

## Attitudes to Equality

General, Christianity,  
Catholic Christianity

Equality is something that many people work towards — for example, in terms of race, sexuality and gender.

Difference in wealth is another form of inequality — see p.87-89.

### Prejudice and Discrimination Prevent Equality

- 1) Prejudice is judging something or someone for no good reason, or without full knowledge of a situation. Discrimination is treating someone unjustly or differently, often because of prejudice.
- 2) Prejudice comes in different forms. Sexism is the belief one gender is inferior to the other. Racism is prejudice against people of other races. Homophobia is prejudice against people who are homosexual.
- 3) The Equality Act 2010 says it's illegal to discriminate on the grounds of 'protected characteristics', which include race, gender, age and sexual orientation. The Act aims to ensure everyone is treated equally.
- 4) Positive discrimination is when someone in a group that often suffers discrimination is given an advantage. This often relates to job applications — it's only legal if they're as well qualified as the other applicants.

### Christianity teaches Equality

Jesus said the second most important commandment, after loving God, is "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31 NIV).

- 1) 'Do to others what you would have them do to you' is a fundamental part of Christian teaching, often called the 'Golden Rule'. Many Christians think everyone was created equal, so try to avoid discrimination.
- 2) Jesus said "A new command I give you: love one another" (John 13:34 NIV) — i.e. don't mistreat others.
- 3) The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1993 says "...discrimination ... on the grounds of sex, race, colour, social conditions, language, or religion must be ... eradicated as incompatible with God's design".

The Good Samaritan parable is an important teaching on prejudice. Two holy men ignore a man who's been beaten and robbed. He's then helped by a Samaritan, a group who were despised at the time. The story shows how prejudices can be wrong.

### Christian Attitudes to Gender Equality have Shifted

For more on this, see p.45.

- 1) Traditionally, Christians believed women's roles were to look after the home and children, while men earned money and led the family. Some still believe this, but most now think both genders can do either role.
- 2) Women traditionally had less authority in religion — there were no female church leaders for centuries. There are now female ministers in most Protestant denominations, though not Catholic or Orthodox ones.

### Christian Teaching on Racism is Clear

"From one man he made all the nations" Acts 17:26 NIV

- 1) Christianity teaches that racism is unacceptable, and God made everyone equal — "you are all one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28 NIV. This means many Christians believe it's their duty to fight racism.
- 2) This can be done by an individual, e.g. by welcoming someone of another ethnicity to the community, or at an institutional level, e.g. a church asking its members to treat everyone equally. The Church of England recommends that people make "neighbours out of strangers" in its report Faithful Cities.
- 3) Racial equality can be difficult to achieve. The Church of England has been criticised for not having enough ethnic minority people among its clergy — it's now making efforts to increase diversity.
- 4) Desmond Tutu is an Anglican archbishop who fought against apartheid in South Africa, in which the white minority population oppressed everyone else. After apartheid ended, he led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigated the crimes of the apartheid era and focused on unity between everyone.

### There's a lot of Debate on Homosexuality in the Christian Churches

For more, see p.37 and 39.

Homosexuality is a divisive topic in Christianity. The idea of loving your neighbour seems to contradict the Bible teachings forbidding homosexuality, such as 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Many Christians focus on loving your neighbour and therefore accept homosexuality. Others focus on the fact it's seen as a sin.

The Anglican Church is split on the issue. Church of England bishops issued a report in 2017 saying they wouldn't change the Church's definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman (Canon B30), but many members of the Church disagree with this.

The Catholic Church is in a similar position — its Catechism says homosexual acts are "contrary to the natural law" (2357) but many individual Catholics accept homosexuality.

## Attitudes to Equality

Equality is important in Judaism — the Torah says God made everyone **equal**.

