

Year 10 RE Booklet

Religion and Life



Name.....

RE Teacher.....

GCSE Religious Studies A

Religion and Life Key Terms

Universe: all of time and space and its contents; includes planets, stars, galaxies, the contents of intergalactic space, the smallest subatomic particles, and all matter and energy

Fundamentalist Christians: Christians who believe that the statements in the Bible are literally true and believe there are certain basic beliefs that are essential to the Christian faith

Liberals: Christians who believe that the Bible's authors were guided by God, but that not everything they wrote is a literal account of what actually happened

Wonder: marvelling at the complexity and beauty of the universe

Awe: a feeling of devout respect, mixed with fear or wonder

Responsibility: a duty to care for, or having control over, something or someone

Stewardship: the idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God

Dominion: Dominance or power over something; having charge of something or ruling over it

Environment: the natural world; the surroundings in which someone lives

Natural resources: materials found in nature – such as oil and trees – that can be used by people

Abuse: misuse; of the world and the environment

Sustainable development: building and progress that try to reduce the impact on the natural world for future generations

Non-renewable resources: things the earth provides that will eventually run out as there is a limited amount of them; examples include oil, coal, gas and other minerals

Deforestation: the cutting down of large amounts of forest, usually because of business needs

Renewable energy: energy that comes from a source that does not run out, such as wind or the sun

Pollution: making something dirty and contaminated, especially the environment

Vegetarian: a person who does not eat meat or fish

Vegan: a person who does not eat animals or foods produced by animals (such as eggs); a vegan tries not to use any products that have caused harm to animals (such as leather)

Evolution: the process by which living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms of life during the history of the earth

Adaptation: a process of change where an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment

Sanctity of life: all life is holy as it is created and loved by God; Christians believe human life should not be misused or abused

Quality of life: the general well-being of a person, in relation to their health and happiness; also, the theory that the value of life depends upon how good or how satisfying it is

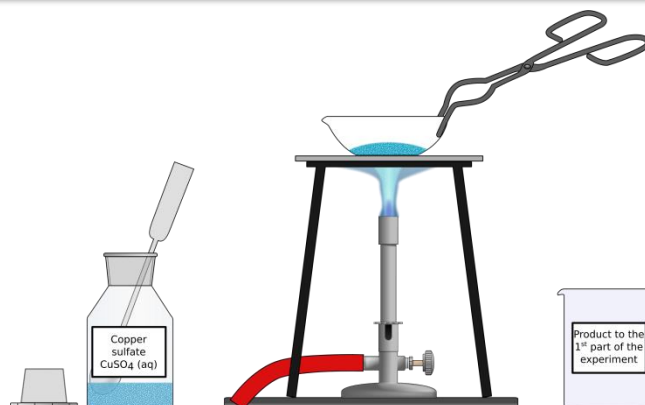
Euthanasia: the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma

Eternity: a state that comes after death and never ends

Scientific versus religious truth

Scientific truth- this comes from making a hypothesis (theory) then testing this theory to see if its true. It is also open to be developed and changed. It can be challenged and tested by other theories and concepts.

Religious truth- this comes from religion and holy books. This can be learnt through reading, getting taught about it and also being taught by God. It often explains why we are here, how we should act and questions about God. It often gives us answers to ultimate questions.



Origins of the universe and life

The Big Bang Theory- this is show scientists believe the world started. They believe before the universe existed there was nothing. Then a huge explosion happened and there was a cloud of dust and gas which over time formed into the world. The universe existed over 20 billion years and humans appeared millions of years ago.



CHARLES DARWIN & EVOLUTION

Charles Darwin was a natural scientist. He wrote a book called the Origin of Species in 1859. In this book, he explained that the world is a place of change and that creatures and species have changed and adapted over time. He called this **evolution**. When species fail to adapt they become extinct and the stronger species learn to adapt and survive. He called this **natural selection** or survival of the fittest. Darwin still claimed God was involved in all this. He believed the complexity of nature came from somewhere and he put that down to God.



