



R.E. Department

Eduqas Route B—Component 1.2

GOOD AND EVIL

Revision



Conscience	human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.
Evil	the absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others which often results in suffering.
<u>Free Will</u>	the decision-making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free if a person can choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.
Goodness	the quality of being like God: seeking the well-being of others selflessly.
Incarnation	"Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.
Natural Law	the moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws. The belief in natural law is the belief that the moral law is discoverable by every human being and is the same for all human beings in all places at all times.
Privation	the loss or absence of a quality or something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.
Suffering	pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (often called moral evil); some is not (often called natural evil).

Origins of Evil and Suffering

KEY CONCEPTS

Evil - the absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others which often results in suffering.

Suffering - pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (often called moral evil); some is not (often called natural evil).

Privation - the loss or absence of a quality or something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.

Many Christians believe in the existence of an evil force, called **the Devil or Satan**, who tries to tempt human beings into disobeying God. Therefore evil is the result of the Devil's work (as seen in Genesis 1).

Many believe that God gave humans **free will** - the ability to choose our actions. Adam and Eve abused their free will in the Garden of Eden by disobeying God. This led to human suffering. Evil and suffering is therefore caused by humans misusing their free will.



St. Augustine and Privation of Good

St Augustine argued that the Bible shows that God is **wholly good** and that, according to Genesis 1, created a world perfectly good and free from defect, evil, and suffering: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

He said that evil is the PRIVATION of good, just as darkness is the absence of light.

Augustine said that evil came not from God, whom is all-good, but from those entities which had free will - angels and humans who turned their backs on God, the **Supreme Good**, and settled for lesser goods.

Moral Evil is the suffering inflicted by people on each other e.g. murder.

Natural Evil is suffering not caused by people but by the natural world e.g. earthquakes.

Christians have to try to reconcile their idea of God with the reality of suffering and evil in the world.

Catholic Responses to Evil and Suffering

KEY CONCEPTS

Free Will - the decision-making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free if a person is able to choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.

Some people cannot believe that a good God would have designed a world with natural evils in it.

If God is **omnipotent** he must be able to remove evil and suffering from the world.

If God is **Omni-benevolent** he must want to remove evil and suffering.

If God is **Omniscient** he will see all the suffering caused.

As there is evil and suffering in the world, either God is not omnipotent, or is not Omni-benevolent, or God does not exist.



Catholic responses to evil and suffering:

God knows the answer, but **people cannot understand**. Jesus showed us that God wants us to fight against evil and suffering so they follow the example of Jesus and pray for those who suffer and offer practical help

Some Christians think that God could not give humans **free will** unless they had the chance to do evil things (being free is part of being made in God's image). Humans have used their free will to do evil things and bring suffering into the world, not God.

Other Christians believe this life is a sort of **test in which people prepare their souls for heaven**. If there was no evil and suffering then they would not be able to develop as good people and help fight against evil and suffering.

All Christians believe they must respond to suffering by trying **to help those who suffer** by fighting against it.

Jesus's Suffering and Death

Christians often see Jesus's death as an atonement for sins. Humans are, by nature, sinful. They must be punished for disobeying God but God is loving and merciful.

He made it possible for humanity to be forgiven through the incarnation and Jesus taking on himself the punishment for sin.

Catholics believe that Jesus is in everyone, so when people suffer, Jesus suffers as well. However, the reason why Jesus died was to end suffering for us in our next life. He died so we could be free from sin, and go to Heaven. So even though we suffer in this life now, in the next life we shall be free from suffering.

St Paul in his letter to the Philippians says that through his suffering, he sees himself as participating in the Passion of Christ. Because we are being saved through the death and

resurrection of Christ we must participate in his Passion to obtain salvation.

The Catechism states that God wanted humanity to live in paradise with no suffering. However, Adam and Eve disobeyed him and therefore had to leave the paradise where there was no suffering or evil.

Catholics know that suffering is not eternal because in Revelation it says: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

The Trinity

The Trinity explains Christians beliefs of how the one God has revealed his nature in three distinct ways:

As the loving creator and sustainer of the universe (God the Father)

As the saviour who became incarnate (born in human flesh) and lived, died and rose again (God the Son)

As the source of strength which Christians find at work in their hearts (God the Holy Spirit)

The belief in the Trinity is found in Nicene Creed which is one of the earliest statements of Christian belief.

Trinity in the Bible

Matthew 3:16-17 - "And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'"

John 1:1 - In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Galatians 4:4-6 - But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."



