

Christianity and Buddhism: answers

19 A: Sex

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these describes adultery?

[1 mark]

Answer: C A sexual relationship outside of marriage

02 Which **one** of these is **not** a method of artificial contraception?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Conception

03 Name **one** type of artificial contraception.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Condom; the pill; sterilisation

Any other barrier/hormonal method is creditworthy.

04 Give **one** reason why a couple may use contraception.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Prevent unwanted pregnancy; ensure all children born are wanted and can be cared for; control the number of children a couple has; children should be planned for; helps to strengthen a relationship before having children; avoid harming the mother's health; the well-being of the family; prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

05 Explain **two** different religious beliefs about sexual relationships outside of marriage.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Some Christians allow sex before marriage as part of a loving, committed relationship that will end in marriage.
- Many Christians are against sex before marriage because sex has been given by God for married couples to share love, to procreate, and be part of a lifelong union.
- Christianity forbids adultery because it breaks the marriage vows and goes against Biblical teaching.

Buddhism:

- There is no explicit Buddhist teaching that prohibits sexual relationships outside of marriage; marriage is not a religious duty for Buddhists.
- Some Buddhists may view sexual relationships outside of marriage, especially adultery, as 'sexual misconduct', which is prohibited by the Five Moral Precepts.
- Many Buddhists would not engage in adultery because it is very likely to lead to dukkha. For Buddhists, dukkha is to be avoided.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about family planning.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited.

Christianity:

- In Genesis 1:28, God tells humans to "*be fruitful and increase in number*". This suggests that having children is part of the role of being a good Christian.
- Children should be born within marriage.
- Children are a blessing from God and should be cared and provided for.
- God's purpose for marriage is to have children.

Buddhism:

- Some Buddhists allow the use of contraception, because it may be considered the best response to a situation; for example, if having more children would lead to greater dukkha. Therefore, contraception may help in cultivating what the Buddha taught – metta and karuna. This could be interpreted to mean that Buddhists can use family planning because it might be the most loving thing to do.
- There is no religious duty to have children in Buddhism, so contraception may be widely accepted by Buddhists.

07 'Sex should only take place between a married couple.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Pre-marital sex may end in pregnancy, which in some cases may mean having children without a stable upbringing.
- Adultery causes issues for the family and any children.
- Marriage is a commitment to be faithful so adultery should not happen.

Arguments in support of other views:

- It is legal in the UK to have sex before marriage.
- Adultery isn't illegal in the UK.

Christianity:

- Some Christians allow sex before marriage as part of a loving, committed relationship that will end in marriage.
- Many Christians are against sex before marriage because sex has been given by God for married couples to share love, to procreate, and be part of a lifelong union.
- Christianity forbids adultery since it breaks the marriage vows and goes against Biblical teaching.

Buddhism:

- There is no religious duty to get married for Buddhists. Therefore, provided those in the relationship consent to sex, many Buddhists would have no problem with sex outside of marriage.
- Some Buddhists may view sex before marriage as 'sexual misconduct', which is prohibited by the Buddha's Dharma – the Five Moral Precepts.

- The Buddha teaches that actions that are led by desire often lead to an unskilful/evil outcome. Therefore, when it takes the form of adultery, sex between an unmarried couple may not be accepted by most Buddhists because being unfaithful will lead to dukkha, since partners will be hurt.

20 A: Marriage and divorce

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means living together without being married?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Cohabitation

02 Which **one** of these is the Catholic practice of declaring a marriage void?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Annulment

03 Give **one** reason why a couple may divorce.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Adultery; illness or disability; domestic violence or abuse; people changing, growing apart, and falling out of love

04 Give **one** purpose of marriage for religious believers.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- Marriage is one of God's gifts to humans at creation.
- Marriage is a sacrament: an outward expression of an inner grace.
- Marriage is a lifelong union blessed by God, which reflects the sacrificial love of Jesus, and a covenant (agreement) before God in which the couple vow (promise) to live faithfully together until they die.
- Marriage is seen as a physical and spiritual union that is a loving relationship.
- Marriage is the right place for having sex and for having children.
- Marriage provides stability and is a foundation for family life and the wider society.
- Many Buddhists see marriage as a secular choice; it is not a religious duty. Therefore, marriage may be influenced by personal choice, family, and cultural norms.

05 Explain **two** different religious beliefs about same-sex marriage.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Most Christian denominations do not allow same-sex marriage.
- The Bible only mentions marriage between people of the opposite sex.
- One of the main purposes of marriage is to have children, and same-sex couples cannot do this naturally.

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhist-majority countries do not allow same-sex marriage.
- Some Buddhist teachers have said that same-sex couples should not get married, because same-sex couples cannot conceive naturally.
- Other Buddhist teachers have suggested that same-sex marriage is 'okay' (Dalai Lama). If the relationship is positive and based on values such as metta and karuna, many Buddhists would not object.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about cohabitation.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Most Christians believe cohabitation is a sin because it is likely that pre-marital sex will occur. This implies that cohabitation is not allowed because it involves pre-marital sex between the couple living together, which is wrong.
- Other Christians accept that although marriage is the ideal, people may live together in a faithful, loving, and committed way without being married and therefore may accept cohabitation under these conditions.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha's Dhamma does not teach that cohabitation is wrong – the quality of the relationship is more important than its label and status. Therefore, many Buddhists may believe that cohabitation is acceptable.
- If the relationship is positive and based on values such as metta and karuna, many Buddhists would not object to couples cohabiting.

07 'All marriages should last until death.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- marriage is a lifelong commitment
- most wedding vows are a lifelong promise.

Arguments in support of other views:

- unforeseen circumstances may affect the relationship
- people fall out of love
- if a marriage is dangerous or harmful, then it shouldn't have to exist
- a marriage is a legal contract that can be ended.

Christianity:

- Ending a marriage before death goes against the sanctity of marriage vows.
- The promises a couple make at marriage are sacred and in front of, and with, God.
- Marriage is a sacred union between the couple and God – not just a contract.
- In the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament that cannot be ended by divorce; only exceptional circumstances allow an annulment.

Buddhism:

- There is no specific Dhamma relating to divorce and remarriage, therefore many Buddhists suggest that if it is the best action for those concerned and legally permitted, it is acceptable.
- Many Buddhists support divorce if the relationship is causing suffering to those involved, especially if the marriage is becoming acrimonious, and there are children involved.
- If a relationship is filled with “...*jealousy, anger and hatred*, [couples] *should have the liberty to separate and live peacefully*”. (Buddhist Monk)

21 A: Families

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is the practice of having more than one wife or husband? **[1 mark]**

Answer: B Polygamy

02 Which **one** of these is a family that is formed on the remarriage of a divorced or widowed person which includes a child or children? **[1 mark]**

Answer: D Step-family

03 Give **one** role of parents. **[1 mark]**

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Love, care for, and protect children; provide children with food, clothing, and shelter; raise children in moral way – showing them right and wrong; religious families raise children according to their religion

04 Give **one** purpose of families. **[1 mark]**

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Procreate (have children); provide stability for children; protect children; educate children in a faith

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs on same-sex parents.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Now same-sex marriage is legal in England, some Christian groups may believe that same-sex parents can also provide stability, love, and happiness for their children.
- Others use arguments regarding same-sex sexual relationships to oppose same-sex parents.

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists would suggest if the children are being treated with compassion (karuna) and loving kindness (metta), then it would be acceptable for same-sex parents to raise children.

- Many Buddhists would suggest it is the value of a relationship which is important, not who is involved. Therefore, if same-sex parents can respect and care for children, that would be unproblematic. Same-sex parents may be helping to support children, thus reducing dukkha, if they provide them with a safe and loving environment.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about polygamy.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Polygamy is not permitted in Christianity.

Buddhism:

- In Buddhism, the Buddha did not explicitly teach against polygamy, therefore some Buddhists may be in polygamous relationships. There are historic instances of the practice in Buddhist-majority countries.
- Many Buddhists would not enter polygamous relationships because they may result in dukkha, by encouraging feelings of jealousy or hatred between partners. For Buddhists, dukkha is to be avoided. This could link to the Buddha's teachings about metta: polygamous relationships may not be the most loving thing to do.

07 'Nuclear families are the ideal type of family.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Two parents give stability to children.
- The traditional type of family in the UK is nuclear.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Other types of family can be more effective than a nuclear family.
- An unhappy nuclear family is not best for the couple/children.

Christianity:

- Many people believe that the ideal family types are nuclear and extended families.
- Marriages don't always work out and there may be single-parent and step-families.
- A mother and a father provide a stable foundation for children to grow up and learn about their religion.

Buddhism:

- For many Buddhists, the values the relationship is founded upon are important, not who is involved or the type of relationship. Family types that ensure everybody is treated with love, compassion, and respect are therefore most important.
- Some Buddhists, as result of cultural influences, may promote the nuclear family over any other type of family.
- However, in many Buddhist-majority countries, extended families are very common.

22 A: Gender equality

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means giving people the same rights and opportunities regardless of whether they are male or female? [1 mark]

Answer: A Gender equality

02 Which **one** of these is **not** a way in which women have been discriminated against in the past? [1 mark]

Answer: D Right to go on holiday

03 Give **one** way that someone may discriminate against a person due to gender. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Not allowed to do certain jobs; lower pay; fewer job opportunities

04 Give **one** event in history that has influenced changes in women's rights. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

World War I; women becoming MPs; women given same voting rights as men; contraception made available through the NHS; Equal Pay Act; Sex Discrimination Act, which made gender discrimination illegal

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the roles of men and women. [4 marks]
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Bible says that God made both men and women in his image (Imago Dei).
- *"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."* (Genesis 1:27)
- Jesus treated women with respect.
- Women are often mentioned in the Gospel accounts of Jesus's life.
- St Paul says, *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:28)

- Women’s role is to work in the home and look after children, and for men to go to work to provide for the family.
- As society has changed roles are now more flexible and both men and women can work in the home and bring up children, and both can work.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha ordained women as nuns into the Sangha, the religious community. This gave them authority and an important role in sustaining and transmitting Buddhism.
- The Lotus Sutra teaches, *“so always teach the Dhamma equally to all”*.
- Some Buddhist communities do not permit women to become ordained.

06 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about gender equality.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited.

Christianity:

- The Bible says that God made both men and women in his image (Imago Dei).
- *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”* (Genesis 1:27) This can support the belief that God created both males and females in his image, which shows that they are equal to him, suggesting gender equality.
- St Paul says, *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:28) This suggests that everybody is equal as part of the Christian community, supporting gender equality.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha showed equality by permitting both men and women to be ordained into the Sangha.
- Some contemporary Buddhist leaders, for example, the Dalai Lama, advocate for equality. He has spoken out about how he sees no reason why the future Dalai Lama could not be a woman. This suggests that gender equality is part of Buddhist teachings and, therefore, the right thing to do.
- However, many conservative Theravada traditions do not allow women to be ordained into the Sangha today.

