

P&AE Revision Notes

B601: Philosophy

Belief about a Deity

“If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him” Voltaire

“A God who let us prove his existence would be an idol” Bonhoeffer, Dietrich

“God is dead ... and we have killed him” Nietzsche

“I am that I am” Exodus 3

Anthropomorphic – Seeing God in human form or as having human characteristics

Monotheism – Only believing in one God

God is:

- Personal
- Impersonal – You cannot fully understand him
- Immanent – Present, here, within space and time
- Transcendent – Beyond space and time
- Omnipotent – All powerful
- Omniscient – All knowing
- Omnibenevolent – All loving
- Omnipresent – Everywhere

General Reasons for believing in God

- Personal Experience
- Brings Hope
- Everything must have come from something
- Gives a reason to be good
- Upbringing

Theological Arguments

St Thomas Aquinas: Cosmological Argument

- Argued that something cannot come from nothing
- That every effect has a cause but they cannot go back to infinity
- There must be some uncaused effect
- That is God

William Paley: Teleological Argument

- Something as complex as the universe must have designer
- Much like a pocket watch it is so complex and with an obvious purpose it cannot simply be a natural phenomena
- Counter-argument: Evolution

St. Anselm of Canterbury: Ontological Argument

- Is a logic and linguistic argument
- God should be described as “that which nothing greater than can be conceived”
- God must exist otherwise we could not produce this description
- As anything that does exist would be better than an imaginary idea
- Counter-argument: Assumes God exists and could be applied to anything if you claimed it was perfect e.g. a unicorn

Kant's moral argument

“If there is no God, then there is no point in behaving morally”

- All people have an basic understanding of good and bad this knowledge must come from God
- Counter-argument: We can behave morally even if we do not believe in God

Arguments against the existence of God

Nietzsche

“God is dead and we have killed him”

- We have used to science to understand many of the things we needed religion for previously
- We have outgrown our need for a God

Bertrand Russell and Richard Dawkins

- They made up silly ideas that you cannot disprove such as the giant invisible spaghetti monster and the celestial teapot
- These show that just because you cannot disprove something does not make it true
- This suggests a belief in God is unfounded and irrational

The Holy Trinity

Father

- The transcendent creator

Son

- God in the form of Jesus
- Immanent
- Personal
- Came to Earth and lived as human

Holy Spirit

- God at work in the world

- Immanent
- Impersonal

Miracles

- Moses parting red sea
- Jesus
- Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes and the healing powers of its spring
 - 5 million pilgrims a year
- Visions of the Virgin Mary in Knock, Ireland and healing powers
 - ½ million pilgrims a year

Religious and Spiritual Experiences

Worship

Private Worship

- Many Christians have a “quiet time” every day
 - They might pray or read the bible
- This allows them to develop a more personal relationship with God

Public Worship

Liturgical Worship

- Follows a written pattern set down in a prayer book
- The basic structure of the service remains the same from week to week
- The service can be familiar and comfortable
- Provides a link with the past and Christians worldwide
- Catholic church services tend to be liturgical

Non-liturgical Worship

- Does not follow a set order or liturgy
- The services may have a general structure but varies from week to week
- The worship is likely to be Bible-centred and have an emphasis on modern rather than traditional hymns

Charismatic Worship

- People open themselves up to the Holy Spirit
- It is very free and joyous
- Often includes clapping, raising hands, speaking in tongues and informal leading of prayers

Quaker Meeting

- Religious society of friends
- Sit in a room in silence for an hour
- Someone may speak briefly
- Has no set liturgy/no service/no leader – only need two or three to worship

Music

Gregorian Chant

- Evokes a calming atmosphere through its use of soft undefined sounds
- The beauty, purity and simplicity reflect God

Traditional Hymns

- Lyrics reflect Christian beliefs

Soul Survivor Festival

- A music festival to reflect unity
- It uses contemporary modern music to appeal to younger audiences

P.O.D

- A Christian rock band
- They use heavy rock metal with lyrics that reflect their Christian beliefs

Quakers

- Choose not to use music as they find it distracting
- They choose to focus on silence instead

Art

- To inform the audience of a particular event or belief
- To glorify God and his actions
- To aid worship
- To express ones feelings about faith, God and religion etc.

