

Theme B: Religion and life – personal learning checklist

Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.

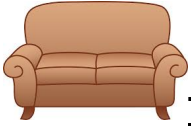
They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) **and one or more other religious traditions:**

Abortion	
Euthanasia	
Animal experimentation	
The origins and value of the universe	
The origins of the universe, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> religious teachings about the origins of the universe, and different interpretations of these the relationship between scientific views, such as the Big Bang theory, and religious views. 	
The value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it, including religious teaching about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder	
The use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources, pollution.	
The use and abuse of animals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> animal experimentation the use of animals for food. 	
The origins of human life	
The origins of life, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> religious teachings about the origins of human life, and different interpretations of these the relationship between scientific views, such as evolution, and religious views. 	
The concepts of sanctity of life and the quality of life.	
Ethical arguments related to abortion, including those based on the sanctity of life and quality of life.	
Euthanasia.	
Beliefs about death and an afterlife, and their impact on beliefs about the value of human life.	

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell you how you should answer the question.

Evaluate	Tests evaluation. It requires you to consider different viewpoints and arrive at a judgement.
Explain	Tests knowledge and understanding of beliefs, teachings and practices. It requires you to identify relevant points and demonstrate understanding by adding detail/development.
Explain how X may influence Y	Tests knowledge and understanding of (eg) how a religious belief or practice influences individuals or groups. This means how it would make them think feel or act.
Give	Tests recall of knowledge, eg two examples or two beliefs.
Similar	Nearly the same/lots in common
Contrasting	Different/opposite

Theme B Religion and life glossary	
Abortion	The deliberate ending of a pregnancy
Afterlife	Beliefs about what happens to us after our body has died; in many religions this relates to life after death or immortality in some form
Animal experimentation	The use of animals for medical research and product testing
Atheist	A person who does not believe in the existence of any gods
Awe and wonder	Sense of wonderment at nature; often linked to the feeling that God is involved/revealed through it
Big Bang Theory	Scientific theory about the origins of the universe; belief that the universe began almost 14 billion years ago with a reaction of particles from a singularity followed by a process of inflation and expansion
Charles Darwin	Famous scientist who developed the theory of evolution
Death	The end of the physical, bodily life
Dominion	Beliefs that humans have being given control/charge of the world
Environment	The world around us; this can be made up of natural or artificial surroundings
Eternity	A state that comes after death and never ends
Euthanasia	Assisting with the ending of life for a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness; often known as assisted suicide
Evolution	Scientific theory of the development of species which involves a process of natural selection and survival of the fittest
Ex nihilo	A Latin term meaning 'out of nothing'
Genesis	The first book in the Bible that tells of the creation of the world and humans
Heaven	A place of rest and reward where God exists
Hell	A place of torment and punishment for those that reject God
hospice	A place where terminally ill people can receive expert palliative care
Humanist	A person who chooses to live a good moral life without God or religion
Judgement day	A day in the future where God decides who goes to heaven or hell
Natural resources	Resources which are found in nature - fossil fuels (e/g/ coal, oil, natural gas), plants etc
Near Death experience	An experience that people may have where they visit heaven during a time near death
Palliative care	Care given by trained staff to the terminally ill to help their final days be pain free
Principle of utility	The concept of acting out of the greater good for the most people. (eg removing a dangerous criminal from society in order to protect others).
Pro Choice	The words used to describe being in favour of abortion
Pro Life	The words used to describe being against or anti-abortion
Purgatory	A Catholic belief in a middle state after death where a soul is purified before heaven
Quality of life	The standard of health, comfort and happiness/fulfilment experienced by a person or group
Responsibility	Have a duty or obligation to act in a certain way
Sanctity of Life	Belief that life is sacred/special because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals
Scientific	Knowledge based on what can be observed (e.g. regularities in nature) and experimentation
Situation Ethics	Whether something is right or wrong depends upon the situation and you should do the most loving thing
Stewardship	Duty given by God to humankind to look after the created world
Universe	All of time and space and its content; includes planets, stars galaxies, all matter and energy



Theme B Religion and life SofAs.

