

Paper 2: Thematic Studies

B: Religion and life

Vocabulary

Topic target words	
Abortion	The deliberate ending of a pregnancy
Afterlife	Beliefs about what happens to 'us' after our body has died
Animal experimentation	The use of animals for medical research and product testing
Awe and Wonder	Sense of wonderment at nature
Dominion	Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world
Ensoulment	When Muslims believe the foetus is given a soul. Happens either 40 or 120 days after conception
Euthanasia	Assisting with the ending of life for a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness; often known as assisted suicide.
Quality of life	The standard of health, comfort and happiness/ fulfilment experienced by a person or group
Sanctity of life	Belief that life is sacred/special because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals
Stewardship	Duty given by God to humankind to look after the created world, and all life within it

Useful words	
Anglican	A member of the Church of England (a Protestant Church)
Authority	The power to make decisions
Big Bang theory	Scientific theory about the origins of the universe
Catholic Church	The tradition within the Christian Church which is led by the Pope

Useful words	
Conception	When the male sperm fertilises the female ovum (egg)
Deforestation	Cutting down large areas of forest
Environment	The world around us
Evolution	Scientific theory of the development of species which involves a process of natural selection and survival of the fittest.
Fundamentalist Christian	A Christian who believes in a strict, literal interpretation of the Bible
Infinite	Limitless
Lesser of two evils	The less unpleasant of two choices, neither of which is good
Liberal Christian	A Christian who thinks that traditional beliefs can be changed
Natural resources	Resources which are found in nature – fossil fuels (eg coal, oil, natural gas), plants etc
Non-renewable resources	Resources from the earth that will eventually run out
Passive euthanasia	Quickening a natural death by stopping treatment
Pollution	Contamination of an environment with harmful substances.
Sacred	Connected to God
Scientific	Knowledge based on what can be observed (eg regularities in nature) and experimentation
Shari'ah Law	Islamic law based on the Qur'an, Hadith and Sunnah
Sustain	Cause to continue without interruption
Vegan	A person who does not eat or use anything that has come from an animal
Vegetarian	A person who does not eat meat or fish

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Origin and value of the universe

Christian beliefs about creation

1. **God** created the world in 6 days, as told in **Genesis 1:1-3**.
2. Day 1: Light, Day 2: Sky, Day 3: Seas, land, plants, Day 4: Sun, moon, stars, Day 5: Fish, birds, Day 6: Animals, humans.
3. **Fundamentalist Christians**: the Bible is the word of God, therefore **Genesis 1:1-3** is the literal truth.
4. **Liberal Christians**: the **Bible** is poetry and a metaphor. Therefore they believe **God** played a role in **creation**. Some may accept the **big bang theory**, or believe that it happened as described but not in '6 earth days'.

Scientific explanations about creation

1. The **Big Bang theory**: the universe was created through the rapid expansion of a singularity 13.8 billion years ago.
2. Stars and planets formed as a result of this, including the earth.
3. The earth was formed about 4.5 billion years ago. The first life appeared about 3.7 billion years ago.
4. **Fundamentalist Christians** do not accept scientific views. The world was created by **God** in 6 days, as told in **Genesis 1**.
5. Many **liberal Christians** accept the **Big Bang theory**, believing that **God** was the cause, and he created the conditions that led to the development of life.

Muslim beliefs about creation

1. **God** created the world in 6 **phases**, or time periods.
2. The **Qur'an** does not say exactly what happened during each phase.
3. Most **Muslims** accept the **Big Bang theory's** explanation of *how* the world came into being.
4. For **Muslims** the **Qur'an** explains *why* the world came into being, and that it was because of **God's creative action**.

The value of the world

Christianity

1. The world is **valuable** because it was created by **God**.
2. It is full of examples of **God's infinite** power and gives a sense of amazement, awe and wonder.
3. It is our own home and provides and **sustains** life.

Islam

1. The world is seen the same way as a place of worship, so damaging it is a serious **sin**.
2. God's creation inspires **awe** and **wonder**.
3. It includes everything necessary for life and reflects the glory of **God**.

Christian sources of belief

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." (Genesis 1:1-3)

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen." (Romans 1:20)

"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4)

Muslim sources of belief

"The world is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you His stewards over it." (Hadith)

"The whole earth has been created as a place of worship." (Hadith)

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Use of animals and the environment

Caring for creation	
Christianity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship: God has given humans the responsibility of caring for the planet and stopping it from being ruined. Humans should care for animals and the environment and try to prevent abuse. Dominion: God gave humans the power and authority to rule over the world. Therefore it can be used for our benefit. A minority believe dominion means that we can use the environment in any way even if it means not caring for it.
Islam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship (khalifah): God created the world and gave humans the responsibility of taking care of the planet. People have a duty to look after the world for God and for future generations.

The use and abuse of creation continued	
Using natural resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.43 billion litres of oil are used a day world wide. 7.3 hectares of forest are lost each year. Other non-renewable resources are being used quickly. Deforestation, mining, quarrying and oil drilling all damage the environment.
Eating meat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity: eating meat is allowed. Some Christians are vegetarian or vegan due to environmental or animal welfare concerns. Islam: eating meat is allowed if the animal has been killed according to Shari’ah law.
Animal testing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity (stewardship): Using animals for experiments is not caring for them. Christianity (dominion): If it is the only safe way to develop medicines then it is acceptable. Christianity: animal testing for non-medicinal products is never acceptable. Islam: Only allowed to develop medicines as long as the animals are treated humanely and with care and suffering is kept to an absolute minimum.

