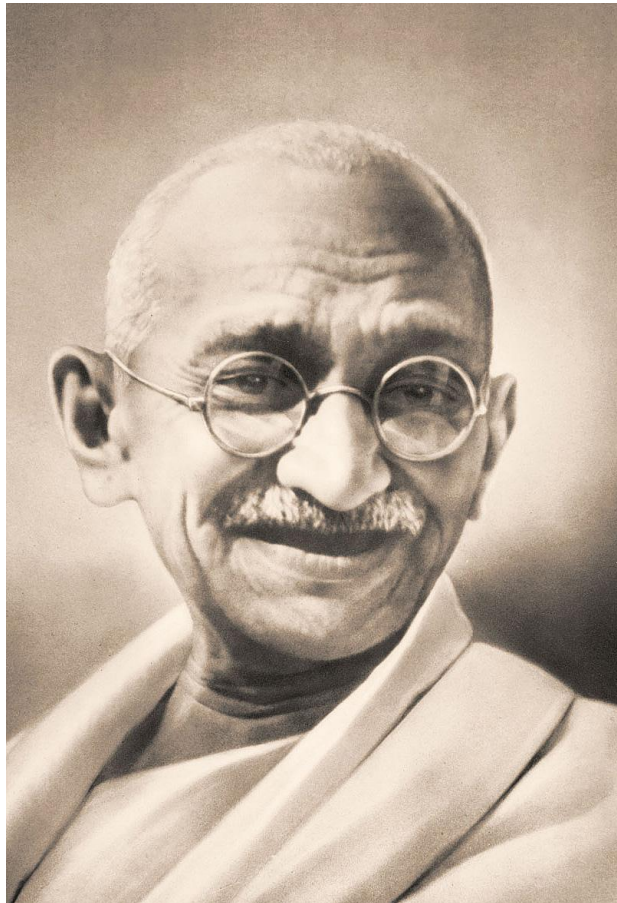
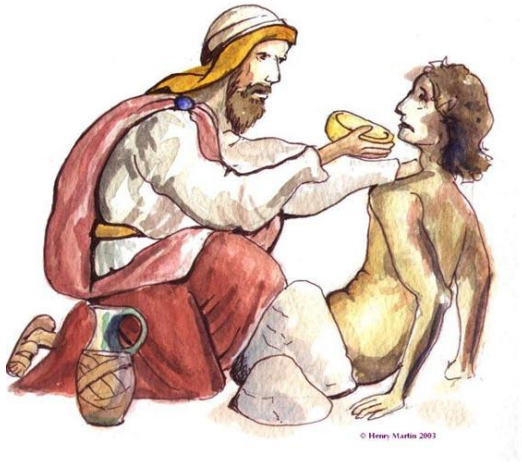


### Question 3 – Religion and Prejudice.



## Religion and prejudice

The two key words for this topic are prejudice and discrimination. If you can learn what they mean, it will help with this whole topic. The two words are linked but their meaning is slightly different.

**Prejudice** means to pre-judge something or someone, usually without any real evidence to base that judgement on.

In most cases it is negative. We use the word to describe a person's dislike of certain other people, when they have no good reason. We talk about prejudice against colour, religion, age, nationality, sexuality or appearance. Prejudice is about what we think.

**Discrimination** is when we put these prejudiced ideas into action. We treat people differently or say things because they are not the same as us or what we know — we make known to them our dislike and it can have a great effect on a person's life. In Britain it is against the law to discriminate against someone.

**Positive Discrimination** - in some cases benefits can be given to people in minority groups to give them greater chances. For example, over the last ten years the police and fire services have actually advertised for people in minority groups to apply for jobs. This would give an advantage to people from ethnic minorities, women or gay/lesbian groups — people who are often the victims of discrimination.

**Scapegoating** is when you blame or use others as an excuse for a problem. For example, Hitler blamed the Jews for the economic problems in Germany.

Can you pick out the example of positive discrimination in the pictures on this page?

So, what do you need to know?

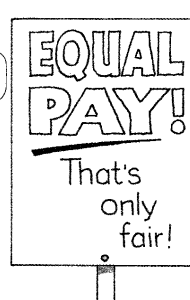
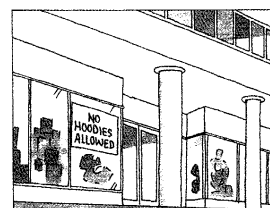
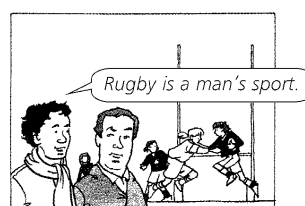
You need to learn the words above, and then investigate how it all happens. It's important to know — what causes people to act in this way or even think ideas like this in the first place; what effect these actions can have; different types of discrimination; what religion(s) think about these actions and how they respond when discrimination happens; what the law says about discrimination; and finally, what some famous individuals have done to prevent and fight discrimination.

In order to bring all the areas of discrimination together, it will be useful for you to keep these key ideas in your mind.

**Tolerance** — to accept that people have different opinions and beliefs from your own.

**Justice** — that everyone has the same rights and deserves the same treatment.

**Community** and **Harmony** — a collection of people (a community) who live and work together to help each other so that everyone benefits. The community accepts each member — including their differences (harmony).



## Let's look a little deeper

What makes someone prejudiced and want to discriminate against others?

It is true to say that everyone can be prejudiced at times, even by accident. Not everyone will discriminate against others though because of their prejudice. Which is the more serious — the thought or the action? It is an interesting question to think about! (Think about this — because it's a popular exam question.)

