

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TOPIC 2

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES ABOUT LIFE

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THE LAW

LEGAL UP TO 24 WEEKS

If the baby will be disabled

If having the baby will affect the mother's physical or mental health

If having the baby will compromise the welfare of any existing children

LEGAL AT ANY TIME

If the baby will be severely disabled
If the mother's life is at risk

RIGHTS AND THE LAW



Abortion was made legal in 1967 because women were dying in unsafe at home abortions

TOO LATE?

Some people are concerned with the law as it allows foetuses to be easily aborted up to 24 weeks when babies born as early as 22 weeks have survived.

TOO SOFT?

Some people believe the law is too soft as although on paper we do not have abortion 'on demand' it is very easy for a woman to have one before 24 weeks, all she has to do is say that her mental health will suffer



Amillia Taylor survived after being born at 22 weeks

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

ALTERNATIVES	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
Keeping the baby with financial support	Can help people who want to keep their baby	Does not help in cases of rape, disability or if the mother's life is at risk
Adoption – baby legally belongs to someone else	Means that a baby does not have to be aborted because it can go to someone who wants it	Does not help in cases of rape, disability or if the mother's life is at risk
Fostering – baby is temporarily looked after by someone else	The baby can be cared for by someone who is willing to	Not a long term solution

	The Mother	The Baby	The Father
What rights do they have?	To not be aborted before 24 weeks if her physical or mental health is at risk. To abort the baby at anytime if her life is at risk	To not be aborted after 24 weeks unless it is severely disabled or will threaten the life of the mother	To visit the baby once it is born
Why do some people think this is fair?	Her health is directly at risk from the pregnancy	At this point it could live	Not physically at risk from the pregnancy
Why do some people think this is unfair?	Very easy to have an abortion before 24 weeks	It could feel pain long before 24 weeks	Could suffer emotional harm if not involved – half his child too

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SANCTITY OF LIFE



The idea that all life is a special gift from God – it is up to God to give and take life away

STRENGTH

Values and respects all life – recognizes that disabled people can live full and happy lives

WEAKNESS

Ignores that some people live with painful illnesses that mean they cannot live enjoyable independent lives

IDEAS ABOUT LIFE



Jessica Cox was born with no arms yet lives a full and happy life, doing actually more than most able bodied people



Jonny Kennedy was born with an incurable skin disease that left him in constant pain and unable to do most things independently

QUALITY OF LIFE

The idea that it is what you are able to do with your life that is important, eg can you do things for yourself, are you in pain etc.

STRENGTH

Looks at each situation individually and means that people do not have to have a baby if it is only going to suffer

WEAKNESS

No clear rules to follow, what some people see as a serious disability others may see as acceptable



PRO-LIFE

Believes that the foetus has a right to life because...

- The foetus can feel pain after a certain point in pregnancy
- All life is special and everyone has something to offer the world
- Unwanted children could be adopted

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST ABORTION



PRO-CHOICE

Believes that the mother has the right to choose because...

- It is her body that is put at risk during the pregnancy and birth
- If a child will have a poor quality of life, it is not fair to make it suffer
- If she has been raped, it could be too traumatic for her to carry the baby

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ROMAN CATHOLICS

Stick closely to the rules in the Bible (Do not kill) and only accept harming a foetus if it is as a result of doing something to save the mother's life.

SANCTITY OF LIFE VIEW

ABORTION

WHAT WOULD CHRISTIANS SAY?

The Bible teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
Life begins at conception	Abortion is considered wrong because it is killing something that is already alive	'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'.
It is wrong to take life away	Abortion is wrong because it is considered to be killing a baby	'Do not kill'.
Christians believe that life begins at conception		



CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Follow the example of Jesus who broke the rules if he thought it was the kindest thing to do and so would consider abortion in cases of rape and serious disability as well as the mother's life being at risk.

QUALITY OF LIFE VIEW

WHAT WOULD MUSLIMS SAY?

The Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
Life begins at ensoulment (the time at which a foetus gets its soul), this is between 40 and 120 days after conception.	Abortion before this point would not be a sin as the foetus is not considered to be alive.	
It is wrong to take life away	Abortion after ensoulment is wrong because it is considered to be killing a baby	'Do not take life which Allah has made sacred'.
Muslims believe that life begins at ensoulment (the time when a foetus gets its soul), this is between 40 and 120 days after conception.		