### Different Jewish Traditions Have Different Views on Gender Roles

- 1) **Jews** believe that men and women are **equal**, based on **Genesis 1:27**, which says "So God created mankind in his own image ... male and female he created them" (NIV).
- 2) Men and women tend to have **different roles** in **Orthodox** Judaism — but they're still seen as equal in God's eyes. Men are obliged to pray **3** times a day, but women aren't (but they should say the Amidah twice daily — see p.31). Only men can read the **Torah** in synagogue and make up a **minyan** (the group of at least **10 people** needed for some prayers). Traditionally, only men can be **rabbis**, but this is changing.
- 3) Women are **exempt** from such **duties** as it's expected they'll be looking after the **home** and **children**. They have **religious duties** in the home, such as lighting the **Shabbat** candles while saying a **blessing**. Traditionally, '**Jewishness**' is passed on via the **mother** — a child with a **non-Jewish** mother **isn't** a Jew.
- 4) In **Liberal**, **Reform** and **Masorti** Judaism, **religious duties** can be carried out by women too. All three have male **and** female rabbis. Liberal, Reform and some Masortis have developed **gender-neutral liturgy**, e.g. **avoiding** calling God '**Father**' or '**King**'. They have equivalent **rites of passage** for boys and girls (p.32-33).

### The Torah Preaches Racial Equality

- 1) **Genesis 3:20** says all of **humanity** comes from the **same source**, so Jews see people as **equal** before God. The **Torah** makes it clear that people of **different ethnicities** should be treated the **same** as **each other**:  

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not ill-treat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." **Leviticus 19:33-34 NIV**
- 2) Most Jews believe that Jewish people are God's **chosen people**. This doesn't mean they think they're **better** than anyone else — just that God gave them extra **responsibilities** in the **covenants** (see p.27-28).
- 3) Jews have often faced **anti-Semitism** (discrimination against Jews), particularly during the **Holocaust**, when **6 million** Jews were killed. This means many are **vocal** about **racism** and make **efforts** to try to **reduce** it.
- 4) **Ahavat ha-beriot** means loving **all** of God's **creations**. It's a **mitzvah** (commandment) to do so, so it's important. This encourages Jews to accept **everyone**, regardless of their **ethnicity**.
- 5) The **Jewish Council for Racial Equality** (JCORE) works for **racial equality**, focusing especially on attitudes to **asylum seekers** and **refugees**. It campaigns against **negative** attitudes to **immigrants** in the UK.

### Views on Homosexuality Also Vary Between Jewish Traditions

- 1) **Orthodox** Jews tend **not** to approve of **homosexuality**. They're against **homophobia**, but tend to see being in homosexual **relationships** as a **sin**. Sex between **men** is **forbidden** in **Leviticus 18:22** (so it's assumed sex between **women** is banned too). Orthodox synagogues don't hold same-sex **weddings**.
- 2) **Attitudes** are beginning to **change** within the Orthodox community though. **Efforts** are being made to **welcome** and **support** homosexual Orthodox Jews in the **community**.
- 3) **Progressive** Jews accept **homosexuality** and **welcome** homosexual people into their communities. They argue that as **God** created everyone in **his image** (**Genesis 1:27**), homosexuality **can't** be **wrong**.
- 4) Both Liberal and Reform Judaism campaigned for the **legalisation** of **same-sex marriage** in the UK, and hold same-sex **weddings** now they're **legal**. Homosexual people can become Liberal and Reform **rabbis**.
- 5) Many **Masortis** accept homosexuality. They have a **shutafut** (**partnership**) ceremony for same-sex marriages or civil partnerships, different from the traditional **kiddushin**.



### Remember, there are usually different opinions...

You'll often be asked to discuss different beliefs in the exam, so make sure you learn both sides of the argument. Make sure you know different opinions within the religion that you're studying.



## Attitudes to Equality

Islam teaches that Allah **created** everyone to be **equal**, even though people are **different** from each other.

### Men and Women have Different Roles within Islam

- 1) The **Qur'an** makes it **clear** that men and women are **equal** when it comes to their **religious obligations**, e.g. prayer, fasting, hajj and charity — have a look at **Qur'an 33:35** on p.45, which also has more information on **gender equality**. All that counts is how good a **Muslim** they are, not their **gender**:  

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." **Qur'an 49:13**
- 2) Women don't **have** to attend mosque for **prayer**, but it is **permitted**. If women do go to the mosque, they must pray in a **separate** group — behind (or otherwise out of sight of) the men. This is because it's thought it might be **distracting** for both genders to pray in a mixed group.
- 3) Women can't lead prayers in **mixed groups**, but they can lead prayers being said by groups of **women**.
- 4) There is a growing movement working for women to have a more **prominent role** in Islam. Several women have led **mixed-gender** prayers across the world. Their actions have been **condemned** by some Muslims as not following the teachings of Islam. There are plans for a **mosque** run by women in Bradford.
- 5) Some say it's **part of Islam** for Muslim women to wear **modest clothing** — **Qur'an 24:31** says "tell the believing women ... to wrap [a portion of] their headcovers over their chests and not expose their adornment". Others argue it doesn't say they have to cover up **completely** and that their **faith** and **piety** are more **important** than clothing — **Qur'an 7:26** says "the clothing of righteousness — that is best".

