

Revision Guide: What is important in the fight for Justice?

Key Words

Prejudice – Thinking that certain people/cultures are better than others. It means to **Pre-judge** another person.

Discrimination – *Acting on a prejudice*. Taking a belief like sexism or racism and putting into action. E.g. not giving someone a job that they deserve.

Inequality - The idea that not everyone is treated equally or given **equal rights** in society.

Sexism - Prejudice or discrimination against people **based on their gender**. E.g. not allowing women to vote.

Racism - Prejudice or discrimination against people **based on their race**. E.g. separating schools based on race.

Poverty - The name we give to people living in poor conditions with little or **no access to basic needs** such as water, food and shelter.

Justice – Fairness or giving people respect.

Injustice – Lack of fairness. An unjust act.

Zakat – the compulsory giving of 2.5% of excess wealth by Muslims. 1 of the 5 pillars of Islam for Sunni Muslims.

Shi'a Muslims often pay this only on specific items mentioned in the Qur'an

Khums – the giving of 20% of surplus income by Shi'a Muslims. This is one of the 10 Obligations for Shi'a Muslims.

Sewa – selfless service, a Sikh concept which involves giving and serving others without any desire for it to be returned. E.g. seen in the Langar meal served at Gurdwaras. There are three varieties of sewa – helping people physically (using the body) '**taan**', helping people through your mind or mental service (using the mind) '**maan**' and helping people materially (giving something up e.g. money) '**dhan**'

Sanctity of Life- Life is sacred and a gift from God. Life should not be taken.

Violent Protests- Protests that damage, destroy or harm people or property e.g. riots or terrorist attacks.

Non-violent Protests: Protests that are peaceful and do not harm or damage people or property e.g. marches, speeches, sit-in's

Religious Teachings about Justice – all religious believers think injustice is unfair and wrong and against the teachings found in their Holy book. They are all taught to challenge injustice.

Christian Teachings: *God created humans in his own image (Genesis 1;27)*...that men and women are equal because God made both, as are all races and ages. **This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12)** – *be kind to everyone no matter who they are*. **The Story of the Good Samaritan** teaches to help others in need no matter who they are even if they are your enemy.

Muslim Teachings: **All people are created by Allah. All are equal (though not the same).** All important in own right. **Muhammad treated others with respect and dignity** – we must follow example.

Sikh Teachings: Every Gurdwara (place of worship) has a Langar Kitchen where **all people are welcome to a free meal regardless of their gender, colour or religion**. **Guru Nanak Dev Ji (the first Guru) taught that every person is equal and should be treated equally**. He said that there is no Hindu and no Muslim because everyone is the same in God's eyes.

People who have fought for Justice

Gandhi: Gandhi was a Hindu born in India. He trained to be a lawyer in London and travelled to South Africa as a young man. While in South Africa he experienced racism and apartheid (a separation of people based on race). Gandhi worked to bring about equality by peacefully protesting. Gandhi believed in Ahimsa (non-violence). He later went to India to do the same and protested against British rule; the most famous of these protests being the salt march. The salt march took place from March to April 1930 in India, was an act of civil disobedience led by Mohandas Gandhi to protest British rule in India. During the march, thousands of Indians followed Gandhi from his religious retreat near Ahmedabad to the Arabian Sea coast, a distance of some 240 miles. The march resulted in the arrest of nearly 60,000 people, including Gandhi himself. India finally was granted its independence in 1947. Gandhi was shot and killed by a Hindu in India after getting the British to leave India for good. He was killed in New Delhi on 30 January 1948. ***"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."* Gandhi**

Martin Luther King: Martin Luther King was an American Baptist minister who lived in the south of America. Growing up he experienced racism and segregation (black and white people being treated very differently) and he followed

Gandhi's example of peaceful protest. He organised the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington. His most famous speech was his "I have a dream" speech which helped to pass the civil rights act. Like Gandhi, MLK was shot and killed and later had a day named after him which became an American holiday. He was killed on the 4 April 1968. He followed his Christian beliefs that all people are sacred as they are children of God. Therefore you cannot harm others and must value all people even if you disagree with their beliefs and actions. This is why he would not use violent protests. ***'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.'* (MLK)**

Malcolm X: Malcolm X was around, in America, at the same time as Martin Luther King and experienced the same kind of racism that MLK experienced. Malcolm X converted to Islam as a young man and approached the problem of racism in a different way to Gandhi and MLK. He did not follow Gandhi's example and instead stated that it was acceptable to be violent if violent protest was necessary especially to defend yourself from attack. Later in his life Malcolm X decided that the true meaning of Islam was peace but was assassinated not long after this. He famously said 'by any means necessary' when talking about gaining black rights in America. **He did not want equality** until he went on Hajj but fought for Black Supremacy. ***"That's what you mean by non-violent, be defenceless in the face of one of the cruellest beasts - the American white man."***

Rosa Parks: Refused to give up her seat when she was asked to move on a bus in Montgomery so a white person could sit down. ***"The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."*** Her actions sparked the start of the Montgomery bus boycott and was the event activists were waiting for to start the active campaigning of the Civil Rights movement.

