Big question: What is Evil and how do Catholics respond to it?

Recap phase: Insert the correct keyword

	Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.
	The absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others which often results in suffering.
	The decision-making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free if a person can choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.
	The quality of being like God: seeking the well-being of others selflessly.
	"Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.
	The moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws.
	The loss or absence of a quality or something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.
	Pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (often called moral evil); some is not (often called natural evil)

Preparation: watch the video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTn4s-w4GEc

Knowledge phase: Where does Evil come from?

Moral Evil is the suffering inflicted by people on each other e.g. murder.
Natural Evil is suffering not caused by people but by the natural world e.g. earthquakes.

Many Christians believe in the existence of an evil force, called the Devil or Satan, who tries to tempt human beings into disobeying God. Therefore, evil is the result of the Devil's work (as seen in Genesis 3). Many believe that God gave humans free will – the ability to choose our actions. Adam and Eve abused their free will in the Garden of Eden by disobeying God. **(THE FALL or THE ORIGINAL SIN)** This led to human suffering. Evil and suffering is therefore caused by humans misusing their free will.
Christians must try to reconcile their idea of a loving God with the reality of suffering and evil in the world.

St. Augustine and Privation of Good

St Augustine argued that the Bible shows that God is wholly good and that, according to Genesis 1, created a world perfectly good and free from defect, evil, and suffering: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).
He said that evil is the **PRIVATION** of good, just as darkness is the absence of light.

Consolidation phase:

1. What is the difference between moral and natural evil?
2. What could be responsible for evil according to Genesis 3?
3. What is meant by Privation?
4. How does St Augustine explain evil in the world?
5. Why does evil in the world cause a problem for Christians?



Knowledge phase:

Atheist JL Mackie argued that **The problem of evil** can be regarded as an **'inconsistent triad'** – in other words, three ideas but only two of them can be true.
As there is clear evidence and experience of evil, either God is not all-powerful (He cannot stop evil) or God is not loving and good (He does not love us or care enough to stop evil).

Evil and suffering could make Christians question God's *omnipotence*, *omnibenevolence*, or his *omniscience*. They might ask the following questions.

- If God was all-powerful, wouldn't he stop natural disasters?
- If God was all-loving, wouldn't he stop suffering?
- If God was all-knowing, wouldn't he know that people were going to do something evil and stop them?

Christians may give one or more of the following answers.

- God has given people *free will*. He has shown people how they should obey the *Ten Commandments* and follow Jesus' life and teaching. It is then up to human beings to decide whether or not to follow God's instructions.
- God has a plan for people's lives that they may not always understand. This may include evil and suffering but Christians should trust and have faith in God's plan.
- God wants people to follow the example of Jesus and help those who are suffering. God must have a reason for allowing evil and suffering but the reason is beyond human understanding.
- Christians also pray for those who suffer and try to help them.
- Evil and suffering in this life is a preparation for *Heaven*. Evil and suffering give people a chance to become better people and improve their souls. Christianity teaches that God will reward them in Heaven.

Consolidation phase:

1. Who proposed the idea of the inconsistent triad?
2. Why might the inconsistent triad cause someone to question their beliefs about God?
3. Are any of the Christian responses successful in countering Mackie's ideas? Which one(s)? Why?

Practice phase:

D) 'If God existed, He would stop evil and suffering' (15)

Big question: What is the Trinity?

Recap phase:

Suffering caused by human beings	
God is all powerful	
God is all loving	
Suffering not caused by human beings	
An absence or lack of something usually present	

Preparation: Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxZ9-uHheoM&t=12s

Knowledge phase: How can God be both 3 and 1?

The Trinity refers to the idea that God is one, but can be experienced in three different Persons. The word 'trinity' comes from the word 'tri' meaning 'three' and 'unity' meaning 'one'. Catholics believe that there are three distinct Persons to this one God and that these three Persons form a unity. This belief is called the doctrine of the Trinity:

- God the Father - the creator and sustainer of all things
- God the Son - the incarnation of God as a human being, Jesus Christ, on Earth
- God the Holy Spirit - the power of God which is active in the world, drawing people towards God

Consolidation phase:

Consolidation phase: Read the sources below. Use highlighters or different styles of underlining to show whether they relate to God the Father, God The Son or God the Holy Spirit. (Be careful, some may relate to more than one)

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.' (John 1: 1-3)

Matthew 3:16-17 - "And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'"

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. .Galatians 5:22-23

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **John 14:25-26**

Knowledge phase: WHAT DID ST. AUGUSTINE SAY ABOUT THE TRINITY?

He said that the best way to define the Trinity was through the concept of love. Think about a situation where you love someone ~ within that relationship, three things exist:

- The Lover (He / She who is doing the loving)
- The Beloved (He / She who is being loved)
- The love itself

Augustine argued that each of the three are co-reliant on each other ~ one could not survive without the others ~ all three elements are needed. THIS is like the Trinity!

