

Parent and student question and answer booklet

Religious Studies

Paper 2



Home revision question and answer booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to support your child with their revision for their GCSE examination.

This booklet is a summary of all the content that your child needs to know and will assist them with regards to preparation for the subject knowledge that they need to apply in the examination. Although the booklet is by no means a guarantee, it will make a significant contribution to their success.

This booklet should be used as a question and answer test booklet so that you can help coach your child into answering content correctly with accuracy. Ideally questions should be worked through at random and use a priority red, amber, green system to prioritise areas to work on.

This booklet is the **minimum**/basic amount of work that your child needs to complete based on the knowledge that they need to have.

I hope that you enjoy using this booklet to help check your child's understanding of the topics that they have completed. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a link within the department using the following email address lpearson@whickhamschool.org

Thank you and good luck from the Humanities Faculty.

In RE the examinations will cover the following areas:

Paper 1: Religion

Christian beliefs
Christian practices
Buddhist beliefs
Buddhist practices

Paper 2: Themes

A: Relationships and Families
B: Religion and Life
D: Religion, peace and conflict
E: Crime and punishment

How to answer the questions

Each section will have exactly the same format of a 1 mark, 2 mark, 4 mark, 5 mark and 12 mark question. This means that for each exam paper, students will complete four of each question type. Structuring answers properly plays a big role in your child's final grade. Without getting this right, they will struggle to gain top marks.

1 mark= tick the correct answer.

2 marks= give two simple points.

4 marks= give two developed (well-explained) points.

5 marks= give two developed points and one teaching or quotation.

12 marks= give one paragraph agreeing with the statement (*approximately two developed points and one teaching or quotation*), another paragraph disagreeing with the statement (*approximately two developed points and one teaching or quotation*) and one conclusion (*giving their overall decision and a reason why*).

Revision tips:

Memory is engaged when students are required to think.

Do not:

Simply read over the material. This will not help you remember it.

Highlight lots of text, this gives you a feeling that you are learning it when in fact you are not.

Type up lots of notes.

Revise for hours at a time on the same topic.

Do:

Transform the notes.

Create diagrams

Create pictures to represent the material.

Produce flashcards. The process of doing this helps you to learn it.

Test yourself using your flash cards.

Get others to test you using the flash cards.

Prioritise - chose the three key points to learn for a given topic.

Go through exemplar answers given in class and learn the rules of how to approach each question.

Resources:

All students have knowledge organisers, these cover all of the key facts and can be used to create the material suggested above.

Students will have access to a Christianity textbook each which will cover the key areas of the Christianity topic and the whole of paper 2. Students will also have a PDF copy of the Buddhism textbook to support their revision for the remaining sections in paper 1.

Theme A: Relationships and Families

- 1. What does sexuality mean?**
How people express themselves as sexual beings.
- 2. What is heterosexual?**
To be sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex.
- 3. What is homosexuality?**
To be sexually attracted to members of the same sex.
- 4. What does conservative mean?**
Old fashioned, traditional views.
- 5. What does liberal mean?**
Open to new and different ideas.
- 6. Give one example of an artificial form of contraception?**
Condoms; cervical caps; female condoms.
- 7. Why might a Christian be against homosexual relationships?**
Some Christians see only a heterosexual relationship as part of God's plan. Genesis says a man and woman should be united together and 'increase in number.'
- 8. Why might a Christian accept homosexual relationships?**
Teachings in the Bible tell Christians to 'love one another' and therefore they should consider loving, faithful homosexual relationships to be just as holy as heterosexual relationships.
- 9. What is contraception?**
The methods used to prevent a pregnancy from taking place.
- 10. What is the difference between artificial and natural forms of contraception? Try to give examples.**
Artificial methods of contraception have been made e.g. condoms or the pill. Natural methods of contraception do not involve any artificial product e.g. the rhythm method.
- 11. Why do people get married?**
Love; money; family links; to have a child.
- 12. Explain 'polygamy'.**
The practice of a man having several wives.
- 13. What is divorce?**
The legal ending of a marriage.
- 14. Give two reasons a couple might divorce?**
Fall out of love; abuse; financial reasons.
- 15. What do religions think about divorce?**

Most religions disapprove of divorce as vows are made for life; idea that God disproves of divorce; people should work on issues rather than give up and divorce.

