

Tips for Revising

GCSE Religious Studies



SPECIFICATION

AQA GCSE Religious Studies

- Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Component 2: Thematic studies. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes



OVERVIEW OF PAPER 1 TOPICS

- Christian Beliefs
- Christian Practices
- Islamic Beliefs
- Islamic Practices

OVERVIEW OF PAPER 2 TOPICS

- Theme A- Relationships and Families
- Theme B- Religion and Life
- Theme E- Crime and Punishment
- Theme F- Human Rights

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4dFxRzoWJRkEVHdi_NkOxrgHQ4THPtZb

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/blog>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY&list=PLrZJiUWHz0Tkns5fXOD91gm7cQoRR3i5T>

<https://aqa-rs-paper-2-revision-hub-953835157060.us-west1.run.app/>

<https://rs-examiner-pro-aqa-gcse-religious-studies-835629199508.us-west1.run.app/>



WEBSITE LINKS

PAST PAPERS

Access past papers here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/assessment-resources>

REVISION METHODS

- Take Cornell Notes as you watch Youtube videos or read through the information on the suggested websites.
- Create a revision clock for sub-topics of each topic area.
- Respond to practice questions and quizzes.
- Create flashcards linked to each topic area.
- Plan and write practise answers.
- Create a mind map based on each exam topic.



REVISION

Christianity: Teachings

Nature of God

Characteristics of God;

- Omnipotent** - God is all Powerful
Example: God created the world
- Benevolent** - God is all loving and kind
Example: God is forgiving and forgives all sins
- Just** - God is fair
Example: He rewards good actions in heaven and sends those who have committed bad actions to hell.

Christian beliefs about God

- The belief in One God
- Christians believe in one God
- God is the creator and sustainer of all that exists
- People can have a relationship with God through prayer
- God is a spirit- neither male or female

Different beliefs about creation

7 days of creation:

- Creation: The acts by which God brought the universe in to being
- Genesis creation story- The very first chapter of the Bible which explains the creation of the world in 7 days

Literal

Some Christians believe that the 7 days of creation actually happened as it states.

Metaphor;

Some Christians believe the creation story is not scientifically accurate, however it shows how omnipotent God is.

The problem of evil and suffering

How does evil and suffering challenge the characteristics of God
Christians believe suffering comes about through :

- Suffering is the misuse of free will
- Suffering is a test of faith in God
- Suffering is a punishment from God for the sins committed.

Christians believe a Just God treats people fairly- so they trust in God when things go wrong.

The Trinity

- Father, Son and Holy Spirit**
- God is understood by Christians as being One God but in three forms: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - God the Father: Creator of all life
 - God the Son: became incarnate (embodied human form) through Jesus on earth (fully human and fully God)
 - God the Holy Spirit: Unseen power of God at work in the world who guides Christians

Beliefs about Jesus :

Incarnation of God

- Through the incarnation God showed himself as a human for 30 years.
- Jesus had a miraculous birth- the virgin conception is evidence for the Christian belief that Jesus was the son of God.
- Jesus was fully God and fully human which help explain miracles and his resurrection.

Crucifixion of Jesus

- Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate (Roman emperor)
- Since Jesus was fully human he suffered on the cross.
- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross gives hope to Christians that their sins will be forgiven if they sincerely repent.
- God understands human suffering because Jesus- who is God experienced it.
- Jesus' died for everyone's sins and to restore the relationship between humans and God.

Different views on resurrection

- Some Christians believe the soul resurrects after death
- Other Christians believe the dead will be resurrected some time in the future
- Catholics believe both the physical and spiritual soul are resurrected
- The resurrection inspires Christians by:
 - gives them hope of a future with Jesus
 - to live a life the way God wants them to
 - gives confidence in the face of death.

Life after death

The resurrection and the ascension

- Jesus rose from the dead- this event is known as the resurrection
- Jesus was buried in a tomb- three days later his body disappeared.
- Jesus is said to have appeared to several people (including his disciples)
- There would be no Christian faith without the resurrection
- The ascension (Jesus returned to God in heaven happened 40 days after his resurrection)

The afterlife and Judgement

The afterlife;

- The afterlife depends on faith in God.
- The after life begins at death or day of judgement when Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead
- Resurrected and given eternal life
- The belief about the afterlife is found in the Apostle's creed
- God will judge on their behaviour and actions as well as faith in actions
- In the Parable of the sheep and goats describes how God will judge people

Heaven and Hell

Heaven

- After judgement, Christians experience eternal happiness in the presence of God or be unable to experience of God's presence
- Heaven is thought to be a physical or spiritual space
- Jesus will be seated next to God.
- Some Christians believe only Christians will enter heaven
- Some Christians believe everyone can enter heaven regardless of religion
- Other Christians believe only those who have been baptised will enter heaven.

Sin and Salvation

The original meaning of Sin;

- Sin is any thought/action that separates someone from God
- Original sin: Catholic belief that all Christians are born with it and its the tendency to do wrong and disobey God.
- God gave Christians free will and they should choose to make choices that God will approve of

Salvation:

- Salvation means to be saved from sin and its consequences
- Salvation repairs the damage made by sin.
- Two main Christian ideas about the salvation in God
 - Through doing good works
 - Through grace-not deserved or earned but a gift of God's love

Role of Christ in Salvation

- Jesus crucifixion made up for the original sin, it was necessary for the restoring of the relationship between God and humans.
- Jesus' death made it possible for all those who follow him to gain eternal life

Hell

- Hell- a state of existence without God
- A place of eternal torment ruled by the devil
- Some Christians believe hell is a physical place that actually exists
- Other Christians believe an all loving God would not create a place of torture- therefore hell is a state of mind, separation from God.
- Hell is for those who did not acknowledge God or his teachings on earth.

