

KNOWLEDGE MAP: MORAL ISSUES IN SOCIETY YR 8

SUMMARY

This unit covers various important moral issues facing society today, including Human Rights, Capital Punishment, War and Animal Testing.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a law itself. It is a statement of the world's commitment to human rights. Many of its articles have been included in the laws of countries around the world. The first four are:

1 We Are All Born Free & Equal.

We are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas. We should all be treated in the same way.

2 Don't Discriminate.

These rights belong to everybody, whatever our differences.

3 The Right to Life.

We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.

4 No Slavery.

Nobody has any right to make us a slave. We cannot make anyone our slave.

KEY TERMS

Capital Punishment: The Death Penalty. When criminals are executed for their crimes

Human Rights: a right which is believed to belong to every person. The UN Declaration of Human Rights lists 30 Human Rights.

ANIMAL TESTING

FOR

Animal testing contributes to life-saving cures and treatments.

Animal testing is crucial to ensure that vaccines are safe.

There is no adequate alternative to testing on a living, whole-body system.

Animals are appropriate research subjects because they are similar to human beings in many ways.

AGAINST

Animal testing is cruel and inhumane.

Alternative testing methods now exist that can replace the need for animals in many ways.

Animals are very different from human beings and therefore make poor test subjects.

Animal tests do not reliably predict results in human beings.

BIBLE TEACHINGS ON THE USE OF ANIMALS:

Stewardship: God has given humans the responsibility to care for all life on Earth

Dominion: God has given humans total power over animals and so humans can use animals for our benefit,

KNOWLEDGE MAP: MORAL ISSUES IN SOCIETY YR 8

SUMMARY

This unit covers various important moral issues facing society today, including Human Rights, , Capital Punishment, War and Animal Rights.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

ARGUMENTS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The law should not sink to the level of criminals. 'We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing'

Mistakes are sometimes made in the law – what if someone who is innocent is actually killed? Witnesses, prosecutors and members of the jury can all make mistakes too.

ARGUMENTS FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Giving the criminal a death sentence will stop them doing it again. Having such a harsh punishment in place will deter (stop) others from committing this crime.

The punishment should 'fit the crime' – if you have killed someone, you should be killed too.

BIBLE TEACHING FOR CAP PUN

Eye for an eye – if you have murdered someone, you should also lose your life as punishment for the crime.

BIBLE TEACHING AGAINST CAP PUN

'thou shall not kill' – the bible says it is wrong to kill people, this is one of the ten commandments given to people by god, so killing people as punishment is wrong.

WAR

Some causes of war (which can also sometimes be seen as arguments in favour of war)

Expand territory

Self defence

Acquire resources e.g. oil, wealth.

Arguments against war...

Usually more civilians die than troops

Destruction of property and infrastructure causes poverty, sickness, disease and death for many years even after the war ends

Troops and civilians who survive are often left with long-term physical and mental health problems, including PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder)

What the Bible says against war/violence

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). This means that God loves and rewards the people who make peace rather than the people who make war.

Jesus said 'Love your neighbour' which means Christians should show love to all people, even their enemies.

Jesus said 'Turn the other cheek' which means people should not respond to violence with more violence in response. This teaching can lead people to become pacifists, we studied this in our lessons on Martin Luther King.