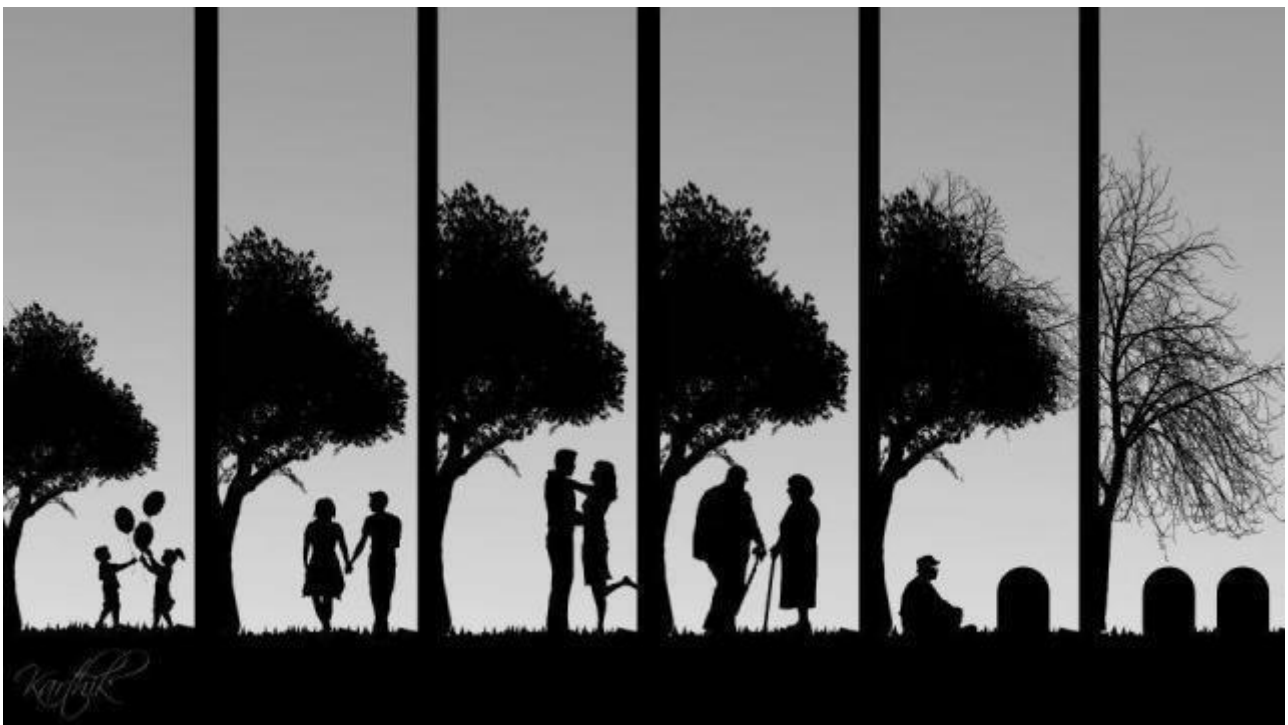


# GCSE Religious Studies

## Issues of Life and Death

### Workbook



Name:

# Key Concepts in Philosophy and Ethics:

## Life & Death

**Afterlife:** The belief that there is some form of life after ..... For example, Christians believe that they might go to ..... if they have followed Jesus correctly.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Making sure that what is taken from - or demanded of - the ..... doesn't reduce our ability to live well now and in the future. Christians believe that we are given the duty of ..... by God.

**Euthanasia:** The painless ..... of a patient who is suffering from an incurable illness or disease. The Bible, however, states 'thou shalt not murder.' Therefore some people disagree with Euthanasia because only ..... can give and take life.

**Evolution:** The theory that every living thing has developed from earlier forms of ..... For Christians, God started this process of evolution with His ..... for the world.

**Abortion:** The deliberate termination of a ..... The Bible states, 'thou shalt not murder,' therefore Christians may see abortion is wrong as the ..... is a potential human life.

**Quality of Life:** How pleasurable or meaningful your ..... is. Christians believe that living a good life in faith and relationship with God will improve your quality of life, giving it true meaning and .....

**Sanctity of Life:** The belief that all life is sacred and belongs to God. The Bible states that we are 'created in God's image,' and therefore we are ..... beings.

**Soul:** The part of the human being that lives on after the physical body has ..... . Christians believe that because of Jesus' death and ....., our souls will resurrect to join God in heaven.

### Word Box








Death  
environment  
pregnancy  
resurrection  
plan  
life  
killing  
foetus  
heaven  
purpose  
stewardship  
God  
died  
holly  
life

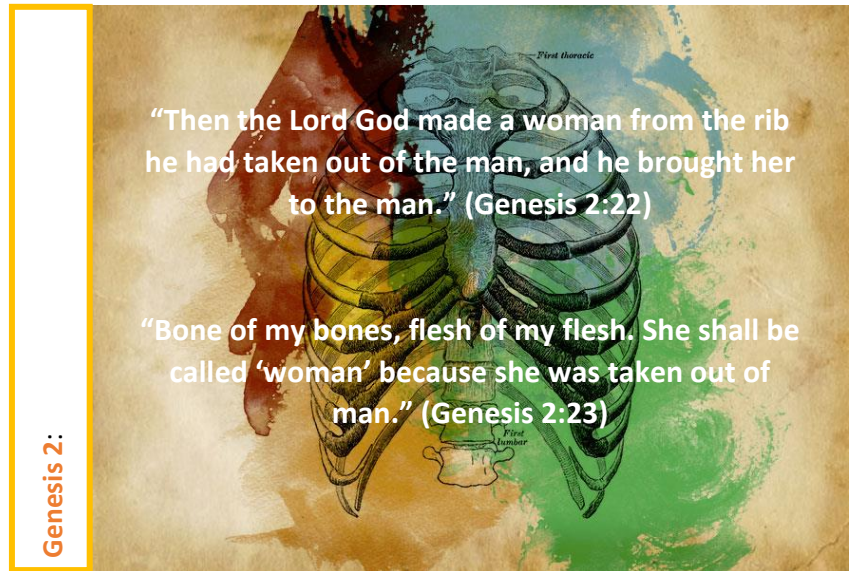


You will need to learn these words and definitions for your exam! In our a) style questions, you will have to give a definition and an example for each word!