Purgatory- Catholic belief

An intermediate state where souls are cleanse in order to enter heaven.

Religious quotes

Nature of God

"We believe in One God"

Christian creation

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth "

"In the beginning... the word was with God, and the word was God"

Incarnation of God

"The word became the flesh and made his dwelling amongst us"

Jesus Crucifixion

" Father in your hands I commit my spirit"

Resurrection of Jesus

"And if Christ had not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith"

Ascension of Jesus

"While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven"

Resurrection of the dead...

"So will it be the resurrection of the dead..."

"Afterlife and Judgement"

"...and he will come to judge the living and the dead.."

Salvation

" For it is by grace you are saved"

" ...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Keywords: Trinity, Omnipotent, Benevolent, Just, Salvation, Sin, Resurrection, Crucifixion, Incarnation, Christian creation, Judgement, afterlife, Problem of evil and suffering

Worship

An act of religious praise, honour or devotion expressing love towards God.

The different forms;

Liturgical- a church service that follows a set structure or ritual. This type of worship will follow a **liturgy**. (Roman Catholic and Orthodox)

Non-Liturgical - is a service that does not follow a set text or ritual (Methodist and Baptist)

Informal - is a type of non-liturgical worship that is 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature (Quakers)

Private worship is when believers praise or honour God in their own home.



Christianity: Practices

Prayer

A way of communicating with God to worship or ask for help and guidance.

The different types;

- **Set prayers** - written down and said more than one person e.g. the lords prayer
- **Informal prayers** - made up by the individual using his or her own words.

Jesus taught his disciples the **Lords Prayer** when they asked him how they should pray. It combines praise for God, asking for one's needs and reminds Christians to forgive others. It is used in worship and nearly all Christian ceremonies.



Celebrating Holy Communion

In most churches the holy communion service has two parts the ministry of the word (what is written in the Bible) and the ministry of the Holy communion (the offering of bread and wine).

Other names for Holy Communion;

- The Eucharist (Anglican)
- Mass (Catholic)
- The Lord's Supper (Baptists)
- Divine Liturgy (Orthodox)

In the Orthodox church Holy communion is called the Divine Liturgy and is believed to recreate heaven on earth. Much of the service is held at the altar behind the iconostasis (a screen that represents the divide between heaven and earth). The Catholic and Anglican churches celebrations are very similar. The main difference is that Catholics believe in transubstantiation whereas many Anglicans believe Jesus is present in only a spiritual way.

Sacrament: Holy rituals (outward) through which believers receive God's love (inward).

Catholic and Orthodox recognise seven sacraments. Many protestant churches only recognise two - baptism and Holy communion because Jesus taught people these. Quakers and the salvation army do not recognise any.



The Sacraments: Baptism

A ritual through which a person becomes a member of the church. It involves the use of water to symbolise the washing away of sin.

Infant Baptism and Believers Baptism

- Catholic, Orthodox & Anglican
- Removes original sin
- Promises are made by parents
- Water poured over the baby's head (Font)
- Lots of symbolism used
- Baptists and Pentecostal's
- Persons own decision
- Full immersion
- Baptismal pool
- testimony of their faith.

Pilgrimage

A journey made by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons. As well as making the physical journey the believer also makes a spiritual journey towards God. A pilgrimage gives many opportunities for prayer and worship and the journey itself shows devotion to God.

Ways in which pilgrimage impacts the individual;

- Feel connected to the Christian community
- Renew their enthusiasm for their faith
- Increase understanding of God and their faith
- Help other pilgrims on the journey

Places of pilgrimage for Christians



Iona	An island off the coast of Scotland where there is a diverse Christian community. Visitors can spend time praying, reflecting and meditating in a quiet environment.
Lourdes	A town in France where Mary is said to have appeared in a number of visions to a young girl called Bernadette. The site is believed to have water capable of healing miracles.

The Sacraments: Holy Communion

The sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection. It recalls the last supper of Jesus, using his words and actions. It is celebrated in different ways by different churches.

- Catholics, Orthodox and some Anglican Christians believe in **transubstantiation**.
- Protestant churches do not believe in transubstantiation but believe the bread and wine are symbols of Jesus' sacrifice.

Holy Communion impacts;

- **Individuals** - receive God's grace by joining in Jesus' sacrifice.
- **Communities** - brings the community together by sharing a meal of bread and wine.
- **Wider society** - acts as a call to work for equality in the world, money is collected for the poor and homeless.

Festivals

A festival is a day or period of celebration for religious reasons. They help Christians to remember and celebrate the major events in their religion particularly the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Important Christian festivals;

Christmas - celebrates the incarnation and the birth of Jesus. Celebrations include; nativity scenes which, midnight mass, carol services, lights, cards, gifts and giving to charity.

Easter - celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Holy week remembers the events leading up to Jesus' death and ends with a sunrise service representing new life with Jesus.

Church in the Local community

What is the **Church**?

- Holy people of God
- A physical building.

Why do Christians help others?

To put their faith into action
To follow Jesus' example.
Parable of the Sheep and Goats
To show **Agape** love.

