

- Beliefs on the Origin of Evil: Original Sin, and 'soul making'
- Challenges posed by belief in God, free will and the existence of evil and suffering

Key Concepts

Good	What is morally right and to our advantage.	Evil	What is considered very immoral and wrong.
Forgiveness	Granting pardon for a wrongdoing.	Free Will	Ability to make choices. Nothing is pre-determined.
Justice	Fairness; where everyone has equal opportunities.	Sin	Deliberate immoral action; breaking a religious or moral law.
Suffering	Pain or distress that can be physical or emotional.	Morality	Principles determining right from wrong.

Beliefs on the origin of good and evil: original sin and 'soul making'

Christians believe that the world created by **God** was initially **good**, but humans were given **free will** by **God** to make **moral** choices. Christians have different beliefs about the causes of **evil** and **suffering**. Some Christians, e.g. **Catholics**, believe humans are born with **original sin**. This refers to the disobedience in the **Garden of Eden** when the first **sin** was committed by **Eve** eating the forbidden fruit. Some believe that this act of disobedience introduced **sin** to the world. Some Christians believe **God** allows **evil** to exist to develop **moral souls (soul-making)**. **St Irenaeus** believed **God** does not prevent **evil** as this would interfere with **free-will**. **Hick** and **St Irenaeus** believe **God** created humans with the potential for **spiritual growth**.

Challenges posed by belief in God, free will and the existence of evil and suffering

There are many different beliefs about why people suffer. Some believe it helps make a **moral soul (soul-making)**. **St Irenaeus** believed that humans were not created perfect but with the potential for **spiritual growth** and that, through suffering, **moral souls** are developed. **St Irenaeus** believed **God** does not intervene with suffering as that would go against beliefs in **free-will**. **John Hick** agrees with this theory and believes that **God** created humans with the potential for **spiritual growth - 'soul-making'**. For many Christians there are no answers as to why people suffer apart from it being a natural part of life. Some believe that through suffering they can understand the suffering of **Jesus**. Some Christians believe in the **Devil** as an actual being who can bring about **evil** and **suffering**.

Key Sources of Authority

- **St Irenaeus and John Hick - 'soul-making'**
- **Conscience**

Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity). Consider how...

- beliefs in free will relates to beliefs about *judgement and the after-life* (Component 1)
- beliefs in the origin of evil and existence of suffering relates to *evil and suffering* (Component 2).

Exam Practice

Explain from two religions or religious traditions teachings about free will. (8)

The existence of suffering proves there is no God. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) (15)