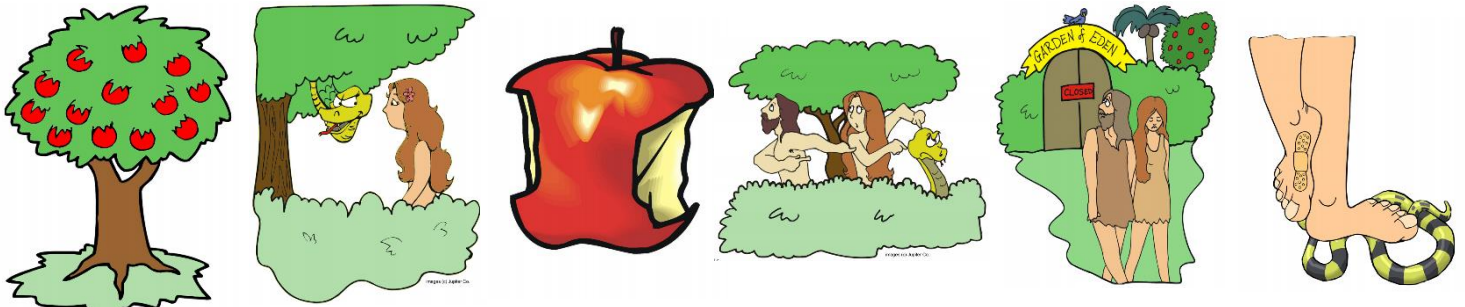
# Creation

Genesis 1, 2 and 3 tell the story about how the earth was created. Genesis 2 explains Adam's role in the garden as a steward and that Eve was created from Adam's rib. Genesis 3 tells us about Adam and Eve's exile from the Garden of Eden.

The order of Creation in <b>Genesis 1:</b>			Light & Dark
	Clouds & Oceans		Sun, Moon, & Stars
	Land, Plants, & Trees		Fish & Birds
	Man & Animals		God Rested



## Genesis 3:



Adam and Eve were told not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, otherwise they will 'surely die'.	Eve is tempted by the snake to eat the fruit. The snake said she would 'be like God', knowing good and evil.	Eve ate the fruit and gave some to Adam. Their eyes were opened: they knew they were naked and they were ashamed.	God knew that they had eaten the fruit from the forbidden tree. Eve told God that the snake had deceived her.	God clothed Adam and Eve and banished them from the Garden of Eden. A flaming sword was put to guard the Tree of Life.	God curses the snake to 'crawl on its belly.' God curses the man to work the land to survive. God curses the woman with pain in childbirth.
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## Interpretations of Creation:

Different Christians may believe different things when it comes to creation. This is because they interpret the Bible stories in a particular way. Literalist Christians believe that the stories in the Bible happened **exactly** as they are written – they take the Bible **literally**.

However, non-literal Christians (liberal Christians) believe that the Bible contains stories about God that need to be interpreted. The stories, therefore, are myths that contain an underlying truth.

Usually this truth is that there is a God, God created the world and God cares about the world today.

**Literalist Christians:**

- Believe that God created the world in exactly 6 days and rested on 7<sup>th</sup>
- Sure of the absolute truth of the Bible and what it says about Creation
- Do not accept scientific accounts of Creation as they are not in the Bible
- The Bible is the Word of God and is therefore an exact, word-for-word account

**Non-Literalist Christians:**

- Believe that the account of Creation in Genesis is a myth (a story containing a truth)
- The story in Genesis is not a literal account, but there are clear periods of creation, e.g. when land was formed
- The main point of the story is that God created the world
- Scientific theories are evidenced and are therefore undeniable

## Creation: Questions

1. What does Genesis tell us?

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2. What is the order of creation, as given in Genesis 1?

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3. State a quote from Genesis 2.

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4. Summarise the story of the Fall in Genesis 3.

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5. What are the two different interpretations of creation?

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6. What do literalist Christians believe? (State two beliefs)

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7. What do non-literalist Christians believe? (State two beliefs)

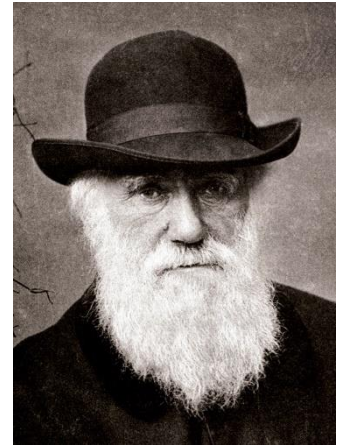
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# How did the world come to exist?