Segregation: Segregation took place in America and was an unfair system where black people did not have the same civil rights as white people. Black people did not have the right to vote, did not have a fair wage for the work they did – for example if a black American and white American were doing the same job they would not have the same wage. Black Americans did not have the same educational opportunities. Typical laws included:

- Public transport waiting rooms were strictly segregated.
- Places open to the public such as shops, hotels, cinemas, theatres and libraries had to provide separate rooms and facilities for the different races.
- In most of the Southern states, inter-marriage between blacks and whites was illegal.

Segregation did not end until 1964. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended all state and local laws requiring segregation.

Civil Rights Movement: The civil rights movement was a struggle for social justice that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s for African Americans to gain equal rights under the law in the United States. The Civil War had officially abolished slavery, but it didn't end discrimination against African Americans —they were faced with the terrible effects of racism, especially in the South. By the mid-20th century, African Americans had had more than enough of prejudice and violence against them. They, along with many whites, mobilized and began a fight for equality that took place over two decades. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were two of the leaders (there were many) of the civil rights movement.

TC Williams High School: This school was integrated at the end of the 1960s and the football team was racially mixed playing in a league of white players. A film was made about the integration of the high schools called 'Remember the Titans'.

Bus Boycotts: The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a civil-rights protest during which African Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating. The boycott took place from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956, and is regarded as the first large-scale U.S. demonstration against segregation. The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately ordered Montgomery to integrate its bus system. Rosa Parks sparked the protest and Martin Luther King was one of the leaders.

Poverty and Charities

Human needs: Water, Food, Shelter, Education, Employment, Health. One way there is injustice or inequality in the world is that through poverty people do not have access to the basic things that they need to live. Poverty causes injustice and inequality and charities try to help end that by helping people out of poverty. When they have enough to eat, access to clean water and sanitation and health care so that they have a standard of living this brings equality

and justice.

Man-made suffering/evil – Evil or suffering caused by people.

Natural suffering/evil – Evil or suffering not caused by people.

tearfund

Tearfund is a **Christian Charity**. They take the teaching of “**love thy neighbour**” and use it to help people who live in poverty. Tearfund do this by working with governments to create new policies, working with all churches and communities and responding quickly to disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

Projects include twinning toilets, giving out emergency food, blankets and fresh water after a natural disaster. Training people so that they can farm their land in the face of problems caused by climate change.



Islamic Relief are a **Muslim Charity**. They do not just help other Muslims though. They help any people that are in need! They use their beliefs and teachings to: Support people who have suffered in disasters by giving them emergency food, water and shelter, working with communities to give them access to water and food so that they learn to have the skills to look after themselves and also working to provide education and healthcare around the world. They campaign to change unfair laws and try to bring justice this way too.

What's more important your beliefs or your actions?

Religious believers that actually BOTH matter. If you truly follow your faith then that should be reflected in what you do. All religions teach that injustice and inequality are WRONG and that religious believers should do what they can to bring justice and equality.

Christians are taught to follow Jesus' example and to 'love their neighbour', Jesus also tells a parable of the sheep and goats which teaches that beliefs must be put into action. The story of the Good Samaritan – another parable also teaches that a Christian should help their neighbour. A neighbour is anyone who is in need, even an old enemy (like in the story).

Muslims are taught that 1 of the 5 pillars of their faith is giving – this is seen with the giving of Zakat (2.5 % of surplus wealth) which is compulsory for Muslims. The Hadith teaches 'He who eats and drinks while his brother goes hungry, is not one of us'. Hadith (record of the traditions or sayings of the Prophet Muhammad)

Sikhs are taught that SEWA or selfless service is at the core of their faith. Sewa is seen as an essential act of worshipping Waheguru (God). Sikh teaching makes it clear that you must help and serve others “True worship consists in the meditation of God's name.... There can be no worship without performing good deeds”. (Guru Granth Sahib) A popular Sikh saying is “If you can't see the light of God in all then you cannot see God.” The first Guru of the Sikhs- Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji blessed the world to serve humanity and end inequality, pointless rituals and the poor treatment of women in India. Sikhism teaches the full equality of men and women. Women can participate in any religious function and can perform any Sikh ceremony or lead the congregation in prayer.

Reminder from the last unit:

Christianity: Christians believe in ONE God – they are monotheists. They believe in the Trinity. The Trinity is the belief that there is ONE God – Father (creator and sustainer), Son (God in human form as Jesus who brought salvation from sin with his death and resurrection and the Holy Spirit (comforter and guide) and that God has shown himself in history and in the Bible in these three ways.

INCARNATION – Christian belief that God came to earth in human form in Jesus and healed and taught people.

TRANSCENDENT– God is not limited by time and space.

IMMANENT – God is active in the world. E.g. through the Holy Spirit

OMNIPOTENT: This means that God is seen as ALL-POWERFUL

OMNISCIENT: This means that God is all knowing

OMNIBENEVOLENT: This means that God is loving.

Christians believe that they can learn about God through the Bible which contains lots of different books including the four gospels about Jesus which explain his teachings (such as the parables) and his work. Some Christians believe that the creation story and Bible should be understood literally and others that it should be interpreted and read non-literally.