For

- Universal
- Easy to get message across
- Can convey complex ideas and emotions
- Catholicism

Against

- Distraction
- Misinterpreted
- Quakers

Prayer – ACTS

- Adoration – Worship God for who he is and what he has done
- Confession – People saying sorry for things they have done and asking for forgiveness
- Thanksgiving – People thanking God for what he has done
- Supplication – People asking God for their own needs and those of others

- RC church – using rosary is the most common form of prayer
- St Dominic in C13

- Strings of beads and crucifix
- There are five sets of large beads and ten smaller ones
 - Each set of ten is called a decade
- The worshipper bless themselves with the crucifix and then say the Apostles Creed, the “Our Father” and ten “Hail Marys” and one “Glory Be” for each decade of their rosary.

Food

- There are no specific food laws in Christianity
- Hot Cross Buns
- Easter Eggs
- Pancakes

The Eucharist – As known as Communion

- It is a sacrament (a way of becoming closer to God; of showing devotion and respect)
- It unites Christians with God
- It is a way of remembering Jesus and the last supper

Transubstantiation – Christ has a real ‘presence’ in the bread and wine. The bread and while, while continuing to look like bread and wine, are truly Christ’s blood and body

Consubstantiation – Church of England and some other protestant Christians believe that the Eucharist is simply remembering what Jesus did for them. As a result, the act of consuming the bread and wine brings them spiritually closer to God

Fasting

- Lent remembers 40 days and nights of Jesus in the desert

Reasons for fasting

- To get healthier
- To develop and shows self-discipline
- Can show commitment
- Helps you to not take things for granted

Church

- **Spires/Tower** = pointing worship at God
- **Shape of cross** = crucifix
- **Church faces east** = Jerusalem
- **Font** = Basin of ‘Holy Water’ – Cleansing of sins – Positioned at the entrance to symbolise entering the Christian faith
- **Graveyard** = Symbolises an acknowledgement of life after death
- **Aisle** = Points to the east leading you to Jerusalem
- **Lectern** = Traditionally shaped like an eagle and are gold – the bible is read from it – Symbolises freedom and power of the bible
- **Altar** = focus of worship – Eucharist is served from here – symbolises the last supper
- **Pulpit** = Raised platform to preach from

Types of Churches

Cba

Symbols

Cba

Life after Death

The Soul

"God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" Genesis 2:7

Plato's Dualism

See in book

Aristotle's Materialism

Cba see in book

Heaven

Literal, Physical

- Heaven is a physical place where you physically reside with God (similar to Aristotle's soft materialism)

Spiritual, Non-physical

- Heaven is a spiritual eternity we cannot fully understand (similar to Plato's dualism)

Subjective

- Heaven is "paradise" and different for everyone
 - Not very common

Hell

Literal, Physical

- Hell is a physical place of pain and suffering

Spiritual, Non-physical

- Heaven is a spiritual 'eternity without God'

Annihilation

- A loving God wouldn't send people to eternal punishment
- If you don't go to heaven you simply cease to exist

Purgatory

- Some Catholics believe in Purgatory as a place in between heaven and hell where your soul is cleansed
- Catholics pray for souls of dead relatives to get them into heaven
- In the past this has led to corruption

B602: Philosophy

Good and Evil

“No one is good except God alone” Mark 10:18

Natural Evil – Evil caused by natural occurrences

Moral Evil – Evil caused by humans

Philosophical Problem of Evil

If God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnibenevolent and omnipresent, why is there evil and suffering

Theodicy of Job

- Suffering is a test
 - God is omniscient so he already knows
 - This test seems to harsh
 - God should love you regardless of your faith
- Suffering is a punishment for sin
 - What about new-borns who have not sinned
- Suffering is a part of God’s plan
 - Cheating weak argument which does not actually explain anything

Fall and Original Sin

- Adam and Eve ate apple and got chucked out of Garden of Eden
- Reason for evil in the world

Free Will Theodicy – St. Augustine

- God gave us free will
- Without free will we would be robots
 - God gives us free will because he loves us
- With free will comes the possibility of making bad choices
- Adam and Eve chose to disobey God
- Evil exists as a result
- This argument seems too harsh and is not an argument you can put to someone suffering. It also does not explain natural evil