How does the church help?

Food banks - provide food to people who cannot afford to buy it.

Street Pastors - patrol the streets and help vulnerable people.

Mission and Evangelism

Mission - a calling to spread the faith.

Missionary - someone who goes to a foreign country to promote Christianity.

Evangelism - How Christians spread their faith e.g. preaching, music etc.

What was the **Great Commission**?

Jesus gave his disciples the instructions to go spread the gospel (word of God) and make disciples of all nations through baptism. All Christians have a duty to spread the mission and the aim is to persuade people to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour (**convert**).

Worldwide Church and reconciliation

Reconciliation - restoring harmony after relationships break down.

Christians believe humans were reconciled to God through Jesus' death and resurrection which was broken through sin. Jesus taught that humans need to be reconciled with each other therefore The worldwide church has a mission to help restore relationships between people by working for peace between different religious groups or nations at conflict.

Christian persecution

Persecution - hostility and poor treatment.

Christians have faced persecution from the beginning of the Church, and Christians are still persecuted worldwide today. In response to persecution Christians should respond to evil with love.

For some Christians persecution can have positive effects:

- It can strengthen their faith
- Allow them to share in Jesus sufferings
- Inspires others to become Christian

Response to world poverty

Christian charities follow the example and teachings of Jesus in working to end poverty.

Why do Christians help?

- Christians believe in helping others they are actually helping Jesus.
- The parable of the Rich man and Lazarus
- The parable of the Good Samaritan

Organisations helping the poor;

- Christian Aid
- CAFOD
- Tearfund

Religious quotes/ scripture

Prayer

The Lords Prayer

Growing the Church

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Holy Communion

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Helping Others

- In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.
- If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person.
- Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

Responding to Persecution

- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.

Exam Formulae

- 1) Write the letter and word.
- 2) Two bullet points or two brief sentences.
- 3) PEPE
- 4) PEPEE (Must include a quote)
- 5) SONIIC

Keywords: Liturgical, Liturgy, Non-Liturgical, transubstantiation, Persecution, Reconciliation, Convert, Mission, Missionary Evangelism, Agape, Pilgrimage, Sacrament, Church

Islam: Teachings

Nature of Allah

Characteristics of Allah

- Allah- One and only God
- Tawhid- The oneness of Allah
- No images of Allah- unseen God
- Allah is eternal
- He is infinite- has no children/partner and was not given birth too.
- Shirk- Adding partners to Allah is forbidden.
- Supremacy of God's will: Nothing happens unless God wants it to happen

The main qualities of Allah

Transcendent- God created the universe, so is beyond and outside it.

Immanent- God is present everywhere within the world

Beneficent- God is all loving and all good.

Fair and Just- God treats everyone fairly and justly- e.g judgement day

Merciful- God shows compassion and mercy.

Omnipotent- God is all powerful He has the power to create and sustain everything .

99 names- Allah has 99 names- since Allah is unseen it allows Muslims to understand Allah's characteristics/ qualities.

Some examples of the 99 names are 'All-loving, The King, The protector , The Wise'

Muslim beliefs about Prophet Muhammad

- Prophet Muhammad is a messenger of Allah. (Born in Makkah).
- Given the Qur'an so the message of Islam could be taught.
- The last and most important messenger of Allah.
- The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet over 23 years.
- Conquered Makkah
- Night journey where the Prophet Muhammad was taken up to heaven and spoke to previous Prophets

Belief in Angels

- Angels are spiritual beings who serve God
- They pass on messages to Prophets.
- Made from light
- Have no free will
- Are able to take on a human form
- Are pure and sinless
- Angel Jibril- Angel of revelation passed on messages to Prophets e.g revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad
- Angel Mikail- The angel of mercy sends down rain, lightning or thunder to earth.
- Munkar and Nakir- Angels who question Muslims whilst in the grave after death
- Al-Kiram and Al-Katibun- They record every good and bad deed.

Sunni and Shi'a Islam

- After Prophet Muhammad died, there were disagreements on who should lead after him. Islam split in to two branches.

Sunni Islam

- Abu Bakr (Prophet's best friend) should have led.
- Believe those who were older/wiser and closer to the Prophet should lead.

Shi'a Islam

- Ali (the Prophet's cousin) should lead
- Believe the leadership should have been passed on through family

Six articles of faith

1. **Tawhid**- oneness of God
2. **Angels**- who passed on God's messages to the Prophets
3. **The Holy books**- respect for the Bible, Torah and Scrolls of David (all books were given by Allah)
4. **The Prophets**- respect for all Prophets
5. **The day of Judgement**- at the end of the world everyone will be judged by God
6. **Predestination** -belief that nothing happens without God's will.