### Islam says People are Created Equal, but not Identical

- 1) Islam teaches that **all people** were created by **Allah**, and were created **equal** (although **not** the **same**). He intended humanity to be created with **differences**. But this just means we're all **individuals**.
- 2) Muslims all over the world are united by the **ummah** — the **community** of Islam. The ummah consists of **all Muslims**, regardless of **nationality**, **tradition** (i.e. Sunni or Shi'a) and so on. This helps promote **racial** and **social harmony**, as in theory no one's **excluded** or **discriminated** against.  

The final sermon of Muhammad is clear that **no race** is **superior** to another: "you are all descended from Adam and none is higher than the other except in obedience to Allah. No Arab is superior to a non-Arab. Between Muslims there are no races and no tribes." The only **important** thing is whether someone's a **good Muslim** or not.
- 3) People on **hajj** all wear **simple white clothes**, showing everyone's **equal** — race, gender etc. **don't matter**.
- 4) **Sahih al-Bukhari 56:681** says everyone should be **treated** the **same** way, regardless of **who** they are.

Malcolm X was a **prominent Muslim figure** in the struggle for **civil rights** for **African Americans** in the **US**. He initially advocated **black supremacy** and **separatism**, but later supported **interethnic dialogue**. He inspired many with his campaigning for **human rights**.

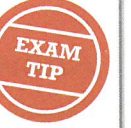
### Homosexuality is Controversial in Islam

For more on this, see p.40.

- 1) Many **Muslims** believe that the Qur'an **forbids** homosexuality — for example, **Qur'an 7:81** says "you approach men with desire, instead of women ... you are a transgressing people" (the quote is addressed to men). This means they're **against** the **legalisation** of **same-sex marriage**.
- 2) Some Muslims disagree, arguing that as **Allah** created all people, homosexuality is part of his **creation**.
- 3) Muslims often speak against **homophobia**, as Muslims should be **tolerant** towards others. Some Muslim organisations state that they are **against** homosexual acts but believe homosexual people should be **respected**. Others, such as **Imaan**, **support** homosexual Muslims and campaign for their **rights**.

### So, now you know this page off by heart and backwards...

...bear this exam tip in mind. Some questions will ask you about different beliefs, so make sure you know all the sides to the argument — you need to learn different opinions within Islam.



## Human Rights

Human rights are **moral**, **legal** and **political** rights that should give people **freedom** and **protection** worldwide.

### The United Nations Defined Human Rights

- 1) In 1948, the **United Nations** (UN) published the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. The aim was to lay down minimum **rights** for **every person**, in **every country**.
- 2) It states that all human beings are born **free** and **equal** in dignity and rights. It also lists specific rights, e.g. the right to **life**, freedom from **slavery**, freedom from **imprisonment** or **exile** without **good reason**, freedom of **opinion** and **expression**, the right to have an **education** and to seek **work**.
- 3) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights **stated** how things **should** be, but meant **nothing** in a court of law. So in 1953, the Council of Europe brought into effect the **European Convention on Human Rights**, which is a **similar** list of rights to the UN declaration. It's enforced by the European **Court of Human Rights** (ECHR). These rights became part of the UK's **domestic law** in 1998, with the **Human Rights Act**.
- 4) Most religious believers agree that all human beings should be treated **fairly** and with **respect**. This is based on a belief in **human dignity** — all human life is **valuable**, because people are created in the **image of God** — and a belief in **justice**, the idea everyone should be treated **fairly**. Everyone should be **free** to **think** and to **choose** how to act (though hopefully they'll live a good **moral** life).
- 5) People applying **situation ethics** look for the **most loving** outcome to a situation. They may often **support** human rights, but in some cases they may feel going **against** a right gives the best **overall** outcome.



The European Court of Human Rights. (I think.)

