

MERRYLAND HIGH SCHOOLS ENTEBBE

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S2 CRE 223

LEISURE IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

Leisure is the time one is free from his or her daily routine. It is the time one has at his or her disposal to use as he or she chooses without being bound by any necessity.

Leisure is regarded as the time free from work where an individual is set to use with freedom. In normal situations, leisure follows a given work.

However, because different individuals have different occupation, leisure might vary from one person to another. This means that what may be one's leisure may be regarded by another as a piece of work.

TYPES OF LEISURE

There are basically two types of leisure:

- Active leisure
- Passive leisure

ACTIVE LEISURE

This kind of leisure involves a situation where someone is doing something. It involves a direct and physical participation of the individual enjoying the leisure activity.

In this type of leisure, a lot of money is used. This is because the individual is actively involved using either physical or mental energy to fulfill the activity.

Examples of active leisure include dancing, acting drama and playing games like football.

PASSIVE LEISURE

This is a kind of leisure where an individual is simply entertained. The person enjoys some activities without the direct participation.

This means that an individual uses only the mental energy. The examples of passive leisure include sleeping, watching films and listening to music among others.

However, passive leisure may have some problems since the individual simply absorb whatever is being presented. Such problems include:

- Encourage idleness.
- Leaves one's talents undiscovered and undeveloped.
- Encourages laziness.
- Promotes laziness.

- Promotes theft.
- Makes one unfit.
- Promotes individualism and selfishness.
- Kills one's creativity.
- Limits socialization.
- Promotes boredom

IMPORTANCE (SIGNIFICANCY) OF LEISURE

The various leisure activities carried out offer different benefits. This may be cultural, economical, social and spiritual in nature including the following:

1. Leisure helps in refreshing the mind of the workers. This makes it possible for an individual to recover from the fatigue of the work and regain the energy lost.
2. Leisure provides an opportunity to discover and develop one's talents. This is especially true with active leisure where the individual directly participates in such activities like playing football and netball and swimming.
3. Leisure promotes co-operation and socialization among people. As people come together to enjoy such activities including games, conversation and praying, peace and harmony may be promoted.
4. Leisure provides income to different people at different levels. This is true with entertainers including actors and play writers among others .
5. Leisure helps strengthen an individual faith. This can through activities such as watching religious films, bible studies and prayers among others.
6. Leisure promotes self-discoveries by the individual workers. It gives an opportunity to evaluate the work already done. This may assist in finding loopholes an better solutions in one's work.
7. Leisure provides employment opportunities. For example, radio and TV presenters.
8. Leisure helps in strengthening one's cultures through participating in activities like traditional dances. This gives the people their true identities and creates the sense of belonging.
9. Leisure promotes education among people. This can through activities like reading magazines, and novels among others. These activities may facilitate learning.
10. Leisure activities help to relieve the burden of being idle and redundant. In such a case, the worker is at least occupied with something.
11. Leisure activities can improve on the health status of an individual. Activities such as dancing and jogging among others make muscles flexible. It also reduces the level of fats in the body because of the sweating. This limits the chances of contracting diseases such as high blood pressure and heart attack.
12. Leisure gives the chance for the workers to attend to their families. This is true considering that most workers spend much of their time away from homes.
13. Leisure helps to diversify the economic standard of an individual and the country. For instance, the government may increase on its earning through taxing the people engaging in the leisure activities and even the equipment being exported or imported.
14. Leisure gives workers adequate time to prepare for the next stage of work. In such free time, an individual is given the opportunity to lay strategies and plan for the work properly. For example, teachers can use their free time to prepare notes lesson plans and schemes of work among others.

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LEISURE TODAY

1. Most leisure activities today are commercialized. An individual is expected to pay some money before having access to the leisure activities like watching football and film shows among others. This means that it is only those with money who can enjoy them. The poor ones are isolated. This promotes social differences, which threatens unity in the society.
2. Some leisure activities promote boredom, especially when one decides to spend it passively. It may also be caused by these activities being unnecessarily long and continuous. This makes such activities to become monotonous hence denying people total enjoyment.
3. Leisure is responsible for family neglect. In such cases, the leisure makers prefer engaging in leisure activities to attending to family issues.
4. It can lead to neglect of faith. Such people prefer the pleasurable activities to religious activities like bible studies.
5. Leisure can also bring about school dropouts. This is because of the growing tendency of some students to go for different leisure activities like films, disco, and watching football at the expense of reading books.
6. The plenty of free time may give way for an individual to plan evil. This can explain the emergency of gang stars and evil doers in urban centres.
7. Some leisure activities are destructive to human life. Among others, motor rallies, drinking and wrestling have ended up causing serious injuries leading to death.
8. Some leisure activities consume and waste a lot of energy. This is true with active leisure where an individual is made more tired than before. Therefore, an individual may not be refreshed and engaged as it is always thought.
9. Leisure may promote wrong education in the community. For example, exposure to pornographic materials may lead to sexual immorality like fornication.
10. Leisure can lead to and cause poverty. Some people tend to spend money extravagantly on leisure activities such as drinking and going for trips among others. This discourages saving which affects investments negatively.
11. Some leisure activities degrade and undermine the indigenous African cultures. This is because of the ever-increasing love for the western leisure activities including films and night clubs among others. This leaves the traditional way of life undeveloped.
12. Some leisure activities limit socialization among people. People are divided up because of some activities like sleeping and site viewing which can only be enjoyed by a person at a go.
13. Most of the good leisure activities are concentrated in urban areas. Activities such as film shows, theaters and discotheques are urban based. This may be one of the reasons why some youth are forced to migrate to town.
14. Some leisure activities kill a person's creativity. Talents may not also be developed. This is especially true if the leisure is spent passively.

15. Leisure also wastes a lot valuable time that could be used in more productive activities. This may leave the community underdeveloped.

COOMERCIALISATION OF LEISURE TODAY

This refers to a situation where the leisure makers aim at making money out of the activities. The public is expected to pay some money before having access to the leisure activities being produced.

Examples of some leisure activities being paid for include watching drama in the theatre and watching live performance by musicians among others.

DISADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIALIZED LEISURE

1. Commercialization of leisure creates social classes in the community. The rich people may only associate among themselves during leisure. In the same way, the poor have a different set of leisure activities. This is a threat to a unity in the community.
2. Commercialization of leisure limits the choices of people. People become restricted to a few leisure activities which are not highly paid or which are totally free.
3. Many people tend to resort to gambling as a result of the leisure being commercialized. They may play some games in order to earn some money such that they gain access to a better leisure activity.
4. Commercialization of leisure may lead poverty among the people. This is because of the little income that could have been saved is used up to access leisure.
5. Commercialized leisure may lead to idleness. Because of being expensive, many people may be forced to sit redundant after their daily activities. This may give such people the chance to think of evil things.
6. Some people are denied the chance of developing their talents. This is because some leisure makers are also required to pay some fee before they entertain others.
7. Other people may be forced to engage in prostitution because of commercialized leisure. This may be because of the desire to get the money necessary for the leisure activities.
8. Commercialized leisure is ruining education today. Some students may prefer going to look for money instead of revising books or going to school.
9. Some people tend to neglect their families because of leisure being commercialized. This may be caused by either the desire to entertain others aimed at getting money or going for leisure alone.
10. Commercialized leisure may lead to stealing or robbery. This is common among some youth who are driven into such acts because of the love to enjoy leisure.
11. Some people have lost their creativity because of leisure commercialized. The viewers may be rendered helpless to think on their own as they simply receive whatever is being passed on to them.
12. Commercialized leisure tends to bring a lot of violence. Some people may fight because of being denied to have access, losing in a competition and many others.

13. Commercialized leisure may lead an individual to neglect his or her faith. Some people even work with the aim of getting money at the time they are to be worshipping like on Sunday.
14. Commercialized leisure may be blamed for the strip or nude dancing commonly known as “Ebimansulo” in Luganda. As a result of this, there is a lot of social disorder like family breakages.

ABUSE (MISUSE) OF LEISURE

The abuse or misuse of leisure refers to the various ways through which an individual’s free time is used in a wrong or bad way according to a given society. In such a case, the leisure is used in a way that may not benefit the leisure maker and the general public. Examples of leisure abuse in Uganda include the following;

1. Leisure is being abused through alcoholism. In this case, the excessive drinking of alcohol becomes a daily business at the expense of other more productive activities.
2. Smoking is another leisure abuse today. Many people are found of smoking plants such as tobacco and opium during their free time. This has got little benefit if not none to the smokers and the community.
3. Some people are abusing leisure by gambling. They participate in playing games for money without having any knowledge of the outcome. Such games are not only permanent but they are also against the laws and some Christian teachings. As a Christian, one is expected to work but not to gamble.
4. Leisure is being misused today by participating and watching strip dancing commonly known as “Ebimansulo” in Luganda. This is a show involving exposing of private parts. This negatively affects the morality of people.
5. Some people abuse leisure through rumor mongering. Such individuals are found of spreading unofficial story or piece of news. This may disrupt the much-desired good relationship among the people.
6. Other people misuse leisure by roaming in the streets. Such people move up and down in the streets without any reason during their free time. This may force them to commit some crimes either knowingly or unknowingly.
7. Leisure is being misused by just sitting in an idle way. People under this category simply sit without doing anything during their free time. It is during this idleness that an individual may think of and commit some crimes with the false belief of being occupied.
8. Some people misuse leisure by engaging in obscene talks. This is a common practice among the young ones that may lead to moral degeneration.
9. Leisure is being misused by working continuously even at the time one is to have a rest. This causes inefficiency in work.
10. Some people misuse leisure by engaging in seduction. This is a common practice by men. In such cases, they tend to take and persuade girls or women into sexual relations instead of doing constructive activity.

11. Some people also misuse leisure by engaging in pick pocketing. This is a common practice among the gang stars that have made it a business to steal money from other people, especially along the streets.
12. Other people engage in prostitution at the time they are free from work. This is an abuse of leisure because it is not only harmful to the individuals but also causes misunderstanding among people.