07 ‘It is the role of both men and women to look after children.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Both men and women are capable of looking after children.
- In today's society, both parents can work and take an equal role in parenting.
- Looking after children can take different roles, for example, providing financially.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Not all families have a man and a woman.
- Women give birth to children, so it is natural for them to look after them.
- Childcare is the traditional role of women.

Christianity:

- Traditional view that women's role is to work in the home and look after children and for men to go to work to provide for the family.
- As society has changed, roles are now more flexible and both men and women can work in the home and bring up children and both can work.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha taught that there are four key responsibilities that parents have with regard to children. He did not ascribe which parent should do what, suggesting both parents have an important role in looking after the children.
- Like all cultures, Buddhist-majority cultures could be influenced by patriarchy. That may suggest it is the role of the mother to look after the children, whilst the father works to provide.
- Some Buddhist communities are becoming increasingly diverse, therefore there may not be a man and a woman in a child's life. Provided the child is shown love and taken care of, it does not matter which parent/carer provides the childcare.

23 B: The origins of the universe and human life

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these books describes the process of creation in the Bible? [1 mark]

Answer: D Genesis

02 Which **one** of these is the scientific theory of the origins of the universe? [1 mark]

Answer: B Big Bang

03 Give **one** religious belief about the origins of human life. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Humans have descended from the first two humans, Adam and Eve; God created Adam from dust (Christianity); Eve was made from Adam's rib; God created evolution and humans evolved over time; human life emerged when the conditions were right (dependent origination)

04 Name **one** piece of scientific evidence for evolution. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Evidence of survival of the fittest; bones from humans' ancestors; genetic similarities between animals and humans

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the origins of human life. [4 marks]
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Described in the holy book (Bible).
- Humans have descended from the first two humans, Adam and Eve.
- God created Adam from dust.
- Eve was made from Adam's rib.
- God created evolution and humans evolved over time.

Buddhism:

- The origin of human life is not with a creator god.

- Human life resulted from the presence of the conditions necessary to life, because of dependent origination.
- Many Buddhists support contemporary scientific theories concerning the origins of human life, for example, the theory of evolution.

06 Explain **two** views on the origins of human life.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Described in the holy book (Bible) in the book of Genesis.
- Humans have descended from the first two humans, Adam and Eve.
- God created Adam from dust.
- Eve was made from Adam's rib.
- God created evolution and humans evolved over time.
- *"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."* (Genesis 2:7) This suggests that God created the first human and gave life to him.

Buddhism:

- Buddhists do not believe that humanity was created by a god.
- Dependent origination suggests that everything in existence depends upon something else. Therefore, humanity arose when the necessary conditions were there.
- The Buddha said: *"from the arising of this, comes the arising of that... From the cessation of this comes the cessation of that"*. (Buddha, Pali Cannon) This suggests that the origins of human life might be part of a process of causation, where everything is connected.

07 'Scientific and religious views on the origins of the universe are not compatible.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Science cannot explain the existence of God as the creator.
- Science explains the origins of the universe without the need for God.
- The scientific evidence used to support the Big Bang does not include God.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Science tells us the ‘how’, and religion tells us the ‘why’.
- Holy books don’t contradict the scientific evidence.
- Religion can fill the gaps of knowledge that scientists cannot.

Christianity:

- The book of Genesis can work with scientific evidence.
- Genesis tells us about God’s power, and science tells us about how he used his power.
- Scientific evidence has not fully explained creation, but the Bible does.

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists reject the idea of a creator god, suggesting a divine power was not involved with the origins of the universe.
- Many Buddhist leaders have suggested that the growing scientific discourse has value over religious ideas about the origins of the universe. The Dalai Lama suggests: “...if scientific analysis were conclusively to demonstrate certain claims in Buddhism to be false, then we must accept the findings of science and abandon those claims of Buddhism.”
- Buddhism acknowledges the answers to some questions cannot be known, including those surrounding the origins of the universe (atakavacara).

24 B: The value of the universe

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is a renewable source of energy?

[1 mark]

Answer: B Solar power

02 Which **one** of these means that humans have the right to control, and have power over other living creatures?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Dominion

03 Name **one** natural resource.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Trees; coal; oil; gas

04 Give **one** thing that animal experimentation is used for.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Testing medicines; testing cosmetics

05 Explain **two** different religious beliefs on animal experimentation.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- The Bible says animals should be cared for.
- *“The righteous care for the needs of their animals.”* (Proverbs 12:10)
- God gave humans dominion over animals, which we believe means we can use them as we need to.
- God said, *“Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”* (Genesis 1:26)
- Many Christians accept animal experimentation for medicines only because that is necessary to help humans in curing diseases.

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists practise the virtue of ahimsa, which means non-harm/non-violence.
- The Buddha's Dhamma, through the First Moral Precept, teaches Buddhists not to take life. For many, this also includes the taking of an animal's life.
- Some Buddhists may see the potential benefit/value in using animals in experiments if it allows for a greater good, for example, the curing of disease to save the lives of millions.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about the value of the world.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- The Bible teaches that creation belongs to God.
- *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."* (Psalm 24:1) This can support the belief that humans should value the world because it belongs to God.
- God's creation promotes a sense of awe and wonder.
- *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"* (Psalm 8:3–4) This can support the belief that humans should respect the world because they are God's creation.
- God gave humans dominion over creation.
- *"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"* (Genesis 1:26) This can support the belief that God made all living beings and so humans should value them all.
- It is humans' responsibility and duty to look after God's creation as stewards, because he gave Adam and Eve this responsibility in the Garden of Eden.
- *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* (Genesis 2:15) This can support the belief that God gave humans the responsibility to look after his creation.
- Christian leaders have said that we should look after creation.
- *"The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.... There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced."* (Pope Francis) This can support the belief that humans are currently not valuing God's creation and that we should act to change this.

Buddhism:

- Most Buddhists see the value in the world and do what they can to take care of Earth. For example, they are influenced by the principle of ahimsa so they may act like stewards of the planet, ensuring natural resources are not exploited.
- Socially engaged Buddhists inspired by the Buddha’s Dhamma and other Buddhist teachers take practical action to protect the world, because they see it as valuable.
- When speaking about environmental conservation, the Dalai Lama said: “... *we have the capability, and the responsibility. We must act before it is too late.*” This suggests that humans should look after the world because it is valuable.
- The Buddhist teaching of dependent origination highlights the interconnectedness and fragility of the world, so encouraging Buddhists to value and take care of our planet.

07 ‘All religious people should stop using non-renewable sources of energy.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- It is people’s responsibility to look after creation.
- Renewable sources of energy are better for the environment.
- God gave us the knowledge to use renewable energy sources.
- It promotes equality because renewable energy can be generated without a country having natural resources on its land, for example, oil.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Our infrastructure does not yet support everyone using renewable energy sources so it will be expensive to start using them.
- It’s not just religious people’s responsibility but everyone’s because we all live on the same planet.

Christianity:

- The Bible teaches that creation belongs to God so we should do what we can to look after Earth.
- *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”* (Psalm 24:1)
- God gave humans dominion over creation.
- It is humans’ responsibility and duty to look after God’s creation as stewards, as he gave Adam and Eve this responsibility in the Garden of Eden.
- *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”* (Genesis 2:15)
- Christians leaders have said that we should look after creation.
- *“The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.... There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced.”* (Pope Francis)

Buddhism:

- The Buddhist teaching of dependent origination highlights the interconnectedness and fragility of the world. This may mean many Buddhists stop using non-renewable resources as they see how their use in one part of the world damages another.
- Some Buddhist leaders are calling for Buddhists to help the planet. One way to do this is by stopping the use of non-renewable sources. The Dalai Lama said about environmental conservation: *“we have the capability, and the responsibility. We must act before it is too late.”*
- Buddhists apply the teaching of ahimsa (non-harm) to Earth, acting like stewards towards its care.

25 B: Abortion and euthanasia

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these describes the type of euthanasia in which the patient asks someone to end their life for them, for example, a doctor? [1 mark]

Answer: A Voluntary euthanasia

02 Which **one** of these describes the concept that 'life is holy and given by God'? [1 mark]

Answer: A Sanctity of life

03 Name **one** type of euthanasia. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Voluntary euthanasia; non-voluntary euthanasia; passive euthanasia

04 Give **one** reason people may choose to have an abortion. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

The woman being too young to have a child; not wanting children at that point in life; contraception failure; pregnant woman's life is in danger

05 Explain **two** different religious beliefs on euthanasia.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Euthanasia is deliberately taking someone's life, which is a sin against God.
- *"You shall not murder."* (Exodus 20:13)
- Euthanasia goes against the sanctity of life.
- Only God has the right to decide when we die.
- We are 'playing God'.
- *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."* (Jeremiah 1:5)
- Situation ethics – there are some situations in which euthanasia might be the most loving thing to do.

- Jesus taught that we should behave in a loving way.
- *“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience.”* (Colossians 3:12)
- Euthanasia might be the lesser of two evils.
- Quality of life is important.
- Relieving someone’s suffering might be the best thing to do.
- *“Blessed are the merciful.”* (Matthew 5:7)
- Christian leaders have condemned euthanasia.

Buddhism:

- Euthanasia is considered by some Buddhists as an act of killing/harm; that goes against the First Moral Precept.
- Ending a life may result in suffering, especially of living relatives.
- Ending a life may result in less suffering, especially if the individual is seriously ill.
- In some situations, euthanasia may be seen as the most loving and compassionate act to do.
- Some Buddhists see euthanasia as a matter of personal choice. They might argue that if the person is of sound mind and not affected by external pressure, euthanasia should be a permissible act.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs on the sanctity of life.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Life is holy and a blessing from God.
- God created humans (Genesis).
- Only God has the right to decide when we die.
- We shouldn’t ‘play God’.
- *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”* (Jeremiah 1:5) This can support the belief that life is holy because God knew humans before they physically existed, supporting the sanctity of life.
- The Bible says, *“You shall not murder.”* (Exodus 20:13)

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists reject/disagree with the idea that life is given by God. That is because, for many Buddhists, God is not understood in this way: God is not a creator and is not the origin of humanity.

07 'Only God should decide when we die.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- sanctity of life
- God created humans and he decides when they die
- God has given humans the knowledge to deal with pain, so we don't have to decide to end life to end suffering
- deciding to take another person's life is murder, which is condemned in holy books

Arguments in support of other views:

- non-religious view – there is no God, so he cannot decide
- non-religious view – a loving God would not allow people to suffer so he doesn't get to decide
- non-religious view – it's your life to decide what to do with it
- God has given humans free will to decide.

