

Origins and  
value of the  
universe

The sanctity of  
life

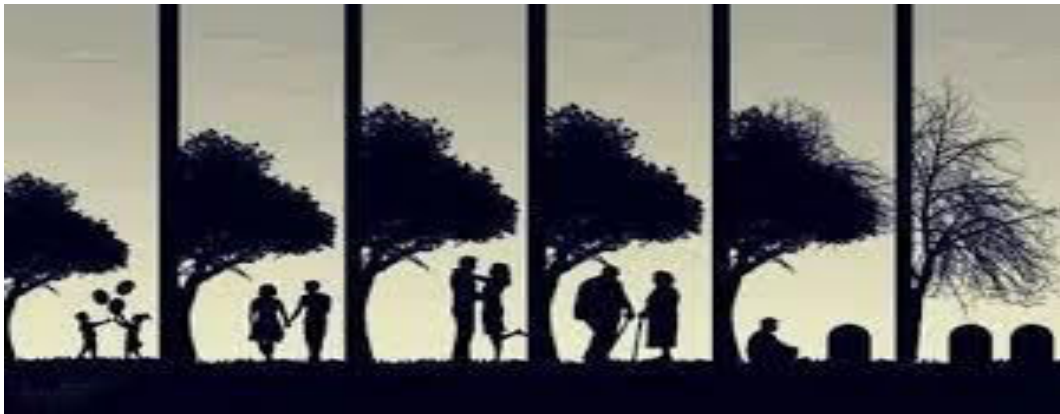
The origins and  
value of human  
life

The issue of  
abortion

Death and the  
afterlife

**Name:**

### **Matters of life and death**



Non-religious  
arguments  
against life after  
death

Euthanasia

The natural  
world

## Matters of life and death – key terminology

Key word	Definition
Higgs boson	The particles that make up the Higgs field, which gives evidence for the big bang.
Apparent Age	The idea that the world would have looked billions of years old when it was only a second old.
Creationism	The belief that the universe, and humans, were created in the way that the bible says.
Conservation	Protecting and preserving natural resources and the environment.
Sanctified	Made holy.
Pacifism	Refusing to fight in wars.
Natural selection	Life evolved through mutations, making those life forms better suited to the environment survive, and the less well suited die out.
Gestation	The process of the foetus developing inside the womb.
Doctrine of double effect	It is acceptable to perform an action that has a side effect as long as the intention was to achieve the good effect first.
Paranormal	Unexplained events that are thought to have spiritual causes, for example, ghosts and mediums.
Reincarnation	The belief that, after death, souls are reborn in a new body.
Fallible memories	Memory can be mistaken.
Euthanasia	The painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease.
Quality of life	The idea that life must have some benefits for it to be worth living.
Assisted suicide	Providing a seriously ill person the means to kill themselves.
Voluntary euthanasia	Ending life painlessly when someone in great pain asks for death.
Non-voluntary euthanasia	Ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have a good reasons for thinking they would want you to do so.
Brain death	The brain is irreversibly damaged.
Remission	When a patient with a disease gets better.
Palliative care	Medical or nursing care that reduces pain and improves the quality of life for those who have terminal illnesses.
Global warming	The increase in temperature of the earth's atmosphere.
Fossil fuels	Natural fuels (coal, oil and gas) formed over millions of years through the breakdown of the remains of living organisms.
Greenhouse effect	The carbon dioxide from burned fossil fuels creates a barrier in the same way as the glass in a greenhouse: it allows the sun's heat through, but then traps it, causing the temperature to rise.

## Lesson one – Introduction to matters of life and death.

What are your opinions on the following questions?



Reflection question	My views	Why might someone disagree with me?
What caused the universe into being?		
Do you believe that life is a gift from God?		
Do you agree or disagree with abortion?		
Do you believe in life after death?		
Do you agree we should look after the natural world?		
Do you agree or disagree with euthanasia?		

- Using what you already know about the religion of Christianity what do you think they would think about the topic that you chose?

## **Lesson two – Origins and value of the universe**

Recap:

- What is the Roman Catholic stance on divorce?
- What does the Church of England believe about remarriage?

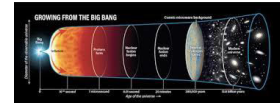
What could this figure represent?

13, 700, 000, 000

What are the main arguments of Steven Hawkins?



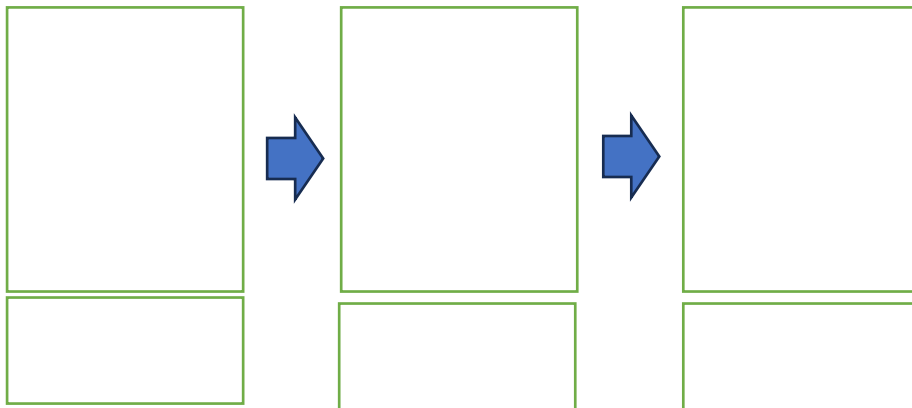
Read through and highlight the information about the scientific explanation for the creation of the universe and complete the box task below.



Scientific explanations for the origins of the universe:

The most accepted scientific theory for the origin of the universe is the Big Bang theory. It accounts for how the universe came into existence in the following way:

- Matter is eternal; it can neither be created nor destroyed, it can only be changed from one form in to another (scientists call this the law of thermodynamics).
- About 13.7 billion years ago, the matter of the universe became so compressed that it produced a huge explosion (the Big Bang).
- As the matter of the universe flew away from the explosion, the forces of gravity helped to join some of the matter into stars and, about 5 billion years ago, our solar system was formed.



What evidence is there for the big bang?

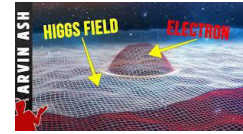
**The Red shift –**

**Radio telescopes –**

**Ripples in space -**



Highlight the key information below showing further evidence of the Big Bang and complete the question.