REASONS FOR TAKING ALCOHOL

The drinking of alcohol is continuously gaining ground among people today. The individuals give different reasons, answers or causes to their drinking including the following;

1. To many people, drinking alcohol is a proof to adulthood. To them, drinking alcohol is intended to demonstrate their maturity. This is because of the false belief that alcohol is meant only for the adult. Therefore, this means that they are no longer children but old people.
2. Some individuals are influenced by their peer groups to take alcohol. Such people are driven into drinking in order to fit in that particular group, be sociable and acceptable.
3. Some people take alcohol in order to gain courage while relating to others. This is particularly true wishy people who cannot express themselves fully in the public.
4. Some people take alcohol so that they forget about their problems. Therefore, drinking alcohol becomes an avenue of solving problems.
5. Some people are also influenced by the curiosity to take alcohol. This is caused by the desire to find out how nice or bad alcohol is.
6. Some people are forced to take alcohol by the sweet and persuasive advertisement or sales promotion by the alcohol makers. The adverts put across information that may eventually attract the non-drinkers. Some of these adverts include :kings beer” by pilsner, “Discover the strength” by Guinness and “ A drink for a great a night and a good morning” by Bell larger.
7. Someone’s environment or the surrounding can lure him into drinking alcohol. For example, working in brewing factory.
8. Some people take alcohol because of medical prescription. For example, people with excess fats in the body are recommended by doctors to take alcohol in order to reduce the risks associated with such a fatty body.
9. Some people are influenced by the excess money available. Such people look at taking alcohol as a means of showing off their level of riches and away of using the disposable income.
10. Some people feel that taking alcohol is a way of passing time and killing boredom. This is particularly true with workers who have the preference of being entertained by beer after completing their duties.
11. Other people turn to drinking alcohol as a means of relieving off tensions. This is caused when one is faced with hardships in life such as losing a dear one, a job or

- an election. To such people, alcohol becomes a consolation and a way of coping up with the difficulties.
12. Some people drink alcohol because of the cultural influence. This is the case in a society where drinking is normal and promoted as a way of life.
 13. Ignorance of the dangers of alcohol makes many people to drink it. People in this category may have the feeling that drinking is good and a fashion. Therefore, they get caught up in the act.
 14. Some people take alcohol because of the excitement especially during celebrations. For example, victory parties, graduation parties and wedding parties among others.
 15. Other people take alcohol because of the decline of the family organization. This is true in families where parents themselves are drunkards. Children from such families tend to copy the examples of the adults.
 16. Some take alcohol as a result of human weaknesses. Such an individual may have a weak mind and cannot, therefore, control the desire for a beer.

DANGERS OF TAKING ALCOHOL

Taking alcohol may not necessarily be good as it is always thought of. It has a lot of problems associated with it not only to the individual consumer but also to the general public. These problems include;

1. Taking alcohol leads to mental retardation. This reduces the level of one's thinking, learning and memory.
2. Taking alcohol may lead to poor health of the consumers. The end result of alcohol may be the feeling of some sicknesses including high blood pressure, red mouth, morning sweats, tuberculosis and uncontrolled shaking among others.
3. Excessive drinking of alcohol may lead to loss of employment. This is brought about by the failure of the individual to work regularly and efficiently.
4. Taking alcohol can result into having too much debt. This may be as a result of the individual borrowing money for drinking, keeping the family after spending the money on drinks or borrowing the drink itself. This can cause conflict among these individuals.
5. Taking alcohol affects pregnancy negatively. It can either cause a miscarriage, or result into the baby being born with abnormalities in the kidney, bones and low birth weight among others.
6. Taking alcohol may also lead to poor social image. This may be as a result of urinating and defecating in clothes and falling alongside the road constantly among others. This eventually leads to loss of personality and respect.
7. Taking alcohol may lead to loss of appetite. Such an individual may sleep hungry and wakes sickly and weak to an extent where he or she cannot eat food.
8. Taking alcohol is responsible for some domestic violence in some families. This may be as a result of too much income being spent on drinking leaving members to suffer from hunger, poor health and lack of education among others. The end result of all these may be quarrels and misunderstanding.

9. Drinking alcohol can result into motor accidents. Drunkard drivers or pedestrians who may not be able to balance themselves properly are held responsible for some road accident.
10. Biblically, alcoholism is condemned. Wine is regarded as a mocker meant for only for the wicked people. Therefore, taking alcohol is being disobedient to God.
11. Taking alcohol may lead to misbehavior like rape, defilement, fights, quarrels and adultery among others. This leads to poor relationship in the community.
12. Taking alcohol is responsible for the social classes in the society. The drunkards have the tendency of isolating themselves and so is the case with the non-drinkers. This may cause lack of co-operation in the community.
13. Taking alcohol may lead to low level of saving. This is true in cases where much income is spent on beers. This eventually leads to poverty.

N.B: It should be noted that the reasons for and the dangers of smoking are more or less the same with that of alcoholism. Therefore, it is important for a student to put this into consideration while revising.

GAMBLING

Gambling refers to involving in playing games with the aim of making money, but without being sure of the final outcome. Gambling is based on principle of either losing or making a profit. Examples of some of these games include playing cards and lotto among others.

REASONS (CAUSES) FOR GAMBLING

1. Many people gamble because of permissiveness. This is where people feel that they have the freedom of doing anything they wish at anytime. In such a situation, some people may choose to take part in gambling.
2. Some people gamble because of peer influence. People under this category are forced to gamble because of the strong desire to behave like other members in the same group like same age and workmates among others.
3. Idleness or redundancy is a factor behind gambling common today. Such people get involved in gambling as a way of keeping themselves busy.
4. The increasing level of unemployment is also causing gambling. This is the case with jobless people, who besides being unemployed must get any means of surviving. Such individuals may eventually engage in gambling.
5. The sweet and persuasive advertisements in various mass media are a major cause of gambling today. Mass media such as television, newspapers and radio stations pass on the information that makes gambling appear good and beneficial thus winning people's admiration.
6. Excitement involved in gambling is a factor forcing people to do it. This is caused by the strong desire for the praises of being a winner in competition.
7. Gambling is also caused by poverty. Some people take on gambling because of the attractive rewards that seems to be a solution to the economic hardships they are experiencing.

8. Weaknesses of the state may also lead to gambling. The government has currently failed to denounce some of these games. Instead, it has been giving support in various ways. This gives the people all the reasons to engage in gambling.
9. Gambling is caused by laziness. This is the case with the people who are not willing to work at all and yet they desire to live a good life. Therefore, to such people, gambling becomes a solution to working.
10. Some people gamble because of the surrounding environment especially if it is a centre for gambling. These people are influenced by the availability of the equipment.
11. Gambling may be caused by greediness for money coupled with the desire to getting rich faster. To these people, gambling appears the fastest way of achieving their goals.

DANGERS OF GAMBLING

1. Gambling encourages laziness among people. Since it involves using less energy, people would prefer it to working.
2. Gambling can lead to an increase in the level of crimes in the community. This is because it encourages the formation of gangs, which are always associated with stealing, raping and defiling among others.
3. Gambling can also lead to poverty. This is because the little money that should have been saved is used up in gambling without getting the desired profit.
4. Gambling tends to lead to misunderstanding among people. This may be as a result of constant losing without getting profit. It can also cause conflicts between parents and their children especially if they are doing it against the wish of another.
5. Gambling wastes a lot of time that should have been used in more productive activity. This retards the development in the country.
6. Gambling may lead to loss of creativity of the participants. Such people may not be able to think on their own. This is because they easily get used to depending on the unknown.
7. Gambling leaves one's talent undiscovered and undeveloped as it does not normally involve the use of talents.
8. Gambling may ruin education among students. This is because it does not give room for the students to revise books.
9. Gambling can result into an addict. Such an individual may not be able to do any other thing other than gambling that becomes a daily business.
10. Gambling is a misuse of the available labour force. This means that a more productive activity is ignored in preference for gambling.
11. Gambling can easily lead to moral decay. Gamblers may eventually ignore good virtues in life such as honesty, faithfulness and patience among others because of the desire to win prizes. As a result, they begin cheating, pick pocketing and lying.
12. Gambling is against God's divine plan for work. According to Genesis 1:27-28, man is to be a co-creator through work not gambling.

THE MAIN IDEAS ABOUT LEISURE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. In the African past, leisure followed the rhythm of work. It was conducted at any time depending on a given piece of work that was also done at any time.
2. Leisure was communal. It involved people in that given community at the same time.
3. Leisure was a time for the family and the clan to teach the young ones the values of life in that particular community.
4. Leisure activity were active in nature. All people had to participate directly in the activities being enjoyed like singing, wrestling and dancing without being as spectators.
5. Leisure was free of charge. It did not involve any payment like money. It only aimed at giving the individuals access to the activities for the good of community.
6. Leisure involved carrying out important community cerebrations such as childbirth, child naming and circumcision rights among others. It became a way of preserving the tradition of the community.
7. Leisure was related to one's skills and talents. It aimed at developing the individual skills and talents for the service of all people. This was done through mock hunting, playing instruments and mock fighting among others.
8. Leisure was integrated into work. It was difficult to differentiate leisure from the actual piece of work.
9. Leisure involved thanks giving intended to appease and request God, spirits and the ancestors for particular blessings such as good harvest, rain and childbirth among others.
10. Leisure had to be socially accepted by the general public. Elders had the role of approving a given activity to be enjoyed at a given time.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. Beer party was an important way of passing time in traditional Africa. People co-operated and contributed positively towards the party. This was an activity for the adults.
2. Traditional Africans had time for community celebrations such as introduction ceremonies and thanks giving ceremonies.
3. Rituals such as circumcision, funeral rites and child naming were also performed during leisure time.
4. Some people played musical instruments during leisure as a way of entertainment.
5. Traditional Africans had time for singing. This was always carried out alongside activities such as digging, wedding and harvesting among others.
6. Dancing was one of the leisure activities in the traditional Africa. This differed from community to community. Some dances were for joy while others were for mourning.
7. Stories were also part of the leisure activities. The elders would tell the young one stories related to their origins and ancestors aimed at educating them.

