

Unit 3

Belief in God

TEST YOURSELF

Explain how a Catholic upbringing can lead to a belief in God.

Explain how religious experiences can lead to a belief in God.

Explain how the argument from design can lead to a belief in God.

Explain how the argument from design can lead people to NOT believe in God.

Explain how the causation argument can lead people to believe in God.

Explain how the causation argument can lead people to NOT believe in God.

Explain how the argument from science can lead people to NOT believe in God.

Explain the Catholic argument to science.

Explain how unanswered prayers can lead people to NOT believe in God.

Explain how Catholics respond to unanswered prayers.

Explain how suffering can lead people to NOT believe in God.

Explain how Catholics respond to suffering.

Explain how a programme on TV can lead to people NOT believing in God.

Explain how a programme on TV can lead to people believing in God.

Main features of a Catholic upbringing that lead to a belief in God:

- Sacraments – support belief and confirm faith
- Prayers – seen as a natural part of life
- Church – liturgy, learn about God
- Catholic school – a normal feature of life

Religious experience that leads to a belief in God:

- Numinous – feeling in the presence of something great
- Miracles – Bernadette at Lourdes (healing miracles)
- Conversion – St Paul on the road to Damascus
- Prayer – if they are answered

Argument from design:

- Paley's watch theory, everything that is made needs a designer
- **BLED** – beauty of nature, laws of science, evolution, DNA all prove there is designer
- Only possible designer who is omnipotent enough is God

Design may not lead to belief in God:

- Earthquakes, dinosaurs, science, could be an evil designer

Argument from causation:

- Cause and effect – ice and water
- Keep going back with a causal chain
- Eventually come to a First Cause – the Big Bang, caused by God
- God is the Unmoved Mover – the finger pushing a trillion dominoes, an energy force

Causation may not lead to belief in God:

- God must need a cause, matter is eternal, First Cause could be any kind of creator

Science leads people to be atheist/agnostic: - SLED

- Science can explain where the world came from without God. If God exists he would have made the world to have only one explanation, there would be no need for science
- Laws of science, matter is eternal, the big bang, forces of gravity formed the solar system
- Evolution – evidence of fossils
- DNA

Catholic response:

- Big Bang at exactly the right millisecond
- Complex laws of science could only have been made by God
- Carbon bonds make up life on Earth – could not have happened by chance
- Scientific explanations and the Bible story in Genesis match

Unanswered prayers lead people to be agnostic/atheist:

- Not feeling God's presence, prayers not being answered, other people's prayers being answered, good prayers for the end of war not being answered, prayers about sick children not being answered

How Catholics respond to unanswered prayers:

- God won't answer selfish prayers
- God won't answer personal prayers – God has different plans for us
- God is a parent – gives what they need not what they want
- Trust in God, he knows what is best for them

Evil and suffering: - natural evil = earthquakes and moral evil = suffering caused by humans

Evil and suffering causes people to question God:

- Omnipotent God – so powerful he would not let people suffer
- Omniscient God – all knowing would have stopped suffering like the holocaust
- Omni benevolent God – all good God would stop suffering causing unhappiness
- God's story is told in the holy books so evil and suffering challenges their view of the holy books and therefore God

Catholic response to evil and suffering:

- Follow the example of Jesus and pray for people who suffer, Christians are called to help the sick, visit the prisoner etc.
- Evil and suffering are man-made and come from human free will
- Suffering is part of the plan – this life is preparation for paradise
- We cannot understand God's reasons – God let his own son suffer!

Media:

The Big Question – makes people not believe in God:

- Christians are mocked for believing in the tooth fairy
- Christians are bullied
- Christians are linked with homophobia and intolerance
- Religious people are the minority on the show

Bruce Almighty – makes people believe in God:

- Grace is played by Jennifer Aniston – she is beautiful, she is a credible witness
- Bruce changes – he experiences a conversion experience and becomes a good person
- We understand why God can't answer all our prayers
- We see God as the creator of an amazing world

UNIT 3 Matters of life and death

TEST YOURSELF: 4 reasons each question

1. Explain why Catholics believe in life after death.
2. Explain why the paranormal proves there is a life after death.
3. Explain why there is no life after death.
4. Explain why abortion is controversial.
5. Explain why Catholics do not agree with abortion.
6. Explain why some Christians do agree with abortion.
7. Explain why euthanasia is controversial.
8. Explain why some Christians agree with euthanasia and some do not.
9. Explain why people argue about how the media treat religion.
10. Explain why Juno is fair to religious beliefs about abortion.
11. Explain what causes world poverty.
12. Explain **why** CAFOD help to reduce poverty.
13. Explain **how** CAFOD help.