Five roots of Usul-ad-din

1. **Tawhid**- oneness of God
2. **Prophethood**- respect for the Prophets (particularly Prophet Muhammad)
3. **The Justice of God** (Adalat)- God will fairly judge on judgement day
4. **The Imamate**- respect for the 12 Imams (chosen by Allah)
5. **Resurrection**- everyone will be raised after death

Prophethood

- Risaalah: Belief in prophets and their importance as the messengers of God.
- 124,000 Prophets only 25 are mentioned in the Qur'an.
- Good role models and help Muslims understand how they should live their lives.
- **Prophet Adam**- first ever man and Prophet.
- Prophet Adam was created by Allah
- Him and Eve (Hawwa) were tempted by Iblis and were expelled from heaven
- God forgave Adam after he accepted his mistake.
- **Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)**
- Lived at a time where idol worship was very common
- He fulfilled all the tests given to him by God- willing to sacrifice his son
- Rebuilt the Ka'baa after Noah's flood
- He only believed in one God and taught this message to everyone
- He showed great faith in God.
- Prophet Muhammad was one of his descendants through his son Ismael

Prophet Muhammad and the Imamate

- Shia Muslims believe in the Imamate
- Shia's believe the Imams have been appointed by God
- Imams can interpret the Qur'an without fault
- Imams are needed as they provide divine guidance on how to live properly.
- There are 12 Imams that Shi'as believe in

The Qur'an

- 114 surah's (chapters)
 - The foundation of every believer's faith
 - Revealed to the Prophet Muhammad over 23 years
 - Includes a mixture of historical accounts and advice on how to follow God.
 - Considered the word of God
 - Passed on Angel Jibril who then passed on the words of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad
 - Prophet Muhammad learnt the words off by heart and then taught his followers who wrote it down
 - As Islam spread, the Qur'an was compiled in to a book
 - The Qur'an was compiled around 650CE
- Earlier Holy books**
- The Bible, The Torah and the scrolls of Abraham are earlier Holy books Muslims believe were given by Allah.
 - These holy books were added to by people and therefore became distorted.

Predestination

- Predestination is the belief that God knows or determines everything that will happen
- Most Muslims believe they still have free-will
- God has decreed everything that will happen but humans are still responsible for their behaviour.
- Free will and the choices they make determine where they will end up in the afterlife (heaven or hell)

Religious quotes

"He is God the one"
 "This is God your Lord..there is no God but Him"
 "He is with you wherever you are"
 "Praise be to God the creator of the heavens and the earth, who made angels messengers with two, three, four wings"
 "The record of their deeds will be laid open..."
 "Muhammad is not the father of any one of you men, he is God's messenger and the seal of the Prophets..."
 "Only what God has decreed will happen to us"
 "God does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves"

Life after death

- Afterlife- everlasting
- Barzakah- state of waiting in the grave until the day of judgement
- Two angels question them about their faith in the grave
- Everyone will be resurrected and handed their book of deeds
- Receive book of deeds on the right hand- heaven
- Receive book of deeds on the left hand- hell
- Heaven- eternal place of happiness in the presence of God
- Hell- place of fire and torment

The Five Pillars, the Ten Obligatory Acts and the Shahadah

Shahadah:

Rejects the idea of more than one God

Emphasises the belief of Allah's Oneness

The basic statement of faith which expresses the core beliefs within Islam. To become a Muslim, a person has to recite it in front of other Muslims.

"There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."

Muhammad (pbuh) is only a messenger of Allah, not a son but a Prophet.



This is believed to provide the foundation for the other four pillars which tell a Muslim how to live. Shi'a Muslims add on an extra Phrase: "and Ali is the friend of God" to show their belief that Ali was the true successor of Muhammad.

The Five Pillars;

- Essential duties for all Muslims
- Fundamental practices of Islam on which everything else is built
- Seen as the key to living a perfect life

Ten obligatory acts of Shi'a Islam.

- Combine the Five Pillars with some additional duties
- Followed by Shi'a Muslims



Islam: Practices

Salah: Prayer

Preparation;

- They should always face Makkah.
- Before Praying Muslims must perform (Wudu) and make themselves spiritually clean so that they can fully focus on God.



Unites Muslims because all Muslims pray in the same way



Motivates Muslims to do God's will

The Importance of Prayer;

Prayer completes one of the Five Pillars

The Rak'ah movements remind Muslims God is greater than them

Unites Muslims and brings them closer to God

Difference between Sunni and Shi'a prayer;

- Sunni Muslims pray five times a day whereas Shi'a Muslims combine the midday and afternoon prayers. So they pray the same but only three times a day.
- They also perform slightly different prayer movements called Rak'ah (set sequences of actions and recitations)

Prayer in the Mosque;

- There are special wash rooms for both men and women where they can wash their face, hands and feet (wudu)
- There are rows of mats allowing each person their own space to pray facing Makkah as indicated by the mihrab found within the qiblah wall
- Prayers are led by an imam.
- Men and women pray in separate rooms but at the same time.
- The most important Prayer is The Jummah Prayer - midday on Friday
- Men are expected to attend Mosque for this but other Muslims are allowed to pray at home.



Sawm: Fasting

Ramadan and the Night of Power;

- This is the most important month of the Islamic calendar, as it is when angel Jibril started to reveal the Qur'an to Muhammad - this event is known as the Night of Power.

"What will explain to you what the night of glory is? The night of Glory is better than a thousand months" Qur'an 97:2-3

Muslims try to stay awake on the Night of Power praying and studying the Qur'an this is believed to be equivalent to worshipping for a thousand months.

The command to fast was first given in the Qur'an to Muhammad;

"Oh believers!" Fasting is prescribed for you as it was for those before you so that you may learn self restraint"



Origins of fasting;

What does fasting mean;

- Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink during daylight hours.
- Food, drink, smoking and sex are forbidden during these hours.
- Pregnant women, children and ill persons are exempt.