8. Traditional Africans spent leisure by telling and interpreting proverbs. They made statements having hidden meaning but aimed at explaining something or giving some advice.
9. Traditional Africans offered sacrifice during leisure. This was done not only in thanking God, the spirits and the ancestors for their provisions such as rain and good harvest but also in cleansing sin and making requests.
10. There were also mock battles during leisure. This aimed at preparing individuals to be able to defend themselves in case of external attacks.
11. The traditional Africans had wrestling during leisure time. The winners were always given prizes.
12. Telling and interpreting riddles also formed part of leisure activities in traditional Africa. This was conducted around the campfire in the evening. In such a case, confusing and difficult questions or statements were made demanding quick response. This was aimed at testing and improving the reasoning capacity of each individual.
13. Art and craft was carried out during leisure in traditional Africa. This involved weaving baskets and mats, and making sculptures among others.
14. The traditional Africans spent their leisure doing community services such as cleaning as well.
15. Leisure was also a time for prayers. This was a way through which the Africans dedicated themselves to God and communicated their needs.

Explain the importance of beer party in African traditional society

- It created joy and happiness among the people.
- It created friendship and the spirit of togetherness.
- It helped the Africans to relax their minds.
- It was the time for settling community and individual dispute.
- It helped the people to share the fruits of their work.
- It saved the people from redundancy and boredom.
- It promoted unity and the spirit of brotherhood in the society.
- It enabled the people to celebrate important events like marriage.
- It encouraged the spirit of hard work among the traditional Africans.
- It encouraged and promoted courtship.
- It enabled the Africans to interact and socialize.

IMPORTANCE OF LEISURE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. Leisure helped the traditional Africans to acquire and develop their talents through activities such as dancing, singing and wrestling among others.
2. Leisure gave the opportunity to share the fruits of their labour more especially at a beer party.

3. Leisure helped to strengthen and build the relationship among the traditional Africans. This was made possible through visitations and coming together as a family members.
4. Leisure gave the opportunity to the elders to discuss various issues in the community. This included planning for the development and solving any other problem that had arisen.
5. Leisure helped the traditional Africans to earn a living. This was through activities such as hunting, weaving baskets, mats and others. Such items were at times exchanged with other items.
6. Leisure gave the opportunity of educating the young ones. The elders imparted the accepted values of the community like respect of the elders, communal living and names of the clan through activities like proverbs, riddles and stories among others.
7. The traditional Africans had moments of joy and satisfaction through leisure. This was through participating in activities such as dancing, singing, storytelling, playing musical instruments and others.
8. Through leisure, people recalled important events in life like funeral rites. On such a day, they would remember the lives and the eventual death of their relatives.
9. Leisure gave the opportunity of sharing ideas. This particularly during beer parties. This helped in the smooth running of the community.
10. The traditional Africans received blessings from God during leisure. This was through offering sacrifices.
11. Leisure promoted co-operations among the traditional Africans. As they come together in beer parties. They were able to socialize. Therefore, this promoted the spirit of togetherness.
12. Leisure helped to promote and preserve cultures. Carrying out cultural rituals such as circumcision, child naming, twin rituals and others helped people identify themselves with the way of life that had been in existence for long.
13. Leisure promoted courtship among the people. The men and women who were attracted to each other were able to come together and build their friendship.

Explain the difference between leisure today and African traditional society.

There are a number of differences in the ways in which leisure is carried out in present situation and the ways in which it was done in traditional Africa.

1. There is payment of money so that one can have access to leisure today but in traditional Africa leisure was free of charge.
2. Leisure today has specific time allocated to it while in traditional Africa, it was done at any time following the completion of a given work.
3. There are new forms of leisure activities today which are foreign to the people but in traditional Africa, the activities were related to people's cultures.
4. Leisure activities today are mostly passive while in traditional Africa, the activities were mostly active.

5. Leisure today cuts across the different age bracket while traditional Africa, it considered age differences.
6. Leisure today is looked at as a profession. It requires training while in traditional Africa, people's talents were looked at without necessarily being trained.
7. Leisure in traditional Africa was educative and today it is mostly for entertainment with some activities leading to moral decline.
8. There is individualism in leisure today while in traditional Africa, leisure was a communal activity.
9. Leisure today can be ignored but in traditional Africa it was strictly observed.

LEISURE IN CHURCH HISTORY

In the early days of Christianity, people's attitude towards leisure was largely influenced by their attitude towards creation and life. Some Christians saw leisure as good as in human life.

However, some Christians including clement of Alexandria and the Monks looked at the worldly pleasures as evil. This was because of the influence of the pagan philosophy where the world was thought to be evil.

Therefore, Christians had to make choices about how to spend their leisure time. The main leisure activities during this period included the following;

1. Christians enjoyed cruel entertainment like fighting between men and wild animals which had been starved and men and men. These activities were common in the Roman Empire.
2. A good number of Christians enjoyed drama during leisure time. Such plays were based on bible stories. They were mainly acted around market squares of the towns.
3. Reciting stories was also an important way of spending leisure. These stories were about the pagan gods whom the Christians had denounced.
4. Christians enjoyed hymns during their free time Saint Ambrose, who was a bishop of Milan-Italy, was the one who composed these hymns.
5. Some Christians wrote good and interesting books during leisure. This was intended to make Christian literatures available for reading in any place and at any time.
6. The Christians also got involved in drawing pictures and making sculptures. Among others, they drew and painted Jesus' pictures as being as being a good shepherd and his mother Mary as being holy.
7. The Christians decorated churches during their free time. The churches were made beautiful using carvings in wood and stone that were brightly coloured.
8. The Christians used their free time by holding ceremonies. They for example, commemorated Saint's day among others.
9. Some Christians carried out charitable work during leisure. They helped the disadvantaged such as widows, orphans and the poor by giving them basic needs in life like food and shelter.

10. Christians worshipped God during their free time. St Francis of Assisi was the one in charge of this important aspect of the church. He called on his followers to worship God in the humblest way and building.
11. Prayer was also an important way of spending leisure. The apostles in particular took time off to pray to God through His son Jesus Christ.
12. Some Christians enjoyed the beauty of creation during their free time. For example, Saint Antony lived in a specific place because he loved its beauty.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES DISAPPROVED IN CHURCH HISTORY

In the early days of Christianity, the church had recognized the importance of leisure but encouraged her members to always make proper choices.

However, this kind of attitude changed at a later stage. The Protestant reformers led by Saint Augustine, who were later joined by some radical Catholics, felt that too much enjoyment was not good for the Christians.

Consequently, they formed themselves into a group called the Puritans and urged Christians to live a strict life without any pleasures. Because of this attitude, the following leisure activities were condemned;

1. Fights between men and men. These fights were organized and enjoyed by some kings and their royal families in the Roman Empire. The men who were either slaves or prisoners could fight to the point of death.
2. Fight between men and wild animals like lions, which had been starved until they were fierce. Shamelessly, the crowd could cheer on the winning animal even when the individual was dying.
3. Fights between women who were naked. Such fights caused bodily injuries and even claimed the lives of some.
4. The church reformers condemned the idol worship as being a form of leisure. This was because it had become a common practice for Christians to surround themselves with picture, stories and Christian heroes during their free time. This posed the danger of Christians backsliding to pagan practices.
5. The church reformers disapproved plays and stories which were about pagan gods.
6. The church reformers disapproved reading and listening to immoral literatures. Such literatures contained sexual issues, fights or violence and other forms of injustice.
7. The reformers disapproved drawing pictures and statues of pagan gods which had become common among Christians during their free time.
8. The church reformers disapproved participation in unhealthy and childish games. Such games, which included eating, laughing and shouting competitions, had nothing to do with personal and community development.
9. Some reformers disapproved any form of dancing and watching plays. They reasoned that such kind of entertainment was not good for the people who were committed and dedicated to the service of God.

10. The reformers disapproved writing poems which encouraged and promoted acts of immorality.
11. The church reformers also disapproved crude and immoral games like public show of sexual play between men and women and gambling.
12. The puritans disapproved composing, listening and dancing worldly music. To them, such songs that neither praised nor worshiped God were unhealthy for Christians because they contradicted the gospel messages.
13. The church condemned showing off or public display of material possession by wealthy people. Such possessions included fine clothes and jewels. This was considered pride, extravagancy and selfishness to the disadvantage of the poor.
14. The Puritans disapproved drinking alcohol among Christians. The alcoholic drinks were seen to be too strong that could eventually carry the Christians away from their ideal practices.
15. The missionaries who later came to Africa disapproved dances as being wrong. They looked at African cultures as pagan practices and wholly bad for Christians to adopt.
16. The Puritans disapproved the obscene jokes. This was because they did not portray the true characteristics of Christian life that required an individual to wholly holy.

Revision Questions

Qn.1. Explain the leisure activities that Saint Augustine condemned.

Qn.2. What leisure activities did the Puritans disapprove in the history of the church?

Qn.3. Explain the leisure activities the early church reformers stood against.

Qn.4. Why did the early church reformers disapprove the leisure activities of their time?

- Loss of lives among Christians.
- Bodily injuries.
- Moral decay among Christians.
- Christians were backsliding.
- Set bad examples of living violently.
- Some Christians failed to pay attention to God like the Monks who started concentrating on hunting.
- Activities encouraged living luxurious life and extravagancy among christins.
- The activities brought shame on the body of believers.

