

**Key**

**Bullet points:**

- this is a core concept first launched in Y7
- + this is a core concept from a previous year that is revisited in more depth year on year.

Core concept	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<b>Sanctity of Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Christianity teaches that humans are made imago dei</li> <li>→ Islam teaches that humans are purposeful creations of Allah</li> <li>→ Sikhism teaches that God created all humans with a divine spark</li> <li>→ Some religious believers accept scientific explanations of humanity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Human Dignity is linked with sanctity of life</li> <li>+ Human dignity states that all people are equal and worthy of respect as all are creatures of God</li> <li>→ Jesus’ teachings and example promoted human dignity and equality</li> <li>→ Prophet Muhammad taught about social justice and this is lived out through practices like zakat</li> <li>→ Guru Nanak’s central teaching was around equality and the absence of caste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ + Genesis teaches that all human life is sacred, precious and worthy of protection</li> <li>+ + Jesus’ teaching and example supports the belief that all human life has intrinsic sanctity</li> <li>+ + The Qur’an teaches that all human life is sacred and this is reinforced by Shariah</li> <li>+ + Sikhism teaches that all humans are created with a divine spark</li> <li>+ Islam and Christianity have different interpretations of when and if abortion is acceptable</li> <li>+ Islam and Christianity have different interpretations of when and if stem-cell research is acceptable</li> <li>+ Sikhism and Christianity have different interpretations of when and if testing on animals is acceptable</li> <li>→ Peter Singer argues that not all life is of equal value</li> <li>→ Euthanasia is the ending of life via medical means and Humanists support the legalisation of this</li> <li>+ Peter Singer says that animals have intrinsic rights</li> <li>+ Quality of life is the extent to which life has enjoyment and dignity</li> <li>+ Social science data tells us that abortion is considered morally acceptable in Britain</li> <li>+ Social science data tells us that the majority of people in modern Britain want legal access to euthanasia</li> </ul>
<b>Nature of God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Abrahamic faiths each that God is the Creator and sustainer</li> <li>→ Abrahamic faiths teach that God gave humans responsibilities at Creation</li> <li>→ Abrahamic faiths teach that true and timeless knowledge comes through revelation from God</li> <li>→ Sikhism teaches that knowledge comes via the Guru’s transmitted by God</li> <li>→ Genesis teaches that God is omnipotent</li> <li>→ Humanists do not believe in a Creator God or Supreme Being</li> <li>→ Noah teaches that God can punish humans</li> <li>→ Abraham teaches that God has a covenant with man; Isaac teaches that God requires obedience</li> <li>→ Moses teaches that God can be vengeful but also can give guidance</li> <li>→ Jesus teaches that God is omnibenevolent and forgiving</li> <li>→ The revelations of Prophet Muhammad teach that there is only one God</li> <li>→ The revelation of Guru Nanak teach that God is timeless and eternal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There are 2 types of evil – moral and natural</li> <li>+ Suffering causes people to question the existence of God (the Inconsistent Triad)</li> <li>+ Religion provides theodicies that respond to these</li> <li>+ Genesis teaches that suffering comes from not following God</li> <li>+ Job teaches that suffering is a part of God’s good universe and can happen to anyone</li> <li>+ The Free Will Defence argues that suffering has to exist if there is to be human freedom;</li> <li>+ the Soul Making Theodicy argues that suffering helps us grow as humans</li> <li>+ Islam teaches that suffering is part of the will and plan of Allah – it is a test for humans; Sikhism teaches that suffering exists because of human selfishness and ego but allows us to help others</li> <li>+ The Teleological Argument claims that the world is perfectly designed by a creator God; Hume argues there is no evidence of intelligent design in the world</li> <li>+ The First Cause Argument claims that God is the ultimate cause of the universe; The existence of miracles can be argued to prove the existence of God</li> <li>+ Hume argues it is irrational to believe in miracles; Pascal’s Wager argues it is pragmatic to believe in God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ + Some within Abrahamic faiths teach that there is purpose to our suffering and that we should not seek medical means to intervene, eg: through euthanasia</li> <li>→ + God will be with us throughout our suffering and this impacts beliefs about medical ethics issues</li> </ul>