IN FAVOUR

EUTHANASIA

AGAINST

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EUTHANASIA



CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Follow the example of Jesus who broke the rules if it was the most loving thing to do and so would consider euthanasia for serious and painful disabilities as well as if someone is brain dead.



QUALITY OF LIFE VIEW

WHAT WOULD CHRISTIANS SAY?

The Bible teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
It is wrong to take life away	Euthanasia is wrong because it is taking life away	'Do not kill'
Everyone has a piece of God inside them	Euthanasia is wrong because it is destroying a piece of God	'The body is a temple of the holy spirit'

WHAT WOULD MUSLIMS SAY?

The Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
It is up to Allah to decide when life ends	Euthanasia is wrong because individuals should not decide when their life ends, this should be up to Allah	'Do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction'
It is wrong to take life away	Euthanasia is wrong because it is taking life away	'Do not take life which Allah has made sacred'

BRITISH LAW

British law currently states that it is illegal for a doctor or anyone else to help someone to kill themselves.

Reg Crew was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease at the age of 72. Motor Neurone is a disease that causes the muscles in the body to stop working, there is no cure and the illness is terminal.

Reg had reached the point where he could not even support his own head. Reg chose to end his life at the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland because he could not bear the thought of carrying on only to starve or choke to death which would have almost certainly happened.

Daniel James was 23 when he was paralysed from the chest down following a rugby training accident. After several unsuccessful attempts to kill himself, Daniel travelled to Switzerland and ended his life at the Dignitas clinic.

Daniel's case caused controversy as he was so young, was not suffering from a terminal illness and the majority of people who sustain the same injury, do go on to live meaningful lives.

Life is precious and should not be wasted, many people who are sick or disabled have meaningful lives




Allowing people to die because they are ill or disabled devalues the lives of the sick and the disabled

How do we know that people won't get better? There have been cases where doctors have said that there is no hope and the patient has made a full recovery



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KEY TERMS

WORD	MEANING	GOOD POINTS	BAD POINTS
EUTHANASIA 	When someone who is seriously ill or severely disabled chooses to end their life to prevent further suffering. The term literally means 'easy death'	Gives control to the individual Stops pain and suffering	Wastes the precious gift of life People might feel pressured into ending their lives Devalues the lives of the sick and disabled
PASSIVE EUTHANASIA 	When treatment is withheld or withdrawn and death follows, eg Tony Bland's feeding tube was withdrawn and he later died	The patient is allowed to die and nobody needs to feel guilty that they 'killed' them	This can mean that the patient can take longer to die than if direct action was taken – could this be more cruel?
ACTIVE EUTHANASIA 	When an action is undertaken with the intention of causing death, eg Reg Crew drank a cocktail of drugs to deliberately end his life	The patient is released from suffering quickly	What about the effect on the person who has to perform the action? Will they suffer from feelings of guilt?

It is your life it should be your choice if you want to end it – **THE RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION**

If you can't do anything for yourself then life is not worth living as you can't enjoy yourself

Some people have illnesses that mean that they are in constant pain

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LIFE AFTER DEATH



CHRISTIANS
Christians believe that when they die, God will judge them and they will be resurrected to live either in Heaven or in Hell; where they end up depends on how they have behaved when they were alive.



MUSLIMS
Muslims believe that when they die, Allah will judge them and they will be resurrected to live either in Paradise or in Hell; where they end up depends on how they have behaved when they were alive.

INFLUENCE

Beliefs in life after death can influence Christians and Muslims to try to live a good life by following the rules of their religion and having faith in God so that they will be rewarded when they die.



RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
People who live a good life and have faith will go to Heaven when they die. BIBLE	Christians believe that they have the chance of eternal life in Heaven if they live a good earthly life.	For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
Allah will judge people when they die and those who have lived a good life and had faith will go to Paradise QUR'AN	Muslims believe that they have the chance of eternal life in Paradise if they live a good earthly life	Those whose good deeds weigh heavy will be successful, but those whose balance is light will have lost their souls forever and will stay in hell.