Irenaean Theodicy

- Suggests that suffering allows us to develop character traits
- Sometimes cost of suffering seems excessive and extreme

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- The question should be where is God in suffering
- The answer is he is with you

The Devil

- A symbolic figure who does not exist but represents suffering and evil in the world
- A fallen angel who has angelic followers called Demons. They fight against God and try to destroy humanity
 - Described in the Apocrypha
- **“Then Satan entered Judas”** Luke 22:3
- **“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”** Luke 10:18

Coping with Suffering

- Church community can help people by acting support
- Faith gives a sense of trust that, whatever happens, God is in charge (Job)
- Belief in afterlife gives a sense that suffering is temporary
- Prayer: ACTS – Asking God for help to get suffering off your chest

Moral Authority

- The Bible : 10 commandments, good Samaritans
 - Some Christians interpret literally
 - Others use it as a guide
- Tradition and authority of the church
 - E.g. Pope: Catholics
- Conscience – God given instinct about morality
 - Informed by upbringing
- WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)
 - The example of Jesus and his nature
 - Golden Rule “do to others what you would have them do to you” Matthew 2:12a

“Without God everything is permitted” Dostoyevsky

Without God all morality is subjective / decided by the society we live in

Religion and Science

“I believe in one God ... Maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible” Nicene Creed

Origins of world

Genesis 1

- God created heaven and earth from nothing (amtion exnihilo)
- God created light, dividing the Earth into day and night
- God created the heaven and waters, separated by sky and atmosphere
- God created land
- Plants grew on the land that could reproduce
- Sun, moon and stars were created to divide the days, seasons and years
- Sea and flying creatures were creature and multiplied
- Land animals were created
- Men and women created in the image of God

Genesis 2

- God forms heaven and Earth
- God forms men
- God puts man in garden
- God creates animals to be man's servants
- God creates woman from man

Nicolaus Copernicus

- Created heliocentric model
- Excommunicated by the church

Charles Darwin

- Afraid to release findings
- When he did he was ridiculed
- Stayed Christian despite evolution

Responses to Genesis

Literalists

- Literalists believe that God created the Earth in 6 days
- They believe that humans were created exactly as they are now
- They did not agree with evolution
- They claim that fossil records were created by God to test their faith
- James Ussher used the bible literally to work out the age of the Earth as 6,000 years old

Liberal/symbolic

- The view that Genesis does not show how God created the Earth but that he did not and why he did

"It gives us the big answer that things exist because of Gods will" John Pokinghorne

Environment

"I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds and all the wild animals" Genesis 1:28

Dominion

- Some Christians believe that environment and animals are there for us to do with what we want

"God has made everything for our purpose" St. Thomas Aquinas

- Animal testing is justified for human benefit
 - However, some may say that this does not extend to unnecessary testing or cruelty
- Eating meat is fine
 - However, some may say that this does not extend to battery farming

Stewardship

- Some Christians believe that we should protect and care for the environment and animals

“The traditional Christian approach to the environment needs to be rethought” Scott I. Paradise

- Christians may be involved in conservation groups
- Some Christians might be against eating meat
 - However, some might still eat meat as long as it is ethically produced

Peter Singer (non-christian) Utilitarian

Animals experience pleasure and pain and have a preference to live rather than die killing animals to satisfy our desire for a particular “taste” is speciesist

Anthropocentric Environmental Ethics

- Human centred environmental ethics
- Considers the benefits of human gain
- Considers natural beauty and spiritual significance
- Considers endangered species for medical advancement or because we like them
- Fits with the dominion argument

Geo-bio centric Environmental Ethics

- Looks at the habitats and animals
- Considers endangered species in their own right
- Fits with stewardship

“God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to look after it and maintain it” Genesis 2:15

Religion, Reason and Revelation

Revelation - For something to be known that was previously unknown

Special Revelation – When God reveals himself directly to a person or group in a dream or miracle

General Revelation – How people generally come to know about God

Responses to Revelation

Parable of the sower

A farmer sows his seeds on the ground. Some seeds land on the path and do not take up root. Some seeds land on the shallow or rocky ground and take up root but die from lack of moisture. Some seeds land on the thorny ground and take up root but are choked by the thorns. Some seeds land on the good soil and flourish.