Consolidation phase:

How does the story of Jesus Baptism depict the Trinity?
What does St Augustine compare the Trinity to?
How does this symbol below help us to understand Trinity?



Application phase: C) Explain Catholic beief in the Trinity (8)

Big question: What is Incarnation and why does Jesus have authority?

Revisit phase: Link the idea to its source.

Idea	Source
Evil is a privation of good	St Catherine of Sienna
The Inconsistent Triad	Charles Darwin
Big Bang Theory	St Augustine
Evolution	Fr Georges Lemaitre
Imago Dei (We mirror God's goodness)	J.L. Mackie

Getting started: Watch the video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6nolS5XZWw

Knowledge phase: The incarnation

When Jesus was born, God became present on earth as a human and as the second part of the *Trinity* - the Son. This is referred to as the ***incarnation*** of Jesus**,** as it was when God took on human form, becoming fully God and fully human at the same time.

The Word became flesh and lived amongst us.— John 1:14

The word incarnation literally means, 'Made flesh'. Jesus is referred to as *Christ* or *Messiah* and he showed Christians how they should live. Jesus grew up in a Jewish family and community in Nazareth. He was a carpenter like his human step-father, Joseph.

At the age of 30, Jesus was *baptised* by *John the Baptist* and began teaching and performing miracles, such as healing a blind man. This is known as his ministry. He also recruited his disciples and together they taught God's message to many people.

Jesus demonstrated God's love and gave guidance and teachings throughout his life. The Sermon on the Mount contained some of his most important messages. One of his key teachings was the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which teaches Christians to love thy neighbour (Luke 10:30-37). The Church teaches that Incarnation means that Jesus is **fully God and fully human**

Consolidation phase:

1. What are the three parts of the trinity?
2. What does incarnation mean?
3. What is meant by Ministry?
4. What contains dome of Jesus' most important teachings?
5. What does the Church teach about incarnation?

Knowledge phase: The Sermon on the Mount

In this sermon, Jesus taught his followers the *Lord's Prayer* and told them several parables. The sermon also contained the *Beatitudes* and Jesus' teachings about God's laws, which he expected his followers to uphold.

The Beatitudes

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains to his followers what kinds of human lives are blessed by God. The statements he made are known as the Beatitudes.

According to Jesus, God gives his blessing to:

- the meek – meaning humble people
- those who make peace
- those who show mercy to others

Jesus also mentioned that people who are *persecuted* because of their faith will be blessed and find reward in Heaven (Matthew 5:3–11).

Jesus' teachings about God's law

The Bible relates how some of the people who came to hear Jesus give sermons feared that he was opposed to the teachings in the *Old Testament*, which people had been following for a long

time. However, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained that he had not come to overturn God's laws but to make sure they were upheld.
Jesus expanded on the Old Testament teachings, explaining that God had ever higher expectations of how people should behave towards each other: Do not murder = Do not even be angry with another person or insult them. Try to forgive people and mend broken relationships.

Consolidation phase:

List five teachings or instructions given by Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount.

-
-
-
-
-

Application phase: D) Jesus is the most important source of authority for Christians (15)

Big question: What are conscience, natural law and virtues?

Recap phase:

	Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.
	The absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others which often results in suffering.
	The decision-making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free if a person can choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.
	The quality of being like God: seeking the well-being of others selflessly.
	"Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.

Preparation: Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yGZFdo0gE0

Knowledge phase: Conscience

Christians believe that conscience is the voice of God in their heart and soul. This means that God, through the Holy Spirit, guides each person to make the right choices. The more a person ignores their conscience the more they go against what they feel is right. The more a person sins, the more they block their conscience. Conscience has to be educated. It should be guided by Bible teachings like the Ten Commandments and the two Greatest Commandments of Jesus (Love God and Love your neighbour). They should also listen to the teachings of the Catholic Church which are infallibly guided by the Holy Spirit. After taking these teachings into consideration, conscience is the final deciding factor. Should you listen to your conscience?

"Personal conscience and reason should not be set in opposition to the moral law or Magisterium (official teachings) of the Church" (CCC 2039)

For Christians, conscience helps them to live by high standards of doing good and avoiding evil. One person's conscience can inspire other people. Christians believe that every member of the Church must listen to other people to ensure their conscience is guiding them properly. All Christians can affect other people's conscience and so they should consider how they behave in case it alters other behaviour in a negative way. Equally Christians must respect the fact that Church laws are based on guidance from the Holy Spirit over hundreds of years. Therefore, they must take serious account of Church teachings. Some people say that conscience is guided by natural law.

