The Right Life?
Knowledge Organizer

1. Key People

Extremist groups	They believe in and support ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable, sometimes appealing to a sense of cultural identity to recruit members and justify extreme acts and views.
The media	While many accuse media outlets of bias, the media's ability to accurately inform and bring people together is as strong as ever.
John Hick	A philosopher who said we can't become fully good and be God-like without experiencing evil.
William Paley	A philosopher who argued that the natural world shows evidence of design, and therefore a designer (God).
J. L. Mackie	A philosopher who argued that the presence of evil in the world disproves the existence of a caring, all-powerful god.
John Locke	A philosopher who said we can only know what we experience.

2. You need to know…

- Usually, **extremist** groups seek out disaffected young people who feel they don't fit with the family or society they live in, and who may well find a sense of **belonging** in that group.
- There are two types of **jihad; greater** jihad is trying to live a good Muslim life, **lesser** jihad is defending other Muslims and/or Islam itself, in line with Islamic "**Just War**" criteria, which are very similar to Christian criteria.

- Some Christians say that bad things happen because when humans first **disobeyed** God, the natural world and humans were damaged, and Jesus' death enables Christians to seek **forgiveness** for their sins and their **sinful** nature. Other Christians say that bad things happen so that humans can **develop**, to become more God-like.

- There are three classic **arguments** for the existence of God; the **cosmological or first cause** argument says everything is caused by something and God "caused" the universe, the **teleological or design** argument says the world shows evidence of a designer, God, and the **ontological or existence** argument says that if God is the greatest thing then it must exist, as it has to exist to be the greatest thing!

- **Empiricists** say that we can only know things through direct **sense experiences**
- **Rationalists** say that we can only know things through **thinking**
- Others say that we need a **combination** of empiricism and rationalism in order to understand and know our world

- Newspapers and some TV channels aim their content towards certain **groups** in society. They have their own "**narrative**". Most newspapers support a particular political party and their writing reflects this.

3. Key vocabulary

tolerance: willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs that are different, although you may not agree with or approve of them

theodicy: explaining how God can exist when there's evil in the world

fake news: news that is unintentionally or deliberately false

free speech: the idea that people have the right to say whatever they want

media: methods or ways of expressing something

jihad: Arabic for "struggle"

deduction: to argue that something is completely correct

induction: to argue that something is probably correct

4. Themes

human rights	free speech	good/evil
tolerance	knowledge	God

5. Contexts

The concept of free speech has led to many countries agreeing to "the freedom of the press". This means that media outlets can give their opinions and interpret events as they wish. Sometimes, this causes confusion over what's true and how we can really know what's happening.

In the field of philosophy, the first half of the 20th Century saw a renewed interest in discussing the existence of God. This came at a time of great conflict, when many people were searching for answers to the question of how so many bad things could happen across the world.

The use of the word "Islamist" relates to "Islamization", a tactic first used by Middle Eastern extremist groups in the second half of the 20th Century. To justify their attempts to overthrow governments, they claimed that culture and traditions, including Islam, were being destroyed. They used religion as a tool for their own ends.