- Seed represents the word of God
- The seeds that fell on the path are those that experienced revelation but never had faith
- The seeds that fell on shallow ground are those that had faith but did not grow it as it was not deeply rooted
- The seeds that fell on the thorny ground are those who had faith but it failed at testing
- The seeds that fell on the good ground are true believers

Experiencing God

Conversion – When revelation causes someone to change

Mysticism – When you feel the presence of God

Miracles – When you experience an act of God

Worship – When you feel a spiritual connection with God through worship

Scripture as Revelation

Bible

- 66 books and 40 authors written over hundreds of years
- Different Genres:
 - History
 - Dreams/Visions
 - Legal Texts
 - Poetry
 - Letters
 - Biographical Accounts
- Sometimes difficult to tell how to read different texts
 - Genesis
- Some people read the Bible literally because it is the word of God
- Some people read the Bible more liberally because of advances in science and the fact that society has changed since the times recorded in the Bible

Mystical Experience

The conversion of Saul: Acts 9

- Saul was persecuting Christians as he did not accept God's revelation through Jesus
- He travelled to Damascus and on the way experienced a special revelation
- He saw a "light flash from the Heaven and heard a voice say 'Saul why do you persecute me'"
- Saul went blind and he prayed
- Ananias was sent by God to heal Saul
- Saul was healed and converted to Christianity where he became known as St. Paul
- He then contributed massively to the spread of Christianity

St. Teresa of Avila

- While severely ill with malaria she had divine visions and an inner sense of peace
- She claimed that through prayer one could form a union with God and that there were different levels to revelation with God revealing more at each stage

Toronto Blessing

- People experienced the holy spirit which led to "**people literally being knocked off their feet by the spirit of God**" Pastor John Arnott
- Effects included falling to the ground, shaking, weeping and laughter
- Possibly a result of mass hysteria and hypnotism

Jesus

“For God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16

“Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the waves and it was completely calm” Matthew 8:26

“Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” Mark 2:10

B603: Ethics

Religion and Human Relationships

Sex

- Songs of Solomon
 - This is a book in the Bible that describes the physical relationship between a man and woman
 - It seems to be celebrating sex
- St. Paul was the first to present celibacy as an “ideal”
- But this was an ideal reserved for the elite
 - It was advised that most should avoid long periods of abstinence

“Flee from sexual immorality ... your bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit” 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Roman Catholic

- Roman Catholic church reaffirmed stand point
- “Declaration on certain questions concerning sexual ethics” The Vatican
 - Sex is morally permissible if it occurs within the marriage and is not deliberately removing the possibility of reproduction
- Contraception, Anal Sex, Masturbation and oral sex are all wrong

Protestants

- Protestants believe that sex for pleasure is justifiable, if its within marriage because it helps us strengthen the relationship and is a physical expression of spiritual love

Contraception

- Roman Catholics will not use any form of contraception that interferes with the natural process of conception
- Some other Christians believe that life begins at conception so contraception is fine as sperm is not alive

Marriage

“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female’. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh” Mark 10:6-7

- Christians consider marriage important as:
 - it allows loving and sexual relationships

- It is a gift from God
- Allows couple to have children
- Can help and support each other
- It is believed to be a sacrament (a ritual that brings people closer to God believed by RC and orthodox Christians)
- It requires a priest, rings and two witnesses

Symbolism

- Rings – Circular symbolising eternal love
- White Dress – Purity (no sex before marriage)
- Father giving away bride – new family starting Mark 10:6-7
- Flowers – Life
- Confetti – Showering of blessings
- Candle – light

Divorce

- Approximately 45% of marriages in the UK end in divorce

Legal reasons for divorce

- Adultery
- Irreconcilable differences
- Lived apart for a couple of years

Roman Catholic

- The church will always give struggling couples help
- If this fails they permit them to live apart
- But they cannot permit another relationship as that is adultery
- In some cases the Catholic Church can annul marriage if it was:
 - Underage, forced into it or not consummated

“What God has joined together, let no man separate. Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her” Mark 10:10-11

Church of England Beliefs

- They accept things do not always work out and that divorce may have to be a last resort
- A marriage ends when love dies (AGAPE)

