

Religious Studies

Is it Fair?

In this unit we will be studying the following things:

Equality
 Dignity
 Prejudice & discrimination
 Use of wealth and charity
 Social responsibility
 Religious teachings about the above

We will be studying these things from the **CHRISTIAN** and **MUSLIM** religious traditions.

CONCEPT	MEANING
Authority	Power over others through position or moral teaching. It may be a person such as a priest, set of laws, teachings from a sacred text etc.
Discrimination	The actions of treating groups of people differently due to race, gender, religion or class.
Equality	The belief that everyone should have equal rights and be treated fairly. Religious believers may say that all people are equal in God's eyes.
Identity	The sense of who are you in terms of attitudes, character and personality; a person's unique identity.
Injustice	Where everyone is not treated with fairness. Withholding someone's human rights e.g. imprisonment without trial.
Prejudice	Judging people to be inferior or superior without cause; when a person is pre-judged. Religious traditions teach that people should treat others as they wish to be treated.

Complete a definition of each word; a sentence to explain it further; a picture.

Why are people prejudiced?

Key words-

Prejudice: Judging someone without knowing them, on the basis of what they look like or what group they belong to. Racism, sexism and ageism are all examples of prejudice.

Islamophobia: The unnecessary fear of the Muslim religion.

1. What are the most common reasons why people are prejudiced?
2. Complete a spider diagram in your exercise books showing the reasons why people are prejudice adding your own thoughts.

The following is an article from the **BBC commenting on research** conducted by **Cardiff University:**

Researchers looking at the way British Muslims are represented by the media say they have found that most coverage is **negative in tone.**

A Cardiff University team behind the study looked at nearly 1,000 newspaper articles from the past eight years. Three kinds of story topped the league, accounting for **67%** of the stories altogether:-

- **36%** of stories were about terrorism
- **20%** about religious and cultural issues
- **11%** about Muslim extremism
- Only **5%** were stories where Muslims were the victims of attacks.

Dr Paul Mason, a member of the team, said the team looked at three areas.

They carried out a statistical analysis looking at types of stories and the way Muslims were described and the language used, the photographs used alongside the stories and they analysed the types of case studies used.

He said: "We looked at both nouns and adjectives and the way in which British Muslims were described.

"And we found the highest proportion of nouns used were about things like extremism, suicide bombers, militancy, radicalism.

"And Islam was portrayed or constructed in the language as dangerous or backward or as a threat," he said.

"So following 9/11 and 7/7 of course there is a perceived threat from the public and the public are concerned about political violence.

"But it is wholly wrong to make what the newspapers do in the generalisation of those who carry out public violence to the whole of Islam and the whole of the British Muslim community."

Complete the following questions on the sheet you are given. Use the information above to help you.

Why are people prejudiced?

Question	Answer
1. What is Islamophobia?	
2. According to the Cardiff University study what were the most common stories about Muslims over an 8 year period?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
3. Do these findings surprise you? Explain your answer.	
4. Why do you think it is dangerous to form an opinion based on one source of information?	
5. Why do you think some people are prejudiced towards the Muslim religion?	

Prejudice and Discrimination

Fear and **ignorance** are at the root of prejudice. People may fear **what they do not understand** and so they fear **those who are different**. This often means that people are not treated with dignity (respect). Some of the reasons for prejudice are explained below:

Pride/Selfishness - Thinking only of self or self-interest; failing to consider the needs of others; jealous of others.

Ignorance - Not knowing, or not wanting to know the facts.

Theology - Failing to see and believe that all humans are equal in value in their own right e.a. slavery. The KKK.

Experiences - Having had an unpleasant experience previously with a particular group of people, or a person from that group.

Parental/Peer Pressure - Accepting the views of others without questioning or challenging; not thinking for oneself.

Anger/Retaliation - Reacting after some event or tragedy, thought to be the fault of a particular group of people e.g. 9/11

Media - The media can influence and cause prejudiced ideas by misrepresenting them.

