

NAME.....

RE GROUP.....

RE REVISION GUIDE

GCSE



WJEC Eduqas Route A (9-1)

COMPONENT 1 – RELIGION AND LIFE ISSUES

ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH

The exam will be divided into four sections. You must answer all parts of each question (a, b, c, d). An additional 5 marks will be awarded for SPAG on question d. Time = 2 hours (1 minute per mark).

SECTION 1

Issues of relationships

SECTION 2

Issues of life and death

SECTION 3

Issues of good and evil

SECTION 4

Issues of human rights.

TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Include **RELIGIOUS** quotes whenever you can... The examiner will love it... If you really can't remember any...use the **EMERGENCY QUOTE**...



2. Learn **ALL KEY CONCEPTS** carefully. If you know and understand what the words mean then you're halfway there. Come up with rhymes, songs, stories...anything that will help you remember the word and its **MEANING**... **Remember these make up 10% of your exam marks!!!**



3. **REMEMBER**... We have **ONLY** looked at **TWO** religions.



CHRISTIANITY and **ISLAM**.. In some units we only looked at **CHRISTIANITY** but looked at different groups within it (Roman Catholic/Church of England etc) and in **ISLAM**, we looked at **SUNNI AND SHI'AI** Muslims.

4. Keep your **EYE ON THE TIME**.



DON'T WRITE OUT THE QUESTION (this only wastes time, you are telling the examiner what they already know)... Look at how many marks its worth and only write enough to get those marks—**NO MORE!** 1 min per mark.

5. Read **ALL** the questions before you start.



It is important that you work out what questions you can get the **MOST MARKS** from. The best way to do this is to read all the questions carefully and then decide the **set** of questions you are going to answer (**remember it MUST be ONE from each section and all four parts of the same question**).

6. Watch the **NEWS**...



When you need some evidence to support a non-religious point, try to use current day events as examples in your answers. The best way to do this is to watch the news or to read a newspaper. You can also use examples from science, geography, history - anything that you think is relevant!

7. **KNOW 5 OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS**...The 10 commandments are handy to **QUOTE** when answering **ANY** of the exam questions relating to **CHRISTIANITY**)

Some are-Do not murder, commit adultery, lie, steal, worship other Gods, covet, do honour your parents, keep the Sabbath.

Section 2: Issues of life and death...

IN THIS SECTION YOU WILL LOOK AT:

- * Different Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes about the accounts of the origin of the universe: *Genesis* 1 and 2
- * The relationship between Christian views and non-religious views of creation and the extent to which they conflict; Stephen Hawking's view of the Big Bang
- * Christian and non-religious beliefs, teachings and attitudes about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship:
 - * 'Humanists for a Better World'
- * Different Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the origin and sanctity of human life
- * Non-religious beliefs about evolution; Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins
- * Different Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia
- * Non-religious views on the importance of human and animal life; Peter Singer's views on 'speciesism'
- * Humanist 'Dignity in Dying' Movement
- * Christian beliefs and teachings about life after death, including soul, judgement, heaven and hell
- * Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife
- * How Christian and Humanist funerals in Britain reflect beliefs about the afterlife

KEY CONCEPTS:

- * **Afterlife** - life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death
- * **Environmental sustainability** - ensuring that the demands placed on natural resources can be met without reducing capacity to allow all people and other species of animals, as well as plant life, to live well, now and in the future.
- * **Euthanasia** - from Greek, eu 'good' + thanatos 'death'. Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing'. The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness.
- * **Evolution** - the process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier, less complex forms during the history of the earth.
- * **Abortion** - when a pregnancy is ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child.
- * **Quality of life** - the extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable
- * **Sanctity of life** - the belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status,
Soul - the spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. The soul is often regarded as nonphysical and as living on after physical death, in an afterlife

Cosmology - How the world Began – The origins of the world (the beginnings)

Christian View – God’s plan

*‘You knit me together in my mother’s womb.’
(Psalms)*

- Some Christians believe that the **TWO** accounts in Genesis (Bible)

First account (Genesis 1) shows God is **transcendent** (not of/beyond this world):

- God creates by command: ‘Let there be’
- God created the world in 6 days & rested on the 7th.
- God created the world from nothing (*ex nihilo*)
Day 1 = Light; Day 2 = Sky; Day 3 = God separates land & sea & creates plants & trees; Day 4 = sun, moon & stars; Day 5 = birds & sea creatures; Day 6 = animals & Adam & Eve (humans were created last and are thus the most important part of creation “Let us make mankind in our likeness.”); Day 7 = God rested.

What God created was ‘all good’.

Second account (Genesis 2) shows God to be personal – he is involved in the making of the world – he “plants” & makes Adam from dust giving him a soul (the breath of life) and Eve is made from Adam’s rib because Adam is lonely. He makes Adam first and THEN animals.

Some Christians believe that God was the creator of the Big Bang (He was Aquinas’ First Cause)

Some Christians believe that the accounts in the Bible are merely symbolic – they explain how death and evil entered into the world and also show how powerful God is.

*God created humans last because they were most important and so have **dominion** over the earth.

*Humans were made ‘in God’s image’ so have a responsibility to be **stewards** over the earth.

Science Views – here by chance

Natural selection...has no purpose in mind. It has no vision, no foresight.’ (Dawkins)

- The Big Bang Theory (evidence from cosmic radiation and the fact the universe is still expanding). 15 billion years ago there was a single, tiny infinite point. It was hot and matter and gasses flew out in all directions. When they cooled they formed the stars and planets.
- **Charles Darwin’s** Theories – Evolution (man evolved from apes) & the Survival of the Fittest (although there are some gaps in the fossil evidence and so this is still considered by some Scientists to only be a theory). Also scientists are putting forward new theories all the time such as there have been many big bangs. Animals who have adapted to changing conditions have survived through natural selection. E.g. Finches have different shaped beaks depending on the type of island they live on and what food they need to gather.
- **Charles Lyell** – stated that geology shows that the world is millions of years old because of the fossil and rock formations. This then proves that the world was not made in 6 days. The fossils also show that many creatures are now extinct (e.g. Dinosaurs) which throws doubt on the Creation stories in the Bible – why would God create animals that then died out – there would be no purpose in this.
- **Religious reactions to science**
- Evolution upsets some Evangelical/literalist Christians and some Muslims because they believe mankind was made in a special way for a special purpose of God and if mankind has evolved from Apes this might mean that mankind is not so important.
- Undermining the Bible/Qur’an undermines the morals we share as humans leading to crime and disorder.
- God gave us our soul so if he didn’t make us, do we have one?
- Other non-literalist Christians welcome Darwin’s theories and believe science helps us understand things that the writers of the Bible could not understand at the time.

