

# Unit 3

# Catholic Christianity

## 3.1 Believing in God

## Keywords

**Conversion:** When your life is changed by giving yourself to God.

**Miracle:** Something which seems to break a law of Science and makes you think only God could have done it.

**Numinous:** The feeling of the presence of something greater than you.

**Prayer:** An attempt to contact God usually through words.

**Agnosticism:** Not being sure whether God exists.

**Atheism:** Believing that God does not exist.

**Free Will:** The idea that human beings are free to make their own choices.

**Moral Evil:** Actions done by humans which cause suffering.

**Natural Evil:** Things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans.

**Omnipotent:** The belief that God is all-powerful.

**Omni-benevolent:** The belief that God is all-Loving.

**Omniscient:** The belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that is going to happen.

**Design:** When something has been made for a purpose.

**Causation:** The process whereby one thing causes another. It is often known as cause and effect.



### **How the appearance of design may not lead to belief in God.**

- The argument ignores the evidence of lack of design in the universe eg volcanoes, earthquakes.
- All evidence for design can be explained by science.
- The argument does not refer to dinosaurs which must have been part of design.
- The argument only proves that the universe has a designer, not God.

## Design Argument

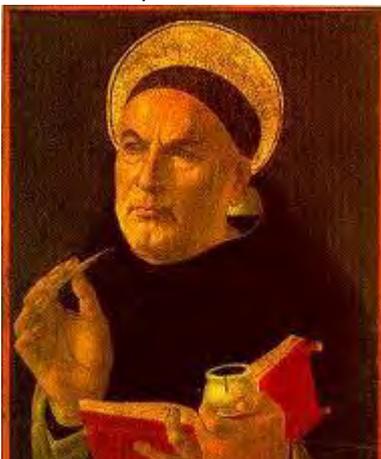
William Paley used this argument to explain the existence of God.

- Anything that has been designed needs a designer.
- There is evidence that the world has been designed.
- If the world has been designed then there must be a designer and only God could design something as complex as the world.
- Therefore the appearance of design in the worlds proves God



## The First Cause Argument (Thomas Aquinas)

- If we look at things in the world, we see that they have a cause eg ice is caused by the temperature falling.
- Anything caused to exist must be caused to exist by something else.
- Everything has to have a beginning, if the universe has no first cause then there would be no universe but as there is a universe there must be a first cause.
- The only possible first cause of the universe is God, therefore God must



## Why some people disagree with the first cause argument.

- Why should the causes stop at God? If everything needs a cause then God must need a cause.
- The matter of the Universe itself is eternal and so the process of causes goes on forever.
- Even if the First cause were to exist it would not have to be God, it could be any sort of creator.



Who started everything?

God is the first cause to which every event can be traced.

(Aquinas' Cosmological Argument)

## Scientific explanations of the world and agnosticism and atheism

### The Big Bang

- Matter is eternal it can neither be created nor destroyed, it can only be changed.
- 15 billion years ago there was a huge explosion.
- As the matter flew away forces of gravity joined some of the matter into stars and the solar system was formed.
- The combination of gases on the Earth produces amoeba.

The Red shift effect where light from other galaxies is evidence that the universe is expanding.

### Evolution

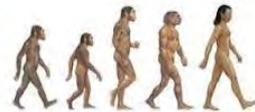
The evidence for the theory of evolution is the fossil record (the evidence from fossils of life developing from simple to complex) and similarities between life forms being discovered through genetic research.

### How the scientific explanation of the world may lead to agnosticism or atheism.

Science can explain where the world came from and where humans came from without any reference to God.

This may lead some people to be agnostic. The argument that you need God to explain why we are here is no longer valid for them.

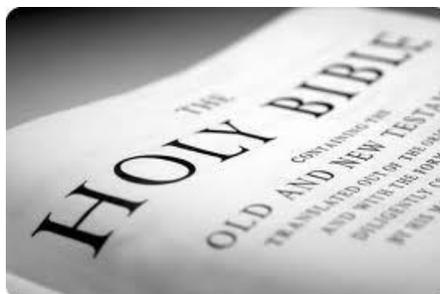
Other people may be led to become atheists. The scientific explanation of the world and humans without any reference to God is proof to such people that God is proof to such people that God does not exist.



## How Catholics respond to scientific explanations of the world

### Response 1

- The Big bang had to be at exactly the right micro second.
- There had to be scientific laws such as gravity for the matters of the universe to form solar systems and only God could have made the laws.
- Life on Earth requires carbon this could not have happened by chance, so God must have ensured it happened.



### Response 2

Some Catholics believe that both the scientific explanations and the Bible are correct.

They claim that the main points of the Bible story fit with Science. One of Gods days could be billions of years. The creation story is the same as evolution.

## Why unanswered prayers may lead to agnosticism or atheism

### Not feeling God's presence when praying.

Some people don't feel God's presence when they pray at church or home this makes them feel that there is no God listening to them.

### Prayers not being answered

People reject God when they feel that their prayers have not been answered.



### How Catholics respond to unanswered prayers

- If what you pray for is selfish.
- If what you pray for is personal your prayer may not be answered as God may have different plans.
- Human parents do not always give their children what they want so why should God.
- Catholics believe God loves people and they trust God's love to do what is best for them.
- Jesus said that his followers must have faith to have their prayers answered.



## How two programmes about religion may affect a person's attitude to belief in God

You need to study two programmes or films about religion. For each of them you will need to know:

- An outline of its contents.
- How it might have encouraged some people to believe in God.
- How it might have encouraged some people not to believe in God.
- Whether it affected your beliefs in God.

### Exam Questions



#### b) Questions (4 marks)

Do you think children should follow the same religion as their parents?

Do you think miracles prove that God exists?

Do you think God designed the world?

Do you think unanswered prayers prove that God does not exist?

#### c) Questions (8 marks)

Explain how a religious upbringing can lead to, or support, belief in God.

Choose one programme about religion and explain how it might affect someone's belief about God.

Explain how Catholics respond to the problem of evil and suffering.

Explain how Catholics respond to scientific explanations of the world.

#### d) Questions i) (3 marks) ii) (3 marks)

'Religious experiences prove that God exists'. i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'The Design argument proves that God exists'. ) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'A loving God would not let us suffer'. ) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

## Moral Evil

This is evil caused by humans misusing their free will.

War is an example of moral evil. All wars are caused by the actions of humans who could have chosen to act differently.

Rape, murder and burglary are examples of moral evil.

Christians often call acts of moral evil sins because they are against God's Ten Commandments.

## Natural Evil

This is suffering that has not been caused by humans. Earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, drought tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, cancers. They result in massive amounts of human suffering. However the destruction of the natural environment by humans does lead to the balance of nature being upset and more disasters happening.

### How evil and suffering cause people to question or reject belief in God

Some people cannot believe that a good God would have designed a world with natural evils in it.

- If God is omnipotent he must be able to remove evil and suffering from the world.
- If God is Omni-benevolent he must want to remove evil and suffering.
- As there is evil and suffering in the world, either God is not omnipotent, or is not Omni-benevolent, or God does not exist.

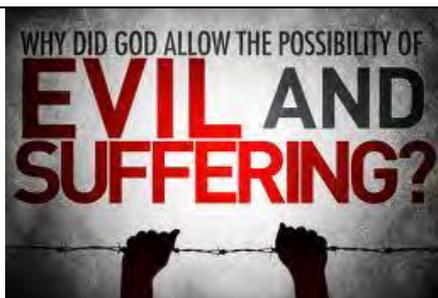
### How Catholics respond to the problem of evil and suffering.

#### Response 1

- Pray for those who suffer.
- Help those who suffer. Many Catholics become doctors, nurses so they can help those who suffer
- Charities are founded to help suffering such as SVP and CAFOD.

#### Response 2

Evil and suffering are not God's fault. God created humans in his own image; he created them with free will. So evil and suffering are caused by humans and not God.



#### Response 3

Evil and suffering are part of a plan.

Life is a preparation for paradise. People need to suffer in order to become good. Good can come out of evil.

#### Response 4

Many Catholics believe that there is no point in worrying, as humans cannot understand God's reasons for doing things. Catholics should help those who suffer.

How a Catholic upbringing may lead to, or support, belief in God

Religious Upbringing and Belief in God

If you are brought up as a Catholic you learn about God from an early age:

- Taught to pray every day.
- Attend Mass every Sunday and go to Children's liturgy.
- Attend a Catholic School.

Religious Experience and belief in God

- Numinous experience may lead to belief in God as it will make them feel God is real. If you become aware of a presence greater than you.
- Conversion an experience of God which is so great that the person experiencing wants to change their life and commit to God.
- Miracles can lead to belief in God because if a miracle has really happened, it means that God has acted on the Earth and that the people witnessing it have had direct contact with God.
- If a person praying to God feels that God is listening to the prayer, then they have a religious experience through prayer and are sure God exists.

