

Sanctity of Life

Catholic Church Teaching

- All life is sacred
- All life is created by God
- Life begins at conception
- *'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...'* (Jer 1:5)
- *'... you saw me before I was born.'*
- Humans are made in the image and likeness of God – **Imago Dei**



Jewish Teaching

- All life is sacred
- All life is created by God
- Life begins at conception
- *'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...'* (Jer 1:5)
- *'... you saw me before I was born.'*
- Humans are made in the image of God
- **Pikuach Nefesh** – preservation of human life overrules any other religious law or teaching e.g. eating unclean food.

Abortion

- Absolutist stance
- Abortion is always wrong
- God made life so only God can take life
- Life begins at conception so abortion is classed as murder
- All life is sacred
- Alternatives to abortion – adoption, fostering etc.
- SPUC – anti-abortion charity

Agree

- Woman's choice
- God gave humans' freewill
- In the case of rape it may be harmful to the woman

Disagree

- God alone can take life
- Life begins at conception so abortion is murder
- Alternatives to abortion



- Life is a gift from God and should be protected
- However abortion is acceptable for some Jews
- Tolerated more within the first 40 days
- *'once the head has come forth..'* – this means the child may not be harmed after birth (Mishnah Oholot 7:6)
- **Orthodox** – wrong unless in serious circumstances e.g the mother's life is in danger
- **Reform** – no absolutist stance, accepted if the pregnancy is a result of rape or there is a risk of disability

Euthanasia

- Absolutist stance
- Euthanasia is always wrong – classed as murder
- God made life so only God can take life
- All life is sacred
- Alternatives to euthanasia e.g. hospice care
- Through suffering we can grow to know God

Agree

- We should all have control over our own lives
- God gave humans' freewill
- Humans should have the right to die painlessly
- Humans should be able to die with dignity

Disagree

- God alone can take life
- Euthanasia is classed as murder
- Hospices can provide a painless death
- Start of a 'slippery slope'



- Life is a gift from God and should be protected
- *'One who is in a dying condition is regarded as a living person in all respects'* (Talmud, Semachot 1:1)
- **Orthodox** - all types of Euthanasia are wrong as it would be classed as murder
- **Reform** - would not promote euthanasia but may allow the removal of medical care keeping someone alive

Catholic Church Teaching

- All creation was created by an omnipotent God
- Church takes a non-literal approach – reconciles science with scripture
- Accepts the Big Bang Theory but understands that God is responsible
- God gave humans *dominion* over the world
- This means that humans are *stewards* of the world.

Blind Evolution

- No need for a designer God. All living things have simply adapted and evolved over time

- Church agrees with the Big Bang Theory
- Creation points towards a designer
- That designer is God
- **Creationists** – take a literal stance on Genesis

- God made humans stewards of the world.
- They are responsible for the environment
- It is the duty of all Catholics to care for the world
- **Laudato Si** (Care for our Common Home) – the world belongs to everyone and we must work together to repair and prevent further harm

CAFOD

- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- Works to tackle environmental and social issues
- Works in emergencies such as natural disasters
- Works to tackle inequality e.g. poverty, injustice etc.
- Works to promote global citizenship
- Educate across the world to tackle these issues and get people working together to tackle the global issues

CAFOD
Just one world

The World

Genesis Creation Story



Big Bang Theory

- Scientific theory for the existence of the world
- States that the world was created from a single point

Stewardship

Environmental Responsibility

- Responsibility of humans towards the world

Jewish Teaching

- **Orthodox** – literal understanding of Genesis
- **Reform** – non-literal understanding of Genesis, accepted alongside science
- The creation of the world reflects a good God
- Thus all he has created is holy so cannot be destroyed
- Humans must then look after the world as stewards

Planned Evolution

- The existence of the world and adaptations point to a plan and thus a designer God.

- **Orthodox** – literal understanding of Genesis – it is the only explanation for creation
- **Reform** – non-literal understanding of Genesis, accepted alongside science

- God made humans stewards of the world
- **Bal Tashchit** – do not destroy anything needlessly – linked to the non-destruction of trees in war
- **Tikkun Olam** – to fix the world – responsibility to fix as well as not further damage the world
- **Gemilut Hasadim** – responsibility to the world and all those in it.

‘Catholics should look after the world’ Discuss this statement.

Agree

- Duty as Catholics
- God gave them dominion over the world
- It is not just for now but for future generations
- Looking after the world makes it better for us

Disagree

- All humans should have responsibility
- Life for today and do not worry about the future
- Humanists believe they have responsibility too – H4BW



Catholic Church Teaching

- Humans are made up of the body and soul
- Body = mortal – ends at death
- Soul = immortal – lives on after death

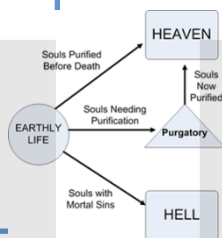
Death and the Afterlife

Jewish Teaching

- Humans are made up of the body and soul
- Most Jews believe that when you die, the soul and body will separate and join again on the day of judgement

- Catholics believe in heaven, hell and purgatory
- Heaven is eternity in the presence of God
- Hell is eternity in the absence of God
- Purgatory is a place of cleansing and purification from sin – Masses are said for the dead to shorten their time in purgatory
- Individuals will either go straight to hell or heaven, or to heaven after their soul has been cleansed in purgatory

Afterlife



- No one definitive belief in Judaism
- Generally there is a belief in Gan Eden, Gehenna and Sheol
- **Gen Eden/ Olam haBa** refers to heaven or the world to come
- **Gehenna** refers to hell
- **Sheol** has come to mean a place of purification or waiting
- Jews believe that they do not need to worry about what is to come, but that it is up to God.

- Catholics believe in 2 judgements – Individual and Final
- At the moment of death all humans are judged on how they have lived – individual judgement
- At the end of time all humans will be raised, body and soul will be united and all humanity will be judged.

Judgement



- When people are judged by G-d their body and soul are reunited. The soul will blame the body for its actions.
- Judgement will take place after the coming of the Mashiach (Messiah).
- Many Jews believe that they will be punished or rewarded after death for the way in which they have lived their lives
- Jews believe that the importance of life is the way in which it is lived on earth.

- Catholic funerals are split into 5 parts
- 1. Reception of the Body – the body is taken into the church
- 2. Liturgy of the Word – readings and gospel
- 3. Liturgy of the Eucharist – holy communion
- 4. Final Commendation – the person is commended into God's hands, coffin is blessed with Holy Water
- 5. Committal – the body is cremated or buried with final prayers

Funerals



- The Jewish funeral ritual has several stages
- 1. As soon as possible the body is washed and dressed in tachrichim (white shroud). Men are wrapped in the tallith
- 2. Body is placed and sealed in a plain wooden coffin – the body is not left alone until burial
- 3. Act of Keriah – before burial mourners make a tear in their garments – display of grief
- 4. Shiva – after the burial the family return home to sit Shiva. This is a 7 day period of mourning where a candle is kept burning and mirrors are covered.
- 5. Kaddish – prayer of mourning which is said 3 times a day for 11 months.
- 6. A tombstone is placed on the grave just before the first anniversary

Catholic Church Teaching

- We must forgive in order to be forgiven
- Our Father – *'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'*
- Must forgive *'seventy times seven'* times
- Parable of the Prodigal Son tells us about God as a forgiving father
- If we do not forgive we cannot expect forgiveness off God
- Catholics will turn to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess their sins.

Forgiveness



Jewish Teaching

- Forgiveness is important in Judaism and is a duty, or a mitzvah, that Jews should try their best to obey.
- *'Do not hate your brother in your heart.'* Leviticus 19:17
- Jews place great emphasis on teshuva, or repentance. This is when Jews will actively try to make amends for the wrongs they have committed. They do this by:
 - reflecting on their wrongs
 - seeking forgiveness for their wrongs
 - praying
 - turning to the Torah for guidance

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Catholics can receive this sacrament as often as deemed necessary
- 1. The individual will confess their sins to the priest
- 2. The priest will then (acting on behalf of God) absolve them of their sins
- 3. The individual will carry out their penance to atone for the sins committed.

Atonement

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

- Yom Kippur is one of the most important days for Jews
- These ten days, the Days of Awe, are a period of repentance when Jews ask God's forgiveness for the previous year's sins.
- Some may walk together to a river or the sea and empty their pockets into the water, symbolically casting out their sins.
- Jews believe that on Yom Kippur, God makes the final decision on what the next year will be like for each person. The Book of Life is closed and sealed, and those who have properly repented will be granted a happy new year

Pope John Paul II

- In 1981, whilst in St. Peter's Square, the Pope was shot at several times, two shots hit the Pope whilst a further two shots hit bystanders.
- Mehmet Ali Ağca, a Turkish national, was arrested and sentenced to life in prison. During his time in prison the Pope visited him and in 2000 the Pope requested that Mehmet be pardoned.
- When the Pope visited Mehmet in 1983 he asked that the faithful pray for my brother... whom I have sincerely forgiven..

Examples of Forgiveness

'It is easy to forgive.' Discuss this statement.

Agree

- You must forgive others to be forgiven
- If Christ can forgive those who crucified him then we can forgive anything
- No human is infallible so forgiveness is a necessary part of life

Disagree

- Some acts e.g. murder, rape etc. are too serious to warrant forgiveness
- Christ was divine and knew what he was to face so his forgiveness is different
- If someone keeps committing the same sin then it becomes harder to forgive them

- Eva Mozes Kor is a Holocaust survivor. She lost both of her parents, as well as her two older sisters, at the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust.

- Both Eva and her twin sister, Miriam, survived the Holocaust, despite being subjected to horrifying experiences.

- Eva has given many interviews about her terrible ordeal. One of the things she will often talk about is her forgiveness of the Nazis. She describes her forgiveness as a way of helping her deal with her experiences.

Catholic Church Teaching

- No clear Biblical stance on war and conflict
- Generally stated that conflict should be avoided if possible
- 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' (Matthew 5:44)
- The Church puts great emphasis on the Sanctity of Life and conflict goes against that
- 'Defend the rights of the poor and orphans...Rescue them from the power of evil men.' (Psalm 82)
- However it does recognise that in some circumstance, conflict is the only option
- If there is war then it should be a Just War

Peace and Conflict

Pacifist – Someone who is against any type of violence and will not participate in war

Conscientious Objector
- refuses to participate in military service due to religious or moral beliefs

Jewish Teaching

- Jews are generally against the idea of violence and war
- 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.' (Isaiah 2:4)
- They put great emphasis on the sanctity of life and any conflict goes against that
- 'A time for war and a time for peace.' (Ecclesiastes 3:8)
- However in some cases violence and war may seem as morally acceptable e.g. in self-defence etc.
- If there is war then it should be a Just War

- The Just War theory was first developed by St Thomas Aquinas.
 - Conditions on whether war should be waged – jus ad bellum
 - Conditions on how war should be waged – jus in bellum
- Aquinas's conditions for a Just War – **jus ad bellum**
- Must have a just cause - eg against invasion, or for self-defence - and not to acquire wealth or power.
 - Must be declared and controlled by a proper authority, eg the state or ruler.
 - Must be fought to promote good or avoid evil, with the aim of restoring peace and justice after the war is over.

Later conditions developed by other Christians - **jus in bello**

- Must be a last resort when all peaceful solutions have been tried and failed, eg negotiation.
- Should be fought with 'proportionality', with just enough force to achieve victory and only against legitimate targets, ie civilians should be protected.
- The good which is achieved by the war must be greater than the evil which led to the war.

Just War

Just War – A war fought on certain religious, moral and philosophical principles



A Just War is a morally acceptable war which must be fought for justified reasons such as:

- protection and self-defence
- prevention of a greater evil
- good versus evil
- restoring law and order
- where efforts have already been made to avoid war

Judaism has traditionally identified two kinds of wars which can be fought.

Milchemet mitzvah

This is a war commanded by God and is similar to a holy war. This is known as an 'obligatory war' and it is therefore compulsory to fight by order and in honour of God.

Milchemet reshut

A Milchemet reshut is an 'optional war' or a 'discretionary war' and may be called a Just War.

'Violence is always wrong.' Discuss this statement.

Agree

- Jesus taught that we should love our enemies
- There are alternatives to violence e.g. discussions
- Violence can often harm those who are not involved

Disagree

- Violence may only be the answer e.g. Holocaust
- Violence should be allowed in the case of self defence
- Jesus used violence when he threw the lenders out of the temple

Catholic Church Teaching

- Believe that sin originated with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- Before this evil did not exist in the world
- Therefore all of humanity are born with Original Sin
- This is washed away during the sacrament of Baptism
- God gives humans freewill, but will punish them for evil and sinful acts
- Catholics believe that just as there is a power of good (God) there is also a power of evil – Satan

Good, Evil and Suffering

Good – relative term. Generally acts that are not evil.

Evil – Acts that cause evil and suffering

Jewish Teaching

- Believe that sin originated with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- Before this evil did not exist in the world
- Therefore all of humanity are born with Original Sin
- Jews believe that they should accept both good and bad in their lives as they are both God given and thus have a purpose
- Many Jews do not believe that Satan is a separate being, but rather a tendency within each person
- God gives humans freewill, but will punish them for evil and sinful acts

Catholic Responses

- God has given people free will. It is up to humans to decide whether they follow God's instructions.
- God has a plan for all people that they may not understand that may include evil and suffering but they should trust and have faith in God's plan.
- God wants people to follow the example of Jesus and help those who are suffering. The reasons for evil and suffering are beyond human understanding.
- Christians also pray for those who suffer and try to help them.
- Evil and suffering in this life is a preparation for Heaven. It gives people a chance to become better people and improve their souls.

God and Suffering

If God is omnipotent why doesn't he stop suffering?

If God is omnibenevolent why does he allow suffering?

If God is omniscient why doesn't he stop people committing evil act?

Jewish Responses

- The Tenakh teaches that suffering can be a punishment for sins.
- The Tenakh teaches that suffering can be part of a test from God of a person's faith and to see if they will freely follow God's commandments. Passing the test means they will be rewarded in this life or after death.
- Jews believe suffering can bring people closer to God. Some Jews believe suffering helps people to empathise with others and to assist them .
- Suffering cannot be understood by humans; this particularly relates to the suffering Jewish people endured during the Holocaust or Shoah. However, Jews believe they must do all they can to overcome and relieve suffering.

Soul Making Theodicies

Augustine's soul-deciding theodicy

- Humans are made perfect but due to free will we sin
- God knew this would happen so he sent his son to atone

Irenaeus' soul making theodicy

- Humans are made imperfect
- This gives them freewill and the ability to become perfect

Hick's vale of soul making

- Humans are created imperfect so they can grow to be like God
- Through this virtues are developed which is better than being God given

Jewish responses to the Holocaust

- The Holocaust, often referred to as Shoah, refers to a time between 1933 and 1945 where around 6 million Jews were killed.
- Some Jews believe that suffering, even to this extreme has a purpose that cannot be understood by humans.
- Holocaust Memorial Day is a national day which is observed every year on 27 January.
- It is a time for people to remember those who suffered and lost their lives during the Holocaust.

Catholic Church Teaching

- The Catholic Church takes an absolutist stance when it comes to moral and ethical decisions.
- The natural law theory is an absolutist theory based on the belief that there is a natural order to the world and that natural order has been designed by God.
- The Church promotes the role of conscience in establishing right and wrong actions
- Conscience can be described as the voice of God within each individual.
- It has to be listened to and used alongside reason to make decisions. A conscience must be educated, through prayer, study of scripture and experience

Crime and Punishment

Absolute - actions are either always right or wrong

Relative - actions are right or wrong depending on the situation

Teleological - concerned with the consequences

Deontological - concerned with the act itself

Jewish Teaching

- Jews follow the rules laid out in the Noahide Code, which they believe are rules for all humanity. The Code consists of the 7 laws listed in the Talmud:
- believe and trust in God - prohibition of idolatry
- respect the sanctity of life - prohibition of murder
- respect the rights and property of others - prohibition of theft
- respect family values - prohibition of sexual immorality
- respect and praise God - prohibition of blasphemy
- respect animal rights - prohibition of eating flesh taken from an animal while it is still alive
- responsibility for society - establishment of courts of law

- The Church teaches that sin is a part of human nature and that all people have the potential to commit a crime.
- Many crimes treat people unfairly. Punishments ensure that justice is done
- Catholics do not believe in taking revenge, they believe that they should forgive the sins of others

Crime

Crime - an act that breaks a law

- There are strict rules about how Jews should behave, and to go against these rules and commit a crime is a sin against God.
- Many Jews believe that if a person breaks one of these rules they should be punished by society, just as they will be punished by God.
- Many Jews believe that repentance and forgiveness are important and the concept of repentance is known as teshuva, which literally means returning to God.

