



**EDGBARROW SCHOOL**  
**WJEC Religion & Life Issues**  
**Paper 1**  
**Revision Booklet**

*I believe in  
myself that I can  
score highly in  
GCSE RS 😊*



## **RE Exam – Paper 1**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May (morning)**

The exam will last **1hr 45 minutes**

You will answer **4 questions**. Each question has 5 parts (a,b,c,d and e)

The topics that will be on the exam are

- 1. Love and Relationships**
- 2. Is it fair?**
- 3. Looking for Meaning**
- 4. Our world**

You must show understanding of Christianity and one other major religion.

You will be examined on:

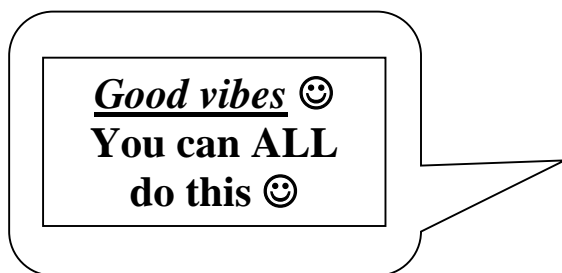
AO1 = Knowledge and Understanding

AO2 = Evaluation

Spend about 25 minutes on each 5 part question

Revision tips:

- Read through your notes/this booklet regularly
- Revise from your classwork books
- Make Mind Maps for each topic
- Practice exam questions and give them to me for marking
- Use your PLCs to check you know everything
- LEARN YOUR BEST FRIENDS – they are easy marks 😊





## **Topic 1: Love and Relationships**

### **Key Words**

Celibacy -	Abstinence from a sexual relationship
Chastity -	No sex before marriage; to remain sexually pure until marriage
Commitment -	Sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something
Conflict -	Stresses and strains that take place within all human relationships
Love -	One of the most powerful human emotions which join people together.
Reconciliation -	Saying sorry and making up for an argument.
Responsibilities -	actions you are expected to carry out.
Rites of passage -	Something that makes a change in a person's status at an important stage in life.
Sacrament -	An outward sign of an inward change that involves God's blessing
Tradition –	belief, custom or common practice
Vow -	Promise between people or between a person and God.

- Love is a powerful emotion that links all humans

### **Relationships with God**

- There are 3 types of love identified in the New Testament. Eros = Sexual Love; Philia = Love of Family; Agape = Unconditional Love
- Christians show commitment by reading the bible, this strengthens their faith and helps them to build their relationship, God. They also listen to scripture in worship.
- Christians have responsibilities to each other and follow rules to help them treat others fairly.
- The Ten Commandments are a set of rules that Christians follow. It helps them to show love for God and love for others

### **Relationships with others**

- Sex is a part of God's creation
- Many religions teach that sex should take place within a marriage
- Contraception is a way of preventing an unwanted pregnancy. Catholics are against contraception because the purpose of sex is to create human life and it prevents conception. They favour the rhythm method (natural contraception). Jews accept contraception but favour the pill as it does not stop the sperm reaching the egg. Jews prefer the rhythm method
- Jews and Christians are against promiscuity because it is not respecting your body and sex should take place in a marriage.
- Some Christians do not have sex before marriage so that they are sexually pure for their partner, this is called chastity.

- Judaism teaches sex outside marriage is forbidden

### **Wedding Ceremonies**

- Jews marry under a huppah (shelter), this symbolises the home they will build. The couple breaks a glass to show the hard times they may have and they drink from one glass to show they are united. Before the wedding, they have a Mikveh (ritual bath) to symbolise cleanliness.

- Catholics marry in a Church and it is a sacrament, they will usually marry within a Mass. This is called a Nuptial Mass, they will exchange vows in the presence of God and they will exchange rings a symbol of everlasting love. The readings at the wedding will be about the importance of marriage. Before the wedding, the couple will attend marriage preparation classes.