Arguments against Miracles

- You have to believe eyewitnesses
- Science can explain many miracles now, perhaps all of them in the future.
- There may be a natural explanation.
- TV magicians do wonderful things all the time and they're just ricks. What's the difference with miracles?
- If God could feed 5000 with five loaves and two fishes why doesn't he do miracles today to feed the starving people.



## 3.2 Matters of Life and death

### Keywords

**Immortality of the Soul:** The idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body.

**Resurrection:** The belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world, when it is raised.

**Near-death experience:** When someone about to die has an out-of-body experience.

**Paranormal:** Unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes, for example, ghosts, mediums.

**Reincarnation:** The belief those, after death, souls are reborn in a new body.

**Abortion:** The removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive.

**Sanctity of Life:** The belief that life is holy and belongs to God.

**Assisted Suicide:** Providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide.

**Euthanasia:** The painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease.

**Non-voluntary euthanasia:** Ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so.

**Quality of Life:** The idea that life must have some benefits for it to be worth living.

**Voluntary Euthanasia:** Ending life painlessly when someone in great pain asks for death.

## Why Catholics believe in life after Death.

Catholics believe that this life is not all there is. They believe God will reward good and punish the bad in some form of life after death. They believe this because:

- The main Catholic belief is that Jesus rose from the dead. All four **Gospels** record that Jesus was crucified and buried in a stone tomb. The new testament is full of reference to the **resurrection** of Jesus. Clearly if Jesus rose from the dead, then there is life after death.
- St Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15 that people will have a resurrection like that of Jesus.
- The major creeds of the Church teach that Jesus rose from the dead. Catholics follow the teaching in the creeds about life after death.
- Most Catholics believe in **Immortality of the soul**.
- The Catechism is very clear there is life after death. The Catechism represents the teaching of the **Magisterium**, which all Catholics should believe.
- Many Catholics believe in life and death because it gives their lives meaning and purpose.



## How beliefs about life after death affect the lives of Catholics.

- Many Catholics believe that they will be judged by God after death and that only if they live a good Catholic life will they be allowed into Heaven. Catholics will follow the teachings of the Bible and the Church so that they go to heaven and not **purgatory** or **hell** when they die.
- Living a good catholic life means following scripture, tradition and the teaching authority of the church. The two greatest commandments are to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself.
- In the Parable of the Sheep and Goats Jesus said that only those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, befriended strangers, visited the sick, and those in prison would be allowed into heaven.
- Catholics believe that sin prevents people from going to heaven. The Catholic Church teaches that those who die with unforgiven sins will go to purgatory to be purified before they can reach heaven.



**Non-religious reasons for believing in life after death.** Non-religious reasons for believing in life after death are connected to evidence of the paranormal.



### **Near-Death Experiences**

This is when people are clinically dead for a period of time and then come back to life. Frequently quoted near-death experiences are: feelings of peace and joy, feelings of floating above the body, seeing a bright light, entering another world, meeting dead relatives, coming to a point of no return.

### **The Catholic Response**

The Catholic rejects the evidence of mediums, ghosts, and so on as superstitions: 'All forms of divination are to be rejected..... Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading and the phenomena of clairvoyance and recourse to mediums all contradict the honour, respect and loving fear that we owe to God alone' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1013)

### **Why some people do not believe in life after Death.**

- Science has evidence that the human mind developed as the brain grew more complex, and so the mind cannot exist without the brain (for example people who are brain dead on life support machines)
- There is nowhere for life after death to exist. Space exploration has shown there is no heaven above the sky.
- How could we recognise souls without their bodies?
- Some people have been brought up to not believe in life after death because their parents are not religious.

### **Evidence of the Spirit World**

Ghosts and Ouija boards appear to give evidence of the spirits or souls of the dead surviving death, but the clearest evidence seems to come from mediums.

A medium is a person who claims to have the gift of communicating between the material world in which we live and the spirit world inhabited by those who have died. They are sometimes called psychics, clairvoyants or spirit guides.

### **The evidence of reincarnation**

Hindus, Sikh and Buddhists believe that life after death involves souls being reborn into another body (**reincarnation**).



### **Why some people do not believe in life after Death.**

Not all people believe in life after death. Many people who do not believe in God believe this life is all there is, and just like animals and plants, humans cease to exist when they die.

- If there is no God then there is no heaven to go to after death.
- Different religions have different ideas about life after death. If it were true they would all say the same about life after death.
- The evidence of life after death is based on holy books. There is no way for a non-believer to decide which holy book to believe or the paranormal which has been criticised by scientists.

## The Nature of Abortion.

### United Kingdom law on abortion.

The 1967 Act states that an abortion can be carried out if two doctors agree that.

- The mother's life is at risk.
- There is a risk of injury to the mother's physical or mental health.
- There is a risk that another child would put at risk the mental or physical health of existing children.
- There is a substantial risk that the baby might be born seriously handicapped.

The 1990 Act states that abortions cannot take place after 24 weeks of pregnancy, unless the mother's life is gravely at risk or the foetus is likely to be born with severe mental or physical abnormalities, because advances in medical techniques mean such foetuses have a chance of survival.

## Why is Abortion a controversial issue?

- Many religions, and anti-abortion groups (many of which are religious), believe that life begins at the moment of conception when the male sperm and the female ovum combine. Therefore abortion is wrong because it is taking a human life.
- Many people believe that a baby cannot be considered as a separate life until it is capable of living outside the mother. Therefore abortions before a certain length of pregnancy are not taking life.
- Many non-religious people think that a woman should have the right to do what she wants with her own body in the same way that men do.
- Many religious people believe that the unborn child's rights are equivalent to those of the mother and both the father and the child have claims on the mother's body.
- There are also arguments about whether medical staff should have to carry out abortions.



## Different Christian attitudes to abortion

Christians have two differing attitudes to abortion.

### The Catholic attitude

The Catholic Church teaches that all direct abortion is wrong whatever the circumstances and so can never be permitted. This teaching is based on scripture, **Apostolic Tradition** and the **Magisterium**. The Church teaches that life begins at conception.

- Life is holy and belongs to God; therefore only God has the right to end a pregnancy.
- Life begins at conception when an ovum is fertilised and, as there is no break from conception to birth, abortion is therefore taking life.
- The Ten Commandments that it is wrong to take life. (Thou shalt not kill)
- A foetus is a human being and abortion destroys its right to life, so it follows that abortion is wrong.
- The Church points to evidence that women who have abortions can suffer from traumas leading to guilt complexes and sometimes mental illness.
- They also believe that adoption is always a better solution to unwanted pregnancy than abortion as it preserves life and brings joy to a new family.

Catholics accept that there are difficult issues surrounding abortion, for example if doctors discover that a pregnant mother has cancer and chemotherapy would kill the foetus. In this situation Catholic moral philosophers' use the doctrine of double effect- the first effect is to save the mother's life, the second (double) effect is to end the life of the foetus. As the death of the foetus is secondary, and so not intended, an abortion has not occurred.

**Evangelical Protestant** Christians have exactly the same attitude to abortion as Catholics.

### The Liberal Protestant attitude

Other Christians believe abortion is wrong, but it must be permitted in certain circumstances such as if the mother has been raped, if the mother's life is at risk or if the foetus is so handicapped that it would have no quality of life. Some of these Christians would also allow abortion for social reasons such as poverty and the effects on the rest of the family.

- Jesus told Christians to love their neighbour as themselves, and abortion may be the most loving thing to do.
- The **sanctity of life** can be broken in such things as **just war**, so why not in just abortion.
- Christians should accept technological advances in medicine, therefore if doctors have developed amniocentesis tests to detect disease and suffering in a foetus, parents should be allowed abortions on the basis of such tests.
- Christianity is concerned with **justice** and if abortions were banned, and unjust situations would arise. Rich women would pay for abortions in another country, but the poor would use **back-street abortionists**.





## The nature of euthanasia

Euthanasia provides a gentle and easy death to end suffering. This can be done by **assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia, and non-voluntary euthanasia.**

British law says that all these methods of euthanasia can lead to a charge of murder.

## Why Euthanasia is a controversial issue

Many people want euthanasia to remain illegal because:

- There is likely to be doubt whether it is what the person really wants. If there is money involved, some may request euthanasia for a rich relative to gain from their will.
- A cure might be found for the disease, or the patient may go into remission.
- Doctors would also face a problem if they started to kill patients. It is the role of doctors to save lives, not end them. **(Hippocratic Oath).**
- People might change their mind about wanting euthanasia then it would be too late.
- What safeguards could there be that they are only killing people who really wanted and needed euthanasia.



## Many people want euthanasia to be made legal because they argue that:

- Advances in medicine have led to people being kept alive who would previously have died, but they judge their quality of life as poor.
- The development of life-support machines have already brought in a form of euthanasia as doctors and relatives can agree to switch off such machines if there is no chance of the patient regaining consciousness because they are said to be brain-stem dead.
- Just as doctors can now switch off life-support machines, so judges have said that doctors can stop treatment.
- Many people feel that it is a basic human right to have control about ending life.

