

GCSE

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Units 1 and 2 – Christianity

**Compatible content within the
specification**



MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CONTENT FOR WJEC GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNIT 1

In order to try and compensate for lost teaching time, it is possible to try to connect different areas of the specification content in a more synoptic or holistic way. Below is a suggestion of how Unit 1 Part B content (Philosophy and Ethics from a Christian perspective) could be delivered in this more thematic way by connecting it with areas of the Part A Christianity content.

UNIT 1, PART B – RELIGION & PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES (from a Christian perspective)	UNIT 1, PART A – CHRISTIANITY
<p>Issues of Life and Death</p> <p>The world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes about the accounts of the origin of the universe: Genesis 1 and 2 ➤ The relationship between Christian views and non-religious views of creation and the extent to which they conflict ➤ Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship: Genesis 1:28, Psalm 8:6 ➤ The work of Christian Aid to promote global citizenship <p>Non-religious views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the creation of the universe: 'Big-Bang theory' (Stephen Hawking) 'Blind' Evolution versus 'Planned' Evolution (Charles Darwin and Richard Dawkins). ➤ stewardship, social and community responsibility, sustainability; 'Humanists for a Better World' <p>The origin and value of human life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the origin and sanctity of human life: Genesis 1:31, Jeremiah 1:5 ➤ Diverse Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia, including Catholic and Church in Wales' views on beginning and end of life issues 	<p>Christianity – Core beliefs, teachings and practices</p> <p>Beliefs</p> <p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creator and sustainer, omnipotence, omnibenevolence, omniscience, omnipresence ➤ Beliefs and teachings on Creation from the Genesis accounts (Genesis 1-3, esp. Genesis 1:1-3) ➤ Nature of Humanity: image of God, soul, moral, free will, rational, creative, fallen, (Genesis 1-3, esp. Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15-17) ➤ Trinity: The three aspects of one God – Father (Luke 15:11-32), Son (John 1:1-3, 14), Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26, Galatians 5:22-23) <p>Jesus as God Incarnate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Son (John 1:1-3, 14), Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26, Galatians 5:22-23) ➤ Jesus as Messiah (Matthew 16:13-17), Saviour, Word: the Incarnation (John 1:1-3, 14), salvation and atonement (John 3:16, 14:6) ➤ His birth, crucifixion, resurrection (key elements of the accounts of Jesus' birth, (Matthew 1:18- 2:12 and Luke 1:26-35 and 2:1-21), death (Mark 15:1-39), resurrection (John 20:1-21) and ascension (Acts 1:9-11)

- Welsh laws regarding organ donation and Christian responses to it

Non-religious views on:

- quality of life over sanctity of life in relation to abortion and euthanasia (the views of Peter Singer – 'speciesism')
- 'Right to Choose', 'Dignity in Dying' (euthanasia)
- emphasis on life before death rather than after-life
- situationist/relativist approach rather than doctrinal or absolutist

Beliefs about death and the afterlife

- Christian beliefs and teachings about life after death, including soul, judgement, heaven and hell: John 11:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
- Diverse Christian beliefs about the after-life: Heaven, Hell, Resurrection, Purgatory
- How Christian funerals reflect beliefs about the after-life
- Humanist funerals in Wales as reflections of beliefs about death as the end of life

Practices

Morality

- Divine command/absolutist and situational/relativist approaches to ethical decision making
- Teachings of Jesus (Matthew 7:13-14 Matthew 25:31-46)
- Love/agapé (Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35)
- Forgiveness (Matthew 6:5-13; Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 23:34 Matthew 5:43-44)
- Treasures on earth/in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 16:19-31)

Church

- Diversity of Christianity: Catholic, Anglican, Church in Wales, non-conformist churches and chapels
- Role of the local church
- Diverse features of churches and chapels and diversity of worship practices
- Importance of prayer, communal and private – Matthew 6:5-13, Matthew 18:20
- Social and community functions of churches, examples in Wales: food banks, the work of the Salvation Army, the work of Shelter Cymru
- Christian groups working for Social justice, Reconciliation, Inter-faith dialogue e.g. Interfaith Council for Wales, World Council of Churches, Christian-Muslim Forum, Council of Christians and Jews
- Persecution of Christians in the modern world (Matthew 10:22)

