

Link to prior : Origins and Meaning/ Judaism links

Key concepts/words: **THE WHAT:** THESE WILL BE YOUR 2 MARK ANSWERS. COMPLETE THESE AND LEARN THEM: DEFINE AND AN EXAMPLE FOR EACH.

**SUFFERING**  
**NATURAL LAW**  
**CONSCIENCE**  
**EVIL**  
**PRIVATION**  
**FREE WILL**  
**INCARNATION**  
**GOODNESS**

**Key sources: THE WHY:**

“There are three things in love...love is of someone that loves, and with love something is loved. Behold, then, there are three things: he that loves, and that which is loved, and love.” (St Augustine)

“We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty...We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God...We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.” (Nicene Creed)

“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John)

“Who, being in very nature God...made himself nothing” (St Paul – Kenosis Hymn)

Good and Evil thread 1—Christian beliefs

Good and evil where does it come from?

FREE WILL – humans choose to do wrong. Most suffering is caused by humans misusing their free will. ORIGINAL SIN – God created a perfect world. Adam and Eve went against God. This introduced pain and suffering into the world. We all have Original Sin, the tendency to go against God.

AUGUSTINE’S VIEW - God made a perfect world. Fallen angels caused chaos in nature which brought natural evil into the world and Adam & Eve brought moral evil. Evil helps us to appreciate good. Evil is a privation of good.

RESPONSES TO SUFFERING: THE WHY?

We can’t understand God so shouldn’t try to (story of Job); We suffer because we love ‘grief is the price we pay for love’; Discipleship will always involve suffering. We share in Jesus’ suffering when we suffer; The world is not supposed to be perfect, heaven is perfect and without suffering; Suffering gives us an opportunity to help others through prayer and action; We deserve our suffering when we misuse our free will; We should bear our suffering patiently and we will grow stronger (Pope John Paul Salvifici Doloris)

St Augustine: Humans are to blame for the suffering, not God. The story of Genesis tells how Adam and Eve decided to eat the forbidden fruit, going against God’s wishes. This is the first (original) sin, (the Fall). St Augustine gives three answers to the question of suffering: 1) The existence of evil helps people to appreciate the good in the world. 2) Evil is just the absence of good things. This is called privation. God does not cause or permit evil because evil isn’t even a thing. 3) God allows suffering because he is omnipotent and good. He is always able to bring a greater good out of suffering.

Other views about suffering:

**Christian:** John Hick: God made suffering to help us to grow and learn.

**Jewish view:** Jews do not believe in original sin but they do believe that humans are born with the inclination to do good and evil. The Torah teaches that they must struggle against the evil and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur give them the opportunity to return to God when they fail. Some suffering is a test or punishment from God but we cannot understand God and so should not question him

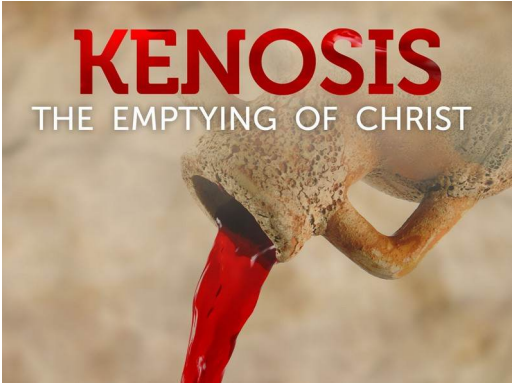
**Atheist response: David Hume and John Mackie:** God does not exist. The belief that God is all powerful, all knowing and all good is an ‘inconsistent triad’ (Hume)

**Mackie said:** We don’t need bad to appreciate good and even if we did we don’t need as much suffering as we have in the world. Why does God need to make us better people through suffering? Why not just make us perfect to begin with? Why does God allow us to choose evil?