The value of the world

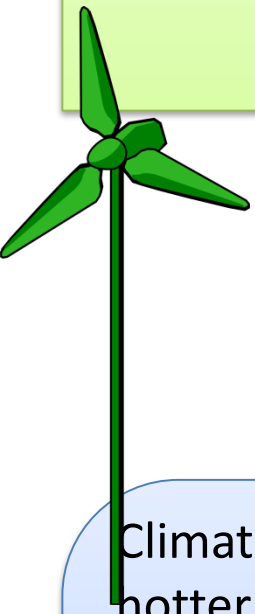
All religious believers believe life is sacred, or special. Therefore, all life should be treated with respect. They believe that someone (God, Allah etc.) created the world and it is their job to care for His creations. This is called **stewardship**.

However, many also believe we have control of the world and all this species in it. This is called **dominion**. God gave humans permission to control all the world. When people look at the world they are often amazed, wowed and in awe. Religious people would say God created the world and all in it. They would want to worship and praise him more because of this.



Pollution

Pollution means there is too much of something and this can cause damage. This is usually caused by human actions. Types of pollution include noise pollution (loud noises from cities), air pollution (gasses from cars, public transport etc.), water pollution (from factories), and land pollution (litter.) Pollution causes global warming and climate change. Too much waste produces greenhouse causes which causes the earth to become too hot.



GLOBAL WARMING & CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change is the belief that the Earth is getting hotter and this causes bad weather such as flooding and storms. This leads to the temperature getting hotter elsewhere and this leads to global warming. This has been caused by humans over the last 250 years with the burning of fossil fuels for things such as energy and transport. The solutions to this issue is to find alternatives to fossil fuels such as sustainable resources. These are resources that do not run out such as wind, water and solar power.

Christian attitudes to the environment



- Christians regard the world as a priceless gift from God, loaned to humans because of his love.
- Christians believe that God is responsible for the world **“The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”**
Psalms 24: 1
- Christians believe God has appointed to them to care for the world. This is called stewardship.
(Genesis 1:28)
- In return we can use it in a sustainable way for our future.
- Christians believe that God has given human the privilege of living on earth but the responsibility of looking after it- this is called stewardship.
- In **Genesis 2** Adam was given the job of looking after the Garden of Eden for God.
- Christians, believe they will be accountable to God for their care of the world.
- **Dominion**- Christians believe that humans have power and authority to rule the world.
- **“Respect for all life extends to the rest of creation.”**- Pope John Paul II.
- Christians expect to be punished by God if they do not care for the world.

Animal rights

Religious people believe animals are part of God's creation. All life is sacred and this includes animals. Animals should always be treated with respect and kindness despite the idea of dominion (power) over animals. Many people see farming as acceptable but battery farming as cruel. This is because the animals have little space and their life is unnatural. Animal experimentation often happens for the good of human beings but many people see it as cruel because they experiment on living animals. Often animal experimentation leads to new drugs for illness and curing diseases, however, they often kill and injure the animals. Since 1986 there have been laws in the UK on animal experimentation.

Overall:

- Animal experimentation is seen as cruel. Animals suffer for the greater good.
- There are alternatives now such as using human tissue.
- Animal genetics is different to human so the animal experiments don't help.



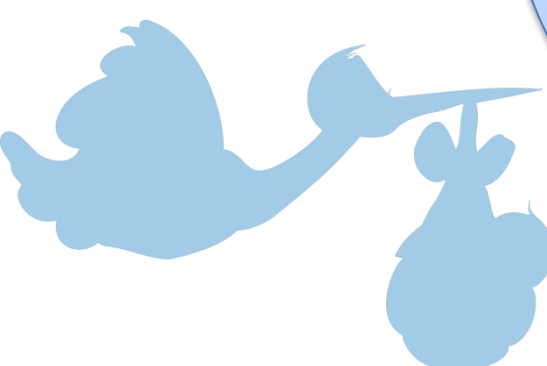
No Animal Testing!