Benefits of fasting;

- Fasting shows self discipline and obedience to God
- It encourages Muslims to help those less fortunate than them



Key words

Shahadah, Salah, Wudu, Mihrab, Qiblah wall, Rak'ah, Recitation, Prostration, Jummah Prayer, Ramadan, Fasting, the Night of Power, Zakah, Sadaqah, Khums, Pilgrimage, Hajj, Ka'aba, Jihad, Greater Jihad, Lesser Jihad, Holy War, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha, Day of Ashura, Martyr

Zakah: almsgiving

Zakat - a duty (they have to) to pay a tax of 2.5% once a year on income and savings. (Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims pay this). Khums - means fifth - another tax of 20% paid once a year on surplus income (savings) - Only for Shi'a Muslims. Sadaqah - voluntary giving whenever they want to.

Encourages Muslims to do good with their money.

Benefits

They are fulfilling a duty to God.

Muslims believe that giving Zakah helps them purify their souls by removing selfishness and greed.

It helps strengthen the Muslim community by supporting the poorest and weakest.

Who is Zakah given to?

"Whatever... you give should be for parents, close relatives, orphans, the needy, and travellers. God is well aware of whatever good you do" Qur'an 2:215

Jihad - Greater/Lesser

What is Jihad?

Jihad refers to the struggle against evil. It requires Muslims to strive to improve themselves and the societies they live in, in a way that would please God.

Greater Jihad

Refers to the inner struggle Muslims undertake to improve themselves spiritually. It is considered to be more important than lesser Jihad and can involve things like; avoiding temptation, completing the five pillars, helping others etc.

Lesser Jihad

Refers to the outward struggle to defend Islam from threat and persecution. Fighting to defend Islam is sometimes called a Holy War which can only be fought for; a just cause, in self defence, declared by a religious leader and only as a last resort after peaceful negotiations have failed.



Hajj: pilgrimage

Hajj takes place over five days and begins and ends in the city of Makkah (Mecca). Every Muslim is expected to take part in Hajj at least once during their life time. It remembers the actions of Prophet Ibrahim and his family who built the Ka'aba.

Shows self discipline and dedication to God

Produces inner peace

Reminds Muslims of the good examples set by the prophets

Hajj is important because...

Fulfils a pillar of Islam

Leads to a persons sins being forgiven

Brings a person closer to God

Emphasises equality and unity

"Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it" Qur'an 3:97

What happens on Hajj? (You will need to know the significance of each of these stages)

Entering a state of purity called Ihram which involves ritual washing and the wearing of the ihram (white cloth)

Hajj starts in Makkah and Muslims walk round the Ka'aba seven times anti-clockwise and touch the black stone

Muslims then walk between the two hills of Safa and Marwah seven times

If possible, pilgrims can then sacrifice an animal as part of the celebration of Id-ul-Adha

Pilgrims collect a handful of pebbles from Muzdalifah to throw at the three stone pillars the next day

Pilgrims then travel to Mount Arafat where they spend the whole afternoon praying and asking for forgiveness

Id-ul-Fitr; Also known as Lesser Eid/ the Sweet Festival. Celebrated at the end of Ramadan (month of fasting). It is a way to thank God for giving them the strength to complete the fast. Celebrated through; family gatherings/ special meals/ exchange cards and presents/ special clothes/gatherings together in Mosques and sermons from the Imam to help the poor.

Islamic Festivals

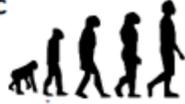
Ashura; Mainly a Shi'a festival that remembers the death of Husayn at the battle of Karbala. Husayn's death is seen by Shi'a Muslims as a symbol of struggle against injustice, tyranny and oppression. To Celebrate; Some Shi'a Muslims beat their chests, cut themselves and shed blood to connect with Husayn's suffering. Modern Shi'a leaders encourage Muslims to donate their blood instead. Many Shi'a Muslims also visit Husayn's tomb and in Britain thousands gather at Marble Arch in London to hear speeches and take part in a procession of mourning.

Id-ul-Adha; Also known as Greater Eid/ the Sacrifice Feast. It remembers Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God, and marks the end of Hajj. It reminds Muslims to show complete obedience to God. The festival allows Muslims all over the world to connect with Hajj even if they can't be there themselves. Celebrations include; special meals/ slaughtering of an animal and special prayers.

Origins of the Universe

Evolution;

Charles Darwin's scientific theory about how human life evolved from animals.



Genesis

A religious account within the Bible about how God created the universe. Interpreted in different ways;



Liberalist;

Christians who believe in a metaphorical understanding of the Bible as a **religious truth**.

Fundamentalist;

Christians who believe that the statements in the Genesis chapters are literally true.



Religion and Life



Types:

- Voluntary
- Non-voluntary
- Involuntary



Abortion and the UK law

Legal up to **24 weeks** if two doctors agree that;

- The woman's life is in danger
- There is a risk to the mother's health
- There is a significant risk the baby will be born with a severe disability leading to a poor **quality of life**
- An additional child may affect the health of existing children.



Changes in the Law;

- Before 1967 abortion was illegal.
- The 1967 Abortion Act allowed abortion up to 28 weeks.
- In 1990 it was reduced to 24 weeks in line with new evidence on **viability**.

Euthanasia

Forms;

- Active
- Passive



Hospices

An alternative to Euthanasia created to allow the terminally ill to be comfortable.