Prejudice can be like a brick wall — a barrier that stops people living, working and learning together as a community. It is very unfair and it only takes someone to be 'different' to be singled out for discrimination. The victims are almost always in the minority and find it very hard to deal with.

Anyway, there are five main reasons for prejudice:

1. Having a bad experience with someone might make you think everybody is like that. For example, maybe when you were young you were frightened by a grumpy old man and now you think all old men are grumpy.
2. Having been told bad things about a certain group of people by your parents, you might be prejudiced without even getting a chance to know any differently. Our upbringing has a big influence on us, and our parents' words have a huge effect.
3. Having seen something on television or read it in a newspaper (or other forms of media) that was very biased (it focused on only one fact or idea, taking it out of context); you might have believed it and so now are prejudiced.
4. When you've gone ahead and judged someone when you actually know nothing about them. This is called ignorance. For example, having a negative opinion about a group of people, whom you have never met or actually learned anything about — you don't know them, but you insult them anyway.
5. Scapegoating is when you blame or use others as an excuse for a problem. For example, Hitler blamed the Jews for the economic problems in Germany. He used the media and speeches to influence the German people so much that they also blamed the Jews, which cleared the way for the Holocaust. In actual fact, the Jewish people in Germany had done nothing wrong.

1. What is meant by 'prejudice' and 'discrimination'?
2. Explain how the top three pictures on previous page are examples of discrimination. Give some examples of your own of discrimination.
3. Why is 'tolerance' important in helping to prevent prejudice?
4. Explain some reasons why some people might be prejudiced.
5. Choose three of these reasons and give an example to demonstrate each one. Choose three different examples to the ones shown on previous page.
6. *"You need to change the way people think to prevent discrimination."* What do you think? Explain your opinion.

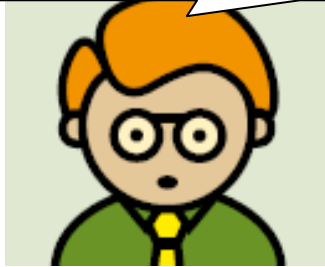
# Why do people have prejudiced ideas? Should we accept them?

Let's look at some commonly used discriminative statements from the variety of people below:

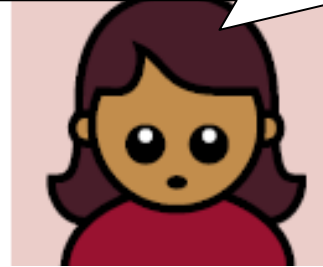
I think women should stay at home so when I get married I won't let my wife work.



I think young people these days are all layabouts so I won't have them working in my firm.



I saw two men holding hands, it's unnatural, and so I thumped one of them when they walked past.



Me and my mate nicked this guy's prayer hat 'cos religion is a joke.



I think fashions like Goths are horrible and I tell them that when I see them dressed in black.



I was in McDonald's the other day and this fat woman sat at my table so I got up and walked out.



For each of the examples shown in the illustrations, work out:

- a What type of prejudice is being shown?
- b What was done to show discrimination?
- c What you would say to challenge each of these people?

## Positive discrimination

After looking at all this negative stuff you must remember that discrimination can also be positive. In some cases benefits can be given to people in minority groups to give them greater chances. For example, over the last ten years the police and fire services have actually advertised for people in minority groups to apply for jobs. This would give an advantage to people from ethnic minorities, women or gay/lesbian groups — people who are often the victims of discrimination. The reason behind this was to try and make these services more representative of the society we live in today. Of course, positive discrimination can help in challenging prejudice.



# Types of prejudice

On the following pages you will see that the religious teachings are general and can be applied to all forms of prejudice. Only focus on the religion(s) that you are studying. Think about how each teaching/religious idea can be applied to each of the forms of prejudice. Remember — tolerance, justice, community and harmony.

## Ageism

This is discrimination against someone because of their age. Remember it can apply to anyone in any age group. (Who would discriminate against Nelson Mandela because of his age?)

When the law sets age limits (for example an age to drive, smoke or drink), it is not seen as ageist. These limits are for our own good.

Look at the elderly first — we might expect them to not be fit enough for a job, or too old to understand modern ways. This leads them to be undervalued by society. With the young, it might be a case of thinking they're too young to take on some kind of responsibility.

All religions believe in respecting the elderly — they teach that everyone is equal. Older people are wiser; therefore they should be listened to. It is a duty of the young to look after them. The young are the future and quite often children become 'adults' in their own religion at an early age. Old or young, the value of the individual is very important.

## Sexism

Sexism is prejudice because of someone's gender. We often see examples against women. Many religions see men's and women's roles as different, but still equal. They do not agree with prejudice and discrimination against either gender — it is unfair and therefore wrong.

### The role of women in religions

Within religion there is a debate about the role of women. They are treated differently to men and there is often the accusation that women are being discriminated against despite the fact that all religions condemn any kind of discrimination. Let's look at some examples:

In Christianity, women cannot be priests in the Roman Catholic Church or bishops in the Anglican Church.

In Islam, all religious leaders are men and women don't pray at the front of the mosque.

In Orthodox Judaism, women sit separately to men, often upstairs, and do not take part in synagogue services.



A woman serving in the army



There are a growing number of female teams in previously male- dominated sports like rugby



Roman Catholic priests cannot be women

With the exception of ISKCON, in Hinduism all Brahmin priests are male.

In Theravada Buddhism, women will pray for their reincarnation to be as a man.

If women are denied access to certain roles, then this could be said to be discriminatory. However, these religions would just say that roles are different but equal. If women are happy with their roles and what they are or are not permitted to do, then to them discrimination is not an issue. The issue arises when women want to do something as part of their religion but are not allowed to because rules or traditions say they can't.