### Many Christians Support Human Rights

- 1) The **Catholic Church** highlights the role of the **individual** as well as the **state** in **protecting** human rights. It says human rights aren't just defined by **states** putting them into **law**, but "Every member of the community has a duty ... in order that the rights of others can be satisfied and their freedoms respected" (**The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching: 37**).
- 2) **Christians** may find their views **contradict** others' ideas about rights. E.g. many think **women** should have the right to **abortion**, but some Christians **disagree**, believing the **foetus's** right to **life** is more **important**.

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." **Genesis 1:27 NIV**

"You ... were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." **Galatians 5:13 NIV**

### Human Rights are Important for Most Jews

- 1) Most Jews **support** human rights — **Deuteronomy 16:20** asks Jews to "Follow justice and justice alone" (NIV). **Teachings** such as the two below ask Jews to **protect** the rights of **specific people**:

"Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God." **Proverbs 14:31 NIV**

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not ill-treat them ... Love them as yourself" **Leviticus 19:33-34 NIV**

- 2) However, **Jewish beliefs** can sometimes **clash** with **human rights**. For example, many **Orthodox Jews** think homosexuality is **wrong**, which may lead to discrimination.

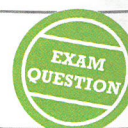
### The Qur'an says Justice is Very Important

- 1) Most Muslims are supportive of human rights. The **Qur'an** frequently emphasises the **importance** of **justice**, saying for example "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice ... Be just; that is nearer to righteousness" (**Qur'an 5:8**).
- 2) Some Muslims argue that **Islamic law** sometimes **undermines** Muslim **women's** rights, e.g. they don't have **equal rights** in **divorce** to men.

"Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." **Qur'an 16:90**

### Answer in the context of the religion you've studied...

Explain two reasons why many religious people believe human rights are important. [4]



## Freedom of Belief

About **half** of the population say they have **no** religious belief.

### The UK is a Diverse, Multi-Faith Society

- 1) **Freedom of religion** and **belief** is a **legal** right in the UK — it gives the freedom to follow **any** or **no** religion.
- 2) People are protected from being **discriminated** against because of their **beliefs**. The **beliefs** they hold as part of their religion are **protected**, e.g. religions can choose **not** to hold **same-sex marriages** in their **places of worship** if it doesn't fit with their **beliefs**. Freedom of belief is sometimes a **tricky area** though:
  - Some people feel there isn't **enough recognition** of those who **don't** hold religious beliefs, e.g. in **religious studies** in **schools**.
  - There can be a fine line between **educating** people about a **faith** and **influencing** them too much. Some may think that e.g. **religious charities** have too much influence, while the charities would argue they're **not** trying to **convert** people, just **help** them.
  - Some people, including religious believers, object to the **Church of England** being the **state** church. For example, 26 **bishops** are **peers** in the **House of Lords**, which many see as **unfair** now that the country is more religiously **diverse** and many people **don't have** a religion at all. Others say the UK is a **Christian country** so it's **acceptable** — it's part of the **culture**.
  - A religious person saying homosexuality is **sinful** clashes with homosexual people's **right** not to be **discriminated** against and could be seen as **hate speech** (a **crime**) — but **stopping** people from expressing their views **undermines** their **freedom of belief**.
- 3) Most religious believers happily live alongside others in the UK and enjoy the **different perspectives** it gives them. The **Inter Faith Network for the UK** promotes mutual **understanding** and **combats prejudice**.
- 4) Living in a multi-faith society can make it **harder** for some believers to **practise** their **faith** — e.g. some **Christian** festivals are UK **bank holidays** while other faiths' festivals **aren't**, making it **harder** to **celebrate**.

### Many Christians Think People Can Follow Any Faith

- 1) Though many Christians think Christianity's the **true** religion, they think people have the **right** to practise **any faith**. It's "an inalienable requirement of the dignity of man" (**Catechism of the Catholic Church 1747**).
- 2) Some Christians think the **only way** to reach heaven is by being Christian, so they try to **convert** people.
- 3) But generally they **support** the right to **choose** — the Bible shows that Jesus **didn't make** people follow him.

### Jews Accept Other Religions

- 1) Jews are a **people** as well as a **religious group**. Jews **don't** try to **convert** people, although people **can** convert if they want after a period of **study**. Once they've **converted**, they're seen as **Jewish** for ever.
- 2) **Freedom of belief** is important to Jews as they have often been **persecuted**, most horrifyingly during the **Holocaust**, when **six million** Jews were **killed**. They're often inspired by the Torah story of **Esther**, who saved the **Jewish** people from being **killed** by **Haman**. Esther **risked her life** to beg for **mercy**. The story shows the importance of allowing everyone to live **without persecution**, and having **faith** in the face of it.

