

Christianity and Islam: answers

20 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 Withdrawal

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; 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; control the amount of children they have; 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

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 allow sex before marriage as part of a loving, committed relationship that will end in marriage.
- Many Christians are against sex before marriage because that 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.

Islam:

- Islam teaches that sex before marriage is not allowed and is zinah (sexual offence).
- Sex is a gift from God, only shared between a married couple, and may lead to having children within a family unit.
- Islam forbids adultery in the Qur'an and the Hadith. In countries that follow Shari'ah law, the punishment for being found guilty of adultery is death by stoning.

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 gift from God and should be nurtured and guided.
- God's purpose for marriage is to have children.

Islam:

- Muslim couples are expected to have children but can plan when and how many they want to have depending on their circumstances.
- Children are a gift from God, so procreation is a blessing.
- The health of the mother and the well-being of the family is important so contraception can be used to ensure them.
- The Qur'an does not specifically mention contraception but it does say, *"God wishes to lighten your burden; man was created weak"* (Qur'an 4:28). This suggests that God doesn't want people to suffer and so it might support the use of contraception.
- Some Muslims believe that a lack of money is not a reason to use contraception.

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/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.
- A 2016 British social attitudes survey showed a significant majority of people (75%) say that sex before marriage is "not at all wrong".
- Eight per cent think pre-marital sex is "always" or "mostly" wrong.

Christianity:

- Some 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 as it breaks the marriage vows and goes against Biblical teaching.

Islam:

- Islam teaches that sex before marriage is not allowed and is zinah (sexual offence).
- Sex is a gift from God, only shared between a married couple, and may lead to having children within a family unit.
- Islam forbids adultery in the Qur'an and the Hadith. In countries that follow Shari'ah law, the punishment for being found guilty of adultery is death by stoning.

21 A: Marriage and divorce

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means living together as a couple 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 Name **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 in Christianity. [1 mark]

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

- One of God's gifts to humans at creation.
- A sacrament: an outward expression of an inner grace.
- It 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.
- A physical and spiritual union that is a loving relationship.
- It is the right place for having sex and for having children.
- It provides stability and is a foundation for family life and the wider society.

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 opposite-sex couples.
- One of the main purposes of marriage is to have children and same-sex couples cannot do this naturally.

Islam:

- Same-sex marriage is not permitted because same-sex sexual relationships are not allowed.
- The Qur'an 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.

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 do not permit cohabitation because it is likely that pre-marital sex will occur, which is not allowed, so cohabitation is a sin.
- *"The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin."* (Catechism 2390) This implies that cohabitation is not be 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.

Islam:

Cohabitation is not allowed because sex should only occur in marriage and the assumption is that a cohabiting couple will have sex.

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 make 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/harmful then it shouldn't have to exist.
- It's 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 for life: 'Til death us do part'.
- 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.

Islam:

- Marriage is the right place to have children and bring them up in Islam as a foundation for the wider society.
- Divorce is allowed in Islam but should be avoided if possible – last resort.
- *"Divorce is the worst thing that Allah permits."* (Hadith) There is a system of support for a couple that may wish to divorce, including a period of separation (iddah) which allows time to check if the woman is pregnant.
- Family and mosque leaders (imams) may be involved to try to resolve any issues that may prevent a divorce.

22 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 right and wrong; religious families raise children according to the 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.

Islam:

- Islamic teachings on same-sex sexual relationships mean that same-sex parents are not accepted.

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.

Islam:

- Men are allowed to have up to four wives under certain conditions.
- Muhammad had more than one wife.
- *"If you fear that you will not deal fairly with orphan girls, you may marry whichever [other] women seem good to you, two, three, or four. If you fear that you cannot be equitable [to them], then marry only one."* (Qur'an 4:3) This suggests that polygamy is acceptable only up to four wives, as long as the husband treats them all well.
- If a man has more than one wife then they should be treated fairly.

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.
- It's the traditional type of family in the UK.

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.

Islam:

- 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.

23 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 gave women the same voting rights as men? [1 mark]

Answer: D Equal Franchise Act

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 the change 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 – 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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an says that God created men and women from the same soul.
- *"People, be mindful of your Lord, who created you from a single soul, and from it created its mate, and from the pair of them spread countless men and women far and wide."* (Qur'an 4:1)
- They both have the same religious and moral duties.
- Muhammad said that *"All people are equal as the teeth of a comb"* (Hadith).
- Men and women are equal but have different roles in life.
- Women should look after the home and the children to raise them as good Muslims.
- Some believe that it is then OK for a woman to work if her duties as a mother are fulfilled.
- The role of a man is to provide for his family, usually through working to bring in money.

06 Explain **two** 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 God's 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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an says that God created men and women from the same soul.
- *"People, be mindful of your Lord, who created you from a single soul, and from it a created its mate, and from the pair of them spread countless men and women far and wide."* (Qur'an 4:1)
This can be interpreted to mean that God created both men and women, both of whom are equally needed to procreate, suggesting gender equality.
- They both have the same religious and moral duties.

- Muhammad said that “*All people are equal as the teeth of a comb*” (Hadith) This can support the belief that everybody is equal, regardless of gender.
- Men and women are equal but have different roles in life.

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 can work and be equal 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.
- It’s the traditional role of women.
- Some say that women are more maternal (that is, softer, more loving) than men.

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.

Islam:

- Women should look after the home and the children to raise them as good Muslims.
- Men look after children by providing financially.

24 B: The origins of the universe and human life

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these books in the Bible describes creation?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Genesis

02 Which **one** of these is the scientific theory of the origins of the universe?

[1 mark]

Answer: B The 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; God created the first human (Adam) from clay and breathed life into him (Islam)

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.