As time moves on there are changes being made to traditions, but women have to fight hard for those changes. They would argue that if we are all creations of God, then if, for example, a woman wants to devote herself to the service of God and serve the community of believers, would God not want her to simply because she is a woman? Perhaps a woman could deal with community issues and help people in a different way to a man? Compassion and understanding are key qualities and many women have these.

It all depends on how you view this issue. It isn't the same as other forms of prejudice where people inflict hurt and pain on others. However, if you desperately want to do something or be part of something and cannot simply because of your gender, then for that woman it could be really hurtful.



Most Hindu Brahmin are men

1. What is meant by the words 'ageism' and 'sexism'?
2. Explain religious teaching about sexism.
3. Give some examples of ageist behaviour.
4. Women should be allowed to be leaders in religion. Explain two reasons to agree, and two to disagree.

## Disability

Quite often people who have a disability are discriminated against. A disability includes two key areas: physical disabilities such as wearing glasses, being in a wheelchair, not having a limb; and mental disabilities such as having a learning problem or a mental illness.

Could a person in a wheelchair access your school? How often do we talk to the person pushing the wheelchair not the person in it? Have you witnessed someone call a person who is hearing or sight impaired names? It is as if they are less of a person than someone fully able-bodied. Religion believes that all people are equal and God creates people in many different ways. We are all valued despite our differences. The example at the top of the page clearly shows that people overcome difficulties and can reach the highest possible achievements. Eleanor Simmonds won two swimming gold medals at the 2008 Paralympics. She shattered the British record and beat the world record holder. She is an inspiration to all and shows that we all have talents.

**Louise Watkin**, ex Reigate School, won four medals at the Beijing Paralympic Games



## Looks and lifestyle

The way people look is often the first thing that incites prejudiced thoughts — the clothes people wear, hair style or colour, tall or short, fat or thin. On first meeting a stranger these things might be enough for us to instantly decide whether we like them or not. For some, these first impressions stick and they don't give people a chance. This in turn leads to discriminatory comments or actions. We could think of Sophie Lancaster in Lancashire who, in 2007, was murdered because she was a Goth. She chose to be different and as a result this led to discrimination of the worst kind — she lost her life! Likewise if people choose to live a different way to us or to what we accept to be 'normal' — such as people who live together (rather than marry), gay couples or travellers — then this often leads to discrimination. Religion would not agree with any discriminatory actions. It may be true that the religion does not agree with the choices people make, particularly with regards to lifestyle, but it would totally disagree with showing discrimination in such cases

1 Discrimination is the worst thing a person can suffer. What do you think? Explain your opinion.

2 Being discriminated against because of a disability is worse than sexism. Do you agree? Give reasons and explain your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.

## Racism

Racism is the belief that the colour of a person's skin, or their race, affects their ability. It is also the belief that some races are better than others. We use the word 'racist' to describe someone who discriminates against people of other races in a negative way. The slave trade was based on the belief that people of colour were somehow of less value than other people, and so could be bought and sold and treated in any way with no rights at all. It cost the lives of countless tens of thousands, and destroyed many communities. The attitude of superiority it created still exists in the world today. Look at the statistics in the UK — if you are black, you are more likely to get excluded from school, to achieve less highly than others, to get stopped by the police more often, to get sent to prison, to be murdered — it goes on. Our society needs to change, and racism needs to be ended.

Racism is illegal. We'll see the Race Relations Act details a bit later. Most people think racism is wrong. Why should a person's skin colour or race make a difference? It shouldn't. If you are actively racist, you can pay a heavy price. You could lose your job, get thrown out of school, go to prison...

'All human beings are born free and equal... should act in a spirit of brotherhood... everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom' (Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

## Religious prejudice

Many people today face prejudice because of their religion. This has always happened over history because religions mark people out. Often religious people wear symbols of their religion, which makes them easy to spot. They have beliefs that shape their behaviour. When these religions are a minority in a community they stand out, therefore becoming a target for discrimination. For example, the Muslim community in non-Muslim countries after 9/11.

At the same time, religious communities can be guilty of discrimination against other minority religious groups in their own countries. For example in the Balkan Conflict, Serb forces (Catholic) were guilty of the ethnic cleansing of Muslim villages — they killed these people simply because they were Muslim.

## Homophobia

This is prejudice against people who are attracted to those of the same gender as themselves. Homosexuals and lesbians can face lots of prejudice (called homophobia) and are discriminated against because people do not agree with their relationships. Victims of other kinds of discrimination will often receive help from friends and family who sometimes face

that same discrimination. However, for lesbians and homosexuals sometimes their families don't even know, or they even discriminate too. It can be very difficult, especially for young people who work out they may be gay and only have their families to turn to or possibly no one. Religions have differing opinions on the subject of homosexuality, but what they do agree with is that the discrimination of such people is wrong.

## Religious attitudes to homosexuality

The approach to homosexuality is slightly different from that of the other forms of prejudice we have looked at so far. Religions accept without question someone's age, race, or gender, for example; however, they usually don't agree with homosexuality. This means that even though they don't persecute homosexuals, they don't necessarily welcome them either. Some people think that sex between two men or two women is unnatural, and wrong. This is usually because it is impossible for this kind of sex to lead to children. From most religious viewpoints the primary reason for sex is the conception of children. It is also the case that in the holy books you can read quotes against homosexuality. In Britain, things are changing; same sex couples can legally register as couples. Religions emphasise this isn't the same as getting married, but does mean that under law they are protected. For example, they can get pension and inheritance rights, and other rights which married couples get automatically.

1. What is meant by 'racism'?
2. Using examples, explain 'religious prejudice'.
3. Explain what is meant by 'homophobia'.
4. What are religious attitudes to homosexuality?