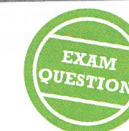
### The Qur'an Says People are Free to Choose Their Religion

- 1) The Qur'an says "There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion" (**Qur'an 2:256**) — people are free to **choose**. Muslims believe that Islam is the only **true** faith — but some also believe that all **righteous** people will be favoured by Allah. Most Muslims **don't** try to **convert** others to Islam.
  - However, **Muslims'** freedom of belief is often **restricted** by the **common** belief that converting to **another** religion **from** Islam or becoming an **atheist** is **unacceptable** in Islam — it's known as **apostasy**. Some **hadiths** say it deserves the **death penalty**.
  - Some Muslims **disagree**, as the Qur'an leaves **judgement** up to **Allah** — **Qur'an 3:85** says "whoever desires other than Islam ... he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers". It can be **hard** for ex-Muslims — they're often **cut off** from their family.
- 2) Muslims call **Muslims**, **Christians** and **Jews** '**people of the book**', as they're linked by a **shared** religious **heritage**. They all believe in **prophets** such as Ibrahim (Abraham) and many Muslims believe the **Torah** and **New Testament** contain **important messages**. **Qur'an 29:46** says "our God and your God is one".

### I can't do GCSEs, exams are against my religion...

...sorry, that won't wash. Try this question — answer in the context of the religion you've studied.

Explain two religious ideas about freedom of belief. [4]



## Social Justice is the Idea that Everyone should be Treated Fairly

- 1) **Social justice** is putting into **practice** the **principles** of **human rights**. Working for social justice **includes**:

- Trying to ensure different **groups** of people aren't **discriminated** against or more **disadvantaged** than others. This includes discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, social class, poverty, age or disability.
- Trying to redistribute **wealth** so everyone can afford to live **comfortably**. Some members of society are very **wealthy** while others **struggle** to meet their **basic needs** for food, shelter, warmth, etc.



- 2) Social justice **efforts** often **focus** on **wealth**, as a lack of it can deprive people of other **opportunities** and rights. **Higher** taxes for people on **high** incomes and **free healthcare** and **education** are ways to help.
- 3) Many people try to work for **social justice**. It's an important part of **Christianity**, **Islam** and **Judaism**. People using **situation ethics** would often support social justice as the most **compassionate** thing to do.

## Christianity Teaches that People Should Help Those in Need

- 1) **Christians** follow Jesus's teaching to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (**Mark 12:31 NIV**). The **parable** of the **sheep** and **goats** is often used to teach about social justice — see p.14 for more.

Jesus was **known** for helping **poor people** and for **healing the sick**. In **Luke 16:19-31**, he teaches that people who **don't** help others when they're **able** to will be punished — the story is about a **rich man** who repeatedly **ignores** a **poor man**, and ends up in hell for not helping him. Jesus healed a man with **leprosy** by **touching** him, at a time when lepers were **outcasts** from society. Christians should therefore follow Jesus's **example** — by helping those who need it, they can express **God's love**.

- 2) The **Catholic Church** emphasises the **importance** of human **dignity** in social justice. It says people should be allowed "to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation" (**Catechism 1928**) — people should be given **opportunities** to make the **most** of their **lives** and their **abilities**.
- 3) **Catechism 1928** also says **social justice** is **better** for **everyone** — it's for "the common good".

## Islam Encourages Helping Others

- 1) Muslims should work for **social justice** as part of their **faith**. **Qur'an 76:8-9** says the **righteous** "give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive, [Saying] ... We wish not from you reward or gratitude". This means people should give **help without** expecting anything in **return**.
- 2) **Zakah**, charitable giving to **redistribute** wealth, is **central** to Islam — it's one of the **five pillars** (see p.22). The **Qur'an** says those who "give zakah ... will be the successful" (**Qur'an 7:156-157**).
- 3) It promises that those who have **wealth** to **spare** and give it away will be **rewarded**:

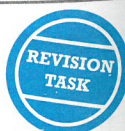
Those who spend their wealth [in Allah's way] ... — they will have their reward with their Lord." **Qur'an 2:274**