Christian sources of belief
“God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Genesis 2:15
“The righteous care for the needs of their animals.” (Proverbs 12:10)
“Fill the earth and subdue it.” (Genesis 1:28)
“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.” (Pope Francis)
“Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you.” (Genesis 9:3)
“We must abandon laboratories and factories of death.” (Pope John Paul II)

The use and abuse of creation	
Pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Air: fumes from factories and vehicles Land: ineffective disposal of waste. Water: oil spills or dumping water into the sea.

Muslim sources of belief
“It is He who has made you successors on the earth.” (Qur’an 6:165)
“Every single Muslim that cultivates or plants anything of which humans, animals or birds may eat from is counted as charity towards them on his behalf.” (Hadith)
“Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement.” (Hadith)

Paper 2: Thematic Studies	B: Religion and life	Origin and value of human life				
<p>Christian beliefs about creation of humanity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Humanity was created by God. 2. Adam as created from the earth and God breathed life into him. Eve was created from Adam's rib. 3. Fundamentalist Christians: God created humans in the way described in the Bible, as the Bible is the word of God and the literal truth. 4. Liberal Christians: God created a role in the creation of humans (maybe by creating the beginnings of life) but not as described in the Bible. 	<p>Muslim beliefs about the creation of humanity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Humanity was created by God. 2. Adam as created from the earth and God breathed life into him. Eve was created from Adam's soul. 3. Some Muslims reject belief in evolution as it does not include the idea that humans were created separately by God. 4. Other Muslims accept belief in evolution as a key principle of modern biology. 	<p>Christian sources of belief</p> <p>"So God created mankind in his own image." (Genesis 1:27)</p> <p>"Then the Lord God formed a 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)</p> <p>"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12)</p> <p>"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)</p>				
<p>Scientific explanations about creation of humanity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theory of evolution: living organisms developed and diversified from earlier forms of life. 2. Humans evolved from primates and have a common ancestor with apes. 3. Fundamentalist Christians: do not accept scientific explanations because it contradicts Genesis. 4. Liberal Christians: accept evolution but believe that God plays a role in the creation by creating the beginnings of life, or by creating the conditions for life to develop. 	<p>The sanctity of life</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 772 976 1168">Christian</td> <td data-bbox="976 772 1460 1168"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All life is sacred because it was created by God. 2. The value of human life cannot be measured. 3. Only God can give and take life. 4. Giving someone a good quality of life is a basic teaching. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1168 976 1513">Muslim</td> <td data-bbox="976 1168 1460 1513"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All life is sacred because it was created by God. 2. Only God can give and take life. 3. Quality of life must also be considered when making decisions about the value of a life. </td> </tr> </table>	Christian	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All life is sacred because it was created by God. 2. The value of human life cannot be measured. 3. Only God can give and take life. 4. Giving someone a good quality of life is a basic teaching. 	Muslim	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All life is sacred because it was created by God. 2. Only God can give and take life. 3. Quality of life must also be considered when making decisions about the value of a life. 	<p>Muslim sources of belief</p> <p>"You [humans] were lifeless and He gave you life." (Qur'an 2:28)</p> <p>"If anyone kills a person... it as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it as if he saves the lives of all mankind." (Qur'an 5:32)</p> <p>"It is not possible for one to die except by permission of Allah." (Qur'an 3:145)</p>
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Medical ethics

Abortion		Euthanasia		Christian sources of belief	
Christian	1. Some Anglicans : Abortion is acceptable if it is the lesser of two evils .	Christian	1. Some Christians: passive euthanasia is acceptable if it is the most loving thing and merciful to do. 2. Taking a life is interfering with God's plan and only God can take a life, Deliberately ending a life is murder .	"Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31)	
	2. Life begins at conception so deliberately ending it is murder .			"Do not murder." (Exodus 20:13)	
Muslim	3. Catholic Church : Life is sacred so it should not be deliberately taken.	Muslim	1. Euthanasia is not allowed and it goes against the sanctity of life . 2. Only God decides when a person dies. 3. God has a plan for everyone, which may include the suffering they are facing. 4. Euthanasia is interpreted as suicide which is forbidden.	"Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception." (The Catholic Church)	
	1. Abortion is generally forbidden but allowed if it is the lesser of two evils .			"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)	
Ethical arguments	2. The life of the mother takes priority over the life of the child, but only if the mother's life or wellbeing is at risk.			"Blessed are the merciful." (Matthew 5:7)	
	3. If abortion is carried out it should be as early as possible and before ensoulment .			"There is ... a time to be born, and a time to die." (Ecclesiastes 3:2)	
	4. Abortion is not allowed if the parents cannot afford the child.			Muslim sources of belief	
	1. Pro-choice : The mother's life is more valuable as her life is not dependent on anyone else so her wishes should come first.			"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty - We shall provide for them and for you - killing them is a great sin." (Qur'an 17:31)	
	2. Pro-life : A potential life is valuable so the rights of the unborn come first and abortion is never acceptable.			"Do not take life, which God has made sacred, except by right." (Qur'an 17:33)	
				"No soul may die except with God's permission at a predestined time." (Qur'an 3:145)	