

Religion and Life revision guide

Cleeve Park School: Religious Studies department

Key Word	Definition
Abortion	Deliberate removal of a foetus from the womb with the intention to destroy it
Active euthanasia	Performing an action that brings about the painless death of a person
Afterlife	beliefs about what happens after we die
Animal Rights	The idea that animals should have rights that protect their interests e.g. right to life
Assisted suicide	Providing a person (usually with a life limiting illness) with the means to kill themselves
Awe	an overwhelming feeling, often of reverence to God
Big Bang Theory	scientific theory about the creation of the universe
Charles Darwin	the man who developed the theory of evolution by natural selection in the 19 th century
Conception	when a sperm fertilises an egg, leading to pregnancy and a complete set of DNA
Conservation	to repair and protect areas of natural beauty and the animals that live there
Creation	the belief that God created the world ex nihilo (Latin - 'from nothing')
Dominion	the belief that humans have the right to control creation
Environment	the world around us
Euthanasia	mercy killing - ending a persons life to reduce suffering
Evolution	change through inherited traits and genetic mutation in species
Fossil Fuels	natural fuel formed in the Earth's geological past e.g. coal, oil, gas
Hospice	a place that cares for people who are dying
Hypothesis	a proposed explanation of something
Involuntary euthanasia	where a person is capable of giving consent, but does not consent to euthanasia
Natural Resources	resources that the Earth provides to man kind
Natural Selection	a mechanism of evolution - survival of the fittest. Only genetic traits that are preferable to survival are passed on through reproduction
Non-voluntary euthanasia	Where a person cannot give consent to euthanasia e.g. in a coma
Passive euthanasia	Withdrawing medical treatment or food from patients - 'letting die'
Pesticide	chemicals used to kill pests e.g. insects
Pro-choice	Pressure groups that campaign for a woman's right to have an abortion
Pro-life	Pressure groups that campaign against abortion and euthanasia
Quality of Life	the standard/comfort of a persons life
Right to die	the belief that humans should have control over the means and time of their own death
Sanctity of Life	The belief that life is special as it is created by God
Science	knowledge coming from observed repetitions in nature and experimentation
Stewardship	duty to look after the world
Sustainable Energy	resources that can be renewed and are not depleted when used e.g.. solar, wind, tidal
Viable	The point of which a foetus can potentially survive outside the womb - 50% chance at 24 weeks
Voluntary Euthanasia	When a person requests euthanasia for themselves

Question 1

The 1 mark question

- Multiple choice
- There will always be four options given
- This style of questions features on both paper 1 and paper 2
- The distractors will not be trivial

Paper 2 – example from Religion and Life

“Which word means “Killing a person painlessly when they cannot give consent”

- a) Voluntary euthanasia b) Involuntary euthanasia c) non-voluntary euthanasia d) Assisted suicide

Mark scheme content:

c) Non voluntary euthanasia

Question 2

The 2 mark question

- One mark for each relevant point
- A short answer is expected

Paper 2 – example from Religion and Life

Give two criteria for a legal abortion in the UK

Mark scheme content:

Two doctors must agree/mothers life is at risk/before 24 weeks/risk to physical or mental health of mother/child at risk of being born severely handicapped/risk to physical or mental health of existing children

Question 3

The 4 mark question

- Contrasting beliefs tested in Themes papers

You need to give two answers – each one is worth 2 marks

1 mark = Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate answer

2 marks = Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate answer

Contrast

Paper 2 – example from Religion and Life

Give two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about animal testing. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions.

Most Muslims would argue that animal testing for medicine is acceptable, because the Quran teaches that animals were created for humans to use to improve their lives, and Mohammed said animals could be killed for a just cause. As animal testing improves human lives, this could be argued to be a good cause.

Anglican Christians would argue that animal testing for cosmetics is wrong, because animals are a part of God's creation and deserve to be treated with justice and kindness. God appointed humans

Here two influences are explained in detail. In each instance, the first sentence offers a 'basic explanation'; the second turns this into a 'detailed explanation'

Question 4

The 5 mark question

- Different from the 2 mark question as you need an explanation from each belief
- A simple explanation is worth one mark, a detailed explanation is worth 2 marks
- One extra mark is gained by accurate/relevant reference to a quote from a sacred text.

Paper 2 – example from Religion and Life

Explain two religious teachings about pollution. Refer to scripture or sacred writing in your answer.

Christianity teaches that humans have a responsibility to care for the earth, as the Earth was created by God and is sacred. The book of Psalms teaches that 'the Earth is the LORD's, and everything on it', which suggests that Christians should aim to reduce pollution, as they are damaging a part of creation that does not belong to them.

Islam teaches in the Quran that Allah appointed Adam to be his kaliph, or steward. As Muslims are the stewards of creation, they should aim to take care of the earth, and not damage it further. This means that Muslims been given a sacred task to care for the earth, so they should find ways of reducing pollution such as using renewable energy.

Question 5 – The BIG one worth 12 marks

- You should assess different viewpoints
- In the study of religions, different views within a religion should be used.
- In the thematic questions you must include the views of at least on religion you can also use non-religious views in these questions.
- You need a justified conclusion
- Each argument must be backed up with evidence – quotes.

Criteria	Marks
A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgment(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.	10-12
Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information Clear references to religion.	7-9
Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Or Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence. Maximum of 6 marks if there is no reference to religions or the argument is one-	4-6

sided.	
Point of view with reason(s) stated in support. atrocious	1-3

Paper 2 – example from Religion and Life

In this answer below developed arguments have been presented in support of the statement and against it followed by a justified conclusion. The arguments against the proposition are more fully developed, but this satisfies expectations for a Level 4 answer. A response in a Themes paper should include a variety of religious and non-religious viewpoints, however all should link directly to the question and be clearly analysed.

