

Key Concepts



Afterlife	Life after death, the belief that life continues after physical death. Eg. Heaven.
Environment Sustainability	Ensuring that the natural resources don't run out and that all animals, plants and people can live well now, and in the future.
Euthanasia	From Greek meaning 'Good death'. The act of bringing about the peaceful death of a person who is suffering with an incurable disease or illness.
Evolution	The process of how living creatures developed during the history of the earth.
Abortion	When a pregnancy is ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child. The removal of a foetus.
Quality of Life	The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable.
Sanctity of Life	The belief that life is sacred and precious. Belief that God created life so it is special and cannot be harmed.
Soul	The spirit that connects someone to God. Non-physical, lives eternally in an afterlife.

Islam Afterlife: akhirah.

Ensolement 120 days – *Allah 'breaths' a soul into them.*

Fitrah – soul pure, inbuilt instinct to know, worship and submit to Allah. Day of Judgement, only God knows when it will be. if die before this day archangel of death Azrail will come and take their souls to await the day. Kept in state of waiting – barazakh, until trumpet to announce resurrection. All will stand before God sentenced. *'everything they did is in written records' 'fear God and know that God sees well what you do'* Book with everything one has done – good actions outweigh bad, book right hand – Heaven, opposite, left hand – Hell. **Mahdi** – come on day of judgement, saviour to rescue world.

Heaven – Janna - garden of contentment, flowers, fruits + fountains
 Hell- Jannan – torment, terror, damned separated from God, face boiling water, scorching fire and black smoke. Some Muslims interpret this symbolically.



ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH



William Paley: Teleological, like a watch the world is complex – must have a designer – the designer = God.

Aristotle: Cosmological - domino, everything needs a first cause, universe must have a first cause = God

Afterlife + the Soul

Christianity Dualists – separate parts, non-dualist – one and cant be separated. After God made Adam he *'breathed life' (soul) into him 'image of God' 'temple of holy spirit'* - ensolement – womb
 Judgement – life a test, God judge, Parable of Sheep and Goats/ Rich man and Lazarus.
 Judgement day/judgment after death
 Heaven – bliss, award, with God, paradise, *'my father's house has many rooms' Jesus 'I am the resurrection..' 'eternal life'*
 Hell - Suffering, constant torment, cut from goodness, separate from God 'eternal punishment' 'everlasting destruction'

Atheist Materialism – nothing exists other than matter, our bodies. A physical boy but no soul/spirit/afterlife – scientific description of human life. Physical beings that will decompose, no eternal part of us will live on.

Creation Theories

Christianity	Islam	Atheist
God created the world –omnipotent. <i>'in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'</i> Non-Literalists – Bible symbolic accounts that tell the truth that God is the creator but not how he did it. 6 periods of time over billions of years. Believe in the scientific theories. Literalists – Bible literally true. 6 days, 6, 24 hour days. Genesis 1 - 7 days eg. <i>'then God said let their be light – and light appeared'</i> God created humans day 6 <i>'God said now we will make human beings... God created human beings to be like himself'</i> Genesis 2 – physical actions, no time mentioned <i>'then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden'. Humans 3rd thing – 'soil from ground' 'breathed life into him.. Breath into his nostrils'.</i> Genesis 1 Vs 2. Different methods, 1 – God creates through speaking, 2 – God create by doing things. Different orders.	Allah the creator and sustainer of all life. No one creation story in the Qur'an. <i>'Indeed, your Lord is God who created the heavens and the earth in six days' – some see as 6 periods of time. 'He is the knowing creator'</i> Qur'an teaches humans out of clay moulding Adam and breathing life into him. Some may accept evolution but not human evolution. Many accept scientific explanations in the Qur'an – don't disprove God but explain how he did it. Qur'an has quotes linked to Big Bang and Evolution theories. <i>'Created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; each floating in an orbit.' 'We separated them and made from water every living thing'</i>	God did not create the world. Scientific evidence explains the universe. Big Bang Theory: Georges Lamaitre. 13.7 billion years ago. Singularity which exploded at a rate faster than the speed of light. Universe is expanding and there is evidence. Evolution: Charles Darwin Process of natural selection. Strongest characteristics more likely to survive, gradually over generations species became more suited to environment – eventually developed to be humans.

Our Environment – God's **perfect** creation so must be cared for looked after. Responsibility.

Stewardship: caretaker of planet + resources. For next generation

Christianity *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* live in harmony with earth and God. God given duty to care for the world. *Preserve and conserve resources.*

Islam
 Khalifah's- guardian of world. World created in balance – must be looked after (fitrah) *'He has set up the balance in order that you may not break the balance.'* Respect and avoid waste.

Atheist – Global citizens – world community view whole world as our home – all have duty.

Abortion

Christian Funerals

Euthanasia

Atheist: For Pro-choice	Atheist: Against Pro-Life
<p>Not a 'person' Peter Singer</p> <p>Personhood</p> <p>Rights of the mother</p> <p>Woman's body woman's choice</p> <p>Would be unwanted</p> <p>Potential being does not have same rights</p> <p>Mothers life has more value than foetus</p> <p>Getting rid only means that more backstreet unsafe abortions will take place</p> <p>What if the woman was raped?</p> 	<p>Killing innocent human being</p> <p>Murder</p> <p>Human life begins at conception</p> <p>Helpless, innocent being that cannot defend themselves</p> <p>Can survive as early as 21 week</p> <p>Should instead adoption instead</p> <p>The psychological pain and stress of having an abortion</p> <p>Life is a precious and unique gift</p> <p>Doctors should preserve life – Hippocratic Oath</p>

1. Before death priest – last rites, prayers, ask God forgiveness, holy communion – ease the dying into afterlife - die at peace
2. Church – coffin carried front church, service starts with priest '*I am the resurrection and the life..*' hope, resurrection, candles – light of world
3. Bible readings lord is my shepherd read - '*in the valley of the shadow of death, God is still by my side.*' – not forgotten, comfort to those who mourn/died, prayers for thanks/comfort
4. Sermon – life of dead person, eulogy
5. Communion – bread/wine – Jesus' resurrection
6. Committal – '*ashes to ashes, dust to dust*', burial or cremation, prayers, soil thrown on coffin – committed body to the ground.

