

Year 12 Exam notes [TYPED]

Subjects: Religion

WACE Exam times:

9th November 9:20 Religion and Life

Module topics:

1. The search for meaning
2. The place of religion in society
3. Religious structures and processes
4. Religion in historical contexts
5. Religious belief and practise
6. Religious response to issues
7. Paul of tarsus [module 1 unit 4]
8. Eucharist/Freedom [module 2 unit 4]
9. Role religion plays in public life [module 3 unit 4]
10. Interplay between a religion and an issue within history [module 4 unit 4]
11. How a religion develops and expresses its beliefs [module 5 unit 4]
12. Current issues (euthanasia) for religion [module 6 unit 4]

Topic 1: the search for meaning

“How social factors impact on how people interact with religion”

In this topic:

- How do people interact with religion
- What are social factors
- Cultural factors that impact how people interact with religion
- Political factors that impact how people interact with religion
- Societal factors that impact how people interact with religion

What are social factors?

- Social factors have potential to either support or hinder how a person and a religion interact' some examples include “a culture that focuses on material possessions and/or consumptions of goods”
- Materialism can be said to be the one major issue
 - Materialism is when material objects are put before those of spiritual significance
- Materialism can be conceived of as a personality trait including three original traits;
 - Nongenerosity: an unwillingness to give or share possession with others
 - Envy: desire for others possessions
 - Possessiveness: concern about loss of possessions and a desire for the other greater control of ownership
- Materialism can also be viewed as a value; the relationship between happiness and materialism can be seen through; individual materialism can cause diminished wellbeing or lower levels of wellbeing which can cause people to be more materialistic in an effort to get external gratification

What are cultural factors?

- Materialism // envy, possessiveness, not generous
- All leads to consumerism
 - Consumerism is a social ideology in which possession of more goods is a means of creating meaning and purpose
- People try to become like those that they adore

What are political factors?

- Secularism
 - Soft secularism = little influence on government by religion
 - Hard secularism = no influence from religion on government
- Secularism is the principle of separation of government institutions and religion
- Refuses to commit itself as a whole to any one view of the nature of the universe

What are social factors?

- Multiculturalism
 - Maintaining respect to those of different cultures
- Allows for equal rights
- Australia has adopted multiculturalism

Interaction:

- All social factors impact a religion or person
- Questions of meaning and purpose in life

Topic 2 – the place of religion in society

“Differing ways in which religion is viewed in society”

WAYS:

Differing points of views AND Different ways of thinking about religion

RELIGION:

- Beliefs and teachings
- Rituals, practises, events and celebrations
- Leadership and rules
- Customs and tradition

SOCIETY:

Australian society = social groups e.g. catholic

In this module:

- Ways religion is viewed in Australian society
 - Religion as a belief system
 - Religion as a human invention
 - Religion as a social function
- Why different religions are viewed differently in Australian society

Ways religion is viewed in Australian society:

Diversity:

In Australia, there is a rich diversity of religious traditions

- About two thirds of Australians claim affiliation with a religion
- In contrast worldwide almost nine out of ten people follow a religion

Secular:

Australia can be characterised as a generally secular society

- Regular religious practise has declined in the last half century
- Religious days and holidays are mostly not observed
- Religion is usually not prominent in public affairs
- About 10% of people with religious affiliation regularly practise their faith

Visible:

Religion is a very visible part of Australian society

- Buildings (e.g. churches, schools, hospitals)
- Distinctive clothing
- Public commentary by religious figures
- Activity of religious agencies and individuals

Diverse views about religion:

- An active transformative agent for the individual and for society
- A quaint but harmless leftover from a bygone era
- A malevolent, reactionary force that needs to be excluded from society

Religion as a belief system:

This assumes that religion has a basis for the beliefs

- Religious meet the spiritual needs of people
- Religious answer questions of meaning and purpose in life
- Religious transformation brings about fundamental change in people

Reduction in church:

Attendance/marriage and funerals in churches – some possible conclusions

- Religious churches in Australia have a diminished role in meeting spiritual needs
- For many Australians religions a private matter

Religion is called on in some aspects of society:

Christian high feast days:

- Christmas and Easter still see churches full of worshippers
- Still observed in the Australian calendar

Crises:

Religious leaders often called on to offer words of solace or lead rituals; suggests the community recognises:

