

RS Revision

TOPIC 2: HUMAN RESPONSES
TO GOD

The Call of the Disciples

The Good Samaritan

The Lost Son

Zacchaeus

The Centurion

The Rich Young Man

Form 8 Autumn Term

Form 8 Spring Term

FORM 8 AUTUMN

Revision Needed:

1 x booklet of Form 7 Autumn and Spring Term Islam material.

1x booklet of Form 7 Summer Term and Form 8 Autumn term (Old Testament)

Exam:

- Questions are in the Common Entrance style.
- The exam is the ISEB November paper - so a "full" CE paper
- Students need only answer two
- Each question has three parts:
 - a) DESCRIBE: This part is worth 6 marks and is testing factual recall.
 - b) EXPLAIN: This part is worth 6 marks and is testing analytical skills.
This is often the harder part but one way is to always think "Why?" - *Why are beliefs what they are? Why do Muslims think that? Why is that important?*
 - c) DEBATE: This part is worth 8 marks and is testing their ability to balance arguments and think critically, using their own knowledge. It is important that students realise they need to stick to the debate at hand and not veer off in an unusual angle. It is a mini-essay and not a "chat" about what they think of the statement.

Important Points to Note:

- The exam is an hour.
- The debate question follows a clear structure:

Introduction (*There are many different opinions surrounding this debate...*)

Opinion that agrees with the statement (opinion for)

Opinion that disagrees with the statement (opinion against)

What a Christian (or in the Islam questions, Muslim) thinks (*Some Christians/Muslims may (dis)agree because*)

A conclusion that includes YOUR opinion (*In conclusion, I think ...*)

- Students must give opinions for both sides to reach the higher levels. They should avoid writing "I (dis)agree for the same reasons".

FORM 8 SPRING & SUMMER

Revision Needed:

1 x booklet of Form 7 Autumn and Spring Term Islam material.

1x booklet of Form 7 Summer Term and Form 8 Autumn term (Old Testament)

1 x booklet of Form 8 Autumn (part ii) and Spring Term material

Exam:

- These exams will be a full Common Entrance paper
- *The important bit will be identifying the correct sections we have covered*
- Students need only answer two questions overall but they MUST be from different sections (so one couldn't do two Islam questions for example)
- Each question has three parts:
 - g) DESCRIBE: This part is worth 6 marks and is testing factual recall.
 - h) EXPLAIN: This part is worth 6 marks and is testing analytical skills. This is often the harder part but one way is to always think "Why?" - *Why are beliefs what they are? Why do Muslims think that? Why is that important?*
 - i) DEBATE: This part is worth 8 marks and is testing their ability to balance arguments and think critically, using their own knowledge. It is important that students realise they need to stick to the debate at hand and not veer off in an unusual angle. It is a mini-essay and not a "chat" about what they think of the statement.

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JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES

KEY THEMES AND IDEAS:

- people must be obedient
- willing to give up everything they have
- willing to serve others (help others)

JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES

The Story (from the Gospel of Luke)

- Jesus was teaching a crowd by the Sea of Galilee
- He got into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to row out
- He taught the people from the boat
- Then he told Simon Peter to go into the deep waters and put down his nets
- Simon Peter said they had not caught anything so far
- He did as Jesus said and caught a huge amount of fish
- The other fishermen rowed out and also filled their boats with fish
- Simon Peter fell at Jesus' feet and said that he was not worthy of Jesus because he was a sinner
- Jesus told him not to be afraid
- He said that from now on they were to 'catch men'
- The fishermen left everything and followed Jesus

WHAT DOES THIS STORY TELL US / MEAN:

Power over nature:	On Jesus' command, the disciples caught many fish
Special Knowledge:	This indicates that, as God's son, he is omniscient (all-knowing)
Compassion:	He obviously cares for them and doesn't want them to go hungry
Fisher of Men:	Jesus asks Peter to use his skills as a fisherman to bring people to understand the Good News of the Kingdom of God
Overflowing with Fish:	Symbolic of the abundant joy which the Kingdom of God offers.
Teaching:	Peter and the disciples are to now teach and preach about the Kingdom of God
Contrast:	This story draws a contrast between Peter's lack of faith and the faith of the large crowds who have come to hear Jesus
Obedience and Trust:	Discipleship requires both of these. Peter is not certain, but he is willing to carry out his wishes.
Humble:	Peter's confession shows that a disciple must be humble and admit his faults

The Parables

- A parable is a story with a hidden message
- Jesus used parables to teach about the Kingdom of God and get across important truths

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

This story is all about:

- loving your neighbour as yourself
-

Jesus told it to a Jewish lawyer who had asked:

- What must I do to inherit eternal life?
- Who is my neighbour?
- Where do you draw the line in helping someone - sinners? But then all sinners?

