Religious Attitudes to World Poverty

Christian Teachings

Love your neighbour (Jesus – Good Samaritan)

“Treat others as you wish to be treated”

Jesus said to rich man “Go sell all that you have and give to the poor then you will have riches in heaven.” (Story of the rich young ruler)

If a rich person sees his brother in need he cannot claim to love God if he does not help him

Parable of Sheep and Goats - it is those who have helped others who will be rewarded in heaven.

Buddhist Teachings

Karma - our actions will affect our rebirth

Ahimsa - (non-violence) the idea that no one should suffer.

Dana - generosity or charity or giving

Karuna - love and compassion

“I always say, if you wish to be happy and aim for self-interest, then care for others. This brings lasting happiness. This is real self-interest, enlightened self-interest.” Dalai Lama

Religion and Morality

(Unit 3)

Quotation revision guide 2015

Religious Attitudes to:

Matters of Life

Matters of Death

Drug Abuse

Crime and Punishment

Rich and Poor in

British Society

World Poverty
Religious Attitudes to Rich and Poor in British Society

**Christian Teachings**

Gambling denies the biblical work ethic that associates honest labour with deserved reward.

Gambling implies greed and a greedy person makes money an idol and so will not go to heaven.

“The love of money is the root of all evil” (New Testament)

Some fundraising is acceptable, like raffles and some agree that the lottery is fine in moderation.

No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money (New Testament)

Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of your possessions (New Testament)

Go sell everything you have and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven (New Testament)

If anyone has material possessions and see his brother in need how can he love God. (New Testament)

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven” (Camel Quote)

“For your heart will always be where your riches are.” (New Testament)

“Remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the power to become rich.” (Old Testament)

“They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed.” (New Testament)

**Buddhist Teachings**

Craving (tanha) associated with gambling and wealth will not bring true happiness

Wealth should be earned honestly (Right Livelihood)

We need wealth to meet our needs but no more in case we become attached to it.

“Riches ruin the foolish...through craving for riches, the foolish one ruins himself” (Dhammapada)

Dana - (charity or generosity or giving)

Karuna - loving compassion in wishing others to be free from suffering (dukkha)

“Unskilful thoughts founded in greed are what keep us circling in Samsara”

Acquiring wealth is acceptable if, at the same time, it promotes the well-being of the community or society.

“There can be no peace as long as there is grinding poverty.” (Dalai Lama)

“Wealth is neither good or bad... One holds wealth not for oneself but for all beings

Religious Attitudes to Rich and Poor in British Society

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Religion Attitudes to Drug Abuse

Christian Teachings

You should learn to control your body in a way that is holy and honourable (New Testament)

You are created in God's image. (Old Testament)

Your body is God's temple and God's spirit lives in you (New Testament)

All life is God-given and therefore precious

Alcohol ok in moderation - Wine is used at Holy Communion

Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana

But…Getting drunk will make you loud and foolish (Proverbs - Old Testament)

Buddhist Teachings

"Health is the greatest of gifts" (Dhammapada)

Follow the Noble Eightfold Path - work must be positive and helpful
(Right Livelihood - will not work in tobacco/alcohol industry)

Fifth Precept - "I will not take alcohol or drugs that cloud the mind"

First Precept - "I will not harm another living being." (Will not take or offer drink, cigarettes, drugs etc.)

Right Mindfulness, Right Contemplation

"All our suffering comes about as a result of an undisciplined mind" (Dalai Lama)

Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment

Christian Teachings

"Love your neighbour" (Jesus)

Christian love (agape) should be shown to all people

Pray for those who persecute you (Jesus)

Follow the Ten Commandments to keep on the right path

Forgive your brother seventy times seven (Jesus)

The Lord's Prayer - recognises that everyone sins and needs forgiveness

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." (New Testament).

Parable of Lost Son and Story of Woman caught in Adultery

Buddhist Teachings

Suffering (dukkha) is caused by attachment to the material world

The law of karma - the sum total of good and bad actions

Buddhists practise metta - Loving kindness and karuna - love and compassion

Story of Milarepa - all people are capable of change.

The Three Poisons - (greed, hatred, ignorance) are the cause of evil actions.

“I believe that as long as one is alive there is the possibility to change and redress whatever wrong one has done.” (Dalai Lama)
Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life

Christian Teachings
Sanctity of life
Jesus helped others - follow his example.
“Be compassionate” (Jesus)
“Love one another.” (Jesus to his disciples)
“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb”. (Old Testament)
“We have the opportunity to help others out of the love for Christ, through the donation of organs and tissues.”

Buddhist Teachings
All lives are shaped by karma, and suffering (dukkha) in this life is from Karma
Life exists from conception
“Cherish in your hearts boundless goodwill to all beings” (Buddha)
In his many lifetimes, the Buddha gave up his own life to save that of others. For example, lying down before a starving lioness so that she could eat him and then feed her cubs.
The Bodhisattva vow - to help all who need help.
The Second Precept - I will not take that which is not given.”

Religion Attitudes to the Elderly and Death

Christian Teachings
“Honour your father and mother” (Ten Commandments)
“Listen to your father who gave you life and do not hate your mother when she is old.” (Proverb - Old Testament)
“You shall rise up before the grey headed, and honour the aged.” (Leviticus - Old Testament)
God made you (Life) in his own image.
“I, your God, give life and I take it away.” (Old Testament)
It is the teaching of the Catholic Church that life be respected from conception until natural death.
Doctors do not have an overriding obligation to prolong life by all available means (Church of England)
“Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised.” (New Testament)

Buddhist Teachings
We may carry our mothers on one shoulder, and our fathers on the other, and look after them for a hundred years...we will still be in debt to them.
Old people are a demonstration of Annica (nothing last forever) so we learn from them
May all beings be happy (Buddhist blessing)
The Second Precept - “I will not harm another living being”
A primary guiding principle in Buddhism is the relief of suffering (dukkha)