Fear - Being uncertain of the implications of others; not sure of the purposes of others; afraid of what might happen.

1. 'Prejudice is always wrong.' Give two reasons why a religious believer would agree or disagree with the statement.

2. 'Everyone is prejudiced.' Give two reasons why a religious believer would agree or disagree with the statement.

Task 1

It is very important that you are able to distinguish between *prejudice* and *discrimination*. Look at the statements below, are they examples of prejudice or discrimination? Create a key and colour code:

Prejudice

Discrimination

Hitler made all the Jews wear yellow stars.

I am not teaching her because she is black.

I won't sit by her because she has ginger hair.

Hitler hated the Jews.

He has blonde hair and so he must be stupid.

Black children could not go to school with white children.

Black people had to sit at the back of the buses in America in the 1950's.

I don't want to be friends with him because he wears glasses.

Positive Discrimination

This is when an employer deliberately offers a job to a person who is often discriminated against e.g. someone disabled, an older person or someone from an ethnic minority.



Equality



Task 2

Use the following words/phrases to complete the paragraph below:

*injustice *same *dignity *height, age, skin colour etc *human beings *identity
*treatment *differences *animals

Humans are all different. There are differences in our

Even identical twins have..... All people have their own

When we say that everyone is equal it does not mean that everyone is the

Instead it means that we should all receive equal..... because we are all

..... and we have human..... (This raises us

above.....).

To give some humans more advantages than others would be an.....



Christianity and equality

Christian denominations are universally against prejudice and discrimination. They believe in **justice** - fair treatment for everyone. Christians believe that God created all human beings in his own image - "*imago Dei*" - whatever their race, ability or gender. They also believe that the Ten Commandments provide us with guidance on how to live in harmony with others. Christians also try to follow the example of Jesus in caring for all people e.g. dealing with lepers and outcasts, and the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 where the Samaritan took care of the injured man even though they were meant to be enemies.

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

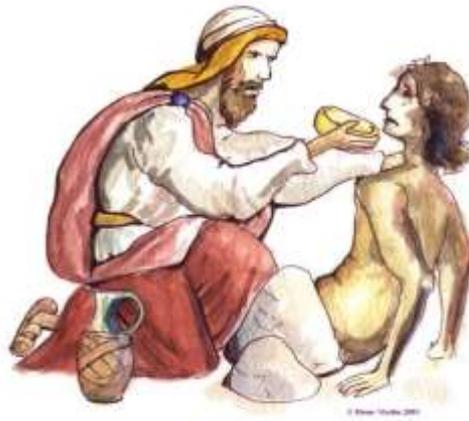
St Paul also wrote to the Church in Galatia to remind them that everyone should be treated equally:

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-26

“Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite (*temple helper*), when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend”. Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”



Parable - an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

Task 3 Answer the following questions in **FULL** sentences.

- a) In v27 it states, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' How do you think Christians could follow this in their everyday lives?
- b) Which of the 3 people do you think was a neighbour to the man who was robbed and left for dead? Explain why.
- c) What does this parable teach Christians about the treatment of other races?
- d) In what ways do people in today's society act like the Priest and the Levite?
- e) What type of love is demonstrated by the Samaritan?

Islam, equality and human dignity

Muslims believe Allah is the creator of all humans and they must take responsibility for others. The community of believers, ummah, are expected to support each other. The Prophet Muhammed taught the importance of equal opportunities for women. Muslim charities such as Islamic Relief aim to help the poorest people through both long and short term aid. Men and women are considered equal before Allah and are expected to keep the Five Pillars. Although women can become teachers of religion they cannot become imams.

WHAT DO WE WANT?

