

Year: 10/11
Term: 1b
Topic: Matters of Life and Death (Christianity)

Lesson Concepts

1. Creation
2. Cosmology
3. Evolution
4. Abortion
5. Life after Death
6. Euthanasia
7. Animals rights

Core Text:

Edexcel GCSE (1-9) Religious Studies B Religion And Ethics: Christianity by Lynne Gibson

Key Words:

W1 Cosmology	The science and study of the origins of the universe and its development.	W3 Bioethics	Concerned with issues of right and wrong with regard to certain aspects of health care.
The Theory of the Expanding Universe	Lemaitre put forward a theory that the universe has been expanding outwards, possibly into infinity.	Quality of Life	Overall well-being of someone; how comfortable they are and how good their health care is.
Big Bang Theory	Expansion of the universe can be traced back to a single point in time.	Sanctity of Life	Life is a precious gift from God. Life is sacred and cannot be taken away.
Anglican Society for the welfare of animals	Organisation founded to draw attention to the abuse of animals and raise awareness for caring for the creation.	Agape	The most loving thing to do – associated with Joseph Fletcher and Situation Ethics – doing the most loving thing in the situation.
Creationists	Do not accept scientific explanations for the origin of the universe.	Anthropogeny	Study of human origins.
Euthanasia	Means good death by allowing or assisting someone to die.	Evolution	Charles Darwin developed the idea of ‘natural selection’ and ‘survival of the fittest in his book the Origin of the Species
W2 Special revelation	Events and happenings which made God’s will and knowledge available to humans.	W4 Creation story	The Bible states that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.
Natural Theology	Humans can find evidence of God in the laws and nature of the physical universe.	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	This document was created by the UN in 1948 to protect the rights of all humans after the devastation caused by WW2.
William Paley	Put forward the Argument from Design.	Abortion	Termination or ending of a pregnancy.
Lynn Townsend White	Creation story gave rise to human centred approach to the natural world as a commodity.	Pro-life	People who against abortion because they believe that a foetus is a human life that should be protected.
Stewardship	Humans should take care of Gods creation including animals	Pro-choice	People who believe the mother should have the choice whether to terminate a pregnancy.
Reincarnation	Cycle of death and rebirth E.g. Hinduism.	Ensoulment	The point at which God places a soul into an embryo/ foetus.

W5 Sources of authority:

‘The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.’ (Psalms 19:1-4)
For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – eternal power and the divine nature have clearly seen, being understood from what has been made... (Romans 1:20)

‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves of the ground.’(Genesis 1:28)

‘It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand. (1 Peter 3:15-22)

Christians who care about climate change can bear witness by ensuring they tread lightly on the earth through reducing their consumption... (Operationnoah.org)

‘The righteous care for the needs of their animals.’ (Proverbs 12:10)

‘Humanist concern for quality of life and respect for personal autonomy lead to...voluntary euthanasia is the morally right course.’ British Humanist Association

W6 Key Facts:

Abortions can be carried out up to 24 weeks into a pregnancy in the UK. An abortion needs to be approved by two doctors who agree that physical or mental damage will be sustained by the mother if the pregnancy is continued.

Christians believe in resurrection because Jesus died for human sin and that everyone will be judged and sent to either heaven or hell according to their sins in life.

Orthodox and Catholic Christians believe in purgatory, which is where most souls may go to cleanse the sins of life to then progress to heaven.

Hospices were set up by Dame Cicely Saunders, a Catholic Christian, to ensure that people do not suffer and do not need euthanasia. This follows the teachings of natural law that life is precious.