Homosexuality and Gay marriage

2013: Same Sex Marriage Bill

- Same Sex couples could now be married in religious ceremonies where the religion has consented
- Couples who had previously entered into partnerships will be able to convert their relationship into a marriage

Wolfenden Report (1967)

- Made homosexuality legal for consenting adults who have reached the age of consent

- In 2005 homosexual couples were given the option to have a civil ceremony (not marriage)

Bible

“You shall not lie with another man as with another women; that is an abomination” Leviticus 18:22

- **God destroyed Sodom because of his displeasure with the homosexuality being practiced in the city** Genesis 19:4-11
- St Paul describes people engaging in same sex activity and deems that they are **“dishonouring their bodies”** Romans 1:21-31
- The Roman Catholic Church asserts that homosexual inclination itself isn’t sinful but the practise is. Therefore, such people are called to chastity with the help of friendship, prayer and grace
- Some protestants believe that God can save you from your homosexuality if you pray and ask for forgiveness

“Homosexual persons are no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth ... Although we do not condone the practise of homosexuality and consider this practise incompatible with Christian teachings” Book of discipline (1996)

- Other Christians suggest that homosexuality is fine as long as the couple love each other (AGAPE) as God may have made you gay
- **John Boswell (1982):** Other rules from the Bible aren’t enforced so emphatically. The Bible condemns hypocrisy, lying and greed in the same way
- **Gareth Moore:** Christians are happy to follow the law in Leviticus that condemns homosexuality but reject the later passage that advocates beheading as cultural

Religion and Medical Ethics

Abortion

Abortion – The termination of a fetus

- In the UK there are approximately 200,000 abortions per year
- Most are amongst young women under the age of 25
- Most take place before 12 weeks of pregnancy

David Steel Act of 1967

- Made abortion legal as long as
 - 2 doctors agree
 - There are significant health risks
 - It is carried out on registered premises
 - It is done within an upper limit of 28 weeks after gestation

Life begins

- Roman Catholics believe that a foetus is a person from conception
- Other Christians may take on a variety of views for varying reasons
 - It becomes a person at 22 weeks as that is when it is viable
- Earlier Christian views suggest that a male foetus becomes a person at 40 days and a female at 90 days
 - They believed that the foetus received its soul at that time

Catholic Teachings

- Roman Catholics believe that an embryo/foetus is a person from conception

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you” Jeremiah 1:5

Sanctity of Life

- Many Christians believe that life is created by God and is therefore sacred or Holy
- Humans do not have the right to take it away

“God alone is Lord of life and death. Life begins at conception. Abortion at any point is murder”

David Smith

- If a girl has an unplanned pregnancy the Roman Catholic church would offer her support through the pregnancy and in being a mother through organisations like “Sure Start”
- In the case of an atopic pregnancy (were mother and child will die) they will use the principle of Double Effect
 - Lifesaving surgery is performed on the mother with the unfortunate consequence that the foetus dies

Protestant Teachings

- Protestant church agree with sanctity of life but focuses more on the concept of AGAPE

“Love your neighbour” Mark 12:31

“Do to others what you would have them do to you” Luke 6:31 Matthew 7:12

- Therefore, an abortion is sometimes justified if it is the most loving thing

IVF

Catholic Teachings

- Large numbers of embryos are wasted in the process of IVF
 - Sanctity of Life
- Creating life outside of “normal” sexual intercourse is playing God
- Use of a sperm donor could be classed as adultery

Protestant

- If a couple is willing to consider IVF they must have a very loving relationship so fertility treatment may be the most loving thing (AGAPE)
 - Compounded by success rate for IVF being as low as 20%
 - It also costs a lot

- Still have concerns over spare embryos

Euthanasia

Euthanasia – Good Death in Greek

Active Euthanasia – Actively killing someone (e.g. lethal injection)

- Illegal in UK but legal in Switzerland, Belgium and Netherlands

Passive Euthanasia – Removal of life sustaining treatment (turning off life support)

- Legal in UK

Law in Netherlands

- Two doctors must agree
- Must be significant physical or psychological suffering
- It is voluntary
- It is carried out on registered premises

Sanctity of Life

“The Lord gives and the Lord takes away” Job 1:21

- Some Christians, particularly Catholics, disagree with Euthanasia as only God has the right to take away life
- They may support the Hospice movement which allows people to be as comfortable as possible towards the end of life
- They may suggest that as Jesus suffered their suffering brings them closer to God