So Christians can either:

- Reject Science & Darwin because they believe that every word in the Bible is the eternal truth of God 'All scripture is God-breathed' (Timothy) (these are fundamentalists/literalists)
- Reject the Christian view altogether and say Science is right ('The account of creation is not to be taken literally' (Maimondes))
- Believe that both Science and Genesis are correct because the Hebrew word for 'day' means a long period of time and therefore God is responsible for beginning and world and watching over evolution. He is seen as "the first cause" – the starter of the 'Big Bang'.
- Believe that the stories in the Bible are merely myths (stories) or symbolic in other words they explain hidden spiritual truths such as why evil entered the world of good created by God. And explain that God created the world so that mankind can live in a loving relationship with him. They also show that God sustains (looks after) the world.
- Einstein said 'The more I study science, the more I believe in God.'

Therefore they would believe that Science tells us **HOW** things happened whereas the Bible tells us **WHY**.

Creationism (intelligent design theory) is a theory which states that God did create the world (the Grand Canyon is evidence of Noah's flood) and shows that the world is only a few thousand years old. In some states in the USA the theory of evolution is not allowed to be taught in schools.

All Christians agree that:

- *The creation of the world was not an accident, but intended
- *God made everything in the world for a purpose
- *The world was created perfect
- *Humans were created 'in the image of God' therefore given responsibilities in the world.

Purpose of Mankind

Christians believe that humans were created to:

- Live in a loving relationship with God and so worship him. Humans are special because God created them differently to animals – he made Adam from dust and breathed in the breath of life, which is the 'soul'.
- Look after the world for God as **stewards**. There are different viewpoints on this:
 - ✠ In Genesis 1 it says "*rule over*" (which can be interpreted as 'people can do what they want – e.g. Dominion)
 - ✠ In Genesis 2 it says '*God took the man & put him in Eden to work it and take care of it*' (this is interpreted as humans should be stewards (caretakers))

Christians believe that God flooded the world (Noah) when man had misused it and this should be a warning to Christians.

Humanist views on creation:

- *Religious explanations are unreliable.
- *Evidence of evolution and that the world formed gradually over billions of years.

'The humanist perspective places a strong emphasis on personal responsibility for our actions and the importance of social co-operation, and we very much hope that Humanists for a Better World can build upon this tradition.' (BHA) – The world is our responsibility and H4BW campaign on environmental issues.

Intelligent Design – We are too complex to have evolved randomly (eg, human eye).

✠ **Teleological Argument (Design Argument)** – **Paley's** watch. Paley said that just as a watch shows there is a designer the world shows evidence of design and purpose therefore there must a designer which is God. Dawkins argues this can be explained by natural selection.

✠ **Cosmological Argument (First Cause Argument)** – **Aquinas** said that everything must have a cause; therefore the world has a cause. Because you can't keep going back and back you have to come to a First Cause (which is something special and does not have a cause) and this is God.

Biblical teaching on taking care of the world and animals

Christians believe that humans are superior to animals because:

- People are made in “*the image of God*” (they have part of God inside them) and have **souls** which animals do not
- People make moral decisions whilst animals act on instinct
- Adam named all the animals (Genesis 2) which shows him to be in charge
- Human life is **sacred** (special or holy) but animal life is not
- ‘Love your neighbour applies to humans not animals, so we can kill them for meat.
- God told Adam to ‘Rule over every living creature.’

Even though they are in charge (have **dominion**) humans should not be greedy and wasteful but should think about God and care for the poor and the animals (stewardship):

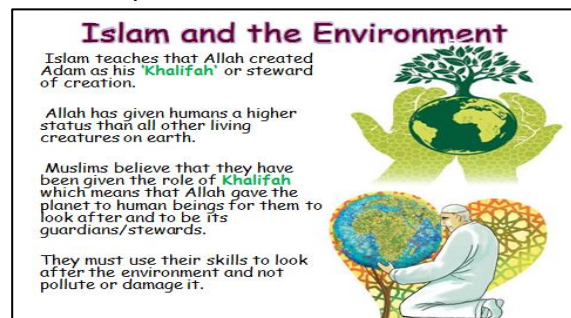
- The Old Testament tells Christians to ‘conserve’ the world’s resources & not overuse them: *‘When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow’* (Deuteronomy).
- The New Testament teaches “*the love of money is the root of evil*” meaning that people should not make money at the expense of the environment or poor.
- Old Testament teaches to treat animals fairly “*Do not muzzle an ox*” when it is working (Deuteronomy 25:4). The 4th Commandment says animals as well as people should rest on the Sabbath.
- God’s rules to Noah (**Noachide** Laws in Jewish teaching: the Talmud) said not to be cruel to animals

Christians help others and the environment because they are **stewards** following the teachings in the parables of ‘*The Good Samaritan*’ and ‘*The Sheep and the Goats*’.

- They also remember they are looking after the world for God and future generations.

Christian Response to environmental issues:

- Christians thank God for his gift of the world at **Harvest Festival**
- **Lent** – some Christians give up something they like (e.g. chocolate) so they can give the money they would have spent to charity
- **Chico Mendes** – used non-violence to stop deforestation and was murdered.
- Christians will try to modify their lifestyle:
 - Buy **Fair Trade** goods (to help the Third World)
 - Recycle – avoid wasteful packaging
 - Make sure they do not waste food
 - Support CAFOD or Christian Aid who have long-term projects in the Third World such as providing clean water & educating the farmers in conservation
 - Join a conservation organisation such as Greenpeace or World Wildlife Fund



*Muslims believe they will be judged on how well they have taken care of the earth.

* ‘The earth is green and beautiful. Allah has appointed you his stewards over it.’

*There is a pattern and balance in the universe known as fitrah. Our job is to maintain fitrah by living sustainable lifestyles.

Humanists:

Most humanists agree with the idea of stewardship, but because it makes sense to care for our habitat rather than because it was a gift from a supernatural being. (Humanists for a better world)

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Christians believe that life is precious and is given as a gift from God and therefore it belongs to Him. Only God has the right to give life and only God has the right to take it away. Life has a purpose and should be protected. Different denominations interpret this differently and it's very important to refer to these in your exam questions.

* *Your body is a temple of the holy spirit.*

* *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.*

Humanists see a special value in life but not because it comes from God. There is no life after death and we do not have souls. Life is precious because we only have one. Humanists believe our purpose on earth is to make ourselves and each other as happy as possible, so life is not sacred, but worthy of the highest respect.

The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable.

How is it measured?

How much pain someone is in, the extent to which human rights are granted, social and living conditions, disability, ability to feed yourself and go to the toilet. There are problems with trying to measure these.