## Christian attitudes to Euthanasia.

### Catholic Attitude

Catholics believe that assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia and non-voluntary euthanasia are all wrong. However they accept that modern medicine has introduced new issues. They believe the switching off of life-support machines is not euthanasia if brain death has been established by medical experts.

- They believe in the sanctity of life. Life is created by God and so is sacred to God. Euthanasia is to put oneself on a par with God, which is condemned in the Bible.
- They regard any form of Euthanasia as murder. (Ten Commandments)
- They believe it is up to medical experts to determine when death has occurred. If a doctor says someone is **brain-dead**, then they have already died.
- They believe painkillers may be given to a dying person in great pain. This may shorten the person's life but the painkillers are given to remove the pain.
- Not giving extraordinary treatment is permitted by the Catechism.

*(Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of 'over-zealous' treatment.)*



## Most non-Catholics have very similar attitudes to Euthanasia.

- Some Christians believe any form of euthanasia is wrong and they do not allow the switching off of life-support machines, the refusal of extraordinary treatment, or the giving of large doses of painkillers.
- They take the Bible teachings literally and the Bible bans suicide.
- They believe only God should end life.
- They see Euthanasia as murder and murder is banned by God in the Ten Commandments.
- They believe in the Sanctity of Life. Life is sacred to God.

**A few Christians accept a limited use of euthanasia. They agree with living wills in which people state what sort of treatment they wish to receive and how they want to die if they have a terminal illness.**

- Modern medical science means that we can no longer be sure what God's wishes about someone's death actually are.
- The teaching of Jesus on loving your neighbour.
- Living wills give people a chance to be in control, which is a basic human right.



## The Media and matters of life and death.

**Arguments that the media should not be free to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.**

- Some people argue that criticising what religions say about issues like abortion and genetic engineering is a way of stirring up religious hatred, which is banned by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act of 2007. The Catholic Church told Catholics to withdraw support from Amnesty International because Amnesty International decided in 2007 to back abortion as a human right for women who had been raped. When the media reported this they portrayed the Catholic position in a bad light.
- Many religious believers argue that there should be some restrictions on the freedom of the media because criticism of religious attitudes can cause serious offence to the believers.
- Some religious believers argue that criticising what religious leaders such as the Pope or Archbishop of Canterbury say about matters of life and death is close to the crime of blasphemy.
- Some religious believers might feel that because their attitude is based on what God says, it should not be criticised because God is beyond human criticism.

## 2012 Information For Voters

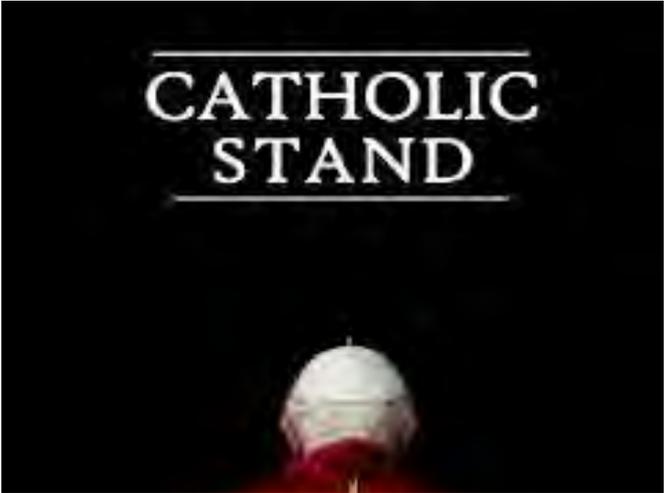
### QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

#### Prescribing Medication to End Life

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 1, 2012?

**Arguments that the media should be free to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.**

- All societies with democratic forms of government claim to believe in freedom of expression.
- Many religious leaders use the media to criticise governments on matters of life and death. Therefore they must be prepared to have their views criticised.
- In a multi-faith society such as the UK there must be freedom of religious belief and expression.
- Life and death issues are of such importance to everyone that people want to know what the right thing to do about them is. A free media gives religious people a chance to put forward their ideas whilst at the same time allowing non-religious people the chance to put forward their ideas.
- Sir Karl Popper a 20<sup>th</sup> century philosopher argued that freedom of expression is essential for human societies to make progress.



CATHOLIC  
STAND

How an issue from matters of life and death has been presented in one form of the media.

You have to know how one issue from matters of life and death has been presented in one form of the media.

Your issue could be connected with

- Life after death
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- World Poverty

You can choose the media but it should only be one of the following:



- A Soap Opera
- A Film
- A Television Drama
- A Television documentary
- A Radio Programme
- A Newspaper article in two different types of newspaper, for example The Times and the Sun.



You must choose both the issue and the type of media carefully.

- Why the issue is important.
- How it was presented
- Whether the presentation was fair to religious beliefs.
- Whether the presentation was fair to religious people.

## The Causes of World Poverty.

It is common for countries to be classified as:

- **MEDC** - more economically developed countries or First World, for example USA, UK
- **EDC** Economically developing countries or Second World, for example Mexico.
- **LEDC** Less economically developed countries or Third World for example Bangladesh.

## Natural Disasters

Many LEDCS are situated in areas of the world where natural disasters (earthquakes, droughts, floods etc) are more frequent and more severe than anywhere else. These disasters destroy homes and in the case of drought if there is no rainfall crops will not grow.



## Debt

Most LEDCs have to borrow money from the banks of developed countries to survive and begin to develop. These banks charge interest so a less developed country can end up paying more in interest than it earns in foreign currency.

Unpaid interest is added to the original debt, since 190 the amount of money poor countries have had to pay in interest to rich countries has risen from £7.4 billion to £10.3 billion.

## Wars

Many LEDCs have been badly affected by wars. In Africa many civil wars have been caused by European empire- building in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Different ethnic groups of people were artificially put together in one country. When these countries achieved independence, they were still artificial countries and civil war often happened as various ethnic groups fought for control.

Wars in LEDCs can also occur between countries for example Ethiopia and Somalia.

Wars destroy homes, crops, schools, hospitals which cause more poverty.



## **Unfair Trade**

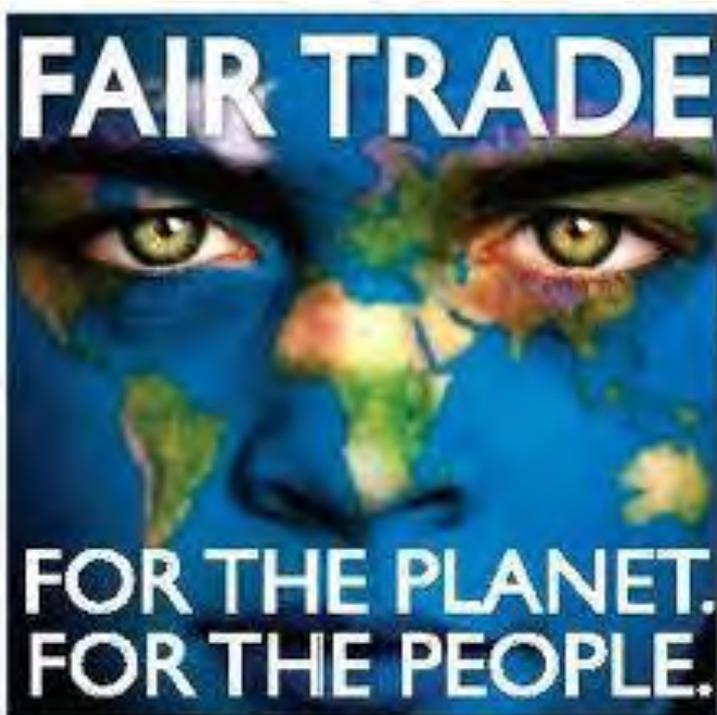
World trade is dominated by the rich countries of the world.

Most people in poor countries work in agriculture and one way for them to become richer would be to grow surplus crops and export to earn money.

The rich countries put high import taxes on crops from poor countries so their products are more expensive.

Many LEDCs grow cash crops such as cotton, coffee, tea and tobacco which they can sell to the developed world.

Many people in LEDCs are starving because land is used to grow cash crops instead of food.



## **HIV/AIDS**

This disease is common in LEDCs. The loss of so many earners and the presence of so many children who will not be able to have an education is causing many African countries to become poorer.

## **Other Factors**

Lack of education means that young people in LEDCs do not have the skills needed to work in industries that might improve the country.

Lack of clean fresh water leads to disease which means children die at a young age.

Relying on the export such as copper or oil can lead to poverty because if the value of the product goes down in the world market. The country will be making a loss instead of a profit

**How and why CAFOD is trying to remove poverty.**

### **Development Programmes**

CAFOD promotes long-term development so that LEDCs can become self-supporting and have the opportunities to become MEDCs.