AGAPE

“Love your neighbour” Mark 12:31

- Some Christians focus on agape and think in some situations euthanasia is the most loving thing
- Consider the Family left behind and how to ensure it is voluntary

Suicide

- Christians believe suicide is a sin because of Sanctity of Life as only God can take away life
- Others focus more on Agape and show compassion towards and support suicidal people
 - Christian organisations such as “The Samaritans” help and support depressed and suicidal people to turn their life around

Animal Testing/Vivisection

“I am putting you in charge of the fish, birds and all the wild animals” Genesis 1:28

Dominion

- Some Christians don’t believe that animals have souls
 - Humans have the “breath of life” Genesis 2:7
- So animal testing is justify able if it benefits humans
- However, they may also suggest excessive cruelty is unnecessary

Stewardship

- Belief we have a responsibility to protect God's creation which includes animals
- Some Christians would disagree with animal testing and possibly also killing animals for food
- However, other Christians would still accept stewardship but would suggest that animal testing for medicinal purposes is necessary if carried out in a humane manner

Peter Singer (non-Christian)

- The levels of suffering need to be considered
- Animals do suffer and so this should be taken into consideration

Religion, Poverty and Wealth

"Blessed are you who are poor for yours is the kingdom of God" Luke 6:20-21 Sermon on the Mount

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" Mark 10:25

- St. Francis of Assisi came from a wealthy family but because of his Christian faith he gave all his wealth to the poor. His father was furious but St. Francis continued to give help to the poor
- Mother Teresa gave up everything to become a nun and help the poor

Charity

- Christians are not given an explicit commandment to give a certain amount to charity like in other religions (Islam) but giving is an obligation
- Cross-references the parable of the sheep and the goats as a criteria for being a sheep is giving to charity

"So when you give to the needy do not announce it with trumpets" Matthew 6:2

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money" 1 Timothy 6:10

- However, wealth can also be seen as a sign of God's blessing as in the book of Job he is blessed with being incredibly wealthy

Christian Charities

Christian Aid

- A Christian organisation that works globally to eradicate the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality
- They provide urgent, practical and effective assistance

Tearfund

- A Christian organisation that works to end poverty and rebuild poor communities
- They work through local churches

CAFOD

- The official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales
- They help people help themselves by equipping them with skills and opportunities

Moral and Immoral Occupations

- Some jobs can be considered moral such as doctors and teachers
- Some can be considered immoral such as drug-dealer or prostitute
- Some jobs are more of a grey area such as barmen or arms supplier
 - Christians might consider their job and whether what they are doing is moral
 - For example, a newsagent may decide to stock tobacco or not

B604: Ethics

Religion and the Media

Definitions

Media – “a means of mass communication, especially television, radio and newspapers collectively”

Gratuitous Violence – Unnecessary or over the top violence that may be used to gain views

Censorship – the suppression of speech or deletion of communicative material which may be considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive or inconvenient to a particular group or organisation

Freedom of speech – the belief that people should be entitled to freely express their ideas

Influence of the media

- Tool to challenge injustice
 - “Watchdog”
- Exposes Political events
 - Sunday Times investigated thalidomide
 - Journalists exposed the Watergate scandal
- Encourages people to help others
 - Comic Relief
- Advertisements
- Encourages us to be judgemental and belittling of others
 - Big Brother
 - The Weakest Link
- Addictive

Violence in the media

- Media seems to glorify violence
 - We see violence on the news every day
- Some Christians think violence should be censored as:
 - people might copy the abusive behaviour
 - it desensitises people
- Some Christians might boycott certain films if it contained gratuitous violence

Exodus 20:13 “Thou shall not kill”

Matthew 5:39 “Turn the other cheek”

Murder of Jamie Bulger

The murder of Jamie Bulger was reminiscent of the film Childsplay 3 (18). In this film the doll is covered with paint and then ran over by a train. It was this that the children were thought to have been copying as they had watched it the night before.