Consolidation phase: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRoRrb8pFq4

Knowledge phase: Natural law and Virtues

Natural Law is the moral principles and values that are considered to be inherent in all humans. It was put forward by St. Thomas Aquinas who stated that nature has given all human beings a kind of inner compass which always points us towards the good rather than the bad. He says that this is worked out by understanding what our purposes are as human beings. These are sometimes summarised as follows:

- To preserve human life
- to procreate
- to educate and to seek truth
- to live in society
- and to worship God

These 'primary precepts' form part of Catholic tradition. The Catechism says *"If people are to do good and avoid evil, certainty about what is good and evil will be inscribed within them."*

Virtues and suffering

Living a good life and following our conscience takes practice. Moral habits we call virtues need to be practiced if we are going to become good people.eg **courage, generosity, selflessness and self-**

control These virtues take practice, we are not good at them straight away but can get better at them through our life experiences. One of the ways in which people can grow in virtue is through the experience of suffering. eg serious illness can make someone more courageous. If I know what it's like to be poor, I might be generous when I do have things to share. Suffering can help us to become better people. Doing what's right will make us truly happy and fulfilled.

Consolidation phase:

1. What is meant by inherent?
2. Who put forward the idea of Natural Law?
3. Do you agree with the 5 purposes of human life? Why/ Why not?
4. What does the catechism say about natural law?
5. How does suffering help us to be virtuous?

Practice phase: Explain how Christians understand what is right and wrong (8)

Include Jesus teachings and example, Natural law, conscience and the bible.

Big question: How do Catholics use statues and sculptures?

Recap phase:

	The quality of being like God: seeking the well-being of others selflessly.
	"Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.
	The moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws.
	The loss or absence of a quality or something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.
	Pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (often called moral evil); some is not (often called natural evil)

Preparation:

Look at the images on the powerpoint. What can you recognise?

Knowledge phase:

The Catechism teaches

"*Arising from talent given by the Creator and from man's own effort, art is a form of practical wisdom, uniting knowledge and skill."*

This means that the Church teaches that artistic works are a reflection of a human being's inner riches. Catholics use sculptures and statues to recall a person or an event. They can be a teaching tool (which was helpful in the past when people were illiterate). Catholics **DO NOT** worship statues – they are simply an aid to prayer. The sculptures that are placed in Catholic church have to be approved by the local bishop. This is to ensure that they are moderate (not profane and overtly decorated) and that they express the Bible faithfully. Statues help Catholics in prayer and meditation. Most Catholic churches have statues including at least one of Mary. Many Catholics have small statues in their homes which remind them of their faith. Some of these statues may link to a pilgrimage (eg. a statue of Mary and St Bernadette from Lourdes) or saint that is important for the family. Catholics can show devotion to statues by: Lighting candles in front of them Touching or kissing them (particularly the crucifix on Good Friday for Veneration of the Cross) Kneeling in front of them Praying in front of them

Consolidation phase:

1. What does the quote from the catechism mean?
2. Why is it important that Catholics don't worship statues?
3. Almost all Catholic Churches have a statue of whom?
4. Jewish people and some Christians think the use of statues is wrong. Why might this be?
5. How do Catholics show devotion to God through statues?

Knowledge phase: Michelangelo's pieta



<u>Consolidation phase: Label the image above with the information below</u>

- Some say the deep fold of the garment next to Jesus is a symbol of a womb…representing Mary's pain in childbirth, mirrored by this pain she now feels.
- There is often surprise at the stillness on Mary's face despite the circumstances
- Her palm is outstretched as a sign that she is at peace after witnessing the crucifixion.
- Look at the size of Mary compared to Jesus ~ especially the bottom half... she makes Jesus look small. This is an echo of Mary with the baby Jesus…it represents the love of a mother. Many mothers who have lost children have reported this as a comfort to them.
- The statue is cut from a single piece of marble in less than two years. Michelangelo chose to depict Mary as a youthful and peaceful woman rather than a broken hearted, older woman.
- Jesus too seems at peace…his wounds are barely visible. Look also at the fact that Mary's hand is not in direct contact with his skin, but rather on a cloth. This symbolises the sacredness of Christ's body.

Pieta means "pity" in Italian. This Pieta shows the body of Jesus on Mary's lap after his crucifixion and it is housed in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. This pieta can be used to help us to see that God is with us in our human suffering. It is believed that the peaceful nature of the two beautiful figures reflects the Catholic attitude towards suffering…it is somehow closely intertwined with love and can even be a blessing.

<u>Practice phase:</u> C) Explain how Michelangelo's Pieta could help Catholics to understand suffering. (8)

Big question: What is the Rosary and what is Pilgrimage?

Revisit phase:

Word	Definition
	Made flesh: Jesus is fully God and fully human
	One God made known in 3 persons
	An absence or lack of something usually present
	An argument that God can still exist, despite evil and suffering
	A religious journey to a holy place

Getting started: Remind yourselves of the prayers used in the Rosary.