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:

- 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.

Islam:

- Described in the holy book (Qur'an).
- Humans have descended from the first two humans, Adam and Eve.
- Eve was made from Adam's rib.
- God created evolution and humans evolved over time.
- God created the first human (Adam) from clay and breathed life into him.

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 can be interpreted to mean that God created the first human and gave life to him.

Islam:

- Described in the holy book (Qur'an).
- Humans have descended from the first two humans, Adam and Eve.
- Eve was made from Adam's rib.
- God created evolution and humans evolved over time.
- God created the first human (Adam) from clay and breathed life into him.
- *"People, We [God] created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognize one another."* (Qur'an 49:13) This can support the belief that all humans originate from the first humans, and we are part of God's creation.

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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an can work with scientific evidence.
- The Qur'an tells us about God's power and science tells us about how he used his power.
- Scientific evidence has not fully explained creation but Islamic sources of authority do.

25 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 vaccinations; 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 will accept animal experimentation for medicines only as this is necessary to help humans in curing diseases.

Islam:

- Animals are part of God's creation and are important to him.
- More than 200 verses in the Qur'an mention animals and six chapters are named after animals.
- God made animals to live in communities.
- *"All the creatures that crawl on the earth and those that fly with their wings are communities like yourselves."* (Qur'an 6:38)
- Muhammad treated animals well and there are several stories that show this.
- He cut off a part of his cloak rather than disturbing a sleeping cat.
- He told someone to return a bird's eggs when he saw the bird was distressed by them being removed.

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, 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) 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.
- *"Every human act of irresponsibility towards creatures is an abomination [disgrace]."* (Christian statement in the Assisi Declarations on Nature)

- *“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.

Islam:

- The Qur’an teaches that creation belongs to God.
- *“It is to God that everything in the heavens and earth belongs: God is fully aware of all things.”* (Qur’an 4:126) This can support the belief that we should value creation because it belongs to God and God knows how we are treating it.
- God’s creation brings a sense of awe and wonder to humans who reflect on it.
- *“...it is He who spread out the earth, placed firm mountains and rivers on it, and made two of every kind of fruit; He draws the veil of night over the day. There truly are signs in this for people who reflect.”* (Qur’an 13:3) This can support the belief that we can see the signs of God’s creation around us so we should value and respect it.
- We are God’s ‘khalifahs’ (Arabic for ‘stewards’) so it is our duty to look after his creation.
- *“It is He who has made you successors on the earth.”* (Qur’an 6:165) This can support the belief that God has made us khalifahs to look after and value his creation.
- We should use the Earth’s resources carefully.
- *“Do not seek from it more than what you need.”* (Hadith) This can support the belief that we should not misuse God’s creation, using it for things that are not needed.
- *“Eat and drink [as We have permitted] but do not be extravagant: God does not like extravagant people.”* (Qur’an 7:31) This can support the belief that humans should think carefully about what they eat because it impacts the planet.
- On the Day of Judgement humans will be asked how they have looked after the planet, for example, growing plants for food.
- *“Every single Muslim that cultivates or plants anything of which humans, animals or birds may eat from is counted as charity towards them on his behalf.”* (Hadith) This can support the belief that if Muslims help to feed living beings they will be rewarded by God.

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 humans' 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.
- It is expensive to start to use renewable energy sources, for example, buy solar panels for your house – money should be spent on better causes, for example, poverty.
- It's not just religious people's responsibility but everyone's as 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.
- *"Every human act of irresponsibility towards creatures is an abomination [disgrace]."* (Christian statement in the Assisi Declarations on Nature)
- *"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)

Islam:

- The Qur'an teaches that creation belongs to God so we should do our best to look after Earth.
- *"It is to God that everything in the heavens and earth belongs: God is fully aware of all things."* (Qur'an 4:126)
- God's creation brings a sense of awe and wonder to humans who reflect on it.

- *“...it is He who spread out the earth, placed firm mountains and rivers on it, and made two of every kind of fruit; He draws the veil of night over the day. There truly are signs in this for people who reflect.”* (Qur’an 13:3)
- We are God’s ‘khalifahs’ (Arabic for ‘stewards’) so it is our duty to look after his creation.
- *“It is He who has made you successors on the earth.”* (Qur’an 6:165)
- We should use the Earth’s resources carefully.
- *“Do not seek from it more than what you need.”* (Hadith)
- *“Eat and drink [as We have permitted] but do not be extravagant: God does not like extravagant people.”* (Qur’an 7:31)
- On the Day of Judgement humans will be asked how they have looked after the planet.

26 B: Abortion and euthanasia

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is the type of euthanasia when the patient asks someone to end their life for them? [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 for 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

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:

- It is deliberately taking someone's life, which is a sin against God.
- *"You shall not murder."* (Exodus 20:13)
- It 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)
- It might be the lesser of two evils.
- Quality of life is important.
- Helping someone to stop their suffering might be the best thing to do.
- God gave humans the ability to develop life-ending drugs and the free will to use them so we should.
- *“Blessed are the merciful.”* (Matthew 5:7)
- Christian leaders have condemned euthanasia.

Islam:

- It is taking life, which is murder, which the Qur’an forbids.
- *“Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you.”* (Qur’an 4:29)
- It is ‘playing God’, which is the greatest sin (shirk).
- It goes against God’s plan for your life.
- *“No soul may die except with God’s permission at a predestined time.”* (Qur’an 3:145)

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:

- The Bible shows that life is holy.
- 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 existing, showing the sanctity of life.
- The Bible says, *“Do not murder”* (Exodus)

Islam:

- The Qur’an shows that life is holy.
- Taking life, which is murder, which the Qur’an forbids.

