

# St. Ninian’s High School S4See the source image

Our World.

Our World

Unit Outline

In this unit I will be given the opportunity to:

* Recognise evil is present in this world and consider humanity’s responsibility for much of this evil
* Reflect on my own attitudes towards evil in our world
* Apply my knowledge of the story of Genesis to consider types of evil and the effects our choices have in the propagation of sin
* Consider who is responsible for the evil present in the world.
* Reflect on the effect of other factors on our conscience and how our actions can lead others to sin

I will engage in the following activities:

* Scriptural study
* Faith Development
* Written assignments



* Online learning

Lesson one: Evil in our world

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **“New year nightmare as latest lockdown begins”** | **“A Ukranian flight crashes in Iran”** |
| **“Bush fires in Australia rage on”** | **“People who donated food to food banks now use them”** |
| **“Teenagers seriously hurt in A7 accident”** | **“Church closures unfair and lacking evidence”** |
| **“Pandemic triggers global recession”** | **“Man dies after crash between car and lorry”** |

These headlines remind us that our world can be a dark and unpleasant place. During “normal times” we enjoy ourselves. Hopefully, your biggest worry will be completing your maths assignment and finding something new to watch but we all know that life will bring us some worries.

Assignments



1. Make a list of 12 problems, worries or difficulties which can make life unpleasant for people such as illness.

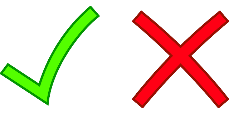
Try to keep your list concise, for example illness would include cancer, heart attacks and other health problems.

Avoid being trivial. Double Science is not a major worry.

Causes of suffering in the world

1. Look over your list and think about what the cause of three of these issues are.

Some of the problems in your list will be caused by individuals, like bullying, while others will be naturally occurring like floods.

1.  Look over your list again to decide if either individuals or humanity cause these problems. If you decide people generally cause a problem place “Yes” beside it. If the problem can’t usually be controlled by people write “no” beside it.
2. Examine your decisions. What conclusion do you reach about the cause of many problems in our World? Are most issues caused by individuals, humanity as a whole or are they naturally occuring?

**Have Your Work Corrected**

Starvation and war

5. Starvation

 a. Write down two areas in the World where people are starving.

b. What are the causes of starvation?

c. Who can help solve the problem?



6. War.

a. Name one major war.

b. What was the cause of the war?

c. Could the war have been avoided?

d. In your opinion is it right to wage war for any reason? Explain your answer.

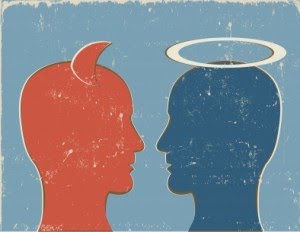
From your work from the first lesson on the “Headlines” worksheet you may have come to the conclusion that may of the problems which we face in life are caused by humanity in one way or the other. In this lesson you will further investigate you responsibility in causing evil in the World.

Lesson two: Good or bad

Assignments

1. Copy the list, given below, into your jotter.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nuclear power | Politicians | Drugs |
| Guns | Unions | Money |
| Medical science | Sex | Transport |
| Television | Banks | Social media |



1. Consider whether or not you consider each of the items in the list to be good or bad.
2. When you have decided place a “G” for good or a “B” for bad beside each item.



1. (a ) Can an object such as a gun, really be described as evil?

(b) What is it which makes the items on the list good or bad?

1. Select three items on the list and explain your decision made in Assignment 2.
2. Choose one item from the list which you feel is evil, and prepare a poster warning other of the dangers involved.

Your poster should: encourage people to avoid evil

Explain what can be done to do away with the evil.

You can complete this using an app, website or on paper.

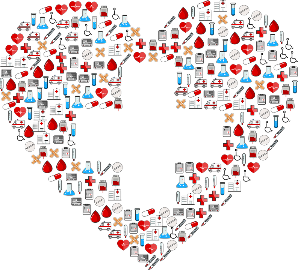
Lesson three: the origin of sin

In our previous work we have discovered that we are responsible for much of the evil in the world. However, we are not responsible for all the evil in the world and evil can be divided into three types.



Spiritual Evil. This is the devil who is opposed to God and those who serve God. He attempts to temp people away from God. This is why it is dangerous to “play” with Oujii Boards and the like.

Man-made Evil. This is the actions of men and women which cause suffering for others. Actions which go against God are called sinful.



