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| *Religion, Ethics & Philosophy Unit 1*  **Where can we find meaning and purpose?** | | **1) What makes me, me?**   * Identity – Who a person is, the facts and features that make them different from others. * Our identity is made up of a combination of innate traits (things we are born with) and the results of our life experiences. * Some people believe that everyone has a ‘real’ identity – the person they really are, deep down. Others say we have no one identity, that who we are changes over time and in different situations. | | |
| **2) What is a soul?**   * Soul – An immaterial part of a person that gives them their unique identity. Often believed to live on after physical death. * Immaterial – not physical, having no form or weight. * Christians believe your soul is immaterial and immortal. Your soul is what makes you, you. Only humans have souls. * Hindus believe that every living thing has a soul which they call atman. This goes to another body after death (reincarnation). * Buddhists believe we are more than our bodies, but they believe that nothing last forever so our souls can’t be called immortal and unchanging. * Atheists don’t believe in souls or life after death, as there is no scientific evidence for either. They believe that our identifies come from experience and biology, not anything spiritual or immaterial. | | | | **3) What is free will?**   * Free will: Knowing the difference between right and wrong, AND being able to freely choose between them. * Also called moral responsibility. * Free will makes humans responsible for their actions. * Free will helps theists to explain why there is evil and suffering in the world. * Without free will humans would be robots or puppets. |
| **4) Are we responsible for everything that happens to us?**  **5) How much of a difference can one person make?**   * Interconnectedness – The belief that all life is connected and that your actions can have far-reaching consequences. * Karma - The idea that actions have consequences that will come back around to affect you. * Agape - Perfect, selfless love, that extends to ALL life, not just friends and family. | | | **6) What makes a person?**   * Personhood– A creature recognised as having the qualities of a person * Person – A creature with moral responsibility and free will that has certain basic rights (e.g. the right to life, the right to freedom) | |
| **7) Do you have to be human to be a person?**  **8) Should we give animals personhood?**   * Persons are able to feel complex emotions (e.g. love, guilt, regret, hope). Not just basic survival instincts like fear or anger. * Persons have free will. * Right: something to which a person is entitled e.g. right to life. | **9) Are humans basically good or evil?**   * Human nature – a set of feelings, habits and abilities shared by ALL humans – no matter where or when they were born. * Hobbes said that humans are basically selfish, and only help each other because society rewards us for it. * Mengzi said that humans are born compassionate and caring. * ‘Nature v nurture’ – the debate about what influences us more: our genetics or our environment. | | | |