

Core Religion and Ethics Knowledge Organizer

TOPIC: A Good Life
 YEAR: 10
 TERM: 1/2/3

Key Learning Objectives:
 By the end of this unit I will:

- Be able to show an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews on individuals, communities and societies
- Be aware of how varied interpretations of sources and/or teachings may lead to diversity within religious traditions in the modern world
- Develop my ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured arguments, demonstrating my depth and breadth of understanding of the subject

How will my LEARNING be assessed?

- Through teachers' questioning
- Through a "summing-up" piece of written work

How can parents support my LEARNING?

- Encourage your child to read big news stories in local and national newspapers
- Ask your child what role they think compassion should play in their life and ask them why that is
- Discuss topical issues with your child, asking them what they think is right or wrong about those issues
- Discuss what "a good life" could mean with your child
- Ask your child how they might apply the Golden Rule

Key Facts to LEARN:

There are many ways of deciding if something is right or wrong.

Even within religions, there are different opinions on what's right and wrong, and how to decide.

The UK has a system of "common law", which means UK law formed over hundreds of years through traditions (including Christian religious teachings), judges' rulings, etc., with only some of the law coming from Parliament.

The House of Lords has 26 Church of England bishops and 99 other lords. They have the power to send proposed laws back to the House of Commons to be changed.

Cannabis is an illegal drug in the UK, but is claimed to have pain-killing properties.

Many religions teach that taking recreational drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is wrong.

Many religious and non-religious people follow the Golden Rule; treat others as you want to be treated. This needs to be understood in the light of what "good" means to different groups of religious and non-religious people.

Links/Extension opportunities:

bbc.co.uk/news

trutube.co.uk

micheleborba.com/10-ways-to-raise-a-moral-child

Key Terminology:

consequentialism	The belief that the result of an act is what makes it right/wrong	discrimination	Treating a person or group differently because they're different
deontology	The belief that we have a duty to follow moral rules	sanctity of life	The belief that life is precious or sacred. For many religious people, only human life holds this special status.
virtue ethicist	A person who believes that we should/need to work at being good	quality of life	The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable; how "good" someone's life is
justice	Fairness in the way people are dealt with		

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Area	Content
What is morality?	How do you make moral decisions? What influences you to make those decisions? What kind of moral person are you? What do you think is right and wrong? Why do we have different ideas about this? Do your morals change over time?
Moral dilemmas	Why do we call some events "moral dilemmas"? What guides people at these times? What answers do religions attempt to provide?
What is a good life?	Does being religious or non-religious make someone "good"? How do you think you should live? What about others?

Key people/ groups	
United Nations	A group of representatives from most countries in the world, who meet to discuss and find solutions to those countries' challenges.
The UK Parliament	The place where our laws are made! MPs put forward bills, bills are approved or rejected by the Lords. If they're approved, the monarch usually agrees to them, then they become law.
Immanuel Kant	A German philosopher who say that we can work out what's always right and wrong, which gives us our moral duties.
Jeremy Bentham	An English philosopher who said that everyone wants happiness and we should all act so that as many people are happy as possible.
Aristotle	A Greek philosopher who said that we all have a role in society and we should work at being the best we can be in that role.
Jesus	A Jew who Christians believe is the saviour of humankind.
Sikhs	"Sikh" means "disciple" or "learner". They believe in one god, equality and reincarnation.
Wiccans	Followers of a "New Religious Movement" whose beliefs vary but focus on not harming others and what many people call karma.

Vocabulary
moral
immoral
amoral
society
right
wrong
worldview
just
unjust
symbol
hijab
rede
Sikh
Sikhism
Christian
Christianity
Wiccan
Wicca
Muslim
Islam
love
equality
neighbour
citizen
rights
responsibilities
dignity
euthanasia

Contexts
Even though more people are not Christian than ever before in the UK, most people support the UK's laws, which mainly have a religious basis.
Scientists have found evidence to strongly suggest that sexuality is genetic, rather than chosen. However, some religions have teachings about same-sex relationships that lead to strong debates within and outside those religions.
Many religions put forward the idea that any drug-taking is wrong, but also put forward the idea that we should use Earth's resources wisely, including natural medicines. Some drugs can be grown normally (e.g. cannabis) and help with illness but also have side effects some people disapprove of.
In 2017, the European Court of Justice ruled that companies can ban staff from wearing visible religious symbols, but this must be applied to every employee and all symbols.
There are different opinions within Islam about how women should dress. Many say that only the words in the Qur'an come directly from God, and those words focus on dressing "modestly". Others say that the teachings of Muhammad give specific instructions, which must be followed.
The Suicide Act (1961) states that it is illegal to help someone to die. The punishment is up to 14 years in prison. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says everyone has the right to be free. Some people say the law goes against this right.



Themes
Human rights
Religious freedom
Moral guidance
Rules and guidelines
Personal responsibility
Identity