execution is an easy punishment because many criminals would prefer to die rather than spend their lives in prison.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ The Old Testament teaches that capital punishment should be used for serious crimes: <i>'Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed'</i> (Genesis 9:6) ✠ St Paul teaches that Christians should accept and obey the laws and punishments of the government of the country they are in ✠ Jesus never taught that the death penalty was wrong and the Roman Catholic Church still permit the death penalty for various crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ It goes against the Sanctity of Life (that all life is sacred and a gift from God). ✠ Only God has the right to take away life ✠ Jesus came to save and reform people – an executed criminal cannot be forgiven or reformed ✠ Jesus taught that revenge is wrong: <i>'You have heard that it was said, an eye for an eye... but I tell you... if someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him also'</i> (Matthew 5:38) ✠ Most Christian Churches have spoken out against capital punishment and argue that we should love and forgive criminals instead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☪ The Qur'an, which is the word of God, says that death penalty may be given for certain crimes, as does Shari'ah Law ☪ Muhammad made many statements that showed he agreed with the death penalty ☪ When Muhammad was the ruler of Medina, he sentenced people to death for murder ☪ Islamic philosophy teaches that punishments should be harsh in order to deter people from crime ☪ <i>'Take not life – which God has made sacred – except for just cause'</i> (Surah 17:33) ☪ <i>'A life for a life.'</i> Hadith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☪ The scholars of Shari'ah Law do not agree on when the death penalty should be applied ☪ The Qur'an says that it should be an option only when others have been considered. The conditions for death penalty, as laid out in the Qur'an, are rarely met so the punishment should not be given ☪ Many Muslims argue that Shari'ah Law is not being applied properly in countries that allow the death penalty e.g. the trial is not fair or the people receiving it are mainly women and the poor.

THE NATURE OF FAMILIES

Sexuality refers to who we are attracted to. There are all sorts of relationships and families in the UK. Traditionally, marriage was a religious ceremony between a man and a woman. Today, however, many couples cohabit (live together without being marriage) and there are also many same-sex relationships.



NUCLEAR FAMILIES

This is a family with a mother, father and children. For many years, it was considered the traditional family unit.



COHABITATION

Living together without being married.

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY

This is a family of either a mother or father with children. This is much more common in the UK.

RE-CONSTITUTED FAMILY

A family joined together after a divorce, consisting of step-parents and stepbrothers and sisters.

SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIP

Where both partners are of the same sex. Now same sex marriage is legal. Before this point, a same-sex partnership was called a civil partnership.



EXTENDED FAMILY

This is the nuclear family plus other relatives, such as grandparents, who also live with the family.



POLYGAMY

This is illegal in the UK. This is where a man has more than one wife.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

Christians believe that marriage and families are very important. One of the purposes of a Christian marriage is to have children and bring them up in the Christian faith. Christianity teaches that marriage is a religious institution and that the family was created by God. Christian teaching on divorce suggests that married couples should stay together to raise their children. It is through the family that children are **baptised, confirmed** and go to church. This means that the family are very important in encouraging people to be religious.

Christians believe that children are a gift from and that they have a responsibility to care for them and teach them about God. One of the 10 Commandments is to honour one's parents (Exodus 20:12) and in the creation story God tells Adam and Eve to be 'fruitful and multiply' (Genesis 1:28).

Marriage vows are made in front of God and represent the relationship between Jesus and the Church (Christian community). Marriage is a **sacrament**: an outer sign of an inner blessing. Sacraments allow Christians to show their inner faith in God outwardly through events such as baptism or marriage. Christians believe that getting married and having a family can show faith. The other sacraments are **baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, confession, being anointed if you are very sick and becoming a priest.**

Not all Christians marry. Priests in Roman Catholicism must remain **celibate**. Living with someone without being married is called **cohabitation**. Many people argue that you do not need to marry to be in a committed relationship. **Monogamy** is where you only have sex with one person and are faithful to them. Roman Catholics, however, argue that you should marry if you are going to have sex.