“There must be life after death” (12 marks)

“Religious believers might ask the question, what would be the purpose of life if there isn’t something after this one? We could be totally selfish and do exactly what we wanted, providing we don’t break the law, without having any concern about a conscience or any other consequence in an afterlife. People could focus entirely on themselves and their own happiness without any concern for others.

Humanists would not agree with this statement as they might not believe in God and a judgement when we die, but they still think that considering other human beings is an important responsibility which we all have. However, without God, there can be no afterlife, and humanists would focus on improving the quality of life for all people on earth rather than seeking a heavenly reward.

Christians believe that there must be life after death because Jesus die don a cross and came back to life three days later. His resurrection proved that life after death exists. He states ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believed in me shall never die’, which clearly states that Christians who are faithful in their religion will live after death. The Parable of the Sheep and Goats also provides evidence of a judgement, that all people will either be sent to Heaven or to Hell depending on how they have lived.

However, it could be argued that the Bible proves nothing, as the Bible is an ancient religious text that has scientific inconsistencies. Atheists do not believe that the world was created in 6 days, but that the Earth is billions of years old. If the Bible can be proven wrong about creation, it could also be wrong about life after death. The resurrection cannot be proven, only believed in. It makes sense for religious people to believe in life after death, but there is no proof of it.

On the other hand, evidence for life after death exists in the form of Near Death Experiences and the paranormal, which are not based on outdated religious texts. There have been thousands of reports of ghosts and spirit mediums, and while some may be unreliable, there would not be so many records if there was not some truth behind the idea. Additionally, people who have experienced NDE’s have seen the afterlife and described it, while also being able to describe details of their out of body experiences that would be impossible if they had not happened.

Overall, I think the evidence for life after death is inconclusive. There is sufficient reason to doubt religious texts as being scientifically unsound, however the fact that the idea of an afterlife is found in so many religious and spiritual traditions suggests there must be some truth to it. Ultimately we will only know for sure when we die, at which point it may be too late for us to appreciate the answer.

CORE CONCEPTS

The core concepts of this theme are the general ideas that apply to each topic. You will find general revision ideas here, and specific detail later on in the guide. You need these ideas to:

- Understand the common concepts that run through the whole topic

- Apply generic ideas to specific questions

Scientific vs religious truth

SCIENTIFIC TRUTH

- Comes from observation
- Describes our world and seeks to find explanations about how things work
- Concerned mainly with function and process
- In constant development – new research means new ideas are developed all the time
- Conditional – requires the evidence to support the hypothesis

RELIGIOUS TRUTH

- Comes from scripture and revelation
- Read in holy books, taught by religious leaders, or comes from personal experiences with God
- Religious truth often involves interpretation of scripture to find symbolic meaning, rather than taking scripture at face value
- Focuses on meaning and purpose – answering WHY
- Scripture is open to interpretation but the words themselves do not change

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?

People may argue scientific truth is important because:

- They are atheists or agnostics, and do not believe that scripture contains any truth as God does not exist
- Scientific truth is more reliable, as it is based on experimentation that can be repeated and verified. Religious experiences and scripture are based more on personal opinions and views
- It explains facts about the world, and how things work – this is practical and useful information

Others may argue that religious truth is more important because:

- It is knowledge that comes from God, who is all knowing, therefore religious truth is just as reliable as scientific truth
- It answers questions about meaning and purpose, which are more important for humans as we are intelligence beings who need to understand our place and role in the universe
- Scientific truth is constantly being proven to be wrong – our ideas about science change all the time. Religious truth is based on scripture, which does not change and is absolute, therefore more reliable

It is important to note that many atheists will see some value in the wisdom that can come from religious truths (e.g. the Golden Rule teaching of 'love your neighbour/treat others as you would wish to be treated') while still rejecting that these truths come from God.

Similarly, many religious people see that value in scientific truths in understanding the complexity of God's creation – after all, if God made the world, and science seeks to understand the world better, than science is itself a pursuit of knowledge about God (even if scientists don't agree)

DOMINION AND STEWARDSHIP

DOMINION – the belief that human beings occupy a special place in creation. They have been appointed the rulers of creation. Religious people may believe this because:

- The SANCTITY OF LIFE teaches that humans are more important than other parts of creation
- Humans have SOULS – this sets them apart from animals and plants
- Humans are made 'In God's image' – they are unique amongst all of his creations
- God 'breathed life' into Adam, indicating a personal relationship that sets humans aside from other animals
- God instructs humans to "***Fill the earth and subdue it***" Genesis 1:28"
- The dominion view means that the interests of humans will take priority over the interests of animals

STEWARDSHIP (KHALIFAH IN ISLAM) – the belief that God appointed humans to be his caretakers/stewards of his creation. Religious people may believe this because:

- "The Earth belongs to the LORD and everything on it" – the natural world does not belong to humans to treat as they wish
- Adam is tasked with caring for the Garden of Eden, and this responsibility passes on to other humans
- The world is complex and fascinating – it inspires a sense of awe in humans and is evidence of God's creative power. It has value, and must be preserved
- All Muslims are members of the Ummah, this includes future generations who need a healthy environment to live in

SANCTITY OF LIFE

- The Sanctity of Life is the idea that human life is important because it is part of God’s creation. Human beings have an intrinsic value (human life is valuable in itself)
- This is a core idea in any part of religious ethics that deals with the value of life – abortion, euthanasia, death penalty, war, medical treatment etc.
- Some religious groups extend this belief to animal and plant life too, however human life invariably occupies a unique and higher place in creation

CHRISTIANITY

Main reasons for believing in the Sanctity of Human life are:

- Life is a GIFT from God – to end life is to reject the most precious gift that could be given
- God creates all life, and only God can take life AWAY – humans do not have the right to decide life and death
- God has a PLAN for all human lives – to end a human life is to prevent God’s plan from coming into action
- 6th commandment states “Do not KILL”
- All humans are made ‘in God’s IMAGE’, meaning in his likeness, or of his essence. No other living creature is made this way.