Catholics believe in life after death:- CC, R, I, S, P

- Creed a statement of belief teaches about life after death
- CCC – the magisterium (authority of the Pope and bishops) teaches about it
- Resurrection of Jesus
- Immortality of the soul – our soul lives on forever
- St Paul teaches about life after death
- Purpose – it gives us purpose to know that we will meet loved ones after death

How does this affect a Catholic's life –to get to heaven Catholics will ..love neighbour, Golden Rule, Parable of the Sheep and the Goat, Am I my brother's keeper

Non-religious reasons for believing in life after death:

Paranormal activity = Near-death experiences, spirit world, reincarnation

Catholics reject all forms of paranormal activity.

Why some people do not believe in life after death:

- No God, no place for heaven or hell, no evidence, no consistency between holy books

Nature of abortion – made legal in 1967 – if mother's health, child's health and other children's health are at risk. 1990 Abortion act make it legal to abort at 24 weeks.

Abortion for = Pro-choice	Abortion against = Pro-life
Woman's body – her right to choose The foetus is not a life at the point it is aborted	Baby has the right life Life begins at conception = so its murder Doctors should save lives not end them Psychological damage to the woman

Different Christian attitudes to abortion:

Catholic:- CHART

Conception – life begins at

Holy – life is holy

Adoption is the preferred option

Right to a life

Ten Commandments – do not kill

Liberal attitude: TRoLL

- Technology to detect disability
- Rich will travel – so the poor would go back to unsafe back street abortion
- Love neighbour- abortion is the loving thing to do in the case of rape, disability or poverty
- Life does not begin at conception

Euthanasia - is illegal, although it is not illegal to withdraw food or treatment from a dying patient.

For euthanasia	Against euthanasia
Right to choose when to die	Patient may change their mind, they may be pressured into it by relatives
Quality of life	The patient may get better, it is too late when they are dead
If patient is suffering	Doctors should save lives not end them
The NHS cannot afford to keep every patient on a life-support machine alive forever	Doctors would choose who lives and who dies

Christian attitudes:

Catholic:

- Holy – life is holy and only God should end life
- Murder - against the Ten Commandments

Some Christians think suicide is a sin

Catholics agree with switching off life support machines if the patient is brain dead. They also agree to giving pain relief if it removes pain but also shortens life.

Liberal Christians agree with euthanasia – love neighbour, Golden Rule, Am I my brother’s keeper – living wills are a solution to allow people to choose when they die

The media and matters of life and death:

Media should be free to criticise:

- Free speech = free media
- free countries need freedom of expression to grow and progress
- religions criticise others so should expect criticism
- media needs to have the freedom to question and criticise in a free society

Media should not be free:

- Stirs up hatred
- Causes conflict, even death – Charlie Hebdo in Paris
- Criticising the Pope is blasphemy – a sin in the church
- God is beyond criticism

Causes of world poverty = HIV, natural disasters, debt, war, unfair trade

Why CAFOD try to end poverty:

- Golden rule, love neighbour, Am I my brother's keeper, Parable of the Sheep and the Goat (feed the hungry, clothe the naked..)

How CAFO try to end world poverty:

SHE – schools, healthcare, education (Development programmes)

Is

FAB – food, antibiotics, blankets (in a Disaster)

At

EDUCATING – educating us to raise awareness and money

To

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY – (support national campaigns)

Unit 3 Marriage and the Family:

TEST YOURSELF: 4 reasons each question:

1. Explain how society has changed. Explain why society has changed.
2. Explain why Catholics disagree with sex outside marriage.
3. Explain the purposes of marriage and how they are shown in the marriage ceremony.
4. Explain why Catholics disagree with divorce and why other Christians accept it.
5. Explain why family life is important.
6. Explain how the parish helps with the UPBRINGING of children.
7. Explain how the parish SUPPORTS family life.
8. Explain Catholic and Christian attitudes to homosexuality.
9. Explain Catholic attitudes to contraception and why other Christians accept it

Changing attitudes – C – D – F – H cohabitation, divorce, family life, homosexuality

Christian attitudes to sex outside marriage: B – C – T - V

- Bible - Pre-marital sex and promiscuous sex is fornication – a sin
- CCC teaches that pre-marital sex is wrong – ‘sexually immoral’ - Sex is for pleasure and procreation within a marriage only
- T - Adultery against the Ten Commandments
- V - Adultery breaks the wedding vows
- Adultery was condemned by Jesus

Purposes of marriage in Catholic Christianity:

- **Life long** – evidenced by the wedding rings and the vows, ‘til death do us part’
- Offers **security and comfort** – evidenced in the wedding vows, ‘for better or for worse’
- **Procreation** of children – evidenced in the readings, homily and prayers. Priest asks ‘are you ready to accept children?’
- **Raise a Christian family** – discussed at the marriage prep course. Priest asks ‘will you bring children up according to the law of Christ?’