- *“Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you.”* (Qur’an 4:29) This can be interpreted to mean that killing another person goes against the sanctity of life, and that God will help the person who is inclined to kill.
- ‘Playing God’ is the greatest sin (shirk).
- God plans our lives.
- *“No soul may die except with God’s permission at a predestined time.”* (Qur’an 3:145) This can be interpreted to mean that life is holy and given by God because God decides when it ends, supporting the sanctity of life.

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 doesn’t 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)
- God gave humans the ability to develop life-ending drugs and the free will to use them so we should.
- *“Blessed are the merciful.”* (Matthew 5:7)

Islam:

- ‘Playing God’ is the greatest sin (shirk) and goes against God’s plan for your life.
- *“No soul may die except with God’s permission at a predestined time.”* (Qur’an 3:145)

27 B: Death and the afterlife

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is the name of the parable that describes the judgement of humans?

[1 mark]

Answer: D The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

02 Which **one** of these does the Bible class as sin?

[1 mark]

Answer: C Anger

03 Name **one** place in the afterlife in Islam.

[1 mark]

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

Heaven (Jannah); hell (Jahannam)

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; our soul will go to barzakh; our soul will go to purgatory; we will be resurrected; we will spend eternity in heaven/hell

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs on life after death.

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:

- 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, so it is a symbolic description of being 'without God', not a place called hell.

Islam:

- How we behave in this life matters for our afterlife.
- Human souls wait for The Day of Judgement to arrive.
- We will be judged by God, on the Day of Judgement, on how we have behaved.
- Our good behaviour will be rewarded; however, our sins may lead to an existence in hell.
- The Qur'an describes heaven (Jannah) as a paradise and an eternal beautiful garden of physical and spiritual pleasures and delights.
- The Qur'an describes hell (Jahannam) as a blazing fire where there will be eternal pain and suffering.

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, so it is a symbolic description of being 'without God', not a place called hell.

Islam:

- How we behave in this life matters for our afterlife.
- Human souls wait for The Day of Judgement to arrive.
- We will be judged by God, on the Day of Judgement, on how we have behaved.
- Our good behaviour will be rewarded; however, our sins may lead to an existence in hell.
- The Qur'an describes heaven (Jannah) as a paradise and an eternal beautiful garden of physical and spiritual pleasures and delights. This illustrates what life after death might be like for some people.
- The Qur'an describes hell (Jahannam) as a blazing fire where there will be eternal pain and suffering. This illustrates what life after death might be like for some people.

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:

- People have had near-death experiences and reported that they experienced something else out of this world.
- 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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an describes an afterlife.
- Muhammad spoke about the afterlife.
- The Qur'an describes heaven (Jannah) as a paradise and an eternal beautiful garden of physical and spiritual pleasures and delights.
- The Qur'an describes hell (Jahannam) as a blazing fire where there will be eternal pain and suffering.

- An afterlife gives purpose to being a good Muslim.

28 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 modern 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 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.
- Why do miracles only happen to some people? Surely an omnibenevolent God would want to help all of his people?

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? God caused it.
- 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?

29 C: Arguments against the existence of God

Practice

Exam-style questions

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

[1 mark]

Answer: C Omnibenevolent

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

[1 mark]

Answer: A Free will

03 Give **one** Christian 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.
- 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.

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, it has shown so far that none of them 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 (e.g., people have painful illnesses).
- God is supposed to be: all-knowing (omniscient) so he knows it is happening; all-loving (omnibenevolent) so he would want to stop it; all-powerful (omnipotent) so he should be able to stop it.
- God doesn't stop suffering, so he clearly doesn't exist.

Christianity:

- 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.
- 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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an says *"God does not burden any soul with more than it can bear."* (Qur'an 2:286)
- Humans have the ability to handle the suffering that we may have in life.
- Shaytan tries to tempt humans to sin but we should put our trust in God.
- *"Beware of Shaytan, he is desperate to divert you from the worship of Allah, so beware of him in matters of religion."* (Hadith)
- Life is a test and God wants to see if humans stay on the straight path of Islam.
- We will be rewarded if we resist evil.
- We may not understand why God does not intervene but we should behave in the most loving way ourselves so we will be rewarded by him in the afterlife.

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’.

Islam:

- The Qur’an gives humans what they need to know about the creation of the universe.
- *“Are the disbelievers not aware that the heavens and the earth used to be joined together and that We [God] ripped them apart, that We [God] made every living thing from water?”* (Qur’an 21:30) This suggests God controlled creation, and it might be interpreted as aligning with the scientific account. This suggests that God and science can co-exist.
- 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’.

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.

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'.

30 C: The nature of the divine and revelation

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is when a person directly experiences God in an extraordinary event?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Special revelation

02 Which **one** of these is a supernatural experience when a person sees something in a dream or a trance that shows them something about God 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

04 Explain **two** different beliefs about nature as general revelation.

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

[4 marks]

You may include one 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. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."* (Psalm 19:1–4)

Islam:

- 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.
- *“Among His signs, too, are that He shows you the lightning that terrifies and inspires hope; that He sends water down from the sky to restore the earth to life after death.”* (Qur’an 30:24)
- Some atheists would say that nature is not evidence of God but proof that science is complex and powerful in itself.

05 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 intoxicants, for example, drugs.
- Both Christianity and Islam see visions as a spiritual experience but will only accept them if they don’t go against the key beliefs as given in the Bible/Qur’an.
- Visions in Islam are not special revelations, rather they are a spiritual experience that a person may have.

06 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 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.

Islam:

- The Qur’an helps Muslims to understand God.
- Reciting the Qur’an helps Muslims to feel God’s presence.

- “This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt, containing guidance for those who are mindful of God.” (Qur’an 2:2) This supports the belief that the Qur’an is a definitive guide to life for Muslims.
- 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.