16. What do religions think about remarriage?

Some religions disagree with remarriage if it is after divorce, e.g. for Roman Catholics, original marriage is still seen to stand so remarriage isn't proper. Many religious people accept remarriage as it makes people happy/ they have a second chance.

17. What is gender prejudice?

Prejudice (thinking someone is inferior) due to someone's gender.

18. How do some religions treat men and women differently?

Men are often given leadership roles, e.g. of the community or religious group; most of the leaders/ founders through history have been male, which is seen as a reason to maintain that tradition; women are seen as homemakers and support/ companion due to the role of Eve.

19. What is an annulment?

The Roman Catholic way of ending a marriage- the marriage is seen as never valid in the first place.

20. What is a civil partnership?

The legal registration of a same-sex couple, giving them some legal and financial protection.

21. Why might some theist not allow artificial contraception like condoms?

They may believe sex is for procreation and should have that potential; may think God wouldn't approve as it isn't natural; Adam and Eve told to 'be fruitful and multiply'.

22. Give two reasons a Christian might give for taking a vow of purity/ wearing a purity ring.

They may believe sex should be preserved for marriage; it should be special and with the person you will spend your life with; it is for the purpose of children and that should happen in marriage.

23. What is the conservative Christian view on homosexuality?

The conservative view is held by the Catholic Church and states that people are not sinful because of their homosexuality but that homosexual acts are sinful. Homosexual people should remain chaste (not have sex) to avoid sinful acts.

24. What do Buddhists teach about homosexuality?

Buddhist teach that the five moral precepts apply to homosexual relationships in the same way as to heterosexual relationships. What matters is consent and respect.

25. What does the term adultery mean?

Voluntary sex between a married person and someone who is not their spouse.

26. Give two reasons a Christian might say sex outside of marriage is wrong?

It involves a betrayal of trust; it can affect children; it causes pain for all involved.

27. Why might a Christian say sex before marriage is wrong?

They believe sex expresses a deep, loving, lifelong union and is not for temporary, casual pleasure. Therefore Christian should make the commitment of marriage before engaging in sex.

28. Why do Catholics oppose artificial contraception?

By using artificial contraception the couple are not being open to new life and preventing God's plan.

29. What is meant by cohabitation?

A couple living together and having a sexual relationship without being married to each other.

30. Give a reason why a liberal Christian might accept cohabitation?

Living together in a faithful, loving, and committed way reflects the ideals of marriage; cohabitation may be a stepping stone towards marriage.

31. Do Christian churches have to perform same sex marriages?

No. The law protects churches from having to perform same sex marriages against their beliefs.

32. How might a church treat someone who is considering getting divorced?

Many churches would help Christians try to work through the issues they are facing by meeting with them on a non-judgmental basis. They will encourage the couple to stay married if possible.

33. What is meant by the nuclear family?

A couple and their children

34. What do Christians say is the role of parents?

To love, care for and raise their children to know right from wrong. To raise their children within the Christian faith.

35. Why might a liberal Christian be able to accept same-sex parents?

It is more important to be in a secure and loving family regardless of the gender of the parents.

36. What is the purpose of the family according to Christians?

It is for having and protecting children, acts as a stable building block for society, to educate children in their faith.

37. What is sexual stereotyping?

Having fixed general ideas about how men or women will behave or their roles.

38. Give one Christian teaching that supports gender equality?

In creation God makes man and woman in His image.

39. Give one Christian scripture that suggests men are more important than women?

Genesis 3:16 God says to Eve "he will rule over you"

40. Do Christian fathers have the same responsibility for raising their children than mothers do?

Yes, the command to children is to obey their father and mother so this implies that fathers are equally responsible for their children.

41. Why might a liberal Christian support divorce?

They would consider it cruel to force someone to stay in an abusive or degrading relationship

Theme B: Religion and life

1. Finish the teaching: "In the beginning, God created.."

...the heavens and the earth."

2. What is science?

Science – observed regularity and testing of hypotheses to work out how the world works.

3. What is religion?

Religion – allows interpretation of why we are here, who is God and what happens at death. Based on holy books and personal accounts.

4. Briefly explain the Big Bang Theory.

Nothing – expansion – cloud of dust and gas – settling of universe into what we see now.

5. Briefly explain the reasons why people support the Big Bang Theory

Most modern theory. Developed through hypothesis and testing. Some evidence to support; red shift and left over background radiation.