Sex in the media

Type of Media	Sexual Content	Sexualisation
Music/Music Videos	Nudity, dancing(twerking), sexual lyrics	Young children copy their role models by acting in a sexual way
Internet	Uncensored Pornography Profile Pictures – Sexual Posing	Pornography may distort views and expectations of sex
Mobile Phones	Sexual advertising/spam, sexting	“spam” could lead to curiosity Sexting could lead to blackmail
Computer Games	Show sexual violence	Makes player less empathetic and more accepting of violence

- Some Christians see sex as a good thing that needs to be controlled
- Most Christians believe the correct place for sex is within a marriage
 - Sex outside marriage is condemned 30 times in the New Testament

Corinthians 6:19 “Flee from sexual immorality ... your body is a temple for the holy spirit”

7th Commandment ‘Do not commit adultery’

How Christians use the media

Armish

- They do not use the media
- They believe in separation from rather than integration with society

Quakers

- Simplicity in worship
- Use media to spread their message and communicate

Evangelical Protestant (the Life church)

- TV channel
- Podcasts
- Concerts
- Music
- Website

Use of the media to promote Christianity

- Greenball (Christian music festival)
- Children’s bible

- Adverts
- Stained glass window
- Radio
- Films (passion of the Christ)

The Portrayal of Christianity in the media

- The Passion of the Christ (2004)
 - Awarded 18 certificate because of brutal whipping scene
- Monty Python: The life of Brian
- Ned Flanders in the Simpsons

Censorship

For

- Prevent radical movements
- Prevents you children from being influenced by unsuitable content
- Stops children copying bad things

Against

- Can make people naïve
- Restricts freedom
 - Fine line between protection and dictatorship
- People can make their own decisions about what they view

Freedom of speech

Law in UK

- There have always been laws against blasphemy
- In the 80's they decided only Christians were protected. This was only changed in 2008
- People are free to express their views unless it incites violence or discrimination

For

- Ensures countries do not become dictatorships
- Allows for a more open-minded community

Against

- Allows disrespect to others
- Harmful insight into hatred and violence
- Extremist views can be shared

Religion Peace and Justice

Jeremiah 50:21 "Purse, kill and completely destroy them"

Matthew 5:39 "Turn the other cheek"

Matthew 26:52 "those who live by the sword die by the sword"

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they are Gods children"

Just War Theory – Thomas Aquinas

War is justified if you have:

- **Right Authority** for starting the war
- **Right Cause** for going to war
 - E.g. self-defence, NOT revenge
- **Right Intention**

These conditions were added later by Francisco de Vitoria in the 16th Century:

- **Likelihood of Success**
- **Proportionality**
 - only uses as much force as necessary
 - Innocent civilians shouldn't be killed
- **Last Resort**

Alternatives to Just War Theory

Pacifism and Nuclear Pacifism

Pacifism – the belief that peace should be the central value that people pursue

Nuclear Pacifism – the belief that the use of nuclear weapons can never be justified

Mahatma Gandhi

- Hindu Pacifist
- Without using violence, he overcame the oppressive British regime in India
- Practiced non-violent protest and civil disobedience

Conscientious Objectors

- Quakers are conscientious objectors
 - They believe that war is never justified
 - They have a teaching called the peace testimony which clearly states they should not be involved in any conflict
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- In WW1, conscientious objectors were originally treated fine
 - When conscription started those who refused to fight or work for the war effort were severely punished
 - There was also a white feather campaign which involved women giving men that would not fight white feathers in public places to make them feel like cowards
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- In WW2, as Neville Chamberlain respected conscientious objectors they were more accepted and not punished as much

Aims of Punishment

- Protection
 - This is the protection of the public from the offender but also the offender from the public
- Retribution
- Deterrence
- Reform

“Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong and this is no favouritism” Colossians 3:25