07 ‘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 and Muslims 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 in itself.

Christianity:

- The Bible says, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*” (Psalm 19:1–4)

Islam:

- The Qur'an says, *"Among His signs, too, are that He shows you the lightning that terrifies and inspires hope; that He sends water down from the sky to restore the earth to life after death."* (Qur'an 30:24)

31 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 means that God is all-powerful and almighty; he can do anything?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Omnipotent

03 Give **one** religious belief about God.

[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, 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 and Muslims 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:

- Both Christians and Muslims 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.

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 because it was a 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 because 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.

Islam:

- Some Muslims say it was a special revelation when Muhammad received the Qur'an from God via the angel Jibril (Qur'an 96:1–5). This is an example of a vision.
- Muslims may feel that they are nearer to God through dreams, visions, or miracles but they will never experience a divine revelation because these ended with Muhammad as the final prophet.

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.
- Technology today means that we can create things that might fool people into thinking that they have had a vision, for example, holograms, AI.
- 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 – Acts 9:1–8.

Islam:

- A spiritual experience will be only accepted if it doesn't go against the key beliefs as given in the Qur'an.
- Visions are not special revelations in Islam.
- They are a spiritual experience that a person may have.
- Seeing an angel, for example Muhammad seeing the Jibril on the Night of Power, is not classed as a vision but is a divine revelation because God revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.

32 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 is 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.
- *"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 as God is all-forgiving and all-merciful.
- The Qur'an says we should pardon someone for what they've done wrong.
- *"...ask forgiveness of God: He is most forgiving and merciful."* (Qur'an 2:199)

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; God is just and will treat people fairly on the Day of Judgement; we should also treat others justly

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs on peace. [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:

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)
- Church services include 'Peace be with you'.

Islam:

- The Qur'an includes times when there was not peace.
- Muhammad often promoted peace.
- One of the meanings of the Arabic word 'Islam' is peace.
- Muslims often greet each other by saying 'as-salamu alaikum' meaning 'peace be with you'.
- *"The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth, and who, when aggressive people address them, reply with words of peace."* (Qur'an 25:63)

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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an and Hadith support the idea that humans should reconcile with one another if they have fallen out.
- If a couple want to divorce, there is a period of time to wait to see if they can reconcile.
- *"Shall I tell you of something that is better than fasting, prayer, and charity? [It is] reconciling between two people."* (Hadith) This suggests that reconciliation will be rewarded by God.

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:

- This links with religious teachings on forgiveness.
- It 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 mean that it is 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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an and Hadith support the idea that humans should reconcile with one another if they have fallen out.
- If a couple want to divorce, there is a period of time to wait to see if they can reconcile.
- *"Shall I tell you of something that is better than fasting, prayer, and charity? [It is] reconciling between two people."* (Hadith)

33 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, 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 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); it 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)

Islam:

- Many Muslims do not agree with pacifism.
- Muhammad fought in wars.
- The Lesser Jihad allows wars as long as they meet certain conditions.
- Muhammad said, *“We have finished the Lesser Jihad, let us now focus on the Greater Jihad”* (Hadith).
- Muslims should focus on their inner struggle.
- War has changed so much since early Islamic times that the conditions aren’t appropriate for today, and so we shouldn’t fight to resolve issues.

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 when 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.

Islam:

- A holy war in Islam is often linked to the concept of the Lesser Jihad.
- Muhammad ‘struggled’ to defend Islam in Makkah in a holy war.
- The Lesser Jihad has specific conditions that must be fulfilled for it to be allowed and then once the war has started, conditions that need to be met.
- *“Let those of you who are willing to trade the life of this world for the life to come, fight in God’s way. To anyone who fights in God’s way, whether killed or victorious, We shall give a great*

reward." (Qur'an 4:74) This suggests that fighting for God will be rewarded by God, so some Muslims may believe that Holy Wars are acceptable.

- Holy war conditions are rarely met.
- Lesser Jihad criteria were created for the time when Muhammad and the Muslims were under attack so they no longer apply today.
- Muhammad told the Muslims when they returned from war: *"We have finished the Lesser Jihad, let us now focus on the Greater Jihad."* (Hadith) This suggests that, because Muhammad took part in Holy Wars, it is acceptable for Muslims to do the same.

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'd 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)

Islam:

- Many Muslims do not agree with pacifism.
- Muhammad fought in wars.
- The Lesser Jihad allows wars as long as they meet certain conditions.
- Muhammad said, *“We have finished the Lesser Jihad, let us now focus on the Greater Jihad.”* (Hadith)
- Muslims should focus on their inner struggle.
- War has changed so much since early Islamic times that the conditions aren’t appropriate for today, and so we shouldn’t fight to resolve issues.

34 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 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

04 Give **one** example of things that 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** ways the work of one present-day religious organisation helps victims of war. 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 – Christian Aid:

- Humanitarian relief.
- Long-term development support for low-income communities worldwide.
- Tackling injustice.
- Championing people's rights.

Islam – Islamic Relief:

- Disaster and emergency response.
- Promote sustainable economic and social development.

06 Explain **two** religious responses to victims of war.

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

[6 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 they should help victims of war.
- Love (agape) is the core of Christianity.
- *"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.

Islam:

- All Muslims are part of the Ummah so should help each other.
- *"All people are equal as the teeth of a comb."* (Hadith) This suggests that as everybody is equal, everybody should be helped, including victims of war.