Christianity:

- God knows everything about us, including our birth and death
- *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."* (Jeremiah 1:5)
- sanctity of life
- situation ethics – there are some situations in which deciding to die might be the most loving thing to do
- Jesus taught that we should behave in a loving way
- *"As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience."* (Colossians 3:12)
- *"Blessed are the merciful."* (Matthew 5:7)

Buddhism:

- many Buddhists disagree that there is a creator God who is responsible for death
- most Buddhists view death as a natural process that results when certain conditions are met, for example, old age, illness, etc
- some Buddhists may support the idea of euthanasia if a person is of sound mind and has justification for the decision/is not affected by external pressure
- euthanasia can demonstrate metta and karuna.

26 B: Death and the afterlife

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is the cycle of life in Buddhism? [1 mark]

Answer: D Samsara

02 Which **one** of these does the Bible class as a sin? [1 mark]

Answer: C Anger

03 Give **one** religious belief about the value of human life. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Sanctity of life; life is holy, special, and given by God; this life is important for the afterlife; humans are 'Imago Dei' – made in God's image; God created humans and they are special to him; human life is valuable because it is lived in the human realm

04 Give **one** religious belief about life after death. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

We will be judged by God; we will be resurrected; we will spend eternity in heaven/hell; we will be reborn; we will attain enlightenment and escape the cycle of samsara

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs on life after death. [4 marks]
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- If we believe in God, we will have a life after this life, for eternity.
- Humans will be resurrected from death and then will have a life after death.
- We will all be judged on how we treated other people, for example, how we dealt with hunger or those that are ill.
- Certain actions will lead us to be apart from God after we die.
- In heaven there will be no sadness or unhappiness.
- Hell will be a painful and unhappy time.

- A loving God would not create such a place as hell, so it is a symbolic description of being without God.

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists believe that life can continue after death.
- Buddhists mostly share a belief in rebirth. This means that after death, consciousness enters another life.
- People will continually be reborn into the cycle of samsara, until they reach enlightenment.
- Earthly actions impact what will happen after death.
- Many Buddhists believe they can be born into different realms, which have different qualities.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about life after death.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- If we believe in God, we will have a life after this life, for eternity.
- Humans will be resurrected from death and then will have a life after death.
- *“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”* (The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25) This suggests that humans will all be judged on how we treated other people, for example, how we dealt with hunger or those that are ill, with some going to heaven and others going to hell.
- Certain actions will lead us to be apart from God after we die.
- In heaven there will be no sadness or unhappiness.
- Hell will be a painful and unhappy time.
- A loving God would not create such a place as hell, so it is a symbolic description of being without God.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha taught the concept of Kamma (action), which directly impacts a person’s rebirth. This supports the idea that there is a life after death.
- At death, the consciousness of the deceased enters another life and lives on.
- The Buddha taught that individuals are reborn into the cycle of samsara. This supports the idea that there is something that happens after death.
- The cycle of samsara can be escaped by attaining enlightenment.

07 'This life is our only life.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Scientific evidence has not found any evidence to support an afterlife.
- Beliefs in life after death are just wishful thinking.
- Beliefs in life after death are made up to make people feel better about death.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Holy books describe an afterlife.

Christianity:

- The Bible describes an afterlife.
- Jesus spoke about the afterlife.
- There is a heaven where there will be no sadness or unhappiness.
- There is a hell that will be a painful and unhappy time.
- Jesus was resurrected from the dead and so shall we be.
- An afterlife gives purpose to being a good Christian.

Buddhism:

- Buddhists mostly share a belief in rebirth. This means that after death, consciousness enters another life.
- Many Buddhists believe they can be born into different realms, which have different qualities.
- Belief in the afterlife encourages Buddhists to perform skilful actions in their current lifetime, in order to ensure a favourable rebirth.
- It is only when a person attains enlightenment that they are freed from the cycle of samsara and no longer lives a physical life.

27 C: Arguments for the existence of God

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these did William Paley use as an analogy for the design of the universe?

[1 mark]

Answer: C A watch

02 Which **one** of these argues that God is the 'unmoved mover'?

[1 mark]

Answer: B The First Cause argument

03 Give **one** weakness of the design argument.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- We don't need an omnipotent being to explain the complexity of the universe.
- A combination of survival of the fittest, natural selection, and evolution can explain design.
- Why would such an omnibenevolent designer design things such as cancer?
- Humans look for meaning in life and have interpreted the order of the universe to try to justify things that cannot be explained.
- Who or what designed God?

04 Give **one** example of a miracle in the Bible.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Jesus heals the paralysed man; the incarnation of Jesus; the resurrection of Jesus; Jesus walking on water; Jesus bringing people back from the dead; Jesus making the blind see

05 Explain **two** different beliefs in contemporary British society about miracles.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and non-religious beliefs.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Miracles are proof of the existence of God.
- The Bible includes examples of many miracles, including the most important ones of the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.
- Jesus performed miracles such as walking on water, bringing people back from the dead, and making the blind see.
- At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit blessed the disciples so they could perform miracles.
- Some Christians believe that they can also perform miracles through the Holy Spirit.
- Catholic Christians believe that Lourdes in France is an important place of pilgrimage where miracles have happened and still do today.

Non-religious beliefs:

- Miracles can be explained without the need for God to have been responsible for them.
- Miracles may be unusual, coincidental, and very lucky but they are possible according to the laws of nature. They aren't the work of God.
- Some things could not be explained with science in the past, but they can be now. There may be things that we cannot explain with science yet, but we potentially will. In the meantime, we cannot attribute them to God as miracles.
- Some people make up stories of miracles for attention or to make money.

06 Explain **two** strengths of the First Cause argument.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

General points:

- We can see that everything that exists within the universe has a cause.
- Whilst science has found that the Big Bang was the cause of the existence of the universe, what caused the Big Bang? The answer is that God caused the Big Bang.
- Uses a logical chain of reasoning.

Christianity:

- The Bible supports the idea that God was the first cause in Genesis 1. This is evidence for some Christians that the First Cause argument proves the existence of God.

07 'The Design argument is a strong argument for the existence of God.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Many examples of things on Earth only work if balanced correctly, for example, the human body.
- Humans lack the ability to have created many of these things so it must be due to an omnipotent being (God).

Arguments in support of other views:

- We don't need an omnipotent being to explain the complexity of the universe.
- A combination of survival of the fittest, natural selection, and evolution can explain design.
- Why would such an omnibenevolent designer design things such as cancer?
- Humans look for meaning in life and have interpreted the order of the universe to try to justify things that cannot be explained.
- Who or what designed God?
- God is not a creator; the world came into existence due to the correct conditions arising.

28 C: Arguments against the existence of God

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these terms means that God is all-loving?

[1 mark]

Answer: C Omnibenevolent

02 Which **one** of these describes the belief that humans can choose how they behave without interference from God?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Free will

03 Give **one** religious response to evil and suffering.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- God can stop evil and suffering, but he has given humans free will (as with Adam in Genesis 3) to behave how they want.
- Humans choose to cause evil and suffering themselves, for example, war.
- God will not interfere with free will.
- We may not understand why God does not intervene, but we should behave in the most loving way to those that are suffering so we will be rewarded by him in the afterlife.
- Life is a test and God wants to see how humans respond to such events.
- We will be rewarded for our positive actions in the afterlife.
- Nibbana is the end of suffering.
- Allowing evil and suffering means that humans can learn from mistakes and work together to make the world a better place, instead of thinking it's all God's job.
- Some Buddhists, for example socially engaged Buddhists, try to act to overcome the impact of evil and suffering.
- The existence of evil and suffering allows for skilful action to be practised.
- Evil arises out of a certain set of conditions being present in the world (dependent arising).

04 Give **one** reason why science may challenge the existence of God.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- In the past people have used the existence of God to help answer big questions such as how did the universe get here?

- Scientific knowledge has advanced so now we have the answers to many of these questions.
- Whilst science doesn't have the answers to everything yet, so far science has shown that none of the answers already provided rely on the existence of God.
- We no longer need to believe in the existence of God to answer these questions; science will answer them.

05 Explain **two** similar beliefs about evil and suffering as an argument against the existence of God. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

General points:

- There are many examples of evil and suffering in the world (for example, people have painful illnesses). Some people may argue that God should stop these, but he doesn't therefore he doesn't exist.
- Christians believe that God is supposed to be: all-knowing (omniscient) so he knows that evil and suffering is happening; all-loving (omnibenevolent) so he would want to stop evil and suffering; all-powerful (omnipotent) so he should be able to stop evil and suffering.

Buddhism:

- Buddhists believe that evil derives from the action of humans, typically driven by the three poisons of greed, hatred, and ignorance.
- Humans have an ability to help limit the impact of evil and reduce suffering.
- Buddhists believe that events that some people may consider as evil, for example, natural disasters, are not a result of God's action but are because of an interdependent world that is impacted by a series of related actions, for example, flooding.

06 Explain **two** religious responses to the arguments against the existence of God based on science. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[6 marks]**

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- The Genesis version of creation is literally true.
- *"The big bang [...] does not contradict the divine act of creation; rather, it requires it..."* (Pope Francis) This suggests that scientific evidence can prove the existence of God rather than disprove it.
- Scientific accounts do not necessarily conflict with the holy book.
- God created science for humans to use to their advantage and it reveals his creation to us.

- Science cannot disprove the existence of God.
- Science can tell us ‘how’ things work, and religion (God) can tell us ‘why’.

Buddhism:

- Most Buddhists would not see science as leading to an argument against God. This is because God is not understood in the way same in Buddhism as it is in Christianity. For example, Buddhists don’t agree with the idea of a creator god.
- The Dalai Lama suggests a belief in God may be abandoned because of scientific analysis against God’s existence. This might be interpreted by Buddhists as meaning that God does not exist because there is no scientific evidence to support his existence.

07 ‘Science gives all the answers to questions we have about the universe.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Science tells us how the universe and humans got here.
- We have scientific evidence such as Red shift theory (the universe is still expanding) and we can detect radiation from the ‘Big Bang’.
- We have scientific evidence of the origins of humans: evidence of survival of the fittest; bones from humans’ ancestors; genetic similarities between animals and humans.
- Many Buddhists do not see their religion as being in conflict with science, instead they see science and Buddhism as a dialogue.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Science does not answer all questions we have but the existence of God can.
- God created science for humans to use to their advantage and it reveals his creation to us.
- Science can tell us ‘how’ things work, and religion (God) can tell us ‘why’.
- The Buddha suggested that some questions are not answerable (atakavacara).