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ORIGINS OF LIFE

- Day 1 the earth was formless and void and then God created light.
- Day 2 God separated the sky above from the water below.
- Day 3 God created seeds and plants.
- Day 4 God created the sun, moon, and stars.
- Day 5 God created the sea creatures and birds.
- Day 6 God created the animals and Adam and Eve.
- Day 7 God rested.



In the beginning there was nothing.
 *Then they believed their god Allah was created.
 *They believe he created the sun, the moon, heavens, and the stars.
 *Then they believe Allah created angels to help him with his duties.
 *Allah ordered the angel to help him create the earth.
 *Allah then told the angel to go down to earth and grab some soil from the earth's ground.
 *Allah then created the first human name "Adam."
 *Allah then created Eve and sent them to paradise to make more humans.



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ORIGINS OF LIFE

STEWARDSHIP
 Because the Earth belongs to God, people have a duty as stewards to look after the Earth on his behalf.



AWE AND WONDER
 A feeling of respect, mixed with fear and amazement. Marvelling at the complexity and beauty of the universe.



DOMINION
 In order to manage the earth, Christians teach that humans were given the power and authority to rule over the world.
 Islam does not promote the idea of humans having dominion over the earth. Instead, Islam stresses the importance of working with the rest of creation in a harmonious and sustainable way.

Literalist	Conservative	Liberalist
A factual account – everything happened exactly as it says in the Bible. The universe was made in 7 lots of 24 hours.	It is based on what happened, maybe the earth was made in 7 stages rather than 7 days.	The story was never meant to explain how the universe was made but was meant to have a spiritual meaning about God as a creator.

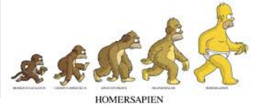
THEORY OF EVOLUTION
 Charles Darwin argues that species have changed over thousands and thousands of years, through a process called natural selection. This is process is known as Evolution.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
God created the earth from nothing in six days and rested on the seventh day. It talks of specific things being created on each day. BIBLE	The earth is something special and that humans should look after it	"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..."
Allah created the earth from nothing in six days. It is not clear what was created on each day. QUR'AN	The earth is something special and that humans should look after it	"Your Lord is God who created the heavens and the earth in six days..."

THE BIG BANG THEORY
 This theory explains how the universe began in a rapid expansion nearly 13.7 billion years ago.

WORKING TOGETHER?
 Some religious people believe that the Big bang and evolution can work with the idea of God creating the universe as they argue He caused the explosion knowing that life would evolve from it.



NATURAL RESOURCES
 There are more people living on the earth than 50 years ago and they are using more resources than people 50 years ago would have. Fossil fuels will not regenerate at the rate we use them and some metals will run out in the next ten years.

USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



SPEED AND EFFICIENCY
 We are always looking for better and faster ways of doing things. Many of these involve using more electricity or fossil fuels and as such cause pollution to the environment



WAYS TO HELP
 Reduce electricity consumption, eg turn TVs off rather than leave on standby, recycle, use cars less and walk or cycle more.



DEFORESTATION
 Destroys animals habitats leaving many facing extinction, contributes to the greenhouse effect as there are less trees to absorb CO2, also when it rains there is nothing to soak up the water which causes flooding.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
The earth belongs to God BIBLE	Humans have a duty to preserve natural resources because they belong to God	The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
Humans have a responsibility to look after the earth HADITH – saying of Muhammad	Humans should be careful how they use natural resources because Allah has put them in charge of looking after them	The Earth is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you his stewards over it

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POLLUTION

ACID RAIN	OIL SPILLS	NUCLEAR WASTE
Destroys forests and can contaminate the food chain	Destroy large areas of water, kill wildlife and contaminate the food chain	Causes high rates of cancer and birth defects. Makes the land unusable for growing food

HOW TO HELP

Individuals	Groups	Scientists	Governments
 *Recycle	 *Raise awareness of problems and ways to help *Organise protests against companies who harm the environment	 *Research environmentally friendly solutions such as energy saving cars etc	 *Provide people with the facilities to recycle (special bins etc) *Pass and impose strict laws for people/companies who damage the environment
 *Walk/cycle or use public transport	 *Reduce the amount of electricity that they use	 *Develop alternative energy sources that don't harm the environment	 *Develop alternative energy sources that don't harm the environment

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
The earth belongs to God BIBLE	Humans have a duty not to pollute the earth because it belongs to God	The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
Humans have a responsibility to look after the earth HADITH – saying of Muhammad	Humans should avoid causing pollution because Allah has put them in charge of looking after the earth	The Earth is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you his stewards over it

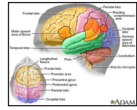
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SHOULD ANIMALS HAVE RIGHTS?

