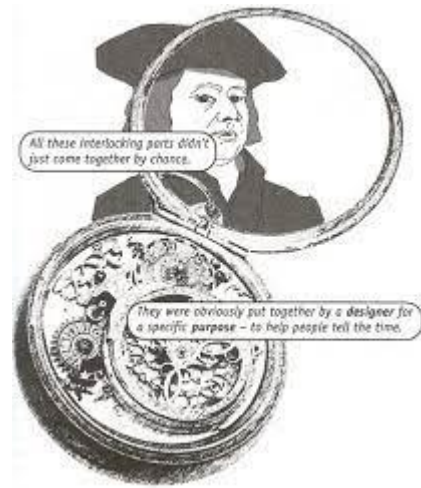


Theme B Knowledge Organiser



Religion and life



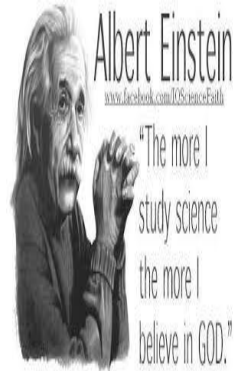
**AQA SPECIFICATION A
Paper 2A**

- **Scientific ideas about the origins of the universe**
- **Scientific ideas about the origins of humanity**
- **Christian ideas about the origins of the universe**
- **Christian ideas about the origins of humanity**
- **Science and religion in conflict & harmony**
- **Environmental issues**
- **Animal rights**
- **Sanctity of life**
- **Abortion**
- **Euthanasia & hospice**
- **Death & the afterlife**

Scientific & religious ideas about truth

One type of truth is called scientific truth which is about making a hypothesis then testing it under the same conditions several times to see if it is true. This kind of truth is all about describing our world and how it works. Some people may then argue that things are only true if you can PROVE them with scientific evidence, and that science can never be wrong. However, others would say that somethings can be true or exist even if they cant be proved, for example whether you love someone or whether there is a God. They may also argue that science can get things wrong. For example scientists used to think that the world was flat but as our ability to investigate the world has developed we now know that it is spherical. Science believes that there are clear laws in nature and that these cannot be broken, which means things like miracles are impossible.

A different type of truth is religious truth which comes from holy books like the Bible and the Torah. Most theists believe that these books were inspired by God and should not be changed. The purpose of religious truth is to explain things like why are we here, what is the right way to behave and what happens when we die. These are called ultimate questions and many people say they are questions that science cannot give an answer to. Religious truth is seeking to answer the 'why' questions in life. They are about purpose and meaning and are different to the 'how' questions that science attempts to answer. So science says HOW something happens but religion says WHY it happens. For religious people the emphasis is not on being able to prove things, but it is about faith (not fact!).



KEY PERSON:
Einstein

BIBLE BITZ

"All scripture is God breathed and useful for teaching"

"Nothing is impossible with God"

Jesus performed 100s of miracles in the Bible including his own resurrection

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Truth – a fact or belief that is accepted as true

Scientific truth - something that is true or can be proved with evidence

Religious truth- This sort of truth deals with faith and belief.

Belief - a fact or belief that is accepted as true.

Faith - complete trust or confidence in someone or something

Scientific ideas about the origins of the universe



Both Religion and Science agree that there must have been a beginning to everything and that there was a time when there was no universe. However they disagree about what caused the origin of the universe and how it was made.

Science teaches that the universe started with a Big Bang about 20 billion years ago. There was nothing, and then 2 particles collided to create a huge explosion which created everything, starting with time and space. Planets, stars and galaxies were all formed when the gasses and matter of the explosion began to cool over millions of years. Evidence to support this theory is found in the images taken by powerful telescopes such as the Hubble telescope and in background microwave radiation. These show that everything is still moving away or outwards, where ever we look in space, showing it is still expanding from the initial explosion. This can also be proved through Red Shift which shows that things are moving away from each other.

Scientists say that all this happened by accident, and that there was no design or plan behind it. All Christians would disagree with this as they believe it couldn't have been an accident but that God created it. They would also ask what made the explosion happen if there was nothing.