29 C: The nature of the divine and revelation

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these occurs when a person directly experiences God in an extraordinary event? [1 mark]

Answer: A Special revelation

02 Which **one** of these describes a supernatural experience in which a person sees something in a dream or a trance that shows them something about God, the divine, or life after death? [1 mark]

Answer: B Vision

03 Give **one** idea about the divine. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

There are different ways that humans can experience the divine today; the divine can be experienced through special revelation/vision/enlightenment/general revelation; the divine can be visualised

04 Give **one** example of general revelation. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Seeing God in nature; hearing scripture; through reasoning; conscience; sense of right or wrong; attending worship

05 Explain **two** different beliefs about nature as general revelation. [4 marks]
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Nature can provide us with many special experiences which are down to God and can create a sense of awe and wonder.
- God's creation helps humans to understand him more, for example, the stars in the sky on a clear night or a powerful storm can remind us of God's omnipotence.
- The Bible says, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."* (Psalm 19:1)

Buddhism:

- Some Buddhists may suggest nature is not the result of God’s creation, it is merely the result of the correct conditions being in existence and coming together. Therefore, nature does not suggest anything about a creator god.

06 Explain **two** different beliefs about visions.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- Some atheists attribute people’s visions to lack of sleep or the effects of mind-altering substances, for example, certain drugs.
- Christianity sees visions as a spiritual experience but will only accept them if they don’t go against the key beliefs given in the Bible.
- Buddhism sees visions as experiences that transmit special wisdom. An example of this is the Buddha’s enlightenment.

07 Explain **two** religious beliefs about scripture as a way of understanding the divine.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Reading the Bible helps Christians understand God’s nature.
- *“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.”* (Acts 17:24–25)
This illustrates the nature of God as being the creator and being transcendent and immanent.
- Whilst God may be ineffable (too great or extreme to be described in words), stories and teachings give a sense of what God wants for his creation and how he expects humans to behave.

Buddhism:

- Some Buddhists may use scripture to understand the divine’s nature. For example, for some Mahayana Buddhists, stories of Bodhisattvas may help them cultivate their characteristics. This suggests that the stories can teach Buddhists to develop their understanding.
- Some Buddhists see scripture as the ‘enlightened word’ – it expresses the enlightened mind, so scripture may help them to understand the knowledge and insight of the enlightened, for example, the Buddha and his insight into the Three Marks of Existence.

- Some Buddhists believe that the mantras found in scripture help them to receive the Buddha's teaching.

08 'We can see the divine through the natural world around us.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Nature can provide us with many special experiences.
- Christians believe that these are down to God and can create a sense of awe and wonder.
- God's creation helps humans to understand him more; for example, the stars in the sky on a clear night or a powerful storm can remind us of God's omnipotence.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Nature is not evidence of God but proof that science is complex and powerful.

Christianity:

- The Bible says, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."* (Psalm 19:1)

Buddhism:

- In Buddhism, enlightenment is concerned with the acquisition of knowledge, particularly about the self and the true nature of reality, not knowledge about the divine.
- Nature is not the product of the divine, therefore it tells us nothing about the divine. Nature is the result of certain conditions, coming together at the right time (dependent origination).

30 C: Ideas about the divine and the value of revelation and enlightenment

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means that God is beyond and outside of his creation (the universe)?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Transcendent

02 Which **one** of these is a supernatural experience in which a person sees something in a dream or a trance that shows them something about God or life after death?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Vision

03 Give **one** religious belief about the nature of the divine.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Omnipotent; omniscient; personal; impersonal; immanent; transcendent

04 Give **one** alternative explanation for visions.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Lack of sleep; wishful thinking; the effects of mind-altering intoxicants, for example, certain drugs; people lying

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about general revelation.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

General points:

- God shows himself through everyday, ordinary life experiences.
- Looking at nature and feeling God's presence.
- Reading a holy text and being inspired by God.
- Worshipping God.
- A person's conscience telling them right and wrong.
- The lives of religious leaders that reflect God's purpose in life.

Through nature:

- Christians believe that these are down to God and can create a sense of awe and wonder.
- God’s creation helps humans to understand him more; for example, the stars in the sky on a clear night or a powerful storm can remind us of God’s omnipotence.

Through scripture:

- Christians believe their holy books help them to understand God.
- Whilst God may be ineffable (too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words), stories and teachings can give a sense of what God wants for his creation and how he expects humans to behave.
- Some Buddhists may suggest scripture helps them understand the divine, for example Bodhisattvas, mantras, etc.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about special revelation.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- There are examples in the Bible.
- The angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would become pregnant with God’s son, Jesus: *“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”* (Luke 1:31) This is an example of special revelation as it was vision.
- Jesus performed miracles: *“Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.”* (Matthew 8:3) This is an example of a special revelation as it is a miracle.
- God told Aaron and Miriam, *“Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream.”* (Numbers 12:6) This suggests that God uses special revelation (visions) to speak to his prophets.

Buddhism:

- Some Buddhists may engage in the practice of visualisation to help them to experience the divine. For example, visualising the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara helps Buddhists to develop insight and the quality of compassion.
- Some Buddhists may suggest wisdom can be a result of special revelation, for example, a vision may allow for the transmission of scriptures.

07 'The only explanation for visions is that they were caused by the divine.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Only the divine is omnipotent enough to create a vision.
- There are examples of visions in holy books and the divine is the cause.
- There are no logical/scientific explanations for visions.

Arguments in support of other views:

- There are other explanations for visions, for example, lack of sleep, the effects of mind-altering intoxicants such as drugs.
- We don't have scientific proof of visions so they could be made up by people for attention.

Christianity:

- When a person sees something in a dream or a trance, which shows them something about God or life after death.
- They may see a special person, an angel, or even hear the voice of God.
- A spiritual experience will only be accepted if it doesn't go against the key beliefs as given in the Bible.
- An example of a vision in Christianity is Saul's conversion, described in Acts 9:1–8.

Buddhism:

- Some Buddhists may reject the idea that the divine can/does intervene in the world in this way.
- Buddhists believe in divine beings but not in the divine in the sense of a creator god.

31 D: Peace, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means showing grace and mercy, and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong? [1 mark]

Answer: C Forgiveness

02 Which **one** of these describes the unlawful use of violence – usually against innocent civilians – to achieve a political goal? [1 mark]

Answer: A Terrorism

03 Give **one** religious belief about forgiveness. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- Forgiveness is an important part of being a Christian.
- Jesus died on the cross so that human sins can be forgiven by God.
- Jesus also told people that they should forgive others.
- *“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven* times.’”* (Matthew 18:21–22.)
*Note: some translations use seventy times seven.
- Forgiveness is important in Buddhism for letting go of anger and hatred, two of the Three Poisons.
- Forgiveness in Buddhism allows for compassion and wisdom to develop.

04 Give **one** religious belief about justice. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- God is just and expects humans to also be just in their treatment of each other.
- Justice allows for the reduction of dukkha.

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about peace.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- The Bible includes times when there was not peace.
- Jesus often promoted peace.
- *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”* (Matthew 5:9)

Buddhism:

- Peace is to be promoted, both for society and individuals.
- Peaceful solutions to problems should be sought. The Dhammapada suggests, *“Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness.”*

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about reconciliation.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited.

Christianity:

- Christianity is based on reconciliation between humans and God following their separation due to the Fall (when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden) and their personal sin.
- Christians are encouraged to ‘love your neighbour’.
- Jesus said, *“Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you.”* (Matthew 5:44) This suggests that, instead of being against enemies, you should reconcile with them by loving them and asking God to help them.
- For Catholics, the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) allows humans to ask God for forgiveness and for them to reconcile with God.

Buddhism:

- Reconciliation is encouraged by the Buddha; the Buddha teaches that relationships should be repaired if the person is willing to confess and accept the full consequences of what they have done. This suggests that reconciliation should be part of a relationship where appropriate, supporting other Buddhist teachings such as metta.
- There are examples of the Buddha reconciling and encouraging others to reconcile, for example, the story of Aṅgulimāla. This suggests that those who cause extreme human suffering – by, for example, committing murder – can be reconciled with.

07 'If you fall out with someone you should always reconcile with them afterwards.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Reconciliation links with religious teachings on forgiveness.
- Reconciliation promotes a tolerant and cohesive society. If you want someone to reconcile with you, then you should reconcile with others.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Some things that people do make it too traumatising to reconcile.
- Some people do not deserve to have reconciliation.
- If we always reconcile, some people will take advantage and continuously do bad things in the knowledge that they can be reconciled.

Christianity:

- Christianity is based on reconciliation between humans and God following their separation due to the Fall (when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden) and their personal sin.
- Christians are encouraged to 'love your neighbour'.
- Jesus said, "*Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you*" (Matthew 5:44).
- For Catholics, the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) allows humans to ask God for forgiveness and for them to reconcile with God.

Buddhism:

- Reconciliation was encouraged and practised by the Buddha; therefore, contemporary Buddhists should aim to reconcile their relationships too, as they seek to follow the Buddha's example.
- Holding on to feelings of jealousy, hatred, and ignorance encourage dukkha. Reconciliation helps rid individuals of these feelings; that is important to ensure a reduction of dukkha in the world.

32 D: War

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is a theory that follows a set of criteria to make war fair and ethical?

[1 mark]

Answer: C Just war

02 Which **one** of these is the meaning of pacifism?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Not fighting or using violence to resolve issues

03 Give **one** reason for war.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Greed over, for example, land, oil, assets; self-defence; retaliation (getting back at someone for something they have done to you)

04 Give **one** of the criteria for a just war.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Just cause; declared by a recognised authority; the intention must be to defeat wrongdoing and promote good; last resort – all other ways of resolving the issue, such as diplomacy, must have been attempted before war can be declared; reasonable chance of success; proportional methods – no excessive force is used and innocent civilians not harmed

05 Explain **two** different religious beliefs about pacifism in contemporary British society.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Jesus was a pacifist.
- Jesus turned over the tables in the temple (Matthew 21:12); that shows he accepted violent protest.
- Jesus told people: *“For all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”* (Matthew 26:52)

- Old Testament ‘eye for an eye’ justifies retaliation.
- Jesus said, “*You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.*” (Matthew 5:38)

Buddhism:

- Buddhism strongly encourages pacificism.
- Buddhist leaders have suggested pacificism is at the heart of Buddhism. Thich Nhat Hanh suggests: “*If you are not for peace, you are against peace, you are not Buddhism.*”
- Pacificism helps to cultivate metta and karuna within society.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about holy wars.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- The Crusades (1095–1291) are an example of a holy war in which Christians travelled to Jerusalem in the Holy Land to ‘win back’ the land from Muslim groups. Both sides believed that they were fighting for God.
- The Christian Crusaders were told by the ruling pope that their sins would be forgiven, so even if they died along the way, they could access heaven.