Muslim before - try to repeat final words PM 'God help me through the hardship and agony of death' Shahdah whispered in their ears – returning to God 24 hours after death, body washed – ghusl, wrapped in white shroud (Ihram, Hajj, Purity/Equality). Muslim do not approve of cremation – resurrection for judgement day, buried facing Mecca.

Imam – prayers, some no coffin – lowered so in direct contact with earth. No gravestones – equal in death. As body lowered in ground '*From the earth we created you and into it we shall cause to return and from it we shall bring you forth once more*'

3 days of mourning

Atheist - non-religious services, can be informal, personal eg. Choose songs, readings. Reflect on their life – music, eulogy, poetry, reflection of their life, candles, moments of quiet reflection, can be led by a humanist celebrant. Service will try and show respect for dead, about how they will be remembered.

Sanctity of Human Life

God created us, all people are special and important to God.

Respect, care for, should not deny or take life.

Christianity: 'Made in the image of God' – God's divine spirit, to kill is to kill a part of God. Ten Commandment 'Thou shall not kill'. Life is a gift from God, only God can give it and only God can take it "In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being" Job.

Islam: Every soul has been created by Allah, he has a plan for every life. 'Do not take life, which Allah made sacred'.

Atheist: For	Atheist: Against
<p>Quality of life over sanctity of life. Stephen Hawking 'we don't let animals suffer, so why humans?'</p> <p>Free will</p> <p>Daniel James, 22, accident, body was a prison – his body his choice</p> <p>Control over how you die, die with dignity.</p> <p>Can suffer and be in pain</p> <p>Peter Singer – atheist, quality of life is more important – 'personhood' – need to be able to relate to others, if a fully conscious person has the right to end their life, so should everyone.</p>	<p>Murder</p> <p>All life is special and worthy</p> <p>Strive to research cures for terminal illnesses lessons</p> <p>Lead to those in the later stages of life/disease to feel a burden and even obliged to end their life</p> <p>Slippery- slope – lead to doctors/families abusing it, acceptance of involuntary euthanasia – person cannot speak for themselves</p> <p>Make it easier for doctors to commit horrific murders etc.</p>

Christianity

Catholic

Serious sin

Life begins at conception 10 -

'Thou shall not murder'

Pope spoken against it

'openness to life'

Life is sacred

Only God can give and take life

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you' 'body is a temple of the holy spirit'

'God made man in His image'

Protestant

Is wrong, but sometimes are expectations

Some circumstances 'less of two evils' eg. Rape/life at risk/born with severe disability

Jesus said 'love thy neighbour' and taught that in certain situations you should do the most loving thing

Not exact teaching of when life begins in the Bible

Islam

Most see it as haram (forbidden)

For

Certain circumstances

Life starts at 120 days – ensoulment

Mothers life is at risk – mother life more important until after 120 days – well-established, duty to her family etc.

Mother has been raped

'An angel blows the breath of life into you'

Against

Allah only person who can give or take life

Sanctity of life

Life begins at conception

Not 100% when ensoulment takes place

'whoever has spared the life of a soul, it as though he has spared life of all people' 'do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We will provide for them and for you'



Christianity

Protestant:

Most against

Sanctity of life

Life can only be given taken by God

Guidance through prayer

Suffering can have a purpose

The use of Hospices: die with dignity, ease suffering without speeding death

'temple of the holy spirit'

'made in God's image'

Very few may accept – 'most loving' thing to do, 'love thy neighbour'

Catholic

Consider it murder

'Thou shall not murder' 10 commandments

Same arguments as above

People shouldn't play God

The use of Hospices

Islam

Most Muslims **against**

Only Allah can decide time of someone's death. '*No one can die except by Allah's leave, that is a decree with a fixed term.*'

Allah made life sacred – see section.

Suicide is forbidden

'Destroy not yourselves. Surely Allah is ever merciful to you.'

Suffering can have a purpose, life is a test.

Show compassion to those suffering. Guidance can be found through prayer.

Practice Exam Questions:

Issues of Life and Death	
<u>Topic</u>	<u>Question</u>
Origins of the Universe	(b) Why might there be difference of belief about creation within the same religion? [5]
Origins of the Universe	(c) From two different religions or two religious traditions, explain beliefs about the creation of the universe. [8]
Our Environment	(d) 'It is our responsibility to look after the earth' 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). [15]
Origin & Sanctity of Human Life	(c) From two different religions or two religious traditions, explain beliefs about the sanctity of human life. [8]
Abortion	(b) With reference to one religion you have studied, explain views about abortion. [5]
Euthanasia	(d) 'Euthanasia is the most loving thing to do' 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). [15]
The Soul	(b) With reference to one religion you have studied, explain beliefs about the soul. [5]
The Afterlife	(c) From two different religions or religious traditions, explain beliefs about life after death. [8]
Funerals	(d) 'Funerals are important' 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). [15]