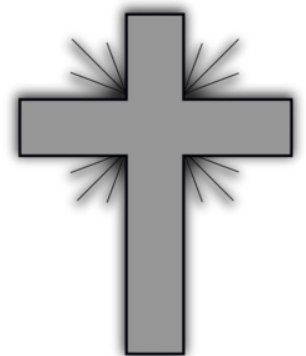
## Atheists and Humanists:

- Charles Darwin: Life has arisen through the slow, natural process of evolution and therefore the earth must be millions of years old. The 'survival of the fittest' is evolution by natural selection – those best suited to their environment.
- The Big Bang Theory (1965) states that the universe had an origin around 14 billion years ago. The universe began from a 'singularity', which expanded and particles and atoms started to appear. This led to the formation of stars and planets.
- Most scientists believe that the universe will continue expanding, becoming bigger and colder



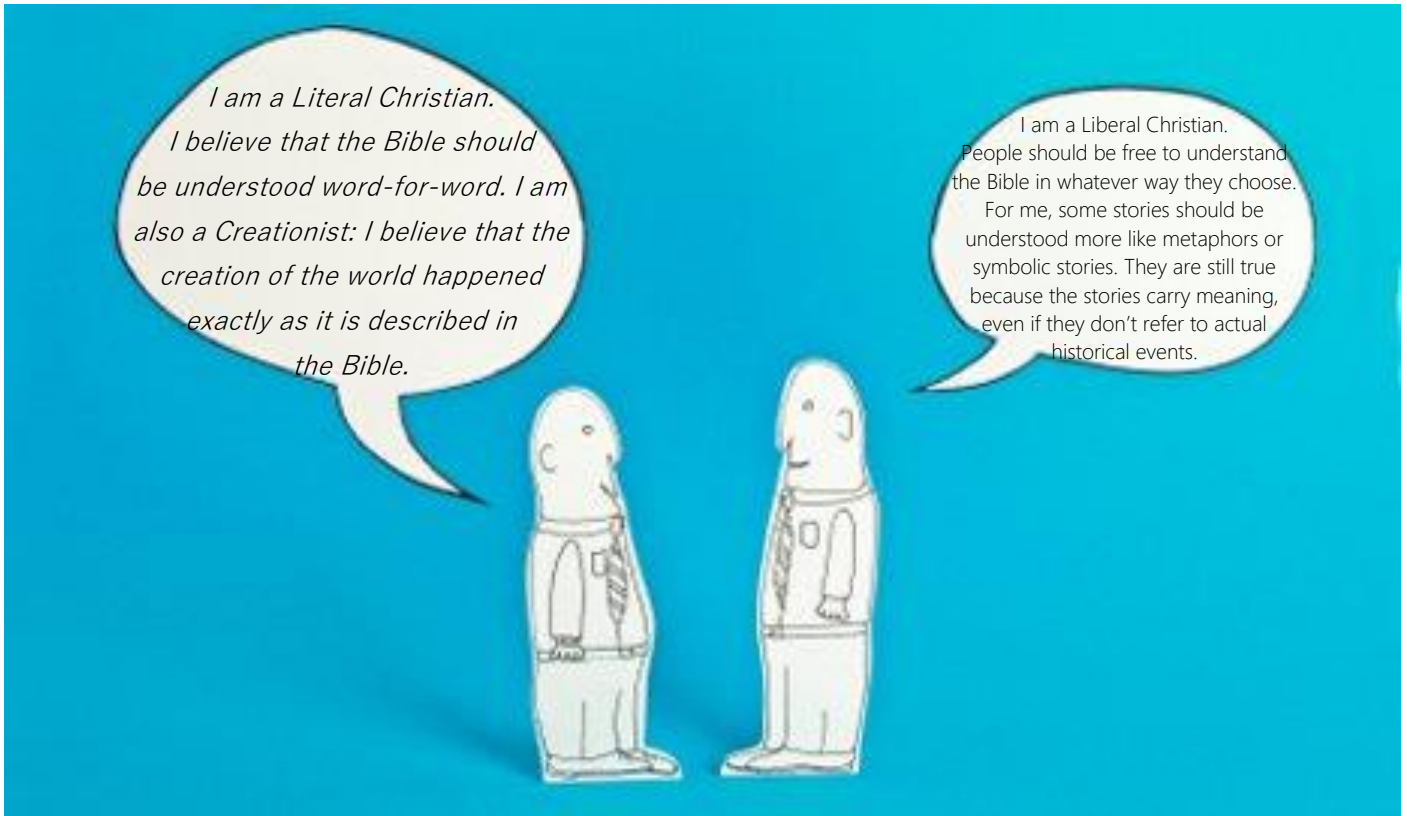
## Christians:

- One, all-powerful creator God is the source of all life
- The Bible tells of the creation story in Genesis
- Literal Christians believe that the events in Genesis happened exactly as it is written in the Bible
- Liberal Christians believe that there is some room for interpretation surrounding the stories in the Bible. They are myths which carry deep, symbolic meanings.
- The Biblical creation stories, for some liberal Christians, are complimentary to and are true alongside scientific theories such as the Big Bang
- Literal Christians however see Darwinian evolution as an attack on their beliefs as it implies that life has developed by chance. Also, if humans have evolved from animals, then there is no special place for the human 'soul'.





- Literal Christians see the Big Bang Theory as denying God's power. Also, even if scientists can prove the Big Bang, we are still left with the question of: what caused the Big Bang? Literalists argue that it was God.



**Do science and religion oppose each other?**

<p><b><u>Yes:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evangelical Christians (literalists) believe that if science and the Bible contradict each other, then science is wrong</li> <li>• God revealed His truth through Holy Scripture, for all time</li> <li>• Science gives us an accurate picture of the world whereas religion tells us nothing. The world may appear to have been designed, but this is an illusion</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>No:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no conflict because science tells us <b>how</b> the world was made and religion tells us <b>why</b></li> <li>• <b>Albert Einstein</b> said, "the more I study science, the more I believe in God."</li> <li>• The fact of evolution or the Big Bang still cannot prove that God did not cause the first reaction, or inspire the first development</li> </ul>
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# Creation: Questions

1. What does Charles Darwin believe about how we have come to exist?

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2. According to the Big Bang Theory, when did the universe begin?

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3. What do Christians believe about how the world came to exist?

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4. What do literal Christians believe about creation?

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5. What do liberal Christians believe about creation?

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6. Give two reasons why science and religion might oppose each other.