A 'need' is a necessity and something that we need to live as human beings in a fair degree of comfort and living. In 1948, the United Nations produced **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. Its purpose was to make sure that all humans have things which they are entitled to or need. These include:

- **Food** - the food should be nutritious and in the right quantity
- **Clothing** - clothes that are suitable for the climate in which they live
- **Shelter** - somewhere that is adequate for their family to live

However, not all people are given human rights because:

- They live in a poor country which cannot provide basic needs such as healthcare and housing.
- The government of the country may not be fair.
- They may have broken the law or threatened the safety of others and as such their rights have been taken away.

People who do not have the basic needs are said to be living in **absolute poverty**. There are millions of people throughout the world who are living in absolute poverty.

Relative poverty is when people are poor compared to those around them, or to what others might reasonably be expected to afford. It can include a lack of:

- Educational opportunity
- Material possessions
- Good quality housing

A 'want' can be described as something that we wish for. We often say that we 'want' something, and at the time it probably seems very important, or even essential. A want is something that would improve the quality of our life but is not necessary to survive. The things we want or wish for may be very different to what people in other countries may want. Our 'wants' can also differ between age groups, and the things that religious believers want may be different from the things that people with any religious faith may want.

Task 4 - Look at the two examples below - what is the main difference between them?

	<p>"Dear God, I really want to be able to make this world a better place. Please help me to identify the things I can do to help in my own community."</p>
	<p>"I really want a new mobile phone. I've had this one for ages and I need a more up to date one."</p>

What do religious people believe we should want?

Christians and Muslims believe that we should want to make the world a better place to live for all people. This means working to get justice and equality for all people. Religious people want us to think about the way in which we behave, and the effect that our behaviour has on other people. It's all about human dignity, and realising that all human life is valuable.

JUSTICE & INJUSTICE

Task 5

- Look at the picture below. Write down at least 5 questions you would like to ask about the picture using the 5W's as starters (Who? What? Why? When? Where?)
- After listening to information about the picture, what have you found out and how does it make you feel?



"It's not fair!" this is a phrase which you have probably used more than once in your life. But what do you mean when you say it? Most people would agree that **being fair** to others is an important part of a relationship. **Being fair** to others or being **treated fairly** means having the same opportunities and rights as other people, as well as a sense of being valued and loved. **Unfairness** is when these opportunities are taken away or prevented for some reason, and when there is dishonesty and people are not valued.

What is fair/justice?

Here is what many people think 'fair' or 'justice' should mean:

- Everyone has equal rights.
- People are treated with dignity and respect.
- There is freedom from oppression.

What do religious believers mean by 'injustice'?

- Unfair treatment.
- Discrimination against certain groups for no good reason.
- Ignoring human rights.
- Inequality.



Task 6

How much do you know about **injustice**?

1. How many of the world's children die every day from malnutrition?
a) 300 b) 3000 c) 30,000
2. What is the average annual income in Ethiopia?
a) 54p b) £54 c) £540
3. How many countries have imprisoned people for speaking out against the government?
a) 10 b) 30 c) 45
4. How many racial attacks take place on average in Britain every year?
a) 4000 b) 40,000 c) 400,000
5. How many countries still have laws that discriminate against women?
a) 23 b) 18 c) 5
6. How many families in Britain are homeless?
a) 100,000 b) 50,000 c) 20,000

How many did you get right? ___/6

Question: Write a summary. What can you learn from the above quiz? What does it tell you about injustice?

We live in an unfair and unequal world which is split into two clear parts - by wealth on the one hand and by poverty on the other. We have:

- The developed world - countries with a high standard of living e.g. North America, Western Europe and Australasia. Although only 25% of the world's population lives in the developed world, it consumes at least 80% of the world's resources e.g. energy, food etc.
- The less developed world - countries with a low standard of living, including most of the countries in South America and Africa. These countries have 75% of the world's population but they have to manage on 20% of the world's resources.

Religious attitudes to wealth and poverty



Wealth is the word used to describe having a lot of money and possessions. It is a very big issue in the world because, as mentioned, wealth is not shared out evenly in society.