### Hinduism

Hindu Dharma (teaching) is that Brahman is found in everything; therefore any prejudice thoughts or discriminative actions would be viewed as wrong.

- Hindus believe in non-violence (ahimsa), love and respect for all things.
- Compassion is a key belief with the desire to improve things for others, not persecute them.
- Hurting others can lead to bad karma, which affects future reincarnations.
- Hindus believe that the true self is the atman and as everyone has one this must mean everyone is equal.
- The Bhagavad Gita suggests that to reach liberation you should work for the welfare of all fellow human beings.

**Prejudice Bible References** There is direct teaching about prejudice in the Bible.

The Jews of the Old Testament were supposed to look after foreigners and treat everyone equally.

Jesus taught "Love your neighbour as you love yourself" .

### Christianity

Christianity believes that all forms of discrimination are wrong.

- God created everyone equally (Old Testament).
- 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave or free man, male or female. We are all equal in Christ' (New Testament).
- 'So in everything, do unto others what you would have done to you' (New Testament).
- Jesus told us to love our neighbour and explained neighbour in the story of the Good Samaritan.
- In the Good Samaritan story the man is helped because of his need, not because of who he was or wasn't (New Testament).



# The effects of discrimination

Can you work out the emotions that these people are feeling due to having been discriminated against?

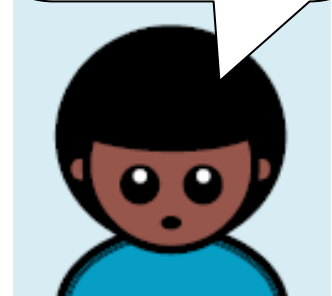
'I'm a Muslim — my family is the only Muslim one in this area. Since 9/11 I've lost a lot of friends. No one talks to me and they treat me with suspicion. I've no one — my religion is important to me but so are people. It's hard to exist on your own.'



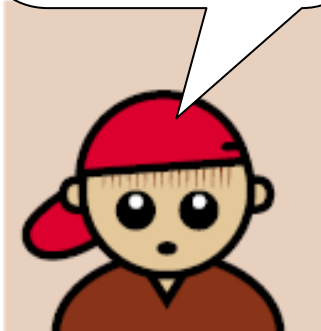
'When I joined my new school after moving house it was hard to fit in because everyone knew each other. They called me names or smirked at me because of my accent. This upset me a lot.'



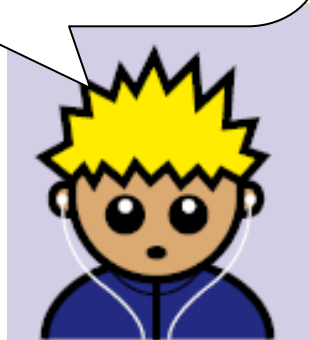
'I went for a job — I was by far the most qualified but my skin was obviously the wrong colour. I could have done the job with my eyes shut!'



'I'm determined to beat this — it's been the same all my life — everyone having a go at me just because I'm gay. I will not let it stop me doing what I want or getting the job I want.'



'I have decided that they are not going to get the better of me — I choose to dress this way; I like it and if they don't — tough! I won't let them get to me. I am all the more determined to wear what I want.'



'I can't cope with this any more — day after day of bullying. There is this gang of girls who make my life a misery. I'm black and it's always about my colour — how I don't belong here and should go back to my own country. Sometimes it gets physical too. There is no other way out.'



These are all emotional effects from the individuals' perspective. When this multiplies to people in greater numbers and becomes the norm, then it can have a devastating effect on whole minority groups.

## Ways religion can help the victims of discrimination

Religion can provide both practical and spiritual support to victims of discrimination. A religious book may have teachings that, when read, offer comfort and support and put things into perspective. Religious leaders can offer help and just be there to listen. They can organise meetings to highlight the problems or set up support groups. They can use school assemblies to promote tolerance and harmony.

On a spiritual level, they can pray with you or for you and if belief is strong enough, this can make you feel that you are not on your own.

### Now you know about how religions try to fight prejudice

Remember the ways to help can be used in any question that asks you how religion can help someone suffering with any problem. You simply have to adapt them to the topic. It's less to revise, folks!

## What does the church teach about prejudice?

Christian teaching generally encourages tolerance.

There are aspects of Christian history that appear to be prejudiced.

Many churches are seen as sexist, women are often not allowed to be priests, e.g. the Roman Catholic church.

All religions founders were men.

Some individual churches in the past have not welcomed people from other social groups, e.g. at the time of MLK in America and the Dutch Reform Church during the apartheid years in South Africa.

## How does Christian belief about prejudice affect the way a person lives their life?

### 1. Consider the example of other Christians – eg MLK and explain.

The life of MLK was spent challenging racism in America.

He was a Christian leader and taught that everyone should 'love their enemies'

This was a difficult message for people to love those who persecuted them.

He was successful because his determination to refrain from violence and to practice Christian teaching eventually won equal rights for all Americans whatever their colour.

### 2. Consider the example of Jesus 'WWJD' and explain.

Jesus was never prejudiced against anyone. He deliberately sought out people who were avoided by others e.g. Tax Collectors, women of ill repute,

### 3. Consider what the Bible says and explain it

If you are using 'love your neighbour' then explain the story of the Good Samaritan and what the Good Samaritan story says about prejudice.

### 4. Consider what Pastor Niemöller said and compare it with your record of defending someone being discriminated against.

*First they came for the Jews*

*and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for the communists*

*and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists*

*and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for me -*

*and by then there was no one left to speak out for me.*

Pastor Martin Niemöller

# What the law says in Britain

There are laws in Britain to deal with discrimination. As prejudice is about the way people think, the law cannot do anything, but when that prejudice turns into discriminative actions then the law can act. However, it is not always easy to prove.