The Higgs boson:

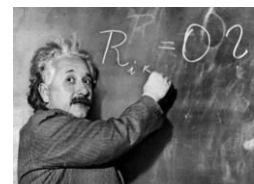
One thing not explained by the Big Bang theory was why some particles came together to form planets and stars. In the 1960s a team of theoretical physicists led by Peter Higgs suggested that there must be an invisible field lying across the universe—they called this the Higgs field. This field would give particles mass, and this would allow them to form objects. They believed that this field would be made up of tiny particles called Higgs boson particles. Since the 1960s scientists have been trying to find evidence that the Higgs boson exists. In 2012, in the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, they were able to re-create the conditions present immediately after the Big Bang and prove the existence of the Higgs field. This discovery proved Higgs and his team right, and helped to explain exactly how the Big Bang created the universe.

**Question: Explain why scientists believe in the Big Bang.**

### **Lesson three & four – Christian responses to the big bang.**

**‘Science without religion is pointless, religion without science is blind’ - Albert Einstein**

What do you think Einstein meant when he said this?



Highlight through the key information below and complete the table.



### **Creationism:**

This view says that science is wrong and the Bible is right. It claims that all the evidence there is for the Big Bang and evolution can be explained by the effects of Noah's flood (which must have totally changed rock formations and created fossils, for example) and the Apparent Age theory. The Apparent Age theory claims that if you accept the biblical account of creation in Genesis, then when Adam was made the earth was six days old, but to Adam it would have looked billions of years old. Trees would have been created with rings showing them to be hundreds of years old; the Grand Canyon would have looked 2 billion years old when it was one second old. Therefore, these Christians believe that God created the universe in the way described in the Bible, which is why this response is often called creationism.

### **The intelligent design response:**

The 'intelligent design' argument developed from creationism. Christians who believe in this theory think that the universe is so complex that it can't have happened by chance. They believe that it must have been created by an intelligent designer—God. They believe that the universe has different types of complexity:

- 'irreducible complexity'—the universe depends on many interacting parts and the removal of any one of those parts would mean that the whole system would stop working
- 'specified complexity'—the patterns in living things, for example in DNA. They claim that these complexities mean that neither the Big Bang nor evolution could have happened by chance.

### **The compatibility response:**

Many Christians believe that both the scientific and biblical explanations of creation are true. They believe that the biblical stories of creation aren't meant to be read as literal accounts of exactly how God created the universe. They are simply meant to show us that God created everything. So they believe in the Big Bang, but believe that God set it off and controlled how the world has developed since. Some Christians believe that the main points in the biblical creation story fit with science. The order of creation in Genesis broadly fits with the order science thinks the earth and life developed. They argue that Genesis 1: 3 'God said, "Let there be light"', is a direct reference to the Big Bang. These Christians see scientific discoveries as providing more evidence for God, for example:

- The Big Bang had to be at exactly the right microsecond. If the explosion had been too soon it would have been too small to form stars; if the explosion had been too late, everything would have flown away too quickly for stars to form.
- There had to be scientific laws such as gravity for the matter of the universe to form solar systems, and only God could have made the laws on which the universe is based.
- Stars are formed out of hydrogen and helium through nuclear reactions, producing carbon and oxygen, which are spread around the universe by exploding supernovae. The complexity of this system implies a creator organising things.
- Life on earth requires carbon to be able to bond with other atoms and water molecules. This could not have happened by chance, so God must have ensured that it was able to happen.

Approach	Key arguments	Weaknesses of the argument
Compatibility		
Design argument		
Intelligent design		



Which argument do you think is the most convincing and why?

Read through the work of Georges Lemaître, highlight the key points, and complete the questions.



The work of Georges Lemaître (1894–1966) Lemaître was a Catholic priest and professor of physics who proposed what became known as the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe. Lemaître called his theory ‘the hypothesis of the primeval atom’ or the ‘cosmic egg’. Lemaître described the beginning of the universe as a burst of fireworks, comparing galaxies to the burning embers spreading out in a growing sphere from the centre of the burst. He believed this ‘burst of fireworks’ was the beginning of time, taking place on ‘a day without yesterday’. In 1931, Lemaître proposed that the expansion of the universe was actually accelerating (the first scientist to do so), a claim which was only confirmed in the 1990s through observations with the Hubble Space Telescope. In 1951, Pope Pius XII declared that Lemaître’s theory gave a scientific proof for Catholic Christianity. However, Lemaître denied this and said his theory neither proved nor disproved religion and he persuaded the Pope to stop making proclamations about the scientific origins of the universe. Although Lemaître was a devout Roman Catholic, he was against mixing science with religion, but he believed these two fields of human experience did not conflict with each other.

**Questions:**

**What do you think George Lemaître would have thought of Pope Francis’s statement?**

**Do you think Genesis 1: 28 justifies Christians in using the planet in any way they want?**

Explain what the sources of authority below teach Christians about the creation of the universe.



*The Big Bang, which today is held as the beginning of the world, does not contradict the intervention of the divine creator, but requires it. (Pope Francis speaking to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, October 2014)*

This teaches Christians that...

*God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the ground.'* (Genesis 1: 28)

This teaches Christians that...

Read through the Information about using the value of the universe in Christian teaching, highlighting key pieces and answer the question below.

The value of the universe in Christian teaching:

Christianity teaches that God created the universe and everything in it, and that he made it in such a way that it has produced an environment on the earth which is perfectly suited for human life. The creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 state that God made the universe, the earth, vegetation, animals and humans in six days. Some Christians regard these accounts as scientific fact. However, many Christians see them as an illustration of the teaching that the earth and everything in it was made by God in the way he intended it to be. As Genesis says, 'God saw what he had made and it was very good.' This means that the universe has great value for Christians. God has made the universe, God has made it a good universe and God has placed humans in the universe to look after this most valuable creation.

**Question: How can Genesis 1 and 2 teach Christians that human life has value?**

read through the Information about using the universe as a commodity, highlighting key pieces and answer the question below.