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists reject the notion of a holy war. This is because it goes against many ethical teachings taught in the Buddha’s Dhamma, for example, the First Moral Precept. This is because a holy war involves harming others and killing, which goes against the Buddha’s teaching of abstaining from harming living beings.
- Many divine figures in Buddhism, for example, the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, embody love, compassion, and peace rather than war.
- A small minority of Buddhists have fought against others in defence of their religion and nation. However, the motive for their action is not as simple as suggesting it was ‘for Buddhism’.

07 'No religious person should be pacifist.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- A religious person should be prepared to fight for their beliefs.
- A religious person should be prepared to fight for justice.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Violence causes more violence.
- If everyone were pacifist, then there would be no violence.

Christianity:

- Jesus was a pacifist.
- Jesus turned over the tables in the temple (Matthew 21:12); it shows he accepted violent protest (wasn't pacifist).
- Jesus told people: *"For all who draw the sword will die by the sword."* (Matthew 26:52)
- Old Testament 'eye for an eye' justifies retaliation.
- Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."* (Matthew 5:38)

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists would agree with pacifism and advocate for non-violent methods of conflict resolution.
- Many Buddhist leaders suggest conflict should be resolved through non-violent methods. For example, the Dalai Lama has attempted to resolve conflict in Tibet through negotiations.
- Inner and societal peace cannot be developed through war; therefore, peace is an important mental and physical state for Buddhists.

33 D: Religion and belief in 21st century conflict

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is a main religious benefit for a person to fight in a holy war? [1 mark]

Answer: A They will be rewarded by God

02 Which **one** of these is **not** an example of something that a religious organisation might do to help victims of war? [1 mark]

Answer: C Get involved in the fighting

03 Name **one** place where there has been conflict and violence due to religious belief in recent history. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) invasion of Iraq and Syria; the Israeli–Palestinian conflict; the Troubles, Northern Ireland; Charlie Hebdo attack, Paris, France; Ariana Grande concert bombing, Manchester, UK; Myanmar

04 Give **one** example of something a religious organisation might do to help victims of war. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Humanitarian relief; long-term development support for low-income communities worldwide; highlighting suffering; tackling injustice; championing people’s rights; examples of specific work: providing medical supplies/clean water/food/shelter

05 Explain **two** similar religious responses to victims of war. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

- Providing shelter to those who have been displaced.
- Giving medicine and medical help.
- Ensuring people have access to clean water.
- Giving food to those in need.
- Helping to rebuild communities.
- Giving emotional and mental health support to people who have had life-changing experiences.
- Short- and long-term support to rebuild lives.

- Providing opportunities for education.

Christianity:

- All people are created in God’s image and have inherent value and worth so we should help victims of war.
- Love (agape) is the core of Christianity.
- *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”* (Matthew 22:39)
- Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31–46)

Buddhism:

- Buddhists try to help all people who are facing suffering (dukkha), including victims of war.
- Helping victims of war is an expression of metta and karuna.

06 Explain **two** ways in which the work of one present-day religious organisation helps victims of war.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[6 marks]**

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity – Christian Aid:

- Humanitarian relief.
- Long-term development support for low-income communities worldwide.
- Tackling injustice.
- Championing people’s rights.
- *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”* (Matthew 22:39) This suggests that helping victims of war is the loving thing to do, even if Christians don’t know them.
- Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31–46). This teaches that Christians should help people in need, which can include helping victims of war who need clothing and shelter.
- Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Buddhism – Tzu Chi Foundation:

- Offers medical care.
- Establishes schools.
- Responds to disasters caused by war.
- Provides environmental protection.
- The Tzu Chi Foundation believes that if everybody showed loving kindness (metta) to everybody, conflict would be resolved without war.

- Helps educate about the causes of war, for example, greed. This links to the Buddha’s teaching about the Three Poisons: one cause of suffering is greed, which can be a cause of war. Buddhists will, therefore, try to reduce suffering and may support the work of the Tzu Chi Foundation.

07 ‘Religious people should visit war zones to help victims of war.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Religious people can volunteer with charities to safely help those in need at a war zone.
- It is a loving thing to do; it shows that you care.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Religious people do not need to visit the war zone because that is dangerous and risks their own life.
- Charities and official organisations are better equipped and more knowledgeable to be at the war zone.
- It may go against government advice.
- Giving money to charities can be more effective.

Christianity:

- All people are created in God’s image and have inherent value and worth so there is a duty on Christians to help victims of war.
- Love (agape) is the core of Christianity.
- “*Love your neighbour as yourself.*” (Matthew 22:39)
- Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31–46).
- “*Faith without deeds is dead.*” (James 2:26)

Buddhism:

- Everybody deserves to be treated with metta (loving kindness) and karuna (compassion).
- Buddhist leaders have visited war zones; contemporary Buddhists may wish to emulate their actions and put teachings into practice.
- Buddhist charities work in war zones, for example, Tzu Chi Foundation. One way to support their work may be by giving time to help run their projects and deliver aid.

34 D: Nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these are weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn, or paralyse humans, and destroy the natural environment? [1 mark]

Answer: C Chemical weapons

02 Which **one** of these is a weapon of mass destruction (WMD)? [1 mark]

Answer: B Nuclear weapon

03 Name **one** type of weapon of mass destruction. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Biological weapons; chemical weapons; nuclear weapons

04 Give **one** argument against the use of weapons of mass destruction. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage.
- Goes against Jesus' instruction to "*Love your neighbour as yourself.*" (Matthew 22:39)
- "*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. [...] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*" (Romans 12:17–19)
- They are not a means of peaceful conflict resolution.
- They go against the First Moral Precept.
- They do not express metta and karuna.

05 Explain **two** different religious beliefs on weapons of mass destruction.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage.
- Goes against Jesus' instruction to *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matthew 22:39)
- *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. [...] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* (Romans 12:17–19)
- A minority of Christians may accept that countries need WMDs to be able to defend themselves.
- Some Christians might use 'an eye for an eye' (in the Bible) to justify having and potentially using WMDs when enemies are doing the same.

Buddhism:

- *"Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness."* (Dhammapada)
- They go against the First Moral Precept – to avoid harm/killing of others.
- A minority of Buddhists may accept that countries need WMDs to be able to defend themselves.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about nuclear weapons.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Nuclear weapons cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage.
- Goes against Jesus' instruction to *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matthew 22:39) This might be interpreted to suggest that nuclear weapons should not be used because using them is not a loving thing to do.
- *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. [...] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* (Romans 12:17–19)

Buddhism:

- Nuclear weapons increase suffering by causing large numbers of deaths and long-term damage.
- They do not allow for conflict to be resolved peacefully, without using violence. The Dhammapada states: *"Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness."* This suggests that nuclear weapons are acceptable because they would almost certainly be used in anger as part of war.
- The impact and consequences of nuclear weapons go against the Buddha's teaching of the First Moral Precept of avoiding killing and harm. This suggests that Buddhists should not support their use because they can cause significant harm and death.

07 'No country should have nuclear weapons.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Nuclear weapons cause unnecessary destruction.
- They kill/injure innocent civilians.
- The scope of their impact is not fully controllable.
- They cost a lot of money that could be used on more important things.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Nuclear weapons show power.
- They act as a deterrent.
- If others have these weapons, then so should we.

Christianity:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage.
- Goes against Jesus' instruction to "*Love your neighbour as yourself.*" (Matthew 22:39)
- "*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. [...] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*" (Romans 12:17–19)

Buddhism:

- They increase suffering by causing large numbers of deaths and long-term damage.
- They do not allow for conflict to be resolved peacefully, without using violence. The Dhammapada states: "*overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness*".
- Their impact and consequences go against the First Moral Precept of avoiding killing and harm.
- Some Buddhists may accept the use of violence to protect the Dhamma: "*Although having done evil before... A person who protects Dharma will meet with such an inexpressible reward.*" (Mahaparinirvana Sutra)

35 E: Good and evil intentions and actions

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these would be classed as an evil action? [1 mark]

Answer: B Committing murder

02 Which **one** of these people do Christians believe suffered to save humans' sins? [1 mark]

Answer C Jesus

03 Give **one** example of when it may be considered acceptable for some people to cause suffering. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

To learn lessons from the suffering; doing something that God requires you to do, even though it causes suffering, for example, telling the truth about who committed a crime; as a punishment to show criminals that what they have done is not acceptable; if the benefit outweighs the suffering the action causes

04 Name **one** cause of suffering. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Natural causes, e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes; illness; crime; death; despair; moral evil (caused by humans), e.g. fighting, war, bullying; not getting what you wished for; pain (physical and emotional)

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about causing suffering. [4 marks]
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

- People can learn lessons from the suffering.
- The benefit of the consequence(s) of the action outweighs the suffering the action causes.
- Doing something that God requires you to do even though it causes others suffering, for example, tell the truth about who committed a crime.
- In retaliation, to get back at someone so they learn not to do it again.

- As a punishment to show criminals and society that what they have done is not acceptable.

Christianity:

- We should take strength from suffering.
- *“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”* (Romans 5:3–4)
- Jesus suffered for humans to be saved.
- *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”* (1 Peter 3:18)

Buddhism:

- The Buddha suffered during his ascetic period, but this resulted in a positive outcome of knowledge concerning the Middle Way.
- Suffering is caused by human unskillful action, typically rooted in the Three Poisons, for example, greed, ignorance, and hatred.
- Suffering may encourage positive action. For example, Buddhists may volunteer for charities that help address the causes and impacts of suffering.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about good and evil intentions.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Evil actions might be those that go against God’s teachings in the Bible, for example, murder, adultery, lying. These are called sins.
- The Bible emphasises that what you do is linked to your inner thoughts.
- *“What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come – sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”* (Mark 7:20–23) This suggests that evil intentions come from inside a person and are sinful.
- As a guide for life, Jesus said: *“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,”* (Matthew 7:12), which emphasises considering your actions. It suggests that human intentions should always be good because people want good to be done to them.

Buddhism:

- Evil intentions result in unskilful actions, such as ignorance, hatred, and selfishness. The Buddha taught that these can lead to suffering, for example, by harming others. Therefore, Buddhists should avoid having evil intentions and should focus their behaviour to have good intentions.
- The intention behind an action is what drives its kammic consequence.
- Good intentions often result in skilful action, which lead to the reduction of suffering, for example, speaking with truthfulness.

07 'Sometimes suffering can be good for a person.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- People can learn lessons from the suffering.
- The benefit of the consequence(s) of the action outweighs the suffering the action causes.
- Doing something that God requires you to do even though it causes others suffering, for example, tell the truth about who committed a crime.
- In retaliation, to get back at someone so they learn not to do it again.
- As a punishment to show criminals and society that what they have done is not acceptable.