The **1976 Race Relations Act (RRA)** made it illegal to discriminate against anyone because of race, nationality, ethnic or national background in four main areas — jobs, education, housing and the provision of services. It made illegal the use of threatening or abusive language in regard to race. It also made it illegal to publish anything to stir up racial hatred.

The Commission for Racial Equality was set up to deal with cases of discrimination, and to act as a watchdog against racism. In 2000 the RRA Amendment Act was introduced as a way of strengthening the 1976 Act. It focuses on helping and protecting people in the public sector, the police service, areas of government and areas of national security. It also stresses the need to promote harmony and tolerance amongst all people.

There have also been laws passed about **Equal Pay (1975)**, **Sex Discrimination (1975)**, **Disability Discrimination (1995)** and the **Sexual Orientation Regulation (2007)**.

As well as the law, there are organisations that support victims and try to improve awareness of the discrimination certain groups face.

**The Fawcett Society** traces its roots back to 1866, when the suffragette Millicent Garrett Fawcett began her lifetime's work leading the peaceful campaign for women's votes. It is the UK's leading organisation campaigning for equality between men and women.

The Fawcett Society campaigns on women's representation in politics and public life; pay, pensions and poverty; valuing caring work and the treatment of women in the justice system. It also produces research and reports and uses the media to raise awareness of inequality issues.

Check it out for yourself at [www.fawcettsociety.org.uk](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk).

**Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE)** is an organisation which spans Europe, using football as a common platform, trying to get rid of racism. The English link to this is Kickitout ([www.kickitout.org](http://www.kickitout.org)), and their Show Racism the Red Card campaigns. FARE was set up in 1999, to bring together all the existing organisations in a Europe-wide network. It links the organisations, and sets up campaigns which span several countries. It has involved lots of the top footballers in each country to be a part of its work. Through activities such as tournaments, anti-racist matches, flyers at games, anti-racist T-shirts, and much more, it aims to rid football of racism. It also tries to promote racial harmony by helping mixed groups within football.

Check it out for yourself at [www.farenet.org](http://www.farenet.org).

**Stonewall** is an organisation working for equality and justice for lesbians and gay men. It works on a political and social level throughout the UK. It is involved in many different campaigns, such as one in education called Education for All.

Check this out for yourself at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk).

**Age Concern** is the UK's largest organisation working for and with older people. In England, they are a federation of over 400 charities working together to promote the well-being of all older people.

Concern's work ranges from providing vital local services to influencing public opinion and government. Every day they are in touch with thousands of older people from all kinds of backgrounds — enabling them to make more of life.

# Famous people fighting to end prejudice and discrimination

## Martin Luther King - Who was he?

Martin Luther King was born in the USA in 1929. As a black American, he soon realised the prejudice that black people faced simply because of their colour of skin. Black people were segregated— meaning they had separate schools, transport systems, shops, even churches. King was brought up in a Christian family and had a good education. He learned from his religion that colour shouldn't matter and his thinking was influenced by the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi who fought for justice in a non-violent way. King is most famous for a speech he made beginning 'I have a dream...'. The essence of this speech was his belief that everyone was equal and that people should be judged not by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. Whilst he had great support, he also had enemies. In 1968 he was murdered. His death had great significance and indeed sparked even more people to campaign for equal rights.

What did he do to fight racism?

This is often the focus of exam questions — rather than asking about King's general life, what is being asked about is the ways in which he protested. So let's have a look.

In 1955, King organised a bus boycott to try to end segregation on the buses. It took a year to achieve but, by the end, blacks could sit next to whites rather than sitting only at the back or standing up for a fellow white passenger. In 1957, King continued to preach non-violent direct action involving marches, boycotts and sit-ins. He marched with school children in 1963 to demonstrate about the poor education and schools that black children had. He continued to make political speeches at rallies and even the US President seemed to support his ideas. His fame spread worldwide. Things were starting to change — King said 'When I die my work will only just be beginning'.

So what was his legacy?

The years since King's death in 1968 have seen great change in the USA. Life is much improved for the black community. Segregation is illegal. Black people have equal civil rights with whites. However, things are not perfect and there is still a lot of poverty in many, mainly black areas. America has seen the emergence of black political leaders, Jesse Jackson in the 1970s and in November 2008 Barack Obama was elected as the next President of the USA. At the time of Martin Luther King's death, the idea of a black person running what is often considered to be the most powerful country in the world would have been unthinkable. Now King's dream has been realised.

Martin Luther King Day is a national holiday in the USA around 20 January each year.

## Archbishop Desmond Tutu - Who is he?

As his title tells you, Desmond Tutu is a religious leader. He was born in South Africa in 1931, a country where people lived under the Government Apartheid system. This was the total separation of the black and white community, with the minority whites in complete control of the country. As Desmond Tutu moved up the religious hierarchy, he began to use his position to campaign against the way the black community was treated. He took a great risk doing that because Apartheid was a government policy and if you criticised it, you faced torture and imprisonment. By 1976 he was already a bishop, and perhaps that gave him some sort of protection. He was known worldwide, and South Africa would have had lots of unwelcome and unfriendly attention if its government had done anything to him. In 1984 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work. In 1986 he became Archbishop of Cape Town. Even today, at his old age, he still works both within his religion and politically.

### What did he do?

His vision was for a totally non-racial South Africa where everyone mattered because they were all humans made in the image of God. He organised a non-violent struggle using marches, boycotts, petitions, and invited the international media into South Africa to show to the world what his people were suffering. This gave the issue world attention and brought international pressure on the South African white government to alter the Apartheid Laws.