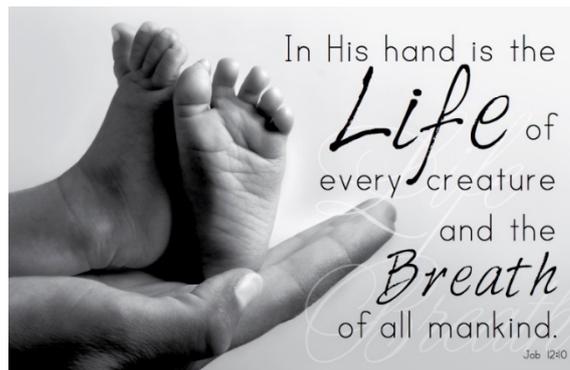
ISLAM

Main reasons for believing in the Sanctity of Human life are:

- The Quran teaches not to kill or destroy yourself
- The Quran teaches that all life is valuable and teaches “if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people”.
- Al-Qadr, or predestination – Allah has a plan for each life, and it is by Allah’s will who lives or dies
- Life may only be taken for a just cause, as stated in the Quran. To take life without instruction by Allah is to assume his role as the giver and taker of life, which is a form of shirk
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SANCTITY VS QUALITY OF LIFE

- Quality of life = the standard of health or happiness of a person or group
- In this context, we are generally referring to issues that may affect a person’s quality of life e.g. poverty or illness
- A poor quality of life could involve suffering from a debilitating illness, or having suffered an accident leaving someone badly paralysed
- Typically, a religious viewpoint may prioritise the SANCTITY OF LIFE, whereas secular views may prioritise the QUALITY OF LIFE, however religious groups will also take quality of life into account
- Key issues include:
 - Can a persons’ quality of life be so bad that life is not worth living?
 - Who decides on a persons’ quality of life?
 - Does the sanctity of life overrule quality of life in life and death issues?



Origins of the universe

CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS

- Story of **Genesis** – God created the earth in 6 days ex nihilo – ‘from nothing’
 - Day 1 – light and darkness
 - Day 2 – skies and oceans
 - Day 3 – land and plants
 - Day 4 – sun moon stars
 - Day 5 – birds and fish
 - Day 6 – animals and humans

SCIENTIFIC TEACHINGS

- The Big Bang Theory – a rapid expansion of matter and energy approximately 15 billion years ago.
- The matter of the universe is compressed into a tiny space (most matter is made up of empty space between atoms – there are no gaps at this time)
- As the matter slows down, gravity pulls it

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Day 7 - rest • Bishop James Ussher dated the creation at 4004BC – based on a study of dates in the Bible • The Gospel of John – “<i>In the beginning there was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God</i>” – Jesus = ‘The Word’ stresses that Jesus was involved in the act of creation also • Moderate and liberal Christians accept that this is a myth, or form of religious truth – it contains a message, but is not a historic account to rely on • The timing of ‘day’ is ambiguous – a day for God could be thousands of years for us • Evidence for this story is found in the Bible • The order of creation also loosely follows the order that the Earth developed according to science, supporting the idea that Genesis is a non-scientific interpretation of creation, rather than literal truth 	<p>together to form stars and planets. Eventually, on planet Earth, atmosphere develops, plants are formed, and eventually life develops from <i>primordial soup</i> - a term that refers to liquid that contains the foundations of life (e.g. protein, chemicals, amino acid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universe is still expanding – can be observed through the phenomenon of <i>red shift</i>, where light absorption moves towards the red end of the spectrum as wavelengths get longer (suggesting an increase in distance) • Background microwave radiation – radiation from the initial explosion can still be detected and measured suggesting a singular explosion.
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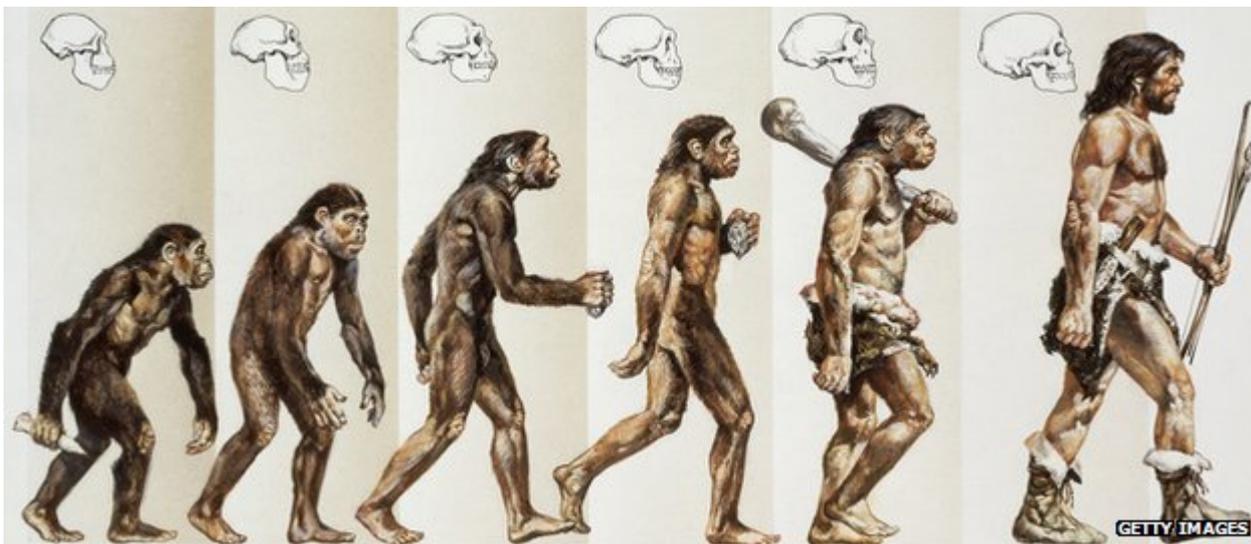
Origins of life

