

# Philosophy and Ethics Short Course

## Poverty and Wealth



Every single day, 30,000 children are dying as a result of extreme poverty. That means around a thousand children will have died during one lesson - all the children at Arnewood School dying every hour, every day.

Problems in developing countries are complex, and one set of problems can lead to another in a 'vicious circle'. Difficulties faced include:

AIDS    Lack of education    Poor sanitation    Under-development    Flooding  
Unemployment    Debt    Trade restrictions    War    Few hospitals    Poor climate  
Child labour    Disease    Infant mortality    Malnutrition    Illiteracy    Slavery

**REVISION: Explain each of the terms above.**



What is a human life worth? Are some people worth more than others? What would you give to save someone's life?

It is easy to think that poor people are just unlucky, or that it is their own fault that they are poor. It is true that the leaders of some of the poorer countries have made their problems much worse. However, many of the problems that poor people face are caused by the way we treat them. That's why so many people have joined in the campaign to 'make poverty history'.

**TRADE JUSTICE.    DROP THE DEBT.    MORE AND BETTER AID.**

These 9 words sum up the campaign, and are worth remembering for your exam.

**REVISION: Explain what is meant by: Trade Justice, Debt relief, Aid.**



This is a way of describing the \_\_\_\_\_ between the rich and \_\_\_\_\_ countries in the world. The North includes the USA, Canada, Europe, Japan and \_\_\_\_\_. The South includes most of South America, \_\_\_\_\_ and Asia.

The countries of the South used to be called '\_\_\_\_\_ World' countries, but many people felt that made them sound \_\_\_\_\_. Now they are often called the '\_\_\_\_\_ World' instead.

The \_\_\_\_\_ countries have all the power – they control the way \_\_\_\_\_ is carried out and run the \_\_\_\_\_. Many people believe that these countries will have to fundamentally change if we are to live in a \_\_\_\_\_ world.

Many of the countries in the Developing World borrowed huge amounts of \_\_\_\_\_ when they gained their independence from the rich countries which had \_\_\_\_\_ them. The interest on these \_\_\_\_\_ is so great that they can't pay it off, let alone the amount they borrowed in the first place. This is known as Third World \_\_\_\_\_.

Rich countries send money to the poorer countries in \_\_\_\_\_ but then take back much more in debt repayment. Many people feel that the poorer countries have paid back enough and the banks should stop getting \_\_\_\_\_ at their expense. They believe it is time for the banks to \_\_\_\_\_ the debt and allow the poorer countries to start spending their money on themselves.

Developing	unjust	Australia	banks	Third	Debt
divisions	debts	First	fairer	Africa	inferior
colonized	rich	aid	cancel	Britain	money
	trade	Borrowing	poor	rich	



# TRADE JUSTICE

Write down how you feel about unfair trading laws that are robbing poorer countries of £500 billion every year.



Highlight or underline the key words in the article below that explain the issues behind trade justice.

## ROBBED, RIPPED OFF and RUINED...

(taken from [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org))

Something is very wrong with world trade - it's filling the pockets of the rich while ripping off the world's poorest people. Why is this happening? What can we do? Read on to find out why **MakePovertyHistory** is calling for Trade Justice.

Millions of people are stuck in the trade trap. No matter how hard they work, they earn less every year. The situation is so dismal, half the world's population now lives on less than US\$2 a day - roughly the cost of a burger. Why are people cheated of a proper living?

### Trade rules:

You may not be aware of them, but trade rules control how countries do business with each other. They are agreed at international level, and are supposed to make sure nations compete openly and fairly.

In reality they don't.

That's because the rules are rigged - loaded in favour of the wealthiest countries and their business interests.

So no matter how hard people work in the developing world, or how much their countries produce, trade relationships benefit the rich world most.

The result is misery for hundreds of millions of people who just want the chance to make a living, feed themselves, send their kids to school and create a better future for the next generation.

### So who's behind these unfair trade rules?

A handful of big international organisations set the rules and policies controlling the way we trade.

The problem is policies aren't decided democratically, but on the basis of who has the most economic clout. While paying lip-service to fairness, the richest countries, with their almost limitless resources, steer decision-making in their interests.

Poor countries lose out time and again.