- Religious ritual can express what is beyond words to explain
- Ritual helps give meaning to events outside the control of rational action

Religion as a human invention:

Assumes religion have no basis for its beliefs but are creations entirely of human origin:

- Religion is used to manipulate people
- Religion is used to subjugate people
- Religion is a human construct to give comfort in times of distress

In earlier decades religious organisations were held in high regard seen as bastions of probity

Trust in religion severely compromised by recent exposure of misconduct by some church officials

Two common views of religion as a human invention

Two common views:

First view (Maxist)

- Many different religions suggests that religion depends entirely on the culture it comes from
- Religion is often used as a position of power
 - Promoted by groups within societies to maintain control
 - Leads to oppression

Second view (Religious Pluralist)

- All religions are a human response to the divine
- All religions to some degree share in the truth
- The element of human invention ensures religion is genuinely related to people's lives
- People seeking spiritual meaning and purpose in life try to discover the divine within human experiences

Religion as a functional agency:

Social platform/function:

- Many Australians regard the social welfare outreach of religious organisations as positive

Religion as a political entity:

There is significant interaction between religion and government in Australia

- Religious lobby government on issues (eg medical ethics, indigenous rights, family issues)
- Tax exemption for religious organisations
- Religious schools supported by government funding

Why different religions are viewed differently in Australian society

- Transplanted religions
- Aboriginal culture and spirituality has changed and in many cases almost disappeared.
 - From time of colonisation there was a strong Anglican presence however;
 - Australian Christianity did not develop its own identity
 - There was anti-establishment sentiment in colonial Australia

Immigration:

- Immigration boosted catholic and orthodox numbers after ww2
- By 1980 the catholic church had become the most numerous in Australia
- Rapid increase in non-Christian believers in recent years

Protestant work ethics:

Emphasised hard work and frugality as a form of religious devotion

- Economic benefits
- Contributed to the growth of individualism and materialism
- This may have been contributed to decline of interest in organised religion

Literal lifestyle:

After two world wars many people saw religion as powerless to protect society

Plurality of religions:

- A common accusation
 - "if there are all these religions, how can they all be right"
- Protests, threats and violence against Muslims
- Decision to detain asylum seekers or prevent them from reaching Australia

Catholic perspective:

- Part of society
 - The catholic church sees itself as a part of society and responsiveness to the needs of society
 - Consequently the church wants to contribute to debate 'nothing in the world is indifferent to us' pope francis – encyclical laudato 3

Catholic Church – part of society?

- When the church makes political statements some of the strangest reactions have come from politicians
- Many people agree the church should concern itself with spiritual matter and not engage in debate on scientific or political matters

Topic 3 – how a religion uses a particular structure and/or process to address important issues

Catholic view on marriage:

- Should be internal
- Must follow three f's
 - Free
 - Faithful
 - Fruitful
- A band between man and woman to procreate
- The sacrament of matrimony perfects the couples love and strengthens their unity
- Christ provides the perfect example of natural love, forgiveness, fruitfulness and strengthens all that couples need to achieve in marriage

Catholic response / viewpoint on failed marriages:

A failed marriage is one that has not gone to plan and has lost one of the values of marriage. Although the state can declare official divorce or separation, the church sees marriage as a lifelong commitment, even if married outside the church. The church sees failed marriages as missing at least one of the key grounds to marriage and if one is missing the church will grant a reconciled and certified separation called annulment. The church recognises that there are challenges in marriages and suggests they look to god for help and compassion

Catholic structure in response to failed marriages:

If one of the key grounds in a catholic marriage is missing the church can declare the relationship as 'null'. This null of a marriage can be achieved through an official annulment which declares the relationship as missing an essential put required for a lasting relationship. To achieve the status of null marriage one must go through the catholic tribunal. This tribunal goes through a process of finding evidence to support the missing grounds in the relationship and render it null if found true while also receiving god's forgiveness.