Old Testament

- “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” Genesis 1:1
- Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" Genesis 1:26
- “God saw all he had made, and it was very good” Genesis 1:31
- “Then the Lord 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
- “Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything” Genesis 9:3
- “Thou shall not commit murder” Exodus 20:13
- “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” Psalm 24
- “The righteous man cares for his animals.” Proverbs 12:10

New Testament

- “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your father knowing it... but you are worth more than many sparrows” Matthew 10:29- 31
- Parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25
- The rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16
- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you. (1 Corinthians 6v19)
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son. Who so ever believes in him will not die but will have eternal life” John 3:16
- “Love thy Neighbour” Matthew 22:39

Other

- “Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognised as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life... abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes...” Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- “I believe in I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:... the life everlasting and the resurrection of the body” The Apostle’s Creed

The origins of the universe. Christians believe that the universe was designed and made by God. He created **ex nihilo** meaning 'out of nothing'. In Genesis it states, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth" and that God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. Did this really happen? Creationists would say yes, exactly as it is written in the Bible. Others say it is true but could interpret the 6 days to mean longer periods of time. Other Christians say stories in Genesis have symbolic meaning. These Christians might look to science to help them understand how God did this.

The Big Bang theory. According to scientists, the universe began 13.8 billion years ago. It started as a singularity which has expanded and cooled down over time to form stars and planets. Most scientists agree that the universe had a beginning, but was God the 'first cause'?

The use and abuse of the environment. In Genesis, after creation it says "God saw that it was good" meaning that he was pleased with his creation. Most Christians therefore believe that people can use, but not abuse the planet. The increasing population means that non-renewable resources are running out, and deforestation is a problem. Scientists are developing alternative to fossil fuels that generate electricity through wind, wave power and the sun. Christians can help the planet by the 3Rs (reuse, reduce and recycle) as well as walking or cycling instead of driving, turning off lights not being used, selecting products that have a small amount of packaging.

The value of the world. Christians regard the world as a priceless gift from God, loaned to humans as a result of his love. The beauty of the world gives a sense of awe and wonder. The world is a very complex place and Christians believe that God is responsible for this.

Stewardship. Christians believe that God has given humans the privilege of living on planet Earth but with responsibility of looking after it and preventing it from being ruined. This comes from Genesis 2 where Adam is told to look after the Garden of Eden. People have been appointed by God to manage and preserve what God has given them.

Dominion. Christians are also taught that they were given power and authority to rule over the world "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky..." Some Christians have interpreted the "subdue the world" as meaning that they can do what they like with it because they are in charge. The majority of Christians believe they should be caretakers.

The use and abuse of animals. Many Christians believe that humans are more important than animals as the Bible states that "humans are made in the image of God" and they have souls. Christians generally support animal testing if it is to develop medicines, as it benefits humans. Testing cosmetics on animals has been banned in the UK and most Christians would agree with this. The Bible does not teach that it is

Euthanasia means a good or gentle death. It is not allowed in the UK however some people travel to countries where it is legal. Many Christians believe that taking a life is interfering with God's plan and it is comparable to murder. Some Christians do support euthanasia and believe that it could be considered the most loving action. Many Christians would encourage going to a **hospice** instead.

Air, land and water **pollution** all cause problems. Pope Francis has challenged the world to help reduce pollution in an open letter to encourage everyone to act. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" is a reminder to Christians that people are tenants, and they have a responsibility to "love thy neighbour" by thinking about future generations and be good **stewards**.

The origins of human life. In Genesis 1, God creates humans on day 6 "in his own image" however Genesis 2 has a different order, with God breathing life into Adam. Some argue this happened literally, others would say it is not supposed to be a scientific account but designed to show how special humans are. Darwin's theory of evolution shows that humans have evolved over millions of years from other animals on land. Creationists do not accept this theory. Other Christians believe God is creator but also accept the theory of evolution.

Abortion was made legal in the UK in 1967. Christians believe in **the sanctity of life** and the Catholic Church teaches that life begins at conception and because of the commandment "thou shall not murder", abortion is wrong. Other Christians oppose abortion, but they may argue that in some situations it may be the "**lesser of two evils**" and the kindest thing to do e.g. if the woman has been raped or the child will be severely disabled.

Death and the afterlife. Death is not the end for Christians. They believe that God judges a person and they may be sent to Heaven, Hell or Purgatory (Catholic belief). The Sheep and Goats teaches Christians that Heaven and Hell are eternal and that a person's actions (helping or not helping) determines where they go. In Revelation it says in Heaven "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" whereas Hell is an "eternal fire prepared for the devil". There are many different interpretations, some take these places as literally true, and others see them more symbolically. Heaven is goal for Christians. They believe that Jesus' death was the price for salvation.

How to write in Religious Studies – 12 Mark questions



→ Icing – turn the statement into a question

→ Layer 1 – Argument **for** the statement

→ Layer 2 – A **different** point of view

→ Layer 3 – which is the best argument? Why?

How to write in Religious Studies – 4 Mark questions

