# Title: Religion and the media: Are soap operas a good way to deal with moral issues?

**Key Questions:** What should we stand for? Does justice/fairness for me get in the way of justice/fairness for others? What do believers mean by justice and fairness? How do believers identify and understand the concept of truth? Is curiosity a good thing? When can looking back be a negative thing to do? Can we think of any examples of “Fake News”?

**Key Concepts:** media, social media, truth, justice, free speech, satire, humour, morality, offence/blasphemy

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| **Learning objectives**To be able to discuss whether soap operas are a good way of dealing with moral/ethical issues | **Activities*** Play the theme tunes of a number of different soap operas and students to identify the soap opera
* As a class define what is meant by the term soap opera
* Ask students to brainstorm the key features of a soap opera with examples. Ask them to consider if soap operas are good or bad TV.
* Ask students to consider moral issues in soap operas: Number down the page 1-5, For each number put a letter of the alphabet, For each letter think of a topic/issue/idea starting with that letter that has been dealt with in a soap opera (e.g. abortion, racism)
* Show a series of clips from soap operas e.g. EastEnders: Syed reveals he is gay; Eastenders: Ethel confides in Dot (assisted suicide); Coronation Street: Hayley’s suicide; Coronation Street: Sophie and Sian discuss going to church; Hollyoaks: Hannah’s eating disorder
* Students to record what the issues were, how they were dealt with and give their own view as to whether soap operas are a good way of dealing with moral issues.
* Students choose one issue in a soap opera and write an alternative ending (could be influenced by religious teachings/people)
* Students plan their own soap opera scene about a moral issue including key characters (one must be a religious person) where the action takes place, what different characters feel/how they react, what the outcome is. Could be done as a piece of writing or a piece of drama.
* Peer-assess soap operas
 | **Resources**Theme tunesRelevant soap opera clips |