

# FAMILIES

## The nature and Purpose of Families

The family is the basic building block of society. The family is the foundation for all human activity. Here human relationships begin and are developed. Families live out the norms and values of society in practice and guide children into adulthood. Pope Francis describes the family as 'the essential cell of society'.



## The Role of Men and Women

Within a family the members may have different roles and responsibilities. These could include: caring for children; caring for other family members; maintaining the family home; earning money to support the family.



Christianity, Islam and Judaism have all held a very traditional view of the role of women and men. The man was responsible for providing for the family through work and the mother was responsible for domestic life. The views of the three religions were 'patriarchal' (the opposite of matriarchal) in the sense that the man was seen very much as the leader of the family.



## GENDER EQUALITY

One of the most significant changes in society in recent times is the changing relationships between men and women around issues of equality. In the UK, men and women have equal rights in employment and discrimination on the basis of gender is illegal. However, traditionally women and men had different roles in religions particularly in relation to their role in authority (leadership) and worship. These traditional roles have been debated in recent years as the role of women has changed in society to become more equal to that of men. There have been significant changes in the role of women in worship in the Anglican Church to allow men and women to take up equal roles in Church leadership. In the Catholic and Orthodox Churches women can take up active roles in worship and authority but they cannot be priests.



## SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS

In 1967 that homosexuality was decriminalised in the UK. As British society has changed, many people's attitudes to same-sex relationships have also changed. The Civil Partnership Act in 2004 enabled same-sex partners to have essentially the same legal rights and responsibilities as married couples. This was followed by the Marriage (same-sex couples) Act in 2013, which legalised same-sex marriage in England and Wales.

Same-sex marriage has just been accepted in some churches, however, same-sex relationships divide opinion among Christians. Many Christians oppose same-sex marriage on biblical grounds.



# RELATIONSHIPS- KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

## Types of Family

**Nuclear family:** most common type in UK: two parents and one or more child(ren) all living in the same house.

**Extended family:** a number of adults and children who are related living in the same home or in close proximity.

**Reconstituted family:** a mix of step-parents and step-children.

**Single parent family:** where one parent raises one or more children alone. The number is rising in UK.

**Childless family:** No children because of choice, infertility or same sex.



**Religion and the family** are interlinked. Many see the home as where religious belief is 'taught' and 'caught'. The family is an arena where religious belief, practices and teachings are lived out. E.g. Going to places of worship; reading sacred texts; prayer; festivals; rites of passage.

These traditional views are changing, however, and women and men are now often regarded as much more of a partnership in family life with shared responsibilities. It is now much more common for women to go on working when they get married and have a family, and increasing numbers of men are taking on the role of 'house-husband' while their wives or partners go out to work.

## MARRIAGE AND CO-HABITATION

The traditional teaching of Christianity, Islam and Judaism has been that marriage is the basis of family life. Marriage is regarded as: God-given; the best environment for children; a lifelong commitment.

### Issues raised by inter-faith marriage?

**Adultery** is when a married person has a sexual relationship with someone other than their husband or wife. In Britain the vast majority of people disapprove of adultery on moral and social grounds and the law recognises adultery as a justifiable reason for the granting of a divorce.

**Divorce** marriages may break down (KNOWHY), so people separate or divorce. The Catholic Church does not permit divorce. Some Catholics may remain separated rather than divorce. Other Christians argue that divorce can be the most loving thing in some situations.

### Re-Marriage

Muslims and Jews encourage remarriage as they accept divorce. Christians have different views on remarriage. The Catholic Church does not recognise a civil divorce and will not remarry divorced people. In the CoE the individual minister will make a decision on remarriage depending on the circumstances of the divorce.



**Some Christians** regard marriage as a gift from God—a sacrament 'ordained by God'. The vows exchanged in a Christian wedding ceremony reflect this. In the Gospels Jesus teaches about the importance of marriage – 'But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female... a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh... therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' This refers back to Genesis. As a part of God's creation, God made man and woman. Marriage, then, is the complete joining together of two people. The most important human relationship for the couple who are married.

**Co-habitation** - In 2012 there were 59 million people cohabiting in the UK and it was the fastest growing family type.

## SEX AND CONTRACEPTION

### Attitudes to Sex

All religions regard sexual relationships as an important part of being human. Sex is regarded as a gift from God and part of God's creation. It allows for the continuation of the human race and is an important part of human identity. It is also a physical way in which people may express love to each other.

**Christians** believe that sex should generally take place within marriage. It is viewed as a gift from God and is holy and sacred. This is why it should be something that you only do with the person you love. Casual sex (promiscuity) is seen as devaluing both people and sex itself and is unacceptable. There is concern that children may be born outside of a stable home environment.



**Promiscuity** is regarded as something which is always wrong, or a sin, because religions teach that sex should only be part of a committed relationship.

Sex is a powerful human instinct and drive. Historically it has been linked with procreation but the development of widely available contraceptive methods, such as the contraceptive pill, has separated sex from procreation. It has allowed people to have sex without becoming pregnant and it has significantly changed attitudes towards sex. Religious views on the purpose of sex may have changed as a result of the availability of contraception but promiscuity is still not deemed acceptable.

**Natural Moral Law and Attitudes to Contraception**  
Aquinas thought there were basic laws laid down by God to help humans live their lives. He set out five primary precepts one of which was the 'continuation of the species through reproduction'. From these came secondary rules which help us meet the primary precepts. **The Catholic Church** takes an absolutist view of Aquinas's Natural Law—they think the rules he laid down should always be followed. Therefore it states that contraception should not be used because it goes against Natural Law. However, other Christians and some Catholics believe that Natural Law shouldn't be seen as an absolute set of rules that should never be broken. Some argue that contraception is good because it helps people to plan a family and prevents families from being too large.



Do not have sexual relations with a man or one dressed with a woman; that is detestable

9/ Also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful... for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality... for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

Some Christians Say - these are old cultural values & don't apply today

Relationships (Component 1 Unit 1)	☹	☺	☺	Key Biblical Passages			
I can describe and explain...				Relationships - Mark 10:6-10 Matthew 19:8-9 Mark 10:9  Sexual Relationships - Leviticus 18:22; 20:3 1 Timothy 1: 8-10  Gender Equality - 1 Timothy 2:11-12 Galatians 3:27-29			
Beliefs and attitudes about the nature and purpose of families in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century							
Differing Christian beliefs, attitudes and teachings about the nature and purpose of families in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century							
Beliefs and attitudes about the role of women and men in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century							
Varied Christian attitudes about the role of women and men in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. Including their roles in worship							
Attitudes to marriage and co-habitation in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century							
The nature and purpose of marriage as expressed through Christian marriage ceremonies in Britain and teachings							
Attitudes to adultery, divorce and remarriage in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century							
Varying Christian attitudes towards adultery, divorce and annulment and separation and re-marriage.							
Different interpretations of Matthew 19:8-9, Mark 10:9							<b>Key Terms (part a Q's)</b>
Attitudes to sex and contraception in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adultery</li> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Cohabitation</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Contraception</li> <li>• Gender Equality</li> <li>• Responsibility</li> <li>• Roles</li> </ul>			
Christian teachings about the nature and purpose of sex and the use of contraception							
Varied interpretations of the Natural Law/Absolutist approach of Thomas Aquinas' to contraception/sex							
Attitudes towards same sex marriages							
Varied Christian attitudes to same sex marriage							
Varied interpretations of Leviticus 18:22; 20:3 and 1Timothy 1:8-10							
Interpretations of teachings: 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Galatians 3:27-29							