6. Briefly explain evolution as a theory.

Continual adaptation of species through time so that there is the survival of the fittest; means that species adapt and change to survive, hence the development of species from ape to human, for example.

7. Briefly explain reasons to support evolution.

Developed through scientific methods. Evidence of organisms development through fossils and remains. It is logical. It does not depend on an outside designer which we have no proof of. Animals are still evolving now - e.g. head lice.

8. Outline a religious creation story.

Genesis – 7 days – light – atmosphere – land, sea, vegetation – sun, moon, stars – fish and birds – animals and humans – God saw that it was good.

9. What is a fundamental Christian?

Christians who believe that the statements in the Bible are literally true and believe there are certain basic beliefs that are essential to the Christian faith.

10. What is a liberal Christian?

Christians who believe that the Bible's authors were guided by God, but that not everything they wrote is a literal account of what actually happened.

11. What are the three religious interpretations of this?

Fundamentalist – believe it word for word; **conservative** interpretation – believe the gist of the story, e.g. 'day' is a period of time; as a myth – that the story gives the message of a good and deliberate creation with man as the centerpiece of that creation. **Liberal** - the authors were guided by God, but it isn't a literal account of creation.

12. What is meant by stewardship?

The idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.

13. What is dominion?

To have power of dominance over something. Some Christians believe that we have dominance over creation as God told Adam to 'rule over it'.

14. Are science and religion compatible on the origins of the universe?

Yes – religion explains why, whereas science explains how – so they answer different questions; God could have made the Big Bang happen; if Genesis is not taken literally, no problem. No – seven days versus billions of years; religion is too simplistic to fit what we know from science.

15. Why should religious believers treat the world with respect?

Created by God; we live on it, so we need to keep it in good health; we need to pass on a healthy world to our children; stewardship duty.

16. What is pollution?

Over-presence of a substance in the sea/air/ water/land which causes harm, e.g. air pollution from car fumes.

17. What is global warming?

Theory that the earth is getting hotter due to over-release of greenhouse gases, and generally poor management of earth by human race.

18. What is meant by natural resources?

Materials found in nature, such as oil and trees.

19. What is meant by renewable energy?

Energy that comes from a source that does not run out, such as wind or sun.

20. What is animal experimentation?

When scientists test medicine, cosmetics or additives from food on animals to check if they are safe for humans to use.

21. Explain why some say Christians should be vegetarian.

Yes - as stewards we are in a position of care to the world. We can get our protein etc from other sources. We shouldn't harm animals. The agricultural industry does damage to the environment as well as harming animals.

22. Explain why some say Christians should not be vegetarian

No - they have the choice but should be sensitive to others beliefs. The Bible does not directly teach that it is wrong to kill and eat animals.

23. Which Buddhists teaching may make them believe they shouldn't eat meat?

'Do not harm any living thing' -5 moral precepts

24. What is meant by quality of life?

How good/comfortable a person's life is; usually to do with being pain free or able to take part fully in ordinary life.

25. What is meant by sanctity of life?

Belief that life is sacred or special because it is unique/has been created deliberately by God.

26. What is abortion?

Removing a foetus from the womb to end a pregnancy before the child is born. Legal up to week 24 if two doctors agree that one of the conditions for abortion apply, e.g. the woman's life is in danger if the pregnancy continues.

27. Arguments for abortion?

It is the woman's body, she has a right to choose. It is worse for a baby to be born that isn't wanted. Woman may have been raped. The woman's life could be at risk. If the baby was going to be born with severe disabilities, it will have a poor quality of life.

28. Arguments against abortion?

Goes against 10 commandments 'Do not Kill'. Roman Catholic Christians believe from the moment of conception that is a human life - should not be killed. Better approach would be to have the child and give it up for adoption. It goes against god's plan to abort. Unfair on the child who has done nothing wrong (in case of rape).

29. What is euthanasia?

Mercy killing; helping someone to die who is terminally ill, or in great unending suffering (e.g. degenerative illness).

30. What are the different types of euthanasia?

Voluntary euthanasia - person asks and it is their choice.

Non-voluntary euthanasia - person is too ill to request but it is in their best interests/ doctor decides.

Involuntary euthanasia - person does not give consent.

31. What is active euthanasia?

Active euthanasia - active steps are taken to end a life, e.g. lethal injection.

