

GCSE



WJEC GCSE in
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Scheme of learning Unit 3
Catholic Christianity Issues
of Human Rights



| Lesson | Area of Study | Specific Content | Concepts | Resources and possible learning activities |
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| 1-2 | Human Rights and Social Justice | An example of conflict between personal religious conviction and the laws of a country. | Personal conviction; prejudice, discrimination | <p>A number of examples may be found most suited to the class being taught.</p> <p>A straightforward case presented here: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/09/bed-and-breakfast-gay-couple-appeal from 2013 involving B and B owner Susanne Wilkinson versus Michael Black and his partner John Morgan.</p> <p>Useful to follow up with discussion on the Moral Maze and the conflict between religious belief and human rights law here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00xw1t9</p> <p>Reference could also be made to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his Letter from a Birmingham Jail (Alabama). Also, useful for the Bible or conscience as a source of authority which is in section Core Catholic Beliefs and Teaching. The key argument is that personal religious conviction must be followed even if it means breaking civil law of an unjust society: https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/letter-birmingham-jail</p> |
| 3 | Human Rights and Social Justice | The beliefs, teaching and attitude of the Catholic Church on respect for the human person and the dignity of human life (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1929-1933) | Human rights; social justice | <p>Useful background material for discussion can be found on the website here: http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/. Regarding the dignity of the human person there is also plenty of material here: http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/themes/human-dignity/</p> <p>Accessible material can be found here from Young Christian Workers including relevant biblical passages: http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/1_Valuing_All_Life.pdf</p> <p>Relevant section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a3.htm Key point that respect for the human person based on the fact that God is the creator and that the rights and dignity of the human person '<i>are prior to society</i>'.</p> |

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| 4-5 | Human Rights and Social Justice | The tension between freedom of religious expression and respect for others, tolerance, censorship and religious extremism (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2493-2499) | Censorship; extremism | <p>Relevant section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a8.htm in the section dealing with the use of the Social Communications Media in the context of loving your neighbour as yourself and having respect for the truth.</p> <p>Important background to this topic can be found in the Vatican Two document '<i>Dignitatis humanae</i>' which can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651207_dignitatis-humanae_en.html</p> <p>Good background discussion of the link between tolerance and religious liberty can be found here: https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/religion-and-philosophy/philosophy/tolerance-and-religious-liberty.html</p> <p>Often-cited example of Christian religious extremism can be found in the Westboro Baptist Church which follows a strict interpretation of 16th century Conservative Protestant Calvinism. Good discussion material can be found in the case of Snyder (a Catholic whose son in the US military was killed in Iraq) vs Phelps (who demonstrated with offensive placards outside the church where the funeral was held) here: http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2056613,00.html Phelps (of the Westboro Baptist Church) won the case. Worth noting that members of the Westboro Baptist Church were banned from entering the UK where they planned on holding a demonstration.</p> |
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| 6-7 | Human Rights and Social Justice | The understanding of the Catholic Church on the Common Good (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1905-1912) | | <p>Relevant section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a2.htm with the definition of the Common Good being given in 1906: <i>'the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily'</i>.</p> <p>A little dated and lengthy but useful nevertheless is the 1996 statement by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 'The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching' which can be found here: http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/THE-COMMON-GOOD-AND-THE-CATHOLIC-CHURCH_1996.pdf</p> <p>Useful more developed explanation of the Common Good can be found here: http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles/glossary/ and on the website in general: http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/</p> |
| 8 | Human Rights and Social Justice | Catholic practices to promote human rights including equality; the Mass as communion and unity. | | <p>Relevant section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a3.htm where the key statement is that the eucharist is the sign and the cause of <i>'the communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church'</i>.</p> <p>Useful approach to the Mass as communion and unity can be found here: https://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/audiences/2000/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_20001108.html where Pope Saint John Paul explains that there is both a vertical communion between the people and God and a horizontal communion between the people and others in the church building and then with everyone in the universal Catholic Church.</p> <p>The key point is that communion is a sign of unity where all – not only those within the Church - are brothers and sisters of each other with God as Father of all. Therefore, the unity is as that of a family where there is equality of human dignity and equality of human rights.</p> <p>Useful material on Catholic practices regarding Justice and Peace can be found here regarding the National Justice and Peace Network: https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/</p> <p>This topic can also be used to link with issues of wealth and poverty and the work of CAFOD.</p> |

