



To what extent do Orthodox Christianity and Buddhism bring anything constructive to issues raised in environmental ethics?

Sophie, Upper 6

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

I was drawn to environmental ethics because I was interested in current events and issues going on in the world. I've been brought up an Orthodox Christian, so I wanted to show people that there are often misconceptions about 1) how religion and faith views the environment and nature etc. and 2) there is nothing new to be gained from analysing these perspectives. I was interested in exploring what Buddhism could bring to the issue alongside this because it was an area I felt I knew very little of and wanted to learn more about. I was surprised to find out how similar Buddhist and Orthodox views towards the environment were!

Honestly, my topic doesn't really directly tie in with what I want to do at university (English), but because environmental ethics is a huge topic of discussion, I hope it will interest anyone reading my university applications (fingers crossed!). Also, if you wanted to, you could argue that English Lit encompasses every current and past issue we tackle within society so any topic I chose to explore in my EPQ would have been relevant!

I've enjoyed learning new things about Orthodoxy, Buddhism and environmental ethics in general. The ethics of Arne Naess have been particularly interesting, especially in how compatible they were with both Buddhist and Orthodox attitudes to the world. I loved learning more about how different people feel we should tackle the environmental crisis we are in, it made me re-examine my own actions and think about new ways I can help save the world!

This was actually my second attempt at an EPQ and I considered many times either dropping it or not doing it again, but I'm happy I kept at it. It is definitely stressful sometimes, but the skills I've learnt and the confidence I've gained in my own abilities made it worth it. As well as that, I think some of the reason EPQs are so great is that they allow you to complete a piece of work that counts towards university or apprenticeships or whatever you want to do entirely on your own chosen area of interest. There is not syllabus or anything like that- there's almost complete freedom, you can do it on virtually anything! I keep on saying if I did it again I would write it on why 'the Incredibles' is such an amazing movie.

I hope to go and do English Language and Literature at university. After that I'm not sure, potentially I'd love to go into teaching or maybe law?