- Catholics believe in justice and therefore believe that criminals should be treated justly and be given the opportunity to reform.
- Many Catholics are concerned about the welfare of prisoners and may campaign for prison reform, visit prisoners, etc.
- The Paulist Prison Ministries work with prisoners and detainees, helping to rehabilitate them into society.

Treatment of Criminals

Prison Reformers
- aim to improve the prison system

- Many Jews believe that criminals should have their human rights respected.
- However, they accept that some criminals are so dangerous, society needs to be protected from them and they need to be in prison.
- The welfare prisoners is of key importance and many Jews may campaign for prison reform, visit prisoners etc

- The death penalty is wrong, as it goes against the commandment not to kill.
- As God created life, only God should have the ability and power to take it away.
- Reformation is impossible once a person is put to death.
- Innocent people have been put to death historically again.

Death Penalty

Death Penalty - government-sanctioned killing of a human being as punishment for the crimes that they have committed.

- Many Jews believe that the death penalty is acceptable in some circumstances, but only as a last resort.
- They hold the view that some people are a threat to society and it is important to protect others.
- The Torah also states that the death penalty is an acceptable punishment for some crimes - if anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death.
- Reform Jews believe that the death penalty is completely wrong and goes against the important commandment thou shall not kill.

Jewish Teaching

- Monotheism – Jews believe that there is only one God. The Shema is an important Jewish prayer which declares the Jewish belief that there is only one God
- Omnipotent - God is all-powerful.
- Omnibenevolent - God is all-good/all-loving.
- Omnipresent - God is present everywhere.
- Creator – God is the creator of the world and everything in it
- Transcendent - God is 'outside the world'. God is not active in human affairs.
- Eternal - he has always existed and always will do
- Merciful - God will not always punish people who do wrong, Jews believe that God is forgiving
- Judge - They believe that God will punish or reward people depending on how they acted during their time on Earth

God and Worship

Mitzvah/
Mitzvot -
commandment



- Reciting the Shema is an obligation for Jews and must be recited morning and evening.
- God will not be represented in any art form and you will not see images or statues of God in any synagogues or Jewish places of worship
- For many Jews, God's name is holy and sacred so care must be taken when using it – it may be written as G-d
- Kippah - is a small cap worn by Jewish males as a sign of Jewish identity. Some people believe that it is respectful to God if you cover your head. This is where the tradition of wearing a kippah came from.
 - Orthodox Jews – may wear the kippah at all times
 - Reform and Liberal Jews – usually only wear in the synagogue and during worship, including some women
- Tallith – is the Jewish prayer shawl that has 613 fringes (tzitzit) reminding them of the 613 commandments. Men would wear it at:
 - at morning prayer services
 - at festivals
 - on the Sabbath

Home

Place of worship

Jews will perform some form of worship in the home, such as reciting the Shema when they wake.

Jewish identity

Having items such as the mezuzah on the door frames and the menorah in the window during Hanukkah provides Jews with a sense of identity in their home.

Celebrations at home

Jews will also observe many celebrations and traditions in their home such as Shabbat, which takes place from sunset on a Friday to sunset on a Saturday each week. Many of the traditions of Shabbat take place in the home, such as the woman of the house lighting candles, the family meal and the reciting of the Kiddush prayer.

Worship at Home

- Shabbat is the most important day of worship in the home. Celebrated on the seventh day of every week from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday
- Observes the commandment to remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
- During the lead up to Shabbat, Jewish families will prepare many jobs in advance, as there are many things which Jews are prohibited from doing during this time. (**Avot melakhah**) e.g. cooking, cleaning, driving etc.
- During Shabbat Jews will have a family meal, which traditionally includes two braided loaves of bread known as challah.
- They will spend a lot of time as a family away from technology such as the television and mobile phones.
- They will pray, study the Torah and visit the synagogue.

Benefits of Shabbat

- Provides family time
- Gives a break from the modern world
- Provides time to focus on their faith
- They are keeping two of the mitzvot
- Celebrating the first passover

Challenges of Shabbat

- Can start early in the winter so may mean leaving work early on a Friday
- A lot of preparation is required which is time consuming
- Some restrictions can be problematic – e.g. not driving may mean some cannot get to a synagogue

Kashrut

- Refers to the laws surrounding food.
- **Kosher** means fit, and is the label used for all foods that Jews are permitted to eat e.g.
 - all fruit
 - all vegetables
 - animals with split hooves that chew the cud
- Animals will only be considered kosher if they have been slaughtered in a certain way (shechitah) - a way that causes the least amount of pain to the animal.
- **Treif** describes foods that are forbidden for Jews e.g. fish without fins or scales
- Jews are forbidden to eat meat and dairy products together – some Jewish kitchens will have a separate area where meat and dairy products are prepared. This means that dishes such as meat lasagne or cheeseburgers cannot be eaten. However, many Jews will also leave a time gap of at least three hours between eating meat and dairy,
- **Parev** - means neutral, and refers to foods that are neither meat nor dairy e.g. vegetables

Worship at the Synagogue

- Aron Hakodesh (the ark) - the most important place inside all synagogues. Where the Torah scroll is kept.
- Ner Tamid - situated at the front of the synagogue above the ark. Continuously kept burning and means eternal light.
- The Bimah - the raised platform found in the synagogue where the Torah is read and where some services are delivered. The Rabbi will use a yad when reading the Torah., a pointer used to minimise the touching of the Torah.
- The Ten Commandments - the ten rules that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai and provide the foundations for Jewish laws. Read aloud in the synagogue three times a year, as well as during the festival of Shavuot.
- Synagogue differences
 - Orthodox – men and women sit separately
 - Reform and Liberal – men and women sit together
 - Orthodox – Men only can be Rabbis
 - Reform and Liberal – Men and women can be Rabbis

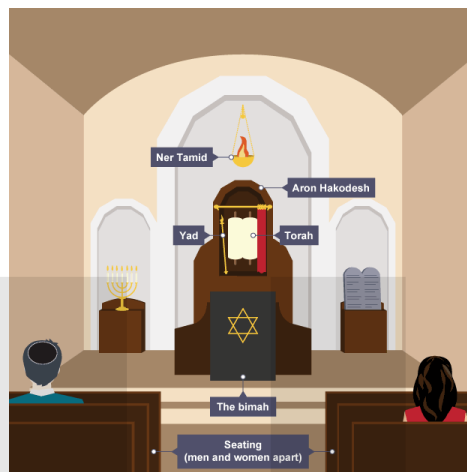
Celebration at the Synagogue

- Many festivals and rites of passage are celebrated at the synagogue
- Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings etc. are all celebrated there

Study at the Synagogue

- The synagogue is a place for study for Jews
- They will study the Hebrew and the Torah
- Many synagogues will have libraries so that Jews can study as and when they want.

The Synagogue



Synagogue as central to Jewish Life

- A social place for religious and non religious celebrations
- Usually be a programme of events
- Also acts as a welfare agency focusing on charity

Possible Questions

- Describe the importance of the synagogue/home (5)
- Explain how Jews show their faith (8)
- Describe the feature of the synagogue (5)
- 'Celebrating Shabbat is difficult in a modern society.' Discuss this statement. (15)
- 'The commandments are not relevant today' Discuss this statement. (15)
- 'Jews should attend the synagogue to worship' Discuss this statement. (15)
- Explain the differences between the Jewish traditions (8)
- Explain why it is important for Jews to keep a kosher kitchen. (8)
- Explain Jewish beliefs about God. (8)
- Describe the Jewish traditional clothing. (5)
- 'Jews are responsible for the world' Discuss this statement (15)
- Describe Jewish responses to the Holocaust. (5)

Different traditions

Orthodox

- Largest branch of Judaism in the UK
- Will take the Torah literally so no room for interpretation
- Very traditional Jews
- Services will be held in Hebrew
- Many will attend the synagogue daily for prayers
- Male only Rabbis

Reform

- Will maintain the Jewish beliefs and customs
- But will believe that the laws need to be assimilated with modern life
- The laws of the Torah suited the time, and some may not be suitable now
- Will accept scientific theories
- Male and female Rabbis

Liberal

- Similar to Reform
- More radical approach to the laws – may not keep any of them including the dietary laws etc.
- Male and female Rabbis

Catholic Church Teaching

- Monotheism - Christians believe that there is only one God. Trinity - Catholics believe that there are three distinct parts (usually referred to as Persons) to this one God and that these three aspects form a unity. This belief is called the doctrine of the Trinity:
 - God the Father - the creator and sustainer of all things. Creator ex nihilo – created out of nothing. God is also classed and viewed as a loving father; he cares and loves humanity as a father loves his son. This is shown in the Parable of the Prodigal Son
 - God the Son - the incarnation of God as a human being, Jesus Christ, on Earth. Jesus Christ was both fully divine and fully human
 - God the Holy Spirit - the aspect of God which is active in the world, drawing people towards God. It is often depicted as wind, fire or in the form of a dove.
- Augustine wrote De Trinitate to explain the Holy Trinity . He used the idea of love to explain the trinity and its three parts; the person that loves, the person who is loved and the act of love itself.
- Holy - God is 'other', different from anything else - separate and sacred.
- Omnipotent - God is all-powerful.
- Omniscient - God is all-knowing, of past, present and future.
- Omnibenevolent - God is all-good/all-loving.
- Omnipresent - God is present everywhere.
- Immanent - God is active and 'in the world' today.
- Transcendent - God is 'outside the world'. God is not active in human affairs.



God and Worship

Private worship – individual worship

Public worship – more than one, as a community



Transubstantiation – the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ

There are two main types of worship:

- Public worship – this is when there is more than one person praying together such as in Mass
 - Catholics receive the Eucharist which the Catechism describes as the ‘*source and summit of Christian life*’
- Private worship – this is just the individual, eg meditation
 - “*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*”
- For Catholics, the greatest form of worship is the Mass
- Mass as a sacrament - the Eucharist is received within each Mass.
- Mass as a sacrifice - the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present and true each time the Eucharist is celebrated.
- Transubstantiation and Real Presence - During the consecration of bread and wine, Catholics believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ through transubstantiation. This means that Jesus Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine, known as the real presence.