Capital Punishment

“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind” Gandhi

In Favour Of Reintroducing The Death Penalty	Against The Death Penalty
<p>Retribution People argue that wrong-doers must suffer for their crimes. They also say that people should suffer in a way appropriate for their crime and that for murder this is death. Christians that believe in this back it up with the quote “an eye for an eye” (Exodus 21:24).</p> <p>Deterrence Capital punishment is usually backed up with the idea that executing convicted murderers will deter other people from committing murder.</p> <p>Rehabilitation Some Christians believe that when put under the pressure that you are going to die people find it easier to confess their sins and escape punishment in the next life</p> <p>Prevention of re-offending If you kill someone there is no way they can re-offend</p> <p>Closure and vindication It is often argued that the death penalty provides closure for victims' families.</p> <p>Incentive to help police If the death penalty the criminal has the largest incentive possible to give information to get a lighter punishment</p>	<p>Value of Human Life One argument is that life is too valuable to waste and that bad actions cannot complete make someone valueless, so we would gain nothing by killing them.</p> <p>Right to Live Some people believe that everybody has an undeniable right to live and that even murders cannot have this taken away from them, so it is wrong to kill them.</p> <p>Execution of the Innocent The most common argument is that innocent people will unavoidably be killed. Because where capital punishment is used such mistakes cannot be put right. Some people argue that this is wrong and that one innocent life is not worth it.</p> <p>Retribution is wrong Some people argue that retribution is flawed morally and is just a form of vengeance. They also argue that it is just murder that is treated as “an eye for an eye” situation. For example rapists are not sexually assaulted as a form of punishment.</p> <p>Failure to deter Some people argue that capital punishment is not in fact more deterring than life imprisonment. This is because there has not been any statistical evidence to prove it one way or another.</p> <p>Expense In the USA it costs them a lot to administer the death penalty. For example, the cost of convicting and executing Timothy McVeigh for the Oklahoma City Bombing was over \$13 million.</p>

Elizabeth Fry

- Quaker
- She wanted to give prisoners basic human rights
- Improved conditions for prisoners (especially women) in Newgate prison
- Privacy for prisoners
- Better conditions for those transported
- Prisoners to be taught a trade

Religion and Equality

Equality- The idea that everyone should be treated the same with the same rights

Prejudice – The is the act of prejudging someone based on little or no actual knowledge

Discrimination – Bad treatment of people based on prejudice

Declaration of Human Rights

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” Article 1

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration” Article 2

Inequality

Xenophobia – A dislike and/or fear of that which is unknown or different from oneself

Apartheid – A policy of racial separation that operated in South Africa from 1948-1994. This meant that people of certain races were not classified as citizens with the same rights and opportunities as white individuals. This included the right to access medical care, education and other public services.

Racism – The belief that each race has distinctive intrinsic attributes. The belief that one race is superior to all others. Prejudice or discrimination based upon race.

Christian Responses

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself” Matthew 22:39

“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” John 13:34

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28

- The Dutch Reformed Church supported that apartheid
- When Europeans colonised other countries they would often kill the native people or treat them as slaves
- The KKK were a Christian organisation what killed black people
- Desmond TuTu and Trevor Huddleston campaigned for equal rights for all people in South Africa

Martin Luther King Jr

- He was a Baptist Christian
- Born on the 15th January 1929 into a protestant family

- Named 'Martin King' but his father changed it to Martin Luther in honour of the German reformist
- He was a symbol for desegregation in America
- He was a leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement
- He campaigned for equal rights for all under Christian values
- He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968
- He organised the Montgomery Bus Boycott which lasted a whole year
- It consisted of black people refusing to use the busses in Montgomery
- This led to the desegregation of buses in Alabama

Sexism in Christianity

"Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman"

Christian Attitudes to other religions

Evangelical

"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14:6

Proselytising – Trying to teach and convert people to your religion

Pluralism/Inclusivism

- There are many ways to God
- Your religion is often down to your culture
- As long as you are good person, God will allow you into Heaven

Universalists

- God loves everyone, therefore everyone can get into Heaven

Forgiveness

"For us and for our salvation he came down from Heaven" The Nicene Creed (not bible)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16

Salvation

- Gap between humans and God
 - He is perfect and we are not
- Imperfect people cannot atone for their sins with imperfect sacrifices
- So God sends himself as a perfect being to die to amend our sins and bridge the gap
- So any one can get to God if they ask Jesus for forgiveness

Sin – Doing something against God

Redemption – The idea that sins can be forgiven and a person can be redeemed

Atonement – Paying the price of your sins

Repentances – Sincere regret or remorse for one's actions

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” Lord’s Prayer

“If you forgive others their sins your heavenly Father will also forgive you” Matthew 6:14

Gee Walkers son was killed and she chose to forgive his killers so as not to harbour anger and revenge.

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