32. What is passive euthanasia?

Passive euthanasia - doctors stop providing treatment that halts the process of dying, e.g. not resuscitating after a heart attack.

33. Why do some people disagree with euthanasia?

Seen as murder; not our right to end life; ruins God's plan for life; life is sacred, so can't be thrown away.

34. Why do others disagree with it?

My life, my right to end it; we put suffering animals to sleep; act of compassion; medicine cannot manage all pain. Follows 'love your neighbour' as it is a compassionate, loving act.

35. What is meant by death?

Death is the permanent ending of life – the brain and body cease to function permanently.

36. Give two ideas used by religions about what happens at death.

Rebirth, reincarnation, resurrection (body/soul - heaven/hell)

37. What is heaven like?

A place where God is, wonderful, no more death or suffering.

38. What is hell like?

Bible mentions 'lake of fire', it is a place of punishment for sinners. There are different Christian interpretations of what hell is like, all agree it is a place where you are permanently separated from God.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

1. What is war?

Fighting between nations to resolve differences between them.

2. What is peace?

An absence of conflict, which leads to happiness and harmony.

3. What is justice when speaking about war?

Justice is getting recompense for the side that has been a victim, e.g. if invaded; war might happen to get justice for a group within a country; it might be to gain justice/fairness for a group who were victimised during war.

4. Why might justice be needed after war?

To make things fair again, e.g. for a group within a country; for a damaged country to be recompensed if they were found to have been unfairly dealt with by/during war.

5. What does 'reconciliation' mean?

Bringing sides together after conflict to resolve issues and bring peace.

6. What is meant by forgiveness?

Showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done.

7. Why might reconciliation be difficult after war?

War makes people feel more angry towards enemies, even if they beat them; much hurt is inflicted by each side on the other – this is difficult to get past; everyone in a country suffers as a result of war, so few are happy to become friends again.

8. What is protest?

An expression of disapproval, often in a public group.

9. What is terrorism?

The unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal.

10. What is violent protest?

Voicing dissent in a violent way.

11. Why might religions be reluctant to use violent protest?

They dislike violence; belief that violence begets violence; violence comes from hate, whereas religions promote love.

12. Give an example of non-violent protest

Civil rights movement in America - Dr Martin Luther King Jr organised peaceful rallies to protest about racial and social inequality.

13. What teachings show a Buddhist might agree with non-violent protest?

Right intentions, karma and 'do not harm any living thing'.

14. Why might religious people choose to protest violently?

Have been unable to make change happen any other way; maybe in a society where this is the only option (e.g. Bonhoeffer in Nazi Germany); to save life.

15. Give two reasons for war.

Self-defence; land/money; ideology

16. Explain greed as a reason for war.

Wars have been used to gain more land, money, resources or power. Christianity and Buddhism warn against greed and so would not accept this as a reason to go to war.

17. What is self-defence?

Protecting oneself when attacked.

18. What is retaliation?

Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you.

19. What did Jesus say about retaliation?

"If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."

20. Why do most people agree with war in self-defence?

If you have been attacked, you have the right to defend yourself; you are innocent; a country has to protect its people.

21. Why do some people claim religion causes war?

Because those fighting claim religion is their cause; some teachings suggest wars can be right on religious grounds; differences in religious beliefs may lead/have led to war in the past; if two countries at war represent different religions then religion is assumed as one of the causes.

22. Why should religion prevent/ end war?

Religious teachings teach peace; religious leaders preach a peaceful message; reconciliation and forgiveness are key religious principles; war brings death and suffering for too many innocent people.

23. What is meant by a 'just war'?

War which meets internationally agreed criteria for fairness. Originates from Christianity.

24. What are the conditions for a just war?

Christian – controlled by elected government, right cause, clear aim, last resort, winnable, fair conduct and good outcome.

25. What is a holy war?

Fighting for a religious cause of God, probably controlled by a religious leader.

26. What is the difference between just war and holy war?

General principles are not different but holy war is about a faith directing it or laying down the rules whereas just war is about moral principles directing events; just war is about defending people whereas holy war is about defending God or people's rights to faith/belief.

27. What are the conditions for holy war?

Christian – last resort, fought to create peace, conduct in war should be fair, civilians and land should be protected, justice and peace restored, fought for God or faith.

28. Jesus said - 'put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword...'

'.. die by the sword'. Showing those who live violent lives, die by violent means.