<p>CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Genesis 1, God creates life on the 5th and 6th days of creation, with humans as the final part of his creation. They are created ‘in God’s image’ • In Genesis 2, God creates the first man, Adam, from clay, and ‘breathes life’ into him suggesting a personal relationship. He is tasked with guarding the Garden of Eden, and is given one rule – not to eat from the Forbidden Tree. • In both accounts, God creates life in its final form, as we see it today. The story explains that snakes crawl on their bellies as a punishment from God for tempting Adam and Eve to sin against God. 	<p>SCIENTIFIC TEACHINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key scholar – CHARLES DARWIN • Key text – ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES • Darwin discovered that species change and develop over time through genetic mutation. These mutations led to new characteristics e.g. different colour fur, longer legs, sharper teeth, larger brains etc. • If these characteristics help an animal survive, then it reproduces more readily. These genes are passed on, and the process continues over thousands of years. Animals without these advantageous mutations die out. This is referred to as ‘evolution by natural selection’. • Darwin discovered evidence to suggest that this is how humans and animals came to be in their current form, and explains why animals and plants appear perfectly adapted for their environments
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<p>FUNDAMENTAL VIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental Christians believe this to be the literal truth of creation – the Earth is 6000 years old, made in 6 days • The Bible is infallible – there are no mistakes within it. Scientific views must be wrong • God is omnipotent, and an omnipotent God could easily create a world like ours in 6 days. He could also create it to appear older • It is a mystery – humans cannot understand God’s creation. They must have faith

MODERATE VIEW

- The Genesis creation story is a wisdom story, a way of passing on the message of creation from generation to generation
- The use of 'day' in the narrative could instead be symbolic of an 'age' or 'period of time' – a day for God could be millions of years to humans as God is transcendent.
- It is not literal truth – it is symbolic or religious truth. It makes sense of the universe in a way early religious believers could understand
- Religious truths of the Creation narratives tell Christians that the world is not random, that it was created by God, and that humans have a special role to play in God's creation.
- Some Christians believe the Big Bang supports the idea that God created the universe, as it explains how God created the world



Environment

- Religions teach that all life is special as it is created by God
- The natural world provides a point of contact between humans and God, their creator
- The natural world can instil a sense of wonderment, or awe – think areas of natural beauty. This feeling brings people closer to God
- *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”*
- The natural world is important for future generations – most religions teach it should be protected and conserved for the future

Environmental problems

Issue	Causes	Effects	Solutions
Pollution – an excess of toxic substances in the environment	<p>Air pollution – caused mainly by fumes from cars and factories</p> <p>Dumping waste into the sea, and pesticides, can cause water pollution</p> <p>Ineffective waste disposal causes land pollution</p>	<p>Leads to asthma attacks, lung cancer, and other diseases</p> <p>Devastates marine life, also poisons water supplies</p> <p>Poisons wildlife and makes farming less efficient</p>	<p>Reduce the use of motorised transport + develop cleaner burning fuels</p> <p>Use natural methods of pest control + dispose of waste responsibly</p> <p>Don't litter!</p>
Climate change – rising and falling global temperature related to the actions of humans. Believed to have been heavily affected by post-industrial culture	Greenhouse gasses, including carbon dioxide and methane, build up in the atmosphere. This leads to more heat being retained by the Earth's surface	<p>Melting ice polar ice, leading to increase absorption of heat and more rapid warming</p> <p>Rising sea level</p> <p>Increase in tropical diseases</p> <p>Increased cost of cooling</p>	<p>Change from fossil fuels to sustainable forms of energy e.g. solar, wind</p> <p>Reduce emissions by using less motorised transport</p> <p>Reduce production of farmed animals to reduce methane emissions</p> <p>Replant forests to remove CO2 from the atmosphere</p>
Destruction of habitat – removing natural environments, either due to pollution damage, or to clear space for development	<p>Pollution e.g. oil spills, nuclear fallout</p> <p>Deforestation – often to provide grazing for cattle/cash crops</p>	<p>Higher carbon emissions as fewer trees exist to remove carbon from the atmosphere</p> <p>Many species only live in rainforest areas and are becoming endangered e.g. Orang-Utans environment being cleared for palm oil</p>	<p>Reduce need for grazing space by reducing meat consumption</p> <p>Use wood from sustainable forests</p> <p>Use alternative ingredients in food</p> <p>Recycle</p>

