Your notes

KS3 Religious Education: revision notes

Religion, ethics and society

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Making moral decisions

- Religious people use sacred texts, the teachings of religious leaders, prayer and **conscience** to decide what is right.
- The **Golden Rule**, found in many religions, says to treat others as you want to be treated.
- Humanists and others use reason, evidence and the likely consequences for people's happiness.

Prejudice, justice and equality

- **Prejudice** is judging someone unfairly without knowing them; **discrimination** is treating them unfairly because of it.
- Religions teach that all people are equal: Christians believe everyone is made in the image of God; Sikhs believe God is in everyone.
- Martin Luther King Jr, a Christian minister, led peaceful campaigns for civil rights in the USA. Archbishop Desmond Tutu opposed apartheid in South Africa.
- **Social justice** means fair treatment and fair shares for everyone. Many religious charities, such as Christian Aid, Islamic Relief and Tzedek, work against poverty.

The environment

- **Stewardship** is the belief that humans have a duty to look after the world for God (Christianity and Judaism). In Islam, humans are khalifah (guardians) of the Earth.
- Hindus and Buddhists stress respect for all living things (ahimsa and the First Precept).
- Actions include recycling, cutting waste, protecting habitats and caring for animals.

War and peace

- **Pacifism** is the belief that all war and violence is wrong, as held by Quakers.
- The **Just War theory** sets conditions for when war might be justified, such as a just cause, being a last resort, and protecting civilians.
- Religions teach forgiveness and reconciliation after conflict.

Key terms

Conscience	An inner sense of right and wrong.
Golden Rule	Treat others as you want to be treated.
Prejudice	Judging someone unfairly without knowing them.
Discrimination	Treating someone unfairly because of prejudice.
Stewardship	The duty to look after the world.
Pacifism	The belief that all war and violence is wrong.
Just War theory	Conditions for when a war might be justified.
Social justice	Fair treatment and fair shares for everyone.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is the Golden Rule?
2. What is stewardship?
3. What is pacifism?
4. What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?
5. Who led peaceful campaigns for civil rights in the USA?
6. What is conscience?
7. What does the Just War theory do?
8. What does khalifah mean in Islam?

Answers

1. Treat others as you want to be treated
2. The duty to look after the world
3. The belief that all war and violence is wrong
4. Prejudice is an attitude; discrimination is an action
5. Martin Luther King Jr
6. An inner sense of right and wrong
7. Sets conditions for when war might be justified
8. Humans are guardians of the Earth

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Your notes

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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