Some say if someone has a poor quality of life, they should have the right to die.

HUMANIST VIEWS ON ABORTION

Humanists have a situation ethics approach to abortion, that they should try and do the kindest thing that will do least harm.

Not all humanists will agree on the best thing to do, but many take a 'pro-choice' stance.

Abortion should be a personal choice based on individual circumstances.

ABORTION

Abortion is only allowed in Great Britain if two doctors agree to one of the following:

The mother's **life is at risk**;

The mother's **physical or mental health** is at risk;

The **child** is very likely to be **born severely handicapped**;

There would be a serious effect on **other children in the family**.

Abortions cannot be carried out after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

When do you think life begins?

People who argue about abortion often argue about when life begins:

Some say it begins as soon as an **egg is fertilised**;

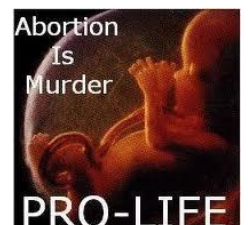
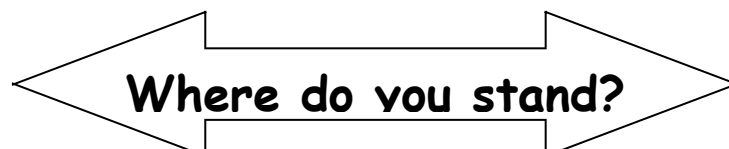
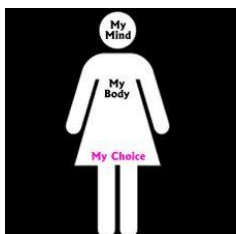
Others say it **begins when it receives a soul** (about 15 weeks);

Others say **when the heart starts beating** or the **brain develops**;

Others say life only begins **when the foetus can survive outside the womb - AT BIRTH.**

Abortion is a controversial issue!

- If **life begins at conception**, then abortion is taking a human life
- However if **life begins when the foetus is born**, then abortion is not taking life.
- **Pro-choice**—a woman should have the right to do what she wants with her own body. If a woman has been raped it should be ok. It is kinder to abort a severely disabled child, babies have a right to be loved.
- **Pro-life**— all life should be protected, especially unborn life because it cannot defend itself. Life begins at conception, disabled children have a right to life, adoption is an alternative.
- Some people argue that the time limit should be reduced to 18 or 20 weeks.
- Should medical staff have to carry out abortions?



CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Christians believe that life is precious and is given as a gift from God and therefore it belongs to Him. Only God has the right to give life and only God has the right to take it away. Life has a purpose and should be protected.

Against Abortion—The Roman Catholic Church

Roman Catholics think that all forms of abortion are sinful and should not be allowed.

They base their beliefs on certain Christian teachings:

The Didache states: 'You shall not kill the embryo by abortion.'

The belief that life begins at the moment of conception so abortion is murder

The belief that the unborn child is created in the image of God and is one for whom Jesus, the Son of God died;

The belief that every human being has a right to life

CATHOLICS



Believes that abortion is wrong but will allow it in SOME circumstances—Church of England

Other Protestants (e.g. the Church of England) disagree with abortion, but think that in certain circumstances it is necessary to choose **the lesser of two evils** and so abortion must be allowed.

Such Christians base their attitude on the following Christian teachings:

The General Synod states: '*The Church of England combines strong opposition to abortion with a recognition that there can be - strictly limited- conditions under which it may be morally preferable to any available alternative.*'

They believe Jesus' command to love your neighbour is the most important command;

They believe it is the duty of Christians to remove suffering.

Abortion is the best option if the Mothers life is at risk as she has Existing responsibilities.



MUSLIM ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION

Muslims have different attitudes to abortion.

MANY allow abortion up to 120 days of pregnancy for reasons such as the health of the mother or problems with the baby's health/ The effect of having the baby on the family can also be taken into consideration.

They have this attitude because:

- "Ensoulement" where the foetus receives a soul does not happen until 120 days
- The mother's life must always take priority as she has existing responsibilities
- *Abortion should be allowed in the case of incest or rape as it is a constant reminder and Allah is merciful
- *If a baby is suffering a serious defect or blood disorder it can be aborted before 120 days.

SOME Muslims disagree. They believe that abortion should never be allowed.

They believe this because:

- Life begins at the moment of conception
- The Qur'an says that murder is wrong and they think abortion is murder
- The Qur'an says 'no severer of womb ties will ever enter paradise.'
- *The Qur'an says not to kill your children for fear of want
- *The Qur'an also says "Whoever has spared the life of a soul, it is as though he has spared the life of all people.
- *On the Day of Judgement, Allah will question you on why you had an abortion.

OTHERS believe that abortion can be allowed ONLY if the mother's life is at risk.

They believe this because:

- The death of the unborn child is a lesser evil than the death of the mother and the mother's life must always take priority.



EUTHANASIA

3. Voluntary Euthanasia -

where a person has a painful terminal disease and cannot do anything for themselves. They ask someone else to kill them painlessly, for example by the doctor giving them a lethal dose of painkillers

4. Double Effect - this is the same idea as used in abortion. That if you give a patient drugs to relieve their pain knowing that it will kill them over a period of time

2. Assisted Suicide - where a person has such a painful terminal disease that they cannot obtain the means for suicide and they ask someone to give them the means to commit suicide

5. Not striving To Keep Alive - this is the idea used in medicine that if someone is suffering from a terminal illness everything possible should be done to cure them. If it doesn't work and they had a heart attack for example, then they should not go through resuscitation procedures

EUTHANASIA -
the action of inducing a quiet and easy death

1. Suicide - where a person knows they have a very painful, terminal (going to end in death) disease and commit suicide to give themselves a quiet and easy death

6. Non-Voluntary Euthanasia - where a person is not kept alive because they are regarded as having a life worse than death but cannot make the decision for themselves. Like a baby or a person in a coma



EUTHANASIA

British law says that assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia and non-voluntary euthanasia are murder.

HOWEVER the law now agrees that stopping artificial feeding or not giving treatment (often called passive euthanasia) are not euthanasia at all and so are lawful.

Examples of people who wanted it: Dianne Pretty (motorneurones), Tony Bland (Hillsbrough), Daniel James flew to Switzerland to have it after a rugby injury.

Euthanasia is a controversial issue!

Many people want euthanasia to **remain illegal** because:

- There is always likely to be doubt as to whether it is what the person really wants
- There is also a problem as to whether the disease will end the life—what if a cure is found?
- It is the job of doctors to save lives, not end them. Would patients trust doctors who kill their patients?
- People might change their mind, but then it would be too late
- People would have to live with the fact that they helped someone to end their life
- *Life is sacred
- *People may be pressured into ending their life
- *Hospices provide high quality palliative care so there is no need for euthanasia.