Process of addressing failed marriage:

This process can often be one that is very long and emotional as it takes up to 12-18 months to complete, they go through the steps as follows:

- Interview
- Statement
- Petition
- Petition to tribunal
- Tribunal hearing
- Former spouse contacted
- Evidence
- Arguing evidence to judge
- Verdict

Research steps:

- Terminology
- Research
- Analysis
- Communication

Topic 4 – Vatican II (2)

Essay Plan:

Intro:

- All things have been shaped and continue to be shaped in a multitude of ways in relation to places, times and people
- The historical event of the second Vatican council is significant as it was a monumental change to the churches outlook at society
- Vatican II as it's informally known; led to a positive impact both on the church and its relation to others.
- To fully comprehend its significance an understanding of what led the council, during and after is needed
- A variety of internal and external influences continued to Vatican II

Paragraph 1:

Event/issue of Vatican II

- Throughout the history of the church councils have been held on the regular.
- Doctrines are developed to update the truth spoken by apostles
- Vatican II was opened by pope john XXIV in 1962 and closed by pope paul VI
- The summon in 1961 had a positive reaction from religious and secular leaders outside the church
- Prep for the council took more than 2 years and involved work from 10 splendid commissions
- Catholic bishops were asked to submit proposals for subjects to be spoken about.

Paragraph 2:

Before Vatican II

- Both internal and external factors that influenced the need for a council
- Internal factors
 - Social justice teachings
 - Liturgical movement
 - Biblical movement
 - Ideological + technical developments
 - Scientific discoveries

- External factors
 - World wars
 - Cold wars
 - Economic depression
 - Rediscovering of cultures

Vatican II was called to bring renewal to the church and enter it to the modern world

Paragraph 3:

During Vatican II

- Said to be the first ecumenical council in history
 - Number and variety of people who attended was different to past councils .e.g. woman and leaders of other religions
- The council explored new issues in accordance to the best understanding of past teachings
- Aggiornamento
- Ressourcement

Paragraph 4:

After Vatican II

- 16 documents were produced from Vatican II
 - From these are four fundamental constitutions
 - Dogmatic constitution of church (Lumen Gentium)
 - Dogmatic constitution of divine revelation (Dei Verbum)
 - Constitution on sacred liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium)
 - Constitution on church in modern world (Gaudium et spes)
- Areas of renewal included mass, involvement of laity, scripture study, ecumenism + social outreach
- “all Catholics felt good about the council because it had given them a new meaning”

Conclusion:

- The second Vatican council is a significant historical event because its impact still resonates in society
- Vatican II which was called by pope john XXIII was unique as its magnitude and audience wasn't seen before
- All that attended are credited to contribute to widening views of the church which helped make all teachings more relevant to everyone
- Was summoned during a time of turmoil in order to address the church's relation and stance in the world.

Topic 5 – development of a belief over time

Key features of a belief:

One particular catholic belief is indissolubility and unity of marriage:

Key features:

- Permanent, exclusive, intimate
- Covenant relationship
- Vows / promises, people bestow the sacrament on each other
- Sacramental nature: representative of god's love and divine grace

God strengthens, guides + sustains Christian mission

Development over time (know 3 periods):

- Dates
 - Aspects of this period/society
 - Relationship between aspects and change of expression
 - What does this change of expression look like whilst maintaining the belief
-
- ❖ Marriage is a holy covenant between two people that is permanent, intimate and exclusive
 - ❖ Sacramental nature of marriage is representative of god's love and divine grace
 - ❖ God strengthens, guides + sustains Christian mission
 - ❖ Beliefs don't change
 - ❖ Teachings change along with society changes
 - ❖ Belief = marriage is a lifelong commitment strengthened and sustained by god
 - ❖ Teachings = marriage must stay between two people requires fidelity, openness to life and capacity to love and be loved

Development over time:

Three periods of change;

Early church:

- Dates: began 1st century AD
- Aspects: further developed biblical images, particularly of covenant
- Changes: as church spread wider marriage rituals of local areas we maintained
- Belief: defended marriage against Gnostics as it was a sacred act

St Augustine:

- Dates: 400AD
- Aspects: three 'Goods'; procreation, fidelity, sacrament and was taught that sex was evil
- Belief: marriage must be in place to perform sexual acts otherwise selfishness in the acts may happen

Vatican II:

- Dates: 1962 – 1965 held by pope john XXIII
- Aspects: brought the church to modern standards
- Changes: changed aspects of mass to have priest face clergy, broader view of marriage, Latin mass to English
- Beliefs: to continue to do gods will end and walk one must owe with the times of surrounding society

Topic 6 – Religious response to issues

“how and why does a religion respond to the tension and/or conflict generated by one issue”

Issue: asylum seekers/refugees arriving illegally in Australian society

- Someone who seeks safety and are trying to run from wars or world issues
- Often persecuted for race, religion, political opinion, nationality or social group.
- As of 30/06/2014; 3624 people were held in immigration detention facilities
- Catholic religion responds through religious organisations that provide respect and care for asylum seekers.