## Jewish Teachings say Jews Should be Generous to Others

- 1) Many Jewish teachings **support** working for **social justice**. According to **Deuteronomy 15:11**, God told Jews "to be open-handed towards your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land" (NIV). Jews should give **generously** and **willingly**, "without a grudging heart" (**Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV**).
- 2) Jewish ideas of **charity** (**tzedakah**) focus on **justice** — it's not only **kind** to give to charity, but it's **righting a wrong**. **Amos 5:24 NIV** says "let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!".
- 3) The concept of **tikkun olam** — **repairing the world** — is linked to this. Jews should be **active** in **improving** things that are **wrong** in the **world**. This doesn't **only** mean personally giving to **charity** and **helping others**, but also **campaigning** on a **political** level to make sure that society is fair and just for **everyone**.
- 4) If Jews **oppress** those who are **disadvantaged**, God "will certainly hear their cry" (**Exodus 22:23 NIV**).

## Basically, everyone should help people who need it...

There are quite a few different teachings on this page, so as a fun test (or maybe just a test...), write down as many as you can remember without looking at the page. Don't forget to give the source.



How **wealth** is **used**, and how it's **distributed** among people, is a **big issue** today.

## Wealth Inequality is a Big Problem Today

In the **UK**, the poorest **50%** of people own **8.7%** of wealth, while the richest **10%** own **45%**.

- 1) The **gap** between the **poorest** and **richest** people is **huge**, and **growing**. In 2017, **Oxfam** estimated that the richest **8** people in the world had **more wealth** than the poorest **half** of the world (**3.6 billion** people).
- 2) There are two types of poverty — **absolute poverty** and **relative poverty**. **Absolute** poverty is not having **enough resources** (money, etc.) to meet your **basic needs**, e.g. **food** or **heating**. **Relative** poverty is defined by **where** you **live**, e.g. in the UK, someone who can't afford a **TV** might be thought of as poor.
- 3) Poverty has many **causes**. In the UK, these causes often include **low wages**, **high costs** (e.g. renting a house or paying for childcare), a **lack of skills** so people can't get better-paid jobs, and **unemployment**.

- **Fair pay** is an issue. Many in **poverty** have **low-paid** jobs, so they work **long hours** to try to earn enough to live on. In some **areas**, **well-paid** jobs **aren't** available. **Part-time** work's often low-paid.
- By law, people have to be paid the **National Minimum Wage**, but many people think it **isn't** enough. Over-25s must be paid the **National Living Wage**, which is a bit **higher** than the minimum wage. However, many say it still isn't **enough** to **live on** — it's not a **true** living wage.
- **Businesses** are often **reluctant** to pay people **more** as it's **expensive** for them to do so — some try to **avoid** paying even the minimum wage. Some say **increasing** wages will mean they **can't afford** to **pay** people so they would have to **cut** the number of jobs, which wouldn't help.

- 4) **Worldwide**, poverty is also caused by things such as **war**, **rapid population growth**, **natural disasters** and **exploitation**. The **Fairtrade Foundation** works to ensure people in **developing countries** are paid a **fair price** for the products they **sell** and that they have **decent working conditions**.

## High Interest on Loans can be Linked to Poverty

- 1) People sometimes need **extra money**, e.g. to pay for something **unexpected**, or just to afford **food** until the **next payday**. One **way** of covering this is take out a **loan**. A quick and seemingly easy way to do so is to borrow from a **money lender**, but **money lenders** often lend money at **rates** that go up to **thousands** of percent of **interest** (called **usury**). People might take out **small** loans, but they soon become so **big** that they **can't repay** them.
- 2) This was a **big** problem in the UK, so the **government** introduced some **regulations** to **limit** how much people have to **repay**. Now, people don't have to repay more than **twice** what they borrowed.

## Finding a Solution is Difficult

- 1) Helping poverty caused by **disasters** (e.g. **war**) often involves **emergency relief** during the **disaster** and **long term** help afterwards, e.g. rebuilding houses. It can take **years** before things get back to **normal**.
- 2) In other situations, some people think giving **money** (e.g. benefits or donations) to people in poverty makes them too **reliant** on that money — they don't **help themselves** get out of poverty as they prefer to keep **receiving** the money. Others argue that this **isn't** the case, and that people living in poverty need **financial help**, because **not** giving it to them means they might not be able to **eat** or **heat** their home.
- 3) Some say it's people's **own responsibility** to get out of poverty — they should work **harder** and use money more **responsibly**. Others say that poverty is a result of **many factors** and that many do **work hard** — in 2016, **1 in 8** people employed in the UK were living in **poverty** (source Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2016).
- 4) They say society should help those who face **many issues** such as **illness**, or a **lack of skills** or **opportunities**. **Charities** often try to help people learn **new skills** on top of giving them **money** or **food**.