Many people want euthanasia to **be made legal** because:

- Improvements in medicine mean that people who would have died are being kept alive, often in agony, and should have the right to die. Peter Singer is an atheist utilitarian who believes that not legalising euthanasia harms more people than it protects.
- Doctors can focus time and money on patients who want to live
- People can die with dignity in a painless way
- Judges have said in the past that can stop treatment (e.g. case of Tony
- *It relieves the family's burden
- *We put animals down if they are suffering so why not humans?
- *Living wills can be made where people ask not to be resuscitated. They can wear DNR bands.



CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS EUTHANASIA

REMEMBER THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Against Euthanasia—The Roman Catholic Church

Roman Catholics think that all forms of euthanasia are wrong BUT that switching off life support machines, not giving treatment that could cause distress or giving dying people painkillers are not euthanasia.

They base their beliefs on certain Christian teachings:

- The sanctity of life. Life is created by God so it is up to God when people die;
- They regard euthanasia as murder, which is forbidden in the Ten Commandments;
- If doctors say some is brain dead then they have already died, so switching off the machine is accepting what God has already decided;
- If you give painkillers to a dying person and they kill the person, this is not murder because your intention was to remove their pain, not to kill them (double effect).

Against Euthanasia—Church of England

Protestants (e.g. the Church of England) believe that any form of euthanasia is wrong.

Such Christians base their attitude on the following Christian teachings:

- They take the Bible teachings literally and the Bible forbids suicide;
 - Euthanasia is wrong because life is being ended by humans, not God; 'I give and take life.'
 - Euthanasia is murder, which is banned in the Ten Commandments;
 - Life is sacred and should only be taken by God.
- *Humans are made 'In His image.'
- *Hospices provide good care for the dying and their families and help prepare them for death.

HOWEVER there are a few Christians who accept euthanasia. This is because...

- The teaching of Jesus on loving your neighbour can be used; euthanasia might be the most loving thing to do.
 - How do we know that God might want someone to die but doctors are keeping them alive?
- *It may be the lesser of two evils if the person has no quality of life.

Humanists believe it should be legalised for people who are in 'permanent and incurable suffering.' It should be a human right.

MUSLIM ATTITUDES TOWARDS EUTHANASIA

ALL Muslims are *AGAINST* euthanasia.

They believe this because:

- The Qur'an says that 'Allah fixes the time span of all things'
- Most Muslims believe that voluntary euthanasia is the same as assisted suicide—so wrong
- Euthanasia is making yourself equal with Allah, which is a sin
- Euthanasia is murder, which is banned in the Qur'an
- Muslims believe that life is a test from Allah and so if people use euthanasia they are cheating in the test by trying to speed it up

*The Qur'an says 'No one dies unless God permits.'

*It is a Muslims duty to care for the sick and dying.

*The Qur'an says "Whoever kills himself with an iron instrument will be carrying it forever in Hell. Whoever takes poison and kills himself will forever keep sipping it in Hell. Whoever jumps off a mountain and kills himself will forever keep falling down in the depths of Hell."

*Darar is a principal of injury that demands that no one should be hurt or cause hurt to others.

HOWEVER....some Muslims would argue that switching off a life support machine is not euthanasia.

They believe this because:

- Some Muslims lawyers have agreed to switching off life support machines when there are no signs of life
- *Some Muslims would say that terminally ill patients do not have to carry on with their treatment if it is causing them and their family hardship.
- If someone is brain dead, then Allah has already taken their life



Beliefs about life after death

DUALISM - We are made of two separate parts, a spiritual soul and a material body. The soul lives on when the body dies.

MATERIALISM - All we have is a body. There is no soul or spirit.

ENSOULMENT - The moment when the soul enters in to the baby's body.

Christian beliefs about life after death

All Christians believe that there is life after death because:

- Jesus rose from the dead as this is what is recorded in the Gospels and the New Testament of the Bible. This proves there is life after death.
- The Jesus says that there is life after death; 'Those who live and believe in me will never die.'
- The creeds of the church teach that Jesus rose from the dead and that there will be life after death. It states 'He will come again to judge the living and the dead.'
- Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be with him in paradise.



What happens when you die according to Christians?



Non dualists

Many Christians believe that when people die they stay in the grave until the end of the world when God will raise everyone and judge everyone. Their soul is temporarily separated from their body when they die, but will be reunited on judgement day.

They believe in resurrection of the body because:

- St Paul said in the Bible that our bodies will rise from the dead like Jesus
- It was Jesus' body that rose from the dead.

Dualists

They believe we are made form two separate parts, body and soul. When people die their soul goes straight to heaven but their body decays in the ground. Only the soul goes to heaven.

They believe this because:

- Jesus said the criminal cross would be in paradise straight after death
- Things like near-death experiences when people say their soul has left their body and gone down a tunnel of light to God show the immortality of the soul.

Evangelical Christians believe in the resurrection of the body and immortality of the soul because the Creed says 'I believe in the resurrection of the body and everlasting life.' Catholics believe in Judgement Day because the Creed says 'He will come again to judge the living and the dead.'

Humanists are materialists so don't believe in the soul.

Section 2: Matters of life and death...

Christians believe that there is life after death:

- If they are good they will go to heaven when they die but if they are bad they will go to hell
- that the death of Jesus was a sign from God saying that man's sins were forgiven - Jesus' death conquered evil
- the resurrection of Jesus showed that if men **repent** and follow God they can go to heaven
- death and sin entered the world because Adam & Eve disobeyed God - yet the death of Jesus re-opened the door to heaven
- **Judgement Day** - Jesus will return (*Parousia*) and will judge people on how they have lived their lives to determine whether they go to heaven or hell

What happens at death?

- Some Christians believe that if God lets them they will go to heaven immediately
- Some believe they have to wait until Judgement Day (the *Parousia*) when Jesus will return to judge people

Heaven and Hell

- **Heaven** is traditionally seen as a physical place where God is. Christians believe they will meet up with relatives & friends. Jesus called it 'Paradise' or "my father's house" a 'mansion with many rooms') or it can be seen as "being with God" (modern view).
- **Book of Revelation** (last book in the Bible) calls it a "new earth" where there will be no more tears & suffering
- **Hell** can be an actual place of "a lake of everlasting fire", "torment and suffering" (*Parable of Rich Man & Lazarus*) where Satan lives. Or it can be on earth when man is separate from God - a state of unhappiness. Some Protestants don't believe in Hell.
- **Purgatory** (Catholic view) is the place before heaven where people go to have their sins cleansed. People say prayers for souls to be released from Purgatory. In the Middle Ages people paid money to the church so that their sins would be forgiven and they would spend less time in Purgatory.