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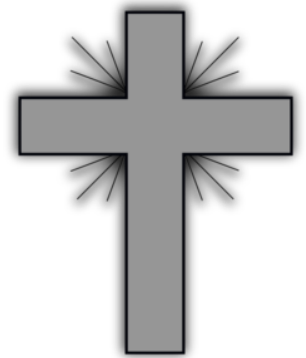
7. Give two reasons why science and religion might not conflict with each other.

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# Origins of Life

## Christians:

- Life is a gift from God and God has given humans the role of stewardship.
- Genesis 1:26 teaches that God made humans in his own image, meaning that humans have a soul which is unique
- Genesis 2:7 says that God formed Adam from dust and breathed divine life into him. Therefore humans were created with a special status, above nature. This can lead to disagreement among Christians about how we should treat the environment:
  - **Dominion:** To rule over the environment. We can exploit the world's resources as we are in charge.
    - When Jesus taught his followers to 'love your neighbour' (Matthew 5:43) he did not include animals in this command. Christians have respect for other animal species but they are not seen as equals and most Christians find it acceptable to eat meat.
  - **Stewardship:** To live in harmony with nature. We cultivate the earth, not exploit it.
    - Humans have responsibility towards the environment, looking after the earth's precious resources
    - We should be responsible global citizens, using the earth's resources in a sustainable manner
    - 'Green Christians' are environmental activists who promote awareness and action at church, community and national levels



## Humanists:

- Try to base their reasoning on evidence



- Most humanists agree with the idea of stewardship
- We have a responsibility to work for a more sustainable world, causing as little harm to the environment as possible
- Looking after the environment is a sensible thing to do – human life depends wholly on the environment. If we misuse or abuse the environment, then in the end it is us, our children and our children's children who will suffer



**Origins of Life: Questions**

1. What do Christians believe about the origins of life?

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2. What does Genesis 1:26 tell us?

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3. What does Genesis 2:7 say?

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4. What is the difference between dominion and stewardship?

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5. What do Humanists believe about the origins of life?

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# Animal Rights

Along with protecting the environment, God gave Adam the duty of naming all of the animals in the Garden of Eden. However, as with Stewardship, there are two main strands of belief regarding animal rights:

1. **Stewardship**: we are to care for and nurture all life. Life is from God and should be respected.
2. **Dominion**: we are to “rule over the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea,” as God told Adam to do in Genesis.

## Christian arguments *for* animal rights:

- God made animals first in the order of creation. They have a purpose.
- All life is sacred, special and a gift from God. It should be respected.
- We have been given the duty of living in harmony with nature

## Christian arguments *against* animal rights:

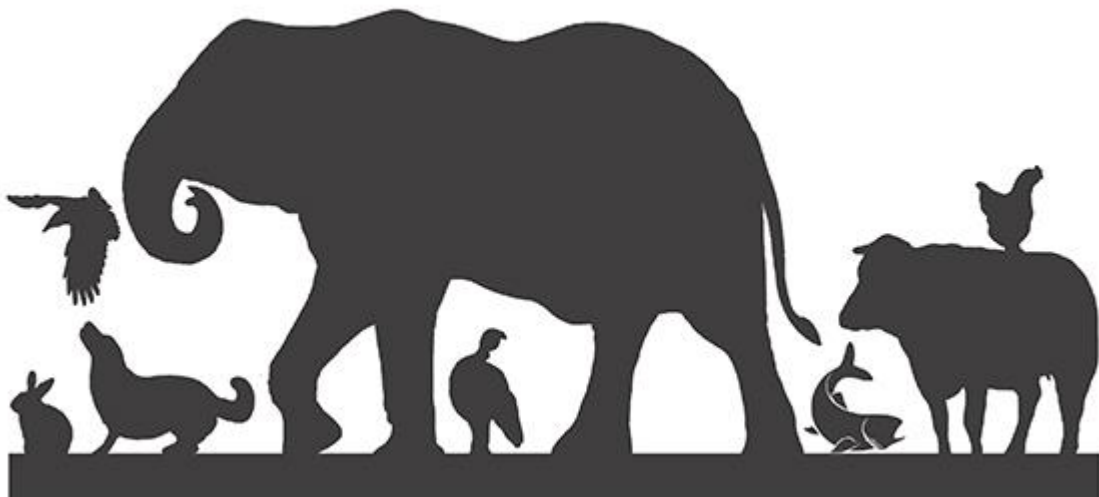
- “God made mankind in his image,” therefore we are the superior species.
- God gave us dominion to ‘rule over’ the world
- Jesus said to ‘love thy neighbour’ – not including animal life in this command

## Humanist arguments *for* animal rights:

- Animals feel pain too, just like we do
- Human arrogance has already killed many species of animals
- Some people refuse to eat meat on moral / ethical grounds

## Humanist arguments *against* animal rights:

- It is a natural instinct to eat meat for nourishment
- The human species is at the top of the food chain



## Animal Rights: Questions

1. What duty is God give to Adam

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2. What are the two strands of belief regarding animal rights?

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3. State a Christian argument for animal rights.

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4. State a Christian argument against animal rights.

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5. State a Humanist argument for animal rights.

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6. State a Humanist argument against animal rights.

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## Sanctity of Life

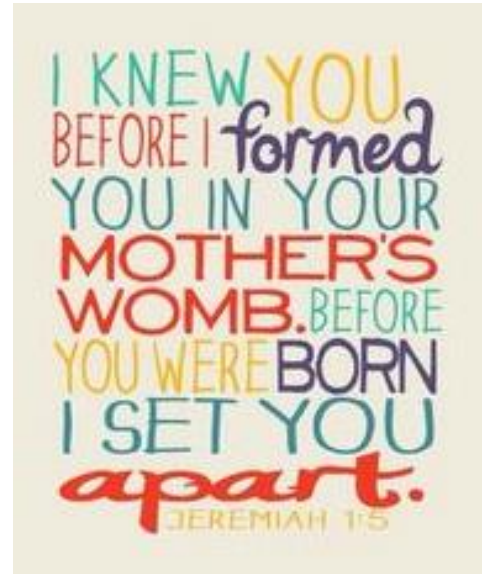
The belief that all life is previous or sacred. Some people believe that only human life holds this special status

# Sanctity of Life

Most people, regardless of faith, believe that human life is special and worthy of being preserved. The belief in the sanctity of life has a large impact on medical ethics (the process of deciding what is right and wrong in medicine), especially those which relate to creating or life-ending procedures.