Christian attitudes to divorce:

Catholics think divorce is wrong because:

- Jesus taught that it was wrong
- Breaks the covenant (contract with God)
- CCC teaches that marriage cannot be dissolved (ended)
- Remarriage could lead to bigamy – a serious sin

Liberal Christians agree because:

- Love neighbour
- Jesus allowed it for adultery
- Lesser of two evils
- Better to divorce than live in hatred

Family life is important because:

- Children feel secure and loved
- Children learn right from wrong
- Children learn their faith
- Parents are cared for at the end of their life

How Catholic Parishes help with the upbringing of children:- SYCC

- Schools (RE/Pray/Mass), youth clubs (mix with other Catholics/sense of community), children's liturgy (Sunday school – learn about the Bible), classes for sacraments (communion/confirmation)

How Catholic Parishes help to keep families together in a crisis:

- Priest reminds couple of vows
- Priest gives advice
- Give money/financial support
- Produce leaflets – such as 'What is Life?' a leaflet about dealing with debt, bereavement, drugs etc

Christian attitudes to homosexuality:

Catholic:

- Homosexuality is not a sin – homosexual sexual relationships are a sin because B – C:
- Bible condemns homosexual sexual activity
- CCC teaches homosexual activity is 'sexually immoral'
- Tradition of the church that sex is procreative (make babies)
- BUT - All born equal and homosexuality is genetic

Evangelical – **fundamental:**

- Bible condemns homosexuality and the Bible is the direct word of God (Sodom and Gomorrah a town where homosexual activity was happening and God destroyed the town)
- Homosexuality is a sin and Christ can remove sin
- Tradition of the church to forbid homosexuality

Liberal Protestants:

- Love neighbour – accept everyone
- Golden Rule – homosexuals must be accepted – 'treat others as you want to be treated'
- Bible needs reinterpreting for the modern world (out of date)
- To make gay people lie about their sexuality is to encourage dishonesty – a sin

Contraception:

Natural methods – monitoring the woman's menstrual cycle and only having sex in infertile times.

Artificial contraception – hormonal = pill, barrier = condom, abortifacient = coil, morning after pill

Catholic:

- Sex is procreative, contraception is not what God intended
- Some contraceptives are abortifacients – bring on an abortion – Do not kill
- Contraceptives promote promiscuity/**fornication**/ '**sexually immoral**'

- Popes have declared them wrong

Liberal:

- Love neighbour – contraception helps improve women's health
- Sex isn't just for procreation, it is for pleasure too and helps to bond a couple
- Nothing in the Bible forbids it
- Good for limiting family size
- Condoms prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS

Community Cohesion:

How attitudes have changed to women:

- 1882 Married Women's Property Act
- 1928 Electoral Reform Act – women got the vote
- 1970 – equal pay act
- 1975 – sex discrimination act

Why did attitudes change:- WISE

- Wars – meant women were forced out to work to support the war effort
- Industrial changes – more jobs for women to do in the economy
- Suffragette movement - won women the vote
- Equality legislation passed in the 1970's

Different Christian attitudes to women:

Catholic men and women are equal because created by God at the same time but..not equal because:

- Jesus was a man
- Apostles were men

Fundamental men and women are not equal:

- man was created first
- Eve led Adam astray
- Jesus was a man
- Apostles were men

Liberal men and women are equal:

- Men and women were created at the same time
- Letters of Paul state that men and women are equal
- Council of Laodicea – banned women priests
- Jesus treated women as equals

UK as a multi-ethnic society:

- Invasion by Celts, Romans, French, Saxons
- Asylum seekers – Jews and French Protestants
- Commonwealth – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, West Africa
- Europe – Poland, Romanians

Problems of discrimination and racism:- PELT

- Police officers, employers, landlords, teachers

The effects of racism and discrimination: - RACE

- Rise in groups like UKIP/BNP
- Alienation – young people feel so alienated by society they commit crime etc.
- Crime – an increase in gangs with young people turning to crime to fund their life
- Extremism – particularly extreme Islamic groups such as ISIS, Al Qaeda

Benefits of living in a multi-ethnic society:

- Less chance of war, new ideas, new foods/music/fashion, helps world economy

Government and community cohesion are worried about RACE so they adopt FEAR:

- Fund and financially support groups that help people to mix – sporting facilities
- Educate – make it part of the national curriculum to reduce racism and intolerance
- Appoint cabinet ministers, police, judges etc from ethnic backgrounds to act as positive role models
- Racial and Religious Hatred Acts – make it an offence to discriminate against people