Natural Evil. This is the suffering and pain caused by illness or natural happenings. There is no-one to blame. It is difficult to explain why these things happen and people use these to argue against the existence of a loving and caring God.

These three types of evil cause people to ask questions such as:

* *What do we know about the Devil?*
* *Why does God allow man to cause such evil?*
* *Why did God create a world which could cause such suffering?*

Our starting point in answering these questions is The Book of Genesis.

Assignments

1a. Read Gen. 1-2

**Genesis 1**

# **Genesis 1**

# **Revised Standard Version**

### Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

**1**In the beginning God created[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1&version=RSV#fen-RSV-1a)] the heavens and the earth. **2**The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1&version=RSV#fen-RSV-2b)] of God was moving over the face of the waters.

**3**And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. **4**And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5**God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

**6**And God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” **7**And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. **8**And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

**9**And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. **10**God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11**And God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.” And it was so. **12**The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **13**And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

**14**And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15**and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. **16**And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. **17**And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, **18**to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19**And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

**20**And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.” **21**So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **22**And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” **23**And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

**24**And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. **25**And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

**26**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” **27**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28**And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” **29**And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30**And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. **31**And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

**Genesis 2**

**2**Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. **2**And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. **3**So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

**4**These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

### Another Account of the Creation

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, **5**when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; **6**but a mist[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2&version=RSV#fen-RSV-37a)] went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground— **7**then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. **8**And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. **9**And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**10**A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. **11**The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which flows around the whole land of Hav′ilah, where there is gold; **12**and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. **13**The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which flows around the whole land of Cush. **14**And the name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphra′tes.

**15**The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. **16**And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17**but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

**18**Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” **19**So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. **20**The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. **21**So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; **22**and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23**Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
    and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2&version=RSV#fen-RSV-54b)]  
    because she was taken out of Man.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2&version=RSV#fen-RSV-54c)]

**24**Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. **25**And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

2. Write down a verse from Gen 1-2 which suggest the following:

a. God created the world.

b. God created a World which is good.

c. God created us in his image.

d. Adam and Eve lived happily with God

e. Adam and Eve lived happily together.

1. Write a short paragraph describing:-life in Eden

The relationship between God and humanity.

The relationship between Adam and Eve i.e humanity.

3. Genesis Chapter 3 tells us that the peace of the garden was suddenly broken. This chapter contains many symbols which help us understand its meaning.

a. Read Gen 3

### The First Sin and Its Punishment

3 Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden’?” 2And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die. 5For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

8And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10And he said, “I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12The man said, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I ate.” 14The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you above all cattle,  
    and above all wild animals;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
    all the days of your life.  
15I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
    and between your seed and her seed;  
he shall bruise your head,  
    and you shall bruise his heel.”  
16To the woman he said,  
“I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing;  
    in pain you shall bring forth children,  
yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
    and he shall rule over you.”  
17And to Adam he said,  
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
    and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
    ‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
    in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
18thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you;  
    and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
19In the sweat of your face  
    you shall eat bread  
till you return to the ground,  
    for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
    and to dust you shall return.”

20The man called his wife’s name Eve,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+3&version=RSV#fen-RSV-76a)] because she was the mother of all living. 21And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.

22Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever”— 23therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. 24He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

b. Copy and complete the following table explaining the symbols.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Symbol** | **Meaning of Symbol** |
|  | The Law of God. |
| The Snake. |  |
| Adam. |  |
|  | Woman. |
| Eating the apple. |  |
|  | Adam and Eve feel guilty. |
| The Garden of Eden. |  |
|  | God still loves humanity despite its sins. |

**Have Your Work Corrected**

Further Assignments



1. a. Re-read Gen 3.

b. Write down any other symbols which you notice in this chapter.

c. Explain the meaning of these symbols.

1. Use the wordlist to complete the following passage.

Sinned. Promises. Original. Refused. Bad.

Plan. Chose. Beginning. Affected. Born.

The Book of Genesis tells us how from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of human life on earth, men

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to cooperate in God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for human happiness.

The story says that humanity \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to do what God had pointed out was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for

them.

The important truth in the Bible is the teaching that humanity \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning.

Everyone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ born after the first people were born into a world \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the sins of

the first people.

We call this being born in a state of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sin. God still loves humanity and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to save

Us from the effects of our misdeeds.