**Incarnation:** Catholics believe that Jesus is God the Son. God became a human being through the person of Jesus. This is ‘the incarnation’ because God became human ‘in the flesh’ in the person of Jesus. When Catholics call Jesus the ‘Son of God’, they mean that he is God who has become a human being; that he is the ‘incarnate Son’. Catholics also believe that Jesus is ‘fully God and fully human’. Catholics believe that Jesus is one person, with two natures: one human nature, and one divine (which means ‘godly’). The Gospel of John highlights that God became human and lived in the world. St Paul wrote the Kenosis hymn. Kenosis means ‘empty’ and shows that God gave up his power to become human in Jesus. (‘Carne’ = flesh) Jesus is FULLY GOD and FULLY HUMAN Jesus became human and can identify with human suffering. Those who suffer can be comforted – Jesus suffered too. Jesus is an example of how to accept suffering. Jesus’ suffering ended in the resurrection which gives us hope.

Kenosis Hymn: You have also studied the ‘Kenosis Hymn’ of St Paul, where Jesus ‘emptied himself’ to share in our humanity: ‘and being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.’ (Phil2:8). The belief in the incarnation helps Christians understand that God became human and suffered. Jesus suffered and was willing to take on that suffering, so everything we suffer, he has also suffered and when we suffer, he is with us in our suffering. You looked at the concept of the Consistent Triad (see pic on next page)

Key symbols



Cross curricular links issues of poverty and suffering in History/Geography. Economic structures. Catholic Social Teaching Judaism

Link to future: Life & death and belief in salvation and eternal life. The unit Sin & Forgiveness—redemption and forgiveness of sin.

c) Explain either from Catholic Christianity and Judaism or two Christian traditions, beliefs about the Trinity. (8)

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TIMELINE OF LEARNING

Practise exam questions —> timed questions in class—> end of unit assessment

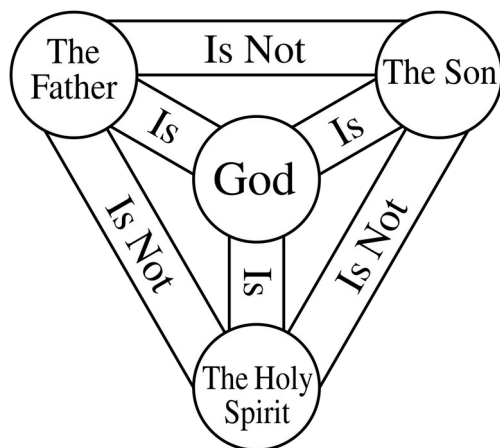
Link to prior : Good and Evil: where does evil come from? Original sin. Kenosis hymn

### Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

God made creation and 'saw that it was good'. He created colour, beauty and variety that are not required for the survival of the species because he is good and loves us. Only humans have a conscience. The instinct to 'do good and avoid evil' means we feel guilt when we fail. Our conscience must be informed by the Church, teachers, Bible etc. Natural Law (St Thomas Aquinas) God gives all humans the instinct to 'do good and avoid evil'. To do this we should follow the 5 primary precepts ; Worship God; live in an Ordered society; Reproduce; educate children, preserve life

### Key sources: THE WHY:

ISAIAH 53 "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain."  
Philippians 2:5-11 (The kenosis hymn) "Jesus made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."  
'For what is that which we call evil but the absence of good? Disease and wounds mean nothing but the absence of health' (St Augustine)



## Good and Evil thread 2—Problem of Evil

### Beliefs (Jewish)

**Jewish people** do not accept that Jesus was God, as this challenges their basic belief that God is one. This belief is stated in the Shema, which is a very important prayer for Jews. It is also stated in the Ten Commandments which were given to Moses on Mt Sinai: "You shall have no other gods before me". The Jewish patriarch, Abraham taught the early Jews that they were to believe in one God only as part of the covenant (promise/agreement) made with God. Orthodox Jews also reject beliefs in the Incarnation due to their beliefs about the Messiah. Jews reject the belief that Jesus is the Messiah because they believe that the Messiah will be a human descendant of King David. **Jewish beliefs about the Trinity:** Jews do not accept any belief in the Trinity, as they do not accept Jesus as the Son of God. There are different qualities of God such as 'lawgiver', 'judge' and 'creator' but these are only characteristics of the one God. These attributes of God are not separate persons, but are just the different ways in which human beings experience God. Orthodox Jews may argue that the belief in the Trinity challenges the first commandment "You shall have no gods before me". A belief in the Trinity would break the covenant that God made with Abraham and Moses.