**Commodity—something that humans need or want.**



Using the universe as a commodity:

A few Christians believe that Genesis 1–2 means that the universe and all its vast resources are simply a commodity which humans can use, and misuse, as they wish, even though ideas like this have led to the growth of pollution, climate change and depletion of resources. However, most Christians believe that Genesis 1–2 means that, because God made the earth, the earth belongs to God, not to humans, and so it must be treated with respect, not as a commodity:

- As God has made everything, humans must respect the whole environment.
- The environment is a gift from God to humans and so must be treated with care.
- The Old Testament teaches that humans have a responsibility to treat animals humanely and to treat the land kindly by not growing crops every fiftieth year.
- In the Parable of the Talents or Minas (Luke 19: 11–26), Jesus taught that God expects humans to pass on to the next generation more than they have been given. Many Christians believe that this means Christians have a responsibility to leave the earth a better place than they found it.
- The Bible also makes clear that there will be a judgement day at the end of the world when people will be judged on their beliefs and behaviour. Most Christians believe that part of this judgement will be based on how they have fulfilled their duty to preserve God's earth.

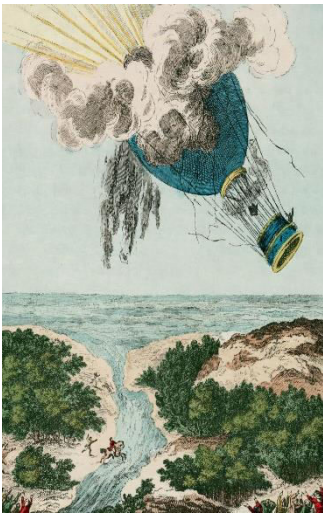
**Question: How can Genesis 1 and 2 be interpreted by some Christians as encouragement to use the universe as a commodity?**

## Lesson five & six – The sanctity of life

Recap:

List two Evangelical teachings on homosexuality.

List two Roman Catholic teachings on contraception.



Hot air balloon disaster – it needs to become lighter or it will crash and everyone will die.

2 people must vacate the basket – plunging to their death.

1. A reformed criminal who is soon to become a father. Husband of person 4.
2. A WW2 veteran celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
3. A teenager with a terminal illness.
4. A pregnant woman who is on her honeymoon. Wife of person 1.
5. A leading heart surgeon who's wife recently divorced him for committing adultery.
6. A prostitute with 5 children at home.
7. A middle aged man who has a history of domestic violence (he is the balloon pilot)
8. A PhD student who is currently carrying out leading research in a cure for breast cancer.
9. A recent lottery winner who donated half their winnings to a cancer charity.

In your opinion who should vacate the basket and why?

Word association:

Dog	→	
car	→	
cat	→	

knife	→	
school	→	
sacred	→	

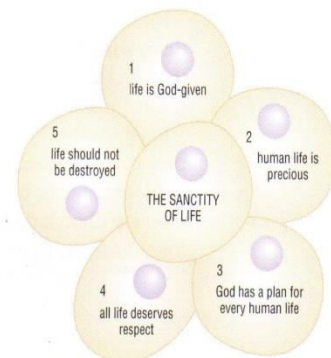
Define the sanctity of life:

Why do Christians view life as SACRED (special/holy)?

Link each of the quotes to one of the 5 main points explaining the sanctity of life (seen in the diagram opposite).

Now choose 2 of these quotes and explain next to it in your own words HOW it LINKS and what it is saying.

EXTENSION: Could you use any of these quotes to argue AGAINST the concept of the 'SANCTITY OF LIFE'?



A  
Psalm 139.13-16  
You created every part of me;  
you put me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because you are to be feared;  
all you do is strange and wonderful.  
I know it with all my heart.  
When my bones were being formed,  
carefully put together in my mother's womb,  
when I was growing there in secret,  
you knew that I was there -  
you saw me before I was born.  
The days allotted to me  
had all been recorded in your book,  
before any of them ever began.

E  
Genesis 1.27  
So God created human beings,  
making them to be like himself.  
He created them male and  
female.

B  
Luke 12.6-7  
'Aren't five sparrows sold for  
two pennies? Yet not one  
sparrow is forgotten by God.  
Even the hairs of your head  
have all been counted. So do  
not be afraid; you are worth  
much more than many  
sparrows!'

D  
1 Corinthians 3.16-17  
Surely you know that you are  
God's temple and that God's  
Spirit lives in you! So if  
anyone destroys God's temple,  
God will destroy him. For  
God's temple is holy, and you  
yourselves are his temple.

C Exodus 20.13  
(the sixth  
commandment)  
Do not commit  
murder.

**Chosen reflection question and answer:**

.....  
.....

**If you don't believe in God is your life still SACRED?**

**How is life shown as special in the Bible.**

**The importance of sanctity of life for Christians today.**

Why do Christians believe in the sanctity of human life?

Is a murderer's life less sacred?



## Lesson seven – The origins and value of human life

1. number your cards from best to worst evidence for evolution.

2. Give a detailed reason for your top and bottom choices in the box below.

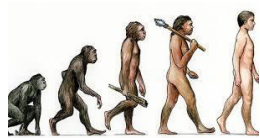
3. How does evolution question Christian beliefs about the origin of life?

Species tend to survive in the environment in which they live, regardless of living conditions.	Certain species have died out suggesting they were not suitable for survival.
Dinosaur skeletons suggest a link between reptiles and birds.	DNA analysis suggests that all life on earth shares certain features.
'Natural selection' is the idea that mutations make life forms better suited to their environment.	'Survival of the fittest' is the idea that the members of a species that are best suited to an environment survive.
The same species have been shown to adapt their features to different environments.	Scientists have proven that humans have a common ancestry with apes.
	Fossil records show animals with a simpler structure further back in time and more complex structures later.

Top choice –

Bottom choice -

Evolution



Genesis



Chosen quote –

The meaning of the quote –

What does it suggest about the value and origin of human life –

How does the quote you have chosen conflict with the theory of evolution?



How could the theory of evolution undermine the origin and value of human life from a Christian perspective?