**Virtue ethics** says the correct course of action is the one which a **virtuous** (or **good**) **person** would follow. For example, people following virtue ethics would say that people with **excess wealth** should give to people with **less wealth**. They might also argue that giving to **charity** is the **right** thing to do (see p.88-89), but **not** to the point where people become **dependent** on financial aid. They would say that the best course of action is to help out **financially** in the **short term**, but to give people the **skills** to provide for **themselves** in the **long term**.

## Wealth and Poverty

### Christians Believe It's What You Do With Your Money that Counts

- 1) Christians shouldn't be **fixated** on wealth — Jesus said "You cannot serve both God and Money" (**Matthew 6:24 NIV**) and "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" (**Mark 10:25 NIV**). Wealth should be used to **help** others who are **less well off**.
- 2) Many Christians think money should only be earned in **moral ways**, not in ways that might **harm** others, such as working for **arms manufacturers** or running a business that pays people **unfair wages**.
- 3) They also try to avoid **using** their money in a way that **harms** others, which includes **usury**.

The Church of England has launched an **initiative** to combat lenders who charge **lots of interest**. The Church is offering **workshops** to **educate** people about **money matters**, as well as promoting **credit unions**, which lend money at **low rates** of interest.

### Charity is Important to Christians

- 1) Giving to **charity** and **helping** others is **important** to many **Christians**, following the teaching to "Love your neighbour" (**Mark 12:31 NIV**). It's important to give in a way that helps people to help **themselves** — the **parable** of the **talents** (**Matthew 25:14-30**) says those who make **most** of what they **have** are **rewarded**.
- 2) Christians should give to **charity** as part of their **faith**. There are many **Christian** charities — see p.14.
- 3) It's best to give donations **quietly** and **without boasting** about it — **Matthew 6:2** tells Christians that "when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets" (**NIV**).
- 4) **How much** you give **isn't** important — what's important is giving as **much** as you **can**. Jesus taught that a **poor woman** giving a **small** amount of money she couldn't **afford to lose** was **more** important than **rich** people giving **large** sums they could **easily** do **without** (**Mark 12:41-44**).
- 5) Over **7500** churches are involved with the **Fairtrade** movement. For more on **Christian charities**, see p.14.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" **1 John 3:17 NIV**

Checking your donation's gone to a worthy cause is a good idea...



If you're studying Christianity or Catholic Christianity, now head over to the Revision Task on p.89.

### Charity is One of the Five Pillars of Islam

- 1) **Charity** plays an **important role** in Islam — **zakah** (financial aid) is one of the **five pillars** of Islam, which every Muslim has to **follow**. **Qur'an 2:177** says "righteousness is [in] one who ... gives zakah".
- 2) With **zakah**, **2.5%** of your yearly **wealth** should be given as **charity**, unless your wealth is below a minimum threshold. It's usually given to **charities** or **mosques**, or to Muslims who are **less well off**.
- 3) Muslims think **wealth** is given to people by **Allah**, so they should use it to **help** others. Being **wealthy** or **poor** is Allah's **test** of people — they should try to help **themselves** or **others**, depending on the **situation**.
- 4) **Sadaqah** is another kind of **charity**. It includes a **wide range** of charitable acts, from simply **smiling** at someone to **cheer** them up, to giving **money** to help those in **need**. Sadaqah is seen as a **duty**, but it involves **any amount** of effort, time or money — it's up to the individual to decide how much they do.
- 5) There's a particular **emphasis** on '**ongoing charity**' — **actions** that will have a **long-term effect**. It's seen as best to help people become able to **support** themselves, rather than **relying on donations**. This means the benefits of sadaqah are **long-lasting** and help the **community** — known as **sustainable development**.
- 6) There are Islamic **charities** that help people **globally** and in the UK, including **Muslim Aid** and **Islamic Aid**.