### **Disasters and Emergencies**

CAFOD has a disaster fund to deal with natural disasters and refugees, which often have to take priority over long-term aid. CAFOD's emergency aid has included: sending food, antibiotics and shelters to victims of the tsunami and sending blankets and food to war refugees.

**How and why CAFOD is trying to remove poverty.**

### **Raising Awareness**

About 5% of CAFOD's budget is spent on educating people and churches of England and Wales about the need for development and the ways in which Catholics can help less developed countries.

### **Speaking out on behalf of poor communities to bring social justice.**

CAFOD was heavily involved in the Make Poverty History campaign of 2005 the biggest ever global mobilisation to end poverty. CAFOD is also campaigning to cancel debt owed by some of the world's poorest countries.

**Why CAFOD is trying to end world poverty.**

- The New Testament states that riches must be used to help others, especially the poor.
- Jesus told the **Parable of the Sheep** and the **Goats**. Catholics want to help Jesus and so they help the poor and suffering.
- The parable also teaches that the way to heaven is helping less fortunate than you, and Catholics want to get to heaven.
- In the **Sermon on the Mount** Jesus taught that Christians should share their time and possessions to help those in need.
- The Catholic Church teaches that Christians have a duty to help the poor and suffering.
- **The Golden Rule** for Christians is to treat people in the way you would like to be treated.



## Exam Questions

### **b) Questions (4 marks) give two reasons for your point of view**

Do you think Catholics are right to believe in life after death?

Do you agree with abortion?

Do you think switching off a life-support machine is euthanasia?

Do you think the media should be free to criticise religion?

### **c) Questions (8 marks)**

Explain why Catholic agencies work to end world poverty.

Choose an issue from matters of life and death presented in one form of the media and explain whether the presentation was fair to religious people.

Explain two different Christian attitudes to euthanasia.

Explain why some people believe that the paranormal proves there is life after death.

### **d) Questions i) (3 marks) ii) (3 marks)**

'Abortion is always wrong'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'Your Soul will never die'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'A loving God would not let us suffer'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

## 3.3 Marriage and the Family

### Keywords

**Civil Partnership:** A legal ceremony giving a homosexual couple the same legal rights as husband and wife.

**Cohabitation:** living together without being married.

**Contraception:** Intentionally preventing pregnancy from occurring.

**Homosexuality:** Sexual attraction to the same sex.

**Nuclear family:** mother, father and children living as a unit.

**RE-constituted family:** Where two sets of children (stepbrothers and stepsisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other.

**Re-marriage:** marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage.

**Adultery:** a sexual act between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner.

**Pre-marital sex:** sex before marriage.

**Procreation:** making new life.

**Promiscuity:** having sex with a number of partners without commitment.

**Faithfulness:** staying with your marriage partner and only having sex with them.

## Changing attitudes to marriage, divorce, family life and homosexuality in the UK

### How attitudes have changed

- Most people now have sex before marriage.
- It is now socially acceptable for couple to live together (cohabit).
- The average age for marriage has increased.
- Divorce is accepted as a normal part of life, and no one is looked down on for being divorced.
- The extended family is becoming more popular as more mothers are in paid employment.
- Single-parent families have increased considerably as more couples divorce.
- There are more families where the children are being brought up by cohabiting parents.
- RE-constituted families are increasing rapidly as more people divorce and re-marry.
- Homosexual sex in private between two consenting adults was made legal in 1967.
- The Civil Partnership Act 2004 created a new legal relationship of civil partnership.

## Reasons for the changes

### Cohabitation and marriage

- The increased availability of effective contraception.
- Christianity lost its influence as fewer people went to church and so were not encouraged to refrain from sex until they married.
- There was increased media publicity of celebrities, which make cohabitation respectable and therefore more popular.
- The presentation on TV and films of sexual relationships outside marriage as the norm led more people regarding sex outside marriage as acceptable.

### Divorce

- In 1969, new laws made divorce much cheaper and easier to obtain for ordinary people.
- Increased equality for women means that women are no longer prepared to accept unequal treatment from men.
- Married women were often dependent on their husbands for financial support. Women are now financially independent.
- A hundred years ago, many men could expect to have more than one wife because so many women died in childbirth.



## Christian attitudes to sex outside marriage

Christianity teaches that sex should only take place between a man and woman married to each other.

- Christianity teaches that sex was given to humans by God for the joy, pleasure and bond of a married couple for the **procreation** of children.
- The Bible says that fornication (a word used in religion for both **pre-marital** sex and **promiscuity**) is sinful.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that pre-marital sex is wrong.
- All Christians are against **adultery** because it breaks the wedding vows.
- Adultery is condemned in the Bible in the Ten Commandments.
- Jesus Condemned adultery in the Gospels.

Some Christians accept that couples may live together before marriage, but they would expect them to marry when starting a family.

## The purpose of marriage in Catholic Christianity

The Catholic Church teaches that God created man and woman for each other in the **sacrament** of marriage. The purposes of Catholic marriage are:

- So that a couple can have a life-long relationship of love and **faithfulness**.
- So that a couple can have the support and comfort of each other.
- For the **procreation** of children.
- For the bringing up of a Christian family.



## Family Life

- The increase in the number of cohabitating couples means that there are now many more families where the parents are not married.
- The increase in divorce has led to an increase in re-marriage.
- The extended family is becoming more popular as more mothers are now working. Grandparents now look after the children.

## Homosexuality

- The changes in the law on homosexuality have made it easier to be openly homosexual.
- Medical research has shown that homosexuality is most probably genetic.
- The increased openness of gay celebrities.
- The work of organisations such as Stonewall changed many people's attitudes.

## How the purposes of marriage are shown in the wedding ceremony.

- The exchange of vows.
- The exchange of rings symbolising the unending nature of marriage.
- Marriage is a special sacrament.
- Readings from the Bible and a sermon or **homily** given by the priest on the nature of Christian marriage.

**The couple having the support and comfort of each other is shown in:**

- A preparation course which the couple must take before the wedding ceremony.
- The priest asking the couple if they will honour and love one another as husband and wife for the rest of their lives.
- The marriage vows and exchange of rings.
- The readings and the homily are also likely to refer to the need for support and comfort.
- The prayers and the nuptial Mass give the couple *God's* grace and strength to support and comfort each other.



**The procreation of children is shown in:**

- The priest asking the couple if they will accept children from *God* lovingly and bring them up according to the law of *Christ* and his *Church*.
- The readings, homily and prayers all refer to the acceptance of children as an essential feature of Catholic marriage.

**The bringing up of a Christian family is shown in:**

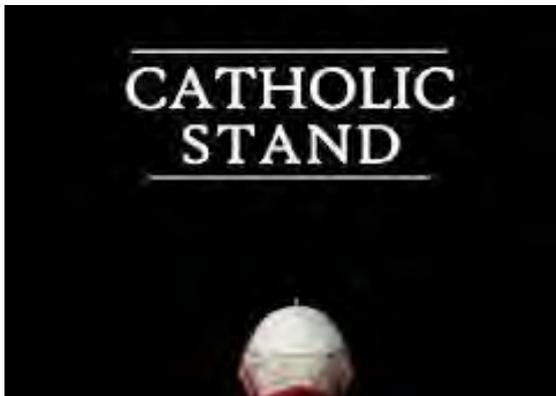
- The preparation course, which will involve discussion about how the couple should bring up their children with reference to baptism, First Confession, Communion and Confirmation and the Catholic schools connected with the parish.
- The priest asking the couple if they will accept children from *God* lovingly and bring them up according to the law of *Christ* and his *Church*.

## Christian attitudes to divorce.

### The Catholic attitude

The Catholic Church does not allow religious divorce or re-marriage. Catholic marriage is a sacrament and the exchange of vows means that the only way a marriage between baptised Catholics can be dissolved is by the death of one of the partners or if the marriage is annulled.

- Jesus taught that divorce is wrong in Mark's Gospel.
- The couple have made a **covenant** with God in the sacrament of marriage.
- The Catechism teaches that a marriage cannot be dissolved.
- As there can be no religious divorce, there can be no re-marriage because that would be same as **bigamy and adultery**, both of which are very serious sins.
- The Catholic Church does allow **annulment** if it can be proved that the marriage was never consummated.



### The attitude of non-catholic Christians.

Non Catholic Churches allow divorce because:

- Jesus allowed divorce in Matthew 19:9 for a partner's adultery.
- They believe that there are certain situations where Christians must choose 'the lesser of two evils'.
- Christians are allowed **forgiveness** and a new chance if they confess their sins and are truly repentant.
- It is the teachings of these Churches that it is better to divorce than live in hatred and quarrel all the time.



## Why family life is important for Catholics.

- One of the main purposes of Catholic Marriage is to have children and bring them up in a secure and loving Catholic Environment.
- Catholicism teaches that the family was created by God as the basic unit of society.
- Catholic teaching on divorce makes it clear that Catholic parents should stay tighter.
- The family is the place where children learn the difference between right and wrong.
- The family is the place where children are introduced to the faith through baptism and through being taken to church for mass, **First communion etc.**
- Having a family is an expected outcome of Catholic marriage.
- Christian children are expected to care for their parents. Which is based on the forth commandment.



