

RELIGION AND LIFE

Abortion – deliberate expulsion of a foetus from the womb with the intention to destroy it.

Afterlife – beliefs about what happens after we die.

Animal rights – the idea that animals should have rights because of respect for life.

Awe – an overwhelming feeling of reverence often connected with God.

Big Bang Theory – the scientific view of the beginning of the universe.

Charles Darwin – the man who put forward the theory of evolution in the 19th Century.

Conception – when the sperm fertilizes the female egg allowing pregnancy.

Creation – the idea that God created the world/universe from nothing.

Dominion – the idea that humans are in charge of the world because God put them in charge.

Environment – the world around us.

Euthanasia – mercy killing; ending life for someone who is terminally ill or has a degenerative disease. It can be voluntary or involuntary depending on the circumstances.

Evolution – change in inherited traits in a species.

Fossil fuels – the earth's natural resources; coal, oil and gas.

Hospice – a place that cares for the dying, often with incurable diseases.

Hypothesis – a proposed explanation of something.

Natural resources – the resources the earth provides without the aid of mankind.

Natural selection – one of the basic mechanisms of evolution.

Pollution – harm to the environment.

Pesticide – chemicals used to kill pests, usually on crops.

Pro-choice – pressure groups which campaign for the rights of women to decide on abortion.

Pro-life – pressure groups which campaign against abortion/euthanasia.

Key Quotations:

Creation of the World:

Christianity - 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'

Value of the World:

Christianity - 'Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky.'

Buddhism – 'I believe that not only should we keep our relationship with our other fellow human beings very gentle and non-violent, but it is also important to extend that attitude to the natural environment.' (Dalai Lama)

Abuse of the World:

Christianity 'God made the world and gave the duty of stewardship to humans.'

Use of Animals:

Christianity - 'Everything that lives and moves will be food for you.'

Buddhism – 'All tremble at violence; all fear death...one should not kill or cause to kill.' (The Buddha)

Human life:

Christianity 'I, your Lord, give life, and I take it away.'

Abortion:

Christianity - 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.'

Euthanasia:

Christianity - 'Though shall not kill.'

Christianity - 'There is a reason for everything – a time to live and a time to die.'

Buddhism – 'Euthanasia should be avoided except in exceptional circumstances (Dalai Lama)

Death and the Afterlife:

Christianity - Parable of the sheep and the goats: 'Then they [the goats] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous [the sheep] to eternal life.'

Buddhism – Having reached perfection, fearless without craving without blemish, he has cut off the darts of existence. This body is his last (The Buddha)

Framework for Evaluation questions:

- a. State your opinion
- b. Explain two or more arguments counter to your own.
- c. Explain your view countering these arguments
- d. Make at least one reference to religious teaching
- e. Conclusion: brief summing up

Criteria for questions 3 and 4

2 marks for detailed explanation of each point

1 mark for reference to scripture (Q4 only)

You can be asked to explain two **similar** or two **contrasting** views. Two **contrasting** views might be *two different reasons for believing the same thing* e.g. A Christian might be against capital punishment because Jesus emphasises that everyone should have the opportunity to reform as in the parable of the Prodigal son. A Buddhist might be against capital punishment as it contradicts the principle of ahimsa (non-harm) and executing a sentient being might lead to negative karma for the executioner.

Past Questions

1. Which **one** of the following means that human life is precious and sacred? (1)
2. Give **two** reasons why some religious people do not eat meat. (2)
3. Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about euthanasia. (4)
4. Explain **two** religious beliefs about how peoples' actions in this life affect what happens to them in the afterlife. (5)
5. 'Abuse of the environment is impossible to stop.' Which **one** of the following terms describes a religious duty to look after the world? (12)
6. Which **one** of the following terms describes a religious duty to look after the world? (1)
7. Give **two** ways religious believers might help to reduce pollution. (2)
8. Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about animal experimentation. (4)
9. Explain **two** religious beliefs about how human life began on earth. (5)
10. 'Abortion should be allowed **only** when the mother's life is at risk.' (12)
11. Which **one** of the following describes the religious belief that humans have authority to rule over the world? (1)
12. Give **two** reasons why many religious people use animals for food. (2)
13. Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs in contemporary British society about euthanasia. (4)
14. Explain **two** religious beliefs about the use of natural resources. (5)
15. 'It is possible to believe in **both** the Big Bang theory **and** religious teachings about the origins of the universe.' (12)
16. Which **one** of the following means being gently and painlessly put to death? (1)
17. Give **two** religious beliefs about pollution. (2)
18. Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about the use of animals for food. (4)
19. Explain **two** religious beliefs about the afterlife. (5)
20. 'Evolution proves that religious beliefs about the origins of life are wrong.' (12)
21. Which **one** of the following is a religious theory about how the universe began? (1)
22. Give **two** examples of what religious believers might do to help to carry out the duty of stewardship. (2)
23. Explain **two** contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about abortion. (4)
24. Explain **two** religious beliefs about animal experimentation. (5)
25. 'It is not reasonable to believe in life after death.' (12)

Sample Answer

Explain two religious views about animal experimentation. (4)

Buddhists are opposed to animal experimentation as they believe that all animals have Buddha Nature – the ability to become enlightened and so animals are of no lesser value than humans so should not use them for experimentation. Animal experimentation also breaks the first precept ahimsa as this harms a sentient being. So they are against it.

Some Christians may be opposed to animal experimentation due to the belief of stewardship and their duty to look after God's creation. Animal experimentation could be seen as not doing this by unnecessarily hurting God's creation. Furthermore, the Proverbs talk about the righteous care of animals so Christians should follow that and animals experimentation is not a righteous care.