How non-conformist Christians respond to evolution.	How conformist Christians respond to evolution.	How Creationist Christians respond to evolution.
<p>Non-conformist Christians, for example Protestants, might say that the creation story in the Bible should not be taken literally, but symbolises God's influence on creation.</p> <p>They believe in evolution, but say that God started it off and gave life the ability to evolve and adapt. The days in the creation story show God was part of every stage of evolution, but it didn't literally take 6 days.</p> <p><b>The Special Agenda IV Diocesan Synod Church of England:</b> "Divine design in the universe is achieved by God through the way in which the laws of the universe work and the process of evolution. Genesis offers a general account of creation rather than actual events."</p>	<p>Conformist Christians, for example Catholic Christians, believe that evolution is a part of God's plan. They argue that God has used the process of evolution to create life.</p> <p>God created humans "in his image" and gave them "dominion over earth" which means that God <b>planned</b> for humans to discover evolution.</p> <p><b>Catholic Catechism:</b> "Scientific studies about the origins of the world have splendidly enriched our knowledge of the development of life forms and the appearance of man. These discoveries invite us to even greater admiration of the greatness of the creator and we thank him for the understanding and wisdom he gives to researchers."</p>	<p>Creationist Christians believe that science has got it wrong. Evolution is just the latest scientific theory, but is not proven as a fact.</p> <p>They argue that scientists and biologists cannot definitely prove how life began and that the Bible is just as good evidence the fossil record.</p> <p>They believe that the creation story in the Bible should be taken literally and complex life-forms are proof of God's omni-potence.</p> <p>Human life is more valuable than that of animals and plants and God has given human a special mission in ruling over the earth.</p>

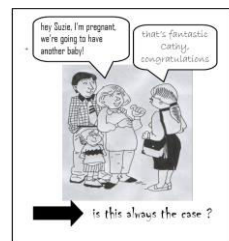
Which argument do you find the most convincing and why?

## Lesson eight & nine – The nature of abortion

Recap:

Explain two different ways that Christians respond to the scientific explanation of the Big Bang.

Why might some pregnancies be unwanted?



Define abortion.

### Abortion: True or False

- 1) There were no abortions in this country before the 1967 Abortion Act.
- 2) You can be made to have an abortion if you are under the age of 16 years.
- 3) Having an abortion can make it more difficult to have a baby at a later stage.
- 4) There are methods of birth control that can be used after having sexual intercourse.
- 5) A woman can ask for an abortion, and it will be agreed to no matter what the reason is.

- 6) The 1967 Abortion Act has been replaced by the 1990 Act.
- 7) The 1967 act was amended in 1990 reducing the abortion week from 28 weeks to 24 weeks.
- 8) There is no method of contraception that is 100% effective in preventing pregnancy.
- 9) All legal abortions are carried out free on the. National Health Service.
- 10) The majority of abortions are carried out after 16 weeks of pregnancy.
- 11) Abortions are legal everywhere in the world.
- 12) A husband or partner must give their consent to an abortion.

Under what circumstances do you think the law will allow a woman to have an abortion?

What is the law?

Do you agree or disagree with the law?

**Why was The Abortion Act so important, especially to women seeking an abortion?**

Do you think abortion affects **MEN** as much as **WOMEN**?

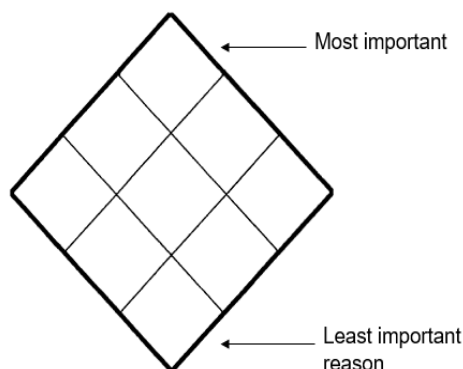
Men have no rights when it comes to deciding about abortion.

Do you agree with this?

What is the humanist attitude towards abortion?

## Lesson ten – Christianity and abortion

### Reasons for Abortion



- A. A teenager about to sit her GCSEs
- B. A woman in her 20s, who has been raped
- C. A single mum with three children under five already
- D. A woman whose baby will be born with severe physical handicaps
- E. A woman in her late forties, whose family is already complete
- F. A woman whose baby will suffer from Down's Syndrome
- G. A 21 year old in the middle of her degree at university
- H. A woman who has just split with her partner
- I. A woman suffering from breast cancer who needs chemotherapy

In the diamond put the letters in order of priority to show your  
opinion about abortion.

## Christian attitudes to ABORTION

All Christians believe...

ROMAN CATHOLICS believe...

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND believe...

FREE CHURCHES believe...

The main differences in Christian views are...

Because...

1. Having an abortion leaves you open to excommunication (exclusion from the church)
2. The natural purpose of sex is to create life anything that stops the natural purpose of sex is wrong - therefore, abortion is wrong.
3. Abortion goes against the natural law and the word of God and there are no exceptions or scenarios that make it right.
4. Accepts the law of double effect (when the intention is to save the mother and the abortion is a secondary consequence of this) as a justifiable reason.
5. Compassion should be shown to the mother and she should be supported in this difficult situation.
6. In some circumstances, abortion may be "the lesser of two evils" e.g. if the woman has been raped, or the mother's life is at risk.
7. No official teachings of 'when life begins' in the Bible.
8. Abortion is a serious sin.
9. Abortion is murder (against the 10 Commandments)
10. A foetus is ensouled at conception, the foetus therefore deserves the same status as a born human being.
11. Abortion is wrong, but there are exceptions.
12. Life is sacred (the sanctity of life)
13. Popes have spoken out against abortion
14. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (official church teaching) specifically forbids it.
15. There are several passages in the Bible that emphasise the Sanctity of Life argument.
16. It may be the right choice based on what is the most loving thing to do.
17. God has given humans free will so it is up to the woman to decide, God will guide her.

Watch the short interview with a priest talking about his view on abortion...

Do you agree or disagree with what I have to say?



Quote	For or Against? Which denomination?	Meaning?
"You <u>shaltt</u> not murder" (Exodus 20:13)		
"Above all love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8)		
"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were <u>born</u> I set you apart." (Jeremiah 1:5)		
"For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my <u>mothers</u> womb." (Psalms 139:13)		
"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12)		
"The Lord enabled her to conceive" (Ruth 4:13)		

Explain how situation ethics could be used to make a decision on abortion.

### **Lesson eleven – non-religious beliefs in life after death**

**Recap:**

Give three bullet point arguments that support abortion (from a Christian viewpoint)

Give three bullet point arguments that are against abortion (from a Christian viewpoint)

How do we define death?



How do we know that someone is dead?

I think that the definition of being clinically dead is...

The actual definition is...

Type of experience	What this means	Why it makes people believe in an afterlife



Highlight through the other reasons why non-religious people may believe in life after death.