Sacrament: an outward way of showing what you believe. In Christianity there are 7 sacraments:

1. **Baptism**
2. **Confirmation**
3. **Holy Communion**
4. **Confession**
5. **Being anointed if you are very sick**
6. **Marriage**
7. **Becoming a priest.**



Cohabitation: living with someone without being married

Monogamy: only having sex with one person

Celibacy: not having sex

Sacrament: An outward way of showing belief, such as marriage

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES

PROCREATION: People have different ideas about why marriage and families are important. Some do not wish to marry whilst others do not wish to have a family. One reason why people commonly get married is to have children, known as **procreation**. Many argue that marriage provides stability for children as it is a legal contract and, for some, a religious contract as well. They may argue that remaining married provides a source of comfort for children and can ensure that responsibilities are shared. Religions also argue that marriage is an important religious commitment. For instance, in the Bible, it says that children must 'honour thy parents' in the 10 Commandments (Decalogue) and Jesus says, 'Blessed are the children.' Adam and Eve are also told to be 'fruitful and multiply.' These quotations suggest that people should have families and look after them and respect them. In Islam, the Prophet Muhammad spoke about sex being special within marriage. He said it was a source of pleasure and provided the blessing of children from God. Muhammad also said that couples should only have as many children as they could properly look after.

RAISING A CHILD IN FAITH: Many people argue that it is their responsibility to raise a child in their faith. For this reason, many people choose to marry someone who shares their religious beliefs. In the traditional Christian wedding vows, they promise to have children and raise them as Christians. This includes baptising children and taking them to church. In Islam, the mother is responsible for helping to teach the child Arabic and the rules of the religion. In Judaism, they circumcise babies to show that they are entering into a covenant with God, as Abraham did. The family allows the religion to be passed down through many generations.

Many, however, disagree with raising a child as religious. Richard Dawkins, for instance, argues that it is wrong as it **indoctrinates** children (brainwashes them) and teaches them to believe without proof. He also argues that the idea of Hell is too scary for children and it is wrong to upset them with this idea.

THE ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN: Most religions have traditionally taught that men and women have different roles. For instance, the mother is said to be in charge of the household while the husband is in charge of working. This division of roles was common for most of British history. For instance, the Catholic Church has long argued that men and women are different but equal, and that women are best placed in the home. In the Bible, it says that Eve was made to be Adam's helper and this teaching has influenced many religious ideas about the roles of men and women.

After the Second World War, more women began to demand the right to work, having done so many jobs during the war. Over time, many women went into the workplace. Today, many disagree that men and women should have different roles within a marriage and may share the responsibilities equally. Many more men stay at home to raise children while women work.

DECALOGUE: 10 Commandments, including 'Honour Thy Parents'/
COVENANT: A promise made with God

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO DIVORCE

On the whole, Christians disagree with divorce as it breaks the **sacrament** of marriage. However, over time, some Christian attitudes to divorce have changed and different Christian groups have interpreted biblical teachings differently. One of the reasons that divorce has been so difficult to obtain in the past was for religious reasons.

Most non-Catholic Churches think that divorce is wrong, but often allow it if the marriage is broken down. **They argue based on COMPASSION.**

Some such churches allow **re-marriage**. In the **Gospels**, Jesus also says that divorce should be allowed in cases of adultery (**Matthew 19:9**). For many liberal Christians, divorce is the lesser of two evils and compassion should be shown to couples who want to divorce for a good reason.

Jesus taught that we should 'love thy neighbor' and treat others as we wish to be treated. Allowing divorce could be a sign of **agape love**, especially where couples are arguing a lot. The **Golden Rule** can also be applied: if people want the right to divorce, they should allow it.

The **Roman Catholic Church** does not allow religious divorce or **re-marriage**. **They believe in the SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE.** Marriage is a **sacrament** and a **covenant** that cannot be broken. The **Catechism** states that because marriage vows are made in front of God, marriage is forever, and re-marriage is the same as adultery.

Jesus also taught that divorce is wrong in the **Gospels**. The Church may allow legal separation, but couples are still considered married in the eyes of God.

In the 10 Commandments, it says 'Do not commit adultery' and some Christians believe that divorce is like adultery.

ANNULMENT: A declaration that the marriage was never a true marriage e.g. the Roman Catholic Church might allow an annulment if it was proved that the wedding was never really Christian

SACRAMENT: An outward sign of inner grace and beliefs – there are official ceremonies and rites in the Christian Church where members show their faith e.g. baptism, marriage etc.