### So what has he achieved so far?

Things have changed in South Africa. The Apartheid system was dismantled; elections were held which resulted in a black President: Nelson Mandela. Currently South Africa has a black leader. Tutu still speaks out for the rights of the poorest groups and in his book, *Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness*, he calls for action to bring social justice to South Africa, and to other African countries. For the black majority, there are still massive improvements in standards of living to be made.

See [www.tutu.org](http://www.tutu.org) for more information.

#### Task

Focus on both Martin Luther King and Desmond Tutu. Make a revision list of four facts about each of their lives, four things they did to achieve their goals and two ideas for each to say what they achieved: This will give you more than enough detail for your exam if you are asked to talk about someone famous who has fought against prejudice. It might be a surprise to you to find out how little you need to learn! Usually questions about individuals are worth 3-4 marks and, as such, this is enough detail for you to learn.



## Mohandas K. Gandhi - Who was he?

Gandhi is known by the name 'Mahatma', which means great soul. He was born in India in 1869 when India was part of the British Empire, and led the Indian nationalist movement against British rule. His belief in non-violent protest to achieve his aims has influenced many other leaders around the world. He studied as a barrister, and in 1893 went to South Africa, where he worked to gain Indian migrants basic rights. They were discriminated against, but in 1914 the South African government accepted many of his demands for the Indian people, thanks, at least partly, to his work.

On his return to India, Gandhi got involved in protests against British rule. He carried out peaceful non-cooperation with the British including boycotts and marches. In 1930 he led a Salt Tax March because it was illegal for Indians to produce their own salt. He even went on hunger strike. He also focused his attention on the growing unrest between the Hindu and Muslim communities, trying to improve relations between the two sides. Whilst much of his work was not directly to do with prejudice, what he wanted was an integrated society where everyone lived in harmony. He felt the structure of society would have to change if people were to have a better chance in life. He saw British policy as unfair on the Indian people. Although he was a Hindu, he didn't like the caste system. The lowest caste was known as 'the untouchables', yet Gandhi saw them as 'children of God' just like the rest of the human race. He fought to change attitudes to these people.

In 1947 British rule ended and India was split up (partitioned) along religious lines and the state of Pakistan was created. Mass violence was one of the results. Gandhi had objected to Partition, saying it would be disastrous. In 1948 he was assassinated.

So why was Gandhi such an important figure?

Gandhi left a great legacy of non-violence — his values and methods were taken up in many other struggles.

He famously said 'An eye for an eye...and soon we shall all be blind' to show that violence was not the answer.

Likewise, Desmond Tutu said 'You cannot use methods that our enemies will use against us'.

Martin Luther King said 'You should meet hate with love'.

1. Write down three things about Gandhi's life.
2. What methods did Gandhi use to achieve his aims?
3. What did Gandhi do in South Africa? Explain what Gandhi did to improve the life of people in India.
4. Without Gandhi, violence would always have been the main method of protest. What do you think?  
Explain your answer.

## General Revision Tips

### Revision tip 1

Lots of religions share the same key terms or ideas. Learn these terms and use them regularly in your exam. If you can only remember the list you will still get about half the available marks. For example, religious beliefs about prejudice always come down to life being sacred, respect for God's creation, justice for all, and the equality of all. These ideas cross religions and topics of course.

### Revision tip 2

Make a set of flashcards, and get someone to test your knowledge regularly with them. Put images and words on to the cards, such as examples of prejudice to name, or words to define, or religious ideas to link to prejudice. Someone holds up a flashcard, and you talk about it.

### Revision tip 3

Collect pictures of as many of the things you study as you can. A picture with a caption sticks better in many people's heads than just writing. Then you can think of the image in the exams and it will help you remember, for example, pictures of people fighting prejudice with key words around the person.

### Revision tip 4

Ballpark marking. After you've done a test and before it is marked, ask your teacher to tell you exactly what the marks were for in each question, and judge your answers from that, compare your guesstimate with your real mark when you get your marked paper back. This makes you analyse your work more than you would if you just got it back marked. This means you understand better where you went wrong and how to improve.

### Revision tip 5

Create an A4 sized thought map with the key issues this topic has covered. If you do this for each full topic you will end up with six pages to learn for the final exam. Psychologically this is good because it means that you are not faced with endless pages of notes to learn. Your full notes are a reference to check fine detail. When it is done, try a five -minute focus on the diagram, and then see how much you can reproduce - on average 75 per cent of it

### Revision tip 6

Timed tests are good for improving your timing. Here's a set of questions. Give yourself 25 minutes (with no books!)

1. Explain how religious believers have fought against prejudice and discrimination. (3 marks)
2. What do religions teach about prejudice and discrimination? (6 marks)
3. Discrimination is worse than prejudice. What do you think? Explain your opinion, (3 marks)
4. Some religious people have argued that it is not always wrong to discriminate against other people; it depends on the circumstances. Do you agree? Give reasons and explain your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view. (6 Marks)

## Exam practice

### "Do you agree" A02 questions — examiner's tips

These are evaluative questions, and each full question will include two of these — one worth 3 marks and the other worth 6 marks. You have to do well on them, because they make up 50 per cent of the total mark. Let's check them out...

Evaluative questions always ask you what you think about something, or whether you agree. Actually, the exam isn't interested in whether or not you agree — it wants to know your reasoning. As long as you explain your reasons clearly, and you discuss the statement you were set, you should get marks.

#### 3-mark A02s

These start with a statement, and then say "What do you think?" Explain your opinion. The examiner is interested in your opinion — as long as it relates to the statement. You will get marks for making a couple of points, and then explaining them, perhaps with an example to strengthen your argument. The exam watchdog (called QCA) wants to see opportunities for you to give personal insights, and this is where you do that. Let's try a couple...

