



GAMBLING

A lesson for 14- to 16- year-olds

This lesson gives pupils the opportunity to explore the different reasons people gamble and the possible consequences of gambling. Pupils will also explore The Salvation Army's standpoint on this issue and reflect on biblical teachings that support this standpoint.

Lesson Outcomes

- To understand what gambling is
- To be able to explain the causes and consequences of gambling
- To express what The Salvation Army believes about gambling and to reflect upon their own point of view

Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- International Positional Statement
- Opinion cards

Curriculum Links

England and Northern Ireland

AQA Religious Studies B

3.3 Unit 3 - Religious Attitudes to Rich and Poor in British Society

- religious attitudes towards the responsible use of money
- the possible causes of poverty, including gambling

Ireland

The Person and Preaching of Jesus

- the characteristics and meaning of the kingdom of God as preached and witnessed to by Jesus in word and deed - in parable, miracle, and table-fellowship. Such characteristics might include the special place of the poor, love of neighbour

Scotland

- develop skills to describe and express views about contemporary moral questions and responses. Develop straightforward knowledge and understanding of contemporary moral questions and religious and non-religious responses

Wales

Religious teaching on:

- human dignity
- equality
- social responsibility
- Religious commitments to promote justice and religious responses to injustice



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Starter

Give every pair of students a set of the opinion cards about gambling. Ask the pupils to order the cards into 'agree' and 'disagree'. When the students have completed this ask them then to pick the three statements they agree with most. Ask a few couples to feed back on the statements they have chosen.

Go on to explain the theme of today's lesson and read through the lesson outcomes.

Phase 1

Now ask pupils to come up with a definition of gambling in their pairs. After a couple of minutes ask a few pairs to share their definitions and explain what the definition is according to the exam criteria.

Put pupils in groups of four or five and give each group a piece of A3 paper and some marker pens. Tell half the groups that they have five minutes to list all of the reasons people might want to gamble and might see it as positive, and the other half to write reasons why it is negative and people should not do it. At the end of the five minutes ask one person from each group to share three things from their list.

Show the slide of quotes from Andy, a gambling machine addict. Ask the students to name what the consequences of his addiction were. Explain that Andy eventually ended up homeless due to financial problems and the breakdown of his relationship, and tell the class that we will find out what happened to Andy after we have looked at what The Salvation Army believes about gambling.

Review Progress

Going back to the lesson outcomes, ask pupils to stand if they think they have met the first and the second objectives (to understand what gambling is and to be able to explain what are the causes and consequences of gambling). Ask a couple of students who are standing to explain how they know they have met the outcomes.



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Phase 2

Depending on previous knowledge, you may need to explain that The Salvation Army is a Protestant denomination and part of the worldwide Christian Church.

Explain that we are now going to investigate The Salvation Army's standpoint in this area firstly by reading through its international Positional Statement. After you have read through the Statement with the class, ask students to highlight the reasons The Salvation Army is against all forms of gambling. Once students have completed this you may want to ask for some feedback on the reasons why The Salvation Army is against gambling, to check understanding.

Now, going back to Andy, a gambling machine addict - read through the slide telling what happened next. Explain that Andy is just one situation and that The Salvation Army is supporting people with gambling addictions every day in different parts of the UK. The Salvation Army tries to show love and support to people, since it believes God loves people unconditionally. This is why its members are committed to supporting and caring for the most vulnerable in society as well as fighting for social justice. They want to offer hope to those that have little to hope for.

On the PowerPoint presentation show the students the selection of biblical teachings. Ask the pupils to pick the teaching they think best supports The Salvation Army's beliefs, telling their partner which one they have chosen and why. If you have time, ask for feedback.

Plenary

Give the pupils two minutes to discuss the quote 'Christians should never gamble'. Choose a few pupils to explain their opinions.

Finally pick out a few students to name one reason The Salvation Army is against all forms of gambling.