Why is it an issue?

- ABC vote compass 2013
 - 32.4% of Aus population feel asylum seekers shouldn't be allowed
 - 20.1% of people strongly disagree
 - 30.2% said boats should be turned back
 - 26.1% said they shouldn't
- Many believe asylum seekers take jobs and financial security
 - Immigration minister peter Dutton stated; “for many people they won't be numerate or literate in their own let alone English. These people would be taking Australian jobs and for many of them that would be unemployed, they would languish in unemployment ques and on Medicare, and the rest of it. So there would be a huge cost” (may 2016)

Religious response:

- Jesus identified himself as a stranger to be welcomed (Mathew 25:35) and taught that the whole humanity is united
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph experience hardship of exile > church is open to it
- Human dignity > all life is sacred
- Seeking asylum from trauma is not illegal
- “love thy neighbours as yourself”

Topic 7 – module 1 unit 4 – Paul of tarsus:

“the interplay between the life of one significant religious person, their context and religion”

Context

Greek

- Hellenistic education
 - philosophy
 - importance in debate
 - public dialogue
- Paul spoke Greek
- Greek culture was a pagan culture
 - A religion / place was fixed
 - What did Paul have to offer about this

Roman:

- Citizen of Rome
- Legal rights
- Appealed to courts
- Practises/practicalities on journeys
 - Had easier access than other people

Jewish:

- Grew up studying Judaism
- Knew mosaic law
- Pharisee (strict adherence)
- Had an conversion experience

Religious way of life:

- Evangeliser
- Apostle to the gentiles
- Letter writer
- Gave perseverance and instruction to early churches
- Missionary journeys
- Developed a rich theology on how to live as a Christian
- Sacrifice life (martyrdom)

Topic 8 – module 2 unit 4 – Eucharist/freedom:

Freedom:

- the search for freedom requires spiritual guidance from a higher being provided by religion
- Jesus is the source of true freedom. Jesus recognised it would be difficult for people to follow him as human desires and social pressures temptations do not enable people to seek true happiness.
- Jesus established that the sacrament of the Eucharist could be beneficial to strengthen and guide believers
- The desire for freedom was created by god in all and the catholic church helps people in their search for true freedom through sacrament of the Eucharist

The Eucharist:

- Eucharist “is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the church through which divine life is dispensed to people.” “Christ is consumed the mind is filled with grace and a pledge of future glory is given to us”
- It is the source and summit of Christian life which helps guide people in search for freedom, found in Jesus

Structure:

- Introductory rite
- Liturgy of the word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Concluding rite

Process:

Sacred Meal:

Where Jesus invited every person where the Eucharist restores what was lost at the fall and where people can share in the grace of god. This is like the last supper, where Jesus offered his body and blood to the disciples as freedom from sin. This is represented at mass, where the receiving of the body and blood of Christ nourishes the gifts and fruits the Holy Spirit received at Holy Communion. Jesus is able to spread god’s wisdom through all society and assist people in the search for freedom.

Sacrifice:

Where Jesus continues to sacrifice himself for the human race, "this is the cup of my blood the new and everlasting covenant" so that "sins may be forgiven" then covenants of god always include sacrifice as Jesus sacrificed himself. The celebration of the Eucharist at mass is a representation of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, where he conquered the power of sin and empowered believers to reflect his love for them.