#### Muslim Aid

1. Muslim Aid provides **disaster relief** and **development aid** around the world. The charity works in over **70** countries.
2. It provides not only initial **emergency** aid after a **war** or **natural disaster**, but **ongoing** help. This help includes building new **housing**, **sanitation** and **schools**, and offering interest-free loans to help **start-up businesses**.

#### Islamic Aid

1. Islamic Aid is an **international** organisation dedicated to **reducing poverty** and **deprivation**.
2. It focuses on a **long-term** approach to helping communities and employs people from the **communities** it works in.

## Wealth and Poverty

Muslims and Jews believe that money should be used for **good** — anything harmful is seen as **wrong**.

### How Money is Used is Important in Islam

- 1) **Muslims** shouldn't use money in ways that **harm** people — Islamic law says Muslims shouldn't harm others.
- 2) Islam forbids **alcohol**, so it's seen as **immoral** to **make money** from it. Islam is often focused on sexual **modesty**, so profiting from **sex** is forbidden (either **directly** or **indirectly**, e.g. sexually suggestive adverts).
- 3) **Qur'an 2:275** says "Allah ... has forbidden interest" and that those who charge it will go to **jahannam** (hell). In Islam, money doesn't have a **value** in **itself**, so it **shouldn't** be used to make **more money**. This stops richer people **profiting** from poorer people, and ensures **wealth** is spread more **fairly**.
- 4) Muslims use Islamic **bank accounts** and run **businesses** that don't involve **charging interest**.

### Jews Should Use Their Wealth to Help Others

- 1) Judaism teaches that there's nothing **wrong** in being **wealthy**, so long as you're not **obsessed** by it, and you **give money** to others. Wealth is seen as a **gift** from **God**. Jews should try to avoid being **dependent** on others if at all **possible** — although if they are really in **need** there's no shame in receiving **charity**.
- 2) **Unfairness** and **dishonesty** in business are condemned — you're **answerable** to **God** for any wrongdoing. All money should be earned **morally**, so any job that's **harmful** in any way is **forbidden**. Jews particularly frown on work that is **damaging** to God's **creation** (e.g. unsustainable tree felling).
- 3) Jews shouldn't charge **interest** on **loans** to **other Jews** (**Leviticus 25:37**). This doesn't apply to **loans** made to **non-Jews**: "You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a fellow Israelite" (**Deuteronomy 23:20 NIV**).
- 4) Jews try to **avoid** talking about or handling money on **Shabbat** — the day of rest.

### Charity is Important in Judaism

- 1) This passage from the **Torah** sums up Jewish **teaching on charity**:

"If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land ... do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards them. Rather, be open-handed and freely lend them whatever they need." **Deuteronomy 15:7-8 NIV**

- 2) The Jewish scholar **Maimonides** said the **best** way to give was to do so in a way that meant the recipient could **help themselves**. He also said giving **anonymously** was recommended, so the charity is given for the **good** of it alone, and not so the giver can be **rewarded** — they shouldn't **expect** anything in **return**.
- 3) There are **two** important charitable **principles** in Judaism — **tzedakah** and **gemilut hasadim**:

**Tzedakah**: tzedakah means **charity**, but with a sense of **justice** — it's not just **generous** to give **tzedakah**, it's **right** as it makes society **fairer**. Everyone, even those in **need**, is expected to contribute **10%** of their **wealth**. **Deuteronomy 14:29** says people should **donate** some of their **produce** so "the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat" (**NIV**), showing the **importance** of helping those in **need**. **Gemilut hasadim**: this means 'acts of loving kindness' — it refers to any **compassionate actions** towards others.

- 4) Many Jewish homes have **collection boxes** (called **pushkes**) in which money for **charity** can be placed.
- 5) Donating **clothing** and **food** to people who need them or visiting someone who's **sick** are considered **gemilut hasadim** (**acts of loving kindness**). There are Jewish **charities** that **help** people, including **Tzedek**:

1. **Tzedek** is a Jewish charity in the **UK** that seeks to get the Jewish community **involved** in helping to **reduce poverty** worldwide.
2. Their focus is on helping **local** projects, that improve a community's **ability** to get itself **out of poverty**.

**I hope you feel richer (in knowledge) after these pages...**

Have a go at this task, answering about the religion you've been studying.  
Write a short summary about religious beliefs on wealth and charity.