All religions say that material wealth e.g. money, possessions, status, cannot be of lasting value; they are all 'things' that can be lost, stolen, taken away or can lose value. Many religious believers see wealth as a gift rather than a right. If they have money then they feel it is their duty to use it to help others to get the things that they 'need' (rather than 'want'). **Christians and Hindus teach that it is a duty to help others in need**, i.e. It is what you do with your money that counts. Many Christians and Hindus therefore believe that gambling is wrong as the money won has not been fairly gained.



Christian attitudes to wealth

Christians believe that material wealth is not the most important thing in life and should be shared with others, and this means giving to charity. They do this to show love and compassion (**agape**) to those in need and because generosity should involve some sort of sacrifice to the person who is giving. Christians follow the example of Jesus who often did charitable work. Many Christians give 10% of their earnings to charity, called a **tithe**. They believe that their generosity will be rewarded with a place in heaven. It is also believed that you should only make money in an honest way, as this is just as important as what you do with it, and true giving/generosity needs to involve some cost or sacrifice.

Christian teachings on wealth

Task 7.

Choose 3 teachings/quotes (from the following page).

1. Write out the quotes.
2. Explain the meaning.
3. Give an example of how it could be put into practice.
4. Draw a picture illustrating the quote.

Here are some of the key Christian teachings about attitudes to wealth:

- **Material wealth is not the most important thing in life**, having strong spiritual values is the most important. Jesus said:

"Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven"

[Matthew 6:19]

- **Do not worry or be anxious over wealth.** Jesus said:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

[Matthew 6:25-27]

- **Material wealth should be shared with others.** The Bible says:

The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

[Luke 3:11]

- **There is no success in relying on money or wealth for security or meaning in life.** In the story of the rich young man Jesus warns that people find it difficult to give away their money in order to serve God in a better way:

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

[Mark 10:25]

- In the parable of the final judgment, Jesus teaches that **it is our duty to help people who are in need, both in our society and the wider world:**

was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink . . . whatever you did for one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

[Matthew 25:40]

- **You should not be obsessed with money. This promotes greed which can destroy relationships, causing people to suffer:**

"You cannot serve God and mammon (money)"

[Matthew 6:24]

"For the love of money is the root of all evil."

[1Timothy 6:10]

charitable work. Many Christians 'tithe', which means they give 10% of their income to the Church or to the less fortunate. They believe their generosity will be rewarded with a place in heaven.

Write out the following paragraph neatly in your exercise book, completing the missing words.

10% greed how share neighbour tithing earn gambling

Christians believe that you should _____ any money you have with other people. This follows the teaching 'love your _____.' Christians believe you should give _____ of your income to charity. This is known as _____. Christians disagree with _____ and lending money for _____. Christians teach that the way you _____ your money is as important as _____ you use it.

Zakat

Muslims believe that all wealth is a gift from **Allah** and consider it a duty to help others. Muslims are not allowed to lend money for profit and gambling is **haram**. Muslims are expected to pay **zakat** (2.5% of their earnings) regularly to charity, which is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Voluntary payments (**sadaqah**) and voluntary work are encouraged. Occupations involving gambling, pornography or alcohol are haram, and money should not be gained or lost through gambling. Islam teaches that sharing and not being greedy will be rewarded on the **Day of Judgement**.

Teaching from the Hadith: "**He is not a believer who eats his fill while his neighbour remains hungry by his side.**"

Muslim Aid is a **charity** that has helped to save and improve the lives of millions. Muslim Aid provides short term aid in emergencies such as natural disasters, wars and famine. It also provides long term development programmes which help people by supplying shelter, clean water, education, and healthcare. **Muslim Aid** works with local groups to provide for their needs. This builds the confidence of those in need which empowers them in a way that helps them re-gain their **dignity**.



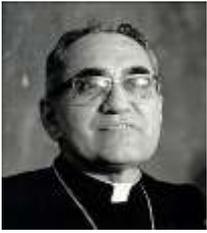
How should we treat others?