Arguments in support of other views:

- We should never intend to cause suffering towards others.
- People who want to hurt others would be able to justify it by arguing it is a good thing to do.
- We never know the full consequences of causing suffering so shouldn't plan to do it.

Christianity:

- We should take strength from suffering.
- *"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."* (Romans 5:3–4)

- Jesus suffered for humans to be saved.
- *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”* (1 Peter 3:18)

Buddhism:

- The Buddha taught about the *“cessation of suffering.”* (Pali Canon)
- The Buddha’s life suggests suffering can have a purpose. For example, during his ascetic period, the Buddha’s suffering resulted in the teaching of the Middle Way.
- Buddhists try to ensure they treat everybody with metta (loving kindness) and compassion (karuna) to try and reduce their suffering.

36 E: Reasons for crime

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is **not** a common reason for crime?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Happiness

02 Which **one** of these means showing grace and mercy, and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Forgiveness

03 Give **one** reason for crime.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Poverty; opposition to an unjust law; mental health problems; addiction; greed; upbringing; hate

04 Give **one** religious belief about those that commit crimes.

[1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Help them to reform; forgive them; punish them according to the holy book ('an eye for an eye'); retaliation

05 Explain **two** different religious views in contemporary British society about forgiveness.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Forgiveness is an important part of being a Christian.
- Jesus died on the cross so that human sins can be forgiven by God.
Jesus also told people that they should forgive: *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven* times.'" (Matthew 18:21–22)*
*Note: some translations use seventy times seven.
- Christians often ask God for forgiveness of their sins.
- *"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."* (The Lord's Prayer)

Buddhism:

- Forgiveness is an important aspect of the Buddha's teaching. He believed that forgiveness allows for the development of compassion and wisdom.
- The Dalai Lama suggests that forgiveness not only allows positive relationships with others to be developed, but also allows for individual development and peace of mind.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about people who commit hate crimes.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Christian teachings place a duty on Christians to help criminals reform.
- Christianity promotes reformation.
- Jesus helped people who committed crimes.
- *"Anyone who hates a brother or sister* is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him."* (1 John 3:15) This can be interpreted to mean that while hate crime is wrong so is hating those that do it because hating others is wrong, and this may have consequences in the afterlife.
*Note: this means anyone, not just your actual brother/sister.

Buddhism:

- Buddhist teachings place a duty on Buddhists to help criminals reform.
- The Dalai Lama suggests forgiveness is essential for the growth of compassion. So, if somebody is guilty of a hate crime, showing them compassion and forgiveness leads to a happier society. *"...the key to a happier and more successful world is the growth of compassion."* (The Dalai Lama) This suggests that Buddhists should develop karuna (compassion) because it benefits society. This might be interpreted to include showing compassion to those that commit hate crimes.
- Buddhists may encourage specific practices to help clear the mind of hate, for example, metta meditation.

07 Explain **two** religious beliefs about people who commit theft.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Christian teachings place a duty on Christians to help criminals reform.
- Christianity promotes reformation.
- Jesus helped people who committed crimes.
- “*You shall not steal.*” (Exodus 20:15) This suggests that theft is wrong because do not steal is a commandment from God and stealing is, therefore, a sin.

Buddhism:

- Theft goes against the Five Moral Precepts. In the Pali Canon, the Buddha taught “*the disciple of the noble ones abstains from taking what is not given*”. This suggests that theft is wrong, and might be interpreted to mean that those who have committed theft will develop bad kamma because it is an unskillful action, and that this will impact their rebirth.
- The consequence of theft is suffering (dukkha). Actions which result in dukkha should be avoided. The person who undertakes theft should be supported to reform.
- Greed is one of the Three Poisons and is sometimes a reason for theft. The person who stole should be supported and helped to see the consequences of greed.

08 ‘We should always forgive others when they do wrong.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- You should forgive others if you want others to forgive you.
- It promotes a harmonious society.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Some things are unforgivable.
- Some people will take advantage and do bad things knowing they’ll always be forgiven.

Christianity:

- Forgiveness is an important part of being a Christian.
- Jesus died on the cross so that human sins can be forgiven by God.
- Jesus also told people that they should forgive: *“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven* times.’”* (Matthew 18:21–22)
*Note: some translations use seventy times seven.
- Christians often ask God for forgiveness of their sins.
- *“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.”* (The Lord’s Prayer)

Buddhism:

- The Buddha was a strong advocate of forgiveness. In the Pali Canon, in the Anguttara Nikaya, it is written, *“in accordance with the Dhamma, accept the transgression of one who is confessing.”*
- The Buddha showed forgiveness to those who ordinarily it may be difficult/impossible to show forgiveness to, for example, Aṅgulimāla. This encourages Buddhists to do the same today.
- Forgiveness is important for the growth of compassion, loving kindness, and wisdom.

37 E: The aims of punishment and the treatment of criminals

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means to make a criminal pay for what they have done wrong? [1 mark]

Answer A Retribution

02 Which **one** of these means to put people off committing crimes? [1 mark]

Answer B Deterrence

03 Give **one** religious belief about using prison as a punishment. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

- Most Christians and Buddhists support reformation and so would agree that prison gives criminals the chance to change whilst keeping society safe.
- Most Christians and some Buddhists would support the use of prison, because it keeps members of society protected from the effects of criminal activity.
- Many Christians and Buddhists would not support cruel and inhumane treatment towards prisoners; both religious traditions have a notion of love/compassion at their heart.

04 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about using deterrence to stop people committing crime.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- The Old Testament speaks of punishments that may act to deter criminals – *“But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.”* (Exodus 21:23–25)
- The New Testament gives a message about love and forgiveness – *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.”* (Matthew 5:38–39)

Buddhism:

- Many Buddhists would support the use of deterrence because it stops criminal activity taking place. This will reduce the suffering (dukkha) that results from criminal activity.

05 Explain **two** religious beliefs on the use of corporal punishment.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

Agree:

- *“He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.”* (Proverbs 13:24) This suggests that physically disciplining a child is acceptable because it is a loving thing to do.
- Some Christians may therefore argue that it is important to discipline a child, which may include corporal punishment.

Disagree:

- Most Christians would not support corporal punishment for criminals because it causes physical harm; Jesus said ‘pray for those that persecute’, and instead of believing in ‘an eye for an eye’ he taught to ‘turn the other cheek’.

Buddhism:

Disagree:

- Corporal punishment involves causing physical pain to another. The Buddha’s Dhamma teaches against causing harm to others, and it is forbidden by the First Moral Precept. This is because corporal punishment does not express metta and karuna towards others, because it doesn’t show loving kindness or compassion to physically punish someone.
- The Buddha taught, *“Whenever you want to do a bodily action, you should reflect on it: [...] would it lead to [...] affliction of others [...] Would it [have] painful consequences and painful results?”* (Pali Canon) This suggests that corporal punishment is not acceptable as it causes harm to others.

06 'We should always follow 'an eye for an eye' when punishing criminals.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- Such retribution makes things fair again.
- Criminals deserve such retribution.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Such punishment may go against human rights.
- Carrying out such harsh retribution if you do the same, makes you as bad as the criminal.

Christianity:

Arguments in support:

- The Old Testament supports 'an eye for an eye'.
- *"But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."* (Exodus 21:23–25)

Arguments in support of other views:

- Jesus in the New Testament counters the Old Testament.
- *"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."* (Matthew 5:38–39)
- Most Christians believe that the New Testament teaching clarifies the Old Testament teaching, and that any potential punishment should be God's decision.

Buddhism:

- Generally, Buddhists would be against the idea of ‘an eye for an eye’. That is because many Buddhists do not believe in a punishment that does not lead to a criminal reflecting and changing their habits.
- Many forms of retribution do not allow for metta and karuna to be expressed/cultivated. For example, some may involve injury/harm to another.
- The Dalai Lama teaches to avoid this type of punishment: *“we should not seek revenge on those who have committed crimes against us, or reply to their crimes with other crimes”*.

38 E: The death penalty

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of the following means that an action is right if it promotes maximum happiness for the maximum number of people? [1 mark]

Answer: D Principle of utility

02 Which **one** of the following means that all life is holy as it is created and loved by God? [1 mark]

Answer: A Sanctity of life

03 Give **one** argument against the death penalty. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

It goes against the sanctity of life; it's murder, which is always wrong; people can and have been innocently killed; evidence shows it isn't effective as a deterrent; it goes against the First Moral Precept; it does not express metta and karuna

04 Explain **two** different religious beliefs in contemporary British society on the death penalty.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

Agree:

- The death penalty is used in the Bible as a punishment.
- The Old Testament justifies the death penalty.
- Life is sacred and therefore if you murder then you should have your life taken away.
- *"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed."* (Genesis 9:6)
- *"Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth."* (Exodus 21:23–24)

Disagree:

- The death penalty is against the sanctity of life.
- God gives life and only he should take it away.

- Taking the life of a criminal is wrong because it is murder, which is against the Ten Commandments.
- Jesus spoke against an ‘eye for an eye’ and said to ‘turn the other cheek’.
- Some support alternative punishments, such as prison, to help reform criminals, as Christianity emphasises that we are all sinners and need salvation from our sins.
- Some Church leaders have spoken against the death penalty.
- *“You shall not murder.”* (Exodus 20:13)

Buddhism:

Agree:

- A small minority of Buddhists may support the death penalty for the protection of others – if you take someone’s life, they will never be able to harm innocent people again (for example, in acts of terrorism).
- Some Buddhists may believe the death penalty acts as a deterrent, stopping people from hurting others, and therefore reducing dukkha in the world.
- There are instances in the previous life of the Buddha when he killed somebody to save others (for example, Upayakausalya Sutra). Therefore, some may feel that there are some situations in which the death penalty may be acceptable, especially to protect and save the lives of others.

Disagree:

- The Buddhist principle of ahimsa encourages non-violent action and considers the taking of life to be against Buddhist ethics.
- In the Buddha’s Five Moral Precepts, the First Precept teaches Buddhists that they must not take the life or harm another.
- *“Do not kill a living being.”* (Dhammika Sutta)
- *“We can practise looking deeply in order to find better means than approving of capital punishment.”* (Thich Nhat Hanh)

05 Explain **two** religious beliefs about the death penalty.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

Agree:

- The death penalty is used in the Bible as a punishment.
- The Old Testament justifies the death penalty.

- Life is sacred and therefore if you murder then you should have your life taken away.
- *“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed.”* (Genesis 9:6) This can be interpreted to mean that the death penalty is acceptable for murder because it is a form of retribution.
- *“Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”* (Exodus 21:23–24) This can be interpreted to mean that the death penalty is acceptable for murder because it is an equivalent punishment.