## How Catholic Parishes help with the upbringing of children.

- Most parishes have a local catholic primary and secondary school connected to them. This education teaches children right from wrong and helps parents to fulfil their marriage and baptism promises to bring their children up as Catholics.
- Parishes run classes to prepare children for First Confession, Communion and Confirmation. Making them full members of the Catholic Church.
- Some parishes run children's liturgies to help young children understand the church and the Mass.
- Some parishes also run youth clubs and youth activities so that children are kept off the streets and away from bad influences.

## How Catholic Parishes help to keep families together.

- During mass the priest may remind parents of the vows they made in their marriage ceremony and other reasons not to divorce.
- The parish priest is always available to help and support couples having family problems.
- Celebrating Family; Blessed, Broken, Living Love is the national programme of support for marriage and family life within the Catholic community.
- The Church has provided a package 'Everybody's Welcome'. Helping your parish to become friendlier for families of all kinds.
- The Church has produced a series of leaflets - 'What is life like?'-to help parishes understand and meet the needs of families facing specific challenges: divorce and re-marriage, bereavement, disability, mental ill-health, living without a shared faith in God, belonging to two Christian communities, and dealing with gay or lesbian family members.
- Many parishes also provide financial support if for example the wage earner is ill or made redundant.

## Christian attitudes to homosexuality

### The Catholic attitude

The Catholic attitude to homosexuality is that being homosexual is not a sin but the homosexual sexual relationships are a sin. The Catholic Church asks homosexuals to be **celibate** (live without sexual activity).

- The Bible condemns homosexual sexual activity.
- It is the tradition of the Catholic Church that sexual activity should be creative as well as unitive, and it is not possible for homosexuals to have procreative sex.
- It is the teaching of the Magisterium found in the Catechism, which Catholics should believe.
- The Church teaches that people cannot help their sexual orientation. Therefore discriminating against people because of their sexual orientation is wrong.
- The Bible teaches that everyone has human dignity because they are made in the image of God.
- The Church does not refer to 'heterosexual' or 'homosexual' alone but speaks about homosexual persons whose identity is as a child of God.

### The Evangelical Protestant attitude.

Many Evangelical Protestants believe that homosexuality is a sin. They believe there should be no homosexual Christians and hold special prayer meetings to give homosexuals the power of the spirit to change their sexual preference.

- They believe that the Bible is the direct word of God and as the Bible condemns homosexuality in some passages of the Old and New Testament, it must be wrong.
- They believe that the salvation of Christ can remove all sins, including homosexuality.
- They believe it because all the Churches have it, even if they now say homosexuality is acceptable.

### The Liberal Protestant attitude.

Many Liberal Protestants have the attitude that lifelong homosexual relationships are acceptable and homosexuals are welcomed into the Church, but homosexual relationships cannot be equal to Christian marriage.

- They believe that the teachings of the Bible need re-interpreting in the light of modern knowledge and the anti-homosexual texts in the Bible are a reflection of the Jewish culture at the time rather than the word of God.
- They feel that the major Christian belief in love and acceptance means homosexuals must be accepted.
- They believe the inspiration comes from the Holy Spirit as well as the Bible and if Christians feel the Spirit approves of their homosexuality, it cannot be denied.
- They believe that Christians should be open and honest refusing rights to Gay Christians encourages them to be dishonest and hypocritical about their nature and life.

## Different methods of contraception

Throughout History people have tried to control the number of children they have had for the following reasons.

- for the health of the mother
- To provide more food for the family.
- To provide a better standard of living for the family



## Natural methods of contraception

The most common form of natural contraception is known as natural family planning (NFP). It involves reducing the chance of becoming pregnant by planning sex around the most infertile times during the mother's monthly cycle.

Another method uses a device to measure hormone levels in the urine. If used effectively these methods can be 94% effective.

Natural methods require a couple to be in a loving, stable relationship as they require planning. As they are natural they do not involve any drugs or any risk of promoting an early abortion. Natural methods do not prevent sexually transmitted diseases, but these will not affect a couple who only have sex with each other as required in a Catholic marriage.

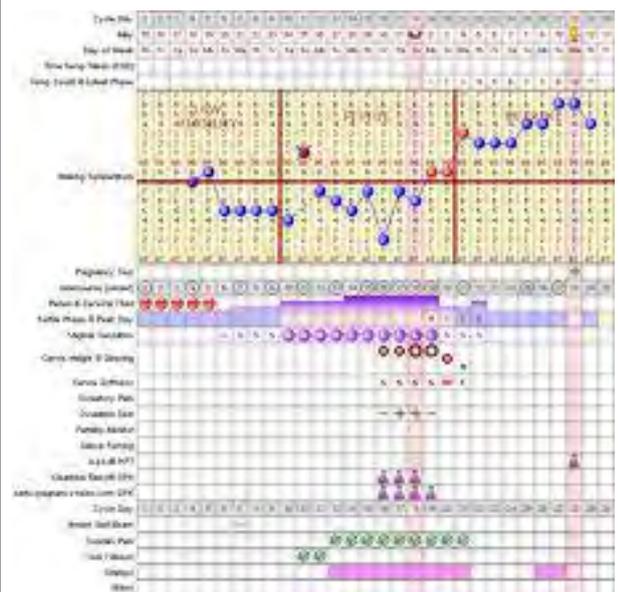
## Artificial methods of contraception

There are several types of artificial contraception. Barrier methods such as condoms prevent the sperm from reaching the egg.

Hormonal drugs (the pill) stop a woman from producing eggs.

The coil (IUD) and the morning after pill, which prevent a fertilised egg from attaching itself to the womb wall (these methods are sometimes called abortifacients)

Artificial methods can be used without any planning, and in the form of sexual relationship, however casual. Condoms are also effective in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases



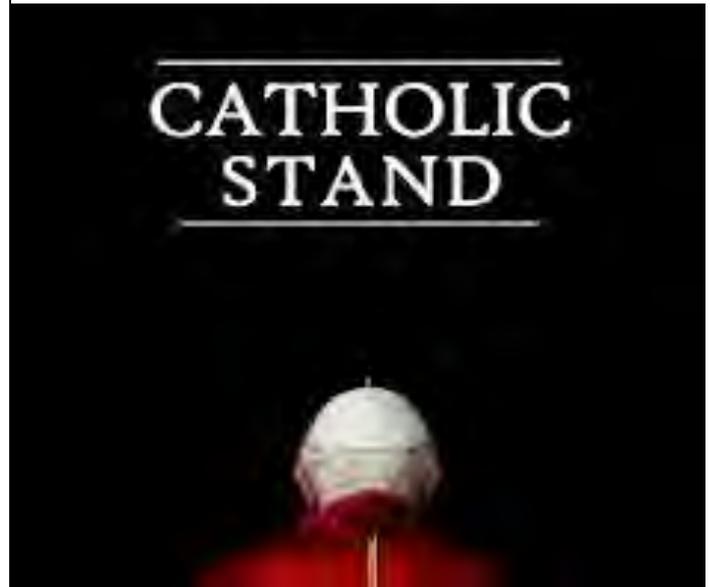
## Different Christian attitudes to Contraception.

### The Catholic attitude.

The Catholic Church has always taught responsible parenthood. The Church teaches that sexual intercourse is a gift from God as a source of joy and pleasure to married couples (the unitive purpose) as well as a means of creating a family (the creative purpose).

The Catholic Church teaches that using artificial methods of contraception is going against God's intention and therefore they only recommend Natural Family Planning as the only way in which to control the number of children a couple has.

- In *Casti Connubii* published in 1930 Pope Pius XI condemned all forms of artificial contraception.
- In 1951 Pope Pius XII declared that Catholics could use natural methods of contraception.
- In 1968 Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humane Vitae* affirmed that teachings of the previous popes.
- Artificial methods of contraception separate the unitive and creative aspects of sex, which is not what God intended.
- The Catholic Church regards contraception as a major cause of sexual promiscuity, broken families, the rise of divorce rates and sexually transmitted diseases.



### The attitude of non-Catholic Christians

Almost all non-Catholic Christians believe that all forms of contraception are permissible as long as they are used to restrict the size of the family and not simply to stop having children altogether.

- Christianity is about love and justice and contraception improves women's health and raises the standard of living as families are smaller.
- God created sex for enjoyment and to cement the bonds of marriage.
- There is nothing in the Bible that forbids the use of contraception.
- In 1930 the Lambeth Conference of the worldwide Anglican Communion (Church of England) declared it was legitimate for Christians to use contraception to limit family size. This has been followed by the major Protestant Churches and the Orthodox Churches.
- They believe it is better to combat HIV/AIDS by using condoms.

How an issue from marriage and the family has been presented in one form of the media.