Social responsibility is the belief that it is part of our responsibility to look after the weak or vulnerable people in our society. It also means that we should be aware of the effect that our actions have upon the rest of society. It's basically about not being selfish.

Christians and Muslims see it as their duty to have social responsibility. This includes showing concern for those in need through poverty, unfair treatment or who have not been given basic human rights. (Look back to the earlier notes on equality.)

<p>A CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT</p> 	<p>The story of creation says that humans were created in God's image, "imago Dei". This means that we are all special and should be treated with respect. The Bible teaches us to care for others, so I see it as my duty to care for those in need. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick and treated everyone with respect. Christians believe that they should follow his example.</p>
<p>A MUSLIM VIEWPOINT</p>	<p>Muslims believe that everyone was created by Allah. This means we are all equal and we have a right to participate in the good things that Allah has provided on earth for us. No one has more entitlement than anyone else. Muslims have a duty to act if they see any fellow humans being unjustly treated, no matter what religion, race, or gender they are. Muslims believe that Allah will judge everybody according to how they lived life on earth. Those who behaved as Allah requires, by helping people in need and trying to correct injustices, will be rewarded in paradise. Those who did not help the needy will be punished in the afterlife. The Qur'an says: 'And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole of humanity.' The Prophet Muhammed taught his followers: 'The best of you is he who is of most benefit to others.'</p>

Examples of Religious Organisations and Individuals who have worked for justice



Archbishop Oscar Romero 1917-1980

Spoke out about injustices against the poor in Latin America. He was assassinated by the government.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu 1931 - Current

Campaigned against racial injustice in South Africa. Desmond Tutu is a black archbishop in South Africa. As a Christian, he was inspired to fight the racial injustice in his country in the late twentieth century. At that time, white people ruled, and black people were forced to live in terrible conditions and were deprived of all their rights. Tutu led protest marches and risked his life by speaking out in public to draw the world's attention to the suffering of the black population. As a follower of Jesus, Tutu does not believe in using violence. Although he was arrested and imprisoned on numerous occasions, in 1994 his peaceful protests helped bring about the first free elections in South Africa and led to Nelson Mandela becoming the country's first black president.

Malcolm X 1925 - 1965

Malcolm X was an African American who campaigned for black people's rights at a time when they were exploited in America. It was a brave to do because his father, a Baptist minister, was assassinated by the Ku Klux Klan. In prison, Malcolm X converted to Islam becoming El-Hajj Malik el-Shabbaz and on his release he spoke out publicly against human rights abuses in Saigon, Hanoi and the Congo, as well as in America. He continued speaking out despite his house being bombed and many assassination attempts. He was shot in 1965.

The work of Christian Aid

Christian Aid is a Christian organization which tries to help bring justice for people who live in poverty.



Christian Aid:

- Wants to create and establish a world free from poverty and injustice.
- Gives help in times of disaster and helps people regardless of religion or nationality.
- Speaks out against injustice.
- Tries to deliver real, practical help where it is most needed.

Research Christian Aid and either Islamic Relief or Muslim Aid in more depth. Identify links between what they do and why (e.g. link to religious beliefs and teachings).

Task 8

Answer the following questions in your books in FULL sentences.

1. Explain what religious believers mean by 'injustice'.
2. Explain how having a religious faith might influence a person to support the work of a charity.

3. "When faced with the abuse of human rights, doing nothing is not an option."

Give two reasons why a religious believer might agree or disagree with this statement.

Sexism

Sexism takes place every time a person, usually a woman, is discriminated against because of his/her gender. The Sex Discrimination Act of 1976 makes it illegal to do this in the areas of employment, recruitment, promotion at work and training, and men and women can be given equal rights even though they are different.