Why Catholics should help promote racial harmony and help asylum seekers:

- Love neighbour
- Golden rule
- Am I my brother's keeper
- Parable of the sheep and the goat – feed the hungry, clothe the naked
- Good Samaritan
- Jesus was helped on his way to the cross by Simon of Cyrene (black African)
- Jesus was an asylum seeker
- Black and Asian cardinals and bishops

How the Catholic Church helps asylum seekers and immigrant workers:- MOLLY

- Ministry Of Welcome – includes leaflets, English classes, collections for essential equipment
- Office for Refugee Policy – keeping the Bishop informed so he can make speeches etc
- Languages – masses in different languages so everyone feels involved
- Legal advice – so immigrants can be helped
- Yearly Mass at Westminster – raising the profile of immigrants

Britain as a multi-faith society:

- Catholics
- Reformation – Protestant Christians
- 1829 Catholics able to worship once more
- 1858 Jews able to worship
- Commonwealth – Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus

Benefits of a multi-faith society: NOT FOOD – this is different to the benefits of a multi-ethnic society..

SLUM:

- Stops religious conflict
- Learn from each other
- Understand each other
- Make us understand our own faith – compare ourselves to Muslims who pray 5 times a day

Difference between different Christians in their attitude to each other:

- **Pluralists Protestants – more than one way to God**
- Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs etc all living good lives

- God is a force of gravity that can be discovered in different ways
- ‘In my Father’s house there are many rooms.’ Jesus
- **Exclusivists Evangelicals– only one way to God**
- ‘I am the way’ Jesus said, so only Christians will go to heaven
- Duty to convert so others will go to heaven
- Matthew said ‘ go and make disciples of all nations’ – so they must convert
- **Catholic Inclusivists – Christian is the whole truth, but other religions should be respected**
- CCC teaches Catholics to tell others about Jesus (not convert)
- Other religions such as Judaism may go to heaven

Issues raised for religion by a multi-faith society:

- Conversion – this will cause conflict as others try to make people change religion, this could lead to prejudice and discrimination and/or arguments and even death
- Bringing up children – parents will feel rejected if children change their religion, parents will worry about the after-life, parents will try to pressurise children, children may be tempted away from religion
- Interfaith marriages –issues around where the wedding will take place, what religion will the children be brought up in, what will happen after death, parents feel betrayed

Ways in which religions work to promote community cohesion:- SUSI

- Similarities – working together to see how religions are the same
- Upbringing of children – focus on helping mixed faith couples bring children up, as well as agreeing to offer good religious education of all faiths even in faith schools
- Set up special groups – Inter Faith Network which promotes good relationships
- Interfaith marriages – special wedding services for mixed faith couples, also set up a website to offer advice for mixed faith couples

Media – Unit 3

You need to argue for an issue in the media being fair or unfair to religious beliefs, BUT choose one issue in the film:

Marriage and Family – film = Keeping Mum – the issue is SEX OUTSIDE MARRIAGE:

Film is unfair about sex outside marriage	Film is fair about sex outside marriage
Walter is a geek and so therefore we can understand why Gloria considers adultery.	Lance is promiscuous (in his thong) and this encourages us to think adultery is wrong
Walter neglects his family for God, again we understand why Gloria considers adultery.	We see how hurt Walter is when Lance and Gloria talk at the football – adultery causes hurt and upset
Walter has no sense of humour, he is embarrassing at the football.. all making us think that Gloria should go off with Lance	The promiscuous daughter eventually settles down and we see that she is happy
	Gloria and Walter discover sex in their marriage and this is shown as a beautiful thing

Matters of life and death – film = Juno – the issue is ABORTION:

Film is unfair about abortion	Film is fair about abortion = CHART
Juno does consider an abortion	Conception –Juno realises her baby has fingernails and so understands that life begins at conception
Juno says she is going to procure a hast abortion as if it is nothing	Holy – the baby is described as a blessing from God, a miracle that God appreciates
She says she will nip it in the bud	Adoption – Juno adopts her baby
	Right to life – Juno is described as a little Viking for standing up for the baby’s life
	T

Community Cohesion – film = East is East – the issue is a MIXED FAITH MARRIAGE:

Film is unfair about mixed faith marriages	Film is fair about mixed faith marriages
The children are confused – neither one religion nor the other, attending the mosque and the Catholic Whit walk parade	George and Ella do seem to love each other
George is seen as unreasonable – he insists on organising arranged marriages, one son is dead to the family for refusing to go ahead with the marriage	The family is happy at times
Ella is torn between sticking up for her children and allowing George to have his own way	The family do try to please George and do show him some respect
Cultural conflict as George hits his wife and son	They stay together in the end..

