

Issues of Good and Evil Knowledge Organiser

<p>KEY WORDS Good - That which is considered morally right; beneficial and to our advantage. Evil - That which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong. Forgiveness - To grant pardon for a wrongdoing; to give up resentment and the desire to seek revenge against a wrongdoer. Free Will - The ability to make choices voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is predetermined. Justice - Fairness; where everyone has equal provisions and opportunity. Morality - Principles and standards determining which actions are right or wrong. Punishment - A penalty given to someone for a crime or wrong they have done. Sin - Deliberate immoral action; breaking a religious or moral law. Suffering - Pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss. Suffering can be physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual.</p>		<p>How do we make moral decisions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conscience • The Law • Religious Leaders / Community elders • Religious teachings • Reason / Logic • Past experiences • Other values / beliefs 	<p>Types of morality Absolute - when a person has principles such as 'it is wrong to kill' and never alters it. They apply it to all situations e.g. abortion, euthanasia, war etc. Relative - when a person holds a moral principle but is prepared to adjust it in certain situations, e.g. abortion is acceptable after rape.</p>	<p>Crime versus Sin Crime is an offence that is punishable by law. The government makes laws; the police force prevents and detects crime; the courts enforce the laws and punish crime. A sin is a religious law, but not necessarily against a law of the country e.g. adultery is not a law but is a sin.</p>
<p>Prison Chaplains This is a religious role, where someone offers emotional care and pastoral support for the prisoners.</p>		<p>The relationship between justice and punishment Many people would say that justice cannot be achieved without some form of punishment. However, for justice to be truly achieved, the punishment must address the cause of the crime and reflect the severity of it.</p>	<p>Punishment and Utilitarianism Utilitarianism is an ethical theory that says the majority of society should be kept happy. The utilitarian approach to punishment is to punish offenders so that others are deterred from future wrongdoing. Laws and punishment should be used to keep society happy.</p>	
<p>The death penalty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still legal in over 80 countries. • Majority of those who use it are in Africa or Asia. • 31 of America's 50 states allow execution 	<p>Christian attitudes to punishment and justice Christianity is a life of forgiveness, so retribution is not supported. Christianity does teach about the importance of justice, meaning forgiveness and punishment should go together. Christians try to follow the example of Jesus who forgave those who betrayed him. Most Christians also believe that reform is an important aim. 'Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream'</p>	<p>Jewish attitudes to punishment and justice People have been given free will and therefore must take responsibility for their actions. Punishment should deter; protect society, provide retribution and promote justice. As God created a just world, Jews believe they must practise justice themselves. Judaism teaches about the importance of forgiveness, although only the victim can forgive, no one can forgive on another's behalf. Offenders should repent and ask for God's forgiveness.</p>		
<p>Arguments supporting the death penalty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has to be the ultimate punishment for the worst crimes • Life imprisonment is very expensive, approx £40 000 a year • It is the only way victims can experience closure 		<p>Arguments against the death penalty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's just state sanctioned murder; 2 wrongs don't make a right • There is evidence that innocent people have been executed • It is not a successful deterrent. 		<p>Religious teachings: forgiveness Christianity -Forgiveness is a prominent theme. -Evident in teachings & life of Jesus -'<i>Do not judge & you won't be judged</i>' -The Lord's prayer asks for forgiveness. -Jesus taught his followers to forgive 70x7 times. -Beatitudes also teaches 'blessed are the merciful, they will be shown mercy'</p>
<p>Christian attitudes towards the death penalty -Most liberal Christians believe only God has the right to take a life. -Execution goes against the sanctity of life - 'Do not kill' -Jesus taught to be compassionate and forgiving. -You cannot reform someone if they have been executed. -The Old Testament says 'an eye for an eye'; supports death penalty -The Old Testament specifies 36 crimes worthy of the death penalty</p>		<p>Jewish attitudes towards the death penalty -The Torah stipulates several offences worthy of the death penalty. -'<i>One who takes a human life must be put to death</i>' <i>Leviticus 24</i> -Some Orthodox Jews believe it should be used but only with great caution; -Israel allows the death penalty for genocide and treason -Reform Judaism has formally opposed the death penalty since 1959. -Reform Judaism teaches it goes against the commandment 'do not kill'</p>		
<p>Christian teachings on good -God made the earth & it was good' -God gave people free will - the ability to choose how to behave. -God has shown people how to lead a good life through His laws & commandments. -By following these you will lead a 'good live' and be rewarded in heaven.</p>	<p>Jewish teachings on good -God is good and will always care / protect people -The goodness of God is shown by the creation of the world and by the giving of the Ten Commandments. -Humans were given free will with the ability to choose how to behave. It is up to them to choose good.</p>	<p>Christian attitudes towards evil God allows evil to exist because it is necessary to help develop our souls. We need to learn about goodness. Everyone is born with the ability to commit sin (original sin) Life is a test and part of this is to see if we will still believe in God if we suffer (story of Job)</p>	<p>Jewish attitudes towards evil Evil exists due to the presence of free will but evil also comes from God as a test or a form of discipline to punish. Story of Job shows that suffering can come to anyone, even if they follow God. God is merciful and it is wrong to question Him. You should welcome both good and evil in their lives.</p>	<p>Judaism -It is a mitzvah (duty) to forgive. -The torah forbids Jews from taking revenge. -If you sincerely ask for forgiveness, someone is duty bound to forgive. -Festival of Yom Kippur focuses on atonement & asking for forgiveness</p>