### Meet the big boys

Three main bodies combine to write the rules of trade:

- World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)



All three are dominated by the world's richest nations.

### What are they doing?

Between them, they're forcing poor countries to open up their markets to foreign imports and businesses, and sell off public services like electricity - even when this isn't in their interest. They're also banning poor countries from supporting vulnerable farmers and industries, while wealthy nations continue to support their own.

All this is being done in the name of 'liberalisation' - and 'free trade' or leaving things to market forces.

### The fall out

Developing countries are getting hammered.

Livelihoods are going to the wall, as farms and businesses go bust, unable to compete with a flood of cheap, subsidised imports.

Governments are losing control of basic public services, as they're snapped up by profit-hungry investors. And workforces are being cynically plundered for cheap labour by powerful, under-regulated transnational companies, leaving thousands open to abuse and exploitation.

### What can we do?

It's simple really, change the rules. Now.

It's an obvious solution - challenge and change the rules so they work for poor countries. Re-write them in favour of the poorest countries so they can develop, build their own industries, grow stronger, and one day compete as equals.

Rich countries used trade rules to protect themselves as they developed - which is how they got where they are now. We consider it fair to use trade rules to end world poverty as we know it.

### Who's listening?

Governments are listening - the call for fairer trade rules grows every day and it's becoming impossible to ignore.

And governments can actually do something. They have ultimate control over the WTO, IMF and World Bank - because they have more say in negotiations than anyone else.

And our own government? The UK is in a uniquely strong position to influence trade rules this year. As President of the European Union and meeting of world leaders (known as the G8), they have a once in a generation chance to show leadership on beating poverty.

The time is right. The rules must change. Help us press home the message.

**Make poverty history, and join us.**

# DROP THE DEBT



Jubilee Debt Campaign member WDM counts the number of children dying from poverty during the G7 Finance Ministers' meeting, February 2005.

The world's most impoverished countries are in a debt crisis. Even though they have already repaid far more than they originally borrowed, poor countries are still forced to pay £60 million EVERY DAY to the rich world in debt repayments, rather than spending the money on vital healthcare and education.

The UN estimates that 7 million children die unnecessarily each year, from diseases that can be cured and from unclean water that could be made safe. If money which poor countries pay to the rich world in debt service was spent instead on tackling poverty, the lives of millions of children in poor countries would be saved. Debt kills.

Making the situation even worse are the damaging and unfair conditions attached to debt cancellation. These make the poor poorer and undermine democracy, making debt itself into a tool of rich world control over poor countries. This must end.



## Debt burden

- Total external debt of low-income countries - £350 billion
- Total debt service being paid every day by low-income countries -£60 million
- Africa's total external debt -approx £200 billion
- For every £1 received in grant aid, low income countries pay: -£2.30 in debt service
- Many African countries spend more on debt than either health or education. (Eg Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia all spent more on debt than health in 2002 (latest figures))

## Funding dictators and runaway interest rates

- Total loans made to oppressive regimes (low and middle-income countries) -£350 billion
- Loans to South Africa's apartheid regime (being repaid by current government) -£15 billion
- Africa's debt stock in 1970 -£7 billion
- Africa's debt stock in 2002 -£195 billion

## Debt relief – too little, too slow, and with strings attached

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative is the current international debt relief scheme

- Countries which have received debt cancellation through HIPC -19
- Total debt cancellation through HIPC [between 1996 - 2005] -£20 billion
- Debt cancellation granted in one day to Iraq by the 'Paris Club' -£21 billion (Nov. 04)
- Number of qualified teachers which Zambia was unable to employ because of a public sector wage freeze imposed by the IMF in 2004 as a condition of receiving HIPC debt relief -9,000

## Debt Hurts

- In 2004, Zambia's debt repayments to the IMF alone cost £18 million, more than the country's education despite 40% of rural women being unable to read and write.
- Sub-Saharan Africa receives £7 billion in aid every year – but has to pay back at least this amount in debt repayments.
- Malawi spends more on servicing its debt than on health, despite nearly one in five Malawians being HIV positive.
- Despite being the second country to be granted debt cancellation (after Uganda) Bolivia still spends more on debt servicing than on health, even though its infant mortality rate is 10 times that of the UK.

