

I need to know:

- How Humanists make decisions and apply this to moral dilemmas.
- Key terminology associated with moral issues.
- What the golden rule is and to explain the impact it could have on daily life.
- The Christian teachings on living the moral life.
- Islam and the morality and the act of giving
- The Five Moral precepts of Buddhism.



**Key Words and Definitions** (\*Key concepts used in GCSE)

- **Absolute Morality** – morals standards are either right or wrong. They do not change despite circumstance. For example, stealing is always wrong.
- **Buddha** – the ‘enlightened one’.
- **Ethics** - Involves questions of right and wrong. It is about following accepted rules of behaviour.
- **Golden Rule** – The principle of treating others how you want to be treated.
- **Hadith** - A book which contains the words and teachings of Muhammad. Muhammad was said to be kind, compassionate and have wisdom.
- **Morality\*** - standards which determine whether something is right or wrong.
- **Qur’an** - that which is read or recited’. It is the Divine book (the most important Muslim sacred text) revealed to the Prophet Muhammad: Allah’s (God) final revelation to humankind.
- **Relative Morality** - moral standards that are flexible depending upon the circumstances.
- **Sunnah** - The second most important source of wisdom for Muslims. It contains the way Muhammad lived his life.
- **The Sermon on the Mount** – Jesus’s most significant sermon giving guidance on how to live a moral life.
- **The Ten Commandments** – A list of commandments/rules from the Old Testament.
- **Utilitarianism** – the belief that a good act is one that brings the greatest good for the greatest number.

**Humanism**

- Humanists do not believe in **God**
- They believe that **science** provides answers to life’s big questions
- They believe that people should use logic and reason to make **decisions**
- Humanists will weigh up the amount of happiness and pain caused before deciding to do something.

*‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.’* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Christianity and Morality**

Many Christians follow the Ten Commandments. Today many Christian believers focus on the teachings of Jesus from the New Testament. Jesus said there were two greatest commandments... *‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ... And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’* Matthew 22:36-39.

**The Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5-7) – This was Jesus’ most famous sermon giving guidance to people on how live a moral life.

**The Golden Rule**



The Golden Rule is the principle of treating others as you want to be treated. It is a rule that is found in many religions and cultures.

*‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’* Matthew 7:1



**Islam and Morality**

- Any action that is morally good benefits society. Any action that is morally bad, does not benefit society.
- Muhammad said a person can reach the best levels in paradise by having a good moral character. To reach those levels a person has to be a good devout Muslim who keep the duties (such as the Five Pillars of Islam), but also follows a moral code which best them treat others with respect and kindness.
- Muslims follow virtues from the Islam moral code.

**Buddhism and Morality**

Many Buddhists follow the teachings of the Buddha. This includes the Middle Way which has three parts to it:

1. **Wisdom** – Buddhists need to recognise that everything changes, and things are interdependent.
2. **Morality** – the Buddhist moral code for living. See the Five precepts on the next page.

Arrow Tasks – You could enhance your learning by visiting one of the suggested websites on the next page. Evaluation question challenges – Can anyone be of good moral character all the time? ‘Anyone can give to those less fortunate.’ Do you agree?