The Soul

- Is the "breath of life" which God gave Adam when he created Adam from dust.
- The soul is what makes human beings special/separate from all the rest of creation.
- It returns to heaven/God after death.
- The soul is eternal (it never dies)

Some Christians believe a new soul is created for each new life which God creates

What goes to heaven?

- Some Christians believe the whole body & soul goes up to heaven (so cremation not allowed)
- Some Christians believe it is only the soul which goes up to heaven (so cremation allowed)
- Some Christians believe in the teachings of St. Paul that they will get a new body when they get to heaven
- The body houses the soul. The soul tries to please God but the body wants its desired and pleasures to be fulfilled.

Section 2: Matters of life and death...

THE EFFECT OF BELIEF IN THE AFTERLIFE ON CHRISTIAN LIVES

- Christians believe what happens to them after they die will be based on how they have lived this life. This means that Christians will try to live a good Christian life following the teachings of the Bible and the Church so that they go to heaven when they die.
- Living a good Christian life means loving God and loving your neighbour as yourself. This means that Christians will pray every day and by worshipping God every Sunday.
- In the parable of the Sheep and Goats Jesus said that Christians should feed the hungry, clothe the naked, befriend strangers and visit the sick. Jesus taught in the Good Samaritan that loving your neighbour means helping anyone in need. This is why some Christians work for charities such as Christian Aid or CAFOD.
- Christians believe that sin can prevent you from going to heaven; some believe that those who die with unforgiven sins will go to hell. This means that Christians will try to avoid committing sins in their lives so they will go to heaven. Catholics may also go to confession to ask for forgiveness.
- *Some may choose to dedicate their lives to God through jobs such as a nurse or doctor and helping others by becoming a priest.

GOD

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

ISLAMIC BELIEFS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH

What happens?

The angel of death takes a person's soul to barzakh for judgement-Allah judges you on the way you lived your life - On the Day of Judgement the body is resurrected - Two angels open a book which contains what a person has done in their lifetime - if their name is on the right, they go to Jannah, and if it's on the left they go to Jahannam.

Why do Muslims believe in life after death and judgement?

- The Qur'an teaches that there is hell because it says 'I warn you of the flaming fire. None will be cast into it but the most wretched.' They also believe Allah is merciful.
- Muhammad taught that there is life after death and that Allah judges our hearts and minds.
- A belief in life after death is one of the six fundamental beliefs of Islam which all Muslims are expected to follow.
- Muslims believe that life is a test from God which must involve a judgement as to how they have done in the test, with a reward for those who pass. This reward is a life after death in heaven.
- Many Muslims believe a life after death gives your life a purpose because for life to end at death doesn't make sense. If you get to spend eternity in heaven then that gives your life meaning.

Muslims believe in **BODILY RESURRECTION**. This means that your body as well as your soul will go to heaven when you die.

As a result Muslims try to look after their bodies in preparation for the afterlife.

Jannah—Heaven / Jannah—Hell / Barzakh—waiting for judgement / Akhirah - the afterlife.

How do these beliefs affect the lives of Muslims?

- Islam teaches that on the Last Day, all humans will be judged by God. Muslims who have lived good lives will go to paradise and everyone else will go to hell. Therefore Muslims try to lead good lives. They could do this by following the example of Muhammad.
 - This means following the Five Pillars (Praying, fasting, giving to charity, going on Hajj/pilgrimage) which have a major impact on their lives.
 - Living a good life also means eating Halal food, observing Muslim dress laws, not drinking alcohol and not gambling.
 - Muslims believe in resurrection so nothing should be removed from the body after death. Muslims try to avoid post-mortems and many Muslims have concerns about transplant surgery.
- *Muslims are taught that 'Paradise lies at the feet of your mother' so they may try to respect their parents.

How do funeral rites reflect people's beliefs about the afterlife?

Christian ceremony

BIBLE READING:

These reflect Christian ideas about the afterlife and spending eternal life after death with God. A common one is 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.'

PRAYERS:

Prayers are said for the deceased and their family and friends left behind. Many focus on asking God to give the bereaved strength. The deceased is also entrusted in God's care. Catholics will often pray for the soul of the deceased to be cleansed and send them on their journey into the afterlife.

EULOGY:

This is a speech or talk given by a vicar or close family relative. The life of the deceased is spoken about and remembered with memories being shared.

HYMNS:

These are sung during the funeral service. 'The Lord's my shepherd' is a popular choice. One line says even when I am in 'the valley of the shadow of death', God is still by my side. Meaning he will comfort the bereaved and be with the deceased.

EUCCHARIST:

Some Christians, mainly Catholics celebrate the Eucharist during the funeral service. It reminds people of the death and resurrection of Jesus and brings hope for eternal life with God. It is where the bread and wine are eaten.

THE COMMITTAL:

After the service the body is buried or cremated. If buried then prayers are said at the graveside. The body is committed to the earth with the words 'Ashes to ashes dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.'

Humanist ceremonies:

Some people choose to have a non-religious funeral where they can choose songs and readings without mentioning God. A humanist funeral will remember the life of the person who has died, and their contribution to the world and others. It may include:

Music

A non-religious reflection on death

Readings of Poems

Stories about the deceased

A eulogy

Lighting a candle

Moments of quiet reflection.

The ceremony will not refer to ideas about going to a better place.

Muslim ceremony

THE SHAHADAH:

This is the statement 'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.' These words are also whispered to a new born baby and remind Muslims that at death we are returning to our creator.

GHUS:

This is where the body is washed and wrapped in a white shroud. White represents purity and equality, all are equal in death before Allah. If possible the funeral happens within 24 hours of death. Bodies are buried not cremated as they need their bodies for the Day of Judgement.

QUR'AN READING:

At the graveside they recite the first chapter of the Qur'an 'In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds.' This shows the power and greatness of Allah and the belief he will bring people back to life.