Big Bang Theory in brief

- Nothing
- Huge expansion
- All gasses, time, space, everything made
- Gravity caused the matter to stick together
- Stars and planets formed
- Planets cool and slow down over millions of years until things were able to survive

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Origin of the universe – ideas about where everything came from (such as planets, stars, sun, space etc)

Big Bang Theory – A theory of how the cosmos (universe) originated.

Red shift- This tells us that distant galaxies are moving away from us

Christian ideas about the origins of the universe



All Christians believe that the universe was made by God and disagree that it was an accident. However, they disagree on HOW it was made.

Creationist view:

Some Christians have a literal interpretation of the Bible, so believes that what it says in the Bible about how the world was made is right. These Christians are also called 'Creationists' and would believe that the whole universe was made in 6 days in the same order as it says in Genesis. This strongly disagrees with the scientific view which says it took millions of years for the earth to cool and form and that it cant have been all done in 1 day. Creationists would say that if Science and the Bible disagree then it must be science that is wrong because the Bible is God's word and so is never wrong. In the Bible it says 'All scripture is God breathed and useful for teaching' which means they think it can even teach about how the universe was made.

A counter argument to creationist is that although Genesis states that God made the world in six 'days' maybe these are not literal days. Instead of meaning 24 hour periods, the word it uses is YOM which is the Hebrew word for 'period of time.' Each period of time could be millions of years!

Liberal Christian View

Most Christians will agree that he Bib Bang made the universe, because there is so much evidence to support the theory. However, they will believe that it is NOT an accident like Scientists say, but that God used the Big Bang as a tool to make the world. This means that Science and religion can both be right. They would have a liberal interpretation of the Genesis story and say that it is a story with a meaning or message, perhaps to teach us about how powerful God is, or about our special relationship with him. They would see God as an 'intelligent designer' and thing that the world is too well designed to be an accident, so God made it all happen.

Bible Bitz

Genesis Chapter 1 The Creation Story reveals that God created his Universe in the following order:

- Day 1 Light and Dark or Day and Night
- Day 2 Heavens
- Day 3 Land and plants
- Day 4 Sun, Moon and Stars
- Day 5 Fish and Birds
- Day 6 Animals and Humans
- Day 7 God Rested

My Reasoned Opinion is..

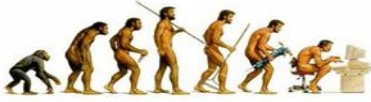
KEY WORDS

Creatio ex nihilo- created out of nothing

Literal interpretation –Every word of the Bible is true and correct

Liberal interpretation – Still things the teachings of the Bible are sacred, but see some bits as a story with a meaning.

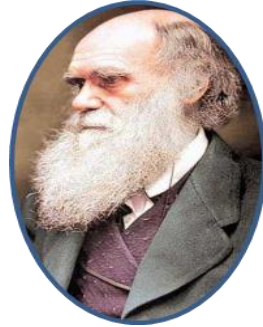
Creationist – the belief that the creation story in the Bible is literally true.



Scientific ideas about the origins of humanity

Scientists believe that humans were not made as a separate species but evolved from apes. This theory of evolution was invented by Charles Darwin in his book called 'The Origin of the Species.' This says that all life evolved from single celled animals that lived in the sea. These became more complex and eventually evolved into mammals and humans. Darwin also argued that animals evolved according to their environment though natural selection. For example a giraffe is more likely to survive instead of a dog if all of the food is up a tree. As a result the positive characteristic (in this case having a long neck) gets passed on when it survives long enough to reproduce. This is called 'survival of the fittest.'

Scientists therefore believe that humans were not designed by God, but that we are here by accident. They would also say that we are just another type of animal, and are not 'made in God's image' as Christians believe.



Key person
Charles Darwin

Darwin's evidence

Finches beaks - these evolved into different shaped beaks depending on the food they had available.

Dinosaur fossils – proof that animals had evolved.

Horse fossils – this showed that over thousands of years they developed from having toes to hooves so they could run faster and escape predators

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Survival of the fittest - the idea that organisms which are best adapted to their environment will survive.

Natural Selection – Only the fittest survive.

Evolution – The gradual change of a species over time.