Christian attitudes to animals



- Christians believe that animals were created by God for humans to use and care for.
- Many believe God values animals but humans are more important as they are made in the image of God. Humans also have souls.
- God commanded Noah to look after the animals. However, after the flood God gives Noah permission to eat meat.
- Animals are used by humans as pets, transport and work, food, sport, experimentation and entertainment.
- Testing cosmetics on animals was banned in the UK in 1998 and most Christians support this ban. In modern society Christians support limited animal testing, providing there is no safe way to develop medicines.
- Christians believe all human life is sacred and should be treated with respect; using animals to test new drugs could save many lives.
- **According to Romans 14:2-3** Christians can choose to be meat-eaters, vegetarians or vegans.
- Most people in the UK eat meat. Meat is a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals. Many object to eating meat as they see the killing and treatment of animals as inhumane.

Value of human life



Sanctity of life- all life is sacred and special because God created it (Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Sikhism.) This includes plants and animals. Buddhists and Hindus see life as important because it's about achieving enlightenment.

Quality of life- this means how good someone's life is. It includes how comfortable you are and how easy it is to live each day.

Abortion and the law

In the UK

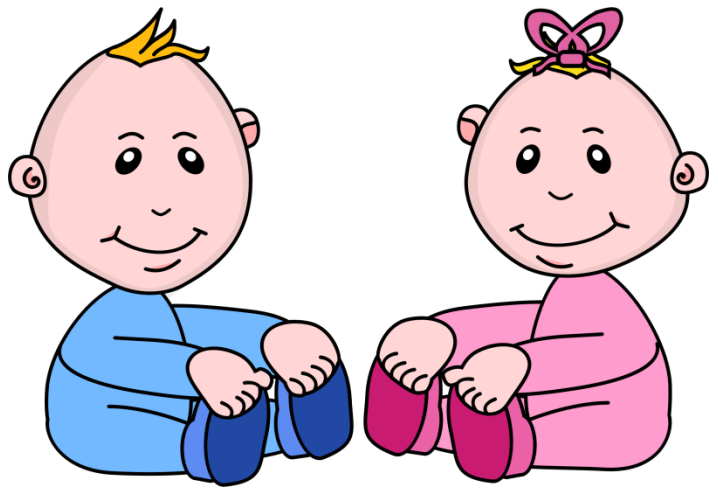
Abortion means the deliberate expulsion of a foetus from the womb with the intention of destroying it. It is different from a miscarriage as that is accidental or natural. The law in the UK (not Northern Ireland) states an abortion must happen before **24 weeks** and approved by **2 doctors**. The conditions for an abortion that doctors must agree to are one of the following:

- There is a danger to the woman's health
- The foetus will be born with a disability- mental or physical
- The mental health or physical health of the current children will be put at risk.

Abortions must happen in registered places such as clinics and by trained medical professionals.



Pro-life



Pro-life means in support of life. Pro life supporters argue against abortion. They protect the rights of the foetus. Examples of Pro life pressure groups are **SPUC** (Society For the Protection of the Unborn Child) and **PROLIFE**.

All life is sacred and special. Therefore abortion is wrong.

The foetus has a right to life. Therefore abortion is wrong.

If a foetus has a disability, we cannot say how poor their quality of life will be. Therefore abortion is wrong.

God created life and only he can take it away. Therefore abortion is wrong.

Abortion is the murder of another human being. Therefore abortion is wrong.

The foetus cannot defend itself. Someone has to defend it. Therefore abortion is wrong.

Pro-choice



Pro-choice means in support of choice. This means they support the choice to have an abortion since it is her body.

A woman should have the right to choose what she does to her body.	If we banned abortions, women would still have them illegally. Legal abortions are safer.	When a woman is pregnant by rape and incest it would be wrong to keep them.
Some foetus are so damaged that it's cruel to keep them alive.	The foetus till a certain point cannot survive alone, therefore, it is not living.	If having a child is going to put a woman's life at risk, then an abortion is the right decision.

