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| **THEMES EXAM** |  |  |  |
| Theme A: Relationships and Families |
| **Heterosexual and homosexual relationships**; sex before marriage; sex outside of marriage (adultery) |  |  |  |
| **Contraception and family planning** |  |  |  |
| The **nature and purpose of marriage**, same sex marriage and cohabitation |  |  |  |
| **Divorce**, including reasons for divorce and remarriage; ethical arguments related to divorce, including arguments based on compassion and the sanctity of marriage vows |  |  |  |
| The **nature of families**, including: the role of parents and children, extended families and the nuclear family |  |  |  |
| The **purpose of families**, including: procreation, stability, protection of children, educating children in a faith |  |  |  |
| Contemporary **family issues**, including: same sex parents, polygamy |  |  |  |
| The **roles of men and women** |  |  |  |
| **Gender equality, prejudice and discrimination**, including examples |  |  |  |
| Theme B: Religion and Life |
| **Origins of the universe**, including: religious teachings, different interpretations of religious teachings; the relationship between scientific views (e.g. Big Bang theory) and religious views |  |  |  |
| The **value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it**, including religious teachings about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder |  |  |  |
| The **use and abuse of the environment**, including: the use of natural resources, pollution |  |  |  |
| The **use and abuse of animals**, including: animal experimentation, using animals for food |  |  |  |
| **Origins of human life**, including: religious teachings about the origins of human life, different interpretations of these; the relationship between scientific views (e.g. evolution) and religious views |  |  |  |
| The concepts of **sanctity of life and quality of life** |  |  |  |
| **Abortion**, including situations when the mother’s life is at risk; ethical arguments related to abortion, including those based on sanctity of life and quality of life |  |  |  |
| **Euthanasia** |  |  |  |
| **Beliefs about death and an afterlife**, their impact on beliefs about the value of human life |  |  |  |
| Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict |
| The meaning and significance of: **peace, justice, forgiveness, reconciliation** |  |  |  |
| **Violence**, including **violent and peaceful protest** |  |  |  |
| **Terrorism, holy war and pacifism** |  |  |  |
| **Reasons for war**, including greed, self-defence and retaliation |  |  |  |
| The **just war theory**, including the criteria for a just war |  |  |  |
| **Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence** in the contemporary world |  |  |  |
| The **use of weapons of mass destruction**, nuclear weapons, nuclear deterrence |  |  |  |
| **Peace-making in the contemporary world**, including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching |  |  |  |
| **Religious responses to victims of war**, including the work of a present-day organisation  |  |  |  |
| Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment |
| **Reasons for crime**, including poverty and upbringing, mental illness and addiction, greed and hate, opposition to an unjust law. Views about people who break the law for these reasons.  |  |  |  |
| **Good & evil intentions and actions**, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering |  |  |  |
| **Views about different types of crime**, including hate crimes, theft and murder |  |  |  |
| **Aims of punishment**, including: retribution, deterrence, reformation |  |  |  |
| **Treatment of criminals**, including: prison, corporal punishment, community service |  |  |  |
| **Forgiveness** |  |  |  |
| **The death penalty**: ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life |  |  |  |