29. Who are victims of war?

Soldiers and civilians; those captured and the defeated; refugees; those injured; the dead.

30. How do religious organisations help victims of war?

Religious organisations work in war zones; provide third party interventions; help refugees and the injured; provide food and shelter; campaign politically and pray for peace.

31. How might individuals help them?

Individuals can join groups that work directly with victims, raise awareness of wars and the suffering of the innocent; use their skills, such as medical, to work with the injured; pray for peace and healing.

32. What are WMDs?

Weapons of mass destruction

33. What is a nuclear weapon?

Weapons that work by a nuclear reaction; they devastated huge areas and kill large numbers of people.

34. What is a chemical weapon?

Weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyze humans and destroy the natural environment.

35. What are biological weapons?

Weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death.

36. When were nuclear weapons used in the past?

Americans dropped nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WW2. They argued this was justified as it brought about a swift end to the war.

37. What is the Christian campaign for nuclear disarmament?

A group of Christians with the intention of pressuring governments to give up their development of nuclear weapons. They produce newsletters and promote peace.

38. Why do some people support the holding of WMDs?

They keep the peace, act as a deterrent; another country is unlikely to attack; nuclear weapons can prevent the use of other WMDs, such as chemical or biological.

39. Why do many religious believers reject WMDs?

WMDs cause mass death; they cannot control the victims; the effects disagree with the just war statements; religious teachings disagree with mass killing; WMDs have too many long-term effects; unknown scale of death and destruction; in the wrong hands they could cause untold death.

40. What does the teaching 'an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth' mean?

Some take it to mean that retaliation is fair but the correct interpretation is actually about proportion (you should only retaliate with relative proportion). This therefore rules out the use of WMDs.

41. What is peace?

The absence of war; when people live in tolerance and harmony with each other.

42. What is pacifism?

The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence.

43. What is a peacemaker?

A person who works to establish peace in the world or in a certain part of it.

44. What is the Golden Rule and how does it influence people towards peace?

The Golden Rule is to 'Treat others as you wish to be treated' – no one wants war; no one wants to suffer; no one wants to be attacked or bombed so why do that to others; no one wants their lands and homes and families destroyed.

45. Explain a religious attitude to peace.

All religions promote peace and denounce violence; teachings in holy books oppose war and want people to live in harmony; peace should be the end game of any conflict; religious principles of reconciliation and forgiveness are designed to create peace.

46. How can Christians respond to victims of war?

Pray for them, support organisations who give aid to victims. Christian Aid is a charity which brings in aid to end poverty, often caused by war. They work to establish basic human rights and fairness, working closely with refugees.

1. What is meant by 'crime'? Give examples.

An action against the law and punishable by the law. For example: murder, theft or burglary.

2. What is meant by punishment?

Something legally done to somebody as a result of being found guilty of breaking the law.

3. What is meant by evil?

The opposite of good, a force or personification of a negative power that is seen as destructive and against God.

4. Why do people commit crimes?

People commit crimes for money, greed, poverty, upbringing, mental illness, addiction or opposition to unjust law; because they can; because they do not fear punishment.

5. How can poverty lead to crime?

Being without money, food or other basic needs of life can lead people to steal out of desperation and necessity.

6. How can mental illness lead to crime?

If someone has a medical condition that affects their moods, emotions or ability to relate to others, it can lead to that person making poor decisions and even harming others.

7. How can addiction lead to crime?

Physical or mental dependence on a substance can lead to a person making poor decisions while under the influence (assault) or to get money to pay for that substance (shoplifting).

8. How can greed lead to crime?

Wanting to possess wealth, goods or items of value which are not needed can lead to people stealing or embezzling money.

9. What is a hate crime?

Violent actions against somebody because of their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender.

10. What is meant by 'evil'?

Actions that are immoral and wicked; often associated with the worst of crimes.

11. Where do Buddhists believe evil comes from?

Buddhism – it's not the act, it's the impact that makes it evil; comes from Three Poisons to which everyone is subject.

12. Where do Christians believe evil comes from?

Christianity – evil is an abuse of free will; evil must exist to be able to see good; the devil or Satan causes it through temptation, i.e. internal and external factors.

13. Is it against the teachings of Christianity to break the law?

In most cases the law should be upheld because Christians believe the authorities were put in charge by God. However, if someone is breaking an unjust or unfair law (e.g. apartheid) this may be permissible as it is upholding other teachings such as 'love your neighbour'.