Rite of Mass

1. Introductory Rites – includes the Opening Prayer, Penitential Rite and the Gloria
2. Liturgy of the Word – includes the Readings, Gospel, Homily and Prayers of the Faithful
3. Liturgy of the Eucharist – includes the Eucharist Prayer, the Our Father and Holy Communion
4. Concluding Rites – includes the Concluding Prayer and Dismissal

Beliefs about the Mass

Transubstantiation – through consecration the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ
Real Presence – Jesus is truly present in the form of bread and wine
Sacrifice – Each time the Mass is celebrated, Jesus sacrifice is made new
Sacrament – The Mass is a sacrament, through which we receive grace from God
‘Source and Summit of Christian life-’ – the Catechism describes the Eucharist as the centre of Christian life

Jesus' life

Jesus' Birth

- Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would have a son
- Mary was specifically chosen, as she was the Immaculate Conception.
- Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, as a census had been called
- Mary gave birth to the Son of God in a stable.
- The Magi come to visit the new baby and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh after following a star
- The shepherds come to worship and praise the new-born child

Jesus' Birth - Importance

- Incarnation of God – God made flesh in the person of Christ
- Jesus was born of a virgin which fulfils the prophecy
- Display of God's omnipotence
- Humble birth shows the humble life Jesus would live



Jesus' Resurrection

- On the Sunday, Mary and some of the women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ
- When they got there the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty
- Two angels appeared and told them that he was not there – 'He is risen.'
- The women went to tell the apostles who did not believe them.
- Peter ran to the tomb and found it empty
- Jesus appeared several times to his apostles and followers

Jesus' Resurrection - Importance

- Proof that Jesus was the Son of God
- Proof of his divinity
- Fulfilled the prophecy – 'the temple shall be rebuilt in three days'
- Offers proof of an afterlife

Jesus' Crucifixion

- Judas betrayed Jesus to the Jewish authorities
- He was arrested at the Garden of Gethsemane
- He was tried by the Sanhedrin who found him guilty of blasphemy
- He was then tried by the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate
- The crowd chose to release Barabbas instead of Jesus
- Jesus was given his cross to carry and a crown of thorns
- He was crucified at Golgotha between two criminals
- At noon the sky went dark and three hours later Jesus cried out 'Eloi, Eloi lema sabachthani' and then he died.
- The earth shook and the veil in the temple tore in two.

Jesus' Crucifixion - Importance

- Fulfilled the prophecy – 'not one bone shall be broken'
- Jesus' death atoned for the sins of humanity
- His death proved that Jesus was fully human



Jesus' Ascension

- After Jesus' resurrection he spent time with the apostles and told them that God would send down the Holy Spirit to them just as he had promised.
- He led them out to Bethany, outside of the city and blessed them.
- He was then taken up in a cloud into Heaven. Two men then appeared clothed in white robes and asked why they were watching the heavens. They said "Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!" (Acts 1:11)

Jesus' Ascension - Importance

- Proof of Jesus' divinity

Jesus' teachings

Life after Death

- Jesus taught about Life after Death throughout the gospels
- The Parable of the Sheep and Goats
- At the end of time just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will humanity be separated
- The good will be rewarded with life in heaven and the bad will be sent to hell. We are judged on how we have lived.

Wealth

- Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus
- Rich Man did nothing to help Lazarus when they were alive
- They both died – Rich Man went to Hell and Lazarus to Heaven
- The Rich Man asked Abraham for some water – he refused as the Rich Man had not helped Lazarus in life
- He then asked if he could warn his brothers and again Abraham refused. He told him that they have the prophets to listen to
- Meaning – that it's what you do with the money that counts
- *'It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.'*
- Riches on earth are nothing compared to the riches in heaven – riches on earth are simply temporary

Love

- Jesus taught about Agape love – unconditional love
- Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches about love of neighbour, stranger and enemy
- The priest and the Levite walked passed the man who was beaten and the Samaritan was the one who helped
- At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his apostles feet and gave them the commandment to 'love one another'

Forgiveness

- In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Jesus teaches to forgive *'not seven'* but *'seventy times seven'*
- In order to be forgiven we need to forgive others
- This is shown in the Our Father – *'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'*
- Catholics receive the sacrament of reconciliation to ask for forgiveness of sins

Interfaith dialogue

- communication, dialogue and cooperation between different faiths and religious groups.

Interreligious advisers to the Catholic Bishops' Conference

- The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has advisers from a range of religions and beliefs. There are 3 branches:
- the Committee for Christian Unity
- the Committee for Catholic/Jewish relations
- the Office of Relations with Other Religions
- Recognise and acknowledge that through dialogue with other faiths and traditions they may find God, and that in modern times more than ever, dialogue is essential. To understand another faith opens the road to dialogue.

Inter-faith dialogue

Inter-faith Council of Wales

- Set up in 2003
- A place for faith and issues to be discussed
- Aims to build relationships between different religious groups and denominations as well as raise awareness and educate about different faiths and cultures.
- Supported by CYTUN, an ecumenical body that works to unite Christian denominations

Christian-Muslim Forum

- Aims to build and develop relationships between Muslims and Christians
- Basis and aim of the forum is to build a better society, and together Muslims and Christians can benefit the communities we live in today.
- Responds to needs in the community and helps those who find themselves in need
- Through education and dialogue the Council aims to prevent prejudice and discrimination.