St Augustine: De Trinitate

There are three things in love, as it were a trace of the Trinity. But what is love or charity, which divine Scripture so greatly praises and proclaims, except the love of good? But 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. What, then, is love, except a certain life which couples or seeks to couple together some two things, namely, him that loves, and that which is loved?

Jesus as Incarnation

KEY CONCEPTS

Incarnation - "Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.

The Word became flesh. That is Incarnation.

Incarnation refers to the central *Christian* belief that the *Son of God* assumed *human nature* and, as stated in the *Gospel of John*, "became flesh / and made his dwelling among us" (1:14).

In Christian terms the Incarnation means that God became human by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was born as a human, took on a human body, a full human nature and lived among mankind as one of them.

In doing this Jesus did not stop being God but, in some way we cannot understand, Jesus had dual nature. He was not part God and part man but wholly God and wholly man.

Jesus as Source of Moral Teaching

You have heard it said... (Law of Moses)	But I say to you ... (Jesus' interpretation)
Do not kill	Don't even be angry with your brother.
Do not commit adultery	Don't even look at another person lustfully.
Divorce can sometimes be permitted.	Divorce is strictly forbidden.
You can demand an eye for an eye	Forgive anyone who hurts you and do not seek revenge.
Love your neighbour, hate your enemy	Also love your enemies and pray for them.

Conscience and Natural Law

KEY CONCEPTS

Conscience - human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.

Natural Law - the moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws. The belief in natural law is the belief that the moral law is discoverable by every human being and is the same for all human beings in all places at all times.

Conscience

Christians believe that **conscience** is the voice of God in their heart and soul. This means that God, through the Holy Spirit, guides each person to make the right choices.

The more a person ignores their conscience the more they go against what they feel is right. The more a person sins, the more they block their conscience.

Conscience has to be educated. They should be guided by bible teachings like the Ten Commandments and the two Greatest Commandments of Jesus (Love God and Love your neighbour). They should also listen to the teachings of the Catholic Church which are infallibly guided by the Holy Spirit. After taking these teachings into consideration, conscience is the final deciding factor.



Should you listen to your conscience?

"Personal conscience and reason should not be set in opposition to the moral law or Magisterium (official teachings) of the Church" (CCC 2039)

For Christians, conscience helps them to live by high standards of doing good and avoiding evil. One person's conscience can inspire other people.

Christians believe that every member of the Church must listen to other people to ensure their conscience is guiding them properly.

All Christians can affect other people's conscience and so they should consider how they behave in case it alters other behaviour in a negative way.

Equally Christians must respect the fact that Church laws are based on guidance from the Holy Spirit over hundreds of years. Therefore they must take serious account of Church teachings.

Some people say that conscience is guided by natural law.

Natural Law

Natural Law is the moral principles and values that are considered to be inherent in all humans.

It was put forward by St. Aquinas who stated that nature has given all human beings a kind of inner compass which always points us towards the good rather than the bad. He says that this is worked out by understanding what our purposes are as human beings.

These are sometimes summarised as follows: To preserve human life, to procreate, to educate and to seek truth, to live in society, and to worship God.

These 'primary precepts' form part of Catholic tradition. The Catechism says "If people are to do good and avoid evil, certainty about what is good and evil will be inscribed within them."

Sculptures and Statues

The Catechism teaches "Arising from talent given by the Creator and from man's own effort, art is a form of practical wisdom, uniting knowledge and skill." This means that the Church teaches that artistic works are a reflection of a human being's inner riches.

Catholics use sculptures and statues to recall a person or an event. They can be a teaching tool (which was helpful in the past when people were illiterate). Catholics DO NOT worship statues - they are simply an aid to prayer.

Sculptures are good because they are realistic as they are 3D. The sculptures that are placed in Catholic church have to be approved by the local bishop. This is to ensure that they are moderate (not profane and overtly decorated) and that they express the Bible faithfully.

Statues help Catholics in prayer and meditation. Most Catholic churches have statues including at least one of Mary. Many Catholics have small statues in their homes which remind them of their faith. Some of these statues may link to a pilgrimage (eg. a statue of Mary and St Bernadette from Lourdes) or saint that is important for the family.

Catholics can show devotion to statues by:

Lighting candles in front of them

Touching or kissing them (particularly the crucifix on Good Friday for Veneration of the Cross)

Kneeling in front of them

Praying in front of them

Michelangelo's Pieta

Pieta means "pity" in Italian. This Pieta shows the body of Jesus on Mary's lap after his crucifixion and it is housed in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

The face of Jesus in this sculpture does not show any signs of his suffering.