You have to be able to explain how **one** issue from marriage and the family has been presented in one form of the media.

Your issue can be connected with:

- Sex outside marriage
- Adultery
- Divorce
- Re-marriage
- Family life
- Homosexuality
- Contraception.

You can choose the media but it should be one of the following:

- A soap opera
- A film
- A television drama
- A television documentary
- A radio programme
- A newspaper article in two different types of newspaper, i.e. the Times and The Sun



You must write about both the issue and the type of media carefully to be able to answer questions on:

- Why the issue is important?
- How it was presented.
- Whether the presentation was fair to religious beliefs.
- Whether the presentation was fair to religious people.

It is important that you select only one issue. Some films have several issues running through them. If you choose more than one issue, your answer is like to be confused.

Decide why the issue is important consider the views of different members of the particular religion and of the impact of the issue on society as a whole. Write why you think the producers of the media decided to focus on this issue.

Write an outline of how the issue was presented, listing the main events and the way the events explored the issue.

Consider the way religious beliefs were treated in the presentation of the issue. Use this information to consider whether you think the presentation was fair to religious beliefs.

Consider the way religious people are treated in the presentation of the issue. Use this information to consider whether you think the presentation was fair to religious people.

# Exam Questions

## **b) Questions (4 marks) give two reasons for your point of view**

Do you think it is wrong for Christians to use artificial methods of contraception?

Do you think homosexuals should be allowed to marry?

Do you think Christians should be allowed to have sex before marriage?

Do you think the Catholic children should go to a Catholic school?

## **c) Questions (8 marks)**

Explain the main differences between natural and artificial methods of contraception.

Choose an issue from marriage and the family presented in one form of the media and explain whether the presentation was fair to religious people.

Explain why family life is important in Catholic Christianity.

Explain how parishes support parents in the Catholic upbringing of their children.

## **d) Questions i) (3 marks) ii) (3 marks)**

'A religious wedding ceremony helps to make a marriage work'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'Christians should never use contraceptives'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'You can't be a good Catholic if you don't go to a Catholic school'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

## 3.4 Religion and Community Cohesion

### Keywords

**Sexism:** discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)

**Discrimination:** treating people less favourably because of their ethnicity/gender/colour/sexuality/age/class.

**Ethnic minority:** a member of an ethnic group (race) which is much smaller than the majority group.

**Multi-ethnic society:** many different races and cultures living together in one society.

**Prejudice:** believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them.

**Racism:** the belief that some races are superior to others.

**Community Cohesion:** a common vision and shared sense of belonging for all groups in society.

**Multi-faith society:** many different religions living together in one society.

**Racial harmony:** different races/colours living together happily.

**Religious freedom:** the right to practise your religion and change your religion.

**Religious pluralism:** accepting all religions as having an equal right to co-exist.

**Interfaith marriage:** marriage where the husband and wife are from different religions.

## How and why attitude to the roles of men and women have changed in the UK.

In the past women did not have the same rights as men. When women married, their husbands had the right to use their property. During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became the accepted view that married women should stay at home and look after the children (in 1850 about 50% of married women had been in employment, but by 1900 this was down to 15%).

## Attitude to the roles of men and women have changed in the UK.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, women began to campaign for equal rights to men. In 1882 the Married Women's Property Act allowed married women to keep their property separate from their husbands. In 1892 the Local Government Act gave women the right to stand as councillors. Women over the age of 30 were allowed to stand in parliamentary elections. It was not until 1928 that the Equal Franchise Act gave women the same equal votes as men.

Employment for women did not arrive until the Equal Pay Act of 1970. This required employers to give women the same pay as men. In 1975 the Sex Discrimination Act made it illegal to discriminate in employment on grounds of gender.

## Why attitudes have changed.

- During the First and Second World Wars, women had to take on many of the jobs previously done by men and proved they could do them just as well.
- The development of equal rights for women in other countries made it difficult to claim it was not needed.
- The success of women as councillors and their contribution to developments in health and social care showed that women were the equals of men in these areas.
- The work of the suffragette movement to gain equal voting and political rights for women showed men in authority that women were no longer prepared to be treated as second class citizens.
- Social and industrial developments in the 1950s and 1960s led to the need for more women workers and for married women to provide a second income.
- The UN declaration of Human Rights and the development of the feminist movement put the case forward for equal rights for women which could not be ignored.
- The Labour government of 1964-70 and 1974-79 were dedicated to the equal rights for women. They passed the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act.



The gender pay gap (the difference between men's and women's median hourly pay)

1986	26%
2002	19%
2007	12.6%
2012	9.6%



## Different Christian attitudes to equal rights for women in religion.



### Catholic Attitude

The Catholic Church teaches that men and women should have equal roles in life and equal rights in society. In the ministry women are able to study and teach in theological colleges. Women can also be extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (people who give out the bread and wine which has been consecrated by a priest), visit the sick, take funerals in certain circumstances. It is estimated that over 80% of religious teachers and pastoral visitors in the USA Catholic Church are women. Over half of the lectors and extraordinary ministers in the British Catholic Church are women.

However, the Catholic Church teaches that only men can be ordained priests. This is because of the special function of the priest representing Jesus at the Mass.

- In *Genesis 1:27* it teaches that God created men and women at the same time and both in the image of God. So the Church teaches that men and women have equal status in the eyes of God.
- The teaching of the *Catholic Catechism* states that men and women should have equal rights in life and society.
- The 1971 report, '*Justice of the World*', in which the third world Synod of Bishops called for women to participate in and share responsibility for, life of society and of the Church.
- The *Catechism* teaches that only men can be priests because the apostles were all men, and priests and bishops are successors of the apostles.
- The *Catechism* teaches that only men can be priests because Jesus was a man and the priest represents Jesus in the Mass.



## The Traditional attitude of Protestant Christianity.

Many Evangelical Protestants teach that men and women have separate and different roles and so cannot have equal rights in religion. They see that the role of women is to bring up children and run a Christian home.

Women should not speak in Church and must submit to their husbands. It is the role of the men to provide for the family and lead the family in religion.

Men must love their wives as themselves, but only men can be church leaders and teachers.

- In the New Testament St Paul teaches that women should not teach or speak in Church.
- St Paul also uses the story of Adam and Eve in *Genesis* to show that men have been given more rights by God because Adam was created first and it was Eve who was led astray by Satan and then led Adam astray.
- Although Jesus had women followers, he chose only men as his Twelve Apostles.
- It has been the tradition of the Church from the beginning that only men should have leadership rights in the Church.

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## The Nature of the UK as a Multi-Ethnic Society.

The UK has always been a mixed society - Celts, Romans, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes, Vikings and Normans are all ancestors of Britain.

The UK has always believed in human freedom and offered asylum to those suffering persecution. For example French Protestants in the 17th Century, to Russian Jews in the 19th Century, to European Jews escaping Hitler in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the UK built up an empire around the world. In exchange for being ruled by British Citizens. Slaves who set foot on British Soil immediately became free. As a result, small black communities grew up in Bristol, Liverpool and Cardiff.

The Empire became known as the Commonwealth as nations gained their Independence from the UK. In the 1950s there was a substantial immigration from the Commonwealth. People came from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, West Africa and the Caribbean to lessen a labour shortage in the UK. Many of these workers had fought for the UK in the Second World War (there were more people in the British armed forces from the Commonwealth than from the UK itself).

Although only 7.9% of the total UK population is **ethnic minority**, there are big differences in different areas. For example, 29% of London's population is of ethnic minority origin, as opposed to less than 2% of the population of South West England.

### Discrimination and racism

- Prejudiced police officers could potentially discriminate against certain ethnic or religious groups by: stopping and searching them if they have no real reason for doing so.

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## The effects of discrimination and racism.

- If certain groups feel that they are being treated unfairly by society, then they will begin to feel alienated by society and so work against that society.
- Some politicians believe that young black people turn to crime because they feel they will not be able to get a good job.
- Some politicians believe that some young people have been turning to extremist Islamic groups because they feel they have no chance of success in a prejudiced British society that discriminates against their religion.
- Racism and discrimination can lead to the rise of groups like the BNP (British National Party) which stir up hatred of different ethnic groups leading to violence and communal warfare.

## The benefits of living in a multi-ethnic society.

There is likely to be less chance of war because people of different ethnic groups and nationalities will get to know and like each other and some will intermarry.

- More progress will be made in a multi-ethnic society because new people will bring new ideas and new ways of doing things. Societies that are cut off and do not mix with other cultures tend to be less progressive e.g. Amazonian Indians.
- Life is much more interesting with a much greater variety of food, music, art, fashion and entertainment.
- A multi-ethnic society helps people to see that different ethnic groups are all part of the human race and we have more in common than we have differences.



## Government action to promote community cohesion in the UK.

The government believes that a multi-ethnic society needs to promote **community cohesion** in order to overcome the problems of prejudice, discrimination and racism.