UK Legal Position;

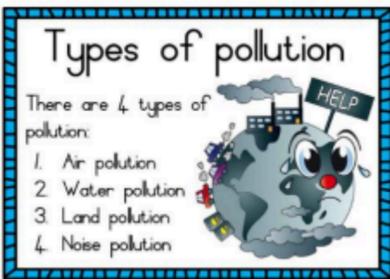
All forms of Euthanasia are illegal and are treated as murder or manslaughter. However, a doctor can withhold treatment if it is believed it to be in the patient's best interests.

The use and abuse of the Environment

Pollution;

The pollution of the environment is a major threat to life on earth.

Problems	Solutions
Destruction of natural habitats (deforestation)	Protect areas e.g. rainforest and parks Sustainable development
Pollution	Recycle/ Use public transport
Using natural resources	Create renewable energy e.g. wind, wave and solar
Global warming/ Climate Change	Reduce the amount of energy we use/



WORDS

Key words

Genesis, Fundamentalist, Liberalist, Evolution, Dominion, Stewardship, Khalifah, Pollution, Renewable energy, Sustainable development, Vegetarian, Vegan, Vivisection, Abortion, Sanctity of life, Quality of life, Ensoulment, Eternity, Akhirah, Heaven, Hell, Judgement

The use and abuse of animals

Things we can use animals for;

- Animal testing e.g. cosmetics, additives used in processed foods, medicines etc
- Food

Why do we test on animals?

To check that the products we use are safe for humans (**vivisection**). Testing for cosmetics was banned in 1998 in the UK.



Views on eating animals;

- **Vegetarian** - don't eat the flesh of animals but do eat eggs and drink milk
- **Vegan** - Against any use of or consumption of any animal products



Animals tested on; Mice, rats, dogs, cats, apes, pigs etc.

Useful revision techniques

- **Read** - only as much as your hand can cover.
- **Cover** - what you just read with your hand.
- **Remember** - what you've just read.
- **Retell** - what you have just read to a partner or write it down on a flash card in your own words.

Religious views on the origins of the universe

Christian

- Believe the Universe was designed and created by God out of nothing.
- Some interpret the Genesis story as literally true where God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh (**fundamentalists**) whereas others believe it is a story which helps humans to understand God (**liberals**).

Muslim

- Like Christians, Muslims Believe the Universe was created and designed by God out of nothing.
- "Your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and earth in six days... He created the sun, the moon, and the stars... All creation and all command belongs to him." Qur'an 7:54
- Most Muslims believe that 'six days' refers to six periods of time. There is no mention of what was created specifically on each day or period and there is no mention of rest as in the Bible.

Religious views on the use of animals

Christian

- All living creatures are created by God for humans but should be treated well (dominion).
- Christianity has no rules about whether Christians can eat meat or not.
- "The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not..." 14:3
- **Muslim**
- Animals can be killed for a just cause but not for hunting.
- There are strict laws about how and what food Muslims can eat- pig is forbidden. Food which is permissible is called Halal.
- "It is Allah who made for you the grazing animals upon which you ride, and some of them you eat. Quran 40:79"

Religious views on euthanasia

Christian

- Would never agree with active euthanasia as this is seen as murder and going against the sanctity of life.
- Passive euthanasia may be the most loving thing to do, following Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbour" Luke 10:27

Muslim

- Euthanasia is haram (forbidden) in Islam it goes against the sanctity of life.
- Al-Qadr - predestination - means that God has planned each person's life and ending it early goes against his plan. Only God decides when it will be ended.
- "Allah fixes the timespan for all living things" Qur'an

Religious views on abortion

Christian

- Some Christians believe abortion is taking away what God has created "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb" Psalm 139
- The Catholic Church completely opposes abortion as it goes against sanctity of life and because life begins at conception.
- Other Christians may agree with abortion if the baby will have a very poor quality of life or if it is the kindest thing to do in cases such as rape.

Muslim

- Most Muslims believe abortion is haram (forbidden) but there are some circumstances where it may be allowed e.g. mother's life, rape etc. but money would never be an acceptable reason for Muslims
- "Do not kill your children for fear of poverty - We shall provide for them and you" Qur'an 17:31
- Abortion must happen before Ensoulment. Some Muslims believe this is 40 days whereas others say 120 days.

Religious views on taking care of the environment

Christian

- Christians believe they have been given a responsibility to protect the earth as stewards against abuse - misuse of the environment.
- "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it" Psalm 24:1

Muslims

- In order to emphasise the need to help and preserve environment, Muslims follow the Hadith; "Do not seek from it more than what you need" Hadith