### **Divorce and Separation**

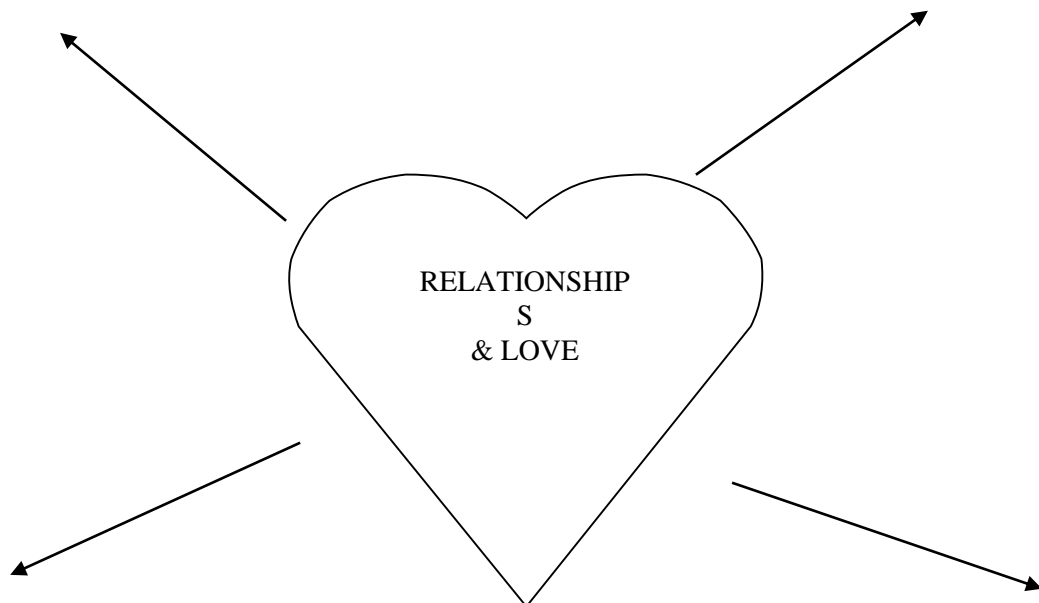
- Catholics are against divorce because Jesus banned divorce. Catholics cannot remarry in a Catholic Church
- Jews believe marriage is a voluntary agreement, therefore, divorce is acceptable but is a last resort. Jews accept remarriage
- There are two parts to a marriage: The legal part, a registrar needs to be there to make sure the marriage is legal and there is a religious ceremony.

### **Same-Sex Relationships**

- Catholics are against same-sex marriage because marriage is between a man and a woman. Homosexual couples cannot marry in church
- Same sex marriages are called PARTNERSHIPS, they are not recognised as marriage.
- Conservative Jews do not accept same-sex marriages, however, liberal Jews would leave the decision to their Rabbi



MIND MAP WHAT YOU'VE  
LOOKED AT SO FAR.....







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## **Topic 2: Is it Fair?**

### **Key Words**

Authority -	power over others through position or moral teaching
Community -	a group of people who are joining together because they share something in common.
Discrimination -	treating groups of people differently or unfairly
Duty -	A moral or religious obligation
Equality -	state in which everyone has equal rights
Human dignity -	treating all human being with respect regardless of race, sex or social position.
Human rights -	rights to the basic things we need in life in order to exist.
Identity -	Sense of who you are in terms of attitudes character and personality.
Injustice -	Where everyone is not treated with fairness.
Karma -	The Buddhist belief that a person's deeds affect their past, present or future experiences.
Need -	Something that is necessary to survive. Without it, we would experience difficulties or hardships.
Prejudice -	Judging people to be inferior or superior without a reason.
Respect -	Consideration for others; understanding that everyone has value.
Stereotype -	the idea that, if people wear certain types of clothes, they must have similar behaviours and values.

### **Human Dignity**

- Christians teach that human dignity is important. In the Creation story, God gave humans dominion (kingship) over all creation. Therefore, they have a duty to look after the world
- Muslims are taught that humans were created as the highest of all Allah's creations and were made ruling agents of the earth

### **Equality**

- Christians teach that we are all equal. We all created in God's image (Genesis).
- Muslims teach that all humans are equal but not the same. Muslims belong to the Ummah (brotherhood) which accepts anyone regardless of their skin colour, nationality or race. All Muslims wear white to show equality.