## Debt Cancellation Works

- In Benin, 54% of the money saved through debt relief has been spent on health, including on rural primary health care and HIV programmes.
- In Tanzania, debt relief enabled the government to abolish primary school fees, leading to a 66% increase in attendance.
- After Mozambique was granted debt relief, it was able to offer all children free immunisation.
- In Uganda, debt relief led to 2.2 million people gaining access to water.

**REVISION: (a) Describe the main causes of hunger in the world. [8]**



# MORE AND BETTER AID

## CHRISTIAN ACTION

There are many different Christian charities that help those who are poor, both in England and in developing countries. They include Christian Aid, TEAR Fund and CAFOD. One useful way to remember what these charities do is to create an acronym:

**C**ommunity-based projects, working with local people  
**H**elping people to help themselves, rather than offering handouts  
**R**aising awareness as well as money, so people understand about debt, trade etc.  
**I**nvolving ordinary people - collecting money, travelling abroad, working as volunteers  
**S**aying prayers, holding special services, encouraging people to think about others  
**T**eaching people new skills, farming methods etc. giving them a self-sufficient future  
**I**nvesting in long-term projects rather than quick-fix solutions  
**A**id in emergencies such as floods, famines, earthquakes  
**N**ot only abroad, but helping the homeless, unemployed etc. in the UK



**A**ction against unfair laws, poor working conditions, low pay, child labour etc.  
**I**ndividual campaigns - Jubilee 2000 to clear debt; Make Poverty History; Fair Trade  
**D**evelopment - digging wells, building hospitals and schools, improving sanitation

### Why do they do this work?

- Their work is a direct response to their Christian Faith.
- They believe *God loves everyone equally*, so they try to put *God's love* into practise.
- They believe *God can be found in every human being*, because we all made in the image of *God*. Because of this, no-one has the right to cause injustice, international debt, etc..
- They try to help establish *God's kingdom on earth* - fairness, love, justice and peace.
- Christian Aid is putting *Jesus* as example into practice.

**Christian Aid tries to put the Bible's message into practice.**

### **Main Christian beliefs – a summary**

1. Christians have a duty to care for those in need. Giving is an important part of Christian Life.
2. Christians must act on their beliefs and help the needy; by doing this helping God.
3. All humans are created "**in the image of God**" Genesis 1:27; we are equal in God's eyes – we therefore have a responsibility to help all people.
4. We all belong to the family of God.
5. Christian Love is based on compassion and action.
6. God wants a world of justice and fairness, according to the Bible. It is human sin and disobedience which destroys this and stops justice.



**REVISION:** Write your own summary of Christian beliefs about poverty and wealth.

Write your own acrostic for TEAR Fund and CAFOD.