Other reasons why people might believe in life after death are:

- It gives their lives meaning and purpose. They feel that for life to end at death does not make sense. If the purpose of life is to live in such a way that you spend eternity in heaven, then that gives life meaning.
- It gives comfort when a loved one dies. When someone dies it is almost impossible to believe that they are gone forever. Belief in an afterlife gives the hope of meeting loved ones who have passed on and the comfort that they have not disappeared but are in a better place. Non-religious people often say that the dead have gone to be with the angels.
- It seems to be demanded by the nature of justice. It often appears that in this life, evil people prosper and the good suffer. The idea of an afterlife where evil people are punished and the good rewarded makes sense of people's belief in justice and fair play. However, atheists and Humanists do not believe in life after death. Life after death would require some sort of divine being to organise what happens and to create a place where it could happen. As atheists and Humanists do not believe in any form of divine being they cannot believe in life after death.

How would you explain what happened to the little boy who claimed he had died at war?



## **Lesson twelve – Christianity and life after death.**

The invention of lying clip:

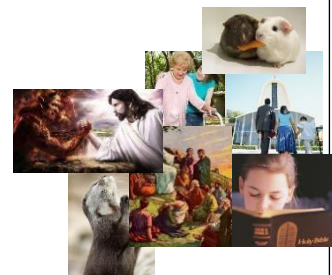
How would a Christian describe Heaven and Hell?

Quote	What this teaches Christians
“For we believe that Jesus died and rose again”. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)	
“Not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven, only those who do the will of my father”. (Matthew 7:21)	
“My Father’s house has many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you”. (John 14:2)	

### Why do Christians believe in life after death?

- *St Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15 that people will have a resurrection like that of Jesus.*
- *St Paul says in Ephesians chapter 2 that God's great love has led him to give Christians eternal life in Christ by saving them from their sins.*

- How would believing in Heaven affect the life of a Christian?



## Lesson thirteen – non-religious arguments against life after death

### **Recap:**

- 1) What is the sanctity of life?
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) How could the sanctity of life argument, be used to argue against abortion?

What is the humanist and atheist attitude towards life after death?



Choose one question to answer below:

- Why do people fear the idea of death?
- Why might some people want to speak to a medium?
- Why might some people remember a past life?
- Why do people have near-death experiences?
- Why might some people believe they have seen a ghost?

Why might some atheists reject the idea of an afterlife? List as many reasons as you can below.

Highlight the key information below and complete the question.

Why might some atheists not believe in an afterlife?

The different religions have different ideas about life after death. This is especially true of the difference between the ideas of Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs, who all believe that people are reincarnated after death, and the ideas of Jews, Christians and Muslims, who all believe that people only have one life and after death there is judgement and heaven and hell.

- The religious evidence for life after death is based on holy books, but there is no way for a non-believer to decide which holy book is the true word of God.
- They think that the resurrection of Jesus is not based on sufficiently reliable evidence to prove the existence of an afterlife. They claim that the biblical accounts contain too many contradictions to be a proof.
- Evidence for near-death experiences is also unreliable. People have fallible memories, as has been shown by scientific research: *We know that memories are extremely fallible. We are quite good at knowing that something happened, but we are very poor at knowing when it happened. It is quite possible that these experiences happened during the recovery or just before the cardiac arrest. To say that they happened when the brain was shut down, I think there is little evidence for that at all. (Dr Chris Freeman, consultant psychiatrist)*
- They think that the evidence of mediums is suspect as most of it can be explained. One piece of evidence against the abilities of mediums is provided by Robert Thouless, President of the Society for Psychical Research. Thouless made a coded message before he died that required a key word to decode it. He told no-one the key word when he was alive and said that mediums should contact him after his death to get the key word and prove there was life after death. At least 100 mediums have submitted keys to the cypher, but none was correct.

They think that the evidence of remembered lives is unreliable as scientific investigations show that in only eleven of approximately 1111 reported rebirth cases had there been no contact between the two families before the investigation was begun, and of these, seven were seriously flawed in some respect.

- They think that life after death is simply a source of comfort to the bereaved with no factual evidence to support it.

**Question - Do you think that Christians can prove the resurrection of Jesus and why?**

What does Steven Hawkins say about life after death?

In what ways do Humanists believe we can live on after death?

Read through and highlight the Christian response to these arguments.

Christianity is the one true religion, so the Bible and what it says can be relied on, therefore other religions and holy books saying different things about life after death do not matter.

- The biblical record of the resurrection can be relied on.
- The disciples must have known whether or not the resurrection happened, and they would not have risked their lives as they did for something they knew was a lie.
- The arguments of philosophers such as René Descartes (1596–1650) show that the mind is separate from the body and so could survive without the body.
- Heaven is a spiritual dimension, outside but interacting with the material universe.
- Christianity has been at the forefront of reforms to improve the conditions of the working class, so Christian beliefs about life after death cannot be part of social control.

**From the board pick two statements.**

1. **Write them below.**
2. **Explain what they suggest about why some people do not believe in life after death?**

## Lesson fourteen – Euthanasia

### Reflective questions.

If you were in pain and terminally ill, would you want someone to help you die?



Would you want someone to help you die comfortably?

What do you think a good death is?

What do you think a bad death is?

What do you think is meant by the right to die?

### Write down a definition euthanasia.

Euthanasia means...



In what circumstances might someone want euthanasia?

highlight through the key terms and decide if each example is passive or active euthanasia.

**Active euthanasia** is when death is brought about by an act - for example when a person is killed by being given an overdose of painkillers.

**Passive euthanasia** is when death is brought about by an omission - i.e. when someone lets the person die.

**Voluntary euthanasia** - The person wants to die and says so. This includes cases of:

- asking for help with dying
- refusing burdensome medical treatment
- asking for medical treatment to be stopped, or life support machines to be switched off.
- refusing to eat
- simply deciding to die

**Non-voluntary euthanasia** - The person cannot make a decision or cannot make their wishes known. This includes cases where:

- the person is in a coma.
- the person is too young (eg a very young baby)
- the person is senile.
- the person is mentally retarded to a very severe extent.
- the person is severely brain damaged.
- the person is mentally disturbed in such a way that they should be protected from themselves.

