






# Eduqas Religious Studies – Issues of Life and Death



Key Words			
Afterlife	Life after Death; the belief that existence continues after physical death	Evolution	The process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier less complex forms during the history of the earth
Environmental Sustainability	Ensuring that the demands placed on natural resources can be met without reducing capacity to allow all people and other species of animals, as well as plant life, to live well, now and in the future	Euthanasia	From Greek, eu 'good' and thanatos 'death'. Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing'. The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness
Abortion	When a pregnancy is ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child	Quality of Life	The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable
Soul	The spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. The soul is often regarded as non-physical and as living on after physical death, in an afterlife	Sanctity of Life	The belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.

Key Ideas		
<b>Ideas about Creation</b> 	<b>Christian Ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe the universe was designed and made by God</li> <li>- The creation story in <b>Genesis 1</b> says that God made the world in six days</li> <li>- <b>Literalist Christians</b> believe this is true and that God created Adam + Eve from whom all humans come</li> <li>- <b>Liberal Christians</b> say the creation story in the Bible is just a story and may agree with scientific ideas about creation</li> </ul> <i>"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" – Genesis 1:1</i>	<b>Scientific Ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <b>Big Bang Theory</b> argues that the universe started as a dense collection of mass which massively expanded creