

# **GCSE Philosophy and Applied Ethics Peace and Justice AND Equality Units (C)**

1. Read the booklet – take notes on key points.
2. Convert each revision sheet (a topic like Abortion) into a ‘poster’ where you can visualise the key points.
3. Then reduce every sheet to just a few bullet points – so you have the whole of Equality on just one sheet of A4 – (see my sheet at back of booklet).
4. Read examples of ‘What is a Good Answer?’ so you know the style and the amount to put in your answer.
5. Read the Exam Technique page so you know how to answer the different types of questions.
6. Read the Exam Questions sheet and attempt every single question. At least do a plan of how you would answer the ‘c’, ‘d’ and ‘e’ questions.

**Exam Technique**  
**Each question is splits into parts a, b, c, d and e**

**Part - 1 mark**

This is knowledge question and is only worth one mark so try to limit time spent on it; **Usually 1 or 2 sentences, approx 1-2 minutes only.**

**Part b – 2 marks**

This part of the question is worth two marks so be brief; **2-3 minutes only, approx 2-4 sentences.**

**Part c – 3 marks**

This part of the question is worth three marks and should **take no more than 4 minutes and be 3 – 5 sentences.** It usually asks for you to describe Christian beliefs. Make sure you just do that. E.g Some Christians believe..... Some Christians believe..... Some Christians believe.....

It usually doesn't want you to expand on why – so make sure you don't, save that for part d.

**Part d – 6marks**

This part of the question is worth six marks **so spend 8-10 minutes on it.** This part of the question asks you to explain a belief or attitude. For example you could be asked to 'Explain Christian beliefs about giving money to charity.' In your answer make sure that you:

- Briefly explain the Christian **point(s)** of view.
- Back up with **evidence** from the Bible or other Christian sources.
- **Explain** why the evidence supports that point of view.
- Use specific religious **words** in your answer. For example when writing about medical ethics you could refer to the 'sanctity of life which shows the all life is created by God as so is special.
- If possible mention **a famous Christian** who responded to this issue, e.g. poverty – Mother Teresa.

**Part e – 12 marks**

This part of the question is worth 12 marks so **allow 12-15 minutes.** By following the structure below it is easy to get really good marks:

- Some people agree with this statement because.... x 1 or 2 reasons. Then say, 'However some other people might think differently because ... x 1 or 2 reasons.
- Some Christians agree with the statement because.... x 2 to 3 reasons. Then say (if you can) However some Christians might disagree because .....x 2 to 3 reasons
- Ideally you need to put YOUR opinion throughout the answer but if you haven't then you must put it at the end with reasons. E.g. I have considered both view points and my view is .... because... ....x 2 to 3 reasons
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*NOTE: You Cannot gain a 'C' grade unless you have put your opinion and a Christian view. Don't forget to....*

- ❖ Refer to the Bible or Church views if you can or the views of famous Christians where appropriate.

## **What is a good answer?**

**Below are JUST examples. Look at:**

**HOW much you should write.**

**HOW you should back up your points**

**HOW you should ANSWER the question.**

### **(c) What does Christianity teach about abortion? (approx 4minutes) – just 3 marks**

There are many different Christian groups and so there is a range of opinions on abortion.

Some Christians believe that abortion is never right. They think that God plans every human life before birth and to abort a life interferes with God's plan. The Roman Catholic Church supports this view. It believes abortion is always wrong, unless it is performed in order to save the life of the mother.

Other Christians believe that in some situations abortion is the kindest thing to do. This might be in the case of a very young girl who has become pregnant or when a foetus had severe deformities.

### **(d) Explain how a Christian would respond to a friend who chose to have an abortion. (approx 8 minutes) – 6 marks**

All Christians know that they should treat others with respect and consideration. This belief is illustrated by Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. If a Christian were faced with a friend who chose to have an abortion they should react with care and compassion and think carefully about their friend's reasons for the abortion.

A Christian's faith would influence their view of abortion since Christians believe killing is morally wrong. However, since Christian churches have different views on abortion, a Christian would need to think about what their church would think before coming to a conclusion.

If the Christian were a practising Catholic they would not agree with their friend's choice, since the Roman Catholic Church maintains that taking a life is morally wrong. However, Catholics accept that abortion may be permitted if the pregnancy risks the life of the mother.

A Christian from another church may support their friend's decision to have an abortion. Members of the Church of England believe that although abortion should not be encouraged it may be allowed in certain circumstances (e.g. if the pregnancy is due to rape, or the mother is very young).

### **(e) 'Abortion is a woman's right.' (approx 14 mins) – 12 marks**

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**

The issue of abortion raises serious questions, not least of which is whether abortion is a woman's right. Within Christianity there are conflicting views on abortion. The Roman Catholic Church denies that abortion is a woman's right. Pro-life campaigners support this position. They see abortion as murder. In addition Christians who are against abortion would argue that human life is sacred because we are all made in the image of God who has a plan for all of us which is formed before we are born. Therefore going against this plan is going against God and is therefore a sin.

Pro-choice groups claim that every woman has a right to an abortion, as long as it is performed in accordance with strict legal and moral guidelines. This would be acceptable to Christians from the Church of England and other churches which maintain the position that although abortion should not be carried out lightly, it is sometimes necessary in order to avoid further pain and suffering. An example of this would be allowing a rape victim to have an abortion. This is the teaching of agape in which Christians are taught to do the most loving thing and 'Do unto others as we would have them do unto you' as stated in the gospel of Matthew.

In conclusion, I think that the view that abortion is a woman's right is the most convincing. In situations where a woman's life is at risk or the pregnancy is due to rape the option should exist to abort the foetus. In this sense I support the view held by the Church of England.

Possible Exam Questions.

Go to OCR website for past papers.

### **Peace and Justice**

3a. What is meant by social injustice? (1 mark)

3b. Give two examples of ways in which a Christian might respond to social injustice. ? (2marks)

3c. How might a Christian respond to violence? (3 marks)

3d. Explain Christian attitudes to peace. (6 marks)

3e. 'There can be no justice unless criminal are punished.'

Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. (12 marks)

3a. Describe one principle of the just war.

3b. Describe two reasons why some Christians would be pacifists.

3c. Describe why some Christians might agree with war.

3d. Explain how Christians might respond to the issue of capital punishment.

3e. War can never be justified – discuss.

### **Equality**

4a. What is meant by reconciliation? (1 mark)

4b. Give two examples of racist behaviour. ? (2marks)

4c. Describe Christian beliefs about other religions. (3 marks)

4d. Explain Christian teaching about equality. (6 marks)

4e. 'Women should stay at home while the men go out to work.'

Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. (12 marks)

4a. Give an example of prejudice?

4b. Give two reasons why someone might be a racist.

4c. Describe the Christian views about other religions.

4d. Explain how a Christian might respond to the issue of women becoming priests.

4e. 'There is no place for intolerant views in a modern society' – discuss.

## Topic: EQUALITY

### Sub Topic: Racism

#### Causes of Racism

- Learned - from family, friends or society
- Fear - of someone / something different
- Power – A desire for power over another human being

#### Examples of Racism

- Slave Trade
- The growth of Empires (E.g British Empire)
- Nazis towards Jews

### Modern Christian Belief against Racism – Christians are against it because:

- The Bible
  - All are made in God's image – Gen 1
  - 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free' Galatians 3:28
- Jesus Example
  - Jesus treated foreigners very well
    - He healed a ROMAN centurion's son

### Old Christian Belief about Racism

Many Christians in the past believed certain races were inferior and could be treated as either 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens or slaves because of two Bible verses:

- Genesis 9:18-27 - This story says that the descendants of Noah's third son (Ham) will be cursed and be **slaves**. It was thought by some Christians that Ham's descendants were all black people.
- Ephesians 6:5 – 'Slaves obey your masters' – Some Christians thought this meant it was fine to have inferior races and slaves

### Actions of Christians Against Racism

- Martin Luther King believed in equality for blacks in USA in 1950's and 60's. He did marches, boycotts, and speeches, all non-violently. Helped to bring in Civil Rights Act in 1965

## Topic: Equality

### Sub Topic: Sexism

- **Full Equality** - Some Christians (e.g. Quakers, Methodists) believe in **full equality** for men and women because:
  - There is Jew or Greek, slave or free, **male or female** ' Galatians 3:28
  - Everyone is made in God's image - Gen 1
  - Jesus treated women very well in a culture where they were normally regarded as 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens
    - E.g. Mary Magdalene – became close disciple and first to see resurrection
- **Different Roles** - Some Christians (Fundamentalists, Catholics) believe women should **have different roles** in life, therefore women **shouldn't** be offered equal opportunities in everything.
  - Women's main job should be a homebuilder – looking after the children.
  - They shouldn't be in positions of leadership in the church
  - They should not be in pressurised leadership positions in employment
- **Women as priests - Debate and Division in various churches**

#### Reasons for:

1. Women do a good job – compassionate
2. Bible needs understanding 21<sup>st</sup> century
3. Examples of women leaders in Bible – eg Debra
4. Jesus regarded women very highly

#### Reasons against:

1. There were no women disciples
2. 200 years of tradition
3. Jesus was a man. Priests represent Jesus

Topic: EQUALITY

Sub Topic: Other Religions

### **Exclusive View – Fundamentalist**

Fundamentalist Christians as well as many Christians in the past believe all 'Non Christians' DO NOT have the truth and must be converted to CHRISTIANITY to have their soul saved from **HELL**. They believe in **Evangelism** i.e. spreading the message of Christianity.

Why?

- They believe in the **literal words** of the Bible e.g.' Jesus said, 'I am the way the truth and the Life, no one comes to the **Father except through me.**' John 14:6

### **Inclusive View – Mainstream**

Many mainstream Christians believe that the people in other religions **can be 'saved'** from **hell** by having the right **heart** attitude, even if their beliefs are wrong.

Why?

- They believe the Bible fully but **don't understand the Bible in a literal way.**

### **Pluralist View – Liberal**

Some Christians believe that all religions are an expression of truth. They believe all are equal.

Why?

They just believe in the **general principles** in the Bible. E.g. love, humility, faith

- These principles can be found in all religions

## Topic: Equality

### Sub Topic: Forgiveness and reconciliation

Christians believe it is not always easy to forgive others but they must try because:

- **The Bible commands people to forgive**
  - 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us' Lords Prayer  
Matthew 6 :12
  - If you do not forgive men their sins, your father in Heaven will not forgive your sins
- **It is the main point of Christianity**
  - He died on the cross to pay for (atone for ) everyone's sins so everyone could be forgiven
- **Jesus set an example to copy**
  - He said 'Father forgive them for do not know what they are doing' while on the cross
- **Bitterness and revenge is the other option**
  - If people do not forgive bitterness and revenge can mess their head up

### Examples of Forgiveness

- Anthony Walker's mother who forgave his killers
- Desmond Tutu who set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa to get bitter enemies to forgive each other
- Gordon Wilson who forgave the IRA after blowing up his daughter and nearly killing him at Enneskillin bombing in 1987

## Module: RELIGION, PEACE AND JUSTICE

### Topic: War and Peace

#### Sub Topic: JUST WAR

1.) Many Christians believe that it can be right to go to war because there are Bible passages where Christians are told to stand for justice

2.) Many Christians believe it is right to go to war if certain conditions are met. They are:

1. A war must be declared by a **proper authority** (e.g. an elected ruler).
2. A war must have a **just cause** (e.g. self defence).
3. A war must have a **just aim** (e.g. to restore peace afterwards).
4. A war must be an absolute **last resort**.
5. A war must be in **proportion** to the aim. (e.g. No killing of innocent civilians. No indiscriminate bombing).
6. A war must have a good chance of **success**.

3.) Many Christians might also reflect on the stories of war in the Old Testament (Bible) and use these to reason that going to war is ok.

## Module: RELIGION, PEACE AND JUSTICE

### Topic: War and Peace

#### Sub Topic: PACIFISM and NON-VIOLENCE

Many Christians believe that using violence in reacting to unjust situations is wrong, including going to war.

1. Why? Because Jesus spoke about it:

- *Jesus said, 'Love your enemies' Matthew 5:43-44*

2. Why? Because Jesus modelled it:

- *While being crucified he said, 'Father forgive them.'*

3. Why? Because logically **violence breeds violence.**

4. Why? Because no war can be completely just. Civilians are always targeted. E.g. Dresden in WW2

5. Why? Because there are examples of people who successfully used non-violence and remained pacifist as a result of Jesus' teaching. E.g.:

- *Martin Luther King 1950-1968 used peaceful demonstrations against a ruthless racist system in the USA.*

## Module: RELIGION, PEACE AND JUSTICE

### Topic: War and Peace

#### Sub Topic: CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS IN WAR SITUATIONS

Christians react in different ways in war situations depending on whether they take a Pacifist view or not.

#### 1. Just War Position

- If a Christian supports a Just War he/she might volunteer to join the forces.

#### 2. Pacifist Position

- If a Christian is a Pacifist he/she might vote for a politician who is against a war.
- He/she might get involved in non-violent protests against war.

#### 3. Just War and Pacifist Position

- **ALL Christians** would be inspired to **help victims of war** because of Bible verse encouraging them to help the poor, weak and defenceless.
  - E.g Proverbs 31:8-9 'Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves'
- They might become involved in charities that help in war situations like The Red Cross, Christian Aid, War Child, World Vision, and /or Invisible Child.

## PEACE AND JUSTICE

### Sub Topic: Crime and Punishment

There are 3 elements in regard to the Christians view of Crime and Punishment:

1. **Retribution (Pay Back)** – Most Christians believe that there must be some pay back when a crime has been committed. They get this from the Bible where it says, '**Eye for an eye...life for a life.**' Deut 19:21

2. **Redemption (2<sup>nd</sup> Chance)** – Most Christians believe that although pay back must occur, (some don't e.g. Desmond Tutu) redemption and restoring the individual back to the community must be a main aim of any form of punishment. Key verses:

- The very purpose of Jesus was to die for sinners so they could be redeemed and restored to give them new life

3. **Care for Criminals (Love)** - All Christians agree that as criminals are being punished they should be treated well. This is because of some key verses in the Bible:

- We are 'all made in God's image' Genesis 1:27

This is why Elizabeth Fry (Christian) in 19<sup>th</sup> Century started prison reform and Christians visit prisons now.

***These 3 Christian elements above have inspired the 5 principles of punishment that British justice system is built on. They are:***

1. Retribution - There must be payback for the crime (eye for an eye)
2. Deterrent - Put people off committing crime
3. Reform - Redemption in the Bible
4. Protection – To protect society
5. Vindication – Society will see the laws are being kept. Same source as deterrent)

## Topic: PEACE AND JUSTICE

### Sub Topic: SOCIAL INJUSTICE

#### What is Social Injustice?

It is the breaking of one or all of the 25 Human Rights. Some of them are:

Right to health; food and shelter; Right to fair trial; Right to equality.

#### Examples of Social Injustice

Homelessness, Poverty, False Imprisonment, Racism, Sexism, Not having the vote.

#### Who has fought against Injustice and how?

Elizabeth Fry (Prison Reform), William Wilberforce (Slavery), Desmond Tutu (Racism / Apartheid).

#### Why does a Christian fight for Justice?

- Because of their **conscience** within them telling them right and wrong.
- *Because of Christian teaching:*

**'Love your neighbour'** and their neighbour is anyone in distress.

**Fear of God's Punishment** - Sheep and Goats story – If you do not help people God will judge you.

**Everyone made in God's image** – so all people are equal and deserve respect.

#### How do Christians fight for Justice?

**Non-Violent:** - Marches, Boycotts, Demonstrations, disobeying unjust laws, refuse to pay fines, voting, shopping (fair-trade), giving money to charity, helping people practically e.g visiting prisoners, helping in soup kitchen, counselling etc, spending time working for a charity at home or abroad.