

# Theme F: Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice

## Human rights and social justice

- Prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief, including the status and **treatment within religion of women** and homosexuals.
- **Issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief including freedom of religious expression.**
- Human rights and the responsibilities that come with rights, including the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Social justice.
- Racial prejudice and discrimination.
- Ethical arguments related to racial discrimination (including positive discrimination), including those based on the ideals of equality and justice.

## Wealth and poverty

- Wealth, including:
  - the right attitude to wealth
  - **the uses of wealth.**
- The responsibilities of wealth, including the duty to tackle poverty and its causes.
- Exploitation of the poor including issues relating to:
  - fair pay
  - excessive interest on loans
  - people-trafficking.
- The responsibilities of those living in poverty to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face.
- Charity, including issues related to giving money to the poor.

How to use this to make it stick!

# Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice

1. Read through the information
2. Highlight the key information
3. Create a revision aid on it (flash card, mind map, acronym, cheat sheet etc)
4. Test yourself on the revision aid (cover up and say it out loud > cover up and write it out)
5. Practice the past paper questions (without the revision aid)
6. Review your answers with your revision aid (add anything you missed out) and rate your progress

## Test yourself

1. Which **one** of the following is **not** a type of prejudice?  
[1 mark] A Racism. B Sexism. C Alcoholism. D Ageism.
2. Give **two** religious beliefs about how women should be treated within religion. [2 marks]
3. Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the freedom of religion and belief. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]
4. Explain **two** religious beliefs about the right use of wealth. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]
5. 'Those who live in poverty should help themselves to overcome their difficulties.' Evaluate this statement.

Based on my revisions and testing I need to focus on:



	Christian view	Buddhist view	Non-religious Contemporary British Attitudes		Christian view	Buddhist view	Non-religious Contemporary British Attitudes
<p><b>Social Justice-</b></p> <p>is about trying to protect peoples rights and opportunities so the least advantaged members of society are treated with the same justice and compassion as more advantaged people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the UK, Christians have fought for prison reform since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, organisations like Christian Aid work in inner cities, and the House Of Lords includes clergy who discuss the law-all these are examples of involvement in social justice</li> <li><b>Christians help to improve social justice by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking part in campaigns</li> <li>Petitions</li> <li>Demonstrations</li> <li>Setting a good example</li> <li>Following Christian teachings</li> <li>Civil Disobedience</li> <li>Giving to charities</li> <li>Joining organisations such as Amnesty International</li> <li>Helping people who are the victims of social injustice in a practical way</li> <li>Standing for Parliament in order to be able to change society.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31</b></li> <li><b>Jesus stressed the need to help others for example in his teaching:</b></li> <li><b>"Love thy neighbour" Matthew 12:31</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Buddhism, along with the idea of selflessness, <b>Buddhists believe that right action, livelihood, speech, effort, and intention should, if carried out properly, lead to social justice.</b></li> <li>As a way of bringing people together the <b>Buddha taught the importance of kindness, compassion, generosity and unselfishness as a way of</b> bringing communities together.</li> <li>Engaged Buddhism is a term that was first used by a Zen Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. It is used by Buddhists who want to tackle social issues, including injustice, through the application of Buddhist teachings. It is no longer widely used because being a Buddhist you automatically care about social issues.</li> <li>They help people recover from drug and alcohol addiction, or caring for people with aids.</li> <li>There are Buddhist projects that work with the homeless, convicts and those living with chronic pain and illness by teaching mindfulness and meditation.</li> <li>Projects dealing directly with social injustice include the Saravodaya movement in Asia, which focused on fair distribution of land among the poor.</li> <li>The biggest social justice movement happened in India millions of people were at the end of the caste system and Buddhists have help them overcome poverty. A lot of the money raised to help was from a Buddhist charity in the UK called Karuna Trust.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social justice is about trying to protect people's rights and opportunities so the least advantaged members of society are treated with the same justice and compassion as more advantaged people.</li> <li>This means justice in terms of <b>wealth distribution</b>, the law, equal rights and opportunities for all people. For social justice to exist, society must be fair to all regardless of <b>race</b>, age, <b>gender</b>, <b>sexuality</b> and <b>disability</b>. It also means that society has to be organised so that it is open to all in terms of education, health care, housing and social welfare.</li> <li>The United Nations 2006 document <i>Social Justice in an Open World</i> states 'Social Justice may be broadly understood as the fair and compassionate distribution of the fruits of economic growth.'</li> <li>Social justice is a reason why religions fight for human rights and against prejudice and exploitation of all people including the poor and vulnerable.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Religious Freedom-</b></p> <p>'Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance' UDHR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christian teachings encourage tolerance and harmony, both between religions and between denominations of the same religion.</li> <li>Christianity is tolerant of other faiths</li> <li>all are created with equal value and have equal rights</li> <li>some Christians are active in trying to convert others to Christianity</li> <li>'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians), etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buddhism teaches that all religions are just different ways to the same religious truths.</li> <li>inter-faith meetings aimed at greater understanding and stressing similarities rather than differences have been organised and promoted by many faiths</li> <li>inter-faith worship happens locally and in major national and international celebrations, etc.</li> <li>Tolerance and consideration of others is valued</li> <li>all races and nationalities are welcomed in Buddhism</li> <li>respect for all faiths is part of Buddhist philosophy, e.g. 8-fold path</li> <li>'The things that divide and separate people – race, religion, gender, social position...are all illusory (Dhammapada), etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laws forbid the persecution of members of any faith</li> <li>Freedom of religion and belief is a basic human right</li> <li>anybody should be free to follow and believe in whatever religion they choose</li> <li>religious tolerance is encouraged</li> <li>In some countries, following any religion is not permitted, e.g. strict communist states, etc.</li> <li>In some countries only the state religion is allowed</li> <li>followers of other faiths are persecuted</li> <li>extremist religious groups discriminate either against other faiths or groups within their own faith, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Human Rights-</b></p> <p>The rights to freedom of speech, but the responsibility not to say something to cause offence Children have the right to protection from cruelty, but the responsibility not to bully or harm each other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having rights also means it is important to respect the rights of others.</li> <li>Love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31)</li> <li>The parables of the sheep and Goats and the Good Samaritan in which Jesus says that those who help the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the stranger, those without clothing or those in prison help them.</li> <li>The Catholic Church highlights the role of the individual as well as the state in protecting human rights</li> </ul> <p>It says human rights aren't just defined by states putting them into law, but "Every member of the community has a duty (stewardship/responsibility)... in order that the rights of others can be satisfied and their freedom respected" (The Common Good and the Catholic Church's social teaching:37)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buddhists are committed to ease suffering and recognise the importance of human rights.</li> <li>Some actively support the work of charities such as Amnesty International.</li> <li>Most Buddhists would say that rights are relatively limited unless everyone takes personal responsibility for cultivating wisdom and compassion.</li> <li>The Buddha advised rulers they have a responsibility to people; who also have duties (responsibility) towards each other such as; put others first, to be honest, kind, free from anger and patient.</li> <li>Using the freedom of speech to kindly and truthfully even if the truth is sometimes pain full to hear. Each person has a responsibility for what they say and how they say it.</li> <li>Ethical communication is also the responsibility of the listener and need to accept if they are offended by what is said is not to react as reaction is choice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT</li> <li>In 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which sets out the basic human rights everyone should be entitled to, regardless of their nationality, language, religion, gender or status.</li> <li>In 1998 Britain passed the Human Rights Act(HRA).</li> <li>To oversee this Act and others, the Equality and Human Rights Commission was established in October 2007. Its job is to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prejudice and discrimination</b></p> <p>Holding a biased opinion about an individual or group. Opinions are based on ignorance or stereotypical ideas about race, religion, gender, sexuality and disability.</p> <p>Discrimination is the act or behaviour arising from these views, i.e using verbal abuse just because of someone's sexuality or race</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christians believe that all forms of discrimination are wrong.</li> <li>God created everyone equally. (Old Testament)</li> <li>Jesus told us to Love Our Neighbour. (Sermon on the Mount)</li> <li>So in everything, do unto others what you would have done to you. (Matthew 7:12)</li> <li>There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave or free man, male or female. We are all equal in Christ. (In the Good Samaritan story, the man is helped because of his need, not because of who he was or was not (in fact the victim and helper were from enemy nations) . (Luke 10:25-37)</li> <li>Galatians)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Buddhism believes that as discrimination leads to suffering, it must be wrong and should be avoided.</b></li> <li>The belief not to harm others or to use harmful language (Five Precepts).</li> <li>Everyone should try to develop loving kindness (Metta).</li> <li>Prejudice creates bad karma and has a negative effect on rebirth.</li> <li>The Dalai Lama stated that the best way to live life was to 'Always think compassion'.</li> </ul> <p>Everyone is equal because everyone is welcome in the Sangha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 5 Precepts ,Karma</li> <li>Metta. Ahimsa</li> <li>Skilful and unskilful actions</li> <li>Sanctity of life</li> <li>Karuna</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discrimination can be positive as well as negative. Positive discrimination is used to promote opportunities for minority groups in society, especially so those groups are better represented in public services.</li> <li>Over the last 40 years, there have been many laws designed to deal with discrimination. These included:</li> <li>Equal Pay Act (1975)</li> <li>Sex Discrimination Act (1975)</li> <li>The Race Relations Act (1976)</li> <li>Disability Discrimination Act (1995)</li> <li>Sexual Orientation Regulation (2007)</li> <li>This was all getting a bit complicated, so eventually all these laws became The Equality Act 2010, which is the most important piece of anti-discrimination legislation in the UK.</li> </ul>

	Christian view	Buddhist view	Non-religious Contemporary British Attitudes		Christian view	Buddhist view	Non-religious Contemporary British Attitudes
<p><b>Teachings about wealth-</b></p> <p>Religions believe wealth is ok providing you use it to help those in need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christians believe that there is nothing wrong with simply being wealthy, as long as we didn't get the money by criminal means.</li> <li>Wealth should be seen as a gift from God: Christians believe that it is how we use our money that matters. It should go to help those who are in real need.</li> <li>There is a warning in the Bible that having the wrong attitude to money - being greedy - could turn people away from God.</li> <li>"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs"</li> <li>"No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve both God and money." (Christianity) (Matthew 6:24)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like Christians, Buddhists believe that there is nothing wrong with being rich, it is how the wealth is used that matters.</li> <li><i>Karuna</i>, which means compassion, would prompt Buddhists to wish that other people were free from suffering.</li> <li>Buddhists are likely to believe that simply getting wealthy isn't going to make you happy. Instead the happiest life will come from serving and helping others.</li> <li>"Riches ruin the foolish ... through craving for riches, the foolish one ruins himself." (Buddhism, Dharmapada)</li> <li>"Acquiring wealth is acceptable if, at the same time, it promotes the well-being of the community or society." (Buddhism, Pura Rajavaramuni)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the U.K., the "poverty line" is around £12,000 per year for a single person. Anyone who earns less than this amount is defined as living in poverty.</li> <li>The average income in the UK for someone working full-time is £22,000.</li> <li>The richest person in the world is Bill Gates, who owns around £57 billion.</li> <li>within rich countries there are big differences in how much money people have. But the picture gets even more extreme when we look at how money is shared out across the world.</li> <li>Wealth and poverty are controversial issues. Some feel that wealth is a good thing, while others may feel it is a distraction. Some may feel that one can use one's wealth as one wants, and others feel that the wealthy should help others. Some people feel that those in poverty should not be exploited, and should be helped with charity, while others feel that the poor should help themselves.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Poverty-</b></p> <p>People without the basic necessities such as food and shelter due to debt, unemployment exploitation and natural disasters.</p>	<p>Parable of sheep and goats; Like a farmer separates sheep and goats. God will separate the good and the bad. The good will be on his right, these are people who have helped him .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"love your neighbour as yourself".</li> <li>Some Christians will see poverty as caused by people ignoring Christian teachings on charity and helping the poor etc. If everyone followed Jesus' teaching of 'love your neighbour', then there would be less poverty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaches compassion (karuna)/helping others brings results in good karma</li> <li>Selfish craving is the direct cause of suffering</li> <li>Greed is one of the six poisons and generosity one of the six perfections</li> <li>To reach nirvana, humans have to practice the magga, avoiding extremes of poverty and wealth</li> <li>Right viewpoint, right intention, and right action are fulfilled through selfless caring for others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Causes of poverty vary to where in the world people live.</li> <li>In developing world poverty is a fact of life brought on by things outside peoples control-the poverty is not their fault</li> <li>In the UK it may be about being born into a poor family situation, but most poverty is about our own inaction or failure to want to take up the opportunities available.</li> <li>Other reasons for poverty may be family background and upbringing. One's self (addiction, idleness, attitudes to education) or external factors such as high unemployment, unfair trade and lack of opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exploitations of the poor-</b></p> <p>The poor are exploited worldwide in various ways, including being paid unfairly, being charged excessive interest on loans and being involved in human trafficking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not exploit the poor because they are poor." Proverbs 22:22</li> <li>In the UK religion has played a big part in campaigning for an increase in the minimum wage and working for the interests of the low paid.</li> <li>Regular statements are made, particularly by Church bishops to highlight the issue for the poor.</li> <li>There is a balance to be found as paying higher wages might mean fewer jobs, but even so there are too many people who are working really hard for long hours of work but little money.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'in five ways does (a) master minister to his servants and employees by assigning them work according to their strength; by supply them with food and wages; by tending them in sickness ;by sharing with them unusual delicacies; by granting leave at times'</li> <li>Many Buddhists consider it important to balance profit with ethics paying workers a reasonable wage otherwise e this goes against the second precept: taking what has not been freely given</li> <li>Making money by exploiting the poor i(.e offering high interest loans) is a clear example of greed.</li> <li>It is a form of deliberate harm which means it goes against the first precept: you should not harm, it causes suffering to the person as well as the person being exploited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>minimum</b> wage in the UK <b>protects</b> the very low paid, though this by many is seen as not enough and therefore they pay the 'living wage', which is slightly more.</li> <li>There are workers who are <b>exploited</b> in the UK and there are those who do not <b>deserve</b> the wages and bonuses that they get.</li> <li>Low paid workers often do jobs of great necessity for our <b>everyday</b> living, so it is not as if the job is worthless, yet the wages they are paid by government or employers are <b>unfair</b>. Remember, <i>fair</i> does not mean <i>equal</i> as this would be impossible to achieve.</li> <li>Excessive loans-the poor borrow money for what they need, in the form of long term and short term loans.</li> <li>Loans are made available instantly but with very high rates of interest</li> <li>People trafficking is where people are trafficked by gangs offering a better life</li> <li>The person pays the price for the opportunity</li> <li>Often families pay huge amounts to give one member the hope of a better life</li> <li>Major issues of poverty &amp; war in a country lead to greater amounts of human trafficking.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Giving money to the poor</b></p> <p>Two main ways to help the poor- short term aid immediate help that focuses on short term survival. Or long term aid help over a long period of time that has a more lasting effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parable of the talents teaches that people are given the opportunity to support themselves</li> <li>love your neighbour can be interpreted as not expecting others to support you when you can support yourself</li> <li>helping others is loving and compassionate charitable giving to help the poor is following Jesus' teaching (e.g the widow's offering in the temple, the rich fool), etc.</li> <li>some give a tithe (10%), support charities like Christian Aid, Tear Fund, CAFOD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working honestly to provide for the family builds good kamma</li> <li>right livelihood and right action encourage people to work</li> <li>monks do not provide for themselves but rely on the religious generosity of others</li> <li>providing for others shows loving kindness (metta) and compassion (karuna), etc.</li> <li>aim to bring practical help such as IBRO project in Malawi</li> <li>Karuna trust aims to give people a sense of dignity and move them out of poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everybody has talents to use to earn money/ opportunities are provided to allow this to happen/ people should not become dependent on others.</li> <li>Careful budgeting can be helpful/ careful use of credit cards so as not to overspend</li> <li>Helping themselves not to be dependent provides a good role model for children.</li> <li>Some are in no position to help themselves/ they may have illness or handicap, so they cannot work/ addiction can cause poverty but is hard to overcome.</li> <li>The idea of society is that people should help each other and show compassion</li> <li>It is not easy to find paid work/ may not have the skills or educational requirements</li> <li>Buying Fairtrade products</li> <li>Supporting foodbanks, soup kitchens and charities</li> <li>Supporting campaigns that promote greater equality such as the living wage campaign.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Test yourself</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which one of the following best expresses the religious ideal that everyone should get what they deserve? A) Tolerance B) Prejudice C) Justice D) Compassion <b>[1 mark]</b></li> <li>Give two examples of what religious believers would see as exploitation of the poor. <b>[2 marks]</b></li> <li>Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the right freedom of belief.</li> <li>Explain two religious beliefs about the status of women in religion.</li> <li>'It is always right to give charity to the poor.' Evaluate this statement</li> </ol> <p><b>I need to focus on:</b></p>							



# Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice Part 1

## Examples of religious beliefs about the status of women in religion

Women have lower status	Women have equal status
<p>→ <b>Christianity</b> – in some branches women cannot be priests and some Christians believe that wives should submit to their husbands.</p> <p>→ <b>Islam</b> – women have different practical rights to men, e.g. they can only have one spouse and they inherit less.</p> <p>→ <b>Sikhism</b> – in some branches women cannot participate in all religious practices, and in some Sikh culture there is a preference for sons and some Sikhs choose to abort female foetuses.</p>	<p>→ <b>Christianity</b> – many branches allow female ordination and see women as equal with men.</p> <p>↳ Some Christians claim that women having different roles does not make them unequal, just different.</p> <p>→ <b>Islam</b> – women are seen as spiritually equal, and as practically equal by some.</p> <p>→ <b>Sikhism</b> – the Gurus promoted women as being spiritually equal and in many branches of Sikhism they are treated equally.</p>

Within religion, some people feel that certain groups of people are worth less than others (**prejudice**), and may treat them worse as a result (**discrimination**). Those affected include women and **homosexuals**.

### 1 Prejudice and Discrimination in Religion and Belief

### Status and Treatment of Homosexuals

**Within Christianity:**

- Some Christians disagree with **homosexuality** because of Bible passages, e.g. Leviticus 18:22.
- Some may treat homosexuals badly / differently to heterosexuals as a result.
- ↳ Some may verbally or physically abuse them.
- ↳ Some may not recognise same-sex marriage.
- Some Christians accept homosexuals because Jesus taught to treat others with love, and not to judge.
- They may see homosexuals as equals and treat them **equally**.

Some people feel that being treated **equally** means being treated the same, e.g. everyone must dress in the same way and will receive the same amount of assistance.

Others feel that **equality** involves treating everyone fairly, which may mean allowing people to dress differently, or giving them extra assistance.

**Equality** refers to being equal and/or being treated equally – with the same respect and dignity. Many people feel this is a good thing, though it is sometimes hard to respect people's equality as well as others' **freedom of religion and belief** and **freedom of religious expression**.

### 2 Issues of Equality, Freedom of Religion and Belief

**Some religious beliefs about freedom of religious expression**

- Christianity – people should be allowed to express their religion because this is treating others as you would want to be treated.
- Islam – teaches to allow many religions freedom of expression.
- Some Christians and Muslims feel their religion is the only one which should be allowed expression.
- Muslims may not allow polytheistic religions freedom of expression, or allow Muslims to leave the faith.

Sometimes **equality** conflicts with **freedom of religion and belief** – e.g. a homosexual has the right to be treated **equally**, but some religious people feel their religion does not allow them to do this, e.g. to perform same-sex marriages.

**Freedom of religion and belief:**

- In the UK, people are free to believe what they want and to practise and express their religion.
- This was not always the case and is not the case everywhere in the world.
- Many people feel that **freedom of religion and belief** is good; others disagree for religious or practical reasons, e.g. face veils may endanger public safety.

*'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'*  
(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)

### Status and Treatment of Women

Women have often been treated differently to men within religion; expected to fulfil different roles, and act in different ways. Some people see this as bad treatment as they feel this treats women **unequally**.



**Human Rights** are rights many people believe all humans deserve. Some rights are protected by law in many countries, e.g. Great Britain, which upholds many human rights in law.

**Responsibilities:** People have a responsibility to respect the rights of others, e.g. people cannot kill or enslave other humans.

### 3 Human Rights

Since 2000, the UK has had to protect the human rights in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Some rights include:

- The right to life
- The right to freedom
- The right not to be tortured
- The rights of free belief and expression
- The right to education
- The right to democratic vote
- The right to freedom from discrimination, with regard to these rights

Some people have felt that some people, such as murderers and terrorists, do not deserve human rights.

Muslims may feel that some human rights conflict with **shari'ah** (Muslim) law.

Some rights conflict, e.g. freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination (some people discriminate on religious grounds).

Many Christians work for **social justice** because Jesus treated everyone well and encouraged people to give money to the poor.

Some Christians have not helped the poor; some believe that the poor should help themselves.

### 4 Social Justice

**Social justice** is the idea that everyone deserves the same rights, and that wealth should be distributed fairly.

Muslims who have a certain level of wealth give **zakah** (a religious obligation to pay a percentage of their wealth) – much of which goes to those in need. This helps to promote **social justice**.

Some think that **social justice** is too confusing, or that there are reasons for treating some people **unequally**, e.g. the rich earn and deserve their money.

Campaigners for **social justice** ended the slave trade and have helped bring in laws to aid **equality**, e.g. laws regarding fair pay.

*The Golden Rule: 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...'*  
(Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

There has been a long history of legal, and even compulsory, racism in many countries.

Today many people oppose racism and it is illegal in the UK.

Racism goes against the **humanist** principle of equal dignity for all, and the Christian principle of treating others as one would like to be treated. Many religious people believe that all people are **equal** before God.

**Ethical arguments for racial discrimination – Positive discrimination:** Some people feel that **positive discrimination** is a good idea – giving better treatment to those who normally receive negative **discrimination** to correct the imbalance. Others feel this is **unfair**, as it is negatively discriminating against others. It is generally illegal in the UK.

### 5 Racial Prejudice and Discrimination

**Ethical arguments against racial discrimination:**

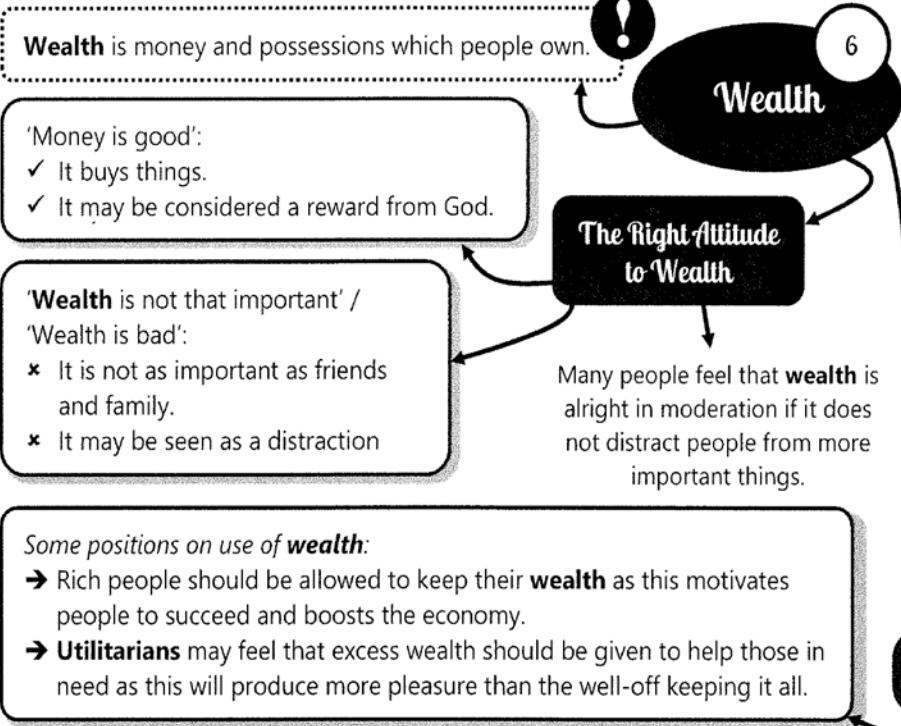
- It is **unjust** – there is no reason for **racial prejudice** or **discrimination**.
- Racism solves nothing – it will expand divides and anger victims.

**Some reasons for racism:**

- Fear of difference
- Fear of insecurity
- Ignorance / lack of education
- Stereotyping

The philosopher John Rawls suggested that if no one knew who they would be – which race or how rich – then they would want society to treat everyone **equally**, and for wealth to be shared fairly.

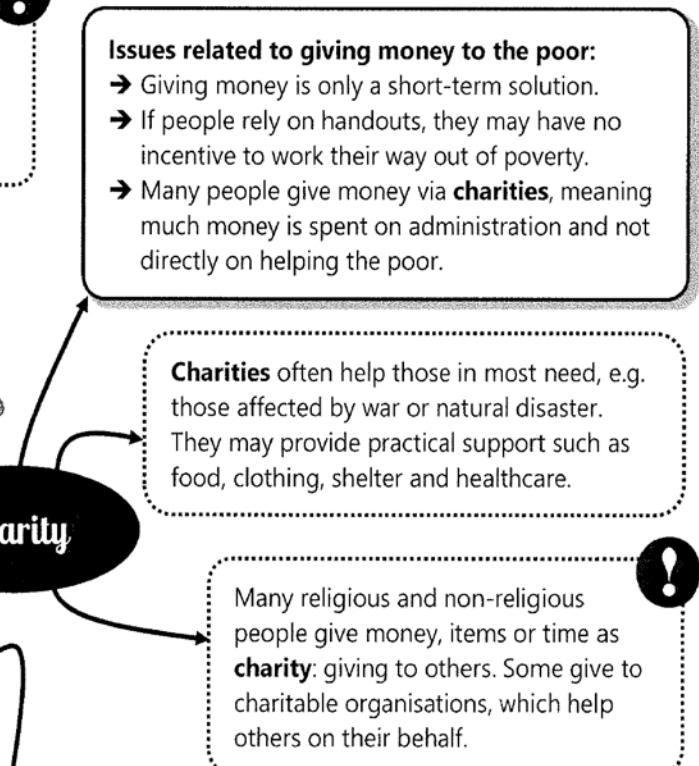
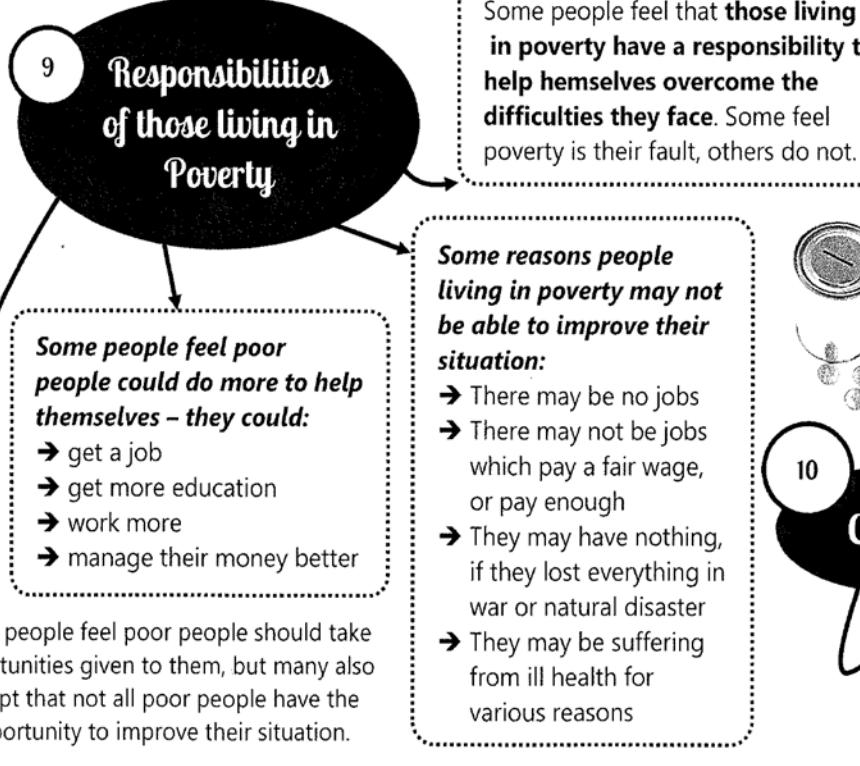
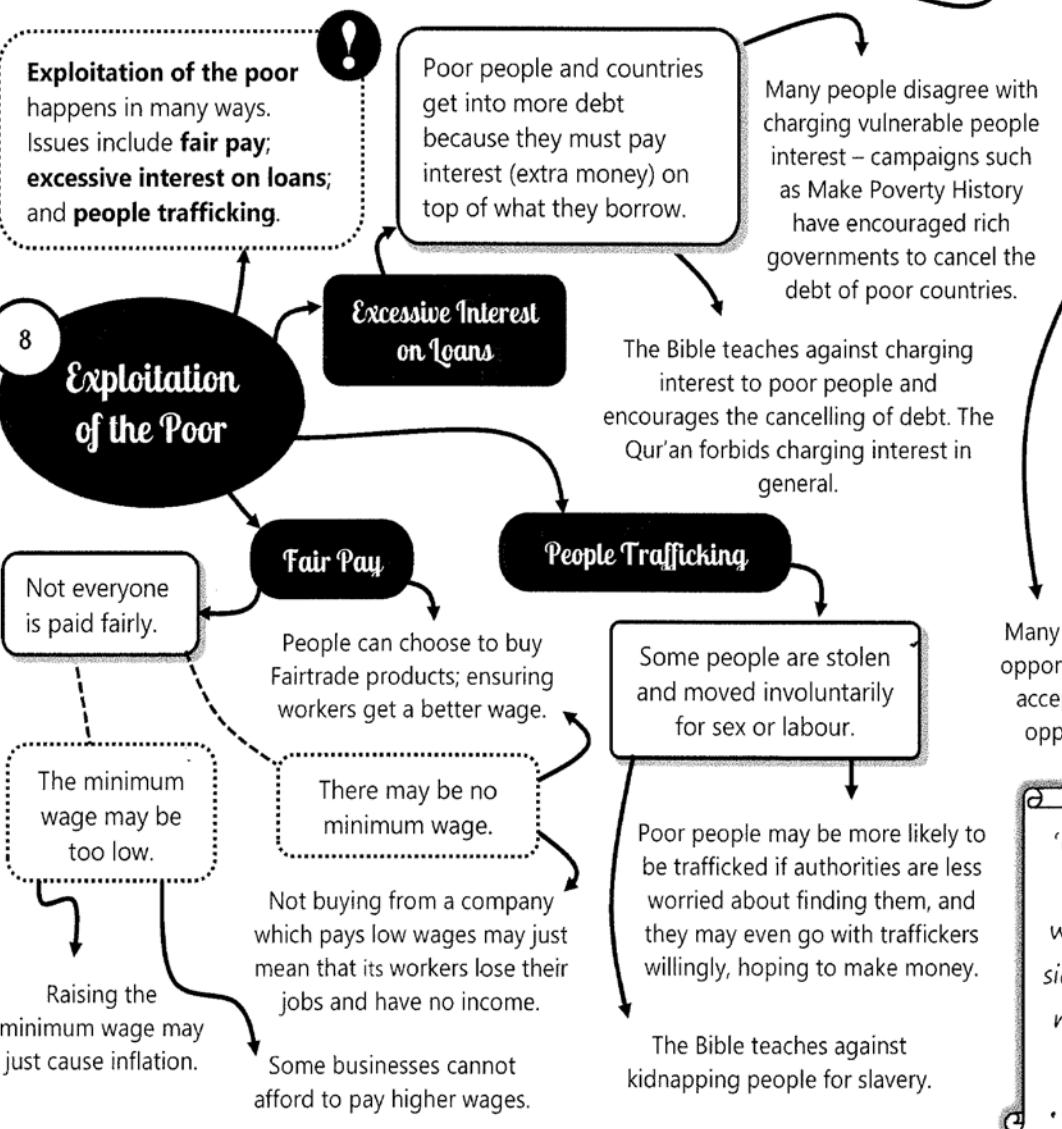
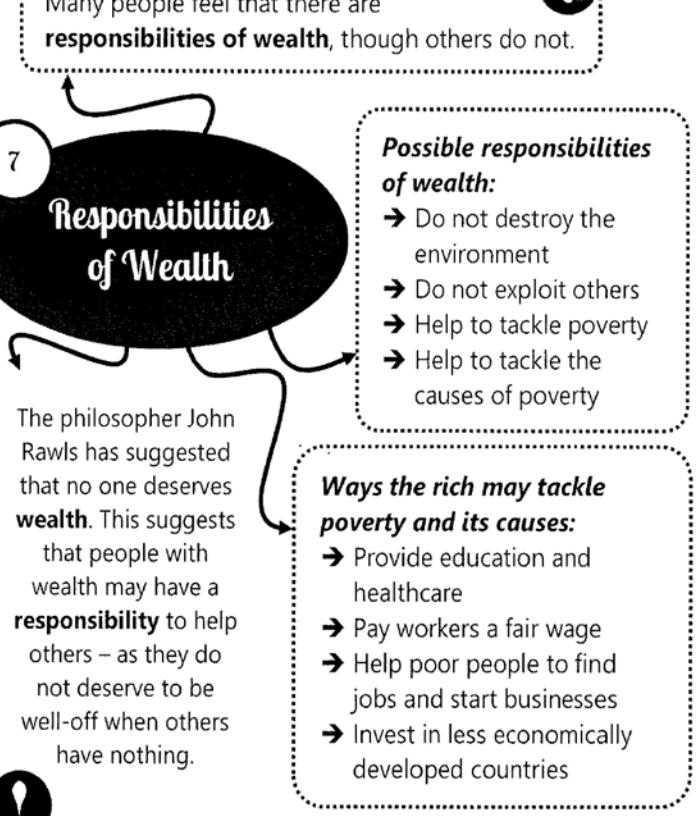




Christianity		Buddhism
→ Some Christians believe wealth is a reward and blessing from God, so can be used as the owner desires. → Others think wealth should be used to help others because Jesus taught to give money to the poor. → Some think wealth should all be given away as it distracts from God.	[Empty Box]	→ The Buddha taught not to be greedy, but not to give up everything – his middle way. So Buddhists may give away excess, but not all, wealth. → Buddhists may donate money to monks to earn good karma (good consequences from good actions).

**The Uses of Wealth**

! ... go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven...'  
 (Mark 10:21 NRSV)



'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'  
 (Matthew 25:35–36, 40 NRSV)

Christianity teaches to give **charity** – Jesus taught to give money to the poor and for everyone to love their neighbour (and helping others practically through charity puts this into practice).

He also taught that those who gave others charity did this for God, and would go to heaven when judged.

Jesus also taught that giving a little when you had little was better than giving when you were rich.

Using pages 92-107 write down  
the key terms definitions

# Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice

Ageism

Human Rights

Prejudice

Community

Racism

Tolerance

Compassion

Human Right Act

UN Declaration of Human Rights

Discrimination

Responsibility

Wealth

Engaged Buddhism

Justice

Rights

Equality

Sexuality

Exploitation

Minimum Wage

Social Justice

Fair pay

People trafficking

Stewardship

Freedom of religion

Freedom of religious  
expression

Positive discrimination

Gender

Harmony

Poverty

Homophobia

# Key terms answers

<b>Ageism</b>	Discrimination on the basis of a person's age.
<b>Community</b>	a group of people who belong together because of a shared characteristic.
<b>Compassion</b>	Loving kindness; helping because help is needed.
<b>Discrimination</b>	Actions based on prejudice, often negative.
<b>Engaged Buddhism</b>	A movement in Buddhism that is concerned with applying the Buddha's teachings to matters of social and environmental injustice
<b>Equality</b>	The idea that everyone is equal, and of equal value and worth.
<b>Exploitation</b>	Misuse of power or Money to get others to do things for little or no reward
<b>Fair pay</b>	Payment which is appropriate for work done.
<b>Freedom of religion</b>	The right to believe or practice whatever religion one chooses
<b>Freedom of religious expression</b>	The right to worship, preach and practise one's faith in whatever way one chooses
<b>Gender</b>	The state of being male or female.
<b>Harmony</b>	Living together without argument and conflict.
<b>Homophobia</b>	Prejudice against someone on the grounds of the (perceived) sexual identity.
<b>Human Rights</b>	The rights a person is entitled to simply because they are human.
<b>Human Right Act</b>	A law which protects the rights of all human beings and allows us to challenge when these are violated
<b>Interest</b>	The money paid to a lender from a borrower on top of the initial sum borrowed.

<b>Minimum Wage</b>	The legal minimum a person can be paid per hour in a job in the UK.
<b>People trafficking</b>	The illegal trade of humans for slavery, for example, in the sex trade or for work.
<b>Positive discrimination</b>	Discriminating in favour of a person with a protected characteristic.
<b>Poverty</b>	Having less than the basic needs of life, so that life is a struggle.
<b>Prejudice</b>	Pre-judging someone based on a characteristic they have, for example, their looks.
<b>Racism</b>	Prejudice based on a person's racial/ ethnic origins.
<b>Responsibility</b>	Duty, for example, the responsibility to work to earn money.
<b>Rights</b>	Entitlements, for example, the right to education.
<b>Sexuality</b>	A person's sexual orientation, for example, straight, gay or bi-sexual.
<b>Social Justice</b>	Justice in terms of wealth and opportunities in a society.
<b>Stewardship</b>	Duty to look after, in this case, other people and those less fortunate.
<b>Tolerance</b>	Acceptance of difference.
<b>UN Declaration of Human Rights</b>	A statement adopted by the United Nations organisation to protect all human beings.
<b>Wealth</b>	Money and possessions a person has.

# Quotes and Scripture from Buddhism

Teaching	Source of Authority
<p>All beings love life and happiness. Taking yourself for comparison, you should neither harm or kill, nor cause to harm or kill another being</p>	<p>Buddha</p>
<p>However innumerable sentient beings are; I vow to save them</p>	<p>Bodhisattva vow</p>
<p>All tremble at violence; all fear death...one should not kill or cause to kill</p>	<p>Dhammapada 129</p>
<p>I believe that at every level of society, the key to a happier and more successful world is the growth of compassion</p>	<p>HH The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama</p>
<p>Just as compassion is the wish that all sentient beings be free of suffering, loving-kindness is the wish that all may enjoy happiness</p>	<p>HH The 14th Dalai Lama</p>
<p>Whoever injures with violence creatures desiring happiness...he does not gain happiness when he has passed away</p>	<p>Dhammapada 131</p>
<p>Even if thieves carve you limb from limb with a double-handed saw, if you make your mind hostile you are not following my teaching.</p>	<p>Kamcupamasutta, Majjhima-Nikkaya I: 28- 29</p>
<p>Whoever is not hostile among the hostile, at rest among those who are violent....him I call a holy man</p>	<p>Dhammapada 406</p>
<p>By action, knowledge and Dhamma, by virtue and noble way of life – By these are mortals purified, not by lineage or wealth</p>	<p>Majjhima Nikaya vol 3 /262</p>

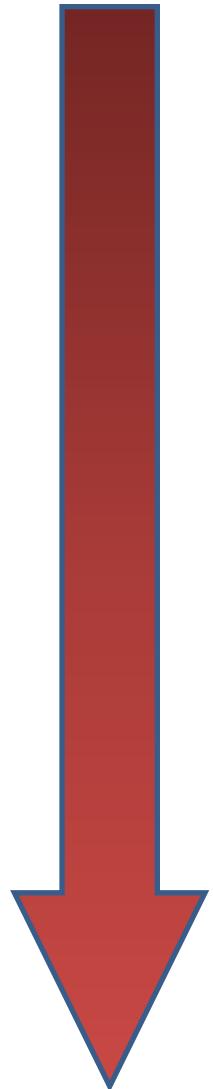
## Quotes & scripture from Christianity

Teaching	Source of authority
Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead	James 2:17
Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.	1 Corinthians 12:27
I look upon the whole world as my parish.	John Wesley
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat....I was in prison and you came to visit me	Matthew 25:35-36 (The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness	Matthew 5:10
I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle.....The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you.	Pope Francis
Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever	1 Timothy 5:8
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
Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness	Genesis 1:27
Blessed are the merciful	Matthew 5:7
The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil	1 Timothy 6:10
Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities	Romans 13:1
God's love is too great to be confined to any one side of a conflict or to any one religion	Desmond Tutu
Love your neighbour as yourself	Mark 12:31
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us	The Lord's Prayer
Women should remain silent in the churches	1 Corinthians 14:34-35
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
Do no exploit the poor because they are poor	Proverbs 22:22
Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can	John Wesley
Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'	Martin Luther King Jnr
I look to a day when people will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.	Martin Luther King Jnr
Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can	John Wesley
Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'	Martin Luther King Jnr
I look to a day when people will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.	Martin Luther King Jnr

# Revision Activities

Pick at least 2 tasks to work on now and finish for homework.

Harder



Easier

Write your own revision guide for the unit.

Create a model answer for a 12 mark question from the textbook.

Create a revision poster for the unit.

Write a 20 question quiz for your pair on the unit, then swap.

Make 7 index cards with cover the key topic areas.

Create a glossary for all the key words

# Topic checklist

Social Justice	
Human Rights	
Religious Freedom	
Prejudice & Discrimination	
Prejudice & Discrimination & Religion	
C&B Teachings about wealth	
Exploitation of the Poor	
Poverty	
Giving Money to the poor	