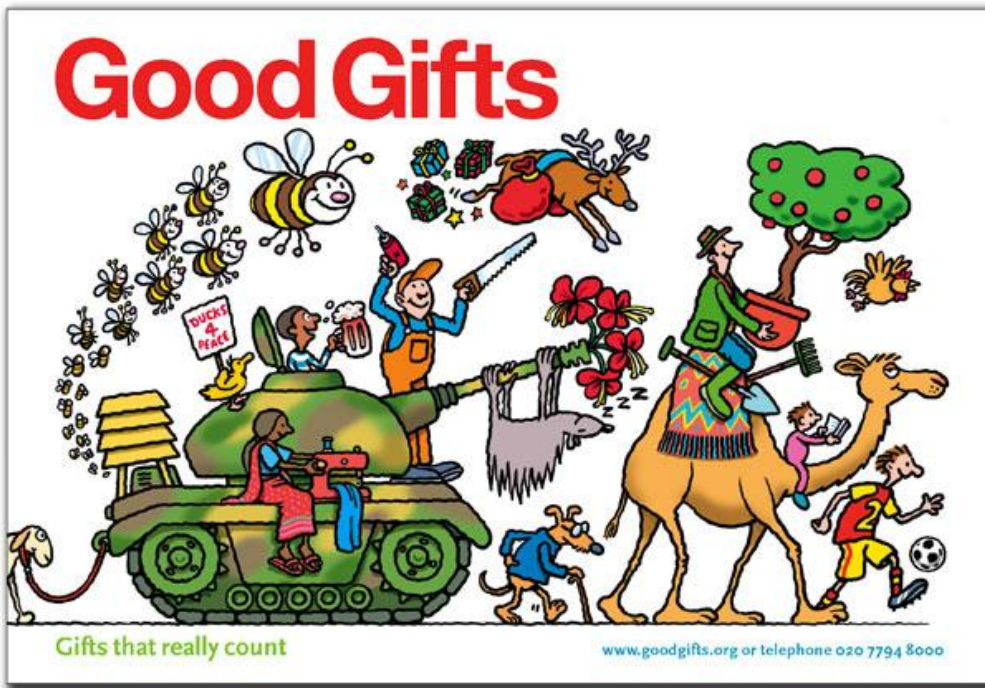
**CAFOD**  
just one world



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(b) Describe how Christians might put beliefs about helping others into practice. [7]



Which **goodgift** would you buy for a friend? Explain why.

Can you think of your own idea for a Good Gift?



# Ethical Consumerism

Many Christians feel uncomfortable living in the modern "consumerist" world that puts money and profit before people. Consumerism is a reality. However, there are many principles that can help people to spend their money more ethically. For example, it is much better to do your weekly shop at a Farm shop which sells local produce, than to go to a supermarket that brings food from all over the world. The local producer will get more money from the farm shop, and less damage is done to the environment if the food hasn't travelled far.

**Positive buying** is favouring ethical products, be they fair trade, organic or cruelty free. This option is arguably the most important since it directly supports progressive companies.

**Negative purchasing** means avoiding products you disapprove of such as battery eggs or polluting cars.

**Company-based purchasing** involves targeting a business as a whole. For example, the Nestlé boycott targets all its brands and subsidiaries in a bid to force the company to change its marketing of baby milk formula in the Third World.



*"I hope you companies of Wal-Mart and Nike will come and put their factories in Kazakhstan, where we have hardest-working 7-year-olds in all of world."*

## How to buy ethically

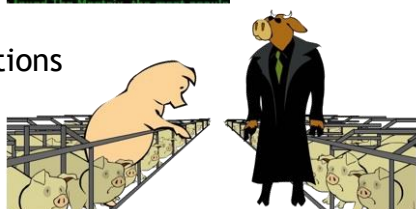
1. Buy from local shops and health food shops
2. Buy products labelled "Fair trade"
3. Avoid products tested on animals
4. Buy vegan and vegetarian products
5. Buy organic produce
6. Buy Non-genetically altered food
7. Ethical money - choose your bank and investment products carefully
8. Get involved in Recycling
9. Buy second hand products when possible
10. Try to buy Wood Products and look for the FSC logo



## Things to avoid

Christians try not buy from companies that:

- make or use gambling equipment
- produce firearms
- create alcohol or tobacco
- operate nuclear power stations
- sell military weapons
- experiment on animals
- pollute the environment
- produce pornography
- have a bad human rights record
- have poor employment records
- work with oppressive regimes
- support GM foods, embryology, abortion etc.



Use this page to design a poster encouraging people to think about how they shop.

## Moral and Immoral Occupations

In the same way that Christians will think carefully about which companies they buy from, they will also choose a job that fits in with their beliefs. Christians working in industry might particularly look for companies that actively support:



- environmental protection
- pollution control
- conservation and recycling
- safety and security
- ethical employment practices
- fair trade



(c) “It would be wrong for a Christian to work in a shop that sells pornography.” Do you agree?

### Yes

- Pornography exploits women and takes away their dignity
- If you work there, it makes other people think what you’re selling is okay
- You need to stand up for what you believe

### No

- You could let your employer know how you feel and ‘change things from within’.
- It’s not your fault that the shop sells what it does.
- If you don’t work there, someone else will

I think that you have to stay true to your beliefs, and if you don’t agree with pornography you shouldn’t work in a shop that sells it. However, I wouldn’t mind working there as I think pornography’s just a part of life.

(c) “It is wrong to work for businesses that just make money out of people.” Do you agree?

### Yes

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### No

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I think that...



(c) “Christians should work in jobs that help other people.” Do you agree?

### Yes

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### No

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I think that...





Christians believe that it is important to work \_\_\_\_\_ at your job, whatever it is. This is known as the '\_\_\_\_\_ work ethic'.