<p>Use of natural resources Natural resources = non renewable resources e.g. vegetation, minerals, and fossil fuels (they are destroyed/consumed when used). Some resources are sustainable e.g. wood which can be replanted, some are non-sustainable e.g. coal</p>	<p>Motorised transport mainly runs on refined oil e.g. petrol or diesel. Cheaper electricity can be produced by coal burning power plants</p>	<p>Increased competition for resources – as they are used, they become more expensive. Chance of conflict over oil Most fuels that are burned produce greenhouse gasses</p>	<p>Develop alternative sources of transport e.g. electric cars that can be charged using electricity from renewable sources Use fewer fossil fuels e.g. turn down central heating, drive more responsibly/use public transport</p>
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<p>Christian teachings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisi declaration on the environment 1986 – human dominion over the environment does not permit humans to abuse, spoil, or waste what God has created • Pope John Paul II taught that humans have a responsibility to future generations to preserve the world • Christians believe in stewardship (see 'stewardship') • St. Basil taught that nature had value because it provided a physical point of contact between humans and God 	<p>Muslim teachings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslims believe they will be judged by Allah on how they have treated the world, his creation. • See Muslim teachings on khalifa • Muslims believe they are all part of a global community, the ummah. They have a responsibility to others in the ummah to ensure the world is cared for • Mohammed taught that the whole world should be thought of as a place of worship. He also gave the example of not wasting resources
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<h2>Animals</h2>	
<p>ANIMAL TESTING – also called vivisection. A practice that involves using live animals to experiment new medicine and technology on in order to check it's function or safety</p>	
<p>EATING ANIMALS - breeding animals to be killed for food. Nowadays most animals come from FATORY FARMS which is a form of intense agriculture where animals do not have free access to outside space</p>	
<p>CHRISTIAN VIEWS</p>	<p>MUSLIM VIEWS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made by God for humans to care for. • Man is arguably more important as was made in the image of God. • Noah was commanded to take the animals on the ark to keep them safe. • Most Christians support the ban on animal testing for cosmetics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All part of creation. • Created to help humans but not to be abused. • Captivity goes against Islamic teachings, must support conservation projects. • Meat must be halal, killed in the name of God • Cannot eat pork or meat that has died in the wild. • Animal experiments are only allowed if there is no

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible does not give clear guidance on whether or not to eat meat. St. Paul taught that vegetarians and meat eaters should not judge one another but respect each other's choices 	<p>unnecessary suffering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used for medicine for humans but must be treated as well as possible
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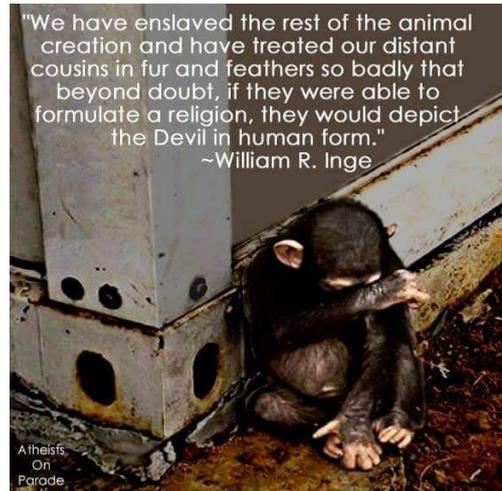
<p>CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS <i>'Everything that moves is food for you'</i> Genesis 9:3 <i>'The righteous care for the needs of their animals'</i> Proverbs 12:10 <i>'Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.'</i> Genesis 1:29 <i>'Get up Peter, kill, and eat'</i> Acts 10:13</p>	<p>MUSLIM TEACHINGS <i>'There is not a single thing that does not celebrate His praise'</i> Hadith Muhammad cut his cloak rather than wake a sleeping cat. <i>'Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that without a just cause, Allah will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgment.'</i> Hadith <i>"It is who provided for you all manner of livestock, that you may ride on some of them and from some you may derive your food. And other uses in them for you to satisfy your heart's desires"</i> Qur'an 40:79-80</p>
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<p>SHOULD RELIGIOUS PEOPLE EAT MEAT?</p>	
<p>YES, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the Flood, God gave permission for Noah to eat meat "everything that lives and moves will be food for you", and God gave St. Peter permission to break the Kosher food laws "Get up, Peter – kill, and eat". St. Paul taught that vegetarians and meat eating Christians should respect one another Meat is a readily available source of nutrition and protein that people have eaten for thousands of years Muslims sacrifice a goat during the festival of Eid-al-Adha to remember Ibrahim and his readiness to sacrifice Ismail. Halal food laws state which types of meat can be eaten, but eating meat is permitted in the Quran <p>NO, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Francis taught that animals also had souls, and this could be interpreted to mean that killing them would be wrong The conditions of factory farming do not fit with the Christian values of agape love Killing animals for food encourages violence, which many Christians disagree with In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were vegetarian. Many Christians believe they should try and emulate the pre-fall lifestyle before Creation was corrupted by sin Hindus and Buddhists believe in reincarnation – their souls can be reborn into animals. Violence against animals could be violence against their ancestors 	

<p>SHOULD RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ALLOW ANIMAL TESTING?</p>	
<p>YES, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human life is sacred, and animal testing has led to the development of medicines and technologies that improve human life e.g. vaccinations The Quran teaches that animals were provided to meet the needs of humans, and medical animal testing is needed for human health It prevents more suffering than it causes, and is the lesser of two evils. Better a rat dies for medical research than a human being Medical research has been proven to improve the life expectancy of humans for approximately 23.5 years – it has clear benefits which would be approved by God <p>NO, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humans are not the same as animals, and medical testing is unreliable. For example, thalidomide was tested on animals but led to birth defects in humans Animals are part of God's creation and should be treated with care. Animal testing leads to suffering and death We would not allow this treatment against humans, and animals can still feel pain like humans can Mohammed taught that Muslims who harmed animals without good cause would be judged; animal testing for cosmetics or military means is not a good cause Jesus taught to be loving to those who are weaker – animals are weaker than humans, so following Jesus' teaching means not causing them harm St. Francis taught that animals were made 'of the same essence' as humans, suggesting they have souls 	

and should not be harmed.