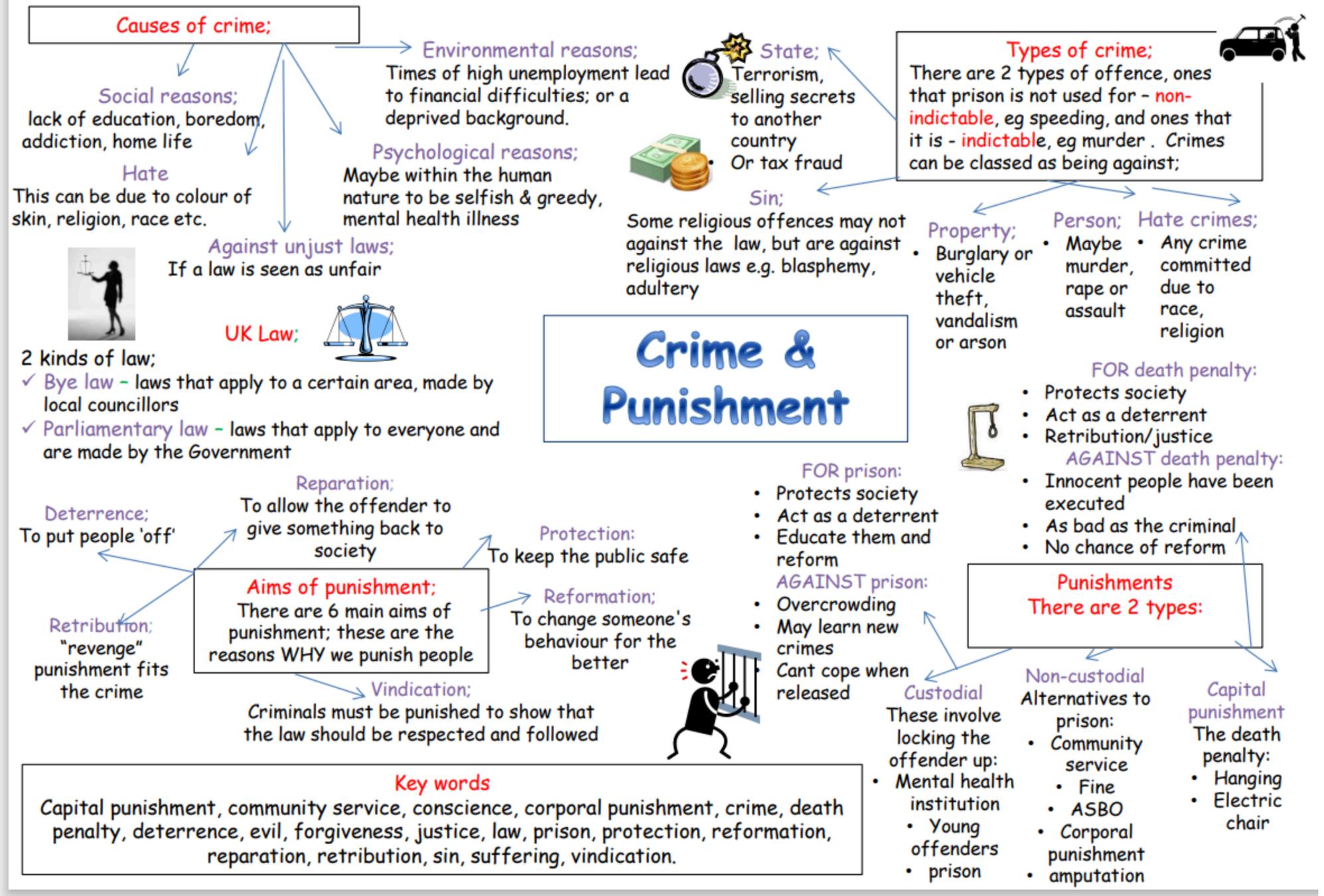
Religious views on Death and the Afterlife

Christian

- Christians believe death is the beginning of an eternal life that depends on faith in God.
- It begins at death or on the day of judgement when God judges people's behaviour as well as their faith in following Jesus.
- God's judgement determines whether the person spends eternity in heaven or hell.

Muslim

- Life of earth is a test or trial which will determine what happens in the afterlife (Akhirah).
- On the day of judgement each person will be brought before God and the book of their life will be opened. Their good and bad deeds will be weighed. "And those whose good deeds weigh heavy will be successful, but those whose scales are light - those are the ones who have lost their souls forever and will stay in Hell." Qur'an 23:102-103



<p>Religious views on the law</p> <p>Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obey the law because God allows it to be there "Everyone must submit themselves to the governing authority" • Break the law if the law is unfair e.g. Martin Luther King • Ten commandments e.g. Do not kill <p>Muslim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shariah law is Islamic law and comes from the Hadith and the Qur'an • Blasphemy most serious sin, murder is also high order sin. 	<p>Forgiveness</p> <p>Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord's prayer says "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us" • Jesus on the cross said "Forgive them, for they know not what they do" <p>Muslim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Allah truly forgives • People should forgive to bring about good over evil • "let them pardon and forgive. Do you not wish that God should forgive you?" 	<p>Religious responses to aims of punishment</p> <p>Reformation:</p> <p>Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should help the offender through education or counselling programmes alongside prison <p>Muslim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should ask for Allah's forgiveness and reform will help • Believe harsh punishments also help reform. <p>Retribution:</p> <p>Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Eye for an eye" shows some believe punishment should fit the crime <p>Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death penalty can be used for murder • A criminal went against Shariah Law and so against God and so should be punished. <p>Deterrence:</p> <p>Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See this as wrong when used with extreme punishment as all humans deserve to be treated well <p>Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsh, severe punishments • Punishments are often in public. 	<p>Religious responses on punishments</p> <p>Prison:</p> <p>Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accept them, as long as there is reform attached e.g education • "Remember those in prison as though they were your fellow prisoners" <p>Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe they should be tough so people don't reoffend. <p>Corporal punishment</p> <p>Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most disagree as it does not reform • Some agree "he who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves them is careful to discipline them" <p>Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed - "As to the thief male or female cut off their hands" Deterrent. <p>Community service</p> <p>Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helps reform, gives back to the community <p>Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too soft <p>Death penalty</p> <p>Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No chance of reform, Believe in forgiveness • Some Christians agree as "a life for a life" <p>Muslim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as a deterrent • Allowed for a just reason "Do not take life that Allah has made holy except by way of justice" • Allow compensation as an alternative "If a main is slain unjustly his heir shall be entitled to satisfaction"
<p style="text-align: center;">Religious responses to evil</p> <p>Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original sin comes from Adam and Eve • People are not evil but can do evil things. • Devil is seen as the source of evil <p>Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iblis (Satan) refused to bow down to Adam and was sent to hell. • Iblis spends his time on earth tempting others to do wrong so they will join him in hell. 		<p style="text-align: center;">Religious response to suffering</p> <p>Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A test of faith • "We also glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance" • For balance - to see good we have to have bad, down to humans beings free will. <p>Muslim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A test of faith • "You are sure to be tested through your possessions and persons - If you are steadfast and mindful of God that is the best course" • Due to human free will • Part of Allah's will 	