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

Christian ideas about the origins of the humanity



All Christians agree that God planned for humans to exist, and that he has a special relationship with us. However, they disagree about HOW the humans got here.

Creationists:

Some Christians have a literal interpretation of the Bible so believe that everything happened exactly as it says. This means that they believe that God made Adam first and then made Eve out of his rib to be his helper. The earlier part of Genesis also says that humans were made on the same day that animals were made, and that this was on the 6th day of creation. Creationist take this literally and believe that humans were created exactly as it states in the Bible. This is because in the Bible it says *'All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching.'* Scientists would say that this is impossible as there is lots of fossil evidence to prove that animals including dinosaurs were on earth millions of years before humans.

Liberal view:

Other Christians agree with the theory of evolution, but believe that it was the process or tool that God used to make humans. They believe that although we evolved from animals we still have a soul and are 'made in God's image.' They would say that the creation story about Adam and Eve could just be a metaphor or story that teaches about how God loves us and is all powerful, and that it doesn't need to be taken literally. This view is then compatible with Science, but says that it wasn't an accident. God is the intelligent designer who had a clear plan for how we would come into existence.



**KEY
People
Adam
and Eve**

BIBLE BITZ

'Man was made in the image of God'

'On the 6th day God made male and female, and he saw that it was good.'

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Adam and Eve- First male and female of Gods creation

Genesis – First book of the Holy Bible that outlines the creation story for Christians

Yom – Hebrew word for a period of time.

Soul – The image of God in Man

Science & religion in conflict and harmony

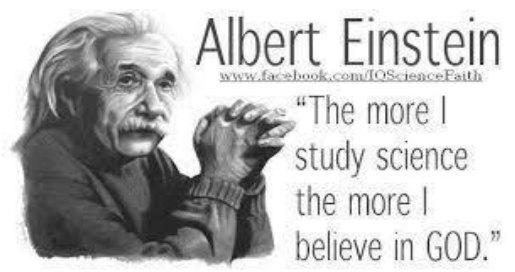
Some Christians believe that religion and science are not compatible because science says things that go against the Bible. Creationist take the creation accounts from Genesis as absolute truth and think science is wrong. Some even believe that the devil uses Science to try and make people lose faith in God.

However, most Christians believe that religion and science can both be correct, and that the two are compatible. They believe that religion teaches us **why** God created the universe, and science teaches us **how**. These liberal Christians are open minded to theories such as the Big bang theory and evolution, but stress that God was still the first cause behind it all. They would say that the world is so complex it needs a designer and the only thing great enough to design the universe was God. Also Pope John Paul argued that the reason that God gave us a brain was to allow us to work things out for ourselves. The head of Physics at Cambridge University is a Christian as well as a scientist and says that the more he studies science the more it makes him believe in God.

Some scientists, for example, Richard Dawkins argue that only science is necessary as it gives proof and facts about the creation of the universe. Whereas religion is based on faith, belief and biblical interpretation. According to Dawkins religion is used as an excuse to fill in the gaps in our knowledge



Key person
John Polkinghorne



My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY People

Richard Dawkins - atheist and author of a book called *The God Delusion*.

Pope John Paul -

Author of *Fides et ratio* (Faith and reason) which says God gave you a brain to use

Rowan Williams - ex Head of the Church of England who said we should NOT use the Bible like a Science text book

Professor Polkinghorne - Head of Physics at Cambridge and Christian who says the two are compatible

Environmental issues



Christians believe that God has given humanity the privilege of living on the beautiful earth that He made. Alongside this they have the responsibility to look after it for themselves, and for future generations which is called stewardship. It is accepted by Christians that the earth is a special gift to them and just as you would not damage a gift from someone you love, humans should not damage God's gift of creation.

In the book of Genesis it states that Adam and Eve were put into the Garden of Eden as stewards to look after all that he had made. Christians believe all life is sacred because it was made by God, therefore plants and animals should be respected. This idea can also be found in the Nicene Creed and it was discussed at The World Council of Churches where it was said "The dignity of nature as a creation needs to be bound up with our responsibility for the preservation of life." It is a widely held belief that no one should take from the earth more than they need and therefore you should use what is provided by God in a sustainable way.

