

(c) Choose **one** religion and explain how its followers explain the existence of suffering in the world.

(6) Q01c

Christianity believes that suffering is caused by humans misusing their free will to break God's commandments or harm others. Sin entered the world after "the Fall" in Genesis 3, which was the first sin. Since then, all humans are born with original sin.

However some Christians view evil and suffering as a test from God, to help Christians grow and mature in faith. This is the idea of the "Vale of Soul making". \*

Finally, some Christians believe that suffering is a part of God's divine plan, that we cannot yet understand. They believe that we will one day understand its purpose, but until then we must focus on strengthening our faith in hard times.

\* Job 2:10 says "shall we accept good from God and not evil?"