NO GRAVESTONE:

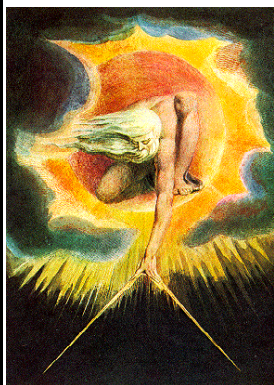
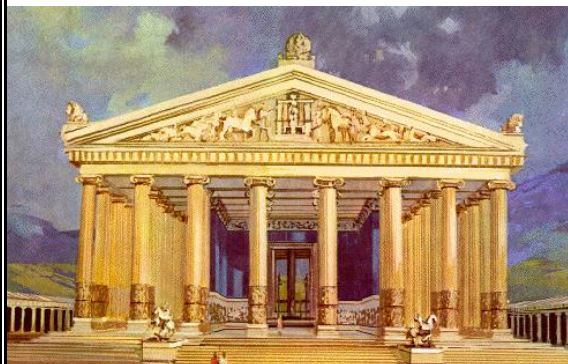
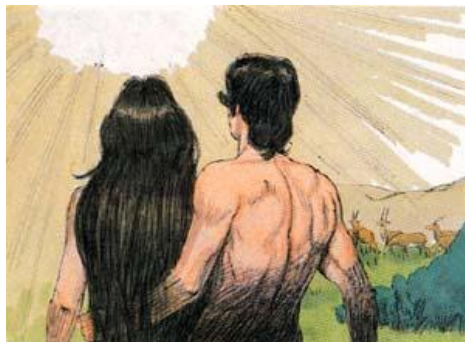
To show that all are equal in death. When the body is in the grave they say 'From the earth We created you. And into it We shall cause you to return and from it We shall bring you forth once more.'



Activity - Matters of life and death...

ACTIVITY - SANCTITY OF LIFE

Remember in all questions on Medical Ethics you must refer to the Sanctity of Life. The term "Sanctity of Life" means that *all life is special to God*. Below are pictures - link these up to the quotes from the Bible which show that all life is special to God.



St. Paul taught: *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit"* (1 Corinthians 6: 19a).

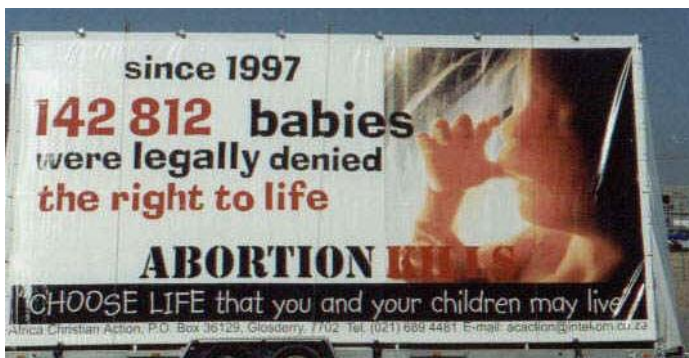
"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away" (Job 1: 21) – only God has the power to know when life should end

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

Activity - Matters of life and death...

ACTIVITY: ABORTION



Christians are divided about whether abortion is the right thing to do. In the boxes below give Christian reasons (using quotes) why abortion may be right or may be wrong. Most Muslims are against it.

What God told Moses about Abortion



Muslim views on abortion...

Different Christian views on abortion...

Activity - Matters of life and death...

ACTIVITY: EUTHANASIA

Question: What is meant by euthanasia?

.....

Again there is debate between Christians on whether Euthanasia is the right or wrong thing to do. Since there is nothing in the Bible which refers to Euthanasia Christians look to teachings on the Sanctity of Life and also the teachings of their Church leaders. In the speech bubbles below give reasons why it is considered wrong or right. You must refer to religious teachings. Most Muslims are against it.

Different Christian views on euthanasia...

Different Muslim views on euthanasia ...

Why are Hospices important?

Section 2: Activity - Matters of life and death...

Heaven



Hell



Purgatory



What are the different Christian ideas about heaven?

You need to mention traditional and modern ideas.

What are the different Christian ideas about hell? You need to mention traditional and modern ideas.

What do Catholics believe about Purgatory?

Why do Christians believe in life after death (heaven and hell)? What evidence do they have?

Which parables of Jesus describe heaven and hell?

Activity - Matters of life and death...

Task: Create a sentence about Muslim views on the afterlife including each word below:

- Barzakh

.....

- Jahannam

.....

- Jannah

.....

- **Shari'ah**

.....

- Jews

.....

- Mercy

.....

- Angels

.....

- Judgement

.....

Muslims believe Allah decides if Muslims will remain in Paradise or Hell for eternity because the Qur'an says 'Their status in Heaven and Hell may last for eternity, but this is subject to God's will and mercy.'

Jannah (Heaven) is described as a beautiful garden, full of flowers, birds and running water. There are also beautiful women and delicious food there. Jahannam is described as a place where people face terrible punishment, torment, fire, smoke and burning.

The Qur'an teaches those who live a good life will 'sit on gold-encrusted thrones of happiness...where immortal youths will wait upon them.' Not all Muslims believe Paradise and Hell are literal places, some believe they are metaphors. Paradise is being with Allah and Hell is being without him.

To ensure they go to Jannah, Muslims follow the teachings of the Qur'an and Muhammad, and try to obey **Shari'ah** law. As Muslims believe in resurrection, they do not cremate their bodies.

Some Muslims believe that only Muslims go to Paradise, but others believe that some Christians, Jews and people who have led a morally good life can get there too.

Activity - Matters of life and death...

ACTIVITY: The Christian concept of God/Jesus as a Judge

Christians believe that at the end of time Jesus will return to earth as a Judge. He will sort people out into good (sheep) and bad (goats).



What did the goats NOT do?*

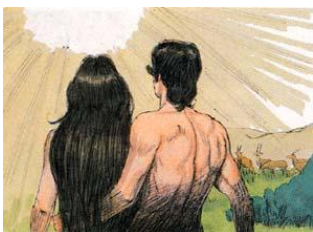
What did the sheep do?*

What does the word 'repent' mean?

ACTIVITY - Christian ideas about the origins of the world and humanity

Genesis 1: Christians believe that God created the world in six days and then rested on the seventh. Fill in the blanks and then link the pictures to the correct boxes:

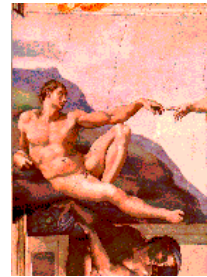
<p>In the beginning there was nothing</p>	<p>On the first day God said "Let there be"</p>	<p>On the second day God said "Separate the from the"</p>	<p>On the third day God said "Let there be"</p>
<p>On the fourth day God said "Let there be" </p>	<p>On the fifth day God said "Let there be"</p>	<p>On the sixth day God said "Let there be" And"</p>	<p>On the seventh day God saw that it was and He the world and then He rested.</p>



**ACTIVITY - Christian ideas about the origins of the world and humanity
(continued)**

Genesis 2: God makes the earth and the heavens and streams water the ground then God makes man...

From the pictures below explain how Adam and Eve were made:



Eve was created by:

Why did God create Eve?

.....