Council of Christians and Jews

- Established in 1942
- The council has three main aims:
 - Education
 - social action
 - Dialogue
- It provides education on issues such as anti-semitism and the Holocaust.
- Social action is the newest initiative the Council has. The three most recent issues are to:
 - stop the persecution of Christians in the Middle East
 - tackle human trafficking
 - tackle anti-semitism

Local, Diocesan and Global Church

Local church

- The local church is the responsibility of the parish priest and he may sometimes be helped by other people in the community. The priest will be responsible for:
 - celebrating Mass and the sacraments
 - visiting the sick
 - working with those in the parish

Diocese

- A diocese is a group of parishes in a geographical area that is overseen by a bishop. The bishop is responsible for:
 - Administration of the diocese
 - Allocating priests
 - Administering certain sacraments

Worldwide church

- The worldwide church is overseen by the Pope, who has ultimate responsibility for the Catholic Church on Earth. The Church includes all Catholics including the laity, priests and bishops. The worldwide church is responsible for:
 - developing teachings and guidance
 - setting an example of faith
 - overseeing the mission of the Church

Social Role

- Both local and global role
- Being Catholic is not just about the Mass, but 'living the Mass' in everyday life
- Based on '*...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me.*'
 - Charity works
 - Fight injustice
 - Bible support groups
 - Community events
 - Preparation for the sacraments

Role of the Church

Evangelisation – educate and convert others to the faith

Catholic social teaching - concerned with global social issues

Catholic Social Teaching

- Gaudium et Spes outlines the responsibility of the Church towards social issues
- '*Since all men...are created in God's likeness, ...the basic equality of all must receive increasingly greater recognition.*' (29)
- The Church focuses on issues, such as:
 - poverty
 - hunger
 - conflict
 - workers' rights
 - climate change
 - discrimination etc

Mission of the Church

Evangelisation

- The Catholic Church's mission is to carry out and continue the work of Jesus Christ on Earth.
- Pope Francis '*...we cannot forget that evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him.*' Evangelii Gaudium
- The Church, and those in it, must:
 - share the Word of God
 - help those in need
 - live as examples to all
- This is the same as the apostles did after Pentecost

Missio

- Missio was established in 1922 to tackle the issue of poverty and inequality in the world. Missio encourages Catholics to:
 - get involved in evangelisation
 - raise money
 - help people in need
- Missio aims to tackle poverty through education and financial support. The most recognisable symbol of Missio is the red charity boxes that many Catholics will have at home.

MISSIO

CARJ

- Catholic Association for Racial Justice
- Established in 1984
- Works to support and empower black and minority ethnicities
- Works to improve dialogue, raise awareness and fight injustice

CAFOD

- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.
- Established in 1962
- Member of Caritas International
- Works across the world
- long-term - to educate and train individuals and communities
- short-term - in times of natural disasters and conflict

SVP

- Society of St Vincent de Paul
- First established in 1833 in Paris
- In 1844 the first group in the UK was set up.
- Bases its work on the life of St Vincent de Paul who brought aid and help to those who asked and needed it
- Aims to help those who are alone and struggling in society with a focus on poverty.
- Most of their work is done in private

Nature of Humanity

When does life begin?

- All human life begins at the moment of conception, and from that point has potential.
- This means Catholics believe that all life is sacred from the moment of conception.
- This is known as the sanctity of life.

Nature of Humanity

Body and Soul

- Catholics believe that a human is made of a body and soul
- The body is physical and mortal
- The soul is spiritual and immortal
- The soul is unique to humans

Moral

- Humans have a duty to act and live moral lives.
- This refers to the idea of having a sense of right and wrong.
- Only humans have these morals, and is what separates people from other creatures.

Freewill

- The ability to choose between different possible courses of action.
- All humans have free will and this free will is God-given
- Without free will, humans could not be described as moral beings

Rational

- Humans can use their ability to reason and make decisions.
- Humans have the ability to think and weigh up actions and consequences, using their conscience and experience to guide them.

Creative

- One of the main purposes of humans is to be creative
- *'Be fruitful and multiply'* and populate the Earth.

Fallen

- The term fallen is related to original sin, which is the idea that all humans are born with a tendency to sin
- When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden they brought sin into the world and in doing so separated humans from God.

Original Sin

- Catholics believe that all humans are born with original sin as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve.
- All humans are born with the urge to sin and disobey God.
- Pope Paul VI - through Christ's death on the cross, all are redeemed from original sin.
- Original sin can be removed and cleansed through baptism. This is why the majority of Catholics are baptised as infants.

Human's as essentially good

- Thomas Aquinas was a Catholic priest, philosopher and theologian who lived from c.1225-1274
- Aquinas believed that human nature is essentially good, and that all humans are oriented towards perfection and good acts
- Humans do not have a natural tendency to commit evil or sinful acts.
- Instead, any wrong or sinful acts that may be carried out are due to mistaking a wrong act for a right act.
- When the wrong act is chosen it is due to a fault in the reasoning of the individual.
- Just because an action may seem like the right one doesn't necessarily mean that it is.
- Any action that jeopardises humans' relationship with God is a wrong action.

Persecution of Christians

- Recently there has been a rise in the persecution of Christians across the globe. That number is still on the rise.
- Christians are persecuted for their religious beliefs and are prevented from practising them in a number of areas including Asia, Africa and the Middle East – often where Islamic extremism is an issue
- Christ talked about persecution and the issues that disciples of his may face.
- *'Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved.'* (Matthew 10:22)
- Although Christ warns of the persecution that his disciples will face, he also promises them the rewards they will receive at the end of time.

Ethical Theories

Divine Command Theory

- An absolutist theory
- Deontological
- The divine command theory defines an act or action as good or bad depending on whether it supports God's commands or not.
- Any act that goes against what God has commanded is classed as wrong, no matter the situation or circumstance.

Positives

- There is no 'grey' area when it comes to decision making
- There are set guidelines and rules to follow
- Emotions will not cloud judgements

Negatives

- Situations are all different so need a different response
- To be moral beings then humans should make their own decisions and not simply follow instructions

Situation Ethics

- Relative approach
- Teleological
- As each situation is different, the outcome therefore will be too.
- This approach allows the individual to focus on all the factors involved and weigh them up.
- Situation ethics states that there are no moral laws or rules and that the context is important.
- The general rule of this approach is that the correct action should be the most loving action.