### **Christians:**

- Life comes from God. It is a gift, unique and priceless.
- God is interested and involved in each human's life
- God created each person unique and 'in his image', just as he created Adam and Eve
- Only God can give and take life
- Quaker Christians oppose the death penalty because each person contains a reflection of the image of God, which makes every human soul sacred
- "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- Catholic Christians disagree with artificial methods of contraception and IVF (creating a baby in a laboratory outside of the act of sex)
- Jesus showed that all life should be valued. He tended to the leper and visited the sick to show that all lives are worthy of respect and compassion.
- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." (Jeremiah 1:5)



### **Humanists:**

- Life is precious because it is the life we have (we do not get another life)
- The value of life does not come from God. Our lives have value because we only have one life. There is no soul or afterlife to live on at death
- A central purpose of life is to make ourselves and others around us as happy as possible; we can benefit others through compassion and kindness
- Life is not 'sacred' but is worthy of the highest respect

# Sanctity of Life: Questions

1. What is the meaning of 'sanctity of life'?

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2. What do Christians believe about the sanctity of life?

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3. What do Quaker Christians believe about the sanctity of life?

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4. What do Catholic Christians believe about the sanctity of life?

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5. What examples did Jesus set about the sanctity of life?

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6. What do Humanists believe about the sanctity of life?

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# Quality of Life



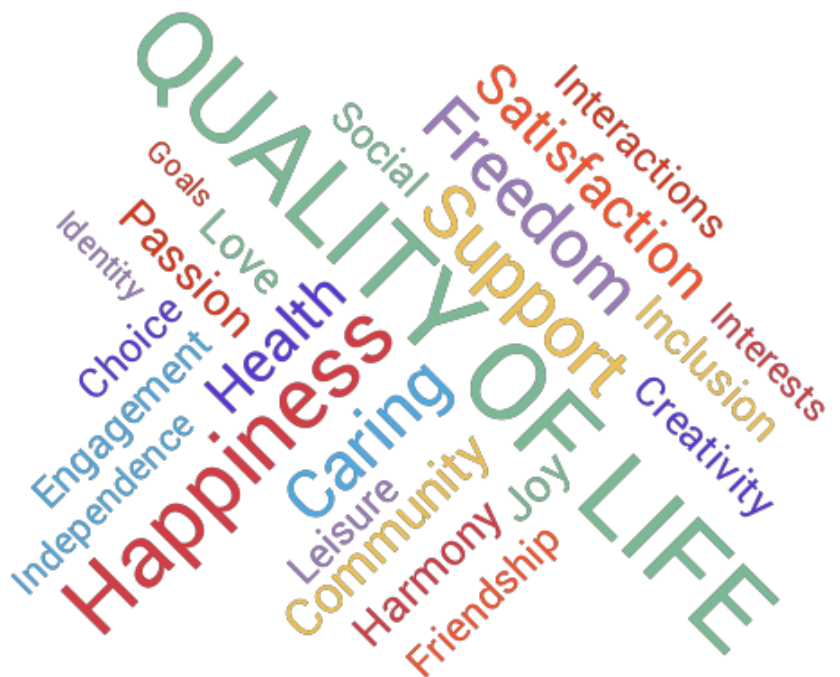
The extent to which life is pleasurable or meaningful.

Most believe that the quality of our lives is more important than whether it is special or sacred. If our life is free from pain and anxiety and if we live with freedom and dignity, then we have a good quality of life.

## How do we measure quality of life?

Indicators to measure quality of life include living conditions, health, education, leisure and social interactions, disability, levels of pain and whether human rights are granted. If a person's life has insufficient quality, some would argue that they should have the right to die.

In medical ethics, treating an illness should be weighed against the extent to which they are going to live a life free from pain and suffering afterwards. **Is the treatment cost-worthy?**



## Quality of Life: Questions

1. What is meant by 'quality of life'?

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2. What do most people believe about quality of life?

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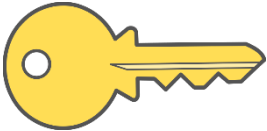
3. How do we measure 'quality of life'?

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# Abortion

Abortion was first legalised in Britain in 1967. Since then, the issue has been widely debated. On the one hand, it is immoral to kill unborn babies. On the other hand, quality of life might be more important if, for example, the child is going to be born severely disabled or with extreme pain.