Christian views on abortion

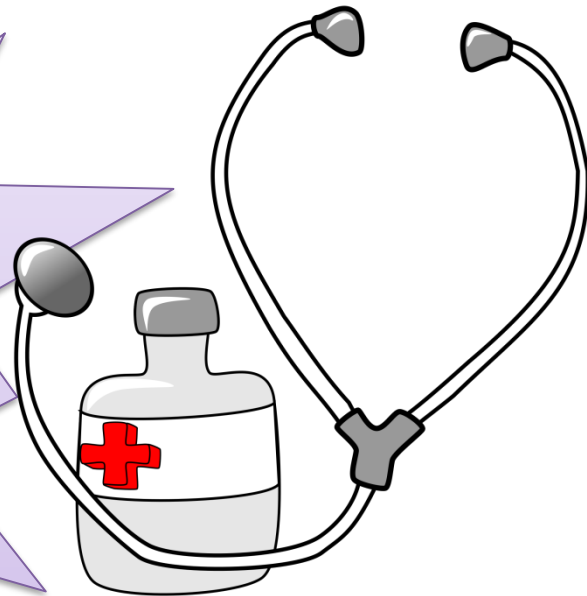
- There are contrasting beliefs on abortion in Christianity.
- The Catholic Church and evangelical Christians believe that life starts at conception. Therefore, they see abortion as wrong and shouldn't happen unless saving a woman's life.
- Other Christian denominations oppose abortion but believe it is acceptable in some circumstances, for example if the pregnancy is a result of rape or if the child would be severely disabled.
- The Church of England and Methodist churches say that sometimes say an abortion is the **"lesser of two evils"** and the kindest thing to do. For example, if the quality of life is poor.
- Pro-Life groups agree with the Catholic and Evangelical view. SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child) argue that life begins at conception so abortion is a form of murder.



Euthanasia

Euthanasia is a **mercy killing**. It is helping someone to die, who are suffering from a terminal illness or who have a poor quality of life. Euthanasia is done as an act of love or compassion.

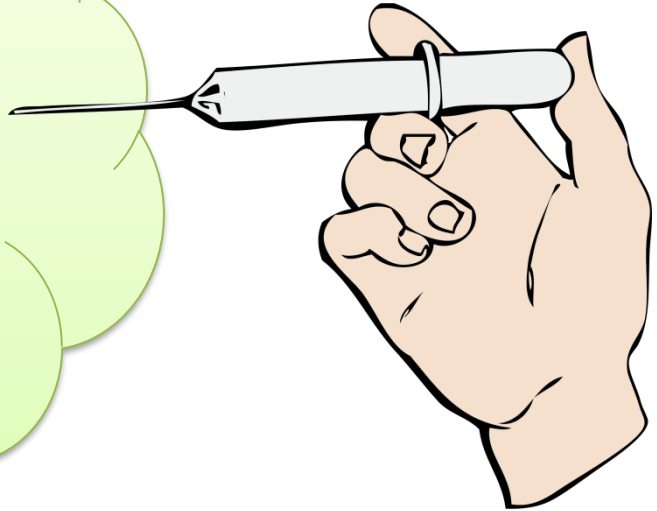
Voluntary euthanasia- is when the person suffering asks for euthanasia to end their suffering.



Non-voluntary euthanasia- is when the person suffering has the decision to end their life made for them as they are unable to themselves.

Euthanasia

Active euthanasia-
means to give
someone the lethal
drugs needed to end
their life to stop the
illness killing them.



Passive euthanasia- this might be to
stop taking life saving medication so
that the illness kill them.

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK. Doctors do switch off
life support machines when patients have no sign of
brain activity and they might administer drugs to
relieve pain, which also shortens life.

The right to die

Arguing for the right to die	Arguing against the right to die
It is my body and my life, I should be able to choose when to die.	It is playing God. Life belongs to God and not us. He decides when we die.
We see it as compassionate to put all animal down when they are sick. Why not a human?	We should care for people in their last days. Not kill them.
The person who is ill is the only person who can decide their life is worth living.	Doctors and nurses take oaths to protect life- an Hippocratic oath.
The right to die compassionately is a human right.	To allow euthanasia would be to encourage it. People might force it on ill people and use to their advantage.