Disagree:

- The death penalty goes against the sanctity of life.
- God gives life and only he should take it away.
- Taking the life of a criminal is wrong because it is murder, which is against the Ten Commandments.
- Jesus spoke against an ‘eye for an eye’ and said to ‘turn the other cheek’.
- Some may support alternative punishments, such as prison, to help reform a criminal, because Christianity emphasises that we are all sinners and need salvation from our sins.
- Some Church leaders have spoken against the death penalty.
- *“You shall not murder.”* (Exodus 20:13) This suggests that the death penalty is not acceptable because Jesus taught against retribution.
- *“This conviction [that human life and dignity should be protected] has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes.”* (Pope Francis) This suggests that the death penalty should not be used anywhere in the world because it goes against the sanctity of life.

Buddhism:

Agree:

- A small minority of Buddhists may support the death penalty for the protection of others – for example, if someone takes other people’s lives in an act of terrorism, that criminal would never be able to harm innocent people again.
- There are instances in the previous life of the Buddha where he killed somebody to save others (for example, Upayakausalya Sutra). Some Buddhists may therefore feel that there are some situations in which the death penalty may be acceptable, especially to protect and save the lives of others.

Disagree:

- The Buddhist principle of ahimsa encourages non-violent action and considers the taking of life to be against Buddhist ethics.

- In the Buddha’s Five Moral Precepts, the First Precept teaches Buddhists that they must not take the life or harm another.
- *“Do not kill a living being.”* (Dhammika Sutta) This shows that Buddhists should not kill anything because the Buddha has specifically spoken against it, which means the death penalty is not acceptable.
- *“We can practise looking deeply in order to find better means than approving of capital punishment.”* (Thich Nhat Hanh) This suggests that there are alternatives to the death penalty, and that these alternatives will do a better job of dealing with criminals.

06 ‘The death penalty should be made legal in Great Britain.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- The death penalty makes society a safer place (protection).
- The death penalty acts as a deterrent to prevent people committing crimes.
- Murderers have taken away life and deserve their life to be taken (retribution).
- The death penalty stops the criminal reoffending.
- It fits with the principle of utility.

Christian teachings to support:

- The death penalty is used in the Bible as a punishment.
- The Old Testament justifies the death penalty.
- Life is sacred and therefore if you murder then you should have your life taken away.
- *“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed.”* (Genesis 9:6)
- *“Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”* (Exodus 21:23–24)

Buddhist teachings to support:

- A small minority of Buddhists may support the death penalty for the protection of others – for example, if someone takes other people’s lives in an act of terrorism, they would never be able to harm innocent people again.
- There are instances in the previous life of the Buddha where he killed somebody to save others (for example, Upayakausalya Sutra). Some may feel, therefore, that there are situations in which the death penalty may be acceptable, especially to protect and save the lives of others.

Arguments in support of a different view:

It should not be made legal:

- The death penalty goes against the sanctity of life.
- The death penalty is murder, which is always wrong.
- Innocent people can and have been killed.
- Evidence shows the death penalty isn’t effective as a deterrent.

Christian teachings that support the view it should not be made legal:

- The death penalty goes against the sanctity of life.
- God gives life and only he should take it away.
- Taking the life of a criminal is wrong because that is murder, which is against the Ten Commandments.
- Jesus spoke against an ‘eye for an eye’ and said to ‘turn the other cheek’.
- Some may support alternative punishments, such as prison, to help reform a criminal, because Christianity emphasises that we are all sinners and need salvation from our sins.
- Some Church leaders have spoken against the death penalty.
- *“You shall not murder.”* (Exodus 20:13)
- *“This conviction [that human life and dignity should be protected] has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes.”* (Pope Francis)

Buddhist teachings that support the view it should not be made legal:

- The Buddhist principle of ahimsa encourages non-violent action and considers the taking of life to be against Buddhist ethics.
- In the Buddha’s Five Moral Precepts, the First Precept teaches Buddhists that they must not take the life or harm another.
- *“Do not kill a living being.”* (Dhammika Sutta)
- *“We can practise looking deeply in order to find better means than approving of capital punishment.”* (Thich Nhat Hanh)

39 F: Prejudice and discrimination

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means the actions or behaviour that result from prejudice? [1 mark]

Answer: D Discrimination

02 Which **one** of these means judging someone unfairly before the facts are known, or holding biased opinions about an individual or group? [1 mark]

Answer: A Prejudice

03 Give **one** religious belief about women in religion. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Some Christians do not allow women to take a role in the Church – Jesus was a male.
- He chose all male disciples.
- St Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians says: *“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak [...] for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.”* (1 Corinthians 14:34–35)
- Some Christians allow women to lead in the Church – the Church of England has allowed women priests since 1993.
- Galatians 3:28 shows that women are equal to men.

Buddhism:

- Both men and women are capable of enlightenment.
- Some Buddhist traditions do not allow women to become members of the ordained Sangha.
- Other Buddhist traditions will ordain women as monastics or non-monastics, on an equal footing as men.
- The Dalai Lama has been quoted as saying he sees no reason why a future Dalai Lama could not be a woman.

04 Explain **two** different religious beliefs on the freedom of religious expression.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- People should be free to choose their beliefs.
- Christians should be tolerant.
- Jesus taught, *“Love your neighbour as yourself”* (Matthew 22:39), which includes people who may not be the same as us.
- *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”* (Romans 12:18)
- Christians believe that Jesus taught religious freedom.
- Jesus said, *“My Father’s house has many rooms”* (John 14:2). There are no limits to who can enter the kingdom of heaven.

Buddhism:

- The Dalai Lama said: *“...every person on this earth has the freedom to practise or not practise religion. It is all right to do either.”*
- A very small minority of Buddhist teachers suggest Buddhism should be the only religion that is followed in their nation.
- Many Buddhists involve themselves in interfaith projects, to encourage and support interfaith dialogue. For some, this may be an expression of metta and karuna to the world.

05 Explain **two** religious beliefs about the status and treatment of people in same-sex sexual relationships.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- People who are attracted to people of the same sex are part of God’s creation, and everyone should be treated with respect.
- Texts that forbid same-sex sexual relationships have been misinterpreted because they are often contextual to the time of writing.
- It can suggested that there are same-sex sexual relationships in the Bible, for example, David and Jonathan.
- Some Christian churches will marry same-sex couples.
- Some Christian churches will bless a civil marriage.

- Being attracted to people of the same sex is accepted because we are all part of God’s creation.
- Taking part in same-sex sexual acts is not acceptable.
- God told humans to procreate (‘be fruitful’) but same-sex couples are not able to do this naturally so they cannot fulfil God’s command.
- Catholic teachings say that sex is for procreation so people who are attracted to people of the same sex should remain chaste.
- Bible texts that forbid same-sex sexual acts support their view.
- Some Christian churches will not marry or bless same-sex couples.
- Opposite-sex relationships are part of God’s plan for humans and the Bible speaks about a man and a woman as husband and wife, for example, Adam and Eve.
- The Bible speaks about procreation as a command from God (‘be fruitful’) and that only same-sex couples can do this naturally. This can be interpreted to mean that same-sex couples are unable to fulfil God’s command.
- Texts in the Bible that forbid same-sex sexual relationships are taken literally.

Buddhism:

- For many Buddhists, the quality of the relationship rather than who is involved is what is important. If the relationship is rooted in the principles of metta, karuna, and the avoidance of dukkha, it does not matter whether it is an opposite-sex or same-sex sexual relationship.
- The Dalai Lama said: *“If two people, a couple, really feel that way, it’s more practical, more satisfaction, and both sides fully agree, then okay!”* This suggests that he supports consensual same-sex sexual relationships and, because he is a modern leader, Buddhists may follow his authority.
- Some Buddhist teachers have forbidden sexual activity between people of the same sex, primarily as it does not allow for procreation. For example, Master Hsuan Hua said: *“Homosexuality contradicts procreation and is a form of sexual misconduct.”* This might lead to some Buddhists believing same-sex sexual relationships are wrong because they do not lead to children.
- All people should be treated with compassion (karuna) and loving kindness (metta).

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about prejudice.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- All humans are equal.

- *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:28) This can be interpreted to mean that everybody is equal and prejudice is, therefore, unjustified.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha taught that we should treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves.
- *“One should cultivate loving kindness towards all the world.”* (Pali Canon) The Buddha’s teaching might be interpreted to mean that prejudice is wrong because it can cause hatred and harm, which isn’t loving.

07 ‘A woman’s place is in the home.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- It’s a traditional role.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Women have opportunities to do other things, for example, have a career.
- Women are good at other things.

Christianity:

- Most Christians believe that women are equal to men.
- Traditional views are that a woman’s role is that of a mother and a housekeeper.
- Modern views say that women and men should share these roles and women can also work, as men do.
- In Christian communities, girls and women are free to get an education and work in a job.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha taught that women and men are equally capable of enlightenment, suggesting that men and women are equal.
- The Dalai Lama said: *“All beings are equal... there is no logical basis to discriminate between them.”* Therefore, women and men should have the same opportunities, inside and outside the home.
- If women are treated differently to men in Buddhist societies, this is often an expression of social traditions rather than the teachings of the Buddha.
- In many Buddhist traditions, women are highly valued in religious roles, for example, the Triratna Buddhist Order ordains both men and women.

40F: Social justice, racial prejudice, and discrimination

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is showing prejudice against someone because of their ethnic group or nationality? [1 mark]

Answer: C Racism

02 Which **one** of these means ensuring that society treats people fairly whether they are wealthy or experiencing poverty and protects people's human rights? [1 mark]

Answer: A Social justice

03 Give **one** religious belief about social justice. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

They support social justice; their sources of wisdom of authority give their followers clear guidance on how society should support all people; they care about people living in poverty; God expects them to treat others justly; they should help others to make things fair

Including examples: giving to charity; protecting human rights, etc.

04 Name **one** form of discrimination. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Racism; sexism; religious discrimination; positive discrimination

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs on racial prejudice.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

- Both Christians and Buddhists are against racial prejudice and discrimination.
- Both religions have followers from all races; they are not limited or exclusive to one race.
- Their sources of wisdom and authority support equality and justice.
- They teach equality between all humans.

Christianity:

- *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:28)

- *“Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”* (John 7:24)

Buddhism:

- The Buddha said: *“Let him not despise anyone anywhere... .”* (Pali Canon)
- The Dalai Lama said: *“despite all the characteristics that differentiate us – race, language, religion [...] we are all equal in terms of our basic humanity.”*

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about the responsibilities people have to uphold human rights. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[6 marks]**

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

- The responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Many countries uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Christianity:

- Most Christians will agree that we should support all the human rights in the UDHR.
- *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”* (Matthew 22:39) This can be interpreted to mean that upholding human rights is the loving thing to do.
- Follow the rule, ‘treat others as you wish to be treated.’
- Christians can ensure that everybody is treated fairly.
- *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:28) This could be interpreted to mean that everybody is equal and, therefore, that everyone deserves to have their human rights respected.
- Stand up for other people’s rights.
- *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”* (Proverbs 31:8–9) This suggests that Christians should defend people who are in need, and this may include defending their human rights.