<b>Life and Death (Component 1 Unit 2)</b>	☹	☺	😊
<b>I can describe and explain...</b>			
Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes about the accounts of the origin of the universe: Genesis 1 and 2			
The relationship between Christian views and non-religious views of creation and the extent to which they conflict;			
Stephen Hawking's view of the Big Bang			
Christian teachings and attitudes about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship:			
Non-religious beliefs, teachings and attitudes about environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship			
Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the origin and sanctity of human life:			
Non-religious beliefs about evolution; Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins			
Diverse Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia			
Non-religious views on the importance of human and animal life;			
Peter Singer's views on 'speciesism'			
Humanist 'Dignity in Dying' Movement			
Christian beliefs and teachings about life after death, including soul, judgement, heaven and hell:			
Different Christian beliefs about the after-life			
How Christian funerals in Britain reflect beliefs about the after-life			
How Humanist funerals in Britain reflect beliefs about the after-life			

<b>Key Texts</b>			
Genesis 1 and 2 Genesis 1:28, Psalm 8:6 'Humanists for a Better World' Genesis 1:31, Jeremiah 1:5 John 11:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44			
<b>Key Terms (part a Q's)</b>	☹	☺	😊
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afterlife</li> <li>• Environmental sustainability</li> <li>• Euthanasia</li> <li>• Evolution</li> <li>• Abortion</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Sanctity of life</li> <li>• Soul</li> </ul>			

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE



The Sanctity of life is the belief that life is precious, or sacred; for many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.

**Christianity:** the first book of the Bible (Genesis) teaches that God created human and animal life.

All life is special as it is created by God and should be protected.

Each life is unique and valuable beyond measure - the Book of Jeremiah, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.'

- God is interested and involved in each human's life.
- Only God should take life away.
- Jesus showed in his teachings and practices that all life should be valued, e.g. The Good Samaritan.

**Judaism:** all life is special as it is created by God and should be protected

- Each life is unique and valuable beyond measure
- Pikuach Nefesh shows the importance of putting aside laws (mitzvot) to save a life
- The Torah states 'God created man in his own image', which means treating someone's life with disrespect is the same as disrespecting God.



**Quality of Life** is the extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable. It is a consideration by some religious and non-religious believers when considering attitudes to abortion and euthanasia. Opinions as to what is meant by life being meaningful includes discussion around ideas of autonomy, suffering and dignity. Peter SINGER believes that quality of life is more important than sanctity of life. He also believes that if there is little quality of life then a person should be allowed, to end their life.



**ABORTION:** Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches are against abortion under any circumstances & believe that there is a new and unique life from the moment of conception. The Didache in the second century stated 'You shall not kill the embryo by abortion.' Other Christians may accept that abortion is sometimes necessary and the more loving thing to do

**Jews** would generally be against abortion for the same reasons, but Reform Jews and some Orthodox will often accept abortion in situations such as the mother's life is at risk. Pikuach nefesh. Mishnah: the fetus needs care for it will become human when it is born

**EUTHANASIA:** Christians have different views. Consideration is given to the ideas that: life is a gift from God; suffering and death are not the end but a doorway to the next life; the Bible has no clear teaching about euthanasia.

**Judaism:** many see it as murder and emphasise pikuach nefesh. In the Torah reference is made to God being the Creator of all and the one to take away life. Reform Jews may argue for the importance of the doctors' views as well as the wishes of the patient (e.g. living will)

One of the Ten Commandments: Thou shalt not kill

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Environmental sustainability is ensuring that natural resources are used but protected so that all people, animals and plant life can live well now and in the future. Environmental responsibility and sustainability is important in religious and non-religious beliefs. All consider it important to use natural resources and plan for conservation so that there is sufficiency for all life to flourish

**Humanists** should:

- Exercise their moral duty to care for the earth.
- Care for the environment based on reason rather than a belief in a supreme being or God.
- Create networks to campaign on issues such as global justice, climate change and the environment. E.g. Humanists for a Better World (H4BW).

**Christians** should:

- live in partnership with God and Creation
- exercise responsibility given by God to look after the world (stewardship) (Genesis 1:28)
- preserve and conserve the resources of the world and the environment
- give thanks to God for his provision
- be responsible global citizens by using the earth's resources carefully (for some evangelical Christians) we have 'dominion' or power over earth and life on it because the Bible refers to humans being made 'rulers' over creation (Psalm 8:6). We can use it how we want.

**Jews** should:

- Complete gemilut hasadim, which is giving loving kindness without expecting anything in return
- Plant trees for future generations (as explained in the traditional story of Honi and acted in the festival of Tu-B'Shevat)
- Avoid waste and use resources responsibly and carefully (bal taschilt)
- Perform mitzvahs to repair the world for future generations (tikkun olam)



ANIMAL VS HUMAN LIFE

Peter SINGER uses the term 'speciesism' to argue that it is wrong to give human beings greater rights than other animals, in the same way as it is wrong to give greater rights to one group of human than another. He believes that humans and other animals should be treated with equal consideration.

**CHRISTIANS, AND JEWS** generally believe that humans have a soul and are set apart from other animals. They would argue that whilst we should look after God's creation we are nonetheless the pinnacle of his 'Creation'. Most eat meat and accept testing medicine on animals

**HUMANIST:** funerals can be held in many different places, which shows there is no belief in the importance of places of worship. Readings and songs are chosen which reflect the interests and life of the deceased, showing the belief that this life is most important. There is no suggestion of an afterlife in a better place. The life of the person is remembered at the funeral but there will usually be no mention of God or readings of sacred texts. This shows humanists do not believe in God or the authority of a sacred text.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



**Big Bang:** 13,700 million years ago; all matter concentrated at a single point; a huge explosion creates space and time and matter; the universe is expanding; red shift



**Evolution:** Life evolved; simple life forms to complex; survival of the fittest; adaptation to the environment; gene mutation

ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE & HUMAN LIFE

**Genesis**

Night and Day

The Heavens

Land & Plants

Sun, moon & stars

Birds & Fish

Creatures & Man

Rest ed

**Science**

There are two stories describing God's creation. Both are found in the first book of the Bible - Genesis.

The main points of the creation story are:

- God created the world for a purpose, and it was (fundamentally) good.
- God created human and animal life.
- There is a purpose to existence.
- Human beings were expected by God to be stewards of the world (have a special relationship to God and to the world).
- On the seventh day God rested.

The second creation story (Genesis 2:4-2:25) teaches:

- Adam was created first.
- Adam was formed from the dust of the earth, and the breath of God.
- He was created before the animals.
- He was placed in the Garden of Eden, to live in paradise.
- Eve was created to be his partner.

There are different attitudes to the creation story amongst Christians and Jews.