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<b>Duty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ To be a person of faith is to believe you have been given duties and responsibilities by God</li> <li>→ Members of Abrahamic faiths have duty of stewardship</li> <li>→ Actively caring for the environment is considered a religious duty for Jews and Christians</li> <li>→ Muslims respond to belief in Allah by practicing the 5 Pillars</li> <li>→ Sikhs respond to their belief in Waheguru through sewa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Humanists believe humans should act with compassion to alleviate suffering</li> <li>+ Faith communities respond to suffering through service to others</li> <li>+ Prophet Muhammad taught about social justice and this is lived out through compulsory practices like zakat</li> <li>+ Personal conviction is when strong beliefs drive actions</li> <li>+ Christianity teaches followers to challenge injustice</li> <li>+ Islam instructs followers to stand for justice</li> <li>+ The faith-driven actions of Muhammad Ali and Martin Luther King challenged injustices in society</li> <li>+ The faith-driven actions of the Sikh community drive social justice in the community</li> <li>→ The faith-driven actions of Steve Chalke have challenged injustices in society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There are examples from history of wars linked with perceived religious duty</li> <li>+ Religious extremism has several causes (including perceptions of duty) and can lead to conflict</li> <li>+ For some pacifism is considered a religious duty</li> <li>+ The cause of the conflict in Israel and Palestine is political but complicated by religious extremism</li> <li>+ + Charity is an expression of duty</li> <li>+ Religious organisations / charities work to support marginalised communities in Israel and Palestine</li> <li>+ + Muhammad Ali's personal conviction led him to refuse to participate in conflict</li> </ul>
<b>Wisdom and Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Sociology is the study of people in society</li> <li>→ Sociology includes how society responds to belief</li> <li>→ Humanists defer to science as a source of wisdom and authority</li> <li>→ Creation narratives give meaning to humans</li> <li>→ Creation narratives from scripture give meaning to faith members</li> <li>→ Cosmology teaches that humans have the same components of stars</li> <li>→ Out of Africa theory teaches that humans evolved from less complex creatures</li> <li>→ Science answers 'how' questions; religion answers 'why' questions</li> <li>→ Socrates argues that we gain knowledge through questioning others</li> <li>→ Plato argues that knowledge is based on ideas or 'forms'</li> <li>→ Berkeley argues that knowledge comes from perception and ultimately from God</li> <li>→ Confucius argues that knowledge comes from accepting our own ignorance / education</li> <li>→ Faith members believe that knowledge and wisdom comes through revelation from God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ We live in a pluralistic and increasingly secular nation; belief in God has declined significantly in last 20 years</li> <li>+ Old Testament Covenants are a source of wisdom promoting social justice and fairness in society</li> <li>+ Old Testament prophets Amos and Jeremiah promoted social justice</li> <li>+ Universal Declaration of Human Rights exists to ensure social justice</li> <li>→ Karl Marx argues that religion cannot be a source of wisdom as it causes people to tolerate injustice</li> <li>+ Atheists and humanists offer logical, metaphysical and scriptural arguments against the existence of God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The Ten Commandments and Parables of Jesus as a source of authority for making decisions</li> <li>+ Shariah as a source of moral authority</li> <li>+ Sikh principles of oneness of humanity, universal brotherhood and sewa as a source of moral authority</li> <li>+ Social science data tells us that abortion is considered morally acceptable in Britain</li> <li>→ Social science data tells us that the majority of people in modern Britain want legal access to euthanasia</li> </ul>
<b>Morality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Philosophy can provide a source of moral authority</li> <li>→ Faith can provide a source of moral authority</li> <li>→ Scripture can provide a source of moral authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Morality is knowing the difference between right and wrong, and choosing right</li> <li>→ Some argue the existence of morality in humans proves the God exists</li> <li>→ It is considered a morally good act to support those in need and to work for social justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There are 2 types of morality – absolute and relative</li> <li>+ Virtue Ethics supports making decisions based on good human characteristics</li> <li>+ Situation Ethics supports making decisions based on agape love</li> <li>+ Utilitarian Ethics support making decisions based on the greatest happiness for the greatest number</li> <li>+ Conscience Theory supports making decisions based on our internal moral compass</li> <li>+ Divine Command Theory supports making decisions based on divine law</li> <li>+ The Ten Commandments and Parables of Jesus as support for decisions</li> <li>+ Shariah as providing moral guidance</li> <li>+ Sikh principles of oneness of humanity, universal brotherhood and sewa as providing moral guidance</li> <li>+ Islam teaches that war can only be fought in self-defence and following strict rules</li> <li>+ Christianity teaches that war can only be fought for a just cause following strict rules</li> <li>+ Sikhism teaches that war can only be fought in defence of righteousness</li> <li>+ Pacifism is both a religious and ethical principle that opposes conflict</li> </ul>