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 they 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
- *"Faith without action is dead."* (Bible)

Islam:

- All Muslims are part of the Ummah so should help each other.
- *"All people are equal as the teeth of a comb."* (Hadith)

35 D: Nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these are weapons that 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 weapons

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 that is not needed.
- Against *"Love your neighbour as yourself"*. (Matthew 22:39)
- *"Hate your enemy mildly."* (Hadith)
- *"Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good."* (Qur'an 2:195)
- *"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)

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 that is not needed.

- Against *“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)

Islam:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage that is not needed.
- *“Hate your enemy mildly.”* (Hadith)
- *“Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good.”* (Qur’an 2:195)
- A minority of Christians and Muslims may accept that countries need WMDs to be able to defend themselves.
- Some might use ‘an eye for an eye’ (both in the Bible and in the Qur’an) to justify having and potentially using WMDs when enemies are doing the same.

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:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage that is not needed.
- Against *“Love your neighbour as yourself”*. (Matthew 22:39) This might be interpreted to mean 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) This might be interpreted to mean that retaliation should not be used and the people should be peaceful, which goes against the use of nuclear weapons.

Islam:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage that is not needed.
- *“Hate your enemy mildly.”* (Hadith) This can be interpreted to mean that nuclear weapons should not be used because their impact is not ‘mild’.
- *“Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good.”* (Qur’an 2:195) This can be interpreted to mean that nuclear weapons should not be used because they cause significant, uncontrolled destruction.

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:

- They 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:

- They show power.
- They act as a deterrent.
- If others have them then so should we.

Christianity:

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage that is not needed.
- Against *"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)

Islam

- They cause large numbers of deaths and long-term damage that is not needed.
- *"Hate your enemy mildly."* (Hadith)
- *"Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good."* (Qur'an 2:195)

36 E: Good and evil intentions and actions

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these would be classed as an evil action in Christianity?

[1 mark]

Answer: B Committing murder

02 Which **one** of these means 'intention' in Islam?

[1 mark]

Answer: A Niyah

03 Give **one** example of when killing may have good intentions.

[1 mark]

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

To stop people being persecuted by a ruthless dictator a person sends an army to find and kill the dictator; a person helps someone who is ill and suffering to end their life

04 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.

05 Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about causing suffering.

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:

- 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)

Islam:

- We should stay strong through our suffering.
- *"...you are sure to be tested through your possessions and persons; you are sure to hear much that is hurtful [...] If you are steadfast and mindful of God, that is the best course."* (Qur'an 3:186)
- However, some suffering might be a test from God or as a result of giving in to temptation.
- *"God does not burden any soul with more than it can bear: each gains whatever good it has done, and suffers its bad."* (Qur'an 2:286)

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 considered to 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.

Islam:

- Good actions (halal – allowed) and evil (haram – forbidden) actions are described in the Qur'an and in the Hadith.

- Intentions (niyyah) are important in Islam because they will be taken into consideration at Judgement by God.
- *“All actions are judged by motives, and each person will be rewarded according to their intention.”* (Hadith) This suggests that intentions are important in God’s judgement of humans.
- Muhammad outlines how our intentions and actions will be judged.
- Our actions and intentions will then be ‘weighed’ by Allah like scales of justice.
- *“On that Day the weighing of deeds will be true and just: those whose good deeds are heavy on the scales will be the ones to prosper, and those whose good deeds are light will be the ones who have lost their souls through their wrongful rejection of Our messages.”* (Qur’an 7:8–9) This links to the Muslim belief that humans’ intentions will be considered on the Day of Judgement, alongside their actions.

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)

Islam:

- We should stay strong through our suffering.
- *"...you are sure to be tested through your possessions and persons; you are sure to hear much that is hurtful [...] If you are steadfast and mindful of God, that is the best course."* (Qur'an 3:186)
- However, some suffering might be a test from God or as a result of giving in to temptation.
- *"God does not burden any soul with more than it can bear: each gains whatever good it has done, and suffers its bad."* (Qur'an 2:286)

37 E: Reasons for crime

Practice

Exam-style questions

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

[1 mark]

Answer: D Happiness

02 Which **one** of these is a crime motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexuality, disability, or gender or other protected characteristic?

[1 mark]

Answer: B Hate crime

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 problem; 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; teachings; retaliation; follow the law of the land

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

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:

- 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)

Islam:

- Forgiveness is important as God is all-forgiving and all-merciful.
- *"...ask forgiveness of God: He is most forgiving and merciful."* (Qur'an 2:199)
- The Qur'an also says we should pardon someone for what they've done wrong: *"A kind word and forgiveness is better than a charitable deed followed by hurtful [words]."* (Qur'an 2:263)

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

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:

- Help them to 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.
*This means anyone, not just your actual brother/sister.

Islam:

- Shariah law may give a punishment depending on the actual crime.
- *"Hate your enemy mildly, he may become your friend one day."* (Hadith) This can be interpreted to mean that hate crimes are wrong, and also that you shouldn't hate those that commit hate crimes.
- *"All people are equal as the teeth of a comb."* (Hadith) This can be interpreted to mean that hate crimes are wrong because the treat people unequally.

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:

- Help them to 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.
- Prison may protect society and help the thief to reform.

Islam:

- Shariah law gives a punishment for theft.
- *“Cut off the hands of thieves, whether they are man or woman, as punishment for what they have done – a deterrent from God.”* (Qur’an 5:38) This suggests that the punishment for theft is corporal punishment to stop others from doing it too.
- However, it says that if someone is sorry and asks for forgiveness then the punishment does not need to be used.
- It is better to refrain from using a punishment and those that don’t use it will be favoured by God.
- *“Hate your enemy mildly, he may become your friend one day.”* (Hadith) This might be interpreted to mean that thieves should be treated ‘mildly’.
- *“All people are equal as the teeth of a comb.”* (Hadith) This might be interpreted to mean that thieves are equal to everybody else, and that this should be taken into consideration when dealing with them.