Some believe that God must have caused any 'big bang' that is seen as the start of the universe, they believe that there is sufficient evidence to show that life evolved gradually over millions of years. Some believe the creation story literally, believing it to be historically true. Others believe the creation stories are metaphors that contain essential truths



PALEY'S DESIGN ARGUMENT

Intelligent Design shows that you can believe in both religious and scientific theories of the universe. Just as you would assume a watch has a designer (because it is complicated), so too much you assume the world must have a designer. E.g. a human eye. The only omnipotent being who could be responsible for this is God.

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Most religious traditions believe there is some form of afterlife death, which needs to be prepared for during life. All religious traditions have some forms of rituals or ceremonies surrounding death. Humanists, being materialists, do not accept that there is any soul or life after death: as physical beings we decompose when we die.

**CHRISTIANITY:** Humans have a soul. There is eternal life after death in either heaven (a place of no suffering with God) or hell (a place of separation from God). The Parable Of The Sheep And Goats teaches us that God will judge us according to how well we have followed the teaching and example of Jesus to help those in need. Many Christians also emphasise the importance of faith in Jesus. Catholics believe that most believers will go through purgatory a place of cleansing that is between heaven and earth. Funerals involve key readings from the Bible that reflect these beliefs; hymns are sung; prayers are said and in Catholicism the 'Last Rites' may be read.



**JUDAISM:** It is important to live a good life now in preparation for whatever comes after. Their ways of God are not for humans to try to understand. The afterlife is the Olam Ha Ba. There is a soul, a fragment of God, in every person. Orthodox Jews believe in some sort of resurrection. Reform Jews reject this and say it is the memories of a person that live on. Everyone will be judged depending on how they have lived their life.



Good and Evil (Component 1 Unit 3)	☹	☺	☺
I can describe and explain...			
What makes an act 'wrong'			
The following key ideas: relative and absolute morality, conscience, virtues, sin			
Beliefs and attitudes about the causes of crime and the aims of punishment: justice, retribution, deterrence and reformation			
Ideas about the treatment of criminals and the work of prison reformers and prison chaplains			
Varied Conservative and Liberal Christian responses to the Death Penalty, including interpretations of Christian teaching: Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:38-39, 43-47			
Christian teachings about forgiveness, including interpretations of teachings: Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6: 14-15			
Examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs. E.g. Gee Walker			
Philosophical perspectives on the origin of evil: Original Sin (free will) and 'soul-making' (Irenaeus and John Hick)			
Philosophical challenges posed by belief in God, free will and the existence of evil and suffering			

Key Texts			
Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:38-39, 43-47 Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6: 14-15			
Key Terms (part a Q's)	☹	☺	☺
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• good/evil</li> <li>• forgiveness</li> <li>• free will</li> <li>• justice</li> <li>• morality</li> <li>• punishment</li> <li>• sin</li> <li>• suffering</li> </ul>			



# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

# GOOD AND EVIL - KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



There are two main approaches to morality: **ABSOLUTE MORALITY** – when a person has a principle, e.g. that it's wrong to steal and will maintain this principle regardless of the situation. **RELATIVE MORALITY** – when a person holds a moral principle (not taking a life) but will adapt it according to the situation.

**ABSOLUTE**

## GOOD EVIL AND SUFFERING

It is difficult to define **good** as people have different views. Most would say it is the absence of evil. There are two types of evil. **MORALEVIL** is caused by human actions, E.g. murder. **NATURALEVIL** is caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes. For many religious believers there is a connection between **free will, evil, sin and suffering**. Everyone experiences suffering, and all religions have important things to say about its origin, its place in life, and how to deal with it.



Christian believe that God is **OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT** and **OMNIBENEVOLENT**. This leads to the **PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM OF SUFFERING** as stated by **EPICURIUS** is **God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?**



## The origin of evil and attitudes to suffering

Some Christians believe humans are born with original sin, which results in a built-in urge to do things that are bad. Other Christians believe God allows evil to exist to develop moral souls (soul making). St Irenaeus and John Hick believed that God created humans with the potential for spiritual growth. It is through suffering that moral souls are developed. For many Christians, suffering is believed to be part of life with the purpose often not known. The story of Job teaches that it is wrong to question God about suffering, as humans would be unable to understand the ways of God. Through suffering some Christians believe they understand the suffering of Jesus.



Jewish people believe evil acts occur because people are born with two inclinations and the free will to do good (yetzer ha tov) or evil (yetzer ha ra). The Torah teaches those tempted by evil will result in teach and destruction. During the Holocaust many Jews questioned how a loving God could allow such suffering to happen: 'if there is a God he will have to beg my forgiveness' - carved into the wall of a concentration camp block.



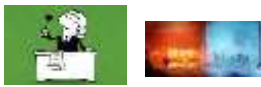
**MAKING MORAL DECISIONS.** Most religions and non religious approaches argue that we have free will and therefore make choices for ourselves. Making moral choices is difficult and people might turn to a number of sources for help, including: the likely consequences of their actions; the rules of their society/community; the examples of the founders of religion; teaching contained in religious texts or sources of authority; their individual conscience

The **CAUSES OF CRIME** are complex. Most people would agree that there are four significant contributory factors. Most religions believe the following have a great influence on crime:

- the presence of evil and sin in the world
- alcohol and drug use
- Poverty
- quality of family life
- low self-esteem.



For many people, one of the main **REASONS FOR PUNISHMENT** is to achieve justice for the victim and for society. Many Muslims, Christians and Jews believe that God is a god of justice who will consider believers' good and bad deeds after their death.



Christians believe that everyone was created with free choice to accept or reject God's ways. If people do sin or commit crimes then justice must follow, but Jesus also taught the importance of forgiveness.

- Most Christians believe that to gain justice, punishment should be given and forgiveness sought.
- Most Christians believe that at the end of life God will be the final judge.
- Jesus taught compassion and not revenge.

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats encourages Christians to visit those in prison. Prison Chaplains work with prisoners to help them reform and seek forgiveness. Christians like Elizabeth Fry campaigned to improve prison conditions

- Deterrent
- Authority of the Law
- Punish the Criminal
- Protect Society
- Even the Score (pay reparation)
- Reform the criminal for the better

Religious responses to **THE DEATH PENALTY**, or 'capital punishment' vary according to the way believers understand and interpret passages from their sacred texts and religious authority

different es. **FORGIVENESS**



**CHRISTIANS** believe God forgives them their sins if they confess them.

- In the Lord's Prayer, it says 'forgive us as we forgive others'
- Jesus also stated, 'If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.' (Matthew 6:15)
- Jesus told his disciples that they should forgive people 'not seven times, but seventy times seven.'
- Jesus' own example on the cross was to say to those crucifying him, 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do.'
- For Catholics, forgiveness comes through confession and religious acts of atonement.
- For Evangelical Christians, forgiveness of sins comes through faith in Christ and his atonement on the cross.
- Examples of forgiveness in action = **Gael Walker & Martin Luther King**

**JULIE NICHOLSON** was a vicar whose daughter was killed in a terrorist attack on a London Bus. She was unable to forgive the kills and so gave up her job as she felt hypocritical

For **JEWISH PEOPLE** forgiveness is a mitzvah (a divine command or duty)