*God created the world and it was good……………*

Assignments

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **L** | **F** | **G** | **Y** | **T** | **E** | **V** | **L** | **G** | **C** |
| **I** | **G** | **J** | **G** | **C** | **U** | **H** | **J** | **K** | **R** |
| **V** | **D** | **B** | **I** | **K** | **L** | **N** | **E** | **D** | **E** |
| **E** | **U** | **O** | **K** | **L** | **P** | **Q** | **B** | **X** | **A** |
| **Y** | **H** | **O** | **D** | **R** | **O** | **B** | **O** | **T** | **T** |
| **C** | **U** | **G** | **E** | **N** | **E** | **S** | **I** | **S** | **E** |
| **H** | **D** | **J** | **V** | **R** | **T** | **W** | **T** | **Q** | **D** |
| **G** | **Y** | **H** | **I** | **G** | **N** | **I** | **S** | **I** | **P** |
| **J** | **K** | **S** | **L** | **S** | **T** | **J** | **R** | **K** | **H** |
| **T** | **E** | **M** | **P** | **T** | **A** | **T** | **I** | **O** | **N** |

1. a. Using the word square, find nine words associated with the meaning of Genesis Chapter 3.

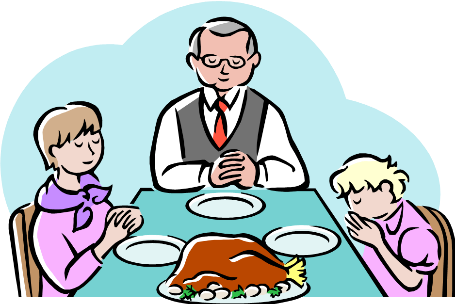
Use the following clues.

D\_ \_ \_ \_ C\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ T\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

E\_ \_ \_ E\_ \_ \_ G\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

S\_ \_ R\_ \_ \_ \_ C\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

b. You now have to use these words as your starting point in answering the question of why God created humanity which is able to cause so much evil.

1. In the “our Father” we say the words “…deliver us from evil…”

What can we do to protect ourselves from evil? E.g. prayer, sacraments etc.

1. Compose a prayer on the theme of avoiding evil.

**HAVE YOUR WORK CORRECTED**

An ideal world

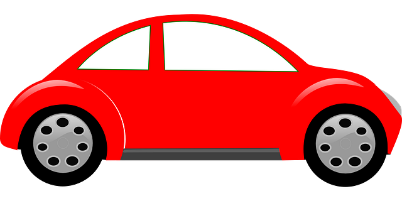
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So far we have answered two of our three questions. The Devil is a being whose intention is to tempt us away from God. We need to use the Sacrament to protect us from evil and the temptations of the World. God gave us the gift of free will to choose to follow him and it is this use of free will for good which makes our lives meaningful.

Our third question is why God designed a World which can cause so much suffering and pain?

Religion’s answer to this question is that if we are to have real free will then we must live in a World which allows us tom make real choices between good and evil.

If our actions could not actually be bad then they would automatically be good. For example you could throw things at your teacher because you would not know that it would not really do any harm. Good caring behaviour would be unnecessary because it would not make any difference. We would not have the choice of being good and caring. We would not have a free will of any real value.

What about ridding the World of pain completely? Why did God allow a brick to be so hard that it hurts if it accidentally falls on us? Why can a car travelling at speed kill someone it hits? We need bricks to be hard for building. Gravity causes items to fall on us but we need it to keep us on the ground. This means that things in nature can be both helpful and harmful. For it to be otherwise would mean constantly changing laws of nature.

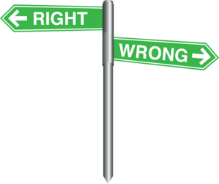
Therefore, the laws which control the evolution of our World can be a cause of suffering. Necessary laws of nature which cause earthquakes and volcanoes would have to change constantly in case they harmed anyone. This would mean that the study of science would be impossible and we would not be able to benefit from the scientific developments based on the laws of nature.

John and Enid

Read the following passage.

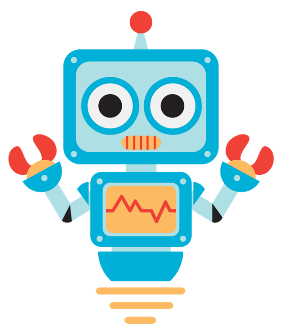
**Enid** You say that humanity brought evil and suffering into the world, but

why does God allow the innocent to suffer?

****

**John** I believe that when God made us, he gave us freedom to choose

between right and wrong. Humanity chose to do wrong, and caused

some innocent people to suffer.

**Enid** Why did He not make us so that we always did theright thing?

**John** Because then we wouldn’t be free. We would be like robots.

**Enid** But didn’t God know, when He made us, that all these terrible things would

happen?

