

# **RE, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) –**

## **Closure work for Year 7**

You are now going to have a look at five further, important Buddhist beliefs. These are now known as The Five Precepts.

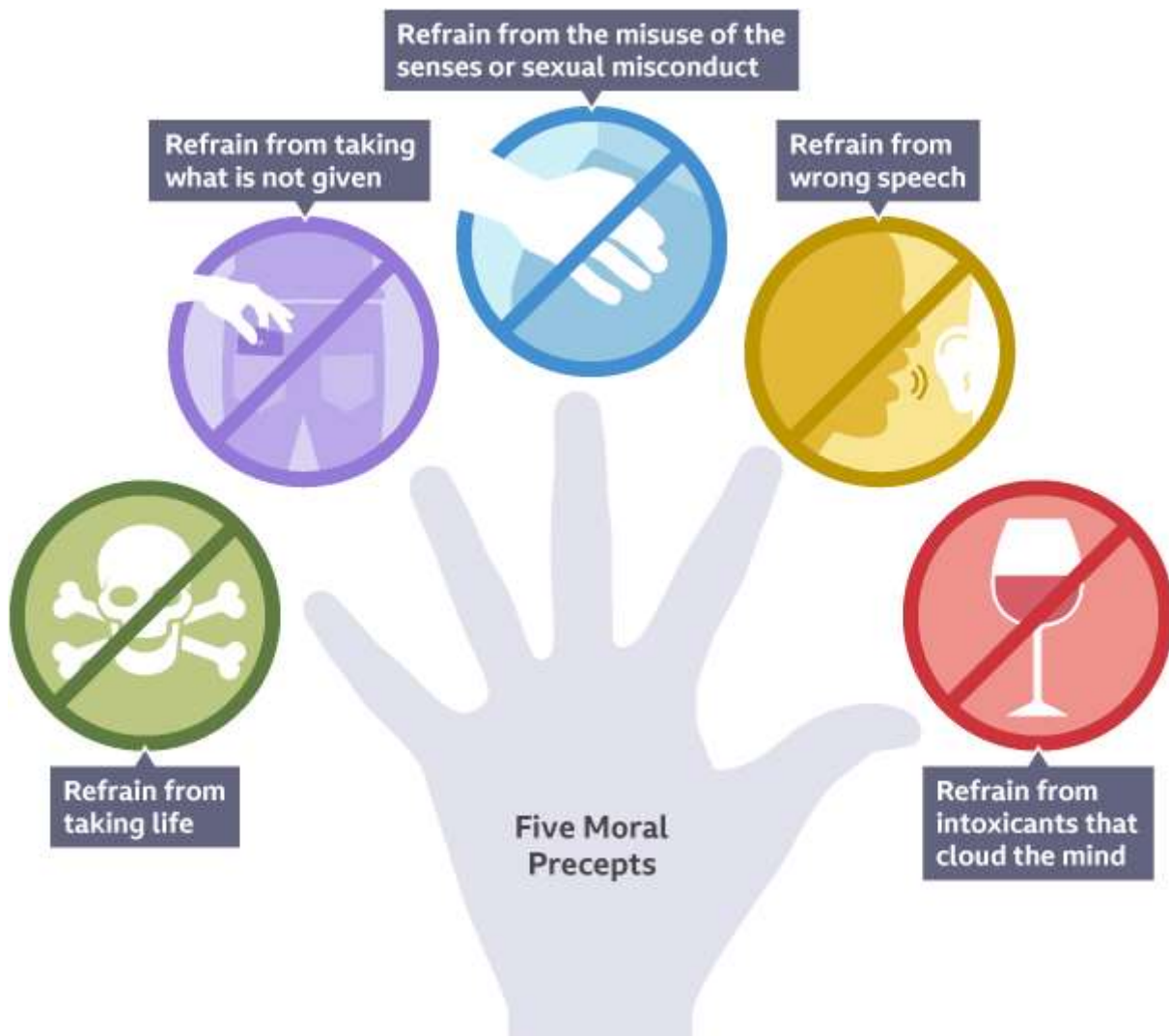
### **Tasks:**

1. Read the information
2. Write and answer the following questions:
  - a. Why are The Five Precepts important for Buddhists?
  - b. What are The Five Precepts?
  - c. How do The Five Precepts help Buddhists live a moral life?
  - d. Why is leading a moral life important for a Buddhist?

## The Five (Moral) Precepts

There are several ethical teachings that govern how Buddhists behave. These teachings impact Buddhists' daily life and tell them how they can change their future through their actions in the present.

**Moral:** Right, wrong, good and bad



**The five moral precepts are:**

1. to refrain from taking life, ie killing any living creature
2. to refrain from taking what is not freely given, ie theft
3. to refrain from misuse of the senses or sexual misconduct, ie overindulgence in sex or committing sexual offences
4. to refrain from wrong speech, ie lying or gossiping
5. to refrain from intoxicants that cloud the mind, ie drugs or alcohol

Buddhists do not believe in a deity, so the five precepts are suggested ways of living rather than commandments given by a god. A Buddhist must want to behave in a morally good way in order to achieve enlightenment.

The five moral precepts are the five principles that Buddhists follow in order to live ethically and morally good lives.