**Involuntary euthanasia** - The person wants to live but is killed anyway. This is usually murder but not always. Consider the following examples:

- A soldier has their stomach blown open by a shell burst. They are in great pain and screaming in agony. They beg the army doctor to save their life. The doctor knows that they will die in ten minutes whatever happens. As he has no painkilling drugs with him he decides to spare the soldier further pain and shoots them dead.

Decide whether each example is active or passive euthanasia and circle the correct answer:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Giving a patient a lethal injection                 | Active/passive |
| 2. Turning off a life support machine                  | Active/passive |
| 3. Giving a patient a lethal overdose of painkillers   | Active/passive |
| 4. Not reviving someone after they have a heart attack | Active/passive |
| 5. Removing a feeding tube                             | Active/passive |

What are hospices? How do they offer another option?

**Case study:**

Why did this person want to die?

Were other alternatives available?

How might their family and friends feel?

Arguments supporting euthanasia	Arguments against euthanasia

## Lesson fifteen – Christian attitudes towards euthanasia.

How do you think a Christian would respond to the case of Chantal Sebire?

Highlight through the key information below.

Most Christians, including Catholics, believe that assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia and non-voluntary euthanasia are all wrong. However, they accept that modern medicine has introduced new issues. They believe that switching off life-support machines is not euthanasia if brain death has already been established by medical experts. They also believe that it is not wrong to allow death to occur by not giving extraordinary treatment (treatment that could cause distress to the patient and family and is only likely to put off death for a short time), nor is it wrong to give dying people painkillers which may shorten their life.

They believe that life is created by God and so is sacred to God (the sanctity of life). It is up to God, not humans, when people die. Euthanasia is to put oneself on a par with God, which is condemned in the Bible.

- They regard any form of euthanasia as a form of murder, and murder is forbidden in the Ten Commandments.
- They believe that it is up to medical experts to determine when death has occurred. If doctors confirm brain death, then that person has already died, so switching off the machine is accepting what God has already decided and it is not euthanasia.
- They believe that painkillers may be given to a dying person in great pain. This might shorten the person's life but the painkillers are given to remove the pain, and that is the intention; hastening the person's death is an unintended effect, and so giving the painkillers is not euthanasia. This is called the doctrine of double effect.
- They also believe that it is right not to give 'extraordinary treatment' to the dying as such treatment is likely to affect the dignity of dying:

*SOA: Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of 'over-zealous' treatment. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2278)*

*SOA: Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of 'over-zealous' treatment. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2278)*

*SOA: The use of painkillers to alleviate the suffering of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed either as an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2279)*

Some Christians (mainly Evangelical Protestants) believe that any form of euthanasia is wrong, and they do not allow the switching off of life-support machines, the refusal of extraordinary treatment or the giving of large doses of painkillers. They have this attitude because:

- The Book of Job chapter 2 tells Christians to accept suffering as God's will: Shall we accept good from God and not trouble? (Job 2: 10)
- They regard switching off a life-support machine, the refusal of extraordinary treatment and giving a large dose of painkillers as euthanasia. Life is being ended by humans, not God, and this is wrong.
- They regard any form of euthanasia as murder, and murder is banned by God in the Ten Commandments.
- They believe in the sanctity of life. Life is created by God and so it is sacred to God. It is up to God, not humans, when people die. Euthanasia is to put oneself on a par with God, which is condemned in the Bible. 3 Accept limited use of euthanasia A few Christians accept a limited use of euthanasia. They agree with living wills in which people state what sort of treatment they wish to receive and how they want to die if they have a terminal illness. They believe this because:
  - Modern medical science means that we can no longer be sure what God's wishes about someone's death actually are.
  - The teaching of Jesus on loving your neighbour and helping people in trouble could be used to justify assisting suicide.
  - Living wills give people a chance to be in control of what doctors are doing to them, which is a basic human right.

*Questions are on next page.*

Questions:

Should the right to end someone's life rest with doctors or God?

Why are some Christians totally opposed to any form of ending people's lives early?

What do most Christians believe about euthanasia?

Look at the quotation above from Job. How do you think it is related to arguments about euthanasia for Christians?

# ***Euthanasia and Christianity***

Which arguments go with which point of view? Draw arrows to one or both sides

## **MOST CATHOLICS and PROTESTANTS**

Assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia and non-voluntary euthanasia are **ALL WRONG**

Switching off life support machines or giving people who are dying painkillers are not euthanasia and are **ACCEPTABLE**

- The Bible forbids suicide
- They believe in the sanctity of life. It is up to God when people die
- Euthanasia is murder which is banned in the Ten Commandments
- If you give painkillers to a dying person, and they kill the person, this is not murder because killing them was not your intention.
- Life is sacred and should only be taken by God
- If someone is brain dead then they have already died, so switching off the life support machine is accepting what God has already decided.

## **SOME CATHOLICS**

Any form of euthanasia is **WRONG** including switching off life support machines and the giving of large doses of painkillers

Quote	This means...
'Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.' 1Corinthians 6:9	
'You shall not murder'. Exodus 20:13	
'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die.' Ecclesiastes 3:1-2	
'God has said: 'Never will I leave <u>you</u> , never will I forsake you.' Hebrews 13:5	
'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Matt 22:39	



Highlight through the humanist attitude towards euthanasia and answer the question.

agreed position on euthanasia. Some want euthanasia to remain illegal because:

- There is always likely to be doubt as to whether it is what the person really wants. If there is money involved, relatives might request euthanasia for a rich relative to gain from their will.
- There is also the problem as to whether the disease is terminal. A cure might be found for the disease, or the patient may go into **remission**. Also, people thought of as being in irreversible comas have recovered after many years.
- Doctors would also face a big problem if they started to kill patients, even if the patient had requested it. It is the role of doctors to save lives, not end them. Would patients trust their doctors if they weren't sure about their dedication to saving life?
- People might change their mind about wanting euthanasia, but then it would be too late.
- Who would decide to allow the euthanasia to take place? What safeguards could there be that they were only killing people who really wanted and needed euthanasia?

Question: how might a humanist use situation ethics to decide whether or not to permit euthanasia?