Theme 2: Issues of Good and Evil

Crime and Punishment

- What makes an act 'wrong'?
- Religious and ethical responses: relative and absolute morality, conscience, virtues, sin
- Beliefs and attitudes about the causes of crime and the aims of punishment: justice, retribution, deterrence and reformation
- The treatment of criminals and the work of prison reformers and prison chaplains
- Varied Christian responses to the Death Penalty, including interpretations of Christian teaching: Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:38-39, 43-47

Forgiveness

- Peace and conflict: Just War Theory, Pacifism and Conscientious Objectors, Wales' Society of Friends (pacifism)
- Christian teachings about forgiveness, including interpretations of teachings: Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6: 14-15
- Examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs

Good, Evil and Suffering

- Philosophical perspectives on the origin of evil: Original Sin (free will) and 'soul-making' (Augustine and Irenaeus/Hick)
- Philosophical challenges posed by belief in God and the existence of evil and suffering

MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CONTENT FOR WJEC GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNIT 2

In order to try and compensate for lost teaching time, it is possible to try to connect different areas of the specification content in a more synoptic or holistic way. Below is a suggestion of how Unit 2 Part B content (Philosophy and Ethics from a Christian perspective) could be delivered in this more thematic way by connecting it with areas of the Part A Christianity content.

UNIT 2, PART B – RELIGION & PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES (from a Christian perspective)	UNIT 2, PART A – CHRISTIANITY
<p>Theme 1: Issues of Relationships</p> <p>Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diverse Christian beliefs, attitudes and teachings about the nature and purpose of relationships in the 21st century: families, roles of women and men, marriage outside the religious tradition and cohabitation ➤ The nature and purpose of marriage as expressed through Christian marriage ceremonies and teachings: Mark 10:6-8 and the Church of England Synod ➤ Diverse Christian attitudes towards adultery, divorce and annulment and separation and re-marriage. Interpretations of Matthew 19:8-9 and Mark 10:9 <p>Sexual relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christian teachings about the nature and purpose of sex and the use of contraception including varied interpretations of the Natural Law/Absolutist approach of Thomas Aquinas' Five Primary Precepts with reference to the second Primary Precept ➤ Diverse attitudes within and across Christian traditions towards same sex relationships, including varied interpretations of Leviticus 20:13, and 1 Timothy 1: 8-10 	<p>Beliefs</p> <p>The Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As Word of God, authority, sacred scripture (Deuteronomy 4:1-2) inspiration and revelation ➤ As a collection of writings based on context, audience, society, authors' intentions ➤ Uses/usefulness (2 Timothy 3:16-17); absolute law, guidance, use during worship and ceremonies (Christening, Marriage, Funerals) ➤ Differing ways of interpreting biblical writings: literal, conservative, symbolic, biblical myth ➤ Bible in relation to other sources of authority, e.g. conscience (Romans 2:14-15), family, reason, society, situations, civil law, circumstances <p>The Afterlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Belief in life after death (John 3:16, John 11: 25-26 and Gospel records of the Resurrection) ➤ Judgement, responsibility for actions (Matthew 25:31-46) and free will ➤ Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15: 20-22) ➤ Heaven and Hell (John 14:1-4; Luke 16:19-31)

Issues of equality: gender prejudice and discrimination

- Diverse attitudes within Christianity toward the roles of women and men in worship and authority
- Interpretations of teachings: 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Galatians 3:27-29
- Church in Wales' decisions regarding women priests and bishops compared to Catholic views

Practices

Life's Journey: Sacraments and key acts of worship

- Baptisms (Mark 1:9-11); Infant and Believers' Baptism; reasons and rituals
- Eucharist/Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26): diverse Christian interpretations and associated practices
- Confirmation – preparation and ceremony (Acts 2: 1-13)
- Significance of a religious wedding (Mark 10:7-9): matrimonial symbols and vows

Special Places

- Significance of a place of worship (Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:20)
- Purpose of pilgrimage, places, activities, experiences in Wales and elsewhere, e.g. Holy Land, St. David's, Bardsey Island, St. Non's Well