Positives

- Individuals have control over their own lives and decision making
- Each situation is different so deserves a consideration

Negatives

- Each person's definition of love is different so cannot ensure the most loving action is always carried out
- Individuals can justify any action
- There is no clear guidance for any situation

Virtue Ethics

- Based on the morality of the individual making decisions rather than the act or outcome.
- Virtue ethics is concerned with the whole person and how they live rather than one act.
- A virtuous person will seek to do the right thing and right action at all times.
- Rather than an act being judged, the individual is judged on how they live and a good act can only be classed as good if a virtuous person would carry out that act.
- Four Cardinal virtues: prudence, fortitude, temperance and justice.
- These were later added to by the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity which can be traced back to St Paul.
- For an individual to be virtuous then these basic virtues need be adopted.

Positives

- Focuses on an individual's life rather than just one action
- It focus' on what it means to be a good human

Negatives

- There is no clear advice in what to do in each situation
- Virtues can be relative to the culture/society

Possible Questions

Describe Catholic beliefs about God (5)

'God is all loving' Discuss this statement. (15)

Explain Catholic belief in the nature of humanity (8)

Explain beliefs about the Holy Trinity (8)

Describe the birth of Jesus (5)

Explain the importance of Jesus' resurrection (8)

Explain Jesus' teaching on wealth (8)

Describe Jesus' teaching on love (5)

'There is no life after death' Discuss this statement. (15)

'It is easy to love others' Discuss this statement. (15)

Describe how Catholics worship God. (5)

'You do not have to be religious to be good' Discuss this statement. (15)

'The Big Bang disproves the existence of God' Discuss this statement. (15)

Explain Catholic beliefs about the Mass (8)

'Jesus' teachings are still relevant today' Discuss this statement. (15)

Describe the role of the Catholic Church (5)

Explain how Catholics fight for social justice (8)

Explain why inter-faith dialogue is important (8)

'If evil exists, God cannot exist' Discuss this statement. (15)

Describe the work of CAFOD (5)

Describe a Catholic funeral (5)

Explain virtue ethics (8)

'Catholics should always follow they conscience' Discuss this statement. (15)

Explain the Just War Theory' Discuss this statement. (15)

Describe the Church's teaching on euthanasia (5)

Describe the ascension of Christ (5)

Humanism

- A Humanist will reject the idea or belief in a supernatural being such as God, therefore classing themselves as agnostic or atheist.
- They will have no belief in an afterlife and thus focus on seeking happiness in this life.
- They will rely on science for the answers to questions such as creation and will base their moral and ethical decision making on reason, empathy and compassion for others.
- The British Humanist Society works on behalf of non-religious people who seek to live ethical lives on the basis of reason and humanity.

Funerals

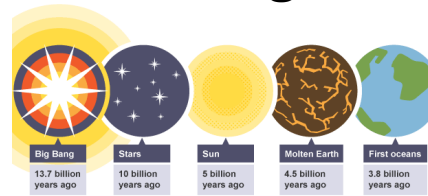
Humanist funerals can be tailored and changed to suit. Anybody can have a humanist funeral and they can be held in a wide range of places.

A humanist service will focus on the life that has been lived rather than the possibility of an afterlife

A typical ceremony is outlined below.

- Introductory music
- Words of welcome
- Thoughts on life and death from a non-religious perspective
- The tribute – an outline of the life and personality of the person who has died
- Readings of poetry and prose
- Reflection – a few moments for private thoughts about the person who has died, either in silence or accompanied by music
- The committal – when the curtains are closed or coffin lowered
- Closing words – including thanks on your behalf
- Final music

Humanism and non-religious



Blind Evolution

- No need for a designer God. All living things have simply adapted and evolved over time

Planned Evolution

- The existence of the world and adaptations point to a plan and thus a designer God.

Possible Questions

1. 'The world is ours to use as we want' Discuss this statement (15)
2. Explain the theory of evolution (8)
3. Explain how a humanist funeral reflects their beliefs (8)
4. 'War is always wrong' Discuss this statement. (15)
5. Explain Jewish responses to Holocaust (8)
6. Describe the work of Catholic hospices (5)
7. Describe Catholic belief on salvation and atonement (5)
8. 'Evolution is compatible with faith' Discuss this statement. (15)
9. Describe the purpose of punishment (5)
10. Describe Maimonides principles (5)

Creation

- Humanists will agree with the scientific Big Bang Theory for the existence of the world
- They will support blind evolution which states that there is no designer, but rather living things adapt to the world
- They **will** feel responsible for the world
- **Humanists for a Better World** (H4BW) work to tackle environmental, social and global issues
- The British Humanist Society has 7 statements on their responsibility towards the environment:
 - accept responsibility to maintain a sustainable environment for future generations
 - understand the place of humans within nature
 - understand our responsibilities for other species
 - ensure that development can be justified
 - preserve balance and diversity in nature wherever possible
 - preserve areas of natural beauty and interest for future generations
 - repair, where possible, habitats damaged by human development and other means.

Evolution

- Put forward by Charles Darwin
- Based on years of travelling and observing the natural world around him.
- He observed that animals that were more suited to their environment lived longer and had more young.
- He stated that evolution occurred to a process he called 'Natural Selection.'
- He could still see the evidence of a creator.
- 'Origin of the Species' - further developed theory based on 'survival of the fittest'
- This had developed from the original idea and now had no place for a creator.