### Inconsistent triad



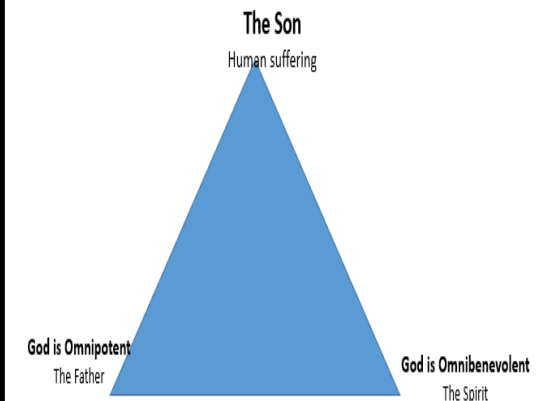
**David Hume**, atheist & Scottish Philosopher (1711-1776) presented this

argument, called the 'Inconsistent Triad.'

It finishes with the premise that either God is not good, or is not all powerful; or God does not exist. Hume believed God did not exist.

Trinity : THE WHAT: **Christians believe there is only one God.** God exists as 3 persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Each of the 3 persons is distinct from the other two. THIS IS A MYSTERY OF FAITH. AND A DOCTRINE. Each of the 3 persons is fully God, but there are not 3 gods. Even though the word 'Trinity' does not appear in the bible, the doctrine developed over hundreds of years and helps understand some of the identity of God. The doctrine of the Trinity is set out in the Nicene Creed, where the 3 persons have their distinct roles explained: Father: Creator of heaven and earth. Son: saviour of the world. Spirit: invisible & spiritual power who guides, helps and inspires humans. All 3 persons were present at Jesus' Baptism. The Nicene Creed is also said at Mass by everyone as a public declaration of faith. This binds them together as a faith community.

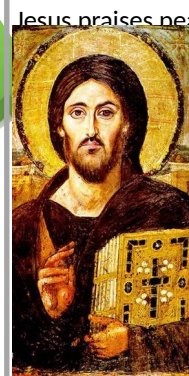
### Key symbols



**Cross curricular links : issues of poverty and suffering in History/Geography./ Economics structures./ Catholic Social Teaching Judaism**

### Jesus as moral authority :

Jesus praises peacemakers, the merciful and those who seek to do what is right. He says that those who will be rewarded. He tells us to do more than what the law requires e.g. do not murder comes do not be angry. He says 'turn the other cheek' and do good in private. Follow Jesus' example as he is the Son of God. We should use the teachings of the Church as the Pope is chosen by God and has authority. We should use the Bible as it is the Word of God. We should use our conscience as it is the voice of God speaking to us. We should use Natural Law to 'do good and avoid evil' We should do the most loving thing in (situation ethics) or utilitarianism. Jesus never brings the greatest happiness to the greatest number (utilitarianism ). We should treat others as you would like to be treated Jesus welcomed the sinner and the outcast Jesus said 'Love one another as I have loved you'



Link to future: C: Explain from two different religions/religious traditions the reasons for the problem of evil. (8 marks)

C: Explain how a Catholic might respond to the problem of evil and suffering.(8)

'Jesus' moral teachings are not relevant for today.' Discuss this statement showing you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) (15 marks)

'The only authority we should follow is our own conscience.' Discuss this statement showing you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) (15 marks)

### TIMELINE OF LEARNING

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Link to prior :  
aspects of suffering/Trinity/Kenosis hymn, non religious responses/Jewish responses

### Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

Catholic Christians, Liberal Christians and Jews believe in one God, who is omnipotent (all-powerful), omnibenevolent (all-loving) and omniscient (all-knowing). The problem caused by evil and suffering is that if God has these different qualities then he should want to end suffering and would have the power to end suffering. As suffering continues to happen then religious people ask the question: Why does the world contain so much evil and suffering?