Traditional roles began when men hunted for food and women created the home and reared children. Neither is superior because each relies on the other for survival. Religions are based on traditional teachings, some of which are 1000's of years old, and the traditional roles of men and women still remain in many religious communities today e.g. the Roman Catholic Church does not allow women to become priests.

Despite this, many religious teachings also highlight the positive role of women in society.

<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Islam</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Jesus did not discriminate against women e.g. John 4:1-30✓ Men and women are seen to be equal before God e.g. Galatians 3:28✓ Today in many churches, women are ordained and function as full priests or ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people are created by Allah.• The Prophet Muhammed showed respect for women.... His wife Khadijah was a very successful business woman.



The role of women in Christianity



Task 11

Watch the first episode of the Vicar of Dibley and then answer the following questions.

1. What is the stereotype of a vicar? (Age, fashion, sense of humour etc)
.....
2. What was the old vicar like in the village of Dibley?
.....
3. What was *Geraldine Granger* like?
.....
4. Did the Christians in the village believe she was equal to a man? Explain your answer.
.....
.....
5. Do you think *Geraldine* suffered from any prejudice in the episode? Explain.
.....
.....
6. Do you think *Geraldine* suffered from any discrimination in the episode? Explain.
.....
.....
7. Do you think women should be allowed to be ordained? Explain.
.....
.....
.....

Task 12

Read the quotations below very carefully before completing the following activities:

- a. Mark the quotations that are **NOT** from the Bible in a blue pen/pencil.
- b. Mark the quotations that show Christianity to be sexist in a red pen/pencil.
- c. Mark the quotations that show Christianity as not being sexist in a green pen/pencil.
- d. What do you notice?
.....
.....

Is Christianity sexist?

The Lord chose men to form the twelve apostles... for this reason the ordination of women is not possible.

The Roman Catholic Church

Men and women are equal. We have female ministers in my church and have done for a long time.

Member of the United Reform Church

There is neither Greek nor Jew, slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ.

Galatians 3:28

Women are simple souls, who like simple things...she will come across to town, across the house, across the room, across to your point of view and across to almost give you love, if you offer her yours.

Episcopal Preacher 1968

Any woman who acts in such a way that she cannot give birth to as many children as she is capable of, makes herself guilty of that many murders.

St. Augustine 6th Century

God created man in his own image...male and female, he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Women should remain at home, sit still, keep house and bear and bring up children...if a woman grows weary and at least dies from child bearing it matters not. Let her die from bearing - she is there to do it.

Martin Luther, Church Reformer 1484-1546

The souls of women are so small that some believe that they have not at all.

Samuel Butler 1612-1680

The Bible and Gender

- ✓ The Bible gives 2 differing images of the role of women.
 - Timothy and Paul write in the New Testament (NT) that women should not be heard in Church, they must dress modestly and do good deeds.
 - In the Old Testament (OT) women were seen as possessions and could be divorced by their husbands.
 - Jesus only chose men as his chief disciples/apostles.
- ✓ On the other hand:
 - The OT women were brave, loyal and set good examples.
 - In the NT many women followed Jesus and were more faithful e.g. being at the cross, at the tomb and the first to see Jesus when he rose from the dead.
 - Jesus often socialised with women too.

Christian Churches and Gender

- For nearly 2000 years men have taken all priestly roles in Churches.
- For many there is the strong belief that a priest represents Jesus at the altar and therefore his place cannot be taken by a woman.
- In some churches in the 20th Century, this was changed after much discussion e.g. Baptist and Methodist.
- In the 1990's the Church of England allowed women to become priests. This led to some priests and people leaving the Church and becoming Roman Catholic, as they do not allow women to become priests.
- In 2012, the Church of England voted not to allow women to become Bishops, but on 14th July 2014, the C of E voted to allow women to become Bishops.
- The Church in Wales voted in September 2013 in favour of female Bishops.
- The RC Church believes that women have a special role in the Church, but it is not as a priest.

