






AQA Religious Studies A – Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Key Words			
Aid	Charitable assistance given in times of crisis such as food, money or water	People Trafficking	The illegal movement of people, usually for the purpose of forced labour
Discrimination	Actions which stem from a prejudice against someone	Positive Discrimination	Providing favourable treatment to groups who are normally discriminated against
Equality	The belief that all humans are of equal value and status	Poverty	The state of being without enough money to live a comfortable life
Exploitation	The misuse of power or money to get others to do things for little reward	Prejudice	Beliefs held about somebody based on their status or identity
Freedom of Religion	The freedom to practice your religion without persecution	Social Justice	Fighting to ensure all people in society are treated fairly
Human Rights	Fundamental rights to which all humans should have access	Tithe	A proportion of annual income paid directly to a church

Key Ideas		
<p><b>Social Justice</b></p> 	<p><b>Human Rights</b></p> <p>Human Rights are the fundamental rights to which all humans should have access. They were adopted by the UN in 1948 as part of the <b>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</b>. They include the right to <b>life</b>, to <b>security</b>, to <b>privacy</b>, to an <b>education</b> and to a <b>fair trial</b>. Along with these humans also have <b>responsibilities</b> to act within the law and not infringe on others' rights.</p>	<p><b>Prejudice and Discrimination</b></p> <p>Christians have a fundamental belief in <b>equality</b>, that all people are equal in front of God. <i>"You are one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28</i>  <b>Prejudice</b> means holding views on someone based on their identity or status e.g. gender or race.  <b>Discrimination</b> means acting on those views and treating people differently.                      Christianity has historically held a <b>prejudice against women</b>, but this is eroding recently with women now holding high positions in the CoE.</p>
<p><b>Religious Freedom + Racism</b></p> 	<p><b>Religious Freedom</b></p> <p>Christians believe people of all religions should have the freedom to practice their faith, this is <b>freedom of religion</b>. In some parts of the world this freedom is threatened by oppressive governments. In some parts of the Middle East Christians have faced <b>persecution</b> for expressing their faith.</p>	<p><b>Racism</b></p> <p>Christians <b>oppose</b> racial prejudice and discrimination. Racism is illegal in the UK under the 1976 Race Relations Act.  <b>Dr Martin Luther King Jr.</b> became the leader of the Civil Rights Movement which fought for equality for black people in the US, he was a committed Christian and inspired by the Bible and Jesus.</p>
<p><b>Wealth and Poverty</b></p> 	<p>Although Christians do not ordinarily have a problem with people earning money and becoming wealthy, they are wary of the dangers attached to this such as <b>greed</b> and <b>selfishness</b>. The Bible famously states that <i>"the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil" 1 Timothy 6:10</i> Jesus taught that <b>you cannot serve both God and money</b> and that it is not possible for a rich person to enter heaven if they had not given away their wealth to those in need. Christians seek to help those who live in <b>poverty</b> without enough money to meet their basic needs. People may find themselves in poverty because of debt, exploitation, a corrupt government or a natural disaster. Many people in the UK are in poverty due to unemployment, illness or disability.</p>	
<p><b>Exploitation</b></p> 	<p><b>Exploitation</b> means misusing money or power in order to take advantage of people. This might involve paying them an unfair amount for their work. In the UK the <b>National Minimum Wage Act</b> of 1998 set the lowest amount an employer can pay someone making it illegal to exploit people on extremely low pay.  <b>People trafficking</b> is another form of exploitation where people are taken from poverty and forced to work away from home for little or no pay. This can be found in the building trade and in the sex industry. Christians work to oppose people trafficking and exploitation as these make poverty worse and create a more unequal and unfair society.</p>	
<p><b>Aid and Justice</b></p> 	<p>The Bible teaches Christians to have a strong belief in <b>justice</b>, <b>fairness</b> and <b>equality</b>. It also states that <i>"faith without works is dead" James 2:14</i> which means they must put these beliefs into practice. Christians can support charities such as <b>Christian Aid</b> and <b>Cafod</b> which provide <b>aid</b> for those in most need. This can be <b>emergency aid</b> which is sent to disaster zones or <b>long-term aid</b> which helps people in LEDCs improve their welfare and prospects.                      They might also support a campaign like <b>Fairtrade</b> which aims to make sure farmers and producers abroad are paid a fair amount for their products such as sugar, coffee and chocolate.</p>	