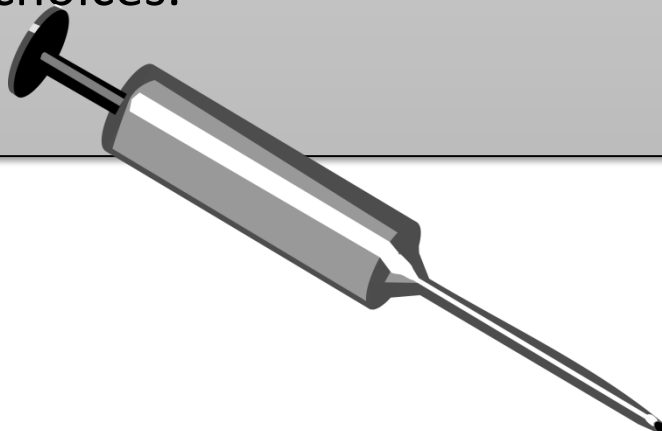
Hospices

There are alternatives to euthanasia such as the Hospice movement. Hospices are the preferred Christian response to euthanasia. A hospice is a home for someone who is terminally ill (dying.) The aims of hospices are to relieve the physical symptoms of illness, to care for the emotional and spiritual well-being of the patient, to support the families of patients and to educate others caring for the dying.



Christian views on euthanasia

- Many Christians believe that taking a life is interfering with God's plan. They think it is comparable to murder and could be abused. For example, if it was legalised, it could lead to those who are really sick feeling pressured to ask for euthanasia because they feel a burden to their families.
- Most Christians believe in the sanctity of life, and only God has a right to take life.
- Where suffering is unavoidable, some Christians say that this can bring them closer to God because they understand Jesus' suffering.
- Hospices allow the dying the chance to end their lives with dignity and without pain.
- Some Christians do support euthanasia and believe that the drugs used to end a person's suffering were given by God. This should be used when it is the most loving thing to do. They believe God has given people free will to make their own choices.



CHRISTIANITY AND THE AFTERLIFE

- Christians believe that death is not the end and God judges whether a person will spend an eternity in Heaven or Hell.
- The Catholic Church believes in purgatory where souls go for purification in order to achieve the holiness needed to approach God to enter Heaven.
- Others believe Jesus will judge them again on Judgement Day when he returns again.
- Some Christians believe they will be in Heaven in their physical bodies and others believe it is their souls that live on in Heaven forever,
- Jesus's resurrection proves evidence of an afterlife.
- The Apostles Creed states **"I believe in the resurrection of the body."**
- Christians believe going to Heaven is more important than anything. The price of salvation was paid by Jesus' death, so that those who put their faith and trust in human might be forgiven and receive eternal life.
- Many Christians believe following Jesus' life and living free from sin will give them a chance to get into Heaven.




Contrasting beliefs- Abortion



Roman Catholic view	Anglican view
Roman Catholics believe that abortion is always wrong. They believe life is sacred because God made it. They also believe life begins at conception. Therefore, abortion is murder.	Most Anglicans accept abortion as a necessary evil, for example if the mother's life is at risk or if she has been raped.

Contrasting beliefs- Euthanasia

Roman Catholic view	Christianity view
Roman Catholics are against euthanasia, especially when it is active euthanasia. They say life is sacred because God made it. "I, your God, give life, and I take it away." Also the 10 commandments states "Do not kill."	Christians generally accept passive euthanasia e.g. switching off the life support machine. 

Contrasting beliefs- Animal experimentation

Roman Catholic view	Christian view
The Roman Catholic accepts experiments on animals “within reasonable limits” and only if it is “caring for or saving human lives.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church.)	Most Christians see experimentation on animals for cosmetic as cruel. Most Christians disagree with animal testing because it's cruel and Pope John Paul II “we must abandon laboratories and factories of death.” They believe that we are stewards and animal testing isn't stewardship.



Questions

1. Explain the difference between stewardship and dominion.
2. Explain what is meant by sustainable development and why it is important to preserve the world's natural resources.
3. Explain Christian attitudes to the use of natural resources.
4. Describe three ways in which humans are stretching the earth's natural resources.
5. Explain Charles Darwin's ideas about evolution.
6. Explain under what conditions the law allows abortion in Britain today..
7. Explain why the Catholic Church apposes abortions.
8. Give two reasons why people might ask for help in dying.
9. Describe the different types of Euthanasia.
10. Explain the arguments Christians may use to either support or oppose euthanasia.

‘The sanctity of life is more important than the quality of life.’

Evaluate this statement below:

F- For

A-Against

R-Religious Teaching/Argument

C-Conclusion.