Buddhism:

- Most Buddhists will agree that we should support all the human rights in the UDHR.
- The Buddha said: *“One should cultivate loving kindness towards all the world.”* (Pali Canon) This suggests that Buddhists should uphold human rights because human rights support karuna and metta.
- Dukkha will be reduced if everyone’s basic entitlements are enshrined by the human rights.

- The Dalai Lama said: “...despite all the characteristics that differentiate us — race, language, religion [...] we are all equal in terms of our basic humanity.” This suggests that Buddhists should support human rights because human rights promote equality.
- Socially engaged Buddhism encourages Buddhists to support/campaign for access to human rights.

07 ‘It is easy to ensure that there is social justice.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- We have a system that means if we pay tax then it ensures social justice through access to the NHS and benefits for those that need them.
- If wealthy people share with people living in poverty.
- There are enough food and other resources to go around.
- Charities can organise resources so that the needy get what they need.

Arguments in support of other views:

- The cost of living is not being covered by benefits/pay.
- People may not know who needs help.
- We have different ideas of what social justice means around the world.

General points:

- People support social justice.
- Their sources of wisdom of authority give their followers clear guidance on how society should support all people.
- They care about people living in poverty.
- God expects them to treat other justly.
- They should help others to make things fair.

Including examples: giving to charity; protecting human rights, etc.

Christianity:

- *“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”* (Amos 5:24)
- *“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”* (Proverbs 29:7)

Buddhism:

- If followed, the Buddha’s Dhamma ensures social justice is achieved. The principle aims and teachings of the Buddha were the *“cessation of suffering”*; if suffering is reduced, social justice will largely be achieved.
- The Buddha encouraged his followers to not harm anybody, for example, by following the First Moral Precept.
- The Buddha encouraged his followers to show loving kindness (metta) and compassion (karuna) to all. This will ensure their rights are met and that are treated fairly.

41 F: Wealth and exploitation of people living in poverty

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means paying someone a proper amount for the work that they do? [1 mark]

Answer: A Fair pay

02 Give **one** reason for poverty. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Unemployment or low wages; natural disasters such as drought, floods, and disease; corrupt leaders taking money from people and leaving them without enough to survive; low-income countries borrowing money at a high rate of interest; people borrowing money at a high rate of interest

03 Give **one** way that religious believers can help people living in poverty. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- We should look after people living in poverty.
- Don't exploit their situation.
- Agree with fair pay.

Buddhism:

- Look after people in poverty.
- Don't exploit their situation.
- Agree with fair pay.
- Offer support to people in need.
- Ensure money is made following a 'Right Livelihood'.
- Don't amass huge wealth at the expense of others' suffering.

04 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the uses of wealth.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- In the Old Testament wealth was seen as a blessing from God.
- *“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”* (Deuteronomy 8:18)
- In the New Testament Jesus warned people not to become greedy and selfish.
- Wealth can take you away from focusing on God.
- *“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”* (Mark 10:25)
- Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters [...] You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Matthew 6:24)
- Sharing wealth to help tackle poverty as a form of Christian love (agape).
- Giving to a Christian charity, for example, Christian Aid, CAFOD.

Buddhism:

- The Buddha’s Dhamma teaches that greed is one of the Three Poisons. This means it is something which contributes to suffering (dukkha). Therefore, greed and hoarding of wealth should be avoided.
- Some Buddhists may choose to make a lot of money (by ethical means) so that they can give it away/share it with others.
- Buddhists should be ‘generous’ with their wealth. Generosity is one of the Six Perfections.
- Buddhists are encouraged to give (dana). Many Buddhists use their wealth to support the monastic community during their daily alms’ rounds.

05 Explain **two** religious beliefs on fair pay.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- We should look after people living in poverty and not exploit their situation so would agree with fair pay.
- *“Do not exploit the poor because they are poor.”* (Proverbs 22:22) This might be interpreted to mean that paying people an unfair wage is exploitation of the poor and should not be done.

- Slavery is wrong.
- People trafficking does not respect victims.
- It goes against key teachings of 'love your neighbour as yourself'.
- It's against belief of 'agape' (unconditional love for all humans).
- *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* (Matthew 25:40) This might be interpreted to mean that Christians should help and be kind to one another, and this includes paying people fairly.

Buddhism:

- People should be paid fairly for their work, not exploited.
- People should not be enslaved. Enslaving people is not treating them in accordance with their rights, nor does it show them loving kindness (metta) and karuna (compassion).
- Buddhists are encouraged to work in accordance with 'Right Livelihood' principles. The Buddha taught that Buddhists should consider how their work impacts others. This means paying workers a fair wage for their work.
- Many Buddhists support grass-roots cooperatives and initiatives such as Fair Trade, which ensure workers are paid fairly for their produce or work.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about excessive interest on loans.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- We should look after people living in poverty and not exploit their situation so would not agree with excessive interest.
- *"Do not exploit the poor because they are poor."* (Proverbs 22:22) This can be interpreted to mean that loans should not exploit people just because they don't have enough money.
- The Old Testament of the Bible forbids charging interest.
- Christians today may believe that the Old Testament teachings were for a specific time and context, and it is OK to charge interest if it is a reasonable amount and does not create further poverty.
- *"Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest."* (Deuteronomy 23:19) This can be interpreted to mean that you should not charge interest when lending money, which means charging excessive interest is unacceptable.

Buddhism:

- Buddhists would not agree with charging excessive interest on loans. Charging excessive interest would be an example of an action motivated by the poison of 'greed'.

- Charging excessive interest would also be considered ‘unskilful’ because it contributes to suffering.
- The Buddha taught these types of actions should be avoided, because they result in suffering (dukkha). He taught Buddhists to develop compassion towards others, so charging excessive interest on money loaned to someone living in poverty would go against his teachings.
- Thich Nhat Hanh encourages followers to live a life that is not focused on the accumulation of wealth and profit. This means not charging excessive interest on loans because it makes huge profits for lenders.

07 ‘Religious people should give away their wealth.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

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

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- It creates equality.
- Religious teachings support giving money to people living in poverty, for example, almsgiving, tithing.
- You can’t take wealth with you to the afterlife.

Arguments in support of other views:

- All people should give away their wealth, not just religious people – this creates equality for everyone.
- Everyone should work for their own money.
- God has blessed them with wealth, so why give it away?

Christianity:

- In the Old Testament wealth was seen as a blessing from God.
- *“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”* (Deuteronomy 8:18)
- In the New Testament Jesus warned people not to become greedy and selfish.

- Wealth can take you away from focusing on God.
- *“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”* (Mark 10:25)
- Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters [...] You cannot serve both God and money”*. (Matthew 6:24)
- Sharing wealth to help tackle poverty as a form of Christian love (agape).
- Giving to a Christian charity, for example, Christian Aid, CAFOD.

Buddhism:

- Buddhism does not forbid people to have wealth. However, if a person is wealthy, the money should be used wisely, and their wealth should not have been accumulated through means that exploit others.
- The Buddha’s Dhamma teaches that greed is one of the Three Poisons that contributes to suffering (dukkha). Therefore, excessive wealth accumulation should not be pursued, and money should be given to support worthwhile causes.
- Buddhists should be ‘generous’ with their wealth. Generosity is one of the Six Perfections.
- Buddhists are encouraged to give (dana). Many Buddhists use their wealth to support the monastic community during their daily alms’ rounds. Those in monastic communities do not have their own wealth so they rely on the generosity and support of the lay community.

42 F: People in poverty helping themselves, and charity

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is the name for unconditional Christian love for other humans? [1 mark]

Answer: C Agape

02 Which **one** of these is the correct term for giving in Buddhism? [1 mark]

Answer: D Dana

03 Name **one** way religious people can give to charity. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

Tithe; almsgiving; giving time to support religious charities

04 Give **one** reason why religious people give to charity. [1 mark]

You may include one of the following points, but all other relevant points will be credited:

To be rewarded by God at Judgement; part of teachings; in holy book; to reduce poverty; creates equality; a requirement of the Bodhisattva path; part of the lay community's relationship with monastics; supports the reduction of dukkha in the world

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the responsibilities of those living in poverty to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Christians will encourage those living in poverty to help themselves. This might mean finding work.
- *"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."* (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- If the cause of poverty can be addressed, then people should try to deal with the cause.
- *"For drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags."* (Proverbs 23:22)

Buddhism:

- Those living in poverty deserve to be treated with loving kindness (metta) and compassion (karuna). Therefore, if the cause of their poverty can be addressed, people should be supported to do so.
- People should try and avoid behaviours and activities which may result in poverty, if they can, for example, excessive consumption of alcohol and the taking of drugs.
- Society should undergo reform, so everybody living in poverty can be freed from it.

06 Explain **two** religious beliefs about giving to charity.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[6 marks]

You may include some of the following points, but other relevant points will be credited:

Christianity:

- Many Christians share their wealth by giving money in a collection in church on a Sunday.
- Pay a tithe (10% of their earnings).
- Give to charities that help others.
- Show Christian love (agape) to people that they do not know.
- Giving to charity can help to tackle poverty.
- The Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31–46) shows that people who help those in poverty will go to God’s ‘right side’ in heaven. This suggests that giving money to charity will be rewarded by God.
- Christian charities, such as Christian Aid and CAFOD, use donations to help those living in poverty.

Buddhism:

- Many lay Buddhists share their wealth by supporting the monastic community during their daily alms’ rounds, by offering them food and other materials (not money).
- Giving to charity is an expression of metta and karuna, and is encouraged within Buddhism.
- Generosity is considered a ‘skilful action’ and is something considered to ‘make merit’. The Buddha says: “*the ground for making merit consisting in giving...*” (Pali Canon). This suggests that giving money to charity is a skilful action that will also impact the giver through kamma.
- Buddhist charities, for example, Bodhicharya UK, use donations to help those living in poverty.

07 'Everyone should give money to charity.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement

should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view

should refer to religious arguments

may refer to non-religious arguments

should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks][+ SPaG 3 marks]

You may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments will be credited:

Arguments in support:

- It creates equality.
- It reduces poverty.
- It promotes social justice.
- Some charities help to research important issues to reduce/stop them.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Not everyone should give – some people cannot afford to.
- It's better to help individuals that you know rather than charity organisations.
- Some charities support less important issues; for example, charities helping humans are more important than those helping animals.

Christianity:

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- Pay a tithe (10% of their earnings)
- Give to charities that help others.
- Show Christian love (agape) to people that they do not know
- It can help to tackle poverty.
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