Christians often pray for the environment, recycle and support Aid groups. One example of this is Chico Mendes who was a social activist who gave his life defending deforestation.

However, the counter-argument is that in Genesis it says that man can subdue the earth meaning that we can do what we like as God put us in charge. God even allows Adam the privilege of naming the animals which shows humans are dominant. This is called dominion.



Key
Figure
Chico
Mendes

BIBLE BITZ

"Rule over the earth and subdue it, rule over all the birds and every living creature."

God told Adam and Eve to "Guard and cultivate the earth."

"God looked at all that he had made and saw that it was good."

Adam got to name the animals

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Stewardship- looking after the earth for future generations.

Activist – Campaigner

Dominion- the idea that God gave humans the right to decide what happens to the planet and all the species in it.

Environment- the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives.

Agenda 30 – a pledge that all countries have signed up to in order to help save the planet

Assisi and Ohito - meetings which aimed to bring all religions together to help care for the environment.



The treatment of animals

Animals are treated cruelly all over our world and most people including people who are not religious are horrified by this. People are shocked and angry when they see animals being killed for no reason and even becoming extinct. Some people don't even like animals being used for sport, entertainment, clothes or even food. It is possible to buy free range food which means the animals have had a nicer life, but this is more expensive. Most food comes from factory farming, with animals sometimes being kept in terrible conditions, which is why some people choose to become vegetarians. Using animals for medical research is also a big issue amongst many people. Scientists argue that they use a lot less animals than are killed for food, and that they have vets and ethics committees to ensure they treat the animals that they test on well. Also, only about 7% actually feel pain. Animal rights groups like PETA say that it should be banned because it harms innocent, beautiful creatures physically and mentally and that it is no different from doing it to a human. They also argue that animal testing doesn't work as we have different systems, but many would argue it must work because nearly all medicine came from that process. Some Christians support animal testing as there are many horrible illnesses that cause humans to suffer, which God would not want. They would also argue that humans were made superior because we have a soul, and were put in charge of the earth (dominion). However, some Christians do not support testing on animals as it is deemed irresponsible and cruel. They may think that if they want to go to Heaven then they must protect all God's creatures.



**Key person
Ryan
Wilson**

BIBLE BITZ

God told Noah to take pairs of all animals into the ark to keep them alive.
 God demanded animal sacrifices in the Old Testament and gave Abraham a lamb to sacrifice instead of his son
 "Guard and cultivate"
 Adam named all the cattle and all the animals.
 Humans were made last showing they are the most important.
 Jesus pulled demons out of a man to save him and put them into a herd of pigs who drowned



Ryan Wilson

A volunteer in a drugs trial in 2006. The drug had been previously tested on animals and no ill effects were found. Ryan Wilson reacted so badly to the drugs that he was in a coma for 2 weeks. He lost all his toes and his finger tips.

KEY WORDS

- Factory farming**- where large numbers of animals, typically cows, pigs or chickens, are mainly kept indoors in restricted living conditions to produce large quantities of meat, etc at the lowest possible cost.
- Fox hunting** - the sport of hunting a fox across country with a pack of hounds by a group of people on foot and horseback.
- Vegan**- a person who does not eat or use any animal products.
- Vegetarian** – someone who does not eat meat
- Vivisection**- experimenting on live animals.

Sanctity vs Quality of life

Sanctity of Life - All Christians believe that human life is sacred (holy, special). This means that every person is special and unique in the eyes of God. Each life is a blessing and a gift made by God himself. Some Christians then believe that all humans life is then priceless and must be protected at any cost, no matter what the situation. Christians believe that each human life is made up of a physical body an intellectual mind and a spiritual soul. It is the soul that most Christians claim is the image of God in mankind and makes humans different from and more important than other living beings such as plants and animals. It is also the soul which is immortal and makes you who you are. This belief causes some Christians to be against things like abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment.

Quality of life is a different idea. This is concerned with how good a person`s quality of life is. It is concerned with how comfortable they feel, so not being in pain, having some independence, having a good support network, being able to make your own decisions and having a good future. It includes mental and physical well being. Ensuring people have a good quality of life is the most basic of Christian teachings it inseparable from the idea of showing love and compassion to people. Sometimes this idea would cause Christians to accept things like abortion and euthanasia if it stops suffering, because they think not allowing it would be cruel. Quality of life can be a cause of great debate within both Christian and secular circles.



