

Year 8 RE Revision Guide 2019

For your exam, you will be tested on the following three areas...

1. The environment
2. Pilgrimage
3. Evil and Suffering

Please read through the following information carefully. There are also weblinks to pages and youtube videos that you can use to deepen your understanding.



The Environment

Key words list

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Stewardship | The idea that humans are caretakers of the earth and have a responsibility to care for it for God. |
| Dominion | The idea that human are rulers of the earth. We have power over it |
| Environment | the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates |
| Pollution | the presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects |
| Habitat | the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. |
| Global Warming | a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants. |
| Kosher | Means allowed / permissible. Refers to what Jewish people can eat. |
| Halal | Means permissible. Refers to the way in which an animal is slaughtered in Islam that makes it fit to eat. Opposite is HARAM. |
| Ahimsa | A Hindu and Buddhist concept of respect for all living things and avoidance of violence towards others. |
| Reincarnation | The belief that a soul is reborn into another body. This is a common belief in Hinduism and Sikhism. |
| Vegetarian | A person who does not eat meat. |
| Vegan | A person who does not eat meat or animal products such as eggs, dairy or leather. |

Problems with the environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrzbRZn5Ed4> – video we looked at in class

Useful websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/environment/chstewardshiprev1.shtml>

<https://request.org.uk/people/organisations/a-rocha-a-christian-environmental-charity/>

<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/about-shrinking-the-footprint/links-publications>

You will need to familiarise yourself with problems the environment faces and the causes. These include:

- Deforestation
- Plastic in the oceans
- Climate change
- Extinction of animal species
- Pollution

- ❖ Why are humans responsible for this?
- ❖ Do you think we can change things?
- ❖ How can we make a difference?

An easy google search will provide you with lots of information on this topic.

2. Religion and the Environment: Christianity

Using quotes in your work to support your points will give you higher marks.

The first book of the Bible, **Genesis**, gives Christians lots of ideas about how we should treat the environment. Here are a couple of important quotes...

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

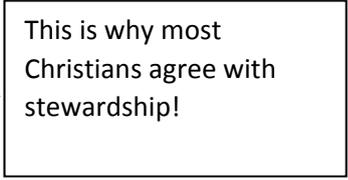
– This reminds Christians that the Earth was made by God. Many people take this to mean that it is on loan to us from God so we have a duty to protect it. This is the concept of **stewardship. – we are caretakers of the World for God.**

“Then God said, ‘let us make man in our image...and let them rule (have dominion) over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air...over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’” Genesis

- This is an important quote because some people think it says that because we are put in charge of the Earth, we should be able to do what we like with it and with animals. This idea is called **DOMINION**. Dominion means being a ruler over something. So some Christians have not seen a problem in using our environment as they are in charge of it.



Surely, if you were a good ruler, you would look after the world and protect it?



This is why most Christians agree with stewardship!

For more information on Stewardship and Dominion, please see:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zqphw6f/revision/5> In fact all the pages (at the bottom) on this are useful for your understanding of this topic.

Eating animals

Some people don't eat animals for a variety of different reasons e.g some object to it because they believe it causes pain and is therefore cruel, others might not like the taste etc. Religious ideas on eating animals differ and there are different reasons for these. Here is some information on Judaism and Hinduism. There are many more facts to be found online if you have the time.

Judaism and Meat

Jews are taught that animals are part of God's creation and should be treated with kindness. Human beings must avoid causing pain to any living creature.

The Torah (the Jewish Holy book) tells Jews what they can and can't eat. Kosher means allowed to eat. Jewish food has to be Kosher.

Jews can eat:

- Vegetables
- Eggs
- Fruit
- Grains e.g. rice, flour etc

- Jews can eat some meats. They can eat meat from animals which eat grass and have split hooves, for example they can eat cows but not rabbits.

- Jews can eat sea creatures if they have FINS and SCALES
- So no shell fish

- Jews can eat POULTRY, but not birds of PREY

- Jews won't eat ANY meat with ANY dairy product. DAIRY includes milk, cheese, butter, cream, yoghurt

So that dairy and meat won't mix, Jews have kitchens with separate surfaces, pans, crockery, cutlery, sinks, tea towels for the meat and the dairy.

| Kosher foods | Non-Kosher foods |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Goat | Rabbit |
| Turkey | Pig |
| All fish (as long as they have scales) | Camel |
| Cow | Octopus |
| Sheep | Eel |
| Duck | Horse |
| Chicken | Most birds especially birds of prey |
| | Insects |

Hinduism and meat

The belief of ahimsa - non-violence to any living thing- means that Hindus treat animals well



Most Hindus are vegetarian

Butchery and related jobs are restricted to less wealthy people

Most Hindus believe that animals are inferior to human beings

Cows are sacred to Hindus so no Hindu will eat beef

Some Hindu temples keep sacred animals

Some Hindu gods have animal characteristics eg. Ganesh has the head of an elephant, Hanuman takes the form of a monkey

The cow is greatly revered by Hindus and is regarded as sacred. Killing cows is banned in India and no Hindu would eat any cow product.

