

Equality - Knowledge organiser

<u>Sub-topics</u> - History of equality/ social and legal changes - Secular concepts of equality - Religious concepts of equality - Race and equality - Strengths and weaknesses	<u>Key words</u> Equality of desert- Goods should be distributed to the extent that people deserve them. Those who do the most deserve the most resources Equality of need-Equality is best achieved by satisfying people’s needs. Those who have greater needs should simply receive more resources Equality of opportunity- Aims to provide people with access to the same life chances Equality of outcome- Aims to provide people with the same income and wealth Gender equality- Equality between all gender’s Intersectionality- The idea that different forms of discrimination and prejudice are socially interlinked. As a result, individuals may not all have the same experience of inequality (e.g. a black woman with a physical disability may face different issues to a black able-bodied male) Moral equality- Treating all people the same despite their differences Numerical equality- Equal treatment of similar people Post-colonialism- A field of academic study which emerged in the latter half of the twentieth century, post-colonialism explores the nature of colonial power and its cultural legacy. Proportional equality- Different treatment of similar people to achieve equality Racial equality- Equality between all ethnicities Strict or simple equality- Everyone has the same amount of goods (money, resources)	<u>Key scholars</u> David Hume Immanuel Kant Jeremy Bentham John Locke Karl Marx Martin Luther King Jr
<u>Possible H/WK/Questions</u> 8 mark Explore the concept of equality from at least 1 secular ethical perspective Explore the concept of equality from a Religious ethical perspective Explore the work of one significant figure in the campaign for equality 12 mark Assess the view that religious approaches to racism are inherently flawed Assess the work of one significant figure in the fight for equality 30 mark Evaluate the claim religious ethical approach to equality cannot allow for positive change	<u>Starting point- Important key facts</u> - Equality in ethics focuses on whether the differences in people should make a difference to how we treat other people - Egalitarianism is the view that equality is the most important ethical concern. Ancient writers tended to discuss equality as a type of justice, e.g. Aristotle distinguished between numerical equality and proportional equality (see key words above) - Different scholars had different arguments in relation to equality: John Locke (1632-1704) argues that all humans have a natural right to freedom and only be ruled by their own consent, Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) argues that each individual person is an “objective end” and that it’s always wrong to exploit other people, since humans have equal worth purely on the basis of being human. Bentham (1748-1832) argues that each person’s pain or pleasure is as morally important as any other’s - Even when most societies believed in a natural human hierarchy, Christianity proposed the challenging idea that all human beings were equally loved and valued by God: “God does not show favouritism”- Romans 2:11. The Old Testament describes God creating all humans equally and in the New Testament, St. Paul claims that differences of sex, race and social class are meaningless to God, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”- Galatians 3:28. These passages describe ontological equality- human beings are equal in a spiritual sense. Christians also belief that social inequalities are temporary and ultimately unimportant due to the afterlife and ‘end of the world’. Unequal conditions in life rewards them with true equality in the afterlife. - Critics of religion point out that religious beliefs often only appear to promise equality while actually supporting inequality in society. Karl Marx argued that religion is the “opium of the people” which removes pain and puts people into a dream like state. It disguises the painful realities of life and encourages people to live in a dream-world where they will be rewarded after they die. Marx recognises that religion promotes ontological equality, however thinks this offers no solution to inequality and in fact makes it harder to fight. Religion needs to be abolished so that real equality can be achieved. - There have been influential campaigners and institutions motivated by a religious concept of equality. St. Francis of Assisi came from a wealthy background but rejected wealth, gave away his possessions, and lived in ‘holy poverty’. He also preached the equality of humans and animals. The Catholic worker movement, founded by Dorothy Day in 1933 during the Great Depression, encourages members to live in voluntary poverty while helping the homeless. - Racial inequality has been present throughout history, such as European imperialism and colonialism, the Atlantic slave trade, apartheid and segregation. More modern movements include Martin Luther King Jr and the Civil Rights Movement and BLM.	
<u>Stretch and challenge/Suggested further reading</u> https://philrsblog.com/category/equality/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/biographical/ https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/martin-luther-king-jr/ https://dyli.wordpress.com/2017/06/23/6-20-17-marx-on-equality-by-allen-wood/ https://philrsblog.com/utilitarianism/edexcel-a-level-religious-studies-various-exemplar-answers-to-paper-2-questions/ <i>Panpsycast podcast-</i> https://thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/2017/8/3/748y8zxxb1vylreuvkoghido00fbdt		