Genesis 1 shows God to be:

Genesis 2 shows God to be:



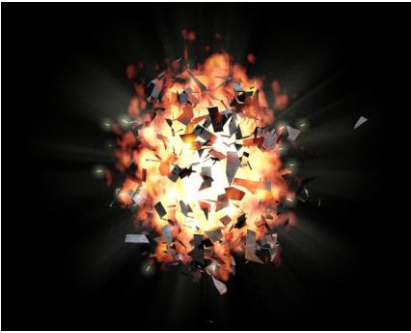

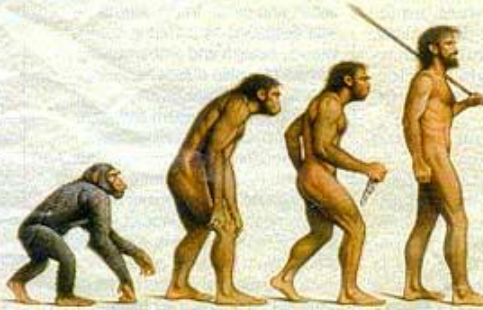

How and why was Adam created? (What is the purpose of human beings?)

.....

.....

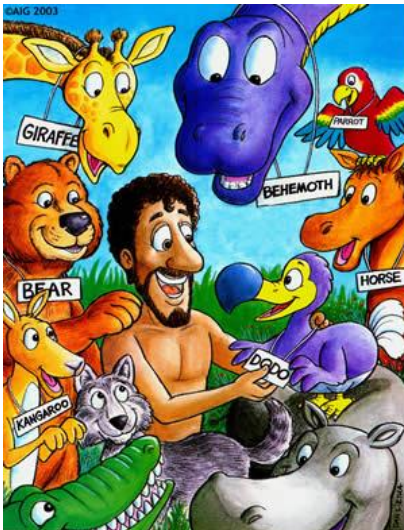
ACTIVITY: Scientific ideas about the origins of the world and humanity

In the frame below there are six pictures and three statements (sentences). Your task is to link up two of the pictures to the correct statement.

<p>1.</p> <p>Scientists believe They believe the world began with a Big Bang. Their theory is based on the evidence of cosmic radiation and the fact the universe is still expanding.</p>	<p>A</p> 	<p>B</p> 
<p>C</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Charles Lyell said the world was much older than the Bible said. He said it was millions of years old. He could prove this by rock formations and through fossils which showed that dinosaurs had once been on earth.</p>	<p>D</p> 
 <p>E</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Charles Darwin believed that humans were not made by God but evolved (came about) through changes in animals. He believed humans came from monkeys.</p>	<p>F</p> 

ACTIVITY: Christian views about what sets people apart from animals (makes them different)

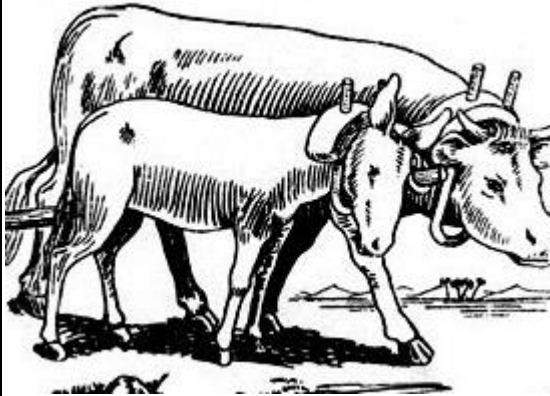
In the boxes below explain the images which show why some Christians believe humans are more important than animals.



So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis

ACTIVITY: Christian views on treating animals kindly.

How do the pictures below relate to Christians ideas that animals should be treated kindly.



GOD

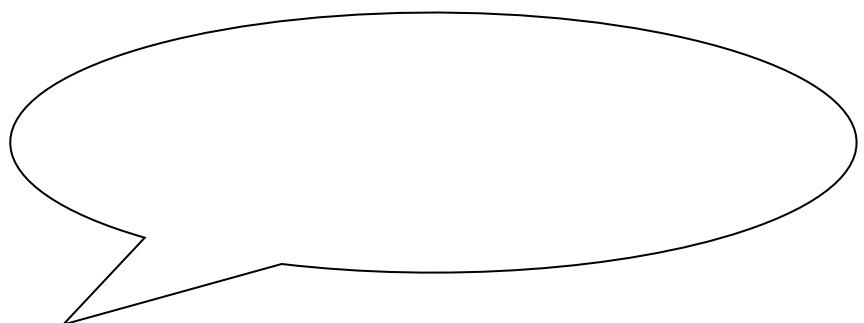
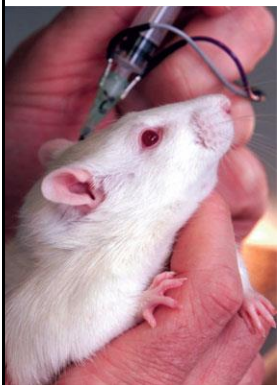
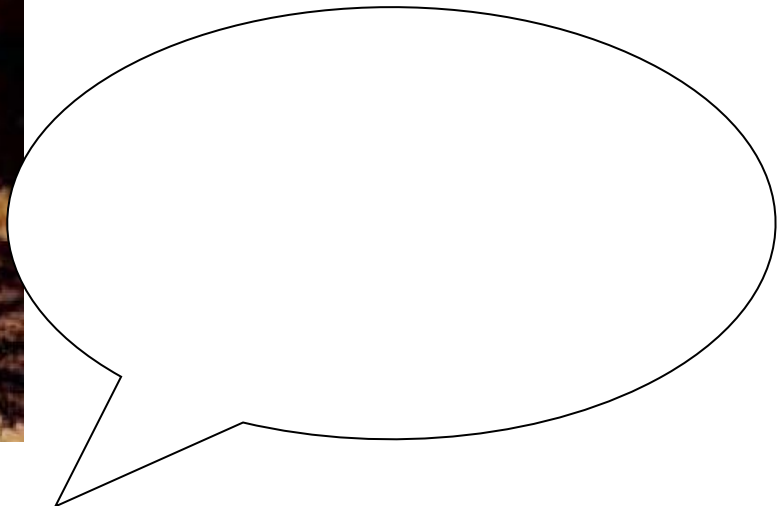
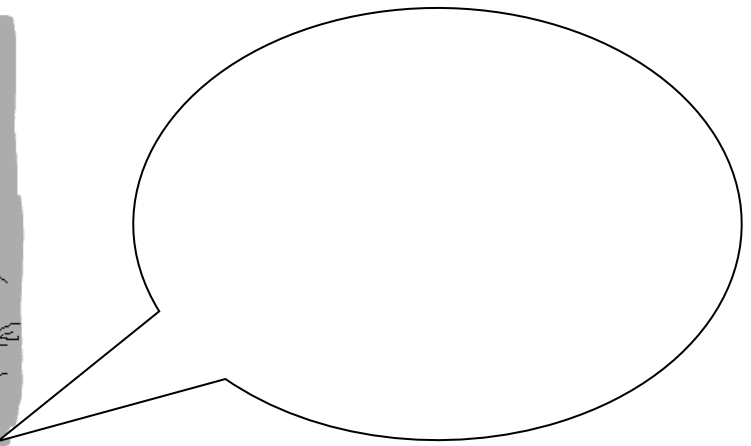
- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy



ACTIVITY: Animal Testing

If some Christians believe that they have “dominion” over animals, in other words they follow God’s command to “rule over” the animals, and they also believe that human beings are more important than animals, then they see no reason why they cannot use animals to test drugs to make human beings well.