- In Micah it states 'God does not maintain his anger forever'
- The Torah forbids taking revenge or bearing grudges 'do not hate your brother in your heart'
- Repentance is important and requires ceasing the wrong act, showing regret over it and then 'returning' (teshuvah)
- Yom Kippur is the festival where Jews atone and seek forgiveness and repentance
- Only the victim is able to offer forgiveness first, then the wrongdoer must seek forgiveness from God



ARGUMENTS FOR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST
<p>† The Old Testament, Exodus 21:24 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth', and Genesis 9:6 'Whoever sheds the blood of a man, by man shall his blood be shed.' Allows capital Punishment</p>	<p>Jesus stated: 'Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.' (Matthew 5:44)</p>
<p>Leviticus 24:17 states 'If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death'.</p> <p>Israel has the death penalty in their law for very serious crimes.</p>	<p>It conflicts with one of the Commandments 'thou shalt not kill'.</p> <p>Many Jews have long campaigned against the death penalty</p>
<p>It deters others from crimes and is the only way to get justice and protect society</p>	<p>Mistakes can be made and the wrong person can be executed.</p>

Human Rights (Component 1 Unit 4)	☹	☺	☺
I can describe and explain...			
Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the dignity of human life: Genesis 1:26-27			
Christian practices to promote human rights including equality: agape in action			
An example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country			
Ideas around censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism			
Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination: Galatians 3:27-29			
Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards racial prejudice and discrimination, including Martin Luther King's teachings on equality			
Ethical considerations about the gaining and use of wealth: Luke 16:19-30			
The actions and attitudes of Christian charities in twenty first century Britain whose aim is to alleviate poverty: E.g. Christian Aid			

Key Texts			
Genesis 1:26-27 Galatians 3:27-29 Luke 16:19-30			
Key Terms (part a Q's)	☹	☺	☺
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• censorship</li> <li>• discrimination</li> <li>• extremism</li> <li>• human rights</li> <li>• personal</li> <li>• conviction</li> <li>• prejudice</li> <li>• relative and</li> <li>• absolute poverty</li> <li>• social justice</li> </ul>			

Most consider HUMAN RIGHTS as an entitlement for all people. In many religious traditions teachings from sacred texts and the examples of founders and leaders encourage the promotion of human rights. SOCIAL JUSTICE involves promoting equality while encouraging and celebrating diversity. Understanding that rights also carry responsibilities. Religious believers are involved in campaigns for promoting human rights and social justice. For many, their commitment is influenced by a belief in the dignity of all human life.

Absolute poverty is an acute state of deprivation, whereby a person cannot access the most basic of human needs. E.g. food & shelter. Relative poverty is a standard of poverty measured in relation to the standards of a society in which a person lives, for example, living on less than x per cent of average UK income.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE ACQUISITION AND USE OF WEALTH

CHRISTIANITY: Spiritual values are the most important.

- A person's value should be based on their actions rather than their possession
- Being wealthy is not bad or wrong; it depends how the wealth was acquired.
- Many Christians oppose gambling, particularly Methodists and Quakers, because it encourages greed or the love of money for its own sake.
- Most Christians believe giving to charities and those in need is an important part of their faith. Some give a tenth of their income (a tithe) to good causes.
- The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) warns of putting great store by riches:
  - The rich man, who had everything in life, and paid no attention to the poverty and needs of Lazarus who sat at his gates & died.
  - He suffered a hell in the afterlife as he had only ever thought about physical pleasures.
  - Lazarus, who had suffered physically in life, went to heaven and enjoyed a new there.



**JUDAISM:**

- Giving to those in need is duty
- All possessions belong to God, so should not be chased after or rejected
- People should budget carefully so as to provide for families
- Push boxes are encouraged, as is tithing (giving a tenth of your income to charity)
- Wealth should be used for the benefit of the community

Maimonides identified 8 levels of charity, the best form of giving was to find employment for someone in need so they never need to be in poverty again.

The Dignity of Human Life

Christians believe that:

- All humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
- Jesus showed in his teachings and practice all life should be valued and treated with respect e.g. visiting the lepers, Parable of the Good Samaritan.
- Teachings from Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium refers to the importance of caring for the homeless and elderly.
- Every person is sacred and of worth is a core Christian belief.
- Each person should be treated with selfless, unconditional love – agape.

Agape in action - Following the action of Jesus many Christian charities express agape, e.g. helping at Salvation Army hostels; working in church food banks; volunteering for St Vincent de Paul.



Judaism:

- All humans are made in the 'image of God'
- Teachings from the Talmud regarding the actions of humankind should be like those of God
- Insulting another human is like insulting God
- Importance of all Jews to perform Tzedakah (charity and justice) to other human beings

Tzedakah in action- through tzedakah Jews should practice charity giving and promoting social justice e.g. performing mitzvot for others, fundraising and volunteering for charities, or having a puske box in their home

A person's beliefs or convictions may influence their actions. There have been many times when the beliefs of someone conflict with the actions of others or the law of a country. When this happens religious believers will often pray and read sacred texts for guidance. They will also consider how the leaders and founders of their religion acted.



- Christian Aid
- aims to challenge systems that favour the rich
  - reflects a belief that God loves all and the dignity of all human life
  - committed to being effective stewards of the planet's resources.

Actions:

- organises projects to educate people
- runs campaigns and Fairtrade activities
- works cooperatively with faith and secular groups
- publicises examples of inequality and poverty.



Tzedek

- Reflects Jewish attitudes of loving the stranger
- Believes it's important to work across religious and racial boundaries
- Actions:
  - Organises projects to educate people
  - Runs campaigns and raises awareness of social injustice
  - Publicises examples of inequality and poverty

PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

PREJUDICE is pre-judging; judging people to be inferior or superior without evidence. It is an attitude. DISCRIMINATION is treating groups of people or individuals differently, based on prejudice. It is an action

Prejudice and discrimination are unacceptable, and are against CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND TEACHING.

- God created all human beings as equals, whatever race, ability or gender (Galatians 3:28).
- The Ten Commandments give guidance on living in harmony with others.
- Jesus' example (such as His treatment of lepers and outcasts) and his teachings (such as the Good Samaritan).
- Jesus did not discriminate against women (e.g. John 4 where Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink of water).
- The Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox church do not allow women to become priests.
- In many other churches, such as Anglican, or Methodist, women can be priests, ministers or bishops.
- Christina who have fought against racism include MLK and Desmond Tutu

JUDAISM BELIEFS AND TEACHING:

- God created all humans in the image of God
- Being a 'chosen nation' is not being above others, but having additional responsibilities and duties
- Israel accepts Jews from all nations and races
- The Mishnah teaches the bond between human beings is so great that doing harm to one person is like doing harm to the whole world
- Women take an important role in religious ceremonies in the home e.g. Shabbat, and Jewish identity is passed through the mother
- Reform: women can become rabbis
- Orthodox: women sit separately, cannot become a rabbi or join a minyan
- JSCORE: Jewish council for racial equality is a Muslim/Jewish task force that works together to tackle race hate

Issue	Personal conviction	Law of the country	Action
Race	All people should be treated equally as all are made in the image of God	In America people were segregated with separate schools, seating areas on buses etc.	Martin Luther King led nonviolent action e.g. protest marches, made speeches etc. ML
Equality	Everyone is entitled to an education and that there shouldn't be a difference between boys and girls	The Taliban had banned girls from going to school in North West Pakistan	Malala Yousafzai went to school and campaigned against the Taliban by writing a secret blog for the BBC

CENSORSHIP is the practice of suppressing and limiting access to materials considered to be obscene, offensive or a threat to security. There is a difficult balance between censorship and freedom of expression. People hold many different views and beliefs and sometimes these can conflict with others.