- Cosmetic and military testing does not improve the quality of human life, consequently the arguments supporting it should not apply



Abortion

Basic information

- Abortion is the removal of a foetus from the womb before the end of pregnancy, with the intention of destroying it
- In 1967 it was made legal for doctors to perform abortions in the UK if two doctors agreed that:
 - The mothers life was at risk
 - The mothers mental or physical health were at risk
 - The wellbeing of existing children was at risk
 - The foetus would be born severely handicapped.
- An abortion cannot take place after 24 weeks, unless the mothers life is at risk, or the foetus will be born severely handicapped

Should the law be changed?

- **YES** – the limit on 24 weeks is too late, it should be earlier as a foetus has a chance of survival from 20 weeks.
- **YES** – ‘mental health of mother’ is too vague and allows too many abortions for trivial reasons. It should be taken much more seriously
- **YES** – Early abortions should be legal whoever performs them, women cannot always get medical help and early abortions are relatively straightforward
- **NO** – The current law is a good balance between allowing abortions for those who need them, while preventing them from becoming trivial
- **NO** – banning abortion would just make people have dangerous, illegal back street abortions.

Why might someone consider an abortion?

- A genetic condition has been passed down to the foetus, which will cause it to greatly suffer
- A mother who is too young to care for a baby
- A woman who becomes pregnant as a result of rape or incest
- A woman who requires medical treatment that will end the pregnancy e.g. chemotherapy
- The pregnancy was unplanned and the mother does not want children
- The father does not want to be involved and the mother doesn't feel she can cope alone
- The child will be born with Down's Syndrome

Why is it controversial?

- People do not agree when life begins. If life begins at conception, abortion is murder. If life begins at birth, abortion is acceptable. Most people believe somewhere in the middle
- There is a conflict of rights between the right of the mother to control over her own body, and the right of the unborn child to live.
- Laws on abortion are often dictated by men, when abortion is an issue that primarily affects women

Arguments against abortion

- A foetus is innocent – it has done no wrong, and should be punished through abortion
- Easy access to abortion promotes unsafe sex and promiscuity
- Easy access to abortion reduces respect for the sanctity of life
- Most religious condemn it as murder

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- The Church of England teaches that abortion is wrong in the majority of cases, because of the Sanctity of Life
- However they believe abortions should be allowed in cases where refusing the abortion would cause more harm. This is called ‘the lesser of two evils’
- An example of this would be if the mothers life is at risk and an abortion would save her life. Another example could be if the foetus would

CONTRASTING VIEWS

- The Catholic Church does not allow abortions under any circumstance, because:
- Natural Law states that the purpose of humans is to reproduce and preserve life, and abortion goes against this
- God has a plan for every human life, including people born with severe handicaps. Disabled people have just as much right to be born as able bodied people
- Abortion is a mortal sin – if it is not absolved,

<p>be severely disable and have no quality of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2002 the CofE stated that too many abortions occur in the UK and that the law should be reviewed 	<p>then a Catholic will be judged and go to Hell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that life begins at conception
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Religious Teachings

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." **Jeremiah 1:5**

"Do not kill." **Exodus 20:13**

"Love your neighbour" – **Mark 12:31**

"I declare that direct abortion, that is, abortion willed as an end or as a means, always constitutes a grave moral disorder, since it is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being." **Pope John Paul II (Catholic)**

"The Church of England combines strong opposition to abortion with a recognition that there can be - strictly limited - conditions under which it may be morally preferable to any available alternative." **General Synod (CofE)**

Alternatives – adoption

- The main alternative for a person considering abortion that does not want to keep a child is adoption. This is where a mother legally gives up her rights of parenthood, and the child legally becomes the responsibility of someone else.
- Religious groups would prefer this because:
 - as it means that an innocent life is not being taken, so doesn't break rules about the sanctity of life
 - It is a way of helping childless couples have children
 - It is a way of showing agape (unconditional love) which Christianity teaches all Christians should do
 - It ensures that the child will be brought up in an environment where they are loved and wanted
 - It protects the mother from the guilt associated with abortion
- However, it may be undesirable because:
 - The child may grow up to question why they were given up then they were young
 - The mother still has to go through the process of pregnancy and birth, which for many women is part of the reason why they would have an abortion anyway
 - It is unfair to expect a person to go through the process of birth only to give up their child afterwards
 - Mother may regret the decision and will have no legal way of reuniting with the child



EUTHANASIA

Key Terms

Euthanasia – Mercy killing. Killing a person to end their suffering

Active euthanasia – Taking action which kills a person e.g. lethal drugs

Passive euthanasia – Stopping treatment that is keeping someone alive e.g. turning off a life support

Voluntary euthanasia – Euthanasia that a person has consented to

Non-voluntary euthanasia – Euthanasia when a person is unable to give consent

Involuntary euthanasia – Euthanasia when a person can give consent, but does not

Assisted suicide – Providing someone with the means to kill themselves.