Types of family

Blended:
Step-family

Nuclear Family:
Two parents (man/woman) and their children living together

Extended Family:
Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins

Single-Parent Family:
One parent and child/children

Family with same-sex parents:
Two same-sex parents with children



Contraception

Natural methods- rhythm method which is not having sex when woman is fertile and withdrawal
Artificial methods- condom, pill, injection
Permanent methods- Sterilisation

Only condoms will also stop STIs
Contraception stops women becoming pregnant
No contraceptive is 100% effective.



Sex

Sex OUTSIDE of marriage;
This could be sex BEFORE marriage but also having sex with someone other than your spouse (adultery)

Sex BEFORE marriage
Having sexual intercourse BEFORE getting married



Families and Households

Sexuality

Type	What it means
Heterosexual	Sexual attraction to DIFFERENT sex
Homosexual	Sexual attraction to SAME sex
Bisexual	Sexual attraction to BOTH sexes
Asexual	Does not experience sexual attraction, may still want a romantic relationship



Types of Households

Cohabitation;
• Living together in a sexual relationship BEFORE getting married

Remarriage
Marrying someone new after a divorce



Polygamy and Bigamy
Polygamy- Being married to more than one person at a time
Bigamy- The offence of marrying someone whilst married to someone else

Divorce
Legally separating from your spouse
You can remarry after this



Key words

Heterosexual, homosexual, contraception, artificial, natural, sex outside marriage, marriage, divorce, cohabitation, remarriage, family, procreation, education, nuclear family, single-parent family, extended family, same-sex family, blended family



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Religious views on sexual relationships

Christian

- Some are against homosexuality as it God intended for man to marry woman and same-sex partners cannot naturally have a child
- Others think homosexuality is fine as Jesus taught to 'love thy neighbour'
- All humans are created in God's image
- Adultery is always wrong
- Many Christians disagree with sex before marriage as the purpose of sex is to have a baby

Muslim

- Homosexuality is wrong as you cannot have a baby
- Homosexuality undermines the family unit
- "And the two who commit homosexual acts, dishonour them both" Surah 4:16
- Adultery is a serious crime
- Sex before marriage is not allowed
- "When a husband and wife share intimacy it is rewarded...just as they would be punished if they had engaged in illicit sex-" Hadith

Religious views on contraception

Christian

- Catholics are against it as it stops life being created and wastes sperm. The purpose of sex is to get pregnant and contraception stops this. You can use withdrawal and the rhythm method as it could still result in pregnancy.
- "Be fruitful and increase in number" Genesis 9:7
- Some Protestants are fine with it as it can stop unwanted pregnancies and STIs (only condoms). They also believe that sex can be for pleasure as well as procreation.

Muslim

- Contraception can be used if a pregnancy would risk the mother's life
- You cannot use permanent methods of contraception
- Some Muslims believe you should only use natural methods as Allah intends for us to have children

Religious views on marriage

Christian

- Marriage is a gift from God and should be for life.
- "Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate" Mark 10:9
- Purpose of marriage is to have children, provide companionship, enjoy a sexual relationship and make a lifelong commitment to another person.

Muslim

- Marriage is intended to be for life and to another Muslim
- Men can have up to 4 wives
- Arranged marriage is when the family chooses your partner- YOU CAN SAY NO.
- "Marry those among you who are single" Surah 24:32
- The purpose of marriage is to have children, share love, companionship and sex and to create a family and strengthen society.

Religious views on contemporary issues

Christian

- Christians do not accept polygamy
- It is against the law in the UK
- Marriage is sacred
- "Be united with his wife and the two will become one" Mark 10:6-9

Muslims

- Polygamy is accepted- men can have up to 4 wives IF he can take care of them all and each wife agrees; "If you fear you will not be just, then marry only one" Surah 4:3

Religious views on divorce and remarriage

Christian

- Catholics believe divorce and remarriage is wrong.
- Protestants say it should be avoided but may be necessary and they allow remarriage
- "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" Mark 10:9

Muslim

- Divorce is allowed but should be avoided
- Muslims can remarry as it would provide stability to family
- "And if they decide to divorce- then indeed, Allah is Hearing and Knowing" Surah 2:227

Religious views families

Christian

- Purpose of the family is to procreate, to provide stability and protection for children and to educate children
- "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives...has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" 1 Timothy 5:8
- Children should care for parents in old age and children should be raised as Christians

Muslim

- Purpose of family is to procreate, to provide stability for children, educate children and care for the elderly
- Muslims often live in extended families
- "Your Lord has commanded that you worship none but Him and that you be kind to your parents. If one of them or both of them reach old age with you, do not say to them a word of disrespect...and act humbly to show them mercy" Surah 17:23-24

