

Authority/Law

Authority is what we call an abstract idea, this means that it is not an object you can reach out and touch, it is something without form and that can be applied differently in different situations.

In short, someone with authority has the power or the right to give instructions or orders. They have the power or right to make decisions that people follow.

For Christians and Muslims God/Allah is the ultimate authority.

For many people, the reason they are willing to follow religious laws is because they have faith in God, or whatever their belief system is, that they are doing the right thing, morally speaking.



Y10 LRE (Life, Religion & Ethics)
Knowledge Organiser

Sharia Law

Shari'ah literally means 'the way', and so Shari'ah Law means the religious laws which have been interpreted by Islamic scholars from the holy writings in the Qur'an, Hadith and Sunna.

For this reason, the key ideals of Shari'ah Law are considered to be divine, meaning they come from Allah.

Many countries base their legal system on Shari'ah Law, just as the British legal system is loosely based on Christian ideas of law and justice.



Authority of the UK government

The UK Parliament are the two chambers in the Palace of Westminster, referred to as the House of Commons and House of Lords. These two chambers play an important part in the legislative (law making) process in the UK as they have to check that the government is making appropriate decisions. Parliament has great power as it is sovereign, which means that Parliament has the highest authority in the UK and cannot be interfered with by the monarch (king/queen).



Basic Structure of UK Government

Head of State (King/Queen)

House of Commons (made up of elected MP's)

House of Lords (Not elected)

UK citizens (who elect MP's to represent them in the House of Commons)



Where does the Law Come From?

Christian View



The Ten Commandments are thousands of years old, and no one knows exactly when they were first laid down.

In those times, there were a lot fewer people and most people lived in villages in rural areas across Europe and the Middle East. There was no police force therefore there was no effective way for criminals to be brought to justice. Local kings or lords would use their soldiers to keep the peace, but this was not always fair or effective.

This made the Ten Commandments really important, as people would be likely to follow them if they believed in Christianity. This reduced the amount of crime and acted as a deterrent - if people believed that God would send them to Hell, they would be less likely to try to get away with crime.