The Law

- Illegal in the UK. Can be viewed as:
 - Assisted suicide – carries 14 year jail sentence
 - Manslaughter – maximum life sentence
 - Murder – maximum life sentence
- Switching off life support machines, and giving painkillers which shorten life, are both practiced in the UK. Can be viewed as passive euthanasia by some
- Assisted suicide (not euthanasia) is legal in Switzerland, uniquely people can travel there to be helped to die by a group called Dignitas. Helping someone travel to Switzerland to die can be punishable by UK law
- Euthanasia is legal in Benelux (Belgium/Netherlands/Luxembourg) but only to citizens, not to tourists

Arguments for

- People should have the right to make choices about important issues that affect them, which includes how and when they die
- Individuals should be able to say whether or not they feel their quality of life has declined to the point where it is no longer worth living
- It is compassionate to euthanise animals and pets who are suffering, humans deserve the same kindness
- Death happens to everyone in time, but people shouldn't have to suffer if it can be avoided
- We should prioritise the quality of life of people over concepts like the sanctity of life

Arguments against

- Allowing euthanasia encourages it. People may feel pressured into asking for euthanasia, or people could take advantage of the law to exploit others e.g. making an elderly relative feel like a burden for inheritance money
- Euthanasia weakens societies respect for the sanctity of life
- The right to die creates a corresponding duty to kill for medical professionals – this goes against the Hippocratic Oath ('first – do no harm')

MAIN RELIGIOUS TRADITION + SIMILAR VIEWS

- **CHURCH OF ENGLAND** – Active euthanasia is wrong, passive euthanasia is acceptable, encouraged palliative care (hospices) because:
 - The CofE believes in the Sanctity of Life (see corresponding section for arguments)
 - Legalising active euthanasia will lead to the old and disabled feeling devalued, and all life is important
 - However, doctors should not prolong life for the sake of it – removing extraordinary medical treatment leading to passive euthanasia allows God's plan to come into being
- **ISLAM** – Most Muslims accept passive euthanasia as they believe their duty is to

CONTRASTING VIEWS

- **CHRISTIANITY** – The Dutch Protestant Church view active euthanasia as an act of love and compassion – "Love your neighbour as yourself". It is more loving to allow a painless death than to force someone to suffer
- **CHRISTIANITY** – God gave humans free will, and part of having free will is choosing the time and manner of your death.
- **LIBERAL religious views** – Liberal religious groups may value the rights of the individual, and that teachings of their religion should be interpreted in a modern context.

maintain life, not prolong death. Mohammed taught that euthanasia leads to all involved being denied an afterlife in paradise.

Religious teachings

- **“Do not kill”** – Moses, 6th Commandment
- **“If we live, we live for the LORD – if we die, we die for the LORD”** – St. Paul, Romans 14:8
- **“Love your neighbour as yourself”** – Jesus, the Golden Rule
- Euthanasia is **‘a grave violation of the law of God’**. – Pope John Paul II
- **“Do not take life, which Allah made sacred, other than in the course of justice”**. Qur'an 17:33
- **“it is futile to diligently keep the patient in a vegetative state by heroic means... It is the process of life that the doctor aims to maintain and not the process of dying”**. Islamic Code of Medical Ethics
- **“When their time comes they cannot delay it for a single hour nor can they bring it forward by a single hour.”** Qur'an 16:61

HOSPICE MOVEMENT

- A hospice is a care centre for people with terminal (life limiting) illnesses.
- Care for people who are dying is called **PALLIATIVE CARE**
- While many people in hospices may be elderly, they will also be occupied by young adults and children
- People may stay until they die, or may stay for short periods of time to give respite to family who care for them
- Do not aim to cure illness, but to care for those who are dying and prepare them and their families for death
- Almost all religions agree that improving palliative care reduces the need for euthanasia
- Aims include:
 - **Relieving symptoms of illness** through medication, but also through massage, meditation, and relaxation
 - **Taking care of emotional and spiritual needs** – preparing individuals for their death. Often relatives are not emotionally able to provide this support
 - **To support families** – including support after a person has died e.g. support networks and contacts in funeral care
 - **To educate the community** about end of life care

DOVE HOUSE HOSPICE

- Established in 1979, current premises opened in 1991
- Set up in accordance with Christian values of agape love. Provides support for religious people, but is open to people of all religions and none.
- Located on Chamberlain Road in East Hull
- Care is provided free of charge – funded by charitable donations and through the NHS Primary Care Trust
- £6.1m of fundraising is needed per year to run the hospice. Donating money to a hospice might be a way a religious person responds to the issue of euthanasia