- Financially supporting groups that are working for community cohesion.
- Making Community Cohesion part of the national education curriculum. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a duty on all maintained schools in England to promote community cohesion and on Ofsted to report on the contributions made in this area.
- Funding research into the best ways of achieving community cohesion.
- Appointing cabinet ministers, judges, barristers, police officers from ethnic minorities.
- Passing Race Relations Act, which makes it unlawful to discriminate against anyone because of race, colour, and nationality, ethnic or national origin, use threatening or abusive or insulting words in public that could stir up racial hatred.
- Passing the Crime and Disorder Act, which allows higher maximum penalties where there is evidence of racial or religious motivation or hostility.
- Passing the Racial and Religious Hatred Act, which makes it an offence to use threatening words or behaviour intended to incite groups of people defined by their religious beliefs or lack of belief.
- The Equal and Human Rights Commission, which works for Equality and Human Rights for all.
- Ensuring that the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrat Party oppose racism in any form particularly by encouraging members of ethnic minorities to become MPs.



## Why community cohesion is important.

- Without community cohesion, different groups in society have different visions of what society should be like and this can lead to violence and civil unrest.
- A lack of community cohesion in Oldham, Burnley and Bradford led to racially/religiously motivated street rioting in 2001. The rioting was caused by different communities living 'parallel lives', ignorance about other communities being exploited by extremists and weak local leadership and policing. Single-faith schools were also criticised for raising the possibility of deeper divisions.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 bombers on the London Underground were British citizens who had lost their sense of allegiance to Britain and were prepared to kill, maim and injure fellow citizens.
- In countries without community cohesion (such as Iraq, Kosovo and Kashmir) violence becomes a way of life.
- Lack of community cohesion leads to different communities leading separate lives.

## Why Catholics should help to promote racial harmony

The Catholic Church has members from every country in the world. Almost 30% of the world's population is Catholic and over 70% of Catholics are non-white, non-European.

- In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus taught that Christians should love their neighbours and that neighbours means people of all races. Jews and Samaritans were different races who hated each other. This showed that Christians have to treat people of every race as their neighbour.
- Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry his cross, was black African.
- Jesus treated a Samaritan woman as his equal (John 4) and healed a Roman centurion's servant (Luke 7).
- St Peter was given a vision by God (Acts 10) in which God sent down a sheet filled with all sorts of animals and told Peter to eat from them, Peter refused because according to Jewish Law they were unclean.

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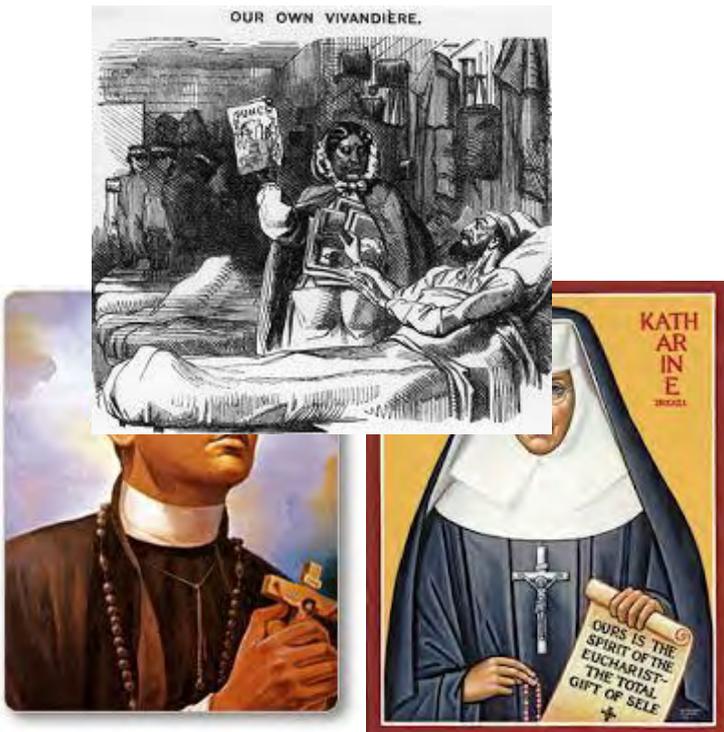
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## The Work of the Catholic Church to help Asylum Seekers and Immigrant Workers.

### How the Catholic Church in England and Wales helps asylum seekers and immigrant workers.

- The Office for Refugee Policy (ORP) monitors information and prepares briefs on immigration to enable the Bishops to develop policy and respond to debates. This helps ordinary Catholics to become engaged in refugee work.
- In April 2008, the Catholic Bishops' Conference launched 'Mission of the Church to Migrants in England and Wales'. This put forward ways in which local parishes can welcome immigrant worshippers.
- Making leaflets on local healthcare, admission policies of local Catholic Schools which are available in appropriate languages.
- Providing English classes.
- Organising collections of essential equipment to give to migrants to help them set up home.
- Some parishes have set up legal advice clinics where lawyers with appropriate language skills can help migrants cope with the legal issue of settling in the UK.
- Some parishes provide Masses in languages other than English so immigrant workers can maintain their faith and worship until they learn English.
- Westminster Cathedral has an annual Migrants Mass.
- Parishes are encouraged to elevate the status of immigrant workers and help British Society to see that immigrants are not a drain on Britain's resources.



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## The UK as a multi-faith society.

Many societies were mono-faith. Great Britain has been a multi-faith society since the **Reformation**. Queen Elizabeth I made the Church of England the state religion there were other churches: **Protestants (Nonconformists)**, Roman Catholics and from 1657, Jews. Britain had to have laws encouraging **religious freedom**.

- 1688 Nonconformists were given freedom to worship.
- 1828 Nonconformists were given the same political rights as members of the Church of England.
- 1829 Roman Catholics were given the same political rights as members of the Church of England.
- 1858 Jews were given the same political rights as members of the Church of England.

Members of any religion were free to worship in the Great Britain and had equal political rights so that it became a **religiously pluralist** society.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Great Britain became a real multi-faith society as members of religions other than Christianity and Judaism came to Britain as immigrants (although immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa were mainly Christian).



### Statistics (Census 2011)

- Christianity 33.2 million 59%
- No religion 14 million 25%
- Muslims 2.7 million 4.8%
- No answer 7.2%

The North East and North West have the highest population of Christians. Wales has the highest population of no religion.

Some religions are more prevalent in certain areas.

The London borough of Tower Hamlets has the highest % of Muslims.

The London borough of Barnet has the highest % of Jews.

The London borough of Westminster has the highest % of Buddhists.

Leicester has the highest % of Hindus.

Slough has the highest % of Sikhs.

In Birmingham 14% are Muslim, 2.9% are Sikh, 2% are Hindu, 0.3% are Buddhist, 0.24% are Jewish.

**Central Gurdwara Manchester**  
[www.centralgurdwara.org](http://www.centralgurdwara.org)  
 32 Derby Street, Manchester, M5 8RY. Tel: 0161 852 2241

**ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦਰਬਾਰ - ਗੁਰਪੁਰਬ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਾਮ ਦਾਸ ਜੀ**  
 ਕਈ ਸਾਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ (ਦਿੱਲੀ ਵਾਲੇ) ਅਤੇ ਕਈ ਵਰਤੋਂ (ਸਿੱਖ (ਨਾਗਪੁਰ ਵਾਲੇ))

Kirtan Darbar on occasion of Gurburab Guru RamDas Ji  
 Bhai Nanak Singh Preet - Delhi Wale  
 Bhai Bhagwant Singh - Nagpur Wale

**ਸ਼੍ਰੀਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ**  
 ੯:੩੦ - ੯:੩੦

Saturday 9th Oct. - 7.30 - 9.30pm

ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ, ਸਿੱਖਾਂ, ਅਤੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਮੇਂ  
 at Central Gurdwara Manchester



**multi-faith society.**

...t other religions from friends and neighbours and this can  
...ions have in common.

...gions may practise their religion more seriously (for  
...ying 5 times a day) and this may make people think about  
...eir own religion.

...nderstand why different religions believe what they do and  
...consider their own religion and why they believe what they

...e a lot more understanding about each other's religions and  
...is entitled to their own opinion about religion.

...nd understanding will exist in a multi-faith society and this  
...igious conflicts, such as that between Protestant and  
...Northern Ireland or between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in

...may even make some people think more about religion as  
...gious ideas they have never thought about before.



**Exam Tip**

c) 'Explain' means give reasons. To answer this question you should use the census facts and the facts from different local councils and explain how these show

## Differences among Christians in their attitudes to other religions.

All Christians believe in religious freedom. That is they believe everyone has the right to follow, or not follow, any religion they wish. However, there are different Christian attitudes to other religions.

Catholics and many other Christians believe that Non-Christian religions are searching for God and have some truth, but only Christianity has the whole truth (**inclusivism**). They believe that other religions should be respected, and that their followers may get to heaven. They believe Christians have a duty to try to put across the Gospel message (evangelise) to people of other religions because they have the full truth.