RE-MARRIAGE: Getting married after a divorce

GOSPELS: The 4 books in the Bible (part of the Old Testament) that describe the life and teachings of Jesus

RECONCILIATION: 'Making up' i.e. trying to fix a marriage, sometimes through therapy

CATECHISM: Official teachings and laws of the Roman Catholic Church

MUSLIM ATTITUDES TO DIVORCE

Within Islam, the family is at the heart of the community and is important for raising children in the Islamic faith. Parents are responsible for the religious upbringing of their children e.g. giving them the right foods (**halal**), making sure they attend **madrrasah** and helping them learn the Qur'an. The Qur'an teaches that on Judgement Day, Muslims will be judged on how well they raise their children – the family has been created by God and must be respected.

The Prophet Muhammad raised a family and is considered to be the perfect example; Muslims try to follow this example in their own lives (**hadith**). Muslims are also part of a world-wide community known as the **ummah**. The individual family and the **ummah** are kept together through blood ties, marriage and faith. Muslims are likely to live in extended families that offer couples greater stability and financial support. The elderly are highly respected in Islam and must be looked after.



For Muslims, marriage is a contract and divorce is usually allowed: *'And if you fear that the two may not be able to keep the limits ordered by Allah, there is no blame... if [they] redeem [themselves] from the marriage tie.'*

Many Muslims are completely against divorce. Muhammad argued it was the most hateful of things. Although divorce is allowed, it is not encouraged as it can have a very negative effect on the family.

Divorce is automatically granted if one partner leaves Islam – for other reasons, the divorce must be announced 3 times over a period of 3 months (known as the **iddah**). The couple should seek **reconciliation** first where they try and fix their problems.

After the divorce, the couple are free to re-marry – the husband remains responsible for his ex-wife and children unless she re-marries. Other Muslims argue that, so long as it is done according to Islamic (Shar'iah) Law, divorce can be the lesser of two evils and may benefit the family.



HALAL: Food prepared according to strict Islamic laws; food that is acceptable for Muslims to eat

MADRASAH: Muslim school

HADITH: Example and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad that have been collected together

UMMAH: World-wide community of Muslims

SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE

Sex outside of marriage refers to **pre-marital sex** (sex before marriage) and **adultery** (cheating on your partner). The Bible teaches that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Sex is considered to be an act of love but is also meant for the **procreation** of children and it is thought that this is best done in marriage. Some Christians even wear silver rings to show that they will be celibate until they are married. Christians are taught to avoid being **promiscuous** (having casual sex relationships).

'The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside marriage it always constitutes a grave sin.' **Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church**

However, some liberal Christians today argue that sex before marriage is acceptable. They argue that the Bible needs to be adapted to fit in with our modern lifestyles. The **Church of England** recently published a report called '**Something to Celebrate**' where they said that **cohabitation** is acceptable if it is a step before marriage. Having sex with someone other than your partner is considered a grave sin (**adultery**). In the 10 Commandments it says, 'You shall not commit adultery' (Exodus 20:14).

Islam teaches that marriage should take place between a man and a woman. They believe that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Sex before marriage is forbidden in the **Qur'an** which also says that girls and boys should be separated after puberty and dress modestly. **Shari'ah Law** states that sex should only take place in marriage and that the primary purpose of sex is to have children.

As in the **Bible**, the punishment for adultery is very severe in the **Qur'an**. This is because it breaks the marriage contract and may have negative consequences for the couple and their children – anything that is likely to hurt the family is forbidden in the Qur'an. All Muslims are expected to get married, as the Prophet Muhammad did. Sexual desire is considered to be a gift of new life from God, and Muslims fulfil this through marriage.

As Islam has spread to different countries, attitudes towards the family have changed a little. Some young Muslims no longer have **arranged marriages** and socialize much more with members of the opposite sex. The extent to which this happens will depend on how **conservative** the family is in their views. Traditional Muslim practices, like **polygamy**, are banned by UK law and are much rarer.

ADULTERY: Cheating on your partner

PROMISCUOUS: Having casual sexual relationships with more than one partner

SHARI'AH LAW: Islamic law

POLYGAMY: Having more than one wife

DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TO CONTRACEPTION

Liberal Christians usually argue that contraception is acceptable, although many usually argue that it is meant for married couples in order to limit family size and not to be used for pre-marital sex (as pre-marital sex is not allowed). As the main teaching is to love others, they argue that contraception helps women financially, physically and emotionally. They also argue that it can protect against HIV/AIDS and that there is nothing in the Bible forbidding it.