The Story (from the Gospel of Luke)

- A Jew was attacked on the road to Jericho
- A priest and Levite ignored him and walked past
- The man who rescued him was a Samaritan. He poured on oil and wine, before putting him on his own donkey.
- He took the Jew to a nearby inn and paid the innkeeper 2 denarii and asked him to look after the man. On his return journey, he would pay any outstanding money that had been spent.
- Jesus then asked the lawyer, "who was the man's neighbour?"
- The reply was the one who showed mercy.
- Jesus said to the man, "Go and do the same"

This could be that they thought they would become unclean by touching a dead body. Just by looking they could not tell if the Jew was dead so ignored him to be on the safe side

THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE

- Jesus asked the lawyer which of the three men became the neighbour to the Jew that was attacked
- i.e. whenever someone is in need of help, a person should help in the same way that they would like to be helped in need

Samaritans and Jews fiercely hated each other. The Samaritan had such compassion though he overcame his religious prejudices to help

The Good Samaritan Themes

- Neighbour: Many Jews would say their neighbour only referred to other Jews. Samaritans were considered foreigners so at the end of the parable, it is clear that a neighbour is anyone who does good things.
- Help / Need: A neighbour is clearly someone who helps others - the priest and Levite refused to do this because they were more concerned with their purity.
- Parables: Jesus used parables because they could express complex ideas about the kingdom of God - in this case, Jesus wants people to understand what it means to show mercy, leaving aside prejudices.
- Memorable: Parables are more memorable than a simple message.
- Religion v Need: The priest and Levite put their religion first because they thought they would become impure. The twist is that the man whom the Jews despised as being racially inferior, the Samaritan, is the closest one carrying out God's law.
- Racial Inequality: Jews consider Samaritans to be racially and religiously inferior. They thought it impossible that a Samaritan could carry out the law because they were corrupt. Yet, it is the opposite. The priest and Levite also discriminate because they don't want to become religiously impure.

THE LOST SON

The Jews broke the laws which the Pharisees observed so the Pharisees didn't like the Jews

This story was
- aimed at the Pharisees
-

Jesus told it to a Jewish lawyer who had asked:

- What must I do to inherit eternal life?
- Who is my neighbour?
- Where do you draw the line in helping someone - sinners? But then all sinners?

The Story (taken from the Gospel of Luke)

- There was once a landowner who had 2 sons
- The youngest said to the father that he was bored, wanted his share of the family fortune and so away elsewhere
- This was done
- The youngest went to the city and wasted his money away
- One day, when there was a great famine, he realised he had no money
- He got a job working with pigs.
- He was so hungry, he even would have eaten pig meat!
- He suddenly had a brainwave and realised why should he starve when he could go home and get free meals
- He began the long walk home - he got very thin, and looked rather ragged and messy
- The father saw him from way off and full of pity, ran to meet him
- The youngest son said sorry
- The father told the servants to get the best robe and sandals for His feet. The father's ring was put on his finger and a calf was Killed.
- They had a party to celebrate
- When the older brother learnt what was happening, he was furious
- He scowled at the father and wasn't very nice
- The older son complained that he had slaved all these years with no thanks
- The father replied : ***You are with me all the time. It is right to celebrate, for your brother was lost and now he is found. He was as good as dead, but now I have him home, alive and well.***

He didn't expect to be welcomed back as a son, but hoped to get work on the farm

SYMOLISM OF THE CHARACTERS:

The father:	God
The younger son:	sinners
The elder brother:	the Pharisees
The farm:	the Kingdom of God
The pigs:	pigs are unclean and to work with them is considered the lowest of the low
The feast:	the heavenly feast available to all with God at the end of time

MEANING OF THE PARABLE - THE PARALLEL LINK TO THE PHARISEES:

- Elder son symbolises the Pharisees as they were in danger of excluding themselves from the heavenly feast
- Just as the eldest son was indignant / annoyed with the father for spending money on his returned son, so the Pharisees were indignant that Jesus was spending time with sinners
- Like the eldest son who worked hard on the farm, so the Pharisees worked hard at keeping the Commandments. They were unsure if God accepted them
- Although the parable had the father saying “All that I have is yours” even though the elder son had no feelings of being heir to the farm, so the Pharisees felt that they might not get any reward at the end

MEANING OF THE PARABLE - THE YOUNGER SON:

- The younger son broke all the rules, became degraded in his own eyes and then said sorry
- This is the message of the Gospel
- No matter how bad a person has been, if they repent, God will forgive them
- They can then enter the Kingdom
- This is called **REDEMPTION** or **SALVATION**

The Lost Son Themes

Human Nature:	It is human nature to want independence, just as the younger child wanted to leave his father's house.
Right the Wrong:	When things go wrong, it is in our nature to try and put things right. Humans have a sense of guilt.
Appreciated:	Like the elder son, humans want to be appreciated and noticed and if felt that we are treated unfairly, we get jealous and upset.
Forgiveness:	This is demonstrated in two ways. 1 st : The father forgives the younger son because he is loving and generous (like God). 2 nd : With the elder son's inability to forgive and failure to rejoice his brother has repented.
Sin:	Means disobeying God and separating oneself from Him. This is reflective of the younger son's living and lifestyle. This became worse when he was prepared to live with pigs (unclean in Judaism).
Repentance:	This is a change of heart and mind. By living with pigs, the younger son knew he had placed himself outside of God's Law.
Trust:	Despite the error of his ways, the younger son trusted his father to forgive him. His return journey represents the change of heart.
Symbolism:	This parable is all about symbolism. Elder brother = Pharisees, who were so obsessed with keeping the laws they could not forgive those who broke them. Yet, God's message is all about forgiveness. Younger son = the sinners who broke the law but then repented. The Father = God who is loving and caring to those considered sinners.
Pharisees:	The Pharisees were angry about Jesus' teaching because he taught that those who were "lost" and didn't necessarily follow the religious law would be first to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. They felt it wasn't fair.

Jesus and the Outcasts

KEY IDEA - SALVATION (being saved)

ZACCHAEUS

The Story (from the Gospel of Luke)

- Jesus travelled to Jericho
- He met a rich chief tax collector called Zacchaeus
- Zacchaeus wanted to see what Jesus looked like but being a small man in a big crowd, he was unable to see
- He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree
- When Jesus reached the sycamore tree, he looked up to see Zacchaeus and said: "Hurry down Zacchaeus because I must stay in your house today!"
- Zacchaeus scrambled quickly down the tree and welcomed Jesus with great joy
- The crowd who saw it, got a bit annoyed with Zacchaeus - after all, why should Jesus go to his house? "Jesus has gone to the house of a sinner" they said
- Zacchaeus overheard this and said to Jesus: "Listen Sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay them back 4 times as much"
- Jesus replied: "Salvation has come to this house today, for this man is also a descendant of Abraham. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

In Palestine, tax collectors were not paid. Instead they collected as much money as they could and kept the extra for themselves. This is why Zacchaeus is considered a sinner

Crowd would have been shocked because to eat in a sinner's house was to say that man was actually OK and what he did was OK

Reference to Abraham sparked the change in Zacchaeus - after all to be considered a true descendant of this ancestor who first had faith was a remarkable thing.

Salvation in this case means Zacchaeus was saved from a life outside of God's love because of the life he was leading

WHAT DID ZACCHAEUS DO AS A RESULT?

Zacchaeus:

- Said he was sorry
- Promised to pay back what he had stolen
- Offered to pay compensation to his 'victims', 4 x the amount he'd taken

Zacchaeus was now a CHANGED / SAVED MAN

Zacchaeus Themes

Salvation:	This means to be saved. Jesus "saved" Zacchaeus and gave him the time; very few people would have done that.
Jesus' Purpose:	His purpose was to save sinners and bring people into a right relationship with God (atonement)
Sin:	Jesus looked for sinners as they were in need of salvation. Tax collectors were considered sinners as they often cheated people and religiously unclean. They were often rich and corrupt.
Non-Discriminatory:	By going to Zacchaeus' house, Jesus wanted to show that the Kingdom of God did not discriminate and instead welcomes everyone.
Surprise:	People would have been surprised that Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house as Jesus was considered religious and someone who respected the Jewish law. By going to the house, Jesus would make himself religiously unclean.
Son of Man:	This refers to Jesus' role as one who would suffer for others. In this case, Jesus represents all humanity to God. In the Old Testament, Son of Man referred to someone whom God could trust with His authority. Jesus might have been seen as Isaiah's suffering servant who died representing God's will but in doing so, enabled others to see the error of their ways.