**John** I suppose He did, but God gave us the choice **not** to make them happen.

**Enid** Ok, so people chose to do evil, but what about floods and earthquakes and

even death?

**John** That’s just the way the world has been made. As for death, well we believe

that Jesus’ death has given us life.

**Enid** That’s another thing, Jesus is supposed to have conquered sin and death. How

did He do that?

**John** Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus brought mankind and God

together so that evil and suffering is defeated in the end.

**Enid** But we still suffer!

**John** I know, it’s a mystery. But suffering helps us to grow in life and to learn. For

example, if there was no pain, I could put my hand in the fire and I wouldn’t

feel my fingers burning. That would be daft, wouldn’t it?

**Enid** Do you mean we just have to grin and bear evil suffering?

**John** No, we have to use all our abilities to stop suffering. Jesus cured people, and

So must we, but in accepting suffering we can also show our love for God.

Assignments

1. Explain in your own words why it would not be good to remove harmful parts of nature from our World.
2. Read the conversation between John and Enid and answer these questions.
3. What argument does John put forward to explain the existence of suffering and evil?
4. What does John say about suffering caused by natural causes?
5. What good does John suggest can come from suffering?

**Have Your Work Corrected**

Whether we like it or not suffering is part of our World. However, suffering can be used for good if we have the right attitude. To try and understand this, complete the following assignment.

1. Complete these sentences by matching the beginning of each sentence with an appropriate ending.
2. Pain is a warning……. a. we can sympathise with the suffering of others.
3. Through our suffering…… b. we can appreciate it more
4. Suffering is part of our World…. c. as a prayer for others
5. Suffering and disappointment… d. despite great suffering.
6. When we have to suffer to get something… e. it tells us that something is

wrong with our body.

1. Some people give into suffering… f. we have to make the best of it.
2. Often people achieve great things… g. makes us less proud.
3. Suffering can be used… h. and allow it to rule their lives.

**God In The Dock**

Who is responsible for the evil in the World? Our work has suggested that we have responsibility for much of the suffering and that god’s gift of free will mean that we have to have the freedom to choose not to do good. To allow us to have free will of any real meaning we need to live in a World which can be a source of pain and sorrow. What are your views on this? Do you agree with opinion summarised above or do you think that God must take some if not all of the blame for the actions of his creations? You will be given the opportunity to consider your own view and the views of others in your class.

Your teacher will allow you to view “God in the Dock” in which God is accused of being responsible for the problems of the World. God has to defend himself in a fictional court case.

View the video carefully.

You will now be arranged into groups and as a class asked to stage your own trial.

**The Charge.**

God is responsible for the evil and suffering in the World as a result of his creation of humanity and of the World.

**Characters.**

Judge.

God.

Two Defence Lawyers.

Two Prosecution Lawyers.

Prosecution Witnesses.

Defence Witnesses.

Jury.

**Descriptions of Roles.**

The Judge will be expected to direct proceedings as in the style of a real court case. He will read out the charge and invite the lawyers to present witnesses and to cross examine opposition witnesses. He will instruct the jury to consider the point put forward by the lawyers and witnesses and come to a reasoned decision.

The defence lawyers and the witnesses will work as a group. Their aim will be to prove that God was indeed right to create humanity as a sign of the love of God.

The prosecution lawyers and witnesses will work as a group to prove that God is to blame for the suffering in the World. Witnesses should testify to the cruelty of humanity in using free will without being stopped by God. A witness may testify to the suffering caused by the cruel events of chance and by the dangers of nature.

The jury will try and anticipate the arguments to be used by both sides and to make up a checklist to be used during the trial to record the arguments put forward. They will then be asked to reach a verdict based on the strengths of the points made during the trial.

God will be a defence witness.

The success of this exercise and your enjoyment will depend on your participation in the role-play. While this may produce some natural incidences of humour you will not be allowed to play it merely for laughs. You are encouraged to add some personality to the characters and to behave as if involved in a realistic courtroom drama.

Your arguments and input are to be based on a revision of the work already completed in the past weeks and on the video “God in the Dock”.

**It’s Catching**

Our free will is very important to us. It is free will which makes us the greatest of all God’s creations but we can abuse this freedom. When we abuse our free will and go against God’s plan for our lives we commit what we call a sin. When we sin we affect other people as well as ourselves. This sheet looks at the effect our actions can have on others.

The following story shows how our actions can influence the actions of other people.