### **Wealth and Charity**

- Christians believe wealth is God-given and money should be used for good. E.g no gambling. Material wealth should be shared with others as it cannot be taken to heaven.
- Muslims believe that all wealth is a gift from Allah, they should not gain money by being dishonest and cannot lend for profit. All Muslims are expected to give 2.5% of their savings to charity, this is called Zakat and is one of the 5 pillars of Islam

- Muslim Aid is a charity that fights injustice, they follow Islamic teachings on social responsibility. They provide emergency relief and sustainable development programmes to those in poverty
- CAFOD is a Christian charity that fights injustice they follow the Catholic Church's teachings on Social injustice and campaign for change.

### Prejudice and discrimination

- **Christians** teach that people should not be prejudice because Jesus taught about equality (The Good Samaritan) and also Jesus mixed with people who were not equal e.g women and lepers.
- Jesus taught it was not right to treat others unfairly because of their sex, beliefs, disability or any other reason.
- **Women:** In the Bible Jesus had a religious discussion with Mary which was unusual as women were not normally taught about religion.
- **Disability:** Jesus performed miracles to heal the disabled and cured men with leprosy.
- **Race:** Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a Samaritan helped a Jewish man despite their differences.
- In **Islam**, the Prophet Mohammed fought for justice. He established the Ummah
- In **Buddhism**, the Eightfold Path to Enlightenment states it is wrong to treat others unfairly. They believe in „right speech“ (speaking to others in a way that won't hurt them). They also believe in right action“ (acting kindly and compassionately towards others)



### Religious Charities

- **Christianity:** Christian Aid. Aims to speak out where there are injustices and campaign for change. Works in Africa to help HIV/AIDS victims, providing schooling and healthcare to victims of the disease.
- **Islam:** Muslim Aid. Provides emergency relief and sustainable development programme to tackle poverty. Works in 70 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe to provide help people out of poverty.



### The Media

- It is often claimed that the media does not always give an accurate view.
- The same story could be portrayed in many different ways.
- Some people think that the media has a “social responsibility” to raise more awareness about problems around the world.



### Inspirational people who have worked for justice

- **Martin Luther King:** Fought for equality between blacks and whites in America. Held non-violent protests and speeches e.g. I had a dream. Held the Bus boycott to achieve equality in transport for black Americans. Followed the teachings of Jesus 'Love thy Neighbour' and 'Everyone is made in the image of God'. Assassinated for his beliefs. Despite the violence against him, he never turned to violent measures, even when his house was bombed.
- **Gandhi:** Fought for India to become independent from Britain due to unfair trading rights. He protested non-violently by holding the salt march and non-violent speeches. When people responded with violence, Gandhi encouraged them to change their ways. He also fought to abolish the caste system in India as he seen this as an unequal way to class people. He believed in the principle







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### Topic 3 Looking for Meaning

#### Key Words

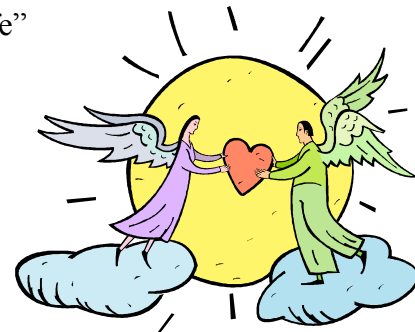
Afterlife -	continuation of human existence after death
Agnostic-	believing that you cannot know whether or not God exists.
Akhirah -	life after death in Islam
Atheist	believing there is no God
Awe -	sense of wonder in relation to God's creation or presence
Community -	a group of people who are joined together because they share something in common.
Faith -	belief in God and religious teachings without proof.
God -	ultimate and supreme power to whom worship is given
Immanence -	closeness of God and God's involvement
Monotheistic -	believing in one God
Omnibenevolence –	all-loving nature of God
Omnipresent -	everywhere at all times, as God is believed to be
Polytheistic -	believing in many Gods
Reincarnation -	a process whereby the soul moves to another body or form after death.
Revelation -	the way in which God chooses to reveal God's nature to people.
Symbolism -	representation of an idea through actions or images.
Theist-	believing there is a God.
Transcendent -	beyond the physical/natural world, outside human understanding, as God is believed to be.
Trinity -	Christian belief that there are three persons within one God.