THE CENTURION

As a Roman, he represented the establishment against Jesus

The Story

- Jesus had entered Capernaum when a centurion came to him asking for help; his servant was at home lying paralysed and in pain
- Jesus asked whether he should come and heal him.
- The centurion replied that he did not deserve to have Jesus come under his roof but that if he says the word, his servant will be healed. He went on to explain that he was a man in authority as well as being under someone else's charge and that he understands how authority works
- Jesus was amazed when he heard this and said that he was yet to find anyone in Israel with such great faith.
- He then went onto say that many people will take their place at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven but that the subjects, and those who do not really believe, will be thrown outside into the darkness, where there will be fear and misery.
- Jesus finally said to the centurion to go and let it be done just as he believed.
- The centurion's servant was healed at that moment.

It was the faith of the centurion that healed the servant

The Centurion Themes

Roman:	The Centurion represents the Roman establishment, which is at loggerheads with Jesus and Jewish society at the time. For him to acknowledge Jesus' power and authority is a sign of changing times.
Outcast:	As a Roman, the centurion knew he was considered an outcast and as such, did not deserve to have Jesus visit his house. For Jesus to state that he too was a man of Abraham (ie descended from the Jewish roots) would have shocked the Jewish leaders.
Understanding:	The Centurion understood how the hierarchy system worked and that people in authority had to take charge. For the centurion to ask Jesus to heal his servant showed that he was prepared to accept Jesus, and God, as a higher power.
Authority:	The centurion realised that Jesus had the authority to forgive sins and heal, despite being someone who had authority in his own job.
Faith:	The centurion had faith in Jesus and knew that his power of healing would work, even if he did not visit the centurion's house. He trusted that Jesus would heal his servant and that all would be alright in the end.
Pais	<p>The original text uses the word "Pais" in the Gospel of Matthew. It can be translated to different meanings such as boy or male lover.</p> <p>This causes lots of problems - if it meant male lover, did Jesus approve of homosexuality of just that everyone was equal. If it meant boy AND male lover, what does this say... Remember, the centurion was ROMAN and not JEWISH so the centurion may well have been doing what was normal...</p>
Prophetic:	Jesus acknowledges how the future of the religion looks and reiterates that it is only by faith that Israel will overcome evil.

THE RICH YOUNG MAN

The Story

- The man asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life.
- Jesus told him to keep the Ten Commandments.
- The man said he had kept these since he was a child.
- Jesus challenged him to sell everything and give it to the poor.
- The man was sad and left. He was very rich.
- Jesus said to the disciples that rich people would find it hard to get a place in the Kingdom of God.
- The disciples were amazed.
- Jesus told them a parable: it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.
- Peter said they had left everything to follow Jesus.
- Jesus replied everyone who had left his family and property would receive it back a hundred times over in the Kingdom of God.

Wealth was seen as a gift from God so this was an unusual request

Earth was not the end - eternal life in heaven is where you spend most time

The Rich Young Man Themes

Wealth:	In the 1 st century, wealth was considered a sign of God's favour and a reward for being righteous. By saying that wealth would be a hindrance to getting into the Kingdom of God, was a shock.
Surprise:	People would have been surprised at the choice Jesus gave the rich young man because they didn't understand that giving to the poor was a vital part of being righteous.
Good Life / Bad Life:	The rich young man thought he had lived a good life because he declared, quite publicly, that he had kept all the Ten Commandments and was therefore quite religious. He also thought because he was rich he had lived a good life.
Sacrifice:	Discipleship requires sacrifice and the young man was challenged to give up his wealth, just like the actual disciples had to give up their families.
Challenges:	As well as keeping the Ten Commandments, the disciples will have to respond to the other demands made by God.
Warning:	This story is a warning to rich people that they would be unable to enter the Kingdom of God
Change of Ideas:	The story reverses what humans think is fair and just, with what God wants. In society, the rich are the most important, but in God's kingdom, those who are compassionate, generous and merciful will be first. Sinners will also be welcomed in.