LEISURE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

The concept of leisure is prompted in the Old Testament as seen below;

1. God rested on the seven day after finishing His creational activities. He blessed this day and set it apart as a special day for resting from work (Genesis 2:2-3).
2. God commanded the Israelites to observe the Sabbath as a day for rest. The Israelites had to work for six days and dedicate the seventh day for the Lord (Exodus 31:15).
3. The book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 recognizes the rhythm of life and points out that there is time for everything including leisure and work.
4. Deuteronomy 5:12-15 looks at Sabbath as being a day for remembering Yahweh and thanking him for having delivered people from Egyptian slavery. Therefore, the Sabbath was a day of freedom.
5. The Sabbath was a day for thanks giving. The Israelites had to bring sacrificial offerings to the place of worship as they appreciate God for His saving powers (Numbers 28:9-20).
6. God required the Israelites to rest on the day of Atonement (being sorry for the wrong done). This was to be Sabbath day which was therefore a day for repentance (Leviticus 23:26ff).
7. The Sabbath was a day for fellowship among the Israelites. This was done in thanking God for the blessing of the promised land (Canaan) (Ezekiel 46:4-6).
8. The Israelites were commanded to teach their children about the history as being the chosen people on the Sabbath day (Deuteronomy 5:1ff).
9. The Israelites celebrated special feasts during important times in their agricultural calendar. For example, the feast of the unleavened bread was held at the beginning of each barley harvest. This was done in commemorating the Exodus event (Exodus 34:18).
10. The Israelites made pilgrimage to Jerusalem during leisure, as it was the central worshiping place. This was because all people had to travel to be present at the annual festivals (psalms 120-140).
11. Leisure gave the opportunity for the scribes to acquire more wisdom, which was all about life and the working nature of man. For example, king Solomon wrote his wisdom literature (proverbs) during leisure.
12. The Sabbath was a day for having silent prayers, reflection and joyful celebrations.
13. God commanded the Israelites to repent their sins during their free time. This was to be done by offering sacrifices (Leviticus 16:1ff).
14. God also commanded the Israelites to celebrate the Passover event. This was a way of honoring Him as they commemorate their deliverance from the Egyptian slavery (Deuteronomy 16:1ff).
15. The Israelites took time to reflect on the wonders of the world around them. They later came to realise that God was pleased with His creation by their beauty and power (psalm 14:8).

Revision Question

Qn.1. What does the Old Testament teach about leisure?

Qn.2. Explain the importance of the Sabbath day to the people of Israel.

LEISURE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Leisure in the New Testament is based on the life, preaching or examples of Jesus Christ. Christ recognized the rhythm of life and pointed out that life is more important than work. The main ideas about leisure in the new Testament include the following;

- (i) Jesus recognized the importance of having some rest from work. He called on His disciples to leave the crowd for a lonely place. This came before His miraculous act of feeding five thousand people from five loaves and two fish (Mark 6:31ff).
- (ii) Jesus observed the Sabbath. He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath in order to fulfill the requirement of the Jewish custom (Luke 4:1-6).
- (iii) Jesus corrected the Sabbath rest that had already been misunderstood to fit human needs. The Jews had introduced many petty regulations restricting the observation of the Sabbath, which had imposed a lot of burden onto people. Christ criticizes this and points out that Sabbath was made for man but not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27).
- (iv) Jesus had private retreats during His free time. He isolated himself and prayed to God (Mark 1:35 and Luke 6:12).
- (v) Jesus had time for fellowship. He enjoyed having meals with his disciples after finishing preaching (Mark 6:35-44).
- (vi) Jesus visited His friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus during his free time. He feasted with them during this visitation (Luke 10:38).
- (vii) Jesus attended social parties. He had a feast in the house of Levi together with other tax collectors (Luke 5:29). In John 2:1, He attended a wedding at Cana from where he performed His first of the miracle of changing water into wine.
- (viii) Jesus enjoyed the company of children during His free time. He played with them freely in his arms and pointed out that the Kingdom of heaven belongs to people innocent like them (Luke 18:16).
- (ix) Jesus explained parables during his free time. This was because his followers had failed to understand the parables he used during preaching. He took time to clarify the meaning of his parables including that of the sower and the tenants (Mark 4:13-20 and Matthew 25:14-30).
- (x) Jesus also enjoyed stories during his free time. For example, he conversed with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:1ff), Nicodemus (John 3:1ff) and with his friends like Mary and Martha.
- (xi) Jesus performed many miracles during his free time. In Mark 3:1-5, the man with a paralyzed hand got healed. He also raised Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:38-42).
- (xii) Jesus also took time to explain how leisure was to be enjoyed. He emphasized the need for humility, hospitality and respect for one another while enjoying leisure (Luke 14:7ff).

- (xiii) Jesus called on his disciples to rest in him urging them to believe in him and take his example as they try to find the final and everlasting rest from the burden of their heavy load (Matthew 11:28-29).

JESUS' UNDESTANDING OF THE SABBATH (Mark 2:23 – 28)

By the time Jesus begun his ministry, the Sabbath had become inhuman. It was no longer serving ones of its original purposes of helping people to enjoy rest and freedom and grow together in peace and trust.

The Jewish religious authority insisted on many petty regulations or laws that had to be observed on the Sabbath day. There were thirty – nine (39) types of work that had to be avoided including lighting fire, clapping hands and walking long distances among others.

It was at this point that Jesus criticized the way the Sabbath was being observed. He declared that “the Sabbath was made for man, but not man for the Sabbath”. By this statement, Jesus meant that;

- Man had to enjoy rest and worship God on the Sabbath day.
- Man had to enjoy his freedom on the Sabbath day instead of being enslaved.
- Man had to fellowship with God and grow together in peace and trust.
- Man had to reflect on God’s creation and appreciate nature.
- Man had to praise and thank God for His goodness.
- Man had to share the fruits of their labour with each other.
- Man had to preach the good news and bring each other closer to God and fellow man.
- Man had to read and meditate on the biblical texts on the day of rest.

How can a Christian use his or her free time constructively?

1. Christians should visit his or her friends, especially during anytime. Jesus also visited his friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
2. A Christian should attend social parties like weddings and graduations. Jesus also attended a wedding party at Cana (John 2:1).
3. A Christian should spend his or her free time praying just as Jesus isolated himself and prayed in a lonely place (Mark 1:35).
4. Christians can spend leisure by making pilgrimage. Jesus visited Jerusalem as a holy place (Mark 11:1ff).
5. A Christian should spend his or her time telling and enjoying stories. Jesus enjoyed stories with the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus. He also enjoyed the use of parables. (John 4:1ff and 3:1ff).
6. A Christian should relax during his or her free time. Jesus also relaxed in quite places.
7. A Christian can spend leisure by helping the needy such as the sick, orphans, widows and the lame.

8. A Christian can also spend the leisure by celebrating important religious festivals such as Christmas and Palm Sundays. Jesus observed the Sabbath day (Luke 4:16).
9. A Christian can spend leisure by preaching the good news just as Jesus preached during his ministry (Mark 6:2).
10. A Christian can have fellowship during his or her leisure. Jesus shared meals with his disciples during free time. (Mark 6:35-44).
11. Reading and interpreting the scriptures can also be a way through which a Christian can spend leisure.
12. Christians can praise and worship God during leisure. This can be through songs and hymns.
13. A Christian can use his or her free time by reconciling conflict among people by encouraging the spirit of togetherness.
14. A Christian can utilize his or her free time doing some homework. Jesus also helped his parents with domestic work.
15. A Christian can spend leisure chatting and playing with children. Jesus freely played with children in his arms and pointed that the kingdom of heaven belongs to them (Luke 16:18).
16. A Christian can share his or her experiences with others during leisure. This can be through group discussions or seminars.
17. A Christian can watch constructive films or drama during leisure.
18. A Christian can involve himself in church activities such as choir, cleaning the inside and the surrounding.

JUSTICE IN SOCIETY

What is justice?

Defining justice takes into consideration the following:

- Treating people fairly and having things run in an orderly way in the society.
- Doing what is right, fair and well deserved to oneself and others.
- Taking into consideration the interests of everyone in deciding what to do or running the affairs of the community.
- Acting in accordance to the requirements of the laws in a given society.
- Treating others fairly and giving what owed to them\

In all, justice means having the quality of being fair or treating a person, an institution or the society humanely.

In the understanding and administration of justice, the issues of laws and human rights are very important and must be observed if justice is to be achieved.

TYPES OF JUSTICE

Distributive or economic justice

This refers to giving to all members of the society a fair share of the benefits and resources available so that human needs are met.

Procedural justice

This refers to fairness in deciding what to be done or distributed among members of the society. It can also mean making and implementing decisions according to fair processes that ensure fair treatment of each individual.

Restoration or corrective justice

This refers to fairness in putting situations right or back to normal. It is concerned with healing the victim's injuries, restoring the offenders to a law abiding lives and repainting the harm done to the inter personal relationships and community.

Retributive justice

This refers to seeking revenge so that one can fill the satisfaction of seeing another suffer in the same way he or she could have suffered. In other words, it means treating a person the same way he or she treats others.

Legal justice

This is concerned with the observation of the rules and regulations governing a society. It puts into consideration the laws of the society and how they are followed.

Commutative justice

This involves fairness in following an agreement made between two individuals between an individual and a group or between two groups.

Moral justice

This is fairness to one's own life, particularly his or her behavior in the society. It is concerned with the dos and don'ts of society.

Social justice

This refers to fairness that applies to the structures, systems and the laws of the society so that people's rights are observed.

JUSTICE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

The need for justice in modern world cannot be over emphasized. Looking at different societies, there are sets of rules and regulations that are followed in an attempt to promote good relationship among the people.

EFFORT BY UGANDA GOVERNEMENT IN PROMOTING JUSTICE TODAY

1. The Uganda government is giving full support to women liberation struggle such that they may realise their full rights. This comes from the fact that women had for long been considered inferior to men.
2. The Uganda government has put in place children's statute. There are laws to ensure that children are protected from ill treatment.
3. The government has put in place human rights commission. This commission protects against and investigates human rights abuses.
4. The government has promoted a relatively independent court of law. The decisions taken by the courts of law are respected as much as possible without interference.
5. The government has put in place the anti-corruption bodies such as Inspector General of Government (IGG), Auditor General and Public Accounts Committee (PAC). These bodies are there to ensure that public facilities are not mishandled.
6. The government has promoted a free mass media. This has made it possible for people to get access to information both internal and international.
7. The parliament of Uganda is also relatively free from interference by other branches of government. This has enabled people to express their views through their representatives on important issues governing themselves.
8. The government is equipping the security organs like the police, army and prison. This is helping in ensuring peace and harmony among people.
9. The government has also promoted constitutional governance of the country. The 1995 constitution stands as the supreme law of Uganda upon which decisions are made. This is protecting people from unlawful harassment.
10. The Uganda government recognizes the institution of the traditional leaders like kings and chiefs. This is helping in preserving the cultural heritage of some societies like Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro.