EXTREMISM is believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable. Extremist beliefs are often formed through personal interpretations of sacred texts. It is often believed that particular actions will please a divine being and result in a better afterlife. There are many examples of religious extremism but they all share a belief that they are acting on a personal conviction.



MLK

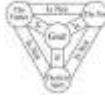


## NATURE OF GOD

God is **omnipotent**= all powerful, almighty and unlimited nature. Shown when God controls nature in the creation stories in **Genesis** and the plagues in **Exodus**.

God is **omnibenevolent**= all loving and infinitely good. God's love was demonstrated in sending Jesus to earth so people could have eternal life.

God is **monotheistic** (one) but also **Trinity**= three persons of God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Jesus said 'I and the Father are one'**.



**Epicurus:** problem with God being omnipotent and benevolent at the same time: **'Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.'**



## CREATION

**Genesis 1 and 2 are the two accounts of creation**

- God creates something out of nothing (ex nihilo)
- The nature of humans as being made in the image of God, and created by God
- As stewards of God's creation the role of humans is to have dominion (responsibility) for the world and its creatures



### Literal/ Creationist Views

The story is true. There were 6 days of 24 hours in which God created the world. This means there is a conflict between science and religion. **'All scripture is God breathed'**.

### Non-literal views

The story shows that God created the world, that he used the natural processes he created (Big Bang + evolution). **'A day is like a thousand years for the Lord'**.

### Word and Spirit in Creation

Jesus was present at the moment of Creation. The Gospel of John starts **'in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...through him all things were made'** (The 'Word'= Jesus)

### Genesis 2: The Fall

Adam and Eve disobey God by eating from the forbidden tree (they were tempted by Satan). At this moment, the relationship between God and humans was damaged and this 'original sin' was passed down through generations. Christians believe that every person has the inclination to sin. The penalty for this is death and separation from God. However, the suffering and death of Jesus means the relationship with God is restored.



## CHRISTIANITY BELIEFS- KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

## INCARNATION OF JESUS

The incarnation is the act of God becoming human in the form of Jesus.

**'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us'**

- Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary
- An angel told Mary to call him Jesus
- Jesus is the second person of the Trinity (Son)
- Explains why Jesus can perform miracles and forgive sins



**Importance:** started the process of salvation, shows God's benevolence as humans have a role model

## THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating Passover:

- Jesus washes the disciples feet → he is a servant and wants his followers to do the same
- Jesus takes bread and says **'this is my body which will be broken for you'** → he is foretelling his death on the cross
- He takes wine and says **'this is my blood which will be poured out for the forgiveness of many'** → his death would mean salvation for others
- He says **'do this in memory of me'** → Christians today practice the Eucharist to remember Jesus' sacrifice



## CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

Jesus was arrested for blasphemy; he was claiming to be the Messiah and God (this is illegal in Judaism). He was forced to carry his cross to Golgotha, where he was tortured and nailed to it and left to die.

With his last breath he said **'it is finished'**. His death was part of a divine plan to bring about salvation. The crucifixion was necessary to allow the resurrection to take place.

His death was an act of atonement for the sins of the people in the world.

## RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Resurrection is the belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering sin and death. **'He is not here, he is risen'**, said an angel.

- Shows that death is not the end
- The relationship between humans and God was really healed through Jesus' death
- There is no need to fear death as believers in Christ and his sacrifice will be resurrected to live eternally with God in heaven

**'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'**



## SALVATION

The Law, Sin, Grace and the Holy Spirit all connect to salvation. The word 'grace' is important as it describes the goodness and mercy of God towards human beings. Sometimes 'grace' is described as God's 'unmerited favour' - that is, God shows forgiveness and kindness when people really don't deserve it. The Holy Spirit is God's power at work in the world, and brings grace into the lives of Christians and helps them to live lives of faith.

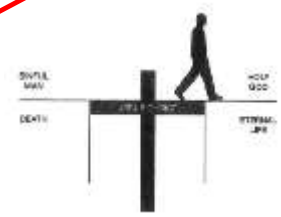
**The Law:** The Word of God- the Bible: a record of Divine Law

**Other Sources of Wisdom:** As well as the Bible, Christians also refer to priests, teachings of the church, the Holy Spirit, their conscience

**Holy Spirit:** God sends this to bring grace to people. Prayer and 'gifts of the Spirit' help believers especially in evangelical worship

**Sacraments:** special rites through which the Holy Spirit comes on believers. E.g. baptism, eucharist

Bible  
Reveals God  
Inspired by Holy Spirit  
Laws of God  
Life of Jesus



## ESCHATOLOGY; THE AFTERLIFE

### JUDGEMENT

There will be a judgement day, when the quality of people's lives will be judged by God (like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats). This will be known as the Parousia, the second coming of Jesus. It will be the end of human existence on earth (this is where 'apocalypse' comes from!) There will be a bodily resurrection of the dead and believers will be transformed into a glorified state. A new heaven and new earth will commence, with no tears, sorrow, sin or death.

### HEAVEN

Eternal life with God and Jesus. A reward for a life of faith and good works. People think this is either spiritual or a real physical place. Evangelicals believe that only those who believe in Jesus can go, whereas liberal Christians think it depends on the good deeds (trusting that God is just, and fair). Very liberal Christians argue that everyone can go to heaven because God is omnibenevolent.

### PURGATORY

Catholics believe that heaven is for perfect souls. When a person dies, they go to purgatory to be cleansed of their venial sins (little sins) until they are pure enough to go to heaven. Those who commit mortal sins (murder, rape) will go to hell.

### HELL

A place of separation from God; eternal punishment. Some believe it is suffering and torment. Evangelicals believe it is where people go if they reject Jesus; it is a punishment for a life without atonement.

### RESURRECTION

The spiritual part of a person (soul) goes to heaven with God when believers die. At the end of time there will be a physical resurrection that is brought back to life with physical bodies. All will be judged as to their faith and their deeds, before their final destiny is decreed.

**'The trumpet of the Lord will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will all be changed.'**

**Atonement:** the belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift (separation) between humans and God

## ASCENSION OF JESUS

The Ascension, although seen differently by Christians, is generally understood to explain the ending of Jesus' physical presence of earth, yet his spiritual presence with believers

- After the Resurrection, when Jesus was with his disciples, he lifted his hands to bless them
- As he did this he was lifted up into the sky until he was gone
- The disciples knelt down in worship knowing it had been a special occasion
- They continued to worship at the temple, full of praise to God

Before the ascension, Jesus gave his disciples one more instruction; to evangelise (spread the Good News) others so they can also be followers of Jesus and receive salvation: **'Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.'**



## WORSHIP

There are many types of worship, and the Bible shows how worship is commanded: *'Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy' and 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.'*

**Individual Worship:** many Christians worship everyday- it doesn't have to be in a church. Jesus encourages individual worship when he says *'go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father.'*

**Corporate Worship:** worship with others in the church. This offers support and a more spiritual setting but also Jesus' presence: *'when two or more are gathered in my name, I am there with them.'*

**Liturgical worship:** formal, structured e.g. Catholic (Eucharist) and Traditional Protestant (Book of Common Prayer)

**Non-liturgical worship:** informal, spontaneous, led by Holy Spirit e.g. Evangelical (modern music) and Pentecostal (dancing, singing, healing)



## SACRAMENTS

There are 7 sacraments in the Catholic Church (baptism, confirmation, eucharist, penance, anointing the sick, holy orders, and marriage. Protestants only observe baptism, the Eucharist and Marriage.



