

# Year 8 Ethics End of Year Exam Revision Materials – Summer 2023



## Topics to revise:

1. What is suffering?
2. Why do we suffer?
3. Is there life after death?
4. How do we punish people?

## 1. What is suffering?

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS What is suffering - BUDDHISM	
<b>Buddha</b>	Awakened or 'enlightened one'; a person who has a deep understanding of the nature of life.
<b>Enlightenment</b>	Awakened to a profound understanding of the ultimate laws and nature of life.
<b>Dukkha</b>	Suffering or imperfection – the first of the four noble truths.
<b>Nibbana (Nirvana)</b>	Getting rid of wanting and desire and achieving peace.
<b>Middle Way</b>	Living a balanced life, between the extremes of luxury and hardship.
<b>Dharma</b>	The teachings of the Buddha, the 'ultimate truth' or 'universal law'.
<b>Anicca</b>	Impermanence – the instability of all things.
<b>The Four Noble Truths</b>	The Buddha's teaching about the cause of Dukkha (suffering) and how to overcome it.
<b>Wesak</b>	Buddha Day, the name of the Buddhist festival and month.
<b>Bhikkhu</b>	A Buddhist monk

## Dharma – the Buddha's teachings

### The Four Noble Truths

1. *Suffering is everywhere.*
2. *The origin of suffering is craving and wanting.*
3. *We can stop suffering if we stop our cravings and our attachment to material things.*
4. *The way to stop suffering is by following the 'middle way' -living a balanced life, without too much or too little.*

### 2. The Eightfold Path

**Right View** – Having the Buddhist perspective on life

**Right Intentions** – Being willing to change and improve your life

**Right Speech** – Speaking the truth, avoiding gossip and not saying hurtful things.

**Right Action** – Acting in ways that do not harm yourself or others.

**Right Livelihood** – Doing jobs that don't involve violence. Buddhists would avoid the armed forces or being a butcher as they would have to use violence in their job.

**Right Effort** – Trying hard to improve your life and other's lives.

**Right Concentration** – Meditating to achieve wisdom and insight.

**Right Mindfulness** – Being aware of what you are doing and the effects your actions are having.

*For Buddhists, the Noble Eightfold Path is the right way to live. It is not a set of rules that has to be followed in a particular order, but contains eight principles that can be applied to everyday life. The Eightfold Path is the way that Buddhists believe they can overcome desire and suffering, so that they can achieve enlightenment.*

### 3. The Five Moral Precepts All Buddhists undertake to live by the **Five Moral Precepts** which means they try to:

1. *Avoid harming living things*
2. *Avoid taking what is not given*
3. *Avoid harmful sexual activity*
4. *Avoid lies or gossip*
5. *Avoid taking intoxicating substances e.g. drugs or alcohol*

## 2. Why do people suffer?

Why do people suffer? Glossary of key terms and meanings	
<b>Moral Evil</b>	Actions done by humans that cause suffering.
<b>Natural Evil</b>	Things that cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans e.g. Earthquakes.
<b>Omnipotent</b>	God is all powerful
<b>Omniscient</b>	God is all knowing
<b>Benevolent</b>	God is loving and caring
<b>Free will</b>	The ability to make choices (particularly moral choices) voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is predetermined.
<b>Genesis</b>	The first book of the Old Testament (Bible) describing the origins of humanity and humans' relationship with God.
<b>Atheist</b>	Someone who does not believe in the existence of God
<b>Theist</b>	Someone who does believe in the existence of God
<b>Agnostic</b>	Someone who is unsure and needs proof of God's existence
<b>Original Sin</b>	The Christian belief that all people are born with a weakness that makes them likely to sin against God (story of Adam and Eve).
<b>Karma</b>	Actions have consequences

### Evil and Suffering

**One of the major reasons for people being agnostic or atheist is the problem of evil - God is omnipotent, omniscient and benevolent how can He allow evil and suffering to exist?**

Believers find it hard to understand how a God who is said to be benevolent can allow suffering to happen to people

Some suggest that God is not omnipotent after all, perhaps He is not powerful enough to prevent evil happening

Some question if God is really omniscient - if He were he would foresee evil and prevent it happening in the first place

People who are faithful and pray might wonder why their prayers have gone unanswered when evil happens

If God created the universe, did He create evil?

Some would question as evil exists why is it often the innocent who suffer

An atheist would argue that evil proves God does not exist

### Christian Responses to Evil and Suffering

#### **Christians have different views about the purpose of evil and suffering:**

Some believe that life is a test; Christians are judged on how they respond to evil and suffering. If there were no evil and suffering they would not be able to develop as good people as this involves fighting evil and helping those who suffer. If people pass the test they will be rewarded after death by going to heaven.

Some Christians believe that God would not have given humans free will unless they had the chance to do evil things (being free is part of being made in God's image.)

Humans have used their free will to do evil things that have brought suffering to the world, therefore evil and suffering is the fault of humans not God, and could be seen as punishment for sin.

Many Christians believe that God must have a purpose for evil and suffering however humans are not able to understand this. Jesus showed us that God wants us to fight evil and suffering and so we must accept it and follow this example.

A few Christians believe that God did make a world free of evil and suffering and gave it to humans, the Garden of Eden, but humans used their free will to disobey God. Their punishment was to be cast out and separated humans from God, Jesus was sent to die for the sins of humanity to bring people back to God.

### 3. Is there life after death?

Is there life after death? - Glossary of terms and meanings	
<b>Soul</b>	The spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal.
<b>Immortal</b>	Living forever, never dying.
<b>Resurrection</b>	Rising from the dead, coming back to life.
<b>Purgatory</b>	A time of cleansing for the soul after death before Judgement Day (Roman Catholic belief – Christianity).
<b>Near death experience</b>	When a person comes very close to dying and has memories of a spiritual experience during the time when death was near.
<b>Reincarnation</b>	Buddhist belief that when you die your soul is reborn into another body.
<b>Heaven</b>	The state of eternal happiness in the presence of God, also called paradise.
<b>Hell</b>	The state of total separation from God.
<b>Judgement Day</b>	A time when the world will end and every soul will be judged by God and rewarded or punished.
<b>Satan</b>	Name for the Devil – the power and sources of evil.
<b>Akhirah</b>	Muslim belief in everlasting life after death.

#### Christian beliefs

**Many Protestant Christians:** They believe in **Immortality of the soul**, and that the body will remain in the grave, but the soul will go straight to **Heaven**. After death Christians will face **judgement**. before God. There is a difference in opinion about what happens to those who do not go to heaven, and some believe there is no such place as **Hell**.

**Roman Catholic Christians:** They believe in both the **resurrection. and immortality of the soul**. They believe that the soul of a Christian who has not **sinned** since their last confession will go straight to heaven. The soul of a Christian who has sinned will go to **Purgatory, where their souls will be cleansed**. The **souls who do not believe in God or have committed unforgivable sins will go to hell**. After this **Jesus will come back to earth to raise the dead** and reunite their bodies and souls. God will make a new heaven and earth and the **souls in purgatory will go to Heaven**.

#### Muslim beliefs in life after death - Akhirah

1.The angel of death takes the soul to <b>BARZAKH a barrier</b> to wait until the Day of Judgement.	2. <b>Two Angels visit the grave</b> to question them about their faith.	3.The <b>day of judgement</b> – the <b>Angel Israfil</b> blows a trumpet to end the world.	4.The Angel Israfil blows it again to <b>start the resurrection</b> .
5.The <b>book of life</b> will be handed them to read out– either in the right or left hand (right heaven, left hell).	6.Allah sorts the souls on the <b>Sirat bridge</b> – good souls= heaven, bad souls= hell.	7.The person’s life will be judged. If they have lived a good life they will go to paradise – <b>‘On couches of well woven cloth... a reward for what they used to do...’</b>	8.If they have not lived a good life they will go to hell – <b>‘They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke...’</b>

#### Non-religious beliefs in life after death

Reasons to believe	Reasons not to believe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some people have claimed to experience life after death through a near-death experience.</li> <li>Sometimes people feel deceased loved ones are still with them.</li> <li>Those who lead a good life should be rewarded and those who are bad should be punished.</li> <li>People find the idea of death very difficult to cope with.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no evidence for an afterlife</li> <li>Mediums and other people who attempt to prove there is an afterlife are tricking people.</li> <li>We live in an age where science holds the answers and we should not believe in things which are unscientific.</li> <li>Life after death is simply impossible – we are either alive or dead.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Why do we punish people?

Conscience	Your sense of right and wrong; usually the guilty voice in your head. For religious people your conscience is the voice of God to influence you to do right.
Deterrence	Putting someone off committing a crime
Forgiveness	Letting go of anger towards someone for a wrong they have done to us. Showing mercy to someone or pardoning them for what they've done wrong.
Hate crime	A crime committed because of prejudice, eg. Beating someone up because you think they're gay. In UK law it can mean the doubling of a sentence if found guilty.
Imprisonment	Locking someone up as a punishment.
Law	The rules which govern a country.
Order	The enforcement of rules, eg. Set by a police force.
Parole	Release of a criminal from prison but continuing to monitor their behaviour.
Protection	Aim of punishment; to keep the public safe.
Reformation	Aim of punishment; helping the person see how and why they should behave better. Giving an offender a second chance to change.
Reparation	Aim of punishment; making up for what they have done wrong, compensation for their actions.
Retribution	Aim of punishment; getting revenge at a person for what they've done wrong.
Vindication	Aim of punishment; the punishment exists to uphold the law.

<b>Custodial Sentences</b>	<b>Locking the Offender Up</b>
<b>Prisons (adult)</b>	The UK has different types of prisons. High security are category A and B and house the most dangerous offenders. Category C is for those serving shorter sentences and category D are open prisons for first-time offenders and those due to be released.
<b>Young Offenders Institutions</b>	House offenders classed as children (under 18). Routines are specifically targeted at children's needs.
<b>Non-Custodial Sentences</b>	<b>Alternatives to Prison</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	Unpaid work in the community, for up to 300 hours. They do not have a choice in what they do although their offence and experiences influence magistrates decisions.
<b>Curfew</b>	Must return home by a set hour, often used with tagging.
<b>Electronic Tagging</b>	An electronic surveillance device attached to an offender's leg.
<b>Fines</b>	A set amount of money must be paid for the offence.
<b>Probation</b>	Offenders must meet regularly with a probation officer who monitors behaviour.
<b>Restorative Justice</b>	Young offenders attend sessions to look at their crime, why it was wrong and its effect on the victim; often including meeting and talking with their victims.

<b>Christian beliefs about punishment</b>	<b>Islam- Muslim beliefs about punishment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The law has a responsibility to punish and care for the criminal whilst trying to reform them.</li> <li>*Christians believe in help, love and reform, as Jesus taught his followers to 'Love your neighbour.'</li> <li>*Some Christians want more of an emphasis on 'justice' based on the 'an eye for an eye' teaching from the Bible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Qur'an emphasises the justice of Allah and the idea and accountability of one's actions.</li> <li>*The Qur'an also talks of mercy and forgiveness.</li> <li>*The legal system prescribes punishments including capital punishment, imprisonment and lashings.</li> <li>*Extreme punishments are not widely used and most Muslim countries have modern prisons and principles of fair treatment of criminals.</li> </ul>

<b>Arguments in favour of prison</b>	<b>Arguments against prison</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It helps to reform the offender to give them a chance to reflect on their actions and decide to reform.</li> <li>-It protects society from dangerous criminals.</li> <li>-Criminals can have access to rehabilitation and therapy eg. for drug addiction, mental health issues.</li> <li>-Prison can stop people reoffending.</li> <li>-Prisoners can attend classes to improve their education and skills which prepares them for the outside world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Overcrowding</li> <li>-Drug issues and violence are common.</li> <li>-Schools of crime – inmates can educate others in prison to become worse offenders.</li> <li>-Reoffending.</li> <li>-Relationships often break down while a person is in prison.</li> <li>- A prison record makes it difficult to get a job.</li> </ul>