Using the pictures below explain how a Christian would respond (what would they say/do) and try and support your answer with a Christian teaching.



ACTIVITY: The Christian idea of “Stewardship”

1. What does the word “steward” mean?

.....

2. Why do Christians believe it is important to look after the world?

.....

3. The following is a saying from the Bible – what do some Christians believe it means? *“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 birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”* (Genesis 1: 28).

.....

.....

4. What does this next saying from the Bible say? Is it giving a different message to the quote from question 3? *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”* (Genesis 2: 15).

.....

.....

5. Why does the second great commandment from Jesus “Love thy neighbour” fit in with the Christian ideas of Stewardship?

.....

.....

.....

ACTIVITY: Christian responses to environmental issues



Our 'throw-away' society

Why would a Christian feel it is important to be involved in looking after the world?

What did Chico Mendes do and why?



What can an ordinary Christian do to help the world?

KS4 Tips for answering each type of question - 1 minute per mark

How to do better (a) answers (2 marks) DEFINE:

- **Learn** the definition from the list you are given. Your definition must be the same, fully accurate and show your understanding of the concept or word.

How to do better (b) answers (5 marks) - DESCRIBE: You will be asked to demonstrate knowledge and understanding by describing a belief, teaching, practice, event etc.

- Give **two** or **three** paragraphs to describe or explain the belief or practice you are being asked about.
- **Develop** your descriptions/reasons - use examples, quotes or evidence that you have covered in the lessons beforehand (PEEL).
- Your evidence must be from **Christianity** or **Hinduism**.
- Use some **key terms** in your answer.
- Explain how the belief impacts upon religious people, you could use examples here.

(Point) Start by directly addressing the question and making a basic point.

(Evidence) Explain your point referring to religious teachings - 'This is because in the Bible/Hindu scriptures...'

(Explain) Explain what this shows in relation to the question - 'This means that...'

(Link to life) Explain how this may affect the lives of believers - 'This could affect the life of a Hindu/Christian because...' OR explain how this might affect communities.

How to do better (c) answers (8 marks) - EXPLAIN: These will ask you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a topic, supporting the statements made with reasoning and/or evidence e.g.

Explain how ..

Explain why ..

Explain the main features of ..

Explain the importance/ significance of ..

TIPS:

- Aim to fill all your writing space (between two and four paragraphs).
- Each point you make needs to be developed with **further explanation** or a detailed example, quote or evidence (PEEL-PEEL-PEEL-PEEL)
- **Key words** should be used.
- Check if you are being asked for two different religious traditions in your answer.

P- Some Christians/Hindus believe that... E - 'This is because in the Bible/Hindu scriptures it says' OR 'Jesus/one of the gods/goddesses taught' OR 'For example' OR 'This is because... E'- This means/shows that...(use the wording of the question to explain what your evidence/example shows in relation to the question). L - 'This may affect/mean that... (Link the belief to how it might affect someone's life or affect a community/society).

If you are being asked to explain from two different religious traditions, make sure you say 'Some Hindus/Christians believe...' and another paragraph beginning 'Other Hindus/Christians...'

You could use specific denominations here eg. 'Catholics believe...whereas Protestants believe...'

How to do better (d) answers (15 marks) - **DISCUSS**: These will ask you to evaluate a view from more than one perspective.

'Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (you must refer to religion and belief in your answer)'.

- You must give **reasons** for and **against** the statement (you could refer to different denominations).
- You must say if you think each argument you use is a **strong or weak** one and explain your reasons for this.
- Each reason needs to be **fully explained and** not just a point.
- You need to use **religious teachings/examples** to support some of your points.
- You must include a non-religious viewpoint in some and can use examples/evidence to support these.
- You must use **key terms**.
- You must reach a **conclusion** explaining the reasons for your **own opinion**.

Below is an outline of how you might choose to structure a successful answer to the 'd' questions. It is not the only way to answer them, but gives you a good guide for how you could achieve full marks:

Many.....(Christians/Buddhists/people) would agree with this because.....for example.....(link with religion and belief)

Furthermore, they might also say that.....because/for example.....(expanded or different viewpoint - link with sources of authority)

These arguments are valid/weak/strong/make sense because.....(formulating judgements)

On the other hand/however/additionally... (alternative or opposing views) some.....might disagree because.....(link with religion and belief)

In addition they could argue that.....(expanded or different view - link with sources of authority and show the effects of belief on practice/life/communities)

These arguments are valid/weak/strong/make sense because.....(formulating judgements)

Conclusion with own opinion given. Use it as another opportunity to link with religion and belief e.g. 'Like many Christians/Buddhists/Atheists, I would argue that.....'

You will sit two GCSE exams, each lasting 2 hours.

One will be on 'Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world' and will cover the four themes you have studied (Relationships, life and death, good and evil and human rights).

The second exam will cover the two religions you have studied split into two units each (Christian beliefs and teachings, Christian practices, Hindu beliefs and teachings, Hindu practices). Each unit on the exam will be worth 30 marks meaning you will spend 30 minutes on each of the four units.

SAMPLE GCSE QUESTIONS

(a) What is meant by 'sanctity of life'? [2]

(b) Why might there be differences of belief about creation within the same religion? [5]

(c) Explain how one funeral ceremony can reflect belief about life after death. [8]

(d) "Euthanasia should be made legal." [15]

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to **religious and non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists**, in your answer.)

(A) What is meant by 'soul'? [2]

(B) Describe Christian beliefs about judgement. [5]

(C) Explain how their beliefs about life after death affect the lives of Christians. [8]

(D) 'Religious people should never have abortions.' [15]

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to **religious and non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists**, in your answer.)

(A) What is meant by 'quality of life'?

(B) Describe what Christians believe about the sanctity of life. [5]

(C) Explain from different religions, or different religious traditions, beliefs about stewardship. [8]

(D) 'Religion and science are opposed to each other.' [15]

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to **religious and non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists**, in your answer.)