Real presence of Jesus:

Involves transubstantiation, transforming into the body and blood of Christ. Jesus is believed to be present at the consecration of the Eucharist. God is able to be present in the church and allows Jesus to be present in people's lives and empowers them to live the Christian mission and achieve freedom

How the Eucharist encourages freedom:

Meal:

- Structure: bread, wine, table
- Process: garden of Eden > Isiah > last supper restores the fall
- Freedom: spiritual gifts are nourished by the body and blood of Christ, enabling people to understand Jesus' mission and assist in promoting it. Therefore seeks god and Jesus, the true source of freedom

Sacrifice:

- Structure: altar
- Process: Abraham > Moses > David > covenant where Christ is the perfect sacrifice
- Freedom: Jesus offers himself as a sacrifice on the altar during mass like he did on the cross to save the human race. This sacrifice allows the prayers of all believers to have an effect on society and bear fruit, help people find true freedom

Real presence:

- Structure: bread and wine
- Process: transubstantiation, where Jesus is made present
- Freedom: Jesus' death and resurrection conquered the power of sin and empowers his followers to reflect the love he had for them when he died, and continue his work of love so that he may be ever present in society and lead people to true freedom.

Topic 9 – module 3 unite 4 / religion in a public life

The place of religion in society:

In different societies, at different times, religion has experienced differing levels of acceptance, tolerance and rejection. Further how religion is perceived in society and therefore its place in society may vary from religion to religion. Whatever is prevailing view about religion and/or a particular religion maybe, will turn shape the place religion has in a society and determine the role religion or a religion is able to play in society.

The role of religion in public life:

In broad terms the concept of public life refers to the political life of a nation. In the context of religion and the role it might play in the public life of a particular society a range of questions might be asked. However such questions will vary from society to society. In western societies, such as Australia, the following questions might be asked:

- What place should religion and the beliefs, practises and values of a religion
- Has the phrase “separation of the church and state” lost its meaning in the late twentieth century
- To what extent should an individual’s spiritual and religious beliefs inform his/her political life
- Is there a necessary link between religious belief and moral action
- Should society support activities and religions

Political engagement:

Welfare:

- A number of catholic organisations are providers of social welfare services and education in Australia
- 2 welfare religious institutes are; sister of st joseph of the sacred heart and sisters of the good Samaritan

Health:

- Catholic health Australia is the largest non-government provider grouping of health, community and aged care services in Australia
- 10% of health sector, 35000 employed
- Many Australian hospitals were founded by religious institutions
- 1857 Irish sisters of charity established st Vincent’s hospitals Sydney

Jacob D'Costa

Education:

- 1833 around 10 catholic schools in the Australian colonies
- Today 1 in 3 Australian students attend catholic schools
- Catholic receive funding from the commonwealth government

Politics:

- Church leader have often involved themselves in political issues in areas they consider relevant to Christian teachings
- Australian labor party largely supported by Catholics until 1950 when democratic labor party was formed due to communist influence

Topic 10 – module 4 unity 4

Interplay between a religion and issue in a particular historical context

Event = French revolution – issue of inequality and injustice (1789 – 1799)

Three particular circumstances:

Economic: the main cause of this was deficit spending, which led to;

- Bankruptcy; France went bankrupt from overseas wars and poor harvests
 - E.g. people of land were predominantly living off bread, eventually prices of bread went up and some were not able to afford this.
- High taxation: the least wealthy class of people (majority) had to pay a higher taxation rate, leading to less money for adequate human needs

Society structure: (ancient regime) involved the establishment of three estates.

The first and highest of the estate was the clergy. The clergy consisted all priests, bishops, deacons etc. the second class consisted of the nobility; the royal members.

Then lastly everyone else.

- The first and sacred estates were very privileged and were richer estates. The 3rd class consisting of the vast majority was treated unfairly e.g. they paid taxes while others didn't even though being poor.
- They were people who often did not get any benefits of where the tax money was going

Enlightenment ideals / philosophies: this when secular philosophies care about.

People were beginning to question the role of religion and traditional politics.

Society was becoming increasingly secular.

Interplay:

1. The civil constitution of the clergy:

- The national assembly [revolutionary council] issued an order in July 1790 that splits the French church down the middle, known as the civil constitution of the clergy
- Civil constitution of the clergy was designed to regulate the church affairs in the new constitutional monarchy
- The church became another department of the government and the pope was relieved of his rule over the French church
- November 1790 the national assembly required bishops and priests to take an oath, accepting the civil constitution of the clergy. Some of the bishops and help of the priests took an oath and formed the 'constitutional church'
- The church in France was divided; when the pope spoke he condemned the civil constitution of the clergy and the whole revolution

2. De-Christianisation:

- There was an attempt to wipe out Christianity and replace it with a 'natural religion' the religion of reason
- Churches and sacred place were vandalized and used as stables; priests were persecuted and pressured in renouncing their priesthood and in order to wipe out the memory of holy days and Sunday's and new calendar was designed
- E.g. the cathedral of Notre dame in Paris was transformed into the temple of reason.