**KEY
FIGURE
Pope**

BIBLE BITZ

Golden rule – “Treat people how you want to be treated.”

"Love thy neighbour"

Genesis teaches that God breathed life (Soul) into Adam’s nostrils.

“Man was made in the image of God.”

“Your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit”

"Do not kill"

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Holy – Considered Sacred

Image of God – God’s Likeness in Mankind

Sacred – Precious/Holy

Temple of God – God’s spirit Dwells in human beings

Purpose – God has a purpose for every life.

Special – Every life is important

Unique – A one off example



Abortion is the deliberate termination or ending of an unwanted pregnancy. In the UK, abortion was made legal in 1967. It is allowed up to 24 weeks if 2 doctors agree it fits into one of the medical grounds required. The morality of abortion is dependent upon when life actually begins. Catholic Christians believe life begins at conception (when the egg is fertilised by the sperm), which means all abortions are considered sinful as it is murder. Other views are that life begins when the heart beats or at the point of viability. Pro-life groups argue that someone must speak up for the unborn child and that no situation ever means that abortion is ok. For example, disabled children can live happy lives, and abortion can cause awful guilt for the woman. Catholics are absolutists on abortion because they believe all life is sacred and a gift from God. However, Catholics will allow an abortion when the mother's life is put in severe danger, for example, ectopic pregnancy. This situation is known as the Doctrine of Double Effect; their aim is just to save the mother's life, not cause an abortion.

Some Christians belonging to the Church of England are relativists concerning abortion. They would say that in extreme situations such as rape and disability, the kindest thing is to allow abortion, even though they think it is not ideal. This is because they try to do the most loving thing. There are always alternatives such as adoption. Pro-choice groups would argue that women should always have the rights to their own body and some even believe in abortion on demand. Also, if abortion was banned, it would lead to back street abortions which are very dangerous and more traumatic for everyone involved.

Bible Bitz

"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord."

Ten Commandments says 'Do not kill.'

Jesus taught 'Love your Neighbour' & 'Treat others as you want to be treated.'

"Man was made in the image of God"

'I knit you together in your mother's womb'

The legal side

Under the 1990 act, abortion is allowed up to 24 weeks

- Woman's life is in danger
- Risk to physical health of the mother
- Risk to mental health of the mother
- High risk baby born with a disability
- Danger of damage to the health of additional children
- **No time limit if mother's life is in danger or the foetus severely disabled**

KEY WORDS

Abortion – the deliberate ending of a pregnancy/ termination of a foetus

Pro-life - Defends rights of unborn child

Pro-choice - Supports Mother's choice

Viability – can survive independently outside the womb

Enslavement - When the soul enters the new life.

Catholic Voice and Abort 67 – Pro-Life organisations who oppose abortion



Euthanasia



Euthanasia means to allow someone the right to end their life by artificial means with the assistance of another person. This could be their family or a medical professional who needs to help them because they want to kill themselves but are unable to do so. The term euthanasia means 'good death' or to die with dignity and quality of life. There are different forms of euthanasia **passive or active**. It could be turning off a life support if someone is in a coma (passive) or injecting a lethal dose of drugs (active). Assisting someone to die in the UK is currently illegal, but in Switzerland it is legal and many voluntarily make the final trip of their lives to this country. Legalising euthanasia is risky, because who would defend the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves, for example the mentally ill, or those in a vegetative state? Old people may feel pressured to agree to it if they don't want to become a burden or are having a 'bad week.' Also Drs promise to do no harm to people so it would mean they break their Hippocratic Oath. An opposing view is people are in pain so should be allowed to die with dignity and on their own terms.