14. What is prison?

A place to securely confine criminals to take away their freedom and to protect both them and society.

15. What is community service?

A punishment of a set number of hours spent paying back the community for the damage they have done – usually for less serious crimes.

16. Explain the idea of retribution as an aim of punishment.

It means to get your own back. Society on behalf of the victim, is getting its own back on the offender. The offender is paying for their crime.

17. Explain the idea of deterrence as an aim of punishment.

If offenders are seen to be punished the threat of similar punishments might put off others from committing the crimes.

18. Explain the idea of reformation as an aim of punishment.

Reformation is the aim of punishment the most Christians and Buddhists prefer. It seeks to help and improve the offender to stop them from committing future crimes. If they can reform the character of the criminal, they will be less harmful to society.

19. What would a Christian/Buddhist argue is the best aim of punishment?

Reformation - helps the individual and society. The intention here is to help and improve, rather than seek revenge.

20. What would a Christian/ Buddhist argue is the worst aim of punishment?

Retribution. Christianity teaches forgiveness and revenge goes against this. Buddhists would argue that this would be indulging in the three poisons - hatred. The intention here is also bad; unskillful and lacking in compassion.

21. Explain the teaching 'an eye for an eye'.

This teaching is not really about retribution or revenge. It is actually about proportion and the idea that the punishment should be fitting to the crime, but perhaps not literally the same done to them.

22. What is corporal punishment?

Physical punishment like whipping to cause direct pain.

23. What is good/ bad about prison as a punishment?

Prison: good – protection of society and criminal, retribution for crime, deterrence, help while inside; bad – brutalises, doesn't help the vulnerable, high reoffending rate.

24. What is good/bad about community service as a punishment?

Community service: good – positive punishment, helps community, puts right damage done; bad – not severe enough, lack of projects, shames publically.

25. What is good/bad about corporal punishment as a punishment?

Corporal punishment: good – direct pain to criminal, retribution and deterrent; bad – too severe, inhumane, disfigures, illegal in UK.

26. What is capital punishment?

The death penalty.

27. What is meant by sanctity of life?

All life is holy as it is created and loved by God; Christians believe human life should not be misused or abused.

28. Why do some people support the use of capital punishment?

Eye for an eye; only appropriate for extreme acts; ultimate deterrent and protection.

29. Why do other people disagree with the use of capital punishment?

Inhumane, life is sacred; no chance of reformation; could be innocent execution, not a deterrent.+

30. Explain the concept of forgiveness for Christians.

Christians - Jesus forgave when he was being crucified, we should also be forgiving. Forgiveness heals both the criminal and the victim and allows for closure. Forgiveness should not be a replacement for punishment; it is possible to forgive someone but believe that justice is done after a punishment.

31. Complete this Christian teaching: 'Forgive us our sins....'

... as we forgive those who sin against us. (The Lord's prayer)

32. How many times does Jesus tell Peter to forgive his enemies?

'I tell you not seven times, but seventy-seven times.' This is interpreted to mean an unlimited amount.

33. What did Jesus say about forgiveness while crucified? What does this teach us about criminals?

'Forgive them father, for they know not what they do.' Always forgive enemies and follow Jesus' example.

34. Explain the concept of forgiveness for Buddhists.

Buddhists - lacking forgiveness furthers your own suffering and the suffering of others. To hold onto ill will or resentment only furthers the three poisons - it is more skillful to forgive.

Let's debate!

Discuss arguments for and against the statements below. Debating is a fun way to revise, and it really helps students to prepare for their 12 mark questions and to consolidate their knowledge of key topics. In an exam, students would be expected to give two well-explained reasons on each side of the debate, and should also aim to refer to religious teachings.

"The death penalty is never acceptable"

"Religious people should never eat meat"

"The best way to bring about world peace is for everyone to become a pacifist"

"Weapons of mass destruction are an acceptable method of warfare"

"Religious people should never be violent"

"Reform should be the main aim of punishment"

"All religions have a special duty to look after the environment"

“Meditation is the most important practice within Buddhism”

“God must not exist, because there is too much suffering in the world”

“There is strong evidence to support the belief in heaven and hell”

“Easter is the most important Christian celebration”

“Retreat is more important for British Buddhists than other Buddhists”

“Private worship is the most important type of worship”