- Some people believe in God because they have faith, they read holy books, through religious experiences and following religious teaching.
- Some people do not believe in God because of scientific evidence.
- Atheist = someone who does not believe in God; Agnostic = not sure that God exists; Theist = believes God exists
- Arguments for the existence of God
  - The teachings of the bible
  - God gave humans free will, he does intervene
  - God is beyond human understanding
  - Religion explains why we are here
- Arguments AGAINST the existence of God
  - Science can explain how the universe was created
  - Evil and Suffering in the world
  - No evidence
  - Prayers are not answered
- A secular society means it is not ruled by religion. We now live in a secular society.
- Religion is of value in a secular because religion can explain why we are here, religion can provide guidance and support to people and Religions help the less fortunate
- Religion is not of value in a secular society because the majority of people don't attend church, shops are now open on a Sunday, we live in a multicultural society so it is acceptable to do what we want, some religions are promoted in a negative way.

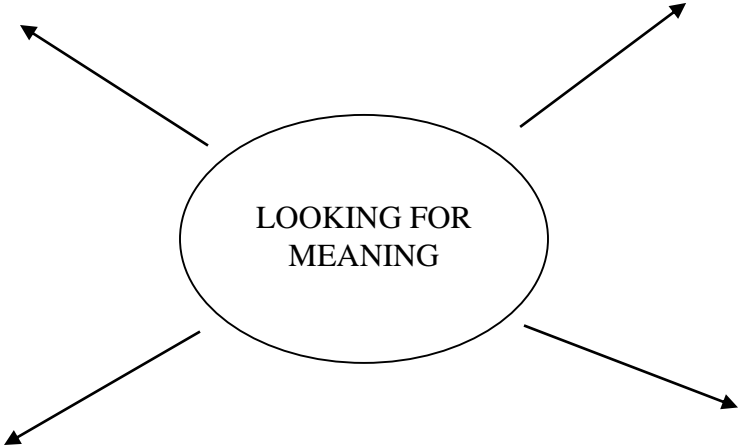
- When people experience God it is called REVELATION. People experience God through Holy Books (Bible), Prayer, Religious Leaders (Martin Luther King, Religious teachings, miracles and the natural world).
- God is Omnipotent (all powerful); Omniscient (all seeing); Omnibenevolent (all loving) and omnipresent (everywhere).
- God is beyond human understanding (transcendent) and is acting in the world (immanent)
- The Trinity shows the three parts of God in one, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Muslims use the name Allah for God, they believe god is beyond human understanding, God has no body and is neither male or female. Muslims cannot fully understand God so they have 99 names that show different ideas of God. Muslims do not have any images of God.
- People respond to God by changing the way they live (read bible, live a good life etc), they may preach and teach others about God, go on a pilgrimage or do a job that shows service to others.
- A Vocation is a calling to a religious life. Some men feel called to serve God by becoming a priest
- People worship God (Pray and go to Church) this helps them to develop their faith.
- Muslims pray five times a day and they go to a mosque

### **Life after death**

- Christians believe that there is heaven (place of paradise), hell ( the place where satan rules) and purgatory ( a place where the soul is cleansed).
- Muslims believe they will be judged on their actions on earth. Akhirah means life after death. Muslims believe there will be a day of judgement when people will go to heaven or hell.
- A Christian Funeral Service
  - Usually starts with the words “I am the Resurrection and the Life”
  - Prayers and readings
  - A Eulogy (someone says a few words about the deceased)
  - People are either cremated or buried
  - If people are buried the words are read “ashes to ashes”
- A Muslim funeral
  - The body is washed 3 times by someone the husband/wife or someone of the same sex as deceased.
  - The burial takes place within 24 hours
  - Only men attend the funeral
  - Passages from the Quran are read



MIND MAP WHAT YOU'VE  
LOOKED AT SO FAR.....









