

Year 7 Ethics End of Year Revision Materials – Summer 2023



Topics to revise:

- What is religion?
- Did God create the universe?
- Who are the leaders in religion?
- How do religious believers express their faith?

1. What is religion?

Year 7 Belief Systems	Glossary of key terms and meanings
Sanctity of life	Life is sacred and holy, as it is created by God, and only God can take it away.
Atheist	Someone who does not believe in the existence of God.
Theist	Someone who does believe in the existence of God.
Agnostic	Someone who is unsure about God's existence and needs proof.
Conscience	A person's moral sense of right and wrong, acting as a guide to their behaviour.
Ethics	Understanding what is right and wrong.

Reasons to believe in God	Reasons not to believe in God
Evidence of stories in holy books – Christians believe that the Bible is God's word.	Science has more reliable truth about life
People have had a religious experience eg. seen a miracle happen/seen a vision of God.	Religion is based on stories which might not be true
People have been brought up in the religion from childhood/religious family.	There is no proof of God being real
People believe that their prayers are answered, they have a relationship with God.	Belief in God and religion causes war
Believing in God is a personal choice, it might give someone comfort and guidance in life.	If there was a God then why is there so much suffering in the world?
Belief that God created the world and everything in it.	People believe that the Big Bang created the universe

What is religion about?

Buildings

Special places set aside for worship e.g. A church

Community

A group of people that meet to worship e.g. The Congregation of a Church

Rituals

Actions that you perform e.g. Kneeling to pray

Stories

Stories that explain religious ideas e.g. The Good Samaritan

Beliefs

Ideas that you accept without question e.g. Jesus is the Son of God

Symbols

Special Sacred signs that mean something e.g. The cross

Rules

Laws/the way in which you should behave e.g. You shall not kill

Experience

Something that you feel e.g. joy

Morality is our sense of right and wrong. There are two types of morality – absolute morality and relative morality. **Absolute morality** is when we stick to the same decision in any situation and **our decision is unchanging**. Eg. If someone thinks it is wrong to steal, then it they believe this in every situation, even if someone had to steal to feed their family. **Relative morality** is when we can **change** our decision based on the situation, Eg. If someone thinks its wrong to kill someone, but they might believe that fighting in a war is acceptable as it is to create peace.

2. Did God create the universe?

Awe and wonder	A feeling of respect and marvelling at the complexity and beauty of something.
Cosmological	To do with understanding the cosmos or universe.
Teleological	The argument from design and purpose.
Theologian	Someone who dedicates her or his life to study and seek knowledge about God.
Philosopher	Someone who studies to seek understanding, wisdom and truths about themselves and the world in which they live.
Creation	The living world which for most religious people is considered to have been created by God.
Big bang theory	A physical theory that describes how the universe expanded from an initial state of high density and temperature.
Evolution	The process by which organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms of life during the history of the earth.
Adaptation	A process of change where an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment.

William Paley - The Teleological argument



- **William Paley's** design argument is known as the **teleological argument**. This comes from the Greek root '**telos**' which means **purpose**. The argument is called this because it argues that the universe (and everything in it) is designed to achieve a purpose.

William Paley (1743-1805) compared the complex design of the universe to a pocket watch. He used an **analogy** to explain his argument.



Understanding his theory



- Paley argues that the watch would show so much evidence of having been **designed for a purpose**, that we would be confident that there must have been a **designer** (a watchmaker) who devised the complex mechanism, organised the way that all the parts fit together etc to fulfil the purpose of telling the time.
- **Paley's argument was an analogy to represent the universe.** He said that the universe was so complex and had so much purpose that it must have been designed. **He argued that the designer is God.**

Thomas Aquinas – the cosmological argument

- **He believed therefore that God was the first cause of everything to exist – the big bang, the universe itself, humans, animals etc..**
- Why did God not need a cause?
- Because he believed (as Christians do) that **God is eternal – always has been here and will always be here and did not need creating.**
- Therefore he believed that God caused everything in the universe to exist, so he was the first cause of everything.

The Christian Creation Story

God created the world in six days, then rested on the 7th day.

Days of creation:

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Sea and sky

Day 3: Dry ground & plants

Day 4: Sun, moon & stars

Day 5: Birds & sea creatures

Day 6: Land animals & humans

Day 7: The Sabbath day of rest

The Big Bang Theory

Matter is external and has always existed.

About 15 billion years ago, the matter of the universe became compressed and caused a huge explosion.

Forces of gravity joined the matter into stars and the solar system was formed.

Primitive life forms like amoeba were formed.

The genetic structure of these life forms produce changes.

Over millions of years, new life forms evolved and 2.5 million years ago humans evolved.

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin was a **natural scientist** who challenged the idea that God made all animals and plants on Earth. Instead, he suggested that **species change over time, adapting to their environment**. His theory included the idea of '**natural selection**' or in other words '**survival of the fittest**'.

3. Who are the leaders in religion?

Who are the leaders in religion? Mohammed and Jesus. Glossary of key terms and meanings.

Islam	Religion of Muslims which began in Mecca. Islam means peace and submission to Allah.
Christianity	Religion of Christians which began in Jerusalem.
Allah	The Arabic name for God.
Muhammad	The founder of Islam, the final and most important prophet in Islam.
Prophet	A person who proclaims the message of God.
Qur'an	The Muslim holy book.
Jibril	The angel sent from God who spoke to Mohammed and revealed the Qur'an to him.
Mosque	The Muslim place of worship.
The Ka'ba	The black, cube shaped building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, the holiest place in Islam.

Mohammed

Muhammad was born around 570 in the trading city of Makkah. Before he died in 632 he had changed the lives of many people. Muhammad's father died before he was born, and his mother died when he was 6 years old. As an orphan he was looked after by his grandfather and when he died, by his uncle. When he was older, he became a trader for a rich widow called Khadijah, who was a wealthy and respected tradeswoman. He had done such an impressive job with profits through honesty (rather than cheating people like a lot of traders did in those days) that Khadijah asked him to marry her. Muhammad was 25.

When he was forty, in the year 610CE, Muhammad was sitting in a cave on Mount Hira, just outside of the city of Makkah, when God spoke to him through the angel Jibril (Gabriel). These revelations happened again and again and then were written down and became the Qur'an. In the year 613 CE Muhammad started preaching openly, he told the people of Makkah that there was only one God, and that God had created the world and everything in it. Since there was only one God it was wrong to worship statues and different gods.

At first there was a lot of opposition to Muhammad. His followers were beaten by people who did not want to give up their old way of life. Muhammad and his followers were persecuted for their beliefs. In 622CE Muhammad

left Makkah. He and his followers were invited to live in Madinah. His departure, (Hijrah), was important because it was at Madinah that Muhammad set up the first Islamic community.

Battles took place between the Muslims in Madinah and the people of Makkah. In 630CE the Makkans were beaten in one of the battles. Muhammad came back to his hometown - Makkah. The idols were taken from the Ka'ba and destroyed. It was cleansed from the idols. Makkah finally became a Muslim City, and Mohammed was able to spread the religion of Islam. Islam spread very quickly in Arabia. In 632CE Muhammad became ill and died. He was buried in Madinah next to the mosque. Later, in the centre of Makkah, the grand mosque got built up and today is one of the most beautiful mosques in the world - the Masjid-Al-Haram, with the Ka'ba in the centre, where Muslims all over the world direct their prayers.

Jesus

Jesus lived in Palestine, and began the religion of Christianity. He preached about love and performed many miracles. He has 12 disciples who were his closest followers. At the age of 33, the Romans crucified Jesus, but three days later he was resurrected and came back to life, proving to his followers that he was the Son of God.

The Easter festival

*Easter is the most important part of the Christian calendar and it remembers Jesus' death and resurrection. Christians believe **Jesus had to be sacrificed so that the sins of all people could be forgiven**. His death was an **atonement** (making up) for those sins. While Easter has a very sad element to it – that Jesus had to die – it also had a very joyful one because Jesus rose from the dead, **humans were then reconciled (reunited in their relationship) with God** and now heaven was open to them after death.*

Good Friday is the day when Christians remember the crucifixion of Jesus. He was put on trial by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor and sentenced to death. The soldiers mocked and abused him. He carried the cross to a place outside Jerusalem. He was nailed to the cross and died. Jesus' body was placed in a sealed tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathaea.

Christians believe Jesus' death was a sacrifice freely made that since has freed the world from sin, it was God's love that made this possible.

Today Good Friday is observed in worship, this includes readings of the accounts of the death of Jesus. Christians worship together and often there is a procession through the towns with a cross.

Easter Sunday celebrates Jesus rising from the dead. For Christians, the **resurrection** is the greatest event in history. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is of the highest importance to Christians today. The **risen Jesus** is believed to always be with Christians as he promised he would be.

4. How do religious believers express their faith?

How do religious believers express their faith? Glossary of key terms and meanings	
Infant Baptism	The sacrament through which babies and young children become members of the church, where promises are made on their behalf by adults.
Believers' Baptism	Initiation into the Church, by full immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony and are willing to commit to Christianity.
Testimony	A statement or speech made in believers' baptism to explain why that person wants to become a Christian.
Original Sin	The Christian belief that all people are born with a weakness that makes them likely so sin against God (story of Adam and Eve).
Immersion	The whole body of the person is submerged in water – this happens at believer's baptism.
Holy Communion	The sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection.

Infant Baptism

- Infant baptism takes place in an Anglican church, where the priest or minister will wear robes.
- The baby or infant is usually dressed in white to symbolise purity and parents and godparents are there to make promises on behalf of the baby.
- Holy oil will be put on the baby's head by the vicar and parents/godparents, then the baby will be baptised from water in the font.
- The child is baptised "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

- A commitment is made by the parents and godparents that the child will be given a Christian upbringing. Eg. Have a Christian environment, be given Christians teachings, attend church, be taught how to worship God, be set the example of Christian living and be expected later to become confirmed within the Christian faith and church.
- A candle to represent Jesus being the light of the world is given to the parents for the child to symbolise that God is with them throughout their life.
- They believe that God is present at the baptism.

Believers' Baptism

- Believers' baptism happens in a Baptist church and the Pastor is the leader of the Church who dresses in smart clothes rather than robes.
- Christians who practice believers' baptism claim that they are following the example of Jesus and the early Church.
- Candidates will attend baptism classes to gain an understanding of what it means to follow the Christian faith.
- They will then give a testimony in the service before their baptism to state why they want to become a Christian.
- Believers' baptism is done by total immersion (completely submerged in water).
- These Christians understand the commitment being made and wish to dedicate their lives to Christ.
- Candidates are again baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.


The importance of Jesus' baptism for Christians.

- Baptism enables a Christian to share in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Jesus is the Son of God, and Christians believe they should follow in his footsteps by being baptised.
- Jesus' baptism is important to symbolise going down into death and rising into a new life with Jesus.
- Baptism is important to Christians as it allows them to make fresh start, to have sin washed away,
- They are part of God's family, and should try and have the strengths to resist temptation and unite themselves with other Christians.

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection from death.

The Lord's
Supper



Holy
Communion

The Divine
Liturgy


Mass

Eucharist


The Breaking
of Bread

Many Christians consider it the most important act of worship. It recalls the Last Supper of Jesus

The impact of Holy Communion on individuals, communities and societies



It brings the community of believers together in unity, strengthening their commitment to their faith. If someone is having doubts or is going through a difficult time, celebrating Holy Communion with others can give them support or encouragement.



Holy Communion is at the centre of many Christian lives. They believe that they receive God's grace by joining in the great sacrifice of Jesus.

It reminds Christians that while they are breaking bread together, there are many in the world that are starving. Holy Communion encourages them to work for equality and justice for all. Many Churches collect money during the service to support work being done.