### Key sources: THE WHY:

The Pieta

“That which is evil...enhances our admiration of the good” (St Augustine Enchiridion)

“For what is that which we call evil but the absence of good (privation)” (St Augustine Enchiridion)

“He (God) can bring good, even out of evil” (St Augustine Enchiridion)

“A world without problems and hardships would be morally static” (John Hick: Evil and the God of Love)



## Good and Evil thread 3—Symbolism and devotion

### Statues

**Why we should use statues:** Focus for prayer Someone whose example we can follow We ask the Saints to pray for us (we do not pray to the saints) Crucifix reminds us of Jesus' suffering for our salvation.

**Other Christian traditions, such as Protestants,** do not have statues as it goes against the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment. They would use a simple cross instead. **Jews,** also, do not use statues as a focus for prayer for the same reason. They would not represent God, who is beyond all human understanding, in any way.

**Catholics use statues** to reflect on the meaning of suffering. One we have studied and you need

**Other religious views on statues:** Goes against the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment 'Do not have idols' Praying to anyone other than God breaks the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment 'Worship one God'

**Michelangelo's Pieta:** A sculpture of Mary holding the body of Jesus, her son Mary's open hand – she accepts God's will Jesus seems at peace – no wounds are visible. Gives hope to those who suffer. Study the Pieta information and picture and answer these questions: How is God found as good in the Pieta?/How is human suffering shown to have meaning and purpose in the Pieta?/What is special about Mary's hands in the sculpture?/Is life all about suffering and how we deal with it? Write your thoughts about this question, with reference to the Pieta.

### Popular devotion:

**The rosary: What?** A set of beads to help Catholics focus on prayer. They pray decades of 10 Hail Marys, Our Father and Glory Be whilst focusing on the life of Jesus in the mysteries.

**Why?** The sorrowful mysteries can help those who suffer to consider how Jesus suffered too. His resurrection can bring them hope.

### Pilgrimages also enable:

the sick to accept their suffering

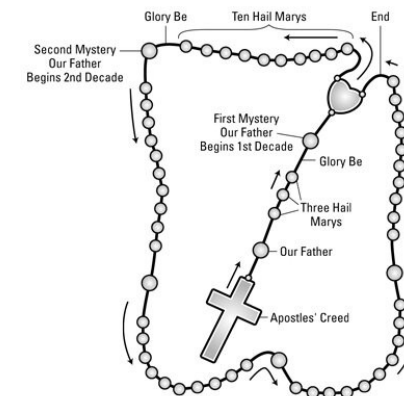
Some are cured (but very few)

Task: Look back at the work produced about Lourdes: 1858 Bernadette had a series of visions of Our lady.

Thousands travel there today to pray at the grotto. Young people volunteer for the sick and disabled a life changing experience.  
è What other shrines of Mary can you talk about?

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### Key symbols



**Cross curricular links : issues of poverty and suffering in History/Geography. Economic structures. Catholic Social Teaching Judaism**

### Pilgrimage

**Lourdes: What do people do there?** Visit grotto; Torchlight procession; Pray; Seek spiritual and physical healing; celebrate Mass; celebrate Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Why do people go there?** Pray for something special ; Strengthen their faith ; Give time and attention to God ; To thank God ; To show sorrow for sin Join with other members of their faith



Link to future: Connections between Sin & Forgiveness unit of work in Y11/pilgrimage in Judaism—festivals.

'A loving God would not let people suffer.' Discuss this statement showing you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) (15 marks)

The existence of suffering proves God does not exist.' Discuss this statement showing you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) (15 marks)

'All Christians should go on a pilgrimage to a religious place such as Lourdes, once in their life.' Discuss this statement showing you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) (15 marks)

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