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)

Islam:

- Forgiveness is important as God is all-forgiving and all-merciful/
- *"...ask forgiveness of God: He is most forgiving and merciful."* (Qur'an 2:199)
- The Qur'an also says we should pardon someone for what they've done wrong.
- *"A kind word and forgiveness is better than a charitable deed followed by hurtful [words]."* (Qur'an 2:263)

38 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 support reformation and so would agree that prison gives criminals the chance to change whilst keeping society safe.
- Many Muslims may agree with the role of prison in reforming the criminal, though the Qur'an gives other punishments for certain crimes.
- Under Shari'ah law, prison is mostly used to protect society, whilst corporal or capital (execution) punishments are decided.

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)

Islam:

- In some Muslim countries punishments are carried out in public to try to deter others from committing the crime.
- *"...ensure that a group of believers witnesses the punishment."* (Qur'an 24:2)

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.
- So some Christians may argue that it is important to discipline a child, which may include corporal punishment.

Disagree:

- Most Christians would not support corporal punishment for criminals as it causes physical harm, and Jesus taught 'pray for those that persecute' and instead of 'an eye for an eye' to 'turn the other cheek'.

Islam:

Agree:

- The Qur'an gives examples of when corporal punishment can be used.
- These can be seen as a deterrent to prevent people committing the crimes in the first place.
- *"Cut off the hands of thieves, whether they are man or woman, as punishment for what they have done – a deterrent from God: God is almighty and wise. But if anyone repents after his wrongdoing and makes amends, God will accept his repentance: God is most forgiving, most merciful."* (Qur'an 5:38) This can be interpreted to mean that corporal punishment in the form of hand amputation is acceptable for thieves.

Disagree:

- The Qur'an says that if someone is sorry and asks for forgiveness then the punishment does not need to be used.
- It is better to refrain from using corporal punishment, and those that don't use it will be favoured by God.

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:

- It makes things fair again.
- Criminals deserve it.

Arguments in support of other views:

- It may go against human rights.
- It makes you as bad as the criminal if you do the same.

Christianity:

Arguments in support:

- The Old Testament supports it.
- *"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 any potential punishment should be God’s decision.

Islam:

Arguments in support:

- The Qur’an supports it – *“We prescribed for them a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, an equal wound for a wound.”* (Qur’an 5:45)
- *“Fair retribution saves life for you, people of understanding, so that you may guard yourselves against what is wrong.”* (Qur’an 2:179)

Arguments in support of other views:

- The Qur’an specifies different punishments for different crimes.
- The Qur’an says – *“...if anyone forgoes [an eye for an eye] this out of charity, it will serve as atonement for his bad deeds.”* (Qur’an 5:45)

39 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

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:

- It 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:

- It is against the sanctity of life.
- God gives life and only he should take it away.
- Taking the life of a criminal is wrong as 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)

Islam:

Agree:

- Shari’ah law allows the use of the death penalty for certain crimes.
- Countries that follow Shari’ah law, such as Saudi Arabia, use the death penalty for these.
- The Qur’an outlines crimes for which it can be used, for example, adultery.
- These Muslims believe in retribution.
- The death penalty gives justice to the criminal and to the victim’s family.
- *“...do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right [justice].”* (Qur’an 6:151)

Disagree:

- It is playing the role of God and it is only he that should take life away.
- We should protect society from criminals by using punishments, such as prison, but should leave the final judgement and retribution to God.
- They may also allow ‘blood money’ instead of retribution.
- The Qur’an states that those who don’t use retribution and who are merciful will be rewarded by God.
- *“We prescribed for them a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, an equal wound for a wound: if anyone forgoes this out of charity, it will serve as atonement for his bad deeds.”* (Qur’an 5:45)

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:

- It 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:

- It goes against the sanctity of life.
- God gives life and only he should take it away.
- Taking the life of a criminal is wrong as 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, 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) This suggests that the death penalty is not acceptable because Jesus taught against retribution.
- *“I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn away from their ways and live.”* (Ezekiel 33:11) This can be interpreted to mean that no positives come from using the death penalty, and criminals should be given a second chance.
- *“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.

Islam:

Agree:

- Shari’ah law allows the use of the death penalty for certain crimes.
- Countries that follow Shari’ah law, such as Saudi Arabia, use the death penalty for these.
- The Qur’an outlines crimes for which it can be used, for example, adultery.
- These Muslims believe in retribution.
- The death penalty gives justice to the criminal and to the victim’s family.
- *“...do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right [justice].”* (Qur’an 6:151) This can be interpreted to mean that using the death penalty to uphold justice is acceptable.

Disagree:

- It is playing the role of God and it is only he that should take life away.
- We should protect society from criminals by using punishments, such as prison, but should leave the final judgement and retribution to God.

- They may also allow ‘blood money’ instead of retribution.
- The Qur’an states that those who don’t use retribution and are merciful will be rewarded by God.
- *“We prescribed for them a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, an equal wound for a wound: if anyone forgoes this out of charity, it will serve as atonement for his bad deeds.”* (Qur’an 5:45) This can be interpreted to mean that not using the death penalty as retribution will be rewarded by God.
- *“But if the culprit is pardoned by his aggrieved brother, this shall be adhered to fairly, and the culprit shall pay what is due in a good way. This is an alleviation from your Lord and an act of mercy.”* (Qur’an 2:178) This could be interpreted to mean that the death penalty should not be used, and a different punishment, such as blood-money, should be used instead.