11. The government is promoting decentralization of power in its administration. Power has been transferred from central government to the local units. This has promoted easy access to the services of the leaders at the different levels of administration.
12. The government has also gone ahead to protect the consumers from being exposed to low quality, dangerous goods and over charging. This has been made possible through the foundation of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).
13. The Uganda government has put in place and equipped institutions to support people with disabilities like the deaf and the lame. For example, the Uganda National Institute for Special Needs Education (U.N.I.S.E).
14. Amnesty is being given to former rebels like the returnees of the lord's resistance army, a rebel group under the leadership of Joseph Kony based in northern Uganda. This has encouraged reconciliation in the country. Even the war atrocities are being reduced thus promoting relative peace.
15. The government has been and still in the forefront sensitizing the public about their rights. This is to ensure that people are not ignorant of the laws protecting them from mistreatment.
16. The Uganda government has liberalized its economy. Some resources are now in the hands of the private individuals. This has encouraged equal sharing of wealth.
17. The government has promoted free education especially under universal primary and secondary education. Even in higher institutions owned by government, certain percentage of students is sponsored. This has enabled people of different backgrounds to have equal access to education.

OBSTACLES IN PROMOTING JUSTICE

1. The commercialization of justice has made it difficult for people to be treated fairly. The poor people who cannot afford to pay the required cash may be victimized innocently.
2. There is too much ignorance among people. Some people commit crimes without knowing and others deliberately do it. This hinders the effective ways of promoting the desired justice.
3. There is also poor investigation by the officers concerned. This leaves out a lot of cases of injustices unsettled thus making the individuals to continue with their suffering.
4. Political instability hinders the work of the officers in charge of promoting justice. The officers may decline carrying out their duties because of fear of losing their lives. This exposes people to a lot injustices.
5. The high level of poverty among the people makes it difficult for justice to be promoted. Some people commit crimes continuously because of the poor standards of living. This may explain why there is an increasing rate of corruption and robbery.
6. Weaknesses within the state laws make it difficult for justice to be executed. On a number of occasions, criminals have been set free. This gives them the chance to

- exploit such weaknesses and commit more crimes. Other people may also be influenced to do the same.
7. The existing level of permissiveness has created more room for people to commit more crimes. People exploit this freedom to do whatever they want without considering the bad effects on others.
 8. The free mass media has instead produced materials that affect people's morality negatively. For example, the watching of the war films is responsible for violence and hooliganism among the youth. This is because they tend to copy whatever they watch. This makes it difficult for justice to be maintained.
 9. Political interference hinders the promotion of justice. This is true in cases where government has much influence over the judiciary. In such cases, the executive branch of government may not respect the decisions taken in the courts of law. This exposes the common man to a lot of injustices.
 10. The high level of corruption and bribery may also block any method employed in maintaining justice. Public facilities are being used to satisfy the selfish aims of a few individuals. Criminals may also be shielded on the claims that their files have "disappeared" or "misplaced".
 11. Cultural rigidities are also problems in the maintenance of justice. Much as some of the traditional customs do subject people to injustices, the law cannot over rule them. This means that people would continue being exposed to such injustices because of following their cultures. A case in point is the genital female mutilation among the Sebei people.
 12. There is also lack of co-operation and co-ordination among the people. This makes it difficult for the administrators of justice to carry out their duties of not only arresting but also punishing the offenders.
 13. Emphasis on legal procedures such as demanding for eyewitnesses may also hinder the maintenance of justice. This may explain the cause of the delay in judging cases, which instead subjects people to more injustices.

INJUSTICES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

As already noted injustice means a break down in relationship among people. Today, there are so many cases where people are failing to relate to one another including the following;

1. There is oppression and exploitation of workers by the different employers. This is being done in many ways including little payment, over working and late or no payment at all among others.
2. Women are also being suppressed in the male dominated society. There is a tendency to look at them as inferior. Because of this attitude, some are abused sexually in different ways like rape, defilement and polygamous marriages among others.
3. Child abuse is another form of injustice common today. Some children are victims of strenuous work, rejection by their parents and corporal punishments among others. All these affect the children negatively.

4. Justice today has been commercialized. It depends on the ability to pay some cash. This is an injustice to the poor who cannot pay. Therefore, they may be innocently victimized.
5. Mob justice is very common today. The crowd being driven by emotion tends to execute justice without following any legal procedure. This may result into various problems including hatred, bodily injury, murder and public humiliation among others hence being unfair.
6. Cases of marital unfaithfulness are common today. Some married couples are failing to keep their vows. Consequently, they get involved in adultery, divorce and prostitution. This is being unfair to the partner.
7. Defilement is another form of injustice today. In this case, an adult chooses to have sexual relation with the under age who is not ready for such an affair.
8. Cases of rape are also common today. This is an injustice because the sexual satisfaction is attained without the consent of one partner. It is also associated with bodily injury and death among others as a result of using force.
9. Some women today do practice abortion. The fetus is deliberately removed from the womb before it is capable of independent living. This is itself murder and therefore an injustice.
10. There is bullying in different institutions such as schools and work places. The new comers in such places are teased in different ways like beating, insulting and even grabbing their belongings. This may put the victims in tension and fear. The victim therefore robbed of the expected freedom.
11. Some employers practice nepotism. They favour their relatives or friends while giving jobs even when they are not qualified. This is being unfair to those having these required qualifications.
12. The practice of tribalism is also common in different work premises. The bosses do favour their own tribesmates in areas like promotion, salaries and even giving the job itself. Non-tribesmates are therefore left to suffer.
13. There is an increased case of murder and killing of innocent people. Even when one has committed an offense, killing is not a punishment because one is deprived of his or her life.
14. Robbery common today is an injustice. This is where an individual's property is removed by force. It is also associated with a lot of torture, which may eventually lead to death. This deprives the victims of the right of using such property.
15. Strike common in different institutions is an injustice. It is associated with a lot of destructions that breaks the relationship among people. It is also unlawful means of expressing discontent.
16. Corruption and bribery common in work places is also an injustice. The public facilities that could have benefited all people and end up being used by a few. This leaves the rest of the population to suffer.

INJUSTICES AGAINST WOMEN IN UGANDA TODAY

1. Women are over loaded with domestic duties such as cooking, bathing children, washing plates and clothes among others. Whereas the women are carrying out such duties, the men simply sit and watch with the belief that they are the natural duties of women.
2. Some women are subjected to polygamous marriages. They are forced to share a man against their will. This is still because some men believe that it is their natural right to marry many wives. On the contrary, the men cannot allow sharing a woman.
3. Men subject some women to beating. In some societies, beating women is still considered as a way of disciplining and therefore normal. Women on the other hand are not allowed to beat men because it is regarded as abnormal.
4. Some men look at women as sex objects. This means that they are simply there to satisfy the men's sexual desires without any hesitation. This may explain the common cases of defilement, rape and the support being given to prostitution.
5. Women in some societies are still subjected to some food taboos. They are not allowed to eat certain types of food like eggs, fish, pork and chicken among others without any reason. This denies women the chance of eating such nutritious foods. This may leave them vulnerable to diseases.
6. Women are still being divorced with the society looking on as being normal. They may not even be given the chance to defend themselves. Because of that public humiliation, the divorced women may become social misfits. This limits their socialization with other people making them to live in isolation.
7. In some communities, inheritance of widows is still upheld. Either the brother or the uncle of the deceased husband is bound to take over the wife with the belief that she is the property of that family. This humiliates the women since they are not given the chance to resist.
8. Some women are being denied the chance to inherit their father's property in the event of death or old age. Property such as land, houses, and cattle among others are given only to the sons. This is because of the belief that the daughters are not part of the family since they would be married elsewhere.
9. Some women are denied family headship. Their position in the family affairs is relatively low with the men enjoying higher status. The men are considered superior, and therefore given much respect.
10. In some communities, women are forced into marriages. This is being carried because of the desire for material benefits such as cattle, money and goat among others. The women are therefore treated unfairly by denying them the chance of making their own choices.
11. In the political field, women are disadvantaged. Some are not allowed to participate freely without being criticized. Some men cannot allow their wives to contest for an election or even to vote for candidates of their own choice.

12. In some cultures, women are still being regarded as a source of misfortune. They are always blamed for the bad events such as childlessness, and undisciplined children among others.
13. The demand for expensive bride wealth is instead an injustice. It reduces a woman's status to that of a mere commodity simply being sold and bought. It also subjects some women to mistreatment.
14. Some parents prefer educating sons to daughters. This leaves the girls as illiterates rendering them helpless to improve on their standards of living in the future. Consequently, this makes them unable to come out men's oppression.
15. Women are also being discriminated in the field of work. In most cases, promotions and highly placed appointments are given to men. Some employers look at women as being weak and unreliable especially during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse refers to the ill treatment or mistreatment of a child by either the parents or any adult. In such a case, the child is treated as if he or she is capable of an independent living. This denies the victim the chance of enjoying his or her childhood.