It was the artist's intention to create an image that shows the serene face and vision of abandonment in Jesus.

Mary's face appears peaceful in the *Pieta*, it is her left hand, turned upward in helpless resignation, that betrays the true depth of emotion, indeed the intensity of her grief (her suffering).

This pieta can be used to help us to see that God is with us in our human suffering. Suffering is a universal reality that is present to humans at every point in their life. Catholics are reminded that through His suffering we are united to Jesus through our own suffering.



Pilgrimage

Pilgrimages are journeys to special places of religious significance. For Catholics Lourdes in France is a particularly important pilgrimage destination as it is a place of healing and miracles. It is especially popular with the sick.

Each year more than five million people, of whom a great number are sick or handicapped, go to Lourdes, from every country of the world.

During their pilgrimage they will follow the instructions of the Virgin Mary by participating in certain activities. These include:

- Go to Mass daily
- Take part in the Blessed Sacrament and Marian (torchlight) processions.
- Go to the Baths or drink from the spring.
- Go to confession
- Anointing of the sick
- Pray at the Grotto of Massabeille
- Light candles for their own and other peoples intentions.
- Do the stations of the Cross.

Our Lady of Lourdes with St. Bernadette

The Blessed Mother
appears to St.
Bernadette
Soubirous for the
first of 18 times.

The Blessed Mother
calls herself "the
Immaculate
Conception."

Feast Day: Feb. 11



The most important people in Lourdes are the sick and disabled. They will be placed at the front of the processions and all the Masses. The sick people can feel like a "person" again with a sense of belonging and worth.

Lourdes and Human Suffering

During the ninth apparition, when Bernadette scraped the earth the Virgin is said to have commanded her, "Go and drink at the spring and wash there." Pilgrims can be fully immersed in the **baths that contain water from the spring**. They do this in the hope that they may be healed by a miracle. However, they may also be praying that God will strengthen them to deal with their suffering.

Pilgrims complete the **Stations of the Cross**. One of the two sets of Stations at Lourdes are larger than life size and are situated on a winding pathway on a hill that overlooks the domain. By praying these Stations pilgrims remember the last day of Jesus' life when he was condemned to death and crucified. Some may even walk on their knees and pray in front of the Station that depicts Jesus' crucifixion.

By touching the rock of the Grotto, pilgrims get the strength to face their moral or physical pain, and give meaning to their life. Lourdes is not also a place for spiritual healing or healing of the heart. The sick and the so-called healthy, meet each other at the Grotto of the Apparitions, in front of the Virgin Mary. Here they can support each other by the crossing smiles, the exchange of gesture and the shared prayers.

The sick pilgrims will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Some effects of this sacrament include:

- taking away sins
- raising up and strengthening the soul
- enables the sufferer to endure the trials and hardship of sickness
- strengthens them against anxiety over death
- and sometimes to regain bodily health



These results help the sufferer unite themselves more closely to Christ and his Cross: by healing the soul of sin and its consequences, by conquering fear, anxiety and temptation - things that get in the way of us growing in love through suffering - and by enabling greater trust and courage.

Popular Piety, especially the Rosary

Popular piety (sometimes called devotions or non-liturgical worship) is celebration or worship of God which is part of the official public liturgy of the Church. Vatican II teaches that "spiritual life...is not limited solely to participation in the Liturgy." This means that Catholics should take part in other practices above just attending church services. This could include:

- praying the Rosary
- praying the Stations of the Cross
- attending Eucharistic adoration
- pilgrimages

The Rosary is a popular form of prayer for Catholics. By praying it Catholics remember important events both happy and sad from the life of Jesus and Mary, his mother. The Sorrowful Mysteries in particular help Catholics to reflect upon the suffering of Jesus and the incarnation.

"For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) The sorrowful mysteries show the significance of the Incarnation. Jesus suffering and death, as a man, allows us to see the goodness of God. He was prepared to sacrifice his only son for us.

"I have come to so that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10) Through the Incarnation we have been given new life. Through the suffering we see in the Sorrowful mysteries we can see that Jesus died to save a sinful world and give us the chance of new life.



Driver Word	MEANING
What is	Definition of a key concept
Describe...	Show knowledge and understanding by describing a belief, teaching, practice, event etc. You would need a few sentences.
Explain....	Show knowledge and understanding of a topic, supporting the statements made with reasoning and/or evidence. You will need at least to paragraphs.
Discuss....	Give reasons for and against a statement using religious and non-religious ideas. Evaluation of the reasons given. Personal responses per se will not be credited.