Christianity does not teach which jobs are acceptable and which are not, it is left to the \_\_\_\_\_ to decide. Most Christians will try to choose a \_\_\_\_\_ that is compatible with their \_\_\_\_\_ and will not get involved with anything that exploits other people, so they probably would not work in a \_\_\_\_\_ shop or deal in pornography. To help when choosing a job a Christian can look up the \_\_\_\_\_ record of the company they wish to join. They might ask questions such as, do they pay \_\_\_\_\_ wages to overseas workers? Do they use \_\_\_\_\_ testing? Do they care for the environment? It is often possible to find out such information using the Internet.



Christians believe that God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for each person's life and will try to find a career that uses the gifts and \_\_\_\_\_ that God has given them. They often choose jobs that involve helping others, such as working with children or the \_\_\_\_\_ or perhaps supporting society by being a \_\_\_\_\_ officer or social worker. Sometimes they believe that God is \_\_\_\_\_ them to do a specific job, even if it doesn't pay well or the \_\_\_\_\_ are not very good. This kind of work is called having a '\_\_\_\_\_ ' (from the Latin 'vocare' which means to call).



ethical	business	individual	purpose	beliefs	conditions
hard	calling	Protestant	talents	career	betting
police	fair	vocation	church	animal	elderly



# The Bible and Money

## The Bible and concern for the poor

### The Old Testament

The Old Testament says God wants people to care for the poor and treat them with justice. Loving God involves keeping God's commandments. Christians should respond by caring for each other, especially those in need.

There will always be some people who are poor and in need, and so I command you to be generous to them. Deuteronomy 15:11

The Prophet Amos was quite clear: God was not impressed with religious rituals, because outside the Temple they were cheating the poor. What God wants is justice!

They sell into slavery honest men who cannot pay their debts.....the trampled the poor, weak and helpless, and push the sick out of the way." Amos 2:6-7

God wants people not to be greedy, and cancel debts when someone cannot pay. These quotes can apply to the international debt situation today...

"At the end of every seven years..... every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbour..." (i.e. cancel any debts). Deuteronomy 15:7-8

"You shall not kill" "You shall not steal" Exodus 20 (The 10 Commandments)

### New Testament

Jesus was very concerned for the poor and oppressed. At the start of his mission he said:

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed..." Luke 4:18-19

Jesus taught that the two greatest commandments are:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:30-31

Jesus told the parable of The Final Judgement (the parable of the Sheep and the Goats):

At the final judgement, God will say to the people he wants in Heaven:  
"come into my kingdom... I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and gave me drink... When you did this for the least of my brothers, you did it for me."

Matt 25:35-40

Jesus reached out to the poor, blind, diseased, oppressed, unwanted and unloved. He did not just ignore them and pray about the situation - he did something. If Jesus did this, Christians should do the same.

When there was a famine in Judea, the disciples' response was immediate:

So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. Acts 11:29

## The Bible and the correct use of money

Jesus said it was harder for a rich man to enter heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. Some Christians have a lot of money, but the important thing is to put God first before their money:

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."  
Matthew 6:24

Jesus told a following story to show what happens if people try to store up more wealth than they need while on earth.



Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!'

"Just then God showed up and said, "Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods--who gets it?"

"That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

Luke 12:15-21

The following passage is often misunderstood. The instruction Jesus gave was specifically aimed at the rich man who wanted to please God. Jesus knew that the man's wealth was more important to him than pleasing God. When you read his reaction to Jesus' order, you can see Jesus was right. Christians shouldn't get too attached to their wealth.

Jesus looked him hard in the eye--and loved him! He said, "There's one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me."