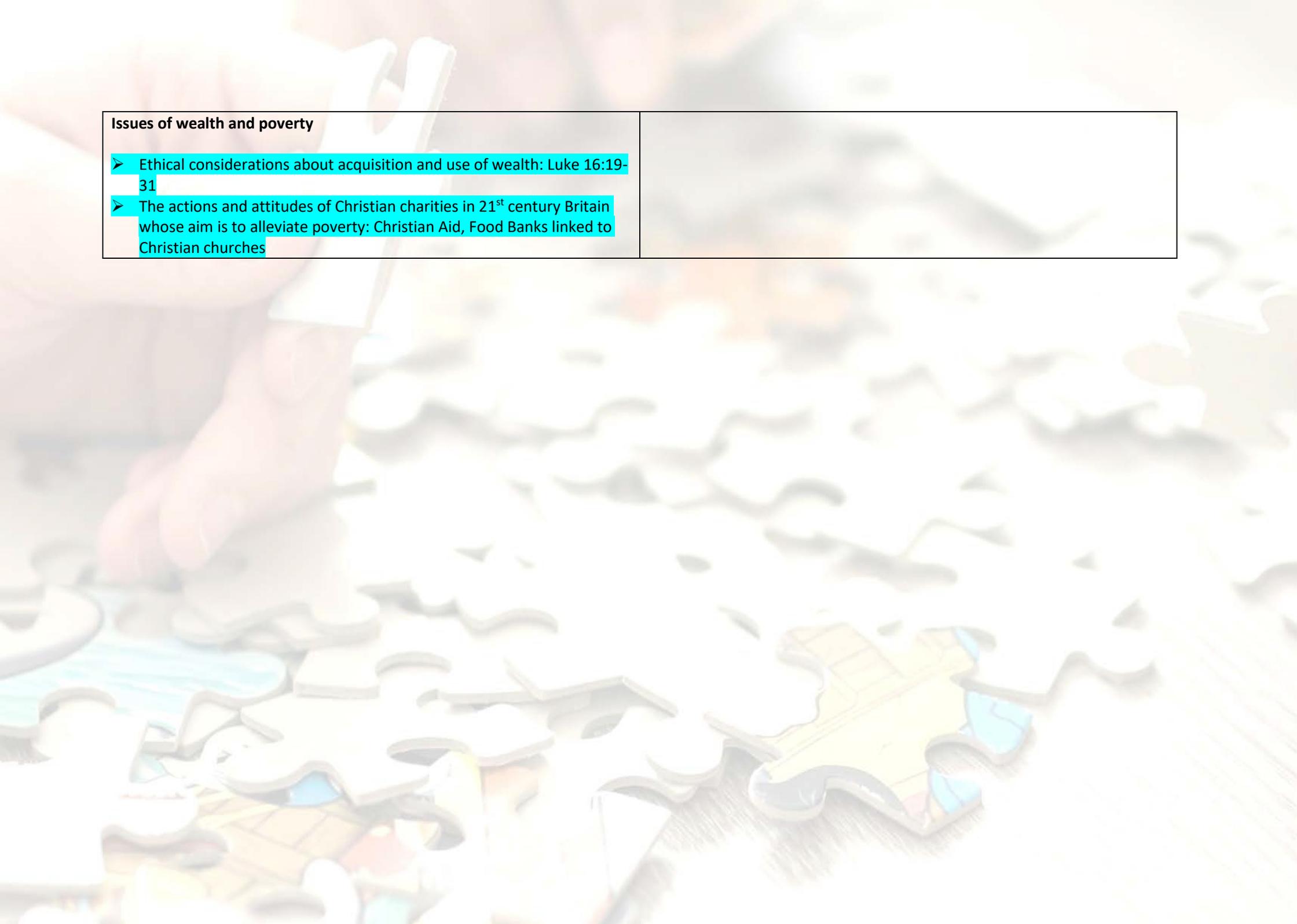
Theme 2: Issues of Human Rights

Human Rights and Social Justice

- Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the dignity of human life: Genesis 1:26-27
- Christian practices to promote human rights including equality: agapé in action
- An example of conflict between personal religious conviction and the laws of a country
- Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

Prejudice and discrimination

- Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination: Galatians 3:27-29
- Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards racial prejudice and discrimination, including Martin Luther King's teachings on equality

A hand is shown in the upper left corner, placing a white puzzle piece into a larger assembly of colorful puzzle pieces. The background is a soft-focus image of many puzzle pieces scattered on a light surface. The puzzle pieces feature various scenes, including a landscape with a blue sky, a yellow sun, and a blue body of water. The overall lighting is bright and warm, creating a sense of hope and completion.

Issues of wealth and poverty

- Ethical considerations about acquisition and use of wealth: Luke 16:19-31
- The actions and attitudes of Christian charities in 21st century Britain whose aim is to alleviate poverty: Christian Aid, Food Banks linked to Christian churches