**Salvation** e.g. for Catholics, confessing sins and asking forgiveness in Penance enables faster entrance into heaven

**Augustine** said sacraments are 'outward signs of an inward blessing'

**Christian community** e.g. Baptism initiates someone into the community

**Rooted** in the Bible and what Jesus did e.g. the bread and wine= Eucharist

## BAPTISM

**What happens:** Mostly babies are baptised in a font in the church. The vicar uses holy water and pours it over the baby's head three times saying *'I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.'* Parents and God-parents makes promises to raise the child as Christian.

**Importance:** initiation into the Church; for Catholics it is the washing away of original sin and a gateway for the other sacraments

**Divergent Views:** Baptists have 'believers baptisms' where someone will be baptised when they are old enough to decide. *Jesus was baptised as an adult.*

**John 3:** 'born of water and the Spirit'



## EUCHARIST

**What happens:** the vicar takes bread and wine and recites the words of Jesus from the Last Supper. *'This is my body, broken for you, this is my blood which will be poured out for the forgiveness of many.'* The congregation receive bread and a sip of wine and spend time in silent prayer.

**Importance:** Eucharist translates as 'thanksgiving'; remembers the sacrifice Jesus made; commanded by Jesus when he said *'do this in memory of me.'*

**Catholics:** transubstantiation= the bread and wine literally become Jesus' body and blood. Very holy sacrament so

**Protestants:** Jesus is spiritually or symbolically present



## CHRISTIANITY PRACTICES- KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

### PRAYER

**Purpose of prayer:** direct communication with God, builds relationship with God, follows the example of Jesus in the Bible

**Thanking**

**Adoration** (expressing love for God)

**Penitential** (saying sorry)

**Supplication** (asking for something)

**Extemporaneous/informal** e.g. asking for wisdom as you're about to go into an exam. Some think this kind of prayer is more honest and meaningful as it comes from the heart.

**Formal** e.g. the **Lord's Prayer**, **Hail Mary** (Catholic). Some prefer formal prayer as it unites Christians worldwide and the Lord's prayer follows the instructions of Christ.



**The Lord's Prayer was given from Jesus to his disciples:** *"our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen."*



### EASTER

**Lent:** 40 days before Easter Sunday is spent in a period of fasting. It remembers the time Jesus spend in the desert fasting and praying.

**Palm Sunday:** the start of holy week which remembers Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey. In some countries this is re-enacted.

**Maundy Thursday:** Jesus washes the feet of his disciples before he has the Last Supper. Jesus is arrested later that evening for blasphemy. Priests will often wash the feet of 12 members of the congregation and then a Eucharist is held.

**Good Friday:** Jesus is sentenced to death by Pilate for treason. He is tortured, crucified, and buried in a tomb. It is a day of mourning.

**Easter Sunday:** remembers the resurrection of Jesus and the empty tomb. This is assurance of resurrection for all believers and is a big celebration for all Christians. *'He is not here, he is risen!'*



### PILGRIMAGE

A journey to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion. Deepens faith and in some cases pilgrims seek healing and miracles. Pilgrimage is not commanded in the Bible.

**Walsingham:** Norfolk. The Lady of the Manor had a dream in which the Virgin Mary asked her to build a replica of the house in Nazareth where **the birth of Jesus was announced**. It was destroyed in the Reformation. Every year pilgrims walk slowly to the shrine left there, often the last mile in barefoot as an act of penance.

**Taize:** France. **Roger Schutz** founded a monastery for monks of all Christian denominations. It is a place that focuses on reconciliation and resolution of conflict. Young people visit as a pilgrimage to pray, attend study, worship, share in communal tasks and join in the popular music and chants.

**Jerusalem:** The Holy Land in Israel. Where Jesus spent his last week and where he was crucified. Pilgrims go to 'travel in the footsteps of Jesus'. They can walk the **'Via de la Rosa'** which is the route Jesus was forced to carry his cross before being nailed to it.



### CHRISTMAS

Celebrates the birth of Jesus, the **incarnation**. This is the moment God was born in human flesh. This is important as Christians see Jesus as the saviour of the world and his birth was the start of this process. **'Unto us a saviour is born.'**

**Advent** is a period of preparation before Christmas day. Eastern Orthodox Christians fast during this time.

**Celebration:** retelling the Nativity story through plays of crib scenes, Christmas services, carol concerts singing about Jesus, midnight mass, the giving of presents in remembrance of **the gifts the Wise Men gave to Jesus on the first Christmas.**



### THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

Attempts to bring Christians denominations closer together and promote unity. E.g. through shared buildings, joint services and supporting common projects. **The world council of churches** works in over 110 countries in many different denominations. Holds a week of Prayer for Christian Unity each year.

## THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH

Refers to the idea that Christians from all over the world are united, whatever tradition or denomination of Christianity they belong to. All Christians are keen to share their faith with others as they believe that the message of Jesus and the salvation available through him is meant for all people. They believe it is good news to share and this helps explain why they will speak out about their faith even when they may face consequences of punishments as a result.

**Evangelism:** means preaching the good news. This can be done by preaching publicly, giving out leaflets or 'advertising' your faith through your actions.

**Mission:** similar to evangelism, the Church's mission is to help Christians live a life of faith and to tell others about salvation (to evangelise)

**'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!'** - Christians are commanded by Jesus to spread his word.

**Tearfund:** a charity who works to end poverty

**Long term aid:** education, sports clubs

**Emergency aid:** after natural disasters

**Awareness:** campaigns against the causes of poverty

**Fundraising**

**Why? Acting of Jesus' teachings to 'love thy neighbour'**



**Persecution of Christians:** Christians believe they have a divine command to spread the good news of Jesus even if that means they are in danger. Jesus was a martyr who died for his beliefs and there are millions of others.

Where Christianity is a minority religion, they are often treated unjustly. In some places terrorist organisations (such as Islamic State) specifically target Christians. **Open Doors** is an organisation that helps persecuted Christians by providing Bibles, emergency support and campaigning for human rights.

## CHRISTIANITY IN BRITAIN

Since 2001, census results have shown increasing diversity in religious and non religious beliefs and practices in Britain:

- 2011 Christianity is the largest religion, 59.3% (second largest was Islam at 4.8%)
- There is an increasing amount of people who report 'no religion', 25.1%
- There was a decrease in numbers of Christians compared to the last census

### UK LAWS, FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

Christians was brought to Britain by the Romans over 2000 years ago, so it is embedded in laws, festivals and traditions of the country:

- 'Keep holy the Sabbath day'**- trading hours on Sundays are restricted
- Witnesses in court are asked to swear to tell the truth, often placing a hand on the Bible
- Christians hymns and readings often figure in public events (e.g. Remembrance Services)
- Many people have Christenings and Christian marriages without believing.