The man's face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

Mark 10:21-22

The first Christians shared everything they had - they were not greedy. Everyone got what they needed. This is an example of how a just and fair world should be;

"The group of believers was one in mind and heart. None of them said that any other belongings were their own, but they all shared with one another everything they had.....there was no one in the group who was in need."  
Acts 4:32-35



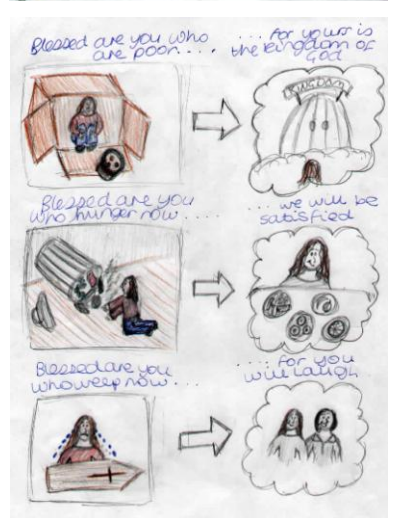
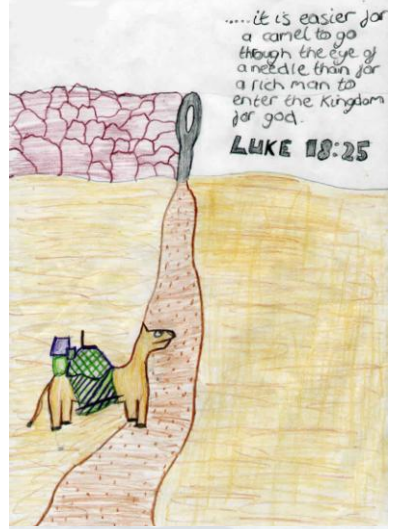
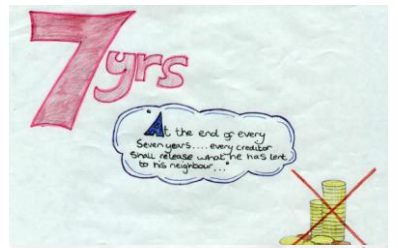
List ten things you would do with 'millions'?

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Use this space to draw pictures to help you remember the Bible quotes.

Think World debt and unfair trade can be seen as killing and stealing.



Reading revision notes is a very bad way to prepare for an exam. You won't take much in, and you'll get bored very quickly! Some tips for useful ways to use the photocopied pages provided here:

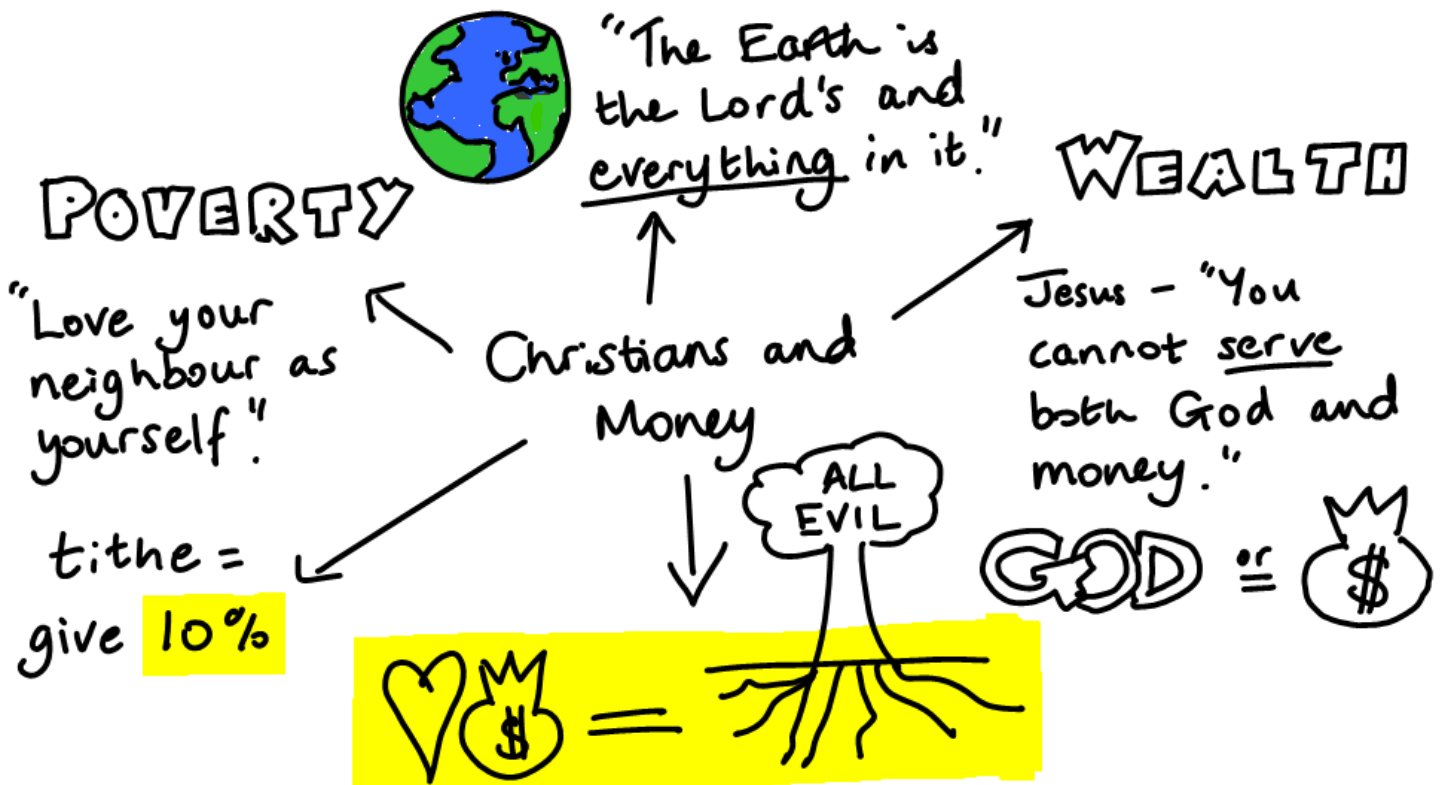
- Go through the pages with a highlighter pen, choosing the most important points to **highlight** or underline (a coloured pencil is just as good)