## **Abortion**

The deliberate ending of a pregnancy so that it does not result in the birth of a child

### **Pro-Life:**

- Abortion is wrong
- Every living thing has a right to life

### **Pro-Choice:**

- Abortion is acceptable
- Every woman should be able to choose what to do with her body – sometimes the situation might necessitate abortion, for example if the woman were to become pregnant due to rape

### **Rights of the unborn child:**

- The unborn child has rights
- The law is unclear about the rights of an unborn child. In practice, their rights are not distinguishable from the rights of the mother
- A court rules in December 2014 that an unborn child was not 'a person'

### **What do Christians believe about abortion?**

#### **Christianity:**

- There is no single view on abortion in Christianity
- Some Christians give priority to the belief in the Sanctity of Life
- Some Christians follow Jesus' example to act with compassion

#### **Roman Catholic Christians:**

- Abortion is forbidden as life is sacred and a gift from God
- Life begins at conception: it is not a potential life but a human being with potential
- Abortion is against the Ten Commandments (Do not kill)
- The foetus has a right to live and develop. Terminating the pregnancy is a great moral evil

#### **Church of England Christians:**

- There can be allowances for abortion in some conditions
- If the mother's life is in danger or in the case of rape, abortion is permitted
- Quality of life should be considered
- Compassion should be used (Treat others as you would like to be treated)



- However, the law in Britain is too liberal when it comes to abortion. In the past, abortions have been carried out for immoral reasons, e.g. when abortion is used as a form of contraception

### Abortion in Britain today:

- Abortion is legal before 24 weeks of pregnancy
- Two doctors must consent to the procedure and decide whether there will be a risk to the mother's physical or mental health if the pregnancy were to continue
- In rare cases, where the pregnancy will put the mother's life at risk, the abortion can be formed after 24 weeks
- It is estimated that 1 in 3 women will, at some point in their life, have an abortion
- The father of the foetus has no legal right at present – even if the couple are married



### What do Humanists and Atheists believe about abortion?

- We need to consider the evidence, probable consequences and the rights and wishes of everyone involved before making a decision about abortion
- Find the kindest course of action and the one that would do the least harm
- Because of this 'situational' approach to ethics, there is no one right or wrong answer
- Generally, humanists take on a liberal, pro-choice stance
- What would produce more happiness? To abort or to keep the baby?
- Quality of life outweighs the preservation of life
- Abortion is a morally acceptable choice to make, so long as it is an informed choice which considers the short-term and long-term effects.



# Abortion: Questions

1. What is the meaning of 'abortion'?

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2. When was abortion first legalised in Britain?

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3. What is the difference between pro-life and pro-choice?

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4. What does the law say about the rights of an unborn child?

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5. What do Roman Catholic Christians believe about abortion?

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6. What do Church of England Christians believe about abortion?

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7. Until how many weeks is abortion legal in Britain?

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8. Why might abortion be performed later than the legal limit?

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9. What do Humanists believe about abortion?

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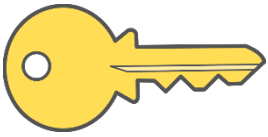
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10. What might outweigh the principle of the preservation of life?

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# Euthanasia



**Euthanasia:** 'Easy death' or 'mercy killing' for someone who is suffering a painful death from a serious illness.

## Why end your own life?

People may want to die a dignified death and die before their illness takes away their ability to kill themselves. Some are afraid of the end stages of their illness, e.g. the pain. Living with constant and unmanageable pain (linked to an injury, disability or a side-effect from previous illnesses) is reason enough. The final stages can take away human dignity, amongst other things. Some people would rather not experience this.

## Different Types of Euthanasia:

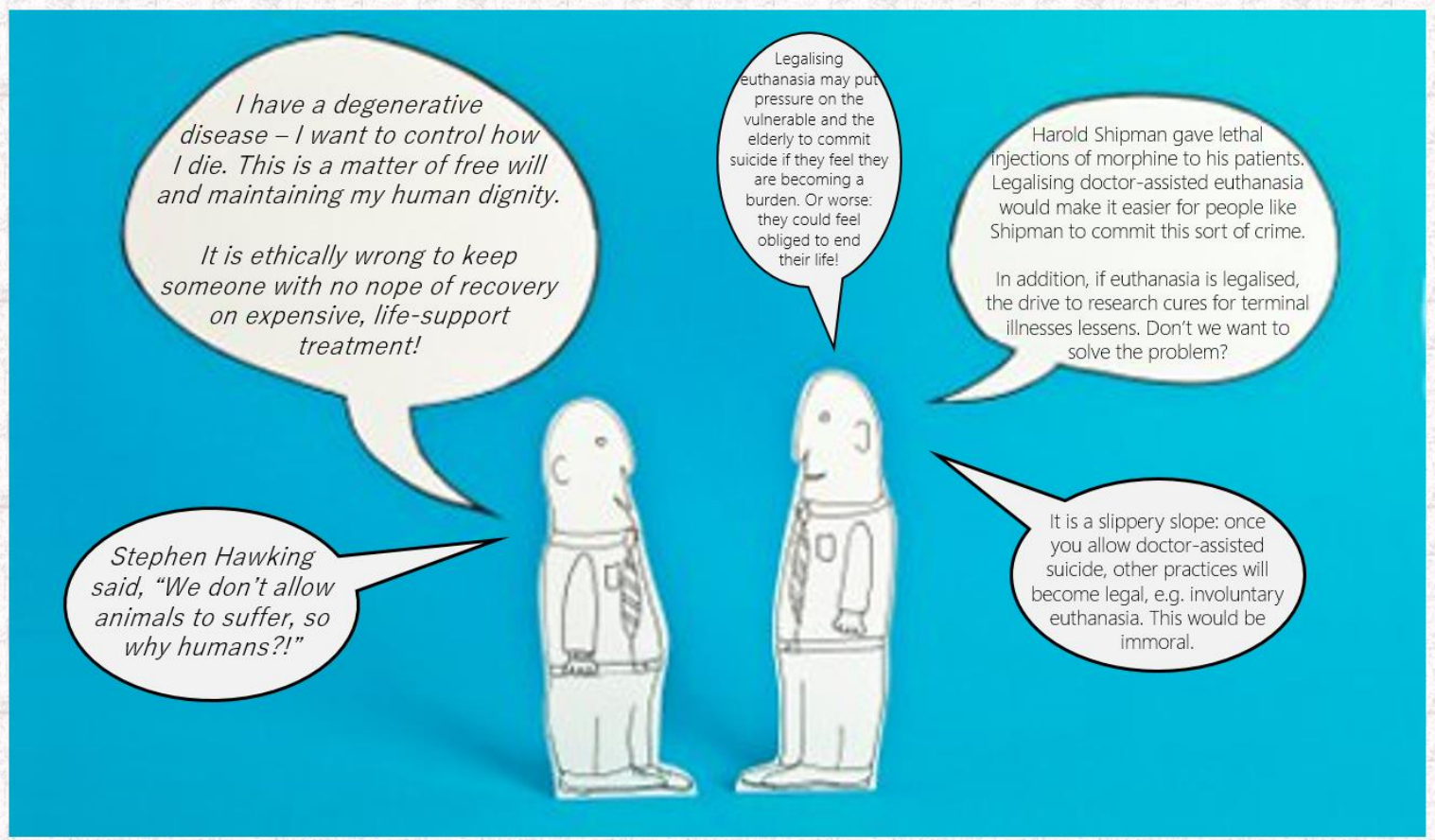
1. **Voluntary:** (or assisted suicide) is where a person explicitly asks for help to die. Often this is due to a life-limiting or terminal illness.
2. **Active:** when a person takes a specific course of action to end their own life, e.g. overdose
3. **Passive:** where life-sustaining treatment is removed, e.g. a feeding tube or respirator where there is no hope of recovery.
4. **Involuntary:** where death is forced on a person, for example during ethnic cleansing (WWII) or the death sentence