Life after death

	Christianity	Islam
What happens after death?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe in resurrection. They differ in belief about whether this will be physical or spiritual. Most Christians believe in the existence of Heaven, a place of reward, and Hell, a place of punishment. Catholic Christians also believe in purgatory, a place of purification Some Christians believe in a particular judgement – this judgement occurs at the moment of death Others believe in a final judgement – this occurs at Judgement Day, the end of the Earth, when Jesus will return to judge all humans – the living, and the dead, on how they lived during their lives The resurrection of Jesus is proof of life after death. Christians believe that his sacrifice and atonement provide the means of them accessing the afterlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief in life after death is called ‘Akhirah’ When a person dies, their soul is taken by the Angel of Death – Azra’il The soul becomes disembodied, and is able to watch the final moments of the body before burial Angels will ask three questions – ‘who is your lord, what was your life like, and who is your prophet’. If these questions are answered correctly the soul is made comfortable until the Day of Judgement. Otherwise, it is tormented by angels The world will end, and the dead will be raised up to receive a final judgement In Islam, Heaven is called Jannah, and Hell is called Jahannam. In Jahannam, the punishment is relevant to the sin, e.g. liars will have their lips cut off
Evidence from scripture	<p><i>“I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” Apostles Creed</i></p> <p><i>The Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-36) teaches that Christians will be judged based on their deeds, and that those who cared for the poor and needy would receive their eternal reward in Heaven</i></p> <p><i>“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the father except through me”</i></p>	<p><i>“Oh humanity – your sins are against YOUR soul. It is an enjoyment of the life of the present...we will show you the truth of what you did” Surah 10:23</i></p> <p><i>“No soul knows what delights of the eye are kept hidden from them of joy, as a reward for what they did”</i></p> <p><i>“And to every soul will be paid in full (the fruit) of its deeds; and Allah knoweth best all that they do.” Surah 39:70</i></p>
Impact on life of believers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe in judgement, therefore they will aim to live their lives in a way pleasing to God. This means they will follow the teachings of the Bible, and of the Church. The Parable of the Sheep and Goats teaches that judgement is based on the way Christians treat others, therefore they will aim to show love and care for others during their lives Jesus claimed that the only way into Heaven was to accept him as saviour and follow his teachings The resurrection of Jesus is a promise of life after death, therefore Christians will be less fearful of death, and not view it as bad, or wrong – it is another stage on a persons journey (however, God is the only one who decides when to give or take life) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslims believe in judgement, therefore they will aim to live their lives in a way pleasing to Allah. This means they will follow the teachings of the Quran In addition, Muslims believe that the pilgrimage of Hajj allows them a chance to atone and be forgiven for their past sins, allowing them easier access to paradise The belief in life after death is comforting to Muslims who suffer in life, as they will be rewarded for their good deeds and the wicked will be punished for their sins.

Other views of life after death (religious or non religious)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paranormal – events beyond normal experience or scientific explanation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ghosts – disembodied spirits believed to belong to the dead, which still remain on earth. There have been accounts of ghosts for thousands of years. More recently, photography has meant that images believed to be of ghosts have been captured on film, however a large number of these have been proved to be forgeries. Ghosts, if real, prove the existence of life after death ○ Mediums – people who can contact the spirit world. Again, have existed for years, many have been proven to be frauds. Communication with the afterlife would prove it’s existence ● Reincarnation – the belief that the soul returns in a new body after death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hindus believe that the soul, or atman, reincarnates depending on how a person lived during their lifetime. Hindus believe that each person has their own dharma, or duty, that must be fulfilled. A person who lives according to their dharma gains karma, while a person who does not loses karma. Positive karma means a person will reincarnate higher up the caste system, a hierarchy that governs Hindu life. Ultimately, the aim is to achieve Moksha, an escape from the cycle of reincarnation, where the atman reunites with Brahman, the ultimate God of Hinduism. ● Humanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humanism is a form of atheism that believes that human being should stop looking for answers in religion, and start making the world a better place themselves. Humanists do not believe in life after death, and believe that this life is the only one we get – as a result, we have a responsibility to care for others, as there is no afterlife reward for suffering – this is all there is. Humanists are not convinced by religious arguments, and do not put their faith in an afterlife that cannot be proven. 	
Are there good reasons to believe in life after death?	<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Belief in life after death gives life purpose. The purpose of life is to achieve a desirable afterlife – for some religions, this is acting well so they can be rewarded in Heaven. For others, it is about living well to achieve good karma. Without an afterlife, people could act however they wish without consequence ● Life after death also gives meaning for evil and suffering. Without life after death, people who suffer in life do so without and meaning at all. It is horrific to think, for example, that all the people in the world born into poverty live and die with such a poor quality of life ● All religions teach that death is not the end – even though they do not agree on what that life is like, it is one of the few things religions agree on – death is not the end of existence. 	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paranormal accounts of life after death have often been faked. The evidence of paranormal is not reliable enough to be considered proof ● Near Death experiences can be caused through oxygen deprivation or medication – it is simply the senses lying to people ● Religious texts are outdated and based on superstitions of the time they were written. The Bible is not a reliable source of evidence of life after death. ● There have been many attempts of believers in the supernatural to contact the living after death. So far, none have been successful.

Practice exam questions

2 mark

- Give two examples of what religious people might do to carry out their duty of stewardship
- Give two examples of pollution
- Give two beliefs about what happens after a person dies
- Give two conditions for a legal abortion in the UK
- Give two different types of euthanasia
- Give two beliefs about the origins of life
- Give two beliefs about the origins of the universe

4 mark

- Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about abortion
- Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about euthanasia
- Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about animal testing
- Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about creation
- Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about the afterlife
- Explain two similar religious beliefs about using animals for food
- Explain two similar religious beliefs about pollution
- Explain two similar religious beliefs about the value of the world

5 mark

- Explain two religious beliefs about the origins of the world
- Explain two religious beliefs about the afterlife
- Explain two religious beliefs about using animals for food
- Explain two religious beliefs about animal testing
- Explain two religious beliefs about abortion
- Explain two religious beliefs about euthanasia
- Explain two religious beliefs about the hospice movement
- Explain two religious beliefs about the value of the world

You must refer to scripture of sacred writing in your answer

12 mark

- "Scientific experimentation has proven religious teachings about the origins of the universe wrong"*
- "Only scientific truth is useful in everyday life"*
- "An abortion should be the mothers choice"*
- "There are no compelling reasons to believe in life after death"*
- "The hospice movement is more desirable than voluntary euthanasia"*
- "No religious person should support testing on animals"*
- "Quality of life is more important than the sanctity of life"*
- "Only God has the right to take life"*
- "The only acceptable reason for abortion is when the mothers life is at risk"*
- "The environment should be everyone's first priority"*