Racism

Racism is the belief that a person's nationality or the colour of their skin should determine their rights or opportunities, and as a result many people are treated differently because of this. Since 1968 it has been illegal in the UK to discriminate against someone because of their skin colour in the following areas:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Social Services
- ✓ Housing

As should be clear from the teachings we have already looked at, **Christians** and **Muslims** would be against any form of racism. Many of the world religions teach that human beings were made equal by God. When people treat others as second class citizens it is an insult to God's creation and shows no respect for human dignity. Take a look at the teachings below.

<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Islam</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Prejudice is unacceptable and is against Christian beliefs and teachings.✓ God created all human beings as equal, whatever race, ability or gender.✓ The Ten Commandments give guidance on living in harmony with others.✓ Jesus' example of dealing with lepers and outcasts etc and many of his teachings such as The Good Samaritan, encourage Christians to treat all others with respect and dignity.	<p>Seeking justice for others and responding to injustices are important actions in all religious traditions. Muslims take social responsibility and aim to make sure that: all human rights are observed; all people are treated without discrimination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people are created by Allah.• The ummah (brotherhood) crosses all national, cultural, racial and gender division.• The act of prayer stresses the importance of equality as worshippers should stand shoulder to shoulder equal before God

Task 9 Answer the following questions in your books in FULL sentences.

1. Explain what religious believers mean by 'equality'.
2. Explain what religious believers mean by 'prejudice' .
3. Explain what religious believers mean by 'discrimination'.
4. Explain from **two** different religious traditions the teachings about equality. (You must state the religious traditions you are referring to.)
5. **E. "It is always wrong to treat people differently." Do you agree?**
Give reasons or evidence for your answers, showing that you have thought of more than one point of view. You must include reference to religious beliefs in your answer.
Use this space to make notes.

RELIGION & THE MEDIA



What is the media?

The term 'media' refers to all forms of communication in written, spoken or printed form e.g. newspapers, magazines, TV, internet etc.

Development

In the past it would have taken a very long time for people to find out any information about events that might have happened outside of their town or village. However, we now live in a world where events at the other side of the globe can be reported within minutes. For example, when the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York were destroyed on September 11th 2001, camera crews filmed the events as they were unfolding and those images were transmitted around the world almost immediately.

Does the media help or hinder?

Newspapers carry a range of stories e.g. coverage of war, terrorism, crime, immigration. But some people worry that the ideas expressed in the paper are those favoured by the journalists or owners of that particular paper, rather than the whole truth. You might find completely different versions of the same story in 'The Times', 'The Sun' or 'The Daily Mail.' And the same can be said of news programmes and documentaries on TV.

Positive effects

When the media reported on Kylie Minogue's breast cancer scare, researchers found that there was a large increase in women booking for screening tests. This potentially saved many lives.



Likewise when the media reports on tragedies such a famine or natural disaster, many people feel compelled to give extra donations to charities who may help people in need.

Negative effects

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were 10 years old when they killed toddler Jamie Bulger in 1992. It was claimed that they had been influenced by the film "Chucky".

Many young people claim that they have become victims of eating disorders due to the pressures of wanting to look like celebrities in the media.

Religion in the media

It is also claimed that the media doesn't always show religion in a positive way. For example, Muslims are usually described as terrorists, or are only included in the news because something terrible has been happening in the Muslim faith e.g. Members of Islamic State who are claiming to be part of the Muslim Faith.

Religious characters in soap operas are usually stereotyped as being a little bit 'odd'. Examples such as this can give religion a bad name.



Religion in the media

The Simpsons	Songs of Praise	Eastenders	Emmerdale
	Coronations Street	Family Guy	The Big Questions
Religious TV Channels	Bend it Like Beckham		
	Exodus: gods and kings	The Truman Show	
Music e.g. Coldplay			

Task 14

"Religion is always portrayed badly in the media."

Give two reasons why a religious believer might agree or disagree with this statement. [4]

- i) _____

- ii) _____