YES



Animals are **SENTIENT** beings which means that they have feelings and so should also have rights



NO

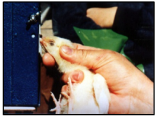
Humans are intellectually and morally superior and therefore we should be able to do what we want with animals

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
Humans are superior to animals but they also have a duty to look after them. BIBLE	Humans can use animals if it is useful to humans but they should also make sure that they are well treated.	'Let them have dominion over the earth'
Animals can be used if it serves a real purpose to humans but they should not be used or killed for no good reason HADITH – saying of Muhammad	Humans can use animals for food and other things considered to be useful. However animals are used, they should be well treated.	'Whoever kills a sparrow without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement.'

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FACTORY FARMING



Factory farming is when animals are kept in cramped conditions to maximise profits. These conditions are dirty and cause illness to animals which is why many are regularly given antibiotics.

BAD FOR ANIMALS	BAD FOR HUMANS
Kept in cramped conditions that spread disease	Diseases in meat can be passed to humans
Mutilated to stop diseases spreading	Eating meat filled with antibiotics will mean that when we are sick, we will need higher doses to make us better
Given hormones to make them grow bigger – some chickens grow so big they cannot stand properly	Eating meat filled with hormones can lead to increased feminine characteristics in boys and men

FREE RANGE



This is when animals are given more space, usually with the freedom to go outside. Free Range products cost a little more than factory farmed ones but many people believe it is worth paying the extra as the animals are kept in better conditions and the meat is not full of antibiotics.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
Humans are superior to animals but they also have a duty to look after them. BIBLE	Factory farming is not acceptable as it mistreats animals for profit.	'Let them have dominion over the earth'
Animals can be used if it serves a real purpose to humans but they should not be used or killed for no good reason HADITH – saying of Muhammad	Factory farming is not acceptable as, even though using animals for food is allowed, animals should always be well treated and factory farming is cruel to animals.	'Whoever kills a sparrow without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement.'

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SHOULD WE USE ANIMALS FOR FOOD?



VEGETARIANS
People who will not eat meat but will eat things from animals that don't involve them being killed such as milk and eggs.

OTHER OPTIONS



VEGANS
People that will not eat any products that come from animals.



YES	NO
The proteins in meat are good for our diet	Many of the proteins in meat can be found in other foods or supplements
It is a natural part of the food chain for us to eat meat	The majority of our meat is farmed specifically for that purpose, it has nothing to do with controlling the number of animals

REMEMBER – neither Christianity or Islam insists that its followers are vegetarians.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
God gave animals to humans to use as food BIBLE	Eating meat is acceptable as long as animals are treated well	'I give them to you as food'
Part of the reason that God created animals was for humans to eat them QUR'AN	Eating meat is acceptable but humans have a responsibility to treat animals well in the process	'It is God who provides livestock for you, some for riding and some for food.'

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SHOULD WE USE ANIMALS IN EXPERIMENTS?

YES



Animal experiments have led to vaccines and cures that have saved millions of human lives.



There are some experiments for which animal testing is the only option

We don't need many of the things that we test on animals, eg we already have lots of types of cosmetics



There are alternatives for many types of experiment such as skin cell testing and computer programmes



The results are not reliable, eg penicillin kills guinea pigs but cures humans.

NO



They hurt and kill animals



RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

VIVISECTION – to cut up live animals

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that	This suggests that	A quote to show this would be
Humans are superior to animals and so can use them if they need to	Christians would approve of certain animal experiments as long as they were benefitting humans	'Let them have dominion over the earth'
Allah is concerned about the welfare of all animals, no matter how small HADITH – saying of Muhammad	Muslims would be unlikely to approve of experiments on animals because there are other options, eg skin cell testing	'Whoever kills a sparrow without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement.'