3. Napoleon and the concordat with Pius VII:

- In 1799 napoleon gained power in France; he witnessed a sad start of affairs brought by the attempt of de-Christianisation in France
- Napoleon wanted to unite the country in which he needed to heal the split and enlist the help of the pope Pius vii
- Pius vii reigned during one of the worst times during church history but turned to be one of the strongest popes
- A concordat is an agreement between the Holy See and the secular ruler. The concordat of 1801 declared that all French bishops hand in their resignation to the church, obliging bishops took to Rome for guidance
- The churches did not get back the land confiscated, but churches that were closed would be reopened and Catholics can freely practise their religion
- Pope Pius vii and napoleons relationships unravelled when Pius didn't grant napoleon the annulment for marriage. This led to excommunicating him.
- This led to napoleon having the pope arrest him and carried to France for 6 years, and lead to Pius refusing napoleons orders e.g. to install bishops in France
- In 1814 napoleon found out that his enemies are about to defeat him so let Pius return to Rome where he was welcomed as a leader

Topic 11 – module 5 unit 4

How and why a religion develops and expresses its beliefs:

WHY

Theology:

- Disciplined exploration of what's contained in revelation. Faith seeking understanding a ministry carried out in the service of revelation which theologians are servants of the word of god, much like the pope and bishops are. The questions generated by this pursuit of truth implicit in the act of faith can be categorised as fundamental, historical, systematic, moral, and practical.

Fundamental:

- Helps one to help other people keep the faith by removing difficulties they may have about believing. It also helps convert others to faith by suggesting considerations relevant to the truth of Christianity.

Historical:

- Helps one to discern the impression of Jesus Christ made upon those who first met him, the situation he lived in [old testament] and the way his image and teachings have been preserved and presented in the church [history of doctrine]

Systematic:

- helps one to show people how faith hangs together, how it all makes a satisfying design that is an inspiration to live by

Moral:

- useful in showing people how they might be growing personally in relation to god and their neighbours

Practical:

- shows people the relevance of their religion to their professional work or private passions to their general knowledge or social situation scripture and traditions acts as 'aids to discernment' and as an 'ordinary magisterium'

HOW

Reaching life and worship in the terms of revelation, discipline and salvation.

Revelation:

- god reveals himself and therefore the truth to believers through teachings e.g. scriptures and tradition, symbols of belief [the creeds], teachings of the church councils [Vatican 2] magisterium [popal and episcopal, extraordinary and ordinary]
- form or service to the church
- scripture and tradition act as the font of theological knowledge and acts as 'aids to discernment' and 'ordinary magisterium' [contemporary day to day teachings]

Exploration:

- through theology revelation can be discerned and life explored
- this can be done in Christian communities [family, social groups] and through community engagement involving political involvement
- Questions are asked through theology, ancient history etc.

Discipline:

- Worship must be structured and ordered to suit the present
- Worship is done through the sacraments and non-sacramental worship [pilgrimage, prayer groups] lex brandi, iex credi and lex vivendi, [the law of prayer denies from the law of belief and feeds into the law of life]
- Theological methodology interrogates the sources of scripture and tradition using aids to discernment, Christian experience and magisterium to develop and ordered exploration of what is contained in revelation
- Certain elements of structure and order should be present

WHY

Objectively:

- Where belief is expressed differently according to the social situation as re-expressed to answer questions
- Sacred scripture and tradition re-express in formulas to be scientifically understood

Subjectively:

- Where what was implicit was made explicit

Hermeneutically:

- Where beliefs become clearer as people grow in understanding
- Development of intellectual allows people to be receive divine tradition in a more complete way

Reflectively:

- Where people develop their own beliefs and knowledge after greater understanding
- Through and individual action and church intervention controls over the future growth on doctrine can be achieved.