**1 Religious prejudice is the worst kind of prejudice. What do you think? Explain your opinion.**

**2 Religious people should never discriminate. What do you think? Explain your answer.**

Getting used to the techniques of how to answer different types of questions effectively is really important as well. Quite often good technique means you can answer more clearly, and in a snappier style — this makes it easier for the examiner to give you better marks!

#### 6-mark A02s

Okay, for these you've got to do a whole lot more work. For a start, you will have to have religious arguments in there — you'll only get 3 marks max if you don't. Somewhere in the question there will be a prompt to remind you. Then, you have to answer from two sides, in other words you have to agree and disagree, each time explaining your ideas — 4 marks max if you don't explain clearly and well.

So let's build from the 3-marker, because the first levels for these questions are the same.

Let's try some more...

**3 Religions cause prejudice, rather than solve it. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view.**

**4 Discrimination is worse than prejudice. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.**

'Developed' means you said something, and then explained it a bit.

'Reasoned consideration' just means some reasons with explanations.

level	Description	Mark
0	Unsupported opinion or no relevant evaluation	0
1	Opinion (e.g. I agree) supported by one simple reason	1
2	Opinion supported by two simple reasons, or one elaborated reason	2
3	Opinion supported by one well-developed reason, or a series of simple reasons, on one or both sides.	3
level		Mark
4	Opinion supported by two developed reasons, with reference to religion	4
5	Evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view, with reference to religion	5
6	A well-argued response, with evidence of reasoned consideration of two different points of view and clear reference to religion	6

### Question 3

### Religion and Prejudice

**Give two types of prejudice.**

**Target: Knowledge of the types of prejudice**

Religion / sexism / race / colour / age / disability / class / lifestyle / looks / sexual orientation. One mark for each correct example.

**Explain religious views about the value of the individual. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer.**

**Target: Understanding of religious views about the value of a person**

Religions believe (except Buddhism) that each individual is created by God / every person has a special value to God / sanctity of life / each person unique / made in God's image (Genesis 1 : 26) / should treat everyone as equals Galatians 3:28, Dhammapada 6, Bhagavad Gita 9.29 / value people of whatever race Lev.19:33 / no caste – Sikhism / Good Samaritan / Buddhism – the turtle story / reincarnation / all should have the same rights and opportunities/ personal situations e.g. where someone has been bullied/ individual contributions to society. Accept interpretation where a candidate makes a comparison between men and women in religion. Max. L3 if no religious teachings or beliefs.

**'Religion discriminates against women.' What do you think? Explain your opinion.**

**Target: Evaluation of whether or not religions show discrimination against women**

**Candidates may include some of the following points:** Some actions may be interpreted as discrimination, e.g. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church do not allow women as priests / most Hindu groups believe priests must be men / men usually perform religious ceremonies / Galatians 3:28 / Protestants allow women to be priest or ministers / in Hinduism men and women are equal but have different roles / women perform puja in the home /

**Explain what religious believers might do to challenge prejudice.**

**Target: Understanding of actions religions believers might take to challenge prejudice**

Preach equality and that prejudice is wrong / work for tolerance and justice / set up communities like the Corrymeela Community / value the individual / treat everyone fairly / support laws against prejudice / support campaigns to eliminate prejudice / try to overcome prejudice wherever it is found, including in religions / write to the media / protest again prejudice/ pray/ seek guidance from religious authorities etc

**'There is nothing wrong with positive discrimination.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.**

**Target: Evaluation of whether or not there is anything wrong with positive discrimination**

**Candidates may include some of the following points:**

**Agree**

It might be necessary to help people, e.g. keeping a seat with easy access for a handicapped person / ensures minorities are represented / can help those who have not been given an equal opportunity in the past / may help to get a gender / race / culture balance so as to have other views represented, e.g. as M.P.'s / could be the most loving thing to do – Golden Rules in religion.

**Other Views**

Can upset those who feel it has worked against them / could lead to resentment, e.g. older person chosen because employer had good experiences with older employees in the past but younger applicant feels a victim of prejudice / leads to arguments between the sexes or races / may mean that the best talent is overlooked / goes against the religious idea of equality / shows favouritism (God has no favourites)/ all discrimination is wrong/ feeling of being devalued.

**Give two causes of racism.**

**Target: Knowledge of causes of racism.**

Ignorance / stereotyping / scapegoating / influence of parents / influence of media / victims of prejudice themselves / experience / different religious beliefs or culture / look different e.g. skin colour / fear / peer pressure / economic circumstances, etc.

**Explain why some religious believers might support positive discrimination.**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of why some religious believers support positive discrimination**

Accept a broad definition of positive discrimination which includes:

In interests of equality / gender reasons, e.g. enabling women to break into a male dominated area / disability reasons, e.g. enabling those suffering from a handicap to obtain employment, etc.

Examples of discrimination for a 'good cause' or specific belief.

**'Religious believers should help victims of prejudice.'**

**Target: Evaluation of whether or not religious people should do more to help victims of prejudice**

Prejudice is unfair and not just / should campaign more against it as it causes suffering / some believers are prejudice themselves / gender, e.g. women not allowed to be priests in some denominations / prejudice against homosexuals / believers should set a good example (role model) / golden rules, e.g. Love your neighbour as you love yourself / Good Samaritan, etc.

Everyone should help victims of prejudice, not just religious believers / have their own concerns to worry about / cannot look after everyone / more important to stop the prejudice and then there won't be victims, e.g. by promoting equality within religions, etc.