## **Topic 4: Our World**

### **Key Words**

Anadi -	Hindu expression for ‘beginning-less’
Atman -	the soul in Hinduism, the part of God inside us that moves on to another body or form after death.
Big Bang Theory -	belief that everything started with a big bang about 14 billion years ago; the universe began to expand, then cooled down, forming the earth and other planets.
Creation -	Way in which something is uniquely made; God’s creation of the universe.
Dominion –	being in charge and having power over others
Environment -	surroundings of the place in which human beings live
Ex nihilo -	out of nothing
Humanity -	all the people who live on the earth.
Literal -	Believing the creation story from the Bible is true.
Natural resources -	Substances such as coal and oil which occur naturally.
Non-literal	believing that the creation account as told in the Bible is not a literal account of how creation occurred.
Soul -	Part of human nature that is spiritual in form and influences an individual’s personality.
Stewardship -	God-given responsibility to care for the world
Talent -	Something we are good at
Theory of evolution -	an argument that life began in simple forms and evolved into the more complex forms we see today.
Universe -	everything that exists; everything in space and time.

### **Creation**

- Christians and Jews believe the universe was created from nothing (ex nihilo) in six days. God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. This account is found in Genesis, God created all living things on the earth and the light and dark, heavens and earth etc.
- The Big Bang theory is a scientific theory that says the world was created 16 million years ago from a big bang.
- Evolution is a scientific theory that species evolved from simple life forms

### **Talents**

- We can use our talents for good (to help the environment, to help others, to entertain, to fight against injustice)
- Christians believe talents are given by God and should be used for good. It is their duty.
- Jews believe talents should be used to thank God for everything they have been provided for. They believe they will be rewarded in heaven.

### **Why are we here?**

- Christians believe that they are on earth to respect ourselves and each other, to marry and have children and to reduce poverty
- Jews believe we should respect ourselves and others, to become good stewards and to marry and have children
- Scientists believe we are here due to the evolution of species (the survival of the fittest)

- Humans have a soul and a sense of morality, they can search for meaning in the world and can be productive. Humans were given dominion (power) by God to rule over creation.
- Humans are more than a physical body, they have free will (choice to do good or bad), created in God's image and they have souls and can relate to God.

### **Stewardship**

- Humans should look after the world and be careful how they use natural resources by using renewable energy (wind, solar etc) Humans should not overuse the resources of the world (coal, fish etc)
- Christians believe God gave humans the world to look after, the earth is a gift and should be shared by everyone
- Jews believe they need to think carefully about how to use natural resources. After the flood of Noah's Ark, God promised the world would not be destroyed by man.
- Stewardship is Christians duty to care for the environment. A Christian can be a steward by looking after the environment, recycling etc. Jews also believe this, they believe God is in charge of the earth and humans take care of it.

### **Care of animals**

- Christians and Jews believe animals are part of God's creation and that they should not cause pain to any living things.
- Jews can only eat Kosher food (animals that have been killed in accordance with Jewish Law)
- Christians and Jews have a responsibility to look after the earth. In Genesis, it says that God created humans and put them in charge of everything. Christians show thanks to God through Harvest festivals and Jews through the festival of Sukkot. By celebrating Jews and Christians are thanking God.

### **How religious believers care for the planet**

- Christian Aid is an organisation that helps people who are affected by climate change, religious believers can help care for the environment by supporting charities that help the environment.
- Jews support the Noah Project which helps to promote care for the environment

MIND MAP WHAT YOU'VE  
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**Test your understanding**

**Exam Questions**

(a) Explain what religious believers mean by 'humanity'. (2)

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(b) Explain how having a religious faith might support the view that animals have rights? (4)

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(c) "There is enough for everyone's needs but not for man's greed."  
Give **two** reasons why a religious believer might agree or disagree with this statement. (4)

(i) .....

(ii) .....

(d) Explain from **two** religious traditions the teaching on creation. (You must state the religious traditions you are referring to.) (6)

(i) .....

(ii) .....