### CHURCH GROWTH

Whilst Catholic and Anglican churches are declining in the UK, **Evangelical churches** are growing. Perhaps because of their more lively worship services and charismatic teachings. **Fresh Expressions** is a movement in the Anglican Church to change the ways of worship and so attract people who wouldn't usually attend (e.g. café church)

**Worldwide church growth:** Christianity is growing in other parts of the world e.g. Africa, Asia and South American.

**The Role of the church in the local community:** Churches aren't just used as places of worship; they perform other functions within the local community. E.g. Sunday schools, study groups, meals for the homeless, youth clubs, coffee mornings, weddings, funerals, baptisms, fitness classes, foodbank, polling stations, concerts



# JUDAISM BELIEFS- KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

## THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

These were given by God to Moses and should be followed by all Jews. They are the duties required of humans for their creator God (e.g. 'remember the Sabbath to keep it holy') but also for relationships between humans (e.g. 'do not commit murder'). They form the beliefs and practices of Judaism.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

## PIKUACH NEFESH

The saving of a life. This might include breaking a mitzvot e.g. working on Shabbat or eating non-kosher food.

God created humans 'in the image of God' so it is sacred and should be preserved at all costs. It takes priority over all mitzvot other than idolatry, incest and adultery.

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'  
'You shall live by the Torah... not die by it'



## THE AFTERLIFE

- Jews focus on life not afterlife as the ways of God are unknown. When Jews are making a toast they say 'L'Chaim!' which means 'to life!'.
- The afterlife is called the olam ha ba- the world to come
- The Mishnah states 'this world is like a lobby before the Olam ha ba. Prepare yourself in the lobby'
- There are different beliefs between and within Orthodox and Reform Jews about life after death, this is because of different interpretations of texts in the Torah.

What will the olam ha ba be like?

'Immortality of the soul'. Orthodox Jews believe in some sort of resurrection- physical or spiritual. Reform Jews don't believe in resurrection but that the soul lives on. Very Reform Jews believe it is just the memories of that person that live on.

When will it happen?

Some believe resurrection of the dead will come during the messianic age. Some argue it will happen after the Messianic Age.

Who will be raised?

Some argue it is only the righteous that will be resurrected; others that everyone will be resurrected but then a day of Judgement will come.



## MOSAIC COVENANT

Moses had a special relationship with God and is considered the greatest prophet. He was chosen by God to lead the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt.

He is believed to be the only person to see God face to face. E.g. the burning bush

He was given the Torah by God on Mount Sinai.

Orthodox Jews believe he was also given the oral Torah (which discusses the written Torah, hence 613 mitzvot)

The covenant: as God's chosen people, the Hebrews would keep the commandments.



The 613 mitzvot and free will: Jews will keep the mitzvot in different ways. God gave them free will to follow them or not:

Yetzer ha ra- inclination to do evil

Yetzer ha tov- inclination to do good

Some of the mitzvot are no longer relevant as they relate to the Temple which was destroyed.

Orthodox Jews still try to observe as many as they can believing there is punishment for breaking them, whilst Reform Jews say some are not relevant to 21st Century.



## TALMUD

The Talmud is a combination of the Mishnah and the Gemara. When extracts from the Torah are unclear then the Talmud often gives further explanation.

Mishnah: contains Oral Torah, Halakah (teachings on issues of Law) and the Haggadah (guidance on teaching)

Gemara: commentary on the Mishnah giving further details on issues of law and worship

covenant: a promise or agreement between two parties. In Judaism, the relationship with God is seen as a covenant.

## ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Abraham is the founder of Judaism. He was the first person to say there is only one God. God promised him three things:

1. **Land:** God called Abraham and his family to a new land called Canaan. This is now referred to as Israel and the Promised Land because of God's repeated promise to give the land to the descendants of Abraham
2. **'A great nation':** God gave Abraham children of his own, but said he would also be a Father to a great nation ('Abrahamic' faiths= Judaism, Christianity and Islam!)
3. **Blessing:** 'I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse'

In return God gave Abraham the rite of circumcision where Jewish male children are circumcised to reflect their relationship with God.



## TENAKH

The TeNaKh: This is made up of the Torah, the Neviim (Prophets) and the Ketuvim (writings)

Torah is the 5 books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

It is the holiest part of the Tenakh. Jews will try to follow the mitzvot of the Torah in their daily life. Passages are read each week in the synagogue and in rituals.

Neviim (prophets) are books of the prophets which are studied to learn about the history of Judaism. Read in the Shabbat service.

Ketuvim (writings) records how Jews behaved towards God. It includes the Psalms which are often recited in worship



## NATURE OF GOD

God is **One**= Judaism is monotheistic. This belief is so strong they have no pictures on synagogues and some won't write the name of God. Shema starts: 'Hear O Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

God is **Creator**= created all life and gave humans responsibility to look after the environment. Celebrated at Rosh Hashanah. 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth'.

God is **Law-giver**= gave Moses the mitzvot that Jews should keep. The Ten Commandments

God is **Judge**= judges how Jews keep the duties of the Torah. Happens every year on Rosh Hashanah.

1



## SHEKHINAH

The place where god's presence rests and can be felt.

- Some Jews believe it never left the Temple and that is why Israel has a special spirituality
- Some consider it to be the feminine characteristics of God
- Creates a sense of calm and peace; shows you can encounter God on Earth at any time
- Shekhinah often referred to when Shabbat candles are lit

-present when Moses received the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai (shows they really are from God)

-present in the form of the burning bush when Moses was told to free the Hebrew slaves.



## MESSIAH

The messiah is the anointed one who will bring a new age for humankind. This will include: rebuilding the Temple and bringing in an age of universal peace

- Pray for a messianic age: for peace, for Jews return to Israel, to restore the Temple
- **Maimonides:** belief in Messiah is central to Judaism. The Messiah will be a great political leader who will bring the world to an end
- **Isaiah:** 'righteousness will be the belt around his hips'; 'the wolf will live with the lamb'

It is more important to consider this life than to consider life and events to come. There are no direct teachings about the Messiah so there are many different interpretations.

- **Reform:** bring about an age of peace ourselves. Focus on this life.
- **Orthodox:** God has a date for the coming of the Messiah. Or, the Messiah will come when most needed (e.g. many thought during Holocaust).





**WORSHIP IN THE SYNAGOGUE**

The synagogue is more than a place of worship for Jews. It is a place of study and often a centre for the community. Shabbat services: held on Shabbat eve (Friday night) and late Shabbat afternoon (Saturday afternoon). Includes prayers (Shema + Amidah), the haftarah is read, rabbis deliver a sermon. Reform synagogues use less Hebrew and has music.

Prayer:

- Communication with God
- Can be said individually or collectively
- Some say them in Hebrew as it connects Jews worldwide and is considered a holy language; others believe it's important to understand the prayer



**FEATURES OF A SYNAGOGUE**

No pictures: no representation of living beings at all: you shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath.