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:

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

Christian teachings to support:

- It 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)

Muslim teachings to support:

OXFORD REVISE © Oxford University Press 2025. ISBN 9781382073448

<https://go.oup.com/OR/GCSE/AA/RS/ChristianityIslam/2e>

- Shari'ah law allows the use of the death penalty for certain crimes.
- Countries that follow Shari'ah law, such as Saudi Arabia, use the death penalty for these.
- The Qur'an outlines crimes for which it can be used, for example, adultery.
- These Muslims believe in retribution.
- The death penalty gives justice to the criminal and to the victim's family.
- *"...do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right [justice]."* (Qur'an 6:151)

Arguments in support of a different view:

It should not be made legal:

- It goes against the sanctity of life.
- It's murder, which is always wrong.
- Innocent people can and have been killed.
- Evidence shows it isn't effective as a deterrent.

Christian teachings it should not be made legal:

- It goes against the sanctity of life.
- God gives life and only he should take it away.
- Taking the life of a criminal is wrong as 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, 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)
- *"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn away from their ways and live."* (Ezekiel 33:11)
- *"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)

Muslim teachings it should not be made legal:

- It is playing the role of God and it is only he that should take life away.
- We should protect society from criminals by using punishments, such as prison, but should leave final judgement and retribution to God.
- They may also allow 'blood money' instead of retribution.
- The Qur'an states that those who don't use retribution and are merciful will be rewarded by God.

- *“We prescribed for them a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, an equal wound for a wound: if anyone forgoes this out of charity, it will serve as atonement for his bad deeds.” (Qur’an 5:45)*
- *“But if the culprit is pardoned by his aggrieved brother, this shall be adhered to fairly, and the culprit shall pay what is due in a good way. This is an alleviation from your Lord and an act of mercy.” (Qur’an 2:178)*

40 F: Prejudice and discrimination

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these means behaviour or actions 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.

Islam:

- The role of a woman as mother and housekeeper means that women are not obliged to attend the mosque for the daily and Jumma prayers. If they do attend, then they pray separately from men.
- The majority of religious leaders in Islam are men because women have their own duties to fulfil.
- There are examples of women imams around the world – however, they are not accepted by all Muslims.

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.
- 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.

Islam:

- The Qur'an is clear that religion is a choice.
- *"There is no compulsion in religion."* (Qur'an 2:256)
- Islam is the right path to follow.
- The Qur'an mentions People of the Book (Christians and Jews) but encourages Muslims to remember that, whilst they worship the same God, Muslims should *"not go to excess in your religion, and do not say anything about God except the truth"* (Qur'an 4:171).
- In some Muslim countries, religious freedom may be limited and people who follow other religions may be discriminated against.
- The Qur'an emphasises that believing in Islam is the correct way to be sure of entering heaven – other paths may lead to punishment from God.
- *"Do not try to justify yourselves; you have gone from belief to disbelief. We may forgive some of you, but We will punish others: they are evildoers."* (Qur'an 9:66)

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.
- There are same-sex relationships in the Bible, for example, David and Jonathan.
- Some Christian churches will marry same-sex couples.

- Some 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 sexual 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 opposite-sex couples can do this naturally. This can be interpreted to mean that same-sex couples are unable to fulfil God's command.
- There are texts in the Bible that some people interpret as forbidding same-sex sexual relationships.

Islam:

- Being attracted to someone of the same sex is a choice that should be rejected as it is against God's natural law.
- It is against God's will.
- Humans should marry (someone of the opposite sex).
- Humans should have children, as Muhammad did.
- Same-sex sexual relationships are illegal in many Islamic countries.
- They lead to severe punishments.
- To be convicted, a person must confess, or there must be four eyewitnesses.
- Same-sex sexual relationships may not be punished on Earth, but by God on the Day of Judgement.
- Being attracted to someone of the same sex is not a choice.
- God will judge people's actions.
- People have the right to make their own choices.
- Society is different from the time of Muhammad and the Qur'an.

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:

OXFORD REVISE © Oxford University Press 2025. ISBN 9781382073448

<https://go.oup.com/OR/GCSE/AA/RS/ChristianityIslam/2e>

- 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.

Including beliefs on specific types of prejudice: race; sex; sexuality; religion

Islam:

- All humans are equal.
- *“People are equal like the teeth of a comb.”* (Hadith) This can be interpreted to mean that, because everybody is equal, all forms of prejudice are unjustified.

Including beliefs on specific types of prejudice: race; sex; sexuality; religion

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.
- Women are good at looking after the home/children.

Arguments in support of other views:

- Women have opportunities to do other things, for example, have a career.
- Women are good at other things.
- Men are also good at looking after the home/children.

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.

Islam:

- Women are equal to men in Islam.
- *“Anyone, male or female, who does good works and is a believer, will enter paradise.”* (Qur’an 4:124)
- They have different roles and the woman’s role is to be a mother, bring up the children in Islam, and to look after the house.
- Modern views say that if the woman is fulfilling her role, then she may also work.
- In some Muslim contexts, girls and women may be separated from boys and men, for example, at school, at social occasions such as weddings, on transport, or even whilst shopping.

41 F: 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 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 Muslims 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)

Islam:

- *"People are equal like the teeth of a comb."* (Hadith)
- *"People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should get to know one another."* (Qur'an 49:13)

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 uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – *"We have the responsibility to ensure that what we express is not offensive e.g. racist."*
- *"We have the responsibility to ensure that all religions are treated fairly."* (UDHR)
- *"We have the responsibility to pay people fairly for the work that they do."* (UDHR)

Christianity:

- Most Christians will agree that we should support all of 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 Golden 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, all deserve 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.