In Uganda, children's rights are being abused in the following ways;

1. Some parents or guardians tend to under feed their children. They are either given little food intentionally or not given completely. This leaves such children weak and malnourished. This may also explain some children begin stealing.
2. Some children are over worked at home. They are assigned difficult tasks, which even require an adult to do. For example, digging large pieces of land and laying bricks among others. This leaves such children restless which instead affects their normal growth.
3. Some parents reject some children as if they are not their true blood. Such children are chased away from homes. This exposes them to a lot of suffering. They may become social misfits since they do not know their homes.
4. Some children are victims of corporal punishments. Even when they have committed lighter offences, they are severely punished like serious beating, burning their hands or denying them food.
5. Some children have always been victims of defilement. Mature partners tend to lure them into sexual intercourse. This is particularly true with girls who are easily taken up by love even if it is not genuine. This is a sexual abuse because they are not ready for such an act.
6. Children are also being raped. They are forced into sexual intercourse using violent means. This is an abuse of their rights because it does not only ignore their consent but it also involves a lot of bodily injuries.
7. Some children are denied the chance of being educated. The parents not only fail to give them some basic knowledge in an informal way but also fail to pay them in schools. This keeps such children as illiterates for the rest of their lives.

8. In some cases, children are forced into marriages. This is the case with parents who tends to arrange for the marriage without the knowledge of their sons and daughters. All this is done against the will of the child hence robbing them the freedom and enjoyment in their marriage lives.
9. Devil worshippers today sacrifice some children. Such children are killed and given to the ancestral spirits as a way of pleasing them. It is also believed that their blood can prevent misfortune from occurring. This is being unfair, no one deserves the right to end another's life.
10. The ever-increasing cases of child parenting are an abuse to children's rights. Most parents have the tendency of leaving the younger children under the care of either house girls or the elder children. This is common with working parents. Children under this category may end up lacking parental care and love.
11. Some children are exposed to pornographic materials. This affects their morality negatively. It can easily make them to begin engaging in sexual practices before they are capable of doing so.
12. Some children are denied medical attention. Even when they are sick, they are given little attention or no attention at all. This leaves them sickly, which may eventually result into death.
13. Children are being abused by leaving them homeless. The existence of street kids can best explain this state of affair. Such children are exposed to a lot of vices like illegal sex, drug abuse and gambling among others.
14. Child labour is also on the increase. Employing such children to support either themselves or other members of the family puts them at a risk of being oppressed and exploited.

MOB JUSTICE

Mob justice refers to a situation where an emotional crowd of people administer punishment for a crime committed without following any legal procedures. The suspected criminal(s) may be punished by being stoned, burnt alive and stripped naked among others.

CAUSES OF MOBSUTICE

- ☐ Ignorance of the existing law by the emotional crowd of people. Such people may not know that the state law is against such an act. Others may simply choose not to follow the law intentionally so as to fulfill their selfish aim of punishing the suspected criminal.
- ☐ Lawlessness or anarchy, especially during political instability. Because of this, the morals of the people tend to degenerate. People may therefore behave in any way including taking the laws in their hands to punish the suspect.
- ☐ Mob justice is also caused by excessive drug abuse like taking marijuana, cocaine and opium. People acting under the influence of such drugs may lack proper judgment and the sense of humanity. Therefore, they are capable of taking the law in their hands and punish anybody suspected to have committed an offence.

4. Corruption or bribery in the judiciary common today is causing mob justice. This is brought about by people seeing criminals being defended, set free and their files being claimed to have disappeared. This may discourage people from following any legal procedures when handling suspected criminals.
5. Mob justice is being caused by the high temper or uncontrolled emotion of some people. People under this category cannot act justly even when a small mistake is done because they get annoyed so easily. This means that they can also easily punish anybody suspected to be a criminal without regard to the law.
6. Mob justice is at times carried out as a preventive measure of stopping more criminal activities from being committed. Punishing suspected criminals is meant to act as a living example and a warning to those who may be doing or have the intention of doing the same.
7. Neglect of duty or conspiracy by the police may also cause mob justice. This is true if the police is failing to execute its duties of arresting criminals. This gives the chance to the people who are already tired with such crimes to rise up and punish the suspect in self-defense.
8. Mob justice may be carried out as a means of destroying the evidence of a crime committed from being known. This is true in cases where other criminals are aware that the arrest and the prosecution of one or two criminals would reveal the truth their identities. Such criminals can easily instigate mob justice.
9. Mob justice may be caused by the delay in judging cases in the courts of law. Such delays could take place to the disadvantaged and frustrated people. Such people are reliable not to follow any legal procedure in case another suspect is arrested.
10. Mob justice can also be caused by idleness. As the saying goes, “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop”, idlers can easily influence other people to administer a punishment for a crime committed with the false belief of being occupied.
11. In some cases, mob justice is caused by the influence of the mass media like radio, television and newspapers among others. As such media expose the weaknesses of the government in handling criminal cases, they eventually sharpen the minds of the general public and plants aggressiveness onto them. This leads to loss of trust in the government thus giving the people the chance to do whatever they want including mob justice.
12. Mob justice may be as a result of loss of respect for the authorities. In this case, even when the authorities are against such an act, the people are always not ready to listen to them. They can even organize mob justice intentionally to show that the authorities are too weak to control the affairs of the community.
13. Mob justice is being caused by inadequate facilities like transport and financial resources. For example, it may be costly to transport the suspected criminals to the nearby police stations. In such a situation, the already emotional crowd is left with no option other than punishing the suspect.
14. Mob justice is being caused by the absent of the religious virtues among people. People are driven into unjust actions like beating and stoning among others because

they lack religious values such as forgiveness, love, kindness, honesty and patience among others.

REASONS WHY MOB JUSTICE IS AN INJUSTICE

1. Mob justice does not give the victims the chance of defending themselves. One may therefore be punished innocently when he or she is simply a suspect.
2. Mob justice may cause permanent bodily injuries onto the suspect. This violates the rights of the suspect of being treated fairly.
3. Mob justice humiliates the suspect publicly. This makes the suspect lose respect from the public making him or her a social misfit.
4. Mob justice destroys the evidence the police needs from the suspect especially in the event of death. This blocks the smooth carrying out of investigation.
5. Mob justice may be instigated by personal differences, which does not even affect the public interest. The victim is therefore accused falsely.
6. Mob justice does not respect the laws of the land. It is an illegal practice since the laws that are meant to create good relationships are ignored.
7. Mob justice may result in the death of the suspect. This instead becomes a murder and therefore an injustice as no one deserves the right to end another's life.
8. Mob justice is not subjected to any authority. This makes it an injustice because no one is held responsible for the action.
9. Mob justice may create permanent hatred and the heart of revenge among people. This makes life in the community increasingly insecure. People are therefore deprived of happiness in their daily activities.
10. Mob justice defiles the good intention of punishments, which are meant to correct the culprit. One may be punished innocently without knowing the reason properly. This does not give the chance to the individual to change his or her conduct for the better.
11. Mob justice does not take into consideration the nature of the offense committed. Both major and minor offenses are given the same punishment. This is unfair to the one who could have committed a minor offense like stealing food compared to one who has murdered.
12. Mob justice undermines the work of the judges who are officially responsible for pronouncing judgment and punishment for a crime committed.

THE EFFORT OF THE CHURCH IN FIGHTING INJUSTICES TODAY

1. The church has built homes for the disadvantaged people such as the poor, orphans and the disabled. For example, Sanyu babies home at Mengo, the Bakateyamba at Nalukolongo all in Kampala. All these places provide their members with the basic needs such as education, food, shelter and medical care among others.
2. The church has set up organizations to fight injustices. Among others, Uganda Christian Joint Council (UJCC) is playing an important role of fighting injustices such as arbitrary arrest, corruption and rigging of elections among other things.
3. The church has been and still holding peace talks in an effort to reconcile conflicting parties. For example, the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace initiative (ARLPI) has for a long time been negotiating peaceful settlement of the conflict between the Uganda government and the lord's resistance army (LRA) – a rebel group under the leadership of Joseph Kony in Northern Uganda.
4. The church is trying to and living an exemplary life. This has been and is important in influencing the followers to also do the same.
5. The church provides guidance and counselling services to the people with problems. This is helping to rehabilitate the lives of the people who could have been subjected to injustices such as rape, defilement and arbitrary arrest among others.
6. The church has also stood up to condemn any form of injustices. It speaks against any unjust situations and points out the need for people to live in peace and harmony.
7. In some case, the church organizes and carries out demonstrations against injustices. This is conducted to express discontent for the existing state of affairs. It is aimed at making the offenders realise the injuries they are causing onto others.
8. The church preaches the Christian ideals of love, forgiveness and patience among others to exist among people. It points the need for people to live together as children of God in peace and harmony.
9. The church is also on the forefront providing employment to people of different backgrounds without discrimination. This is helping to keep people away from idleness one of the causes of injustices.
10. The church has always prayed for the instigators of and about the injustices people are undergoing through. This has helped in reducing the level of injustices.
11. The church has always and is still extending financial assistance to people who are constrained. This is important in reducing the level of poverty and its associated problems like corruption, famine and robbery among others.
12. The church has also been and still instrumental in the foundation and funding of the youth and women associations. These include Young Christian Society (YCS), Mothers Unions, Scripture Union, Young Christian Women Association (YCWA). Through these associations, people are brought together and given basic life skills.
13. The church has always preached equality of all human beings. This is based on the ground that all are created in God's image. This has helped some people to treat each other with respect and human dignity.

THE UNDERSTANDING (ADMINISTRATION) OF JUSTICE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

In African traditional society, it was believed that God gave the first man some morals in the beginning. They believed that these morals were meant to guard human relationship from breaking up so as to ensure peaceful living.

Because of this, the Africans remained keen and strict ensuring, promoting and maintaining justice as explained below.