Bimah: raised central platform where Torah is read from and sermons are preached. Shows how the Torah should be central to life.

Aron hakodesh: Ark, most important place of synagogue because it's where Torah scrolls are kept. Faces Jerusalem and is opened and closed at different time.

Torah scrolls: made from animal skins, handwritten, wrapped and decorated. Read with a yad to not damage the paper.

Ner tamid: the eternal lamp placed above the ark to symbolise God's presence. Jews were told to 'cause a lamp to burn continually'.

Seating arrangements: in Orthodox synagogues women sit in the balcony at the top; in Reform synagogues everyone sits together.

**FUNCTION OF A SYANGOGUE**

- Some prayers can only be said where there is a minyan (10 men) so many observant Jews go to the synagogue daily
- Houses of study with libraries of texts- children go to learn about their religion
- Social events e.g. support for the elderly/ill, sports activities and charity collections

In the Midrash, God asks 'Is there anyone who came to the synagogue and did not find My presence there?'



**WORSHIP IN THE HOME**

God is worshipped in the Jewish home in every aspect of life. The home is where children learn about the religion.

- Mezuzah: found on doorposts and they contain a scroll with the Shema prayer
- Siddur: prayers are said at home daily and many families have a siddur which is a prayer book
- Pushke box: at home Jewish values are learnt. The pushke box demonstrates the value of charity.
- Festivals and rituals: all festivals are prepared for and celebrated at home, such as Pesach and Shabbat as well as rituals such as Brit Milah

**SHABBAT**

The day of spiritual renewal and rest. Beginning at sunset on Friday and closing at nightfall on Saturday.

'Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Six days shall you labour but the seventh day is a Sabbath to your Lord.'

- No work allowed! All preparation (cooking, cleaning, laying the table) is done before. Orthodox: no work at all unless it saves a life. No driving, cooking, carrying, starting electricity, tearing etc.
- Woman lights candles to bring presence of Shabbat into the home. Man blesses the challah bread and recites a Kiddush prayer over a cup of wine.

Importance: obeys the mitzvot, celebrates God's creation, celebrates freedom from slavery (not having to work), a gift from God to forget weekday worries and spend time with family



**Teffilin** is 2 leather boxes containing part of the Shema prayer. It is bound round the arms and to the head with straps. Worn by Orthodox males after their bar mitzvah. It obeys the mitzvah in the Torah: 'Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.'



**Tallit** is the prayer shawl with fringes (tzitzit). Worn throughout worship. The tzitzit represent the many mitzvot but it is also a duty to wear fringes in the corner of clothes



**Kippah** (is the head covering and can be worn from childhood. Some only wear it to worship, others wear it all the time. Seen as a sign of respect for God as the highest part of the head is covered. A symbol of Jewish identity

**COMING OF AGE RITUALS**

Bar mitzvah: when boys turn 13 it is a ceremony that celebrates them becoming a 'Son of the Commandments'. Learns about his faith and Hebrew beforehand so he can read from the Torah. Big celebration follows. Afterwards the boy can form a minyan, receive the tallit and tefillin and are responsible for keeping the mitzvot.

Bat mitzvah: for Reform Jewish girls when she turns 12. A special service in the synagogue and a presentation of her learning.

Bat chayil: 'daughter of worth'. For Orthodox girls she learns about her duties as a Jewish woman.



**BRIT MILAH**

When a Jewish baby boy is 8 days old (or a man converting to Judaism) he will have a circumcision. Performed by a mohel, with a minyan present. Baby is placed on an empty chair (Elijah's chair) on the lap of the sandek (like a godparent). Afterwards the father says a blessing.

Importance: represents the Abrahamic Covenant.

**MARRIAGE**

All Jewish people are expected to marry. It fulfils the duty in the Torah: 'man shall therefore leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and they shall become one flesh'. It is also expected that married couples procreate: 'be fruitful and multiply'.

Takes place under a chuppah to represent the Jewish home. The ceremony is called the kiddushin, where the betrothal happens, vows are said, and the groom says 'behold you are consecrated to me by the law of Moses'.

The ketubah is the marriage contract signed by the groom and given to the bride.

Rings are exchanged; the bride wears it on her index finger. A glass is stamped on by the groom at the end to represent the fragility of marriage or the destruction of the Temple. Orthodox: does not recognise same sex marriage

Reform: accepts homosexual marriage



**MOURNING RITUALS**

Who is involved in mourning rituals?

The onan is the main mourner who will take charge of the funeral. They are exempt from keeping the mitzvot during their mourning period. The chevra Kadisha is the burial society attached to the synagogue who prepare the body.

What are the mourning rituals?

The funeral is simple with psalms read.. The grave is filled then the kaddish is recited. After the funerals for 7 days mourners will sit shiva, by staying in their home, covering mirrors and sitting on low chairs. No music will be played and a candle will be kept burning. A yahrzeit ceremony is held each year to mark the death, where prayers are said and a candle burns for 24 hours.

Importance of mourning rituals

The body is the earthly container for the soul so it is important to treat it with great respect before it is buried. The mourning pattern shows that life can't go on as before.



**Rosh Hashanah**

Jewish new year, where there is judgement of deeds for the past year. Celebrates the creation of the world. Shofar is blown 100x (souls crying to be reunited with God), pomegranates, apples dipped in honey (sweet new year)

Tashlikh= 'casting away': sins (pocket crumbs!) into stream

SOW: Genesis and creation of world

**Yom Kippur**

10 days after Rosh Hashanah and the holiest day of the year. 25 hours fast (food, perfume, drink, sex, leather shoes...). Synagogue 5x, prayers, Jonah read in Hebrew (story of forgiveness), confession of sins and reflection, food to the poor. Children build the Sukkah in the evening after the dinner.

SOW: Jonah and the big fish



**Sukkot**

Remembers the journey the Hebrews made to the Promised Land. Build a temporary shelter to eat/sleep in for 7 days; vulnerability before God. Togetherness of family. Lulav (palm) and etrog (citrus fruit) are bought.

SOW: 'live in booths for seven days...so that your descendants will know that I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt- Leviticus



**Pesach**

Hebrew for 'Passover'. Remembers the story of Moses in Exodus where the Hebrew slaves were freed. All chametz removed from house (yeast products), synagogue, seder plate symbolism (lamb bone= blood on Hebrews doorposts; bitter herbs= bitterness of slavery), matzah flat bread (no time for bread to rise when leaving Egypt), 4 glasses of wine, with one for Elijah.

SOW: the story from Exodus where God sends 10 plagues to convince Pharaoh to free the Hebrew slaves.



**DIETARY LAW**

Kosher means 'fit' or 'proper' and it tends to refer to foods that are permitted to be eaten according to Leviticus 11.

- Observant Jews will not eat pork, shellfish and would not mix meat dishes with milk foods 'do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk'.
- Shechitah is the method used to kill the animal. Blood is forbidden from being eaten so this method drains the blood.
- Jews may have separate fridges, chopping boards and cutlery so they do not mix meat and dairy together

Reform : kosher is outdated, expensive, and difficult to eat socially with others

Orthodox: kosher is a mitzvot in the Torah, traditional and brings the Jewish community together.