## Euthanasia Facts

- A 'living will' is a legal document that outlines a person's wishes with regards to their medical care. It can instruct doctors not to resuscitate (revive once the heart has stopped) or intubate (insert a breathing tube) or use artificial methods to keep the person alive
- A DNR or Do Not Resuscitate order is a type of living will
- In Britain today, euthanasia is illegal. Depending on the situation it is considered manslaughter or murder and is punishable by law, with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.
- Assisted suicide, is illegal under the terms of the Suicide Act (1961) and is punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment. Attempting to kill yourself is not in itself a criminal act.
- The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) decides whether to take someone to court for assisting in suicide. The DPP said in 2010 that it would be unlikely that someone would be prosecuted if:
  - The victim has reached a voluntary, clear, settled and informed decision to commit suicide
  - The suspect was wholly motivated by compassion





### Euthanasia is not the only option:

- A hospice is a place where people with terminal illnesses can go to die with dignity
- A hospice focuses on relieving the symptoms and pain of the terminal illness, it does not try to cure the illness
- Hospices also provide a type of pastoral care
- **Palliative care focuses on relieving the pain** of the sufferer
- Hospices may be religious in ethos because of the clear connection with religious ideas and practices, e.g. to act with kindness and compassion
- Hospices fulfil the Christian desire to support the suffering of both patients and family in the final moments of life
- Patients and believers can preserve their sanctity of life and can still benefit from a quality of life. For some Christians, palliative care and hospices provide the best of both sides of the argument

### Hospices in Britain

- There are over 260 hospices in Britain
- Some are dedicated to the care of children and infants; others focus on adult end-of-life care
- Patients do not only go to hospices to die – some patients are admitted for short periods of time to help manage pain and relieve other symptoms of their illness



- Around 4% of deaths occur in a hospice setting, with many more patients and their families benefiting from time spent in a hospice before their death

## Christian Attitudes to Euthanasia:

Liberal Christians	Literal Christians
<p>Euthanasia <b>may</b> be acceptable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person might be brain dead. In such circumstances, turning off the life support is OK</li> <li>• It might be the most loving and compassionate thing to do, for example withholding treatment that prolongs a painful illness. Instead, the patient suffers for a reduced amount of time</li> <li>• Jesus taught compassion for others</li> </ul>	<p>Euthanasia is <b>not</b> acceptable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All life is sacred (sanctity of life)</li> <li>• Those who assist are involved in murder ('Do no kill')</li> <li>• Life is a gift from God and is, therefore, precious</li> <li>• Suffering can have a purpose and should be endured as God will not give us more suffering than we are able to cope with</li> <li>• Hospices also offer an alternative where care and support can be given. Patients can die with dignity and their pain is managed.</li> </ul>

## Humanist Attitudes to Euthanasia:

Humanists uphold the right to life but don't believe that life should be prolonged in the face of pointless suffering. Being able to die, with dignity, in a manner of our choosing must be understood to be a fundamental human right.

Humanists have supported attempts to legalise assisted dying, assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia across the UK. They believe that assistance should not be limited to terminally ill people alone and want to see reform (change) in the law.

This 'reform' would consider the needs of other people who are 'permanently and incurably suffering', for example people who are paralysed.



# Euthanasia: Questions

1. What is the meaning of 'euthanasia'?

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2. Why might a person choose euthanasia?

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3. What are the four different types of euthanasia and what do they mean?

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4. What is a 'living will'?

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5. Is euthanasia and assisted suicide legal in UK?

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6. Why might someone not be prosecuted for assisting in someone's suicide?

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7. What is an argument for euthanasia being made legal?

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8. What is an argument against euthanasia being made legal?

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9. What is a hospice and what service do they provide?

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10. What do liberal Christians believe about euthanasia? Why?

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11. What do literal Christians believe about euthanasia? Why?

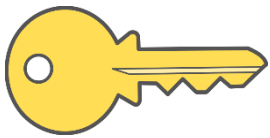
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12. What do Humanists believe about euthanasia?

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# The Soul & Life After Death



**Soul:** The spiritual aspect of a being; that which connect someone to God,. The soul is often regarded as non-physical and as living on after the physical death, in an afterlife.



**Christians** believe that only humans have a soul, which is immortal, and lives on after the body has died.



**Humanists** deny the existence of a soul

There are **two views** about the soul and its relationship with the physical body:



1. **Dualism:** the belief that we are made of two separate parts: a physical body and a spiritual soul. The soul lives in the physical body and is the true, inner part of us and it will live on after death.