Go through the highlighted text, and write out what it said *in your own words*

In a couple of days time, see what you have remembered by trying to write down what you've learnt, maybe using bullet points

- Read through the text and write your own headings and key words in the margins
- Draw pictures next to the text - you are more likely to remember the picture of the well that Christian Aid dug than the words themselves

Here is an example of some notes on Christians and money:



The Arnewood School website can help you with your revision. It can also be found at [www.rsrevision.com](http://www.rsrevision.com)

Some people find revision cards useful - you need to make them yourself, as most of the 'remembering' comes when you summarise notes, draw pictures, make up rhymes etc.

Have a look at the notes on the following pages. Try highlighting, drawing pictures in the margin, making revision cards, summaries etc. See what works for you - and use these techniques for all your other subjects too!



## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

The single most important advice is to answer practice questions. In the exam, you will have to answer a three-part question in 30 minutes. Make sure you can do this. Get your teacher to mark your work and give you tips for improvement. Alternatively, work with someone else and mark each other's work - you'll find you learn as much by reading their work as you do by reading their comments on your work.

You don't necessarily need to write answers on every topic, but it can help to jot down the key points you might want to mention in a diagram or as bullet-points. It's worth trying to think of any relevant point you might make as one mark - 7 marks means you need to say 7 different things.

There are also certain points that you can use in any question that asks you to *describe how a Christian would respond*. For example, Christians would always ask 'What would Jesus do?' and try to live as Christ lived. For any issue, Christians might pray for others, as well as asking God for guidance about what to do. Christians see other people as sacred, made in God's image and worthy of respect, and this might come into any answer about how Christians might behave. A Christian would try to be true to their faith and obedient to God, reading the Bible to find out what God wants them to do, and listening to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. A Christian's conscience might also help them to know what to do.

**REVISION: Make a brief summary of points that might come up in any answer about how Christians act.**

When you first answer a practice question, you can use your revision notes to help. Try answering the following question using the notes in this booklet:

- (a) Describe Christian teaching about helping people suffering from hunger and disease. [8]
- (b) Explain how their beliefs may influence the way a Christian spends money. [7]
- (c) 'It does not matter how you earn your money, as long as you make enough to live on.'

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [5]**

It is a good idea to try timed questions. In the exam, if you only have ten minutes left and a whole question to answer, it's better to write something for each question than just answering part (a) very well. Practicing with timed answers should help you keep on track in the exam. The following question should take 30 minutes - roughly ten minutes per part of the question:

- (a) Describe how one well-known Christian organisation has worked to relieve human suffering in the poor countries of the world. [7]
- (b) Explain why a Christian might regularly give money to charity. [7]
- (c) 'Christians should not send money to other countries when there are so many poor people in their own.'

**Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]**