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| 9 | Prejudice and discrimination | Catholic beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination: Galatians 3: 27-29. | Prejudice; discrimination | <p>Good GCSE material for this section can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eh_HXrurrTA</p> <p>Useful to follow up from previous lesson regarding the Mass as communion and union where the concept of all humanity as brothers and sisters of each other rules out prejudice and discrimination.</p> <p>Key phrase from the Catechism of the Catholic Church 360: '<i>Because of its common origin the human race forms a unity</i>' which can then link to Galatians 3: 27-29 where '<i>all are one in Christ</i>'.</p> |
| 10 | Prejudice and discrimination | Catholic beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards racial prejudice and discrimination, including the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1934-1938. | | <p>Worth looking at the work of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice which can be found here: https://www.carj.org.uk/</p> <p>Relevant section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a3.htm with the key teaching that people are created differently but that '<i>these differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods</i>'.</p> <p>Useful newspaper article here: https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/a-brief-history-of-the-catholic-churchs-fight-against-racism-35090 which outlines teachings of the Church against racism.</p> |

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| 11 | Prejudice and discrimination | Equality (Mark 12:31; Acts 10:34-35) with particular reference to race, gender, religious belief and disability. | <p>Recap of the Greatest commandment here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db-IE_f2U5I</p> <p>Dramatisation of Peter's dream and Cornelius which puts Acts 10:34-35 into context can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeEUuzU9MQg</p> <p>Useful material as background and source for quotations can be found in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church which can be found here: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html</p> <p>Paragraphs 144-148 (D. THE EQUAL DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE) deal with equality.</p> <p>A good presentation of the points raised can be found here including a short but pertinent clip of a talk given by Pope Benedict http://www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=44032</p> <p>Useful material can also be found here from the Justice and Peace organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia: http://justiceandpeace.org.au/catholic-social-teaching-and-living-with-disability/</p> |
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| 12 | Issues of wealth and poverty | Ethical considerations about the acquisition and use of wealth: Luke 16:19-30, Mark 10:21-31; Mark 12:41-44. | <p>Important background to the teaching of Jesus that at that time, wealth would have been regarded as a blessing from God hence the radical nature of Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:20, <i>'Blessed are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of heaven.'</i></p> <p>Against this background, the Rich Young Man and Jesus (Mark 10:21-31) can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YehxfK8oXx0</p> <p>The message of this encounter can then be re-inforced using the account of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44) where even though she was poor <i>'she put in everything she had.'</i></p> <p>Luke 16:19-30 (the Rich Man and Lazarus) has already been covered with regard to Catholic beliefs and teachings about the Afterlife. Useful to connect this with the Lord's Prayer ('Give us our daily bread') and the teaching found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2831: <i>'But the presence of those who hunger because they lack bread opens up another profound meaning of this petition. The drama of hunger in the world calls Christians who pray sincerely to exercise responsibility toward their brethren, both in their personal behaviour and in their solidarity with the human family. This petition of the Lord's Prayer cannot be isolated from the parables of the poor man Lazarus and of the Last Judgment.'</i></p> <p>Useful here to link the rejection of wealth with the monastic and mendicant orders. The accounts of St Francis – Il Poverello – are also helpful and link to the choice by the present Pope of the name 'Francis'.</p> <p>Good discussion material in all of the above as to why wealth is acquired. Useful to keep 1 Timothy 6:10 in mind as well, where St. Paul wrote: <i>'The love of money is the root to all evil.'</i></p> <p>The Catechism of the Catholic Church upholds the right to private property but makes three useful points about the acquisition and use of wealth in 2407: there should be:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>temperance</i>, to moderate attachment to this world's goods; <i>justice</i>, to preserve our neighbour's rights and render him what is his due; <i>solidarity</i>, in accordance with the Golden Rule</p> |
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| 13-14 | Issues of wealth and poverty | The actions and attitudes of a Catholic charity in twenty first century Britain whose aim is to alleviate poverty: CAFOD. | Relative and absolute poverty | <p>Useful GCSE revision material covering CAFOD can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFy-pYDVRiQ</p> <p>Useful explanation of relative and absolute poverty can be found here: http://www.poverty.org.uk/summary/social%20exclusion.shtml</p> <p>A great deal of material can be found on the CAFOD website here: https://cafod.org.uk/</p> <p>Important that links are made between the work of CAFOD and the material above as in the short clip here which connects human dignity with the work of CAFOD: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zhtPDXRthM and here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeQm9owQ8L0</p> <p>Opportunity with this part of the course for individual/group presentations.</p> |
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