George had had a hard time at work that day. His boss had bawled him out because of a careless mistake he had made. Others had heard the reprimand and laughed at George and given him no sympathy.

Discouraged, George had gone to the pub before going home. At the bar George told the barman what he thought of his boss. The barman agreed that George’s boss had been out of order and told George a few stories about his own boss.

Meanwhile George’s wife was worried about his whereabouts. Under pressure she snapped as George Jr and his little sister, Leslie. George Jr went off in a huff and sulked in the bedroom. Leslie shouted back at her mother who burst into tears and poured herself another drink.

Leslie ran out of the house and ran into Mrs Mannick, an old woman, who fell and cursed at the young girl before going back to her husband to talk about the youth of today.

**The Boss**

**George**

**Wife**

**Barman**

**George Jr**

**Leslie**

**Mrs Mannick**

**Assignments**

1. Re-read the story of George and then draw a line on the diagram showing how the actions of the person influenced others into doing wrong.
2. Things did not work out too well for George and his family. Now that all this has happened what would you suggest each person would have to do to make things right.
3. Often our actions can start off a series of events which can cause others to sin. Copy and complete the diagram to illustrate how one of your actions could influence others to do wrong e.g. you are insolent in class, you are cheeky at home….

**Action of others**

**Action of others**

**Your Action**

**Action of others**

**Action of others**

1. Jesus often warned us to avoid evil but his greatest warning was to those who encouraged others to sin.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Things that make people fall into sin are bound to happen, but how terrible for the one who makes them happen! It would be better for him if a large millstone were tied to his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.”

Luke 17 : 1 – 3

1. In your own words re-write the warning of Jesus.
2. List as many people or factors which influence your behaviour.
3. Divide your list into two headings : **Good Influences** and **Bad Influences**
4. Are there any of the factors on your list which our society could control and stop them from being a bad influence?

Influences

When we sin we not only affect ourselves but we affect other people. We can cause other people to do wrong and commit sin. We influence others to do wrong in many ways. Sometimes it is easy to do what we know is right and we are tempted to go along with the crowd. Among our friends we can behave quite differently from normal. The poem below is about one of these occasions.

Five little football fans. One fell on the floor. He got crushed. And then there were four.

Four little football fans. Just like you and me. One through a penny at the goalie. Then there were three.

Three little football fans. The other team did boo. But the fans out numbered them. Then there were two.

Two little football fans. After all was done. One ran onto the football pitch and then there was one.

One little football fan. Glad his team won. Argued with some other fans. Then there were none.

Ten little football fans making rude signs, one swore at a policeman. Then there were nine.

Nine little football fans stirring up some hate, one got bottled and then there were eight

Eight little football fans the youngest was eleven. He smashed up a buffet. And then there were seven.

Seven little football fans. Hitting people with sticks. One tried to fight alone. Then there were six.

Six little football fans. Playing with a knife. One got stabbed. And then there were five.

**Assignments**

1. in groups. You are to prepare a poem of your own which shows that there are certain factors which influence our behaviour e.g. peer group pressure, alcohol..

While your poem may be humorous, it must be of a good standard. Poems which appear too silly or do not show genuine effort will not be accepted.

When you work has been redrafted and accepted by your teacher you have to prepare it for display.

**Complete these tasks, when your group has completed your poem.**

2. Why do you think football fans sometimes get out of control?

3. Read the following passages.

*A. Pauline is in Third Year. In the P.E. changing rooms she saw Susan steal some money from another girl’s pocket. Susan warned Pauline that if she said anything she would sort her out. The teacher is unable to find out who is responsible for the theft.*

What should Pauline do? Explain your answer.

*B. On your way to lunchtime Mass your friends tease you about being holy. “Why not come with us down the local shops?”*

What do you do? Explain your answer.

*C. Steve’s your best friend but your parents think he’s a trouble-maker and tell you he’s a bad influence and you’ve not to spend time with him. Your other friends tell you to ignore what your parents are saying.*

Whose advice do you follow? Explain your answer.

*D. Channel Four are showing an “adult film” and you have a television in your room. You know your parents won’t think of checking what you are watching.*

*You realise that these films have a bad influence and you will not watch*

*You don’t care what you watch, good influence or bad influence.*

*You think there are no harmful influences in these films*.

Which of the above is your decision? Explain your answer

*E. You know that drink makes you do silly things which are not always good. You’ve got a chance to drink at a party and no-one will notice whether you drink or not.*

What would you do? Explain your answer.