- Hail Mary
-
-
-

Knowledge phase:

Popular piety (sometimes called devotions on non-liturgical worship) is celebration or worship of God which is part of the official public liturgy o the Church. Vatican II teaches that "spiritual life….is not limited solely to participation in the Liturgy." This means that Catholics should take part in other practices above just attending church services. This could include:

- praying the Rosary
- praying the Stations of the Cross
- attending Eucharistic adoration
- pilgrimages

The Rosary is a popular form of prayer for Catholics. By praying it Catholics remember important events both happy and sad from the life of Jesus and Mary, his mother. The Sorrowful Mysteries in particular help Catholics to reflect upon the suffering if Jesus and the incarnation. "For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) **The sorrowful mysteries** show the significance of **the Incarnation.** Jesus suffering and death, as a man, allows us to see the goodness of God. He was prepared to sacrifice his only son for us.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

- The Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar.
- The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns.
- The Carrying of the Cross.
- The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

Consolidation phase:

1. What is popular Piety?
2. What do Catholics remember when they pray the rosary?
3. Why are the sorrowful mysteries particularly important?
4. What do the sorrowful mysteries show us about God?
5. Which sorrowful mystery do you think shows this most clearly?

Knowledge phase: What is Pilgrimage? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2h2X5g1jX0c

Pilgrimages are journeys to special places of religious significance. For Catholics, Lourdes in France is a particularly important pilgrimage destination because around 150 years ago, Mary appeared there to a young girl called Bernadette. As it is a place of healing and miracles, it is especially popular with the sick. Each year more than five million people, of whom a great number are sick or have a disability, go to Lourdes, from every country of the world. Visiting and praying at Lourdes can give hope and healing to those who are suffering. It is also reported that many miracles have occurred where sick pilgrims visiting Lourdes have been made well. Catholics may also visit Lourdes on a pilgrimage of service where they will volunteer to support and care for the sick and elderly pilgrims.

Consolidation phase: List 5 reasons why a Catholic might choose to visit Lourdes.

-
-

• • •
Application phase: **b) Describe the importance of the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary** **b) Describe the importance of pilgrimage to Lourdes**

Conscience	Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and avoid evil
Evil	The absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others, which often results in suffering.
Free-will	The decision making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free is a person is able to choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.
Goodness	The quality of being like God: seeing the well-being of others selflessly.
Incarnation	Literally "Made flesh". The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.
Natural Law	The moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws. The belief in natural law is the belief that the moral law is discoverable by every human being as is the same for all human beings in all places at all times.
Privation	The loss or absence of a quality of something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.
Suffering	Pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (moral evil) some is not (natural evil).

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies – Component 1: Good and Evil

PLC (Personalised Learning Checklist)

How well have you understood the topics in this section? RAG rate them in the table below:

Red = no confidence

Amber = some confidence

Green = confident

PLC (Personalised Learning Checklist)	Red	Amber	Green
1. Keywords: Conscience, Evil, Free-will, Goodness, Incarnation, Natural Law, Privation, Suffering			
2. What is Original Sin and what does St Augustine teach about privation?			
3. What are different Christian and non-Christian views on the origin of evil?			
4. What is the difference between moral and natural evil?			
5. What do Catholic's teach about God's goodness and creation?			
6. What are the challenges to the belief in God's goodness and free will? (eg. Inconsistent Triad)			
7. What is the meaning of suffering and why are Catholics ambivalent towards it (have mixed views)? Refer to Jesus suffering and death and Isaiah 53			
8. What is the nature of the Trinity? How does the Nicene Creed express this?			
9. What is the biblical support for the Trinity?			
10. What does St Augustine teach about Trinity as love, lover and beloved?			
11. What is the meaning of Jesus as Incarnate Son, divine Word, fully human and fully God?			
12. What does John 1 and the Kenosis hymn say about Jesus as Incarnate Son?			
13. How does Jesus as Incarnate Son help Catholics to respond to the Problem of Evil? (refer to Pope John Paul II, Salvifici Doloris)			
14. How is the example and teaching of Jesus an authority for moral teaching? Refer to Jesus as the fulfilment of the law in Matthew 5-7			
15. How is the existence of Natural Law and the conscience evidence of God's goodness?			
16. How does suffering contribute to the development of the virtues?			
17. What is the meaning and significance of sculpture and statues for Catholics?			
18. What is the importance of the Pieta in expressing beliefs about God's goodness and the meaning of human suffering?			
19. What is the meaning and significance of Pilgrimage for Catholics as a response to human suffering? – Lourdes.			
20. How does piety (such as praying the Rosary) reflect belief in the Incarnation. Reference the Sorrowful Mysteries			