Others believe that euthanasia should be legalised because:

- Advances in medicine have led to people being kept alive who would previously have died, but they judge their quality of life as poor. It is claimed that doctors and relatives should have the right to give such patients a painless death.
- The development of life-support machines has already brought in a form of euthanasia, as doctors and relatives can agree to switch off such machines if there is no chance of the patient regaining consciousness because they are said to be brain dead. It is claimed that the National Health Service (NHS) cannot afford to keep people alive for years on a life-support machine that could be used to save the life of someone who has a chance of recovery.
- Just as doctors can now switch off life-support machines, so judges have said that doctors can stop treatment.
- People now have the right to take their own lives (it used to be illegal and people could be put in jail if their suicide attempt failed!). If people have the right to kill themselves, then they should have the right to ask a doctor to assist their suicide if they are too weak to do it themselves.

Lesson sixteen – Global warming.

What is **GLOBAL WARMING**?



What is the **GREENHOUSE EFFECT**?

What causes **GLOBAL WARMING**?

What are the effects of **GLOBAL WARMING**?

CAUSE

EFFECT

--	--

We need IMMEDIATE action to stop extinction crisis, David Attenborough – BBC – **What are his key arguments?**



What can be done to help stop global warming?

Individuals

Governments

Scientists



Who do you think has the **MOST RESPONSIBILITY** for tackling the problem of **GLOBAL WARMING**?

## Lesson seventeen – Pollution

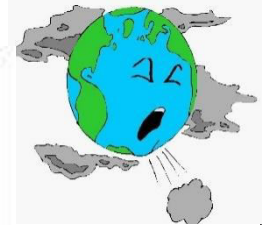
For each picture explain **what is happening** and **what TYPE of pollution** you think this is. Complete the first column of the table below.



1



2



3



4



5



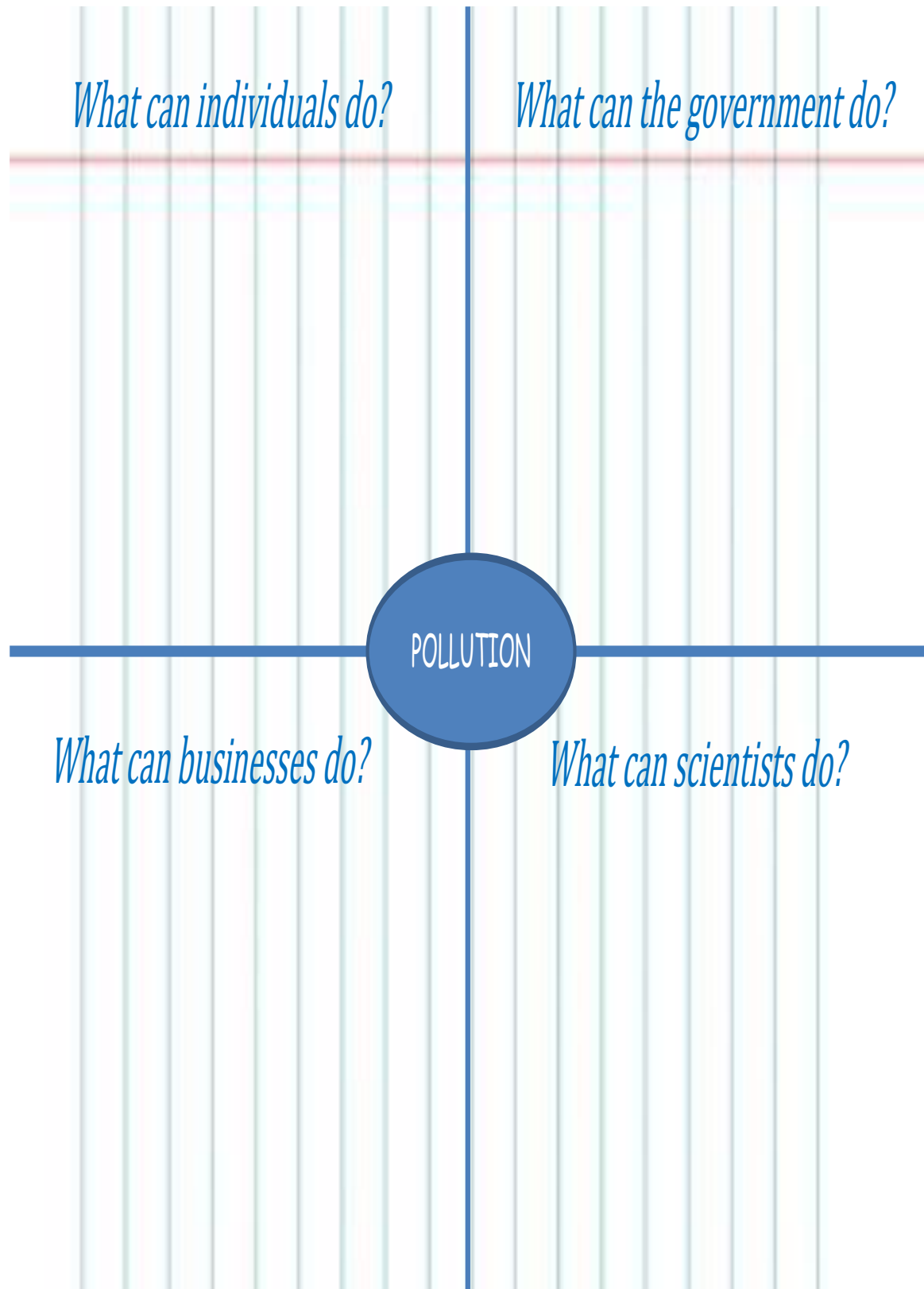
6



# Pollution...

[illegible]

What can be done to reduce pollution?



Who/what do you think is responsible for the state the world is in?

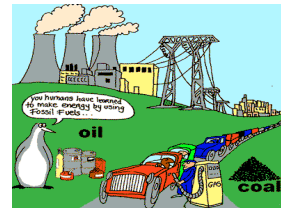
### **Lesson eighteen – Natural resources**

Renewable	Non-renewable

What is a renewable resource?

What is a non-renewable resource?

**How are non-renewable resources (fossil fuels) used?**



What is energy conservation?



What can we as humans do to help conserve energy?

### **Lesson nineteen – Christianity and the environment**

How likely is it that this kind of environmental disaster could happen in the real world?

1 = impossible → 10 = certain - select a number then explain your choice.



Make a list of reasons why people should care for the environment.

Job title	What is their responsibility?

What do these jobs all have in common? S.....

What is stewardship?

## **STEWARDSHIP**

What I think it means...

