

RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS



ALDER
Community High School

YEAR 11 CORE

How do we know what is good?		
Autumn	Knowledge	Key Vocabulary
	- To know that fundamental ethical theories such as deontology (duty ethics, like Kant's absolutism) and utilitarianism (greatest happiness, like Mill's situational ethics) provide frameworks for understanding moral behaviour, often explored through dilemmas like the trolley problem. - To know that a philosopher is an individual who studies profound questions regarding how to live well, act correctly, and acquire knowledge, among other significant life inquiries. - To know that moral laws and codes are essential rules that guide behaviour, with many religions providing their own distinct moral frameworks, such as the Ten Commandments. - To know that there are differing views on what defines being human, ranging from the ability to think rationally (Aristotle, Kant) to the capacity to fear pain, death, and suffering (Peter Singer). - To know that the concept of "sacred" denotes something holy or important to God, and many religions uniquely view human life as special (e.g., created in God's image in Christianity, stewards of creation in Islam). - To know that other religions, like Hindu Dharma and Buddhism, extend the concept of sacredness to all living beings, emphasizing the value and potential of all life forms, with some even considering all lives equal. - To know that vivisection (animal testing) is largely opposed by Buddhists due to the harm it causes, while Christians and Muslims may accept limited animal testing when it benefits humans. - To know that cloning involves creating an exact replica of an organism, with examples including animals and therapeutic cloning for medical purposes, but it raises ethical concerns for many, especially regarding embryo destruction. - To know that genetic engineering, the process of altering an organism's genetic makeup, is often viewed with caution by most religions, as it can be seen as "playing God" and often involves the destruction of embryos. - To know that In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), the fertilization of an egg outside the body, is met with varied religious responses, where some Christians oppose it due to embryo destruction, while others accept it as a God-given medical advancement.	1. Absolutist 2. Utilitarian 3. Sanctity of life 4. Vivisection 5. Genetic engineering 6. IVF 7. Clone 8. Duty ethics 9. Philosophy 10. Moral law/code



How do religious and social science perspectives influence the debate on capital punishment for serious crimes?

Spring

Knowledge

- To know that capital punishment (the death penalty) is still used in 55 countries worldwide, with various methods such as firing squad and lethal injection.
- To know that laws surrounding the death penalty differ significantly across countries like the USA, Saudi Arabia, Japan, China, Somalia, and North Korea.
- To know that arguments for capital punishment often cite retribution and closure for victims' families, while arguments against it focus on the sanctity of life, the risk of executing innocent people, and potential biases in its application.
- To know that some Christians support capital punishment based on Old Testament teachings, while others oppose it due to Jesus' teachings on forgiveness and redemption.
- To know that freewill is the ability to choose actions, while determinism suggests choices are influenced by past events or experiences.
- To know that the "nature vs. nurture" debate explores whether individuals are inherently bad or become bad due to their environment.
- To know that case studies like Gypsy-Rose Blanchard, James Bulger, the Moors Murders, and Fred and Rose West will be analysed to understand concepts of moral responsibility, free will, determinism, and the influence of upbringing on behaviour.
- To know that forgiveness is a central Christian teaching, exemplified by the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant and Gee Walker's forgiveness of her son's murderers.
- To know that the controversial execution of Derek Bentley and the subsequent public pressure contributed to the abolition of the death penalty in the UK in 1965.
- To know that the 1957 Homicide Act introduced "diminished responsibility" rules, influenced by cases like Bentley's.

Key Vocabulary

1. Death penalty/capital punishment
2. Freewill
3. Determinism
4. Forgiveness
5. Pardon
6. Joint enterprise
7. Age of criminal responsibility
8. Diminished responsibility
9. Peer pressure
10. Prosecution/defence