1. There existed local courts which were made up of influential people like chiefs, clan leaders and elders. They had the responsibility of reconciling people.
2. However, there were no written laws to be followed. Decisions were therefore based on the existing customs.
3. The positions of the kings were autonomous. No one could question his authority. This meant that the decisions were final.
4. Public resources like land were owned communally. The interest of the community was most catered for to ensure fairness.
5. Taboos equally guarded human relationships. These were the dos and the don'ts of the society.
6. Social harmony was encouraged among the people. This was through team work and living as one people.
7. Effort was made to treat everybody equally. They therefore struggled to ensure that no one was given special attention at the expense of others.
8. Judgement was flexible. It depended on the circumstances of the time. An offender could be pardoned in times of peace and punished harshly during difficult times.
9. Everyone was encouraged to respect and observe the customs and norms of the society. This was intended to ensure peace and stability.
10. Consensus was encouraged in the events of disagreement. This meant that people with disagreements were encouraged to sit together and sort out their differences.
11. Reconciliation and forgiveness was encouraged. This was done in presence of leaders like chiefs and the tribal elders.
12. People were encouraged to compensate for any wrong doing. This was aimed at amending broken relationship.
13. Offenders were required to confess their mistakes in public. They had to promise that they would never repeat the same mistakes.
14. Purification rights were carried out. This involved cleaning of an offender from his or her sins aimed at avoiding punishment from the ancestral spirits.
15. Sanctions were passed on wrong doers. They were forbidden or restricted from some community functions and activities.

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. How was justice promoted and maintained in African tradition society?**
- Qn.2. Explain justice as understood and worked out in traditional Africa.**
- Qn.3. Explain the understanding of justice in the African past.**

INJUSTICES IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Injustice refers to a breakdown of relationship among people. It can also mean being unfair to one another. In short, it means causing injury to the interests of other people.

In African traditional society, there are instances where people failed to relate to one another and treated each other harshly as seen below;

1. The traditional Africans mistreated the disabled people such as the crippled and the insane. Such people were always isolated and even beaten occasionally.
2. The traditional Africans practiced witch hunting. Whenever a misfortune like sudden death and sickness could befall the community the causes were always sought and blamed on to a person suspected to be a witch. In some cases, in some cases, the suspected witch was not even given the chance for hearing but to accept the blame.
3. The traditional Africans exploited the minority group of strangers. These people were not allowed to own land and to inter marry with the majority. This limited the freedom of these people.
4. The traditional Africans practiced human sacrifices. Some children were sacrificed with the belief that their blood could save the society from any bad events such as more death, drought, epidemic and war.
5. There was class discrimination in the traditional Africa. In a centralized society, there were the royal and the non-royal classes. The royal class, which was the ruling body, exploited the non-royal class who happened to be the subject.
6. The practice of bride wealth in some African societies turned out to be an injustice. It reduced the status of women to that of a mere property. It also subjected them to a lot of harsh treatment.
7. Lazy people were treated harshly in the traditional Africa. Some were even denied food and were always victims of isolation by the active members.
8. The traditional Africans practiced forced marriage. This mostly affected the young girls and boys who were pushed into marriage for reasons best known by the elders. This was an injustice because the parents were only interested in the material benefits but not the welfare of the girls and the boys.
9. The communal ownership of property in traditional Africa turned out to be an injustice. The active people who could have worked hard suffered in the hands of the lazy ones who simply sit and wait for things to be done.
10. The traditional Africans denied women the chance of eating certain types of food like chicken, eggs, pork, liver and fish. Therefore, women denied proper health because of the absence of these nutritious foods.
11. The traditional Africans practiced circumcision of girls with a selfish aim of preventing them from committing adultery in their future marriages. This denied girls sexual pressure.

12. Women in the traditional Africa were associated with bad omen. They believed that or greeting a woman in the morning could make an individual fail in his day's activities.
13. The traditional Africans blamed women for the misbehavior of children. This was being unfair because the men were equally responsible for the upbringing of the children.
14. Women in the traditional Africa were regarded as inferior and were not allowed to contribute any idea for public consumption. This was discrimination based on sex.
15. In traditional Africa, pregnant girls who could have conceived before marriage were killed. They were stoned, rolled down the mountain or tied up in the forest and left there such that wild animals could eat them. This was an injustice not only because of the killing act but also leaving out the man responsible for the pregnancy.

JUSTICE IN CHURCH HISTORY

The theme of justice in church history is mostly concerned with areas of life that caused suffering to mankind and the efforts that were put in removing the suffering. These areas include the slavery practice and the oppression of minorities.

1. THE SLAVERY PRACTICES

The early church

Slavery was highly practiced especially before the Roman Empire became officially a Christian Empire. The church at first recognized this act officially, but later opposed it.

The Bishops and the priests used the labour force from the slaves to accumulate much wealth. Therefore, they discouraged the abolition of slavery.

In the Roman Empire, slaves had no rights to marry. The married ones were also not allowed to live together as husband and wife. To this effect, the church later enacted laws considering marriages between slaves as valid and as sacred as any other marriage.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE

This began in the 5th century when the Portuguese and the Spanish started to travel in areas, which were unknown to them.

The Portuguese made their way along the African coast and moved further to India and also to Brazil.

The Spanish moved westwards across the Atlantic Ocean and settled together with the Portuguese in America. Later they established farms, plantations and even mines. This increased the demand for slaves and this marked the beginning of slave trade where the Africans became victims.

The above slave trade imposed a lot of suffering to people. Therefore, it limited their freedom as human beings in the following ways;

- Slaves were captured by force. This caused a lot of bodily injuries on to them.

- Poor transportation where their hands and waists were tied and packed in the ship as mere luggage.
- The slaves were subjected to long hours of work and yet they were not given salaries at all.
- The slaves were tortured and some even killed.
- Most Africans lost touch with their family members. This is because many people left their homes and went hiding to avoid being captured.
- Famine also broke among the Africans. This was as a result of taking away the able-bodied men and women.
- The slaves were forced to work i.e. they worked against their will.
- Husbands and wives were separated forcefully. Children, therefore, lost parental love.
- The slaves were forced to become Christians though being baptized. This brought to end the African cultural practices such as child naming and birth rites.
- The slaves were denied the chance to marrying each other more especially in a holy way.
- The slaves had poor working condition. There was no proper housing, medical facilities and were given little food.
- The lazy and weak slaves were killed because they were considered expensive in terms of feeding and accommodation.

Because of the above inhuman acts, some individuals and groups stood up to condemn the slavery practice. Among them was St. Peter Claver who was a Spanish priest and Christian group known as the Quakers. They struggled to bring slavery to an end in the following ways;

- The Quakers emphasized that the whole practice of slavery was evil and against Christian teaching and refused its members to own slaves.
- Peter Claver used to take food and medicine to the slaves.
- Peter Claver advised the slave owners to treat them well with human dignity.
- He visited the mines and plantations where the slaves worked frequently and taught them Christian faith through an interpreter. He even arranged and cared for the sick.
- Peter Claver did this kind of work forty years despite opposition from the slave owners.
- His work paid off when many slave owners came to an understanding and realized that they had for long subjected their slaves to inhuman acts.

B. THE OPPRESSION OF THE MINORITY

The operation of the minority came up immediately after the European nations made it illegal for their members to trade in slaves. This was because those who abolished slavery were in the minority group. The rich people looked at the abolition as a threat to their source of wealth. They opposed this idea and started oppressing the minorities for their actions. These minorities include;

1. The Jews were the first minority to be oppressed. The early Christians disliked and blamed them for troubles that were not their fault. The Christians excused themselves by saying that the Jews were responsible for the death of Christ, but failed to recognize their contribution in writing the New Testament books.
2. In communist countries, Christians found themselves as the minority. They were harshly treated in countries such as Romania, Korea and Cuba among others.
3. The Roman Catholic oppressed the Protestants. This happened in the United Kingdom where the Catholics labelled Protestant as rebels. This had followed the expulsion of the Queen Elizabeth I in 1571 from Catholic religion by pope Pius V when she declared Protestant religion as the state religion of the United Kingdom.
4. In North Africa, the government persecuted the Christian minority. This was because they had split off from the main church. The government authorities treated this splinter group harshly. St. Augustine even made it worse by asking the government to make it illegal to belong to this breakaway group.
5. In places where Christians were the majority, the pagans were mistreated. In the Roman Empire, especially during the reign of emperor Constantine, the pagans were accused of failing to respect the state religion.
6. Immigrant workers were the majority in Germany and Britain. They were discriminated and worked under very poor conditions like poor (low) wages and poor accommodation among others.
7. The Catholics persecuted the Muslim minority for their occupation of Palestine. This was because the Catholics considered Palestine as the holy land of their lord. Therefore, they treated the Muslims harshly so that they could leave the holy land for them.
8. There was the oppression of the heretic minority. These were people who held different beliefs from that accepted by the church. Such people were mistreated and not allowed to associate with other church congregation.

JUSTICE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Throughout the books of the Old Testament, God is presented putting a continual effort to establish harmonious relationship among His people. Being the author of life, God did everything possible for man to live in harmony. These include;

1. God created human beings male and female in His image to show both are equal (Genesis 1:26).
2. God commanded the mankind to use the worldly resources for their welfare.
3. God created man for companionship. He realized that Adam was lonely and created Eve so that he could live in harmony.
4. Greediness and disobedience breaks human relationship with God and among themselves. God punished Adam and Eve for eating the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1ff).
5. Selfishness and jealousy are the root causes of breakage in human relationship. Cain killed his brother, Abel because of being selfish and jealous (Genesis 4:1ff).

6. God was concerned about the suffering of the people in Israel and He sent Moses to set them free.
7. The Israelites were called upon to protect and preserve human life. They were forbidden from killing one another.
8. The Israelites were encouraged to be faithful in their marriage and avoid committing adultery.
9. Stealing was forbidden among the Israelites. They were therefore to protect each other's property.
10. God encouraged the Israelites to punish those who would cause body injuries to others.
11. The Israelites were encouraged to compensate for damages caused in another's property as a means of protecting property.
12. The Israelites were encouraged to assist those in need like the poor, widows, children and the forgiveness (Exodus 23:12).
13. The Israelites were warned against siding with the crowd to twist justice. God discouraged mob justice.
14. God warned the Israelites against taking bribes in the courts of law to ensure that there was justice.
15. The judges were called upon to treat both the poor and the rich equally when passing judgment.
16. God called upon the Israelites to listen to the complaints of each other in order for them to ensure true justice (Deuteronomy 16:1ff).
17. The Israelites were called upon to maintain justice in the courts of law (Amos 5:15).
18. The Israelites were encouraged to seek good and hate evil so that the Lord would be with them.
19. The Israelites were called upon to respect and treat their slaves with human dignity (Deuteronomy 15:12-18).
20. God invited the Israelites to make self-love a measure of their relationship. God is quoted as saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself". This was the kind of relationship that God expected to exist between the Israelites (Leviticus 19:18).
21. God called for respect of all human beings. Slaves or not, each individual had to be treated with respect and dignity (Deuteronomy 15:12-18).
22. The prophets condemned and denounced the tendency of substituting obedience to the laws and religious observances for brotherly hood. They emphasized that having concern for one another was more important than the obedience to the laws and religious practices (Isaiah 58:1-12).
23. According to Ezekiel 34, the desire for peace and harmony is in all people. Whenever people fail to find it, they try to find means of providing security. The Israelites tried to secure their lives by following the covenant laws and customs.