Animal rights

This website has loads of information on animal rights. Be sure to look at the religious views on animal rights and the bit on using animals. It can be a bit tough but stick with it as it will really help your understanding!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/animals/>

Pilgrimage

In this section, you will need to know what a pilgrimage is, why people go on them and then some information on three pilgrimages...

Key terms

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Pilgrimage | A religious journey to a place of religious significance |
| Pilgrim | A person who goes on a pilgrimage |
| Hajj | Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, One of the five pillars of Islam |
| Kaaba | The cube shaped building in the centre of the Grand Mosque, referred to as the house of God. Very sacred in Islam. |
| Ihram | The state of preparing for Hajj / white clothing worn on Hajj. |
| Sa'y | Running between the two hills of Safa and Marwa |
| Tawaf | Circling the Kaaba (seven times anti-clockwise) |
| Plain of Arafat | Where pilgrims in Hajj pray all day for forgiveness. |

A pilgrimage is a journey someone takes for religious reasons. Some religions, like Islam, require believers to go and for other people, it is optional. People who go often say:

- ❖ It makes them feel closer to God
- ❖ It makes them feel part of the wider religious community
- ❖ Some say it shows commitment to God

- ❖ It allows you to focus on God rather than on everyday things
- ❖ Some say God forgives sins if you go on the pilgrimage
- ❖ Some people ask for a miracle.

There are a lot of reasons why people go. Try to remember a few.

Pilgrimage 1: Lourdes

Watch the youtube clip which will explain why Lourdes is such an important place for Catholics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56LPgXO7PXM>

Pilgrimage 2: Hajj

Watch the clip which explains the importance of Hajj. Make sure you learn about the different rituals and what they mean.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok7-mB62xeE>

Pilgrimage 3: Jerusalem

Remember that Jerusalem is a place of pilgrimage for

Jews – Western Wall – Remains of the temple (House of God) Holiest place for Jews.

Christians – Believed to be where Jesus died and rose from the dead (Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Via Dolorosa – path Jesus walked to his crucifixion)

Muslims – Dome of the Rock - It is believed this is where Muhammad ascended into heaven and was given the second pillar of Islam, to pray five times a day, from Allah.

Evil and Suffering

Watch this: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06rmy4h>

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Natural Suffering / evil | Suffering caused by nature e.g earthquakes, tsunamis, many diseases etc |
| Man-made suffering/ evil | Suffering caused by people using their free will, e.g murder, bullying etc |

Suffering causes problems for theists and these are to do with the words we use to understand God.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Omnipotent | All-powerful |
| Omniscient | All- knowing |
| Omni-benevolent | All-loving. |

The problem goes like this...

If God is omnipotent (all powerful) then He has the power to stop suffering e.g the power to stop tsunamis and people from hurting each other. But He doesn't. So maybe He doesn't care.

But

God is considered to be omni-benevolent (all loving) so He DOES care. So maybe he isn't powerful. But he IS.

You get the problem? This is a problem that has caused many people to stop believing in God. But there are various explanations for why a loving God would allow suffering. We call these THEODICIES. Here are a few of them...

- Suffering is a **punishment for sin** – (People used to think this during the Black Death and so would sometimes punish themselves to show God they were sorry so they didn't get the plague)
- Experiencing the bad helps us to **appreciate the good**.
- Suffering helps us to **learn good qualities** like compassion, kindness, empathy etc.
- Suffering is caused by people using their **free will**. Part of being a human is being able to make choices on what to do. It's not God's fault if people choose to do bad things.
- Suffering is a **test of faith** – Maybe God is testing our faith by making it harder sometimes.
- Suffering is a part of **God's plan** – but because we are puny humans, we don't see the bigger picture and so can't understand God's plan. (Sort of how your dog doesn't understand your maths homework!)

For more information, please go to...

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zhmhgk7/revision/1>