2. **Materialism:** the beliefs that nothing else exists apart from matter. All we have, as human beings, is a physical body. There is no soul or spirit.

## Are humans born sinners?

- People are born with 'original sin' – the sin inherited from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, when they ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

## How do we get to heaven?

- We must be reconciled with God for this sin. We must be 'saved' and forgiven. This can only happen through believing that Jesus died on the cross to cleanse us from our sins.

## What happens when we die?

There are 2 main types of belief that we study about what happens after death:

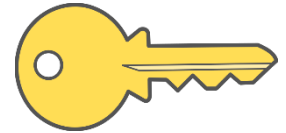


1. **Christians:** believe in resurrection, heaven and hell. After death, we will rise up from the dead to be judged by God. Those who God judges to be good will be raised to eternal life. Those who

have lived sinful lives or caused harm to others will either cease to exist or will face torment in hell



2. **Atheists and humanists:** believe that nothing survives death. There is no 'soul'. We are just physical, material beings, so when we die that is the end. Nothing exists beyond the grave.



### Afterlife

Life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death.

## Judgement, Heaven and Hell

Christians believe in resurrection and eternal life. Death is not the end, but a gateway to a perfect existence. Heaven is our true home and our lives on earth are the testing ground for life in eternity.

Jesus rose again after death – so we will too. God is the Divine Judge and on Judgement Day God will decide who will be rewarded and who will be punished.

Other Christians say that we will experience a 'bodily resurrection', like Jesus, who came back in a physical form. St. Paul writes that we will be raised as spiritual bodied, not just disembodied souls: "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead... raised a spiritual body." (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

Christians believe that to be in heaven is to be in God's presence, existing in a state of pure beauty and kindness. To be in hell is to be in constant torment, cut off from all that is good and loving.

Evangelical Christians refer to heaven and hell as if they are real places. Liberal Christians say these ideas are symbolic. They remind us that there are consequences to our choices.



### **Humanist Attitudes to Judgement, Heaven and Hell**

Most Humanists are materialists. They believe that we are nothing more than matter. There is no spiritual or supernatural aspect to life. Humanists believe that, as far as we know, we are unlike any other creatures in that we are able to reflect on our own lives.

The humanist answer to, 'What happens after we die?' is: nothing; we only live once and there is no second chance. There is no soul or immortal consciousness, no cosmic judge, divine paradise or fiery hell. Because of this, we should make the most out of our existence while we can, living moral lives because it shows respect for others and for ourselves.





# Life After Death: Questions

1. What is the meaning of 'soul'?

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2. What is the difference between Christian and Humanist beliefs about the soul?

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3. What is Dualism?

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4. What is Materialism?

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5. How do Christians believe they get to heaven?

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6. What do Christians believe happens when they die?

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7. What do Humanists believe happens when they die?

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8. Why do Christians think that they will rise again from the dead?

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9. If being in heaven is being in God's presence, what is hell?

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10. What do Humanists believe about judgement, heaven and hell?

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# Symbolism in Funerals

## How do funeral rites reflect beliefs about the afterlife?

### Christians:

- When a person is close to death, a priest or a minister is called to say the 'last rites'. Prayers are said for the dying person and they can ask God for forgiveness of their sins. The last rites is more commonly a Roman Catholic practice, which might involve the priest giving Holy Communion.
- The 'last rites' are important because it helps to ease the dying person into the afterlife, enabling them to die at peace, having asked for God's forgiveness
- A Christian funeral is usually held in a church. The coffin is carried to the front of the church and a service is held in honour of the dead person. Flowers are displayed, prayers said and candles lit.
- "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25) This reminds the congregation that those who believe in Jesus will be resurrected, to spend eternity with God.
- The candles represent Jesus as the 'light of the world' because he guides a path into heaven.
- Psalm 23. 'The Lord is my shepherd', is often read at funerals. It says that even when I am 'in the valley of the shadow of death', God is still by my side. This means that we are not forgotten by God; he will comfort those who mourn and accompany those who have died
- Roman Catholics may hold a mass (communion service) with bread and wine at a funeral
- A person is buried with the words, "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Today, many Christians prefer to be cremated.
- A person may choose to be buried because they believe in a bodily resurrection to be with God in heaven



- A person may choose cremation because the soul goes to heaven, not the body, so it is acceptable to cremate the body. There is also an environmental argument for cremation: if the world is for the living, why is so much land taken up with graves?

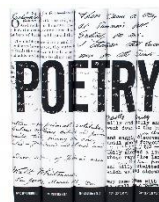
### Non-Religious Funeral Services

- Informal, personal ceremony
- Songs and readings are considered important to the person who has died or the family and friends of the person, and therefore have a more special meaning
- At a humanist funeral, those present remember the life of the person who has died, reflection on their contribution to the world and to others
- The service will be held by a humanist celebrant
- The service will try to show respect for the dead person without suggesting that they are going to a better place. They will be remembered for their special, unique qualities, the life they led and the achievements they made.



- The service may include:

- Music
- Non-religious reflection on death
- Readings of poetry
- Reminiscences about the person (memories)
- A eulogy (a description of why they were special)
- Lighting candles
- Moments of quiet reflection



# Symbolism in Funerals: Questions

1. Which denomination more commonly says 'last rites' when a person is close to death?

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2. Why are the 'last rites' important?

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3. Where is a Christian funeral usually held?

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4. What does John 11:25 say and what does it remind Christians of?

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5. What do the candles represent?

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6. What does Psalm 23 say and what does it mean?

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7. What do Roman Catholics hold at a funeral?

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8. Which words is the person buried with?

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9. What is an alternative to cremation?

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10. Why might someone choose burial over cremation?

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11. State five features of a non-religious funeral service.

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**Well Done!**