**Describe the work of one religious believer who has fought against prejudice.**

**Target: Knowledge and understanding of the work of a religious believer who has opposed prejudice**

Accept any legitimate example. Examples might be:

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Fought apartheid laws in South Africa / used peaceful non-co-operation / believed in ahimsa (non-violence) / succeeded in getting rid of unfair poll tax and making Indian marriages legal / in India fought for Untouchables / called them Harijans (Children of God) / led boycott of British goods / refused to pay taxes, e.g. on salt / wore dhoti (loincloth) to show equality with poor / assassinated after a lifetime of fighting injustice.

**Desmond Tutu**

Became Anglican priest in South Africa / opposed apartheid / advocated non-violent protest / led peaceful marches in Soweto / saved life of black policeman / organised signing of petitions / supported economic sanctions / awarded Nobel Peace prize / first black archbishop of Cape Town / led Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**Martin Luther King**

Became Baptist minister in Alabama, USA / organised bus boycott / sit-ins / demonstrations / marches / wanted equal rights for blacks / used peaceful methods / awarded Nobel Peace Prize / made great speeches, e.g. 'I have a dream' / assassinated in 1968.

**'Religious prejudice is the worst type of prejudice.'**

**Target: Evaluation of the worst type of prejudice**

Accept interpretation that religious people who are prejudiced are worse than non-religious people who are prejudiced.

**Agree**

Goes against teaching of the religion / should practise what they preach / worse forms end in persecution, violence and even terrorism / dogmatic / may lead to other forms of prejudice e.g. sexism (no women priests or equivalent), homophobia / prejudice against faiths goes against golden rules, etc.

**Other views**

Many other forms of prejudice just as bad if not worse / racism – can lead to ethnic cleansing / gender prejudice – injustice / colour, age, disability, etc. / religions teach that prejudice is wrong / golden rules / Sikhs and equality, etc.

**What is stereotyping?**

**Target: Knowledge of what is meant by stereotyping**

Candidates may include any of the following points:

Regarding a person as a conventional type rather than an individual / a preconceived and over-simplified idea of the characteristics which typifies a person.

**Give two reasons why many religious believers are against discrimination.**

**Target: Understanding why religious believers may be against discrimination**

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Unfair / not just / can cause suffering / result of pre-judging, etc.



**‘Religious believers should do more to fight prejudice.’ What do you think? Explain your opinion.**

**Target: Evaluation of what believers do to combat prejudice**

Candidates may include some of the following points:

Prejudice by some believers / gender, e.g. women not allowed to be priests in some denominations / prejudice against homosexuals. Already fight prejudice / promote harmony and tolerance / brotherhood and sisterhood / equality within religions, etc.

**Explain the attitudes of religious believers towards racism. Refer to religious teaching in your answer.**

**Target: Understanding of attitudes towards racism**

**Candidates may include some of the following points:**

**Christianity** Galatians 3 26-29: ‘So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women, you are all in union with Christ Jesus.’ / Luke 7 1-10: The centurion’s servant shows that Jesus was not prejudiced against a person of a different race / Luke 10 25-26 Good Samaritan / love your neighbour / Jesus mixed with outcasts, lepers, etc. who were all looked down on in his time / James 2 8-9 / Leviticus 19 33-34: Do not molest a stranger who lives in your land; you must show love / examples of William Wilberforce, Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu, etc.

**Hinduism** Hindus have been created by God, so they have a duty to respect all people / Bhagavad Gita 9.29: ‘I look upon all creatures equally; none the less dear to me and none more dear.’ / the concept of dharma means that Hindus should treat all people with respect / Gandhi who fought for equal treatment for all races in South Africa and encouraged the different races in India to live together as equals / Gandhi called the ‘untouchables’ Harijans which means ‘children of God’ and gave them basic human rights.

**Islam** The Qur’an teaches that all people are equal in God’s sight / the Qur’an –all prejudices and discrimination are unjust because Islamic Law is founded on a spirit of justice / Allah does not look upon your outward appearance. He looks upon your hearts and your deeds / if you see an evil action change it with your hand. If not, change it with your tongue / Islam teaches that all people are equal / first person appointed to call people to prayer was a black Ethiopian called Bilal Ibn Rabah / the Ummah crosses all national and political boundaries.

**‘Fear is the greatest cause of prejudice.’ Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.**

**Target: Evaluation of the greatest cause of prejudice**

**Candidates may include some of the following points:**

**Agree**

People are fearful of others who are different, e.g. different race / colour / lifestyle / religion / they are fearful that they may be forced to change their way of life or beliefs / fear over losing jobs / fear over losing value of property / fear that others are better than them / fear of losing power or influence, etc.

**Other views**

Other reasons for prejudice / stereotyping, e.g. women seen solely as mothers or the object of sexual desire / scapegoating (blaming someone else for your troubles / prejudice copied from parents or peer group / influence of the media, e.g. some newspapers / some TV programmes / some books / ignorance, lack of knowledge, etc.

### 3. Religion and Prejudice

Look at the statement below.

**I have a dream that one day little black children and little white children will live together in a world where the colour of their skin does not matter.**

***Martin Luther King***

(3.1) Explain briefly the difference between prejudice and discrimination.

(3 marks)

This word means 'what they have done', it isn't literally 'fighting'.

Say what each one is, with an example that shows the difference.

(3.2) Explain how religious believers have fought against racism. Use examples in your answer.

(6 marks)

This starts from the idea that God made everyone – so being prejudiced means insulting his work. Doesn't it depend if there is a God?!

(3.3) 'Being prejudiced insults God.'

What do you think? Explain your opinion.

(3 marks)

Use examples (real or made up) to strengthen the points you make. Examples act like explanations – they get marks!

(3.4) 'Only laws can stop discrimination.'

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.

(6 marks)