Catholics oppose euthanasia on the grounds that it is ending life is a form of murder. They think all life is sacred so should be preserved at all costs. They may believe that suffering and illness is a part of life so you should pray to God to help you and trust his plan. Also some people believe that God may do a miracle and heal you, or may be testing your faith like Job. However C. of E. say that although it is never ideal, if a person is in intolerable pain it may be the most loving thing to do. Some Christians believe that if it is ok to put down a pet when it is suffering, how much more so should it be permissible to end the life of a human being? They would argue that we are now keeping people alive to long through the development of new treatments so we need to take responsibility for people who are left in pain..

BIBLE BITZ

"Man was made in the image of God'
 'Your body is a temple.'
 'There is time to be born and a time to die.'
 'Do not kill.'
 God test Job and Abraham in the Bible
 'Love covers a multitude of sins.'
 'Treat others as you want to be treated.'
 'Love thy neighbour.'

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

- Euthanasia** - Good Death
- Dignity**– Self respect
- Assisted Suicide** – Helped to die
- Voluntary Euthanasia**- Agreeing to receive help to die artificially.
- Involuntary Euthanasia** – Having your life ended without your consent (e.g when in a Coma)
- Passive Euthanasia**- Withdrawal of medication and life support.
- Active Euthanasia** – administering lethal drugs
- Mercy Killing** – Killing out of love



Hospice

When a person has a terminal illness, one option they might consider is spending their final weeks in a hospice. In medieval times the hospice was run by the church and was made available to travellers, the sick, the elderly and the homeless. The hospice is better known today, for caring for those who are nearing death. The Palliative care offered includes pain relief, spiritual and emotional counselling, beauty therapy and massage. The nurses make every attempt to ensure the patient is kept comfortable and feels dignified, through love, care and support. The hospice usually has a guest suite for families to stay over, and ministers of religion are normally welcome to offer spiritual guidance in the chapel or by the bedside. Hospices also educate people about how to care for the dying. They hope this will lead to a more compassionate approach in how society treats its terminally ill patients.

Not everyone who uses the hospice goes there to die. Some people go for respite care, which means their family who usually cares for them can rest. Many Christians view hospices as the preferred option to euthanasia as in the Bible it says God wants us to look after the sick and not kill them. All Christians would support the work of the hospice as their work aims to ensure that life is preserved and dignified until the final moments.

The love, care and compassion demonstrated through the hospice, models the life and works of Jesus Christ who taught:



**KEY
Person
Dame
Cecily
Saunders**

“If your neighbour is sick care for him, for whatever you do unto others you do unto me”
The Good Samaritan story Jesus told, tells of the importance of caring for people.
“Do not kill”

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Respite Care – Full time care

Terminal Illness - Deadly

Palliative Care – Support of full person medically and spiritually.

Compassion – Act of kindness

Generosity - Kindness



Death & the afterlife

Christians believe that death is not the end and that God judges whether a person will spend an eternity in heaven or hell. Catholics believe in purgatory where souls undergo a kind of purification for entrance to heaven. No one is sure when Judgement happens some believe it is immediate and others believe there will be a day of judgement and the return of Jesus.

Christians believe that after judgement people will either go to heaven or hell depending on your earthly life. Some Christians think that you need to have done good deeds to go to heaven such as give to charity and not harm people. Others think that it is about whether you believe in Jesus and are a Christian or not. Some think that everyone will go to heaven because God is all loving so would not send any of his children to an eternity of punishment in hell.

Christians believe in the physical resurrection of the body but have different beliefs about what this body will be like.

There are different ideas about these which are discussed in detail in the Christian beliefs section of the revision guide



**KEY
Person
Ian
McCormack
NDE**

BIBLE BITZ

"Whoever believes in me will never die."
"No one comes to the Father except through me"
"In my Father's house there are many rooms"
"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
"Those who sleep in the dust shall awaken"
Jesus said the man on the cross "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

The story of Ian McCormack

In 1980 whilst on holiday in Mauritius he was stung by a Box jelly fish. McCormack was an atheist but on his way to hospital after being told he was dying he prayed. He was declared dead and put in the morgue.

He claims he woke up in Hell and was terrified of what he saw but then God lifted him up to heaven where Jesus gave him the choice to stay or evangelise.

KEY WORDS

Eternity- a state that comes after death and never ends.

Eschatology- the study of the four last things

Resurrection – rising from the dead

Repent- feel genuine regret about the wrongs you have done.