- It is the teaching of the Church in the **Catechism** and **papal encyclicals**.
- They believe Jesus is the Son of God who shows the true nature of God.
- The Bible teaches that Christianity reveals the full truth about God. Only Christians are assured of salvation, depending on future conduct, but other religions such as Judaism can contact God and may have the possibility of eternal life.



## Liberal Protestants

Some Liberal Protestant Christians believe that all religions are equal and there are just different ways of finding God. (**Pluralism**). They feel that Christians should respect other religions and work with them to make Britain a more spiritual and holy country.

- They do not believe the Bible is the word of God.
- They see Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Sikhs and Buddhists living good and holy lives in Britain today.
- They believe God is a force, like gravity, which can be discovered by people in different ways.
- They feel that the words of Jesus such as 'in my Father's house are many rooms' (John 14:2), mean that there is room in heaven for a variety of religions.

## Evangelical Protestants

Some Evangelical Protestant Christians feel that, although other religions must be respected and give the freedom to practise their religion, everyone has the right to convert others. They believe Christianity is the only true religion and so must try to convert everyone to Christianity (**exclusivism**).

- They believe that sayings of Jesus such as '**I am the way and the truth and the life**'. **No one comes to the Father except through me**' (John 14:6) means that only Christians will go to heaven.
- Jesus said 'love thy neighbour', therefore they believe that their neighbour should go to heaven and the only way this can happen is for them to be converted.
- The final word of Jesus to his followers was 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19), meaning that everyone must be converted to Christianity.





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### Issues raised for religion by a multi-faith society.

For a multi-faith society to work, people need to have the same rights regardless of the religion they do or do not belong to. A multi-faith society cannot accept any one religion as being the true one because it would mean that, ideally, that religion should be the only religion and so the society should be mono-faith.

A multi-faith society must have religious freedom. The people living in society must be free to chose or reject any or all of the religions practised in the society. If all religions have equal rights, then all people must have the right to pick and choose between religions.



### Bringing up children

A multi-faith society requires everyone (including children) to have religious freedom. When children reach an age where they can think for themselves about religion they must be able to choose which religion to follow, or to reject religion. It also requires that children should learn about the different religions in the society so that they can respect other religions and respect people's right to be religious or not as they wish. However this can



### Interfaith marriages

In a multi-faith society, young people of different faiths are going to meet, fall in love and want to marry (**interfaith marriages**). This can raise many problems for religious parents and religious leaders.

- Often there can be no religious wedding ceremony because both couples must be members of the same religion for a religious ceremony to be allowed.
- There is a question of which religion the children of the marriage will be brought up in. Some religions insist on a child being brought up in their religion, but how can a couple decide on this?
- There is also the problem of what will happen after death? Will the couple have to be buried in separate parts of the cemetery according to their religion?
- For the parents and relatives of the couple there is often the feeling that they have betrayed their roots and family by falling in love with someone from a different religion.

Unless these issues are dealt with, then religion itself can work against community

believers.

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## Ways in which religions work to promote community cohesion in the UK

The different religions in the UK are beginning to work to promote community cohesion.

Different religions are beginning to work with each other to try to discover what is the same in their religions (for example, Judaism, Islam, Christianity believe in the prophets **Abraham** and **Moses**), and from this work out ways of living together without trying to convert each other.

In September 2006 Pope Benedict XVI addressed a meeting with envoys from the Muslim world at the Pope's residence near Rome. 'I would like today to stress my total and profound respect for all Muslims', the Pope said in the speech, adding that 'Christians and Muslims alike must reject all forms of violence and respect religious liberty'.



Some religious groups are developing ways of helping interfaith marriages.

- Many Protestant Churches and Liberal/Reform Jewish synagogues have developed special wedding services for mixed faith couples.
- The Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England have published guidelines for the celebration of interfaith marriages in church.
- Some religious leaders who have married partners of another religion have set up the website [www.interfaithmarriage.org.uk](http://www.interfaithmarriage.org.uk) to offer help and advice to couples from different religions.

As far as issues with the upbringing of children are concerned religions are responding in different ways.

- Some Protestant Christian Churches and Liberal/Reform Jewish synagogues encourage mixed faith parents to bring up their children in both faiths, leaving it up to the children to follow when they are adults.
- Leaders from the Church of England, Hindu, Sikh, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist faiths have signed a joint statement to follow the principles for good religious education, contained in the non-statutory National Framework on Religious Education so that children in faith schools will now teach the main religions practised in the UK. They say religious education '*enables pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faith and beliefs are different from their own, and promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.*'

The main ways in which religions are trying to promote community cohesion is through joining together in special groups to explore ways of helping community cohesion.

- There are national groups such as the Inter-Faith Network for the UK founded in 1987 to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country.
- There are also groups in most towns and cities that bring together the different religious groups. (Building Bridges)
- There are individual places of worship that work together for example celebrating festivals together such as Diwali, Easter.



### **St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art.**

The St Mungo Museum is the only museum in the UK that is dedicated to promoting community cohesion through religion. It is in the grounds of Glasgow Cathedral.

**How an issue from religion and community cohesion has been presented in one form of the media.**

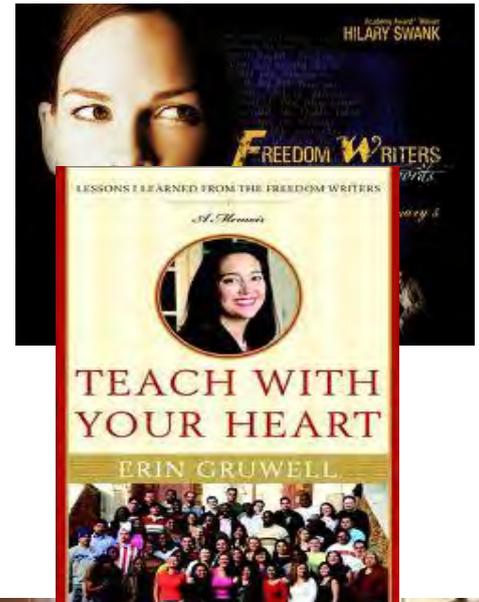
You have to be able to explain how **one** issue from marriage and the family has been presented in one form of the media.

Your issue can be connected with:

- Equal rights for women in religion.
- Problems of discrimination and racism.
- Equal rights for ethnic minorities.
- Equal rights for religious minorities.
- Religion and racial harmony.
- Living in a multi-faith society.
- Religions working for community cohesion.

You can choose the media but it should be one of the following:

- A soap opera
- A film
- A television drama
- A television documentary
- A radio programme
- A newspaper article in two different types of newspaper, i.e. the Times and The Sun



You must choose both the issue and the type of media carefully to be able to answer questions on:

- Why the issue is important?
- How it was presented.
- Whether the presentation was fair to religious beliefs.
- Whether the presentation was fair to religious people.

It is important that you select only one issue. Some films have several issues running through them. If you choose more than one issue, your answer is like to be confused.

Decide why the issue is important consider (you may need to look at the views of different members of the particular religion and of the impact of the issue on society as a whole) and why you think the producers of the media decided to focus on this issue.

Write an outline of how the issue was presented, listing the main events and the way the events explored the issue.

Look closely at the way religious beliefs are treated in the presentation of the issue. Use this information to decide whether you think the presentation was fair to religious beliefs.

Look closely at the way religious people are treated in the presentation of the issue. Use this information to consider whether you think the presentation was fair to religious people.

## Exam Questions

### **b) Questions (4 marks) give two reasons for your point of view**

Do people from a different religion have the right to convert you?

Do you think it is important for the Catholic Church to help immigrant workers?

Do you think the Government should spend money promoting community cohesion?

Do you think men should share housework with women?

### **c) Questions (8 marks)**

Explain why Catholics should help to promote racial harmony.

Choose an issue from religion and community cohesion presented in one form of the media and explain whether the presentation was fair to religious people.

Explain why interfaith marriages may cause problems.

Explain why discrimination and racism cause problems in a multi-ethnic society.

### **d) Questions i) (3 marks) ii) (3 marks)**

'Women should have the same rights as men in religion'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'It is easy for different religions to work together in the United Kingdom'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

'Catholics should do more to help asylum seekers and immigrant workers'.

i) Do you agree?

ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you?

## Arguments for Miracles.

- If you pray for your friend who is dying of cancer and they get better you will believe it is a miracle and it will help you believe in God.
- Miracles could be signs from God to help us believe in God.
- Belief in miracles can help people get through hard times.
- God uses miracles as signs and bad things that happen do so because humans refuse to follow God's commandments.



- You have to believe eyewitnesses
- Science can explain miracles now, perhaps all of them in the future.
  - There may be a natural explanation.
  - TV magicians do wonderful things all the time and they are just tricks. What's the difference with miracles?
  - If God could feed 5000 with five loaves and two fishes why doesn't he do miracles today to feed the starving people.