Correct DEFINITION:

Links to the environment

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

What I think it means...

Correct DEFINITION:

Links to the environment

## **AUTHORITY/DOMINION**

What I think it means...

Correct DEFINITION:

Links to the environment

## **CREATION**

What I think it means...

Correct DEFINITION:

Links to the environment

# What does the BIBLE say?...

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24:1)

Then God said 'Let us make mankind in our own image, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and of all the creatures that move along the ground. (Genesis 1:26)

The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to humankind. (Psalm 115:16)

The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (Genesis 2:15)

God blessed them and said to them ' Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it'. (Genesis 1:28)

Why do Christians care for the environment?

What can Christians do to help the environment?

## Lesson twenty – Animal rights

Define animal rights:



Give examples of companies that do not adhere to animal rights:

What are the aims of animal research?



Why do some people disagree with animal research?



Most Christians support animal research because they believe the following:

What is your view on animal research?

Why do some Christians decide to become vegetarians?

# The Controversial World of Animals in Research



Animal experimentation is one of the greatest ethical dilemmas facing modern science. While animal research leads to life-saving treatments, to anti-vivisectionists (people who oppose the use of animals in scientific research) the practice is cruel and barbaric, regardless of its potential benefit to human health. But what are the issues with animal research, and what is currently being done to overcome them?

For years, Oxford University has been under fire for using animals in medical research. Oxford has one of the largest biomedical research centres in Europe and undertakes the greatest number of scientific procedures on animals annually. Naturally, it is a hub of fierce anti-vivisectionist activity. In the mid-2000s, protests led to violence over the construction of the Biomedical Sciences Building — a state-of-the-art research facility to rehouse laboratory animals from around Oxford. There were arson attacks and bomb threats, and researchers were even followed to their homes. Consequently, the University took out an injunction against specific animal rights groups to protect staff and researchers.

But opposition to the use of animals remains. In April 2019, a 400-strong protest marking the 40th anniversary of the World Day for Animals in Laboratories called for an end to animal research in Oxford. Protestors claimed that '50 per-cent of animal experiments in UK universities are for curiosity's sake', with a devastating 70,000 people killed or disabled by animal-tested drugs in England each year. Moreover, animal rights activist Peter Egan stated,

‘90 percent of all tests on animals as models for human diseases fail’. These statistics appear damning for the use of animal experimentation in science.

Contrarily, Oxford describes its animal research programmes as at the ‘forefront of innovative and life-saving science’. Animal research has played a pivotal role in developing drugs that have saved millions of lives. Animals give us the capacity for gene editing, exploring brain activity, and manipulating complex biological systems, all of which are ethically dubious in humans. Invariably, some people do experience adverse effects when they take drugs tested on animals, but all prescribed substances have also been deemed safe in extensive clinical trials. Animal experimentation therefore forms only part of the research framework that integrates in vitro work, studies in humans, and epidemiological evidence.

But animal research is not perfect, and there are major issues translating findings into successful clinical trials. This is partly due to the intrinsic physiological differences between laboratory animals and humans, as well as the experimental conditions under which drugs are trialled. Despite these differences, even fruit flies and nematode worms can be useful, due to biochemical pathways highly conserved throughout evolution.

While claims of mistreatment are a mainstay of anti-vivisectionist campaigns, rigorous regulatory systems govern animal research in the UK. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act of 1986 regulates experiments conducted on animals, including a cost-benefit analysis on whether the potential benefit to human health outweighs the suffering caused. In fact, the UK goes above and beyond the EU laws on animal research, with Oxford’s ‘gold standard’ policy on welfare exceeding both national and international guidelines.

The other guiding principle of animal research is the 3 R’s – the replacement of animals by using different experimental models, the reduction of the number of procedures undertaken on animals by utilising better experimental design, and refinement of procedures on animals to minimise suffering. By following these guidelines, the total number of procedures conducted on animals reduced by 7 percent since 2017 in the UK, with the number of non-human primates used in Oxford falling to only 10, compared to 52 in 2004. Moreover, refinement includes group-housing several animals in a cage to replicate their natural social environment or using less invasive techniques. Not only do these principles improve animal welfare, they generate more reproducible data, meaning fewer animals are needed in the future.



Topic content	Revised?	Confidence rating R,A,G
Origins and value of the universe		
The sanctity of life		
The origins and value of human life		
The issue of abortion		
Death and the afterlife		
Non-religious arguments against life after death		
Euthanasia		
The natural world		

### **Revision questions:**

**A questions – ‘Outline questions’. These are three-mark questions which require you state three points. You must write in full sentences, or you will only be awarded one mark.**

- Outline three features of the work of George Lemaitre.
- Outline three issues where belief in the sanctity of life causes problems for Christians.
- Outline three features of the non-religious explanation about the origins and value of human life.
- Outline three requirements for an abortion to be legal in Great Britain.
- Outline three different non-religious reasons for believing in life after death.
- Outline three reasons why non-religious people do not believe in life after death.
- Outline three types of euthanasia.
- Outline three threats to the environment.

**B questions – ‘Explain questions’.** These are four-mark questions which require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence.

- Explain two reasons why Christians believe in the sanctity of life.
- Explain two reasons why evolution raises issues for Christians.
- Explain two reasons why Christians reject arguments against life after death. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Christians have different views about euthanasia.

**C questions – ‘Explain questions’.** These are five-mark questions which are almost identical to B questions – they require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence. You must also use a source of wisdom and authority to support one of your points.

- Explain two reasons why baptism is important for most Christians. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Catholics are against abortion. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Christians believe in life after death. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Christians work to conserve the environment. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

**D questions – Evaluation questions –** These are twelve-mark questions (two of your four will be 15 due to SPaG marks. You are required to give three points in agreement with the statement and three points against the statement. You should try to alternate your arguments, giving a flow of debate and showing chains of reasoning. You should try to include three sources of authority (you may include more). You must not give your opinion, the question expects you to give Christian viewpoints, if it requires atheist or humanist there will be bullet point stating so under the questions. You must include a conclusion, or you will be capped at nine marks. Give a justified conclusion, weighing up the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

- Christians should never take life.

- Humans have been created by God.
- No Christian should ever have an abortion.
- Only Christians have evidence for life after death.
- Believing in life after death doesn't make sense in the modern world.
- People dying in agony should be offered euthanasia.
- Animals cannot have rights.