Islam:

- Not all countries agreed with the UDHR because Shari'ah law already covers protecting human rights.
- The Cairo Declaration on Human Rights (CDHR) in 1990 used Islamic teachings to create a similar set of rights.
- *"All human beings form one family whose members are united by their subordination to Allah and descent from Adam. All men are equal in terms of basic human dignity and basic obligations and responsibilities, without any discrimination on the basis of race, colour, language, belief, sex, religion, political affiliation, social status or other considerations. The true religion is the guarantee for enhancing such dignity along the path to human integrity."* (CDHR)
- *"Help one another to do what is right and good."* (Qur'an 5:2) This could be interpreted to mean that Muslims should support human rights as a good thing to do.
- In his farewell sermon, Prophet Muhammad said, *"So regard the life and property as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord and that He will indeed reckon your deeds"*. This could be interpreted to mean that Muslims shouldn't hurt others, which is a human right.

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 is enough food/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 or 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.

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)

Islam:

- *“God commands justice, doing good, and generosity towards relatives and He forbids what is shameful, blameworthy, and oppressive.”* (Qur’an 16:90)
- *“Adhere to justice, for that is closer to awareness of God [...] God has promised forgiveness and a rich reward to those who have faith and do good works.”* (Qur’an 5:8–9)

42 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

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: give tithe; we should look after people living in poverty; don't exploit their situation; agree with fair pay

Islam: give Zakah/Khums; you should pay people fairly for the work that they have done

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.

Islam:

- Wealth is a blessing from God.
- It should be used for the benefit of everyone and not stockpiled.
- *“Tell those who hoard gold and silver instead of giving in God’s cause that they will have a grievous punishment.”* (Qur’an 9:34)
- The core practice of almsgiving (Zakah/Khums) means that Muslims help those who are living in poverty.
- They will be rewarded by God on Judgement Day for sharing what they have with others.
- Muslims should not gain wealth through things such as gambling.
- *“Intoxicants and gambling, idolatrous practices, and [divining with] arrows are repugnant acts – Satan’s doing – shun them so that you may prosper.”* (Qur’an 5:90)

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.

Islam:

- You should pay people fairly for the work that they have done.

- *“Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries.”* (Hadith) This could be interpreted to mean that someone should be paid immediately for the work that they do, which supports the concept of fair pay.
- Islam does not forbid slavery. It was common at the time of Muhammad, and he did not stop it.
- The Qur’an and Hadith are clear that slaves should have rights and also be able to be freed.
- They do not agree with people trafficking as it exploits people and Islam does not allow this.

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 agree with fair pay.
- *“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.

Islam:

- Islam forbids charging interest on loans (usury) and there are Islamic banks that allow people to borrow money without paying interest.
- God has allowed trade and forbidden usury.

- “Whoever, on receiving God’s warning, stops taking usury may keep his past gains – God will be his judge – but whoever goes back to usury will be an inhabitant of the Fire, there to remain. God blights usury, but blesses charitable deeds with multiple increase.” (Qur’an 2:276) This could be interpreted to mean that charging high rates of interest (usury) will be punished by being sent to hell (the Fire).

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, Zakah, 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.

Islam:

- Wealth is a blessing from God.
- It should be used for the benefit of everyone and not stockpiled.
- *“Tell those who hoard gold and silver instead of giving in God’s cause that they will have a grievous punishment.”* (Qur’an 9:34)
- The core practice of almsgiving (Zakah/Khums) means that Muslims help those who are living in poverty.
- They will be rewarded by God on Judgement Day for sharing what they have with others.
- Muslims should not gain wealth through things such as gambling.
- *“Intoxicants and gambling, idolatrous practices, and [divining with] arrows are repugnant acts – Satan’s doing – shun them so that you may prosper.”* (Qur’an 5:90)

43 F: People in poverty helping themselves, and charity

Practice

Exam-style questions

01 Which **one** of these is not an act of charity?

[1 mark]

Answer: D Buying new clothes for yourself

02 Which **one** of these is the correct percentage for Khums?

[1 mark]

Answer: D 20

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:

Zakah; Khums; Sadaqah; tithe

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:

Will be rewarded by God at Judgement; part of teachings; in holy book; to reduce poverty; creates equality

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 out of it. This may 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)

Islam:

- People living in poverty may receive the benefit of Zakah.
- Encouraged to manage their money wisely because that will mean they won't get into poverty.
- *"I guarantee that those who economise will never fall poor."* (Hadith)
- Muslims are warned not to overspend on things.
- *"Children of Adam, dress well whenever you are at worship, and eat and drink [as We have permitted] but do not be extravagant: God does not like extravagant people."* (Qur'an 7:31)

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.
- It 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.

Islam:

- A core practice for all Muslims.
- Zakah 2.5% of wealth (Sunni Pillar of Islam and Shi'a Obligatory Act).
- Khums 20% of wealth (Shi'a Obligatory Act).
- Rewarded by God at Judgement.
- *"Those who perform the prayers, pay the prescribed alms, and believe in God and the Last Day – to them We shall give a great reward."* (Qur'an 4:162) This suggests that charity (alms) will result in a reward from God on the Day of Judgement.
- Can also give additional charity (Sadaqah), which may include money, clothing, and food
- Muslim charities, such as Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid, use donations to try to reduce poverty around the world.

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:

- 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
- It 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.
- Christian charities, such as Christian Aid and CAFOD, use donations to help those living in poverty.

Islam:

- A core practice for all Muslims
- Zakah 2.5% of wealth (Sunni Pillar of Islam and Shi'a Obligatory Act)
- Khums 20% of wealth (Shi'a Obligatory Act)

- Rewarded by God at Judgement
- *“Those who perform the prayers, pay the prescribed alms, and believe in God and the Last Day – to them We shall give a great reward.”* (Qur’an 4:162)
- Can also give additional charity (Sadaqah), which may include money, clothing, and food
- Muslim charities, such as Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid, use donations to try to reduce poverty around the world.