Topic 12 – module 6 unit 4

A current issue for a religion and how this religion interacts with this issue

Voluntary euthanasia:

Nature of the issue:

- Voluntary euthanasia is defined as death brought about by a doctor at the request of the person who dies. It mainly occurs in the event a patient is suffering from a terminal illness and they wish to end the suffering
- Voluntary euthanasia can be active or passive

Passive euthanasia:

Involves the withdrawal of life-prolonging technology or treatment. The death of patient is not intended but is expected. The patient is to die from an illness, but not due to the treatment being stopped

Active euthanasia:

Involves doctors injecting a lethal substance to terminate the life of a patient. They die from the lethal injection and not the condition:

- Many that oppose euthanasia are catholic
- Many that support euthanasia are those with secular views. This has prompted debate and opposition from those that hold a secular view
- According to 2012 newspoll, 82.5% of Australians support active voluntary euthanasia

Societal view:

Secular views believe that voluntary euthanasia should be legalised.

- 'exit international' states; "at exit, we believe that it is a fundamental human right for every adult of sound mind, to be able to choose/plan for the end of their life in a way that is reliable, peaceful and act a time of their choosing
- "dying with dignity should be a basic human right" –voluntary euthanasia party

1. Right to control his or her body:

- This includes when and how to die
- Supporters of this argument believe that no person, government agency, or god has the right to keep people from making decisions that only affect themselves
- Death is a private matter and the state and other people have no right to interfere. People believe that they have a right to be in control of their life and body
- The idea that constraints on human rights and freedoms are a bad thing, bbc states that "this idea also suggests to that humans are independent biological entities and that if their death is not restricted by the greater good of society, the choice belongs to the individual

2. Morally wrong to prevent a person who wishes to end their life as they suffer more:

- People who have an explicit right to die with dignity if they suffer from a terminal condition that cannot be cured
- A persons quality of life will not be very high as they are suffering from a condition that renders them incapable of living a normal life
- Should then hence be able to voluntarily euthanised so their suffering can be ended. A slow death is not dignifying therefore people have the right to end their life

Religious view:

- "euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of god, since it is the deliberate and unmorally unacceptable killing of human person." Pope John Paul II, evangelium vitae 1995
- Many religions, particularly Christianity, are opposed to legalising voluntary euthanasia
- This is due to the belief in the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of life. As well as god being the only one who has the rights to end life

1. Human beings are the sacred creation of god:

- Human life is sacred. Life is given by god who created human beings in his image and with an intrinsic value that cannot be ignored.
- No human being therefore can have the authority to take the life of any innocent person, even if they want to die
- Only god can decide when a human life ends, so committing an act of euthanasia would be acting against the will of god
- Any suffering being made reflects the sacrifice Jesus made when he died on the cross and if a part of the human condition to reflect Christ, hence suffering has value when united with Christ's suffering.
- "the compassion leads to sharing another's pain it does not kill the person who is suffering we cannot bear" pope John Paul II

2. Church believes in every person's right to live:

- This is from conception until death
- Human beings are free, but freedom does not extend to the ending of their own lives
- Euthanasia is a rejection of gods absolute sovereignty over life and death
- The church believes that each human life is made in the image of god, so if one decides to die, they are denying their relationship with god. "the life which god offers to man is a gift by which god shows something of himself with his creature"
- Euthanasia also goes against the commandment 'you shall not kill' as it is taking someone's life unnaturally
- Jesus references the commandment and the positive requirement to 'love ones neighbour as you love yourself' this commandment promotes a love of self that would exclude euthanasia.

Interplay:

Secular religious views interact as a result of the opposing views of each group

Secular views:

- In favour of legalising euthanasia so the person suffering can die with dignity
- Encourages other to be compassionate and sympathetic to persons suffering
- Also because it is a personal choice as people have the right to their bodies
- What we have is the freedom to do what we choose because it is a person's life

Religious views:

- Are opposed on legalisation euthanasia
- It is a violation of the fifth commandment
- Ignores the sanctity of life and dignity of the human person
- Does not acknowledge that suffering is a part of the human condition
- God is the only person who can take someone's life away and people need to reflect on gods will in any given situation

Compliments:

Secular views:

- Some doctors do believe that it is going against their meals as their duty is to preserve and relieve suffering
- Take an oath 'first do no harm'
- Restricts the rights of doctors who may have to help someone and goes against their religion

Religious views:

- Believe in the idea of palliative care which an approach that improves the quality of life of patients as it lessens pains for those suffering in agony