THE SINAI COVENANT AND ITS RELATIOSHIP WITH THE ISRAELITES (EXODUS 20:1-17).

The Sinai covenant was the agreement between God and the children of Israel. It was signed at the foot of Mt. Sinai in the third month after the Israelites had been delivered from their slavery in Egypt. Following their deliverance, God saw the need to guide the Israelites as they relate with one another and with Him. Therefore, God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments (the Decalogue) as a means to safe guard the interpersonal relationship aimed at ensuring peaceful living as seen below;

1. The covenant first law reminded the Israelites of their former status of being slaves in Egypt before their liberation (Exodus 20:2).
2. The law demanded the Israelites to worship Yahweh (God). Worshiping any other gods was a sin and prohibited. (Exodus 20:3-6).
3. The law demanded the Israelites not to use God's name for evil purposes like false swearing. Doing so meant punishment from God. (Exodus 20:7).
4. The Israelites were to observe Sabbath day. They were to keep it holy and dedicate it for God. All people were therefore not work on that day but to rest. (Exodus 20:8-11).
5. The laws demanded the Israelites to love their neighbors as much as they love themselves. They were also required to extend tis love to strangers.
6. The law asked the Israelites to respect their fathers and mothers. This was the only way for them to live longer in the land they were to be given. (Exodus 20:12).
7. The law did not allow murder among the Israelites. No one had the rites to take another's life. (Exodus 20:13).
8. The law stopped the Israelites from committing adultery. (Exodus 20:14). This shielded married couples from cheating.
9. The law stopped Israelites from stealing one another's property. (Exodus 20:15). This guaranteed security for people's property.
10. The law did not allow the Israelites to accuse one another falsely. In other words, it stopped Israelites from giving false evidence so as to humiliate the others. (Exodus 20:16).
11. The law stopped the Israelites from admiring or desiring another man's property including the house, wife, slaves, cattle, and donkey or anything else. (Exodus 20:17).

INJUSTICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament on numerous accessions points out cases of failures in relationship between man and God and man and man. In such cases, the relationship either between man and God or man and man got broken. Among others, the following should be considered.

6. In Genesis 3:1ff, Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God and among themselves. They ate the forbidden fruit and failed to conquer the earth as

commanded by God. Consequently, God punished them resulting to sour relationship between man and man and man and other creatures.

2. In Genesis 4:1ff, Cain out of selfishness and jealousy killed his brother Abel. This was as a result of God appreciating Abel's sacrifice of the best lamb and God's rejection of his sacrifice. Consequently, Cain was punished for this act.
3. The builders of the tower of Babel failed to relate with God through their building program. They doubted God's existence and used their false wisdom reach God through the tower. However, God intervened by destroying the tower and mixing their language. (Genesis 11:1ff).
4. In Genesis 9:20-27, Noah cursed one of his sons out of drunkenness. This was because the son saw him naked after he had just taken wine and went sleeping down without cloth. The cursed son suffered seriously thereafter.
5. In Genesis 34:12ff, Joseph was sold by his brothers to the Egyptian slave dealers. This was out of jealousy because their father's love for Joseph. Even before being sold, he was tortured through being tied up with a rope.
6. The pharaoh of Egypt enslaved the Israelites. They were oppressed and exploited through hard labour with little food and torturing. It was a kind of injustice that prompted God to call and commission Moses to go and deliver His people (Exodus 3:1ff).
7. In Genesis 34:1ff, Shechem – the son of Hamos raped Dinah (the daughter of Jacob and Leah). This resulted into the murder of many people by the sons of Jacob.
8. There was corruption and bribery among the Israelites. This led to the suffering of some people who were denied the chance of using their own resources. (Micah 7:1ff).
9. The Israelites were subjected to forced labour during the time of kings. For example, king Solomon forced his people to work so as to fulfill his building program. (1 Kings 5:13-16).
10. The Israelites worshipped other gods. This was against the Sinai covenant in which God had stopped from doing so. Therefore, this was a sin and an injustice against God and the Israelites themselves.
11. The Israelites were also subjected to heavy taxation. King David and Solomon over taxed the people to fulfill their selfish ambitions.
12. In 2 Samuel 11:1ff, king David was unjust to Bathsheba and her husband Uriah who was one of his faithful soldiers. He fell in love and had sexual intercourse with Bathsheba. This was adultery, which was against the covenant laws. He went ahead and plotted for the death of Uriah at the battlefield after realizing that Bathsheba was pregnant. The following are therefore the injustices.
 - David destroyed the marriage between Bathsheba and Uriah.
 - David committed murder by plotting for Uriah. (2 Samuel 11:14)
 - King David broke the Sinai covenant by admiring his neighbor's wife and even plotting for the death of Uriah.

- King David neglected his duty as a leader. He was supposed to be with his soldiers as the battlefield but chose to remain behind. (2 Samuel 11:1).
 - King David misused his authority by engaging in such evil acts.
 - King David was lustful. He had no love for Bathsheba but only wanted to satisfy his sexual desire. (2 Samuel 11:4).
 - King David interfered with Uriah's work of defending people his people by calling him to leave the battlefield. (2 Samuel 11:11).
 - King David was a liar. He lied to Uriah by instructing him to go home and rest, yet he wanted to disguise the pregnancy of Bathsheba. (2 Samuel 11:18).
 - King David shamelessly saw the nakedness of Bathsheba while she was bathing. (2 Samuel 11:2).
13. In 1 kings 21:1ff, king Ahab grabbed the vineyard of Naboth who had been killed innocently for his failure to offer the yard to him. The injustices in this story include.
- Greediness by king Ahab who wanted the vineyard Naboth yet he had more than enough.
 - Murdering of Naboth yet he was even innocent.
 - Naboth was falsely accused of cursing God and the king.
 - King Ahab misused his authority by grabbing Naboth's vineyard.
 - King Ahab broke the ten commandments by accepting lies and even recognizing the murder of Naboth.
 - King Ahab was simply jealous of Naboth's vineyard, which had led to his prosperity.

JUSTICE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

According to New Testament, Jesus is presented as the promised messiah fore told by prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 11:1-9). Isaiah points out that through the messiah, man would live in harmony and at peace with each other, God and with all creation. During his ministry, Jesus taught and demonstrated what justice meant in the following ways.

1. Jesus called for the love for the neighbors as well as enemies in the way one loves himself or herself. He points out that this is the key to perfect and harmonious relationship. He demonstrated this by forgiving his enemies and dying on the cross for His people's sins.
2. Jesus called for reconciliation and re-integration between the neighbors. He emphasizes that this is the only way to restore sour relationship between neighbors and looks at revenge and hatred as products of unfair treatment. (Matthew 5:23-24).
3. Jesus condemned the attitudes of the religious leaders who thought that mere observation of the laws would promotes justice among the people. He points out

that the law was not perfect and that His coming was to bring perfection to it. (Luke 18:9-14).

4. Through His miracles, Jesus showed the need for man to have life without suffering. He made the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk and fed the hungry among others. His miracles were therefore signs of his power to heal man's relationship. (Mark 2:1-12).
5. Jesus condemned adultery. He points out that it is poison in marriage relationship that breaks the understanding between the people involved and the whole community. (Matthew 5:27-28).
6. Jesus also condemned divorce. He emphasizes that what God has joined together, no one has the right to separate. He was particularly more concerned with the sour relationship that might arise after divorce. (Mark 10:1ff).
7. Jesus taught that justice means being non-discriminative. He associated with people because of his knowledge of all being created in the image of God. For example, he did not discriminate the Jews from the gentiles, sinners from righteous, and men and women.
8. Galatians 5:22-23 calls for the spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, humility and self-control to exist among the people. These moral virtues are seen as the key to perfect and harmonious living among people.
9. In Ephesians 6:5-6, servants or slaves are to be treated fairly. They are all human beings created in God's image and therefore deserves fair treatment.
10. Jesus uplifted the status of children in the Jewish society. Children were not allowed to mix freely with the elderly. Jesus points out that this was being unfair and made it clear that the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. (Luke 18:16).
11. Jesus also uplifted the status of women who were marginalized in the Jewish society. For example, he recognized the widow's offer of a coin as being important. (Mark 12:41-44). He also had women as his friends like Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38).
12. Man is called upon to work for peace. Revelation 21:5 points out that all efforts put in promoting good relationship would bear fruit through the power of God who makes all things new.
13. Revelation 21:7 points out that man shall live together as sons of God. It brings out the end of suffering and high lights true human living in the kingdom as having harmony with God and his creatures.

How did Jesus promote justice?

He preached the good news of salvation so that all could be saved.

He helped the needy like feeding of the 4000 and 5000 people.

He healed the sick, the blind and the leper.

He allowed the children to play with him freely.

He associated with the sinners or the outcast like the woman who was caught in adultery and the prostitute woman.

He bent so low to the humble jobs/work when he washed the feet of his disciples.

He associated with both the women and the men for example he had Martha and Mary as his friends as well as Lazarus.

He raised the dead like Jairus' daughter.

He interpreted the laws to his followers so that they could know how to treat each other i.e. the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.

He interpreted the parables like the sower so that his disciples could understand his teaching.

He died for the sins of all so that all could be saved from destruction.