Many Muslims also allow contraception between **married** partners in order to limit family size and protect the health of the mother. God allows this because several **hadith** record the Prophet Muhammad permitting the use of *coitus interruptus* as a means of contraception. Now that more modern methods of contraception are available, surely these are acceptable. If pregnancy is likely to cause death or extra burdens on the family, contraception can be used as the Qur'an says that God does not want to place extra burdens on families. Suicide is also wrong and going through a pregnancy that is likely to lead to **maternal death** is wrong too.



Conservative Christians often argue that sex is meant for procreation and, where they accept that the number in a family should be controlled, advocate natural planning methods (e.g. limiting sex to times when a woman is less likely to get pregnant). **Pope Pius XI** condemned contraception (1930) and in 1968, **Pope Paul VI's** *Humanae Vitae* confirmed this. It is also written into the **Catechism**. Anything that is seen as killing a potential life is considered a sin i.e. because life is seen to begin at **conception**, the morning-after pill is considered wrong.

Muslims may also argue against contraception, arguing that using it is going against the will of God and the plan He has for each of us. The Qur'an does not mention contraception but does say 'You should not kill your children for fear of want.' They argue that this should mean a ban on contraception. God created sex for the purposes of procreation and contraception prevents God's wishes. Muslims argue that since the Prophet Muhammad had a large family, they should try to do the same. The Prophet Muhammad is seen as the perfect example to follow.

CONTRACEPTION: Methods of preventing pregnancy

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO LGBT

Christians strongly disagree about whether homosexuality is acceptable or not. Traditionally, the vast majority of Christians were against homosexuality. In the Bible, it says that God created man and woman to be together and to raise children (e.g. Genesis 1:27); Homosexuality was seen to undermine the family and sex was meant for children only. Since homosexual couples are unable to have children naturally and this is considered to be the primary purpose of humans, it was regarded as wrong.

There are also biblical teachings against homosexuality. In Leviticus 18:22, it is said, 'Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman' and St Paul writes, 'Homosexual offenders... will [not] inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) – although some Christians are quick to point out that Leviticus also bans eating shellfish among other things that Christians often do!

Most **Evangelical** Christians are strongly against homosexuality, even if they believe homophobia is wrong. They believe that the Bible is word-for-word true and take the teachings on homosexuality literally. Some groups believe that prayer can 'save' homosexual people from sin. The **Roman Catholic Church** teaches that homosexuality is wrong because sex is meant for the procreation of children. The Church teaches that people cannot help their sexual orientation, so homophobia is a sin. However, they still argue that **practicing homosexuality** is a sin.

More Liberal Christians usually have a more sympathetic view towards homosexuals. Couples are judged on the strength of their love, and gay priests are now accepted in some **congregations** (although they are frequently told to remain **celibate**).

This is because Jesus taught his followers to 'love thy neighbour' rather than judge others. Jesus treated people who had sinned with respect. It is also wrong to lie, according to the 10 Commandments, so hiding your sexuality would be wrong. Such Christians believe that biblical ideas of homosexuality need to be updated to fit in with modern understanding, and some groups even bless homosexual unions in church.

In this country, same-sex marriage is legal and homophobia is against the law. Many people argue that the Bible needs to be adapted: it was written at a time when people did not understand science or human rights. We now know that many animal species practise homosexual sex and that there are genes connected with homosexuality. Furthermore, it is a human right and such liberal Christians argue that it is more important to accept the human rights than condemn others.

LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans

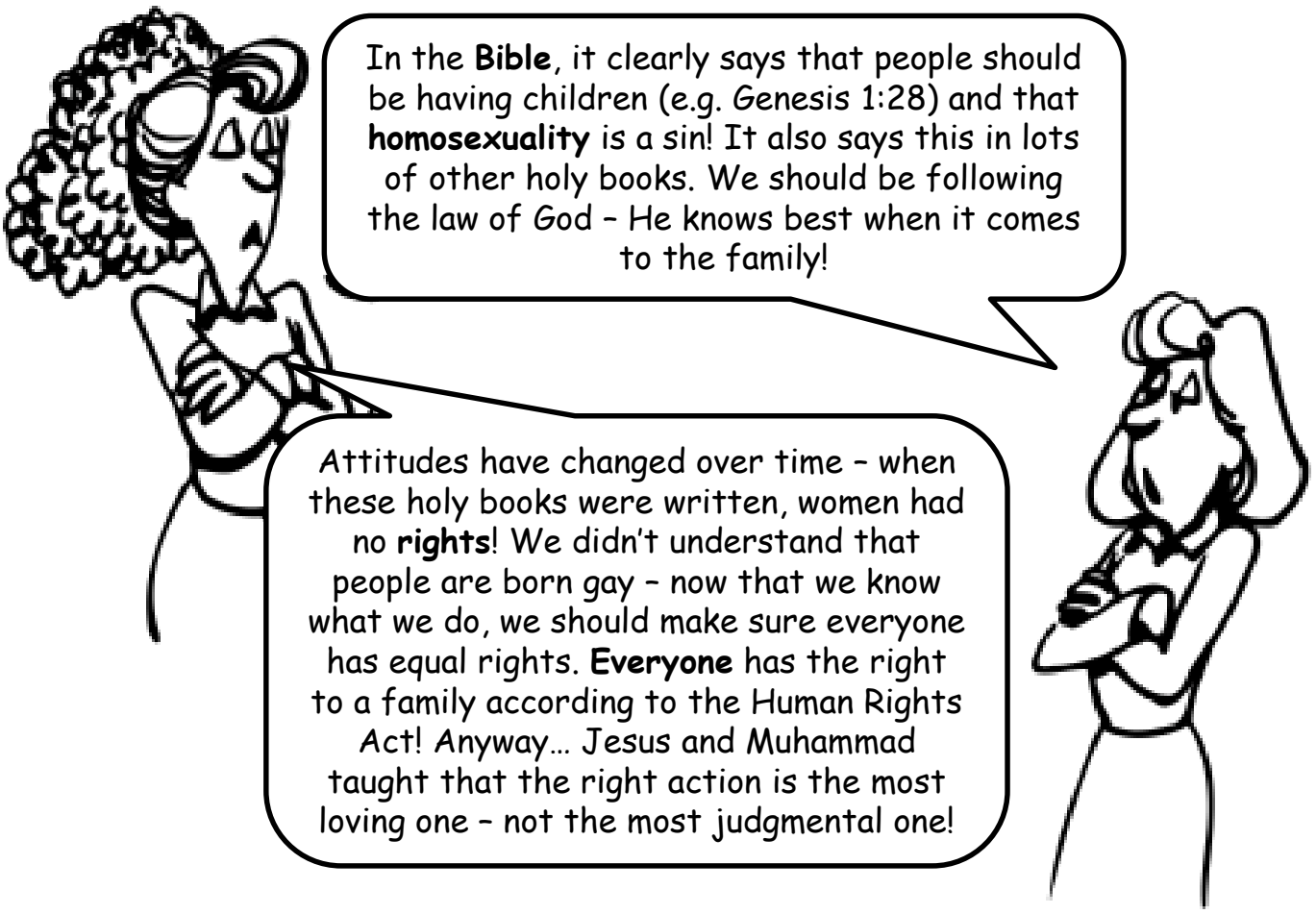
CONDEMN: To say that something is wrong

CONGREGATIONS: The community and people in each church

MUSLIM ATTITUDES TO LGBT

Many Muslims believe homosexuality is a grave (very serious) sin and, under strict Shari'ah law, it is punishable by death ("Kill the one that is doing it" Hadith). Al-Fatiha, a Muslim gay rights group, estimates that over 4000 people have been executed in Iran because of their sexuality. In the Qur'an, the people of Lot, known as the Sodomites, are destroyed by Allah because they practised homosexuality. Traditionally, Islam teaches that homosexuality is a choice and that it must be educated against. It is seen as undermining the family, which the Qur'an says is very important, because gay couples cannot have children naturally.

Other Muslims argue that preventing same-sex relationships is wrong and against human rights e.g. Al-Fatiha. They also argue that homosexuality is natural and isn't a choice. Many animals have now been found to display homosexual behaviour and certain genes have been linked with homosexuality. This suggests that homosexuality is not a choice. Muslims may also argue that society has changed and the Qur'an must be interpreted using the information we know now about homosexuality. For example, some argue that the story of Lot is about lust and not love – so long as the relationship is about love and being faithful, it is acceptable. Muslims may also argue that Allah created all things and loves everyone. As such, He must have created homosexuals and must love them too. Furthermore, Islam is a religion of peace and love and these should be shown to all people.



In the **Bible**, it clearly says that people should be having children (e.g. *Genesis 1:28*) and that **homosexuality** is a sin! It also says this in lots of other holy books. We should be following the law of God - He knows best when it comes to the family!

Attitudes have changed over time - when these holy books were written, women had no **rights**! We didn't understand that people are born gay - now that we know what we do, we should make sure everyone has equal rights. **Everyone** has the right to a family according to the Human Rights Act! Anyway... Jesus and Muhammad taught that the right action is the most loving one - not the most judgmental one!

ARRANGED MARRIAGE AND POLYGAMY

Arranged marriages are common within the Muslim community. Both partners **must agree** but trust their parents to make a good choice! Divorce is also allowed under certain conditions. Forced marriage is banned in Islam. All Muslims are expected to **get married and have children**, just as the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did. Marriage is thought to bring God's blessings. It is also thought to be a natural part of God's plan. When they marry, Muslims sign a contract. Muslims promise to raise their children in the faith and provide a stable home. In the UK, forced marriage and marriage with a minor are not allowed. However, arranged marriage is allowed.

Many Muslims argue that arranged marriages can help people to find a suitable partner. For example, many people may choose someone because of how powerful they are or how good looking they are. These do not help couples stay together for long periods of time. Similarly, in an arranged marriage they look at whether personalities are compatible so that the children involved will not be blinded by love but can be supported to make sensible decisions. On the other hand, many Muslims today seek 'love marriages' and feel able to make these decisions alone. Many argue that they want to spend more time getting to know someone for themselves and making their own decisions.

At the time of the revelation of the **Qur'an** it was normal procedure for men to have more than one wife, up to the limits of their ability to support them. Having more than one wife is called **polygamy**. This was designed to help support women, who often struggled financially at this time. One of the Prophet Muhammad's eleven wives, for instance, married him because he paid for her freedom when she had been captured. Powerful and wealthy women also had marital arrangements with more than one partner, known as **polyandry**. This is still allowed in Islam under certain rules. The man must be able to treat all of his wives equally and be able to afford to look after them properly. Muslim women are required to have only one husband at a time - they may still marry more than one man in a lifetime, but consecutively.

Remarriage is allowed in Islam once the contract of marriage has been broken. One difference between Islam and other faiths is that to this day a man may have more than one wife, up to the limit of four wives simultaneously - so long as it is not done to the detriment (negative effect) and hurt of the existing Muslim partner(s). Whilst some Muslims argue that this practice is acceptable, as it is allowed in holy scripture, many Muslims argue it should no longer happen. The Prophet Muhammad, arguably, married out of **necessity** to help women who otherwise would have been poor.

They argue, for instance, that it could create a **power imbalance** in the relationship since there is more than one wife to look after and spend time with. Some regard it as a **sexist practice** since the rules do not apply to men and women equally. Others argue that the Prophet Muhammad allowed it at a time when women rarely worked. Circumstances are different today and women do not need to marry to make money so the rules should no longer apply. Polygamy is illegal in the UK.

POLYGAMY: Where a man is married to more than one woman at the same time

GENDER AND SEXISM

In the past, all women were often expected to stay at home with the family – in the 1900s this became the main attitude and only about 15% of women worked. In the early 20th century, women began to campaign for **equality** and were successful in implementing many laws such as the Equal Pay Act in 1970. However, prejudice and discrimination still exist in Britain and around the world. Prejudice is the pre-judgement of others based on a characteristic they have or the group they belong to. Prejudice against women could be caused by how people are brought up, the media, religion or a number of other factors. It can lead to sexism (discrimination based on gender). In the UK, women are frequently victims of violence and sexual offences, with some studies estimating that up to 1 in 4 women will be a victim of violence and sexual offences. In the workplace, women still earn less and occupy far fewer positions of power. For instance, only 25% of MPs are female. A **feminist** is anyone who campaigns for gender equality. Most people argue that they are feminists, although they may disagree about how best to gain equality or what equality looks like. Some, for instance, may argue that men and women are different but must be equally supported, whilst others argue that the differences between men and women have been exaggerated.

Many argue that religion is responsible for some of the sexist attitudes faced by women. This is because many religions have traditionally argued that men and women have different roles. If women are denied access to certain roles, then this could be said to be discriminatory. However, theists may respond by arguing that men and women are equal but different; they have different roles to play but these roles are equally important.

However, the fact remains that women cannot be priests in many Christian denominations and imams in the majority of Muslim denominations. In Theravada Buddhism, women will often pray that their rebirth will be as a man and in Sikhism, whilst either gender may read the Guru Granth Sahib, it is unusual in practice to see women doing this.



PREJUDICE: Prejudice is the pre-judgement of others based on a characteristic they have or the group they belong to.

DISCRIMINATION: Treating someone differently based on prejudice

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO GENDER EQUALITY

Some very Conservative (Evangelical) Christians argue that women should still submit to their husbands and stay at home. This idea is based on Biblical teachings that suggest women should take a more passive role compared to their husband e.g. St Paul wrote 'Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the Church' (Ephesians 5:21). St Paul also taught that 'women should remain silent in churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission as the Law says' (Corinthians 14:34). As these Christians interpret the Bible literally, they still follow these teachings today. In Orthodox Judaism, men and women must still sit separately. The Torah states that woman was made from man to be his companion.

Roman Catholics believe that men and women have equal roles in life and can take on most of the same jobs. However, the Pope also teaches that women **cannot** be ordained priests, although it says that this does not mean that women are not equal to men. This idea is based on the teachings of the **Catechism** which says that men and women should have equal roles in life and society. The 1971 report, 'Justice in the World' called for women to take on more responsibility within the Church. However, this does not mean that they should lead but, rather, help out more; the teachings of the **Catechism** which says that, because Jesus was male and so were his main disciples, only men can be priests – priests represent Jesus in church. Similarly, in Islam, men and women usually have to pray separately and only men can lead services. They are still equal as the Qur'an says that all duties of Islam apply to men and women equally and because the Prophet Muhammad commanded kindness towards women. Thus, the majority of these theists do not argue that women are inferior. They believe that men and women are **different** and have **different roles**.

Liberal Christians usually accept that men and women should have equal rights in **all respects**. This means that they allow women to become priests. They base their ideas on the first creation story (Genesis) where God makes men and women equal. In other passages, St Paul appears to teach equality, writing 'There is neither male nor female...' because everyone is equal in the eyes of Jesus. Evidence from the **Gospels** that Jesus treated women with respect and even had female disciples. Moreover, there is evidence that there were women priests in the early Church e.g. they were only banned in the 4th century. Such Christians argue that the Bible was written in a time of inequality and must be interpreted to fit in with modern ideas.

Other religions also allow women to lead, such as in Sikhism where both men and women can read from the Guru Granth Sahib. They believe God is neither male nor female.

THE SACRAMENTS

INFANT BAPTISM: **Baptism** is an initiation rite by which people become members of the Christian Church. It is one of the sacraments which means it is an outward sign of an inner blessing. Catholics and Orthodox Christians believe there are seven sacraments: (1) baptism; (2) confirmation (where you confirm your faith in public); (3) Holy Communion (also known as Eucharist); (4) marriage; (5) confession to a priest; (6) becoming a priest; and (7) anointing, or blessing, the sick.

Many Christians often have infant baptisms. This is where they baptise babies. They believe that infant baptism shows **God's grace** (God's gift of love) and allows children to enter the Church at a very early age. Whilst the first Christians were often baptised as adults, today **Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Methodist** denominations, amongst others, practise infant baptism. Water is used to symbolise the forgiveness of sins and new life as a member of the Christian Church. Roman Catholics believe that everyone has inherited **Original Sin**. This is the sin that was brought into the world by Adam and Eve. They believe that everyone has a tendency to sin and needs salvation (saving) which baptism provides for babies. At an **infant baptism**, the parents and godparents promise to raise the child as a Christian. This ceremony is an important opportunity for them to make promises which the children can say themselves later in a **confirmation** ceremony. Candles represent Jesus as the 'Light of the World.'

BELIEVERS' BAPTISM: Some Christians, such as **Baptists** and **Pentecostals**, think that a baby is too young to understand the meaning of baptism. They argue that people should wait to be baptised until they can make the decision themselves. Jesus was baptised as an adult by **John the Baptist** as water was also used in Jewish ceremonies. Many people follow this example and are baptised in large pools or rivers when they are older. Jesus' baptism sets an example of being baptised to receive the **Holy Spirit**. Many people argue against infant baptism because they dislike the idea that **babies are born with sin**. The idea of Original Sin used to be so widely accepted that anyone who had not been baptised would not be buried on holy ground, including babies. Believers' baptism involves full immersion in a pool, symbolising the cleansing from sin and the rising up to new life with Christ. Rites (what happens during the ceremony) vary but usually the minister talks about the importance of baptism and asks if the people being baptised are willing to change their lives. Each person may read a Bible passage and give a brief testimony of their faith in Jesus as their personal saviour. They are then put under the water whilst the minister says, 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

Baptism is a highly significant event for Christians. It shows that they are a part of the Christian Church (when Church is spelt with a capital 'c' it means the whole Christian community). It shows that they are following in the footsteps of Jesus who was also baptised and that they will try to lead a good Christian life. It also unites them with other Christians.

INFANT BAPTISM: When someone is baptised as a child / **BELIEVERS' BAPTISM:** When someone is baptised as an adult



EUCCHARIST: The Eucharist, also known as 'Holy Communion,' is one of the sacraments. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe there are 7 sacraments in total. These are **outward signs of an inner blessing or God's grace**. In the sacrament, bread and wine are used to remember Jesus. In the Bible it says that before Jesus died, he celebrated the Jewish Passover meal with his disciples (followers). This event is called the **Last Supper**. Jesus knew that he would be betrayed and killed and gave his final teachings to his disciples. He told them that he wanted them to 'love one another as I have loved you.' He also told them that they should eat bread in remembrance of his body and drink wine in remembrance of his blood. Christians believe that this helps them to **receive God's grace** and to remember the importance of Jesus. Since they do it together, it unifies the Christian community and shows that they are all equal in the eyes of God.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICE: Catholic Christians believe that the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is one of seven sacraments. These are outward signs of inner blessing or God's grace. They remember the sacrifice of Jesus who they believed died on the cross to save them from sins (salvation). This is also known as **atonement**. In a traditional Catholic ceremony, there are three readings from the Bible. These are from the Old Testament, Paul's letters and the Gospels. Everyone says the Lord's Prayer in Catholic Churches as well as prayers of penance and praise where they say sorry and give thanks. Catholics believe that the bread and wine are transformed into Christ's blood and body, whereas other Christians, such as most Anglicans, do not. The congregation can see the bread and wine being prepared and watch the priest as he prays over the bread and wine saying, 'Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body.' Members of the congregation are given bread during the service as well as wine. They then give everyone else a 'sign of peace' by shaking hands as they go around the room. At the end, the Catholic priest blesses the people and says, 'Go in peace.'

ORTHODOX SERVICE: Orthodox Christians believe that the service represents heaven on earth. Most of the service takes place behind a screen called an iconostasis which represents the divide between heaven and earth. The priest comes through the Royal Doors chanting the Gospel. He says the words that Jesus said at the Last Supper behind the Royal Doors. Everyone says the Lord's Prayer in Orthodox Churches as well as prayers of penance and praise where they say sorry and give thanks. They also believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood, as well as that the Holy Communion is a shared meal to show that everyone is equal. The bread is divided in four: three parts are blessed and the fourth part is broken into very small pieces which is given to the congregation on a spoon once the priest has come out from behind the screen. Members of the Orthodox congregation are given the unblessed bread (unblessed) to take home as a sign of being part of the community.

LITURGY: A set service where the same words and prayers are used each time

EUCCHARIST: One of the 7 sacraments and another way of saying 'Holy Communion'; it is where bread and wine are used to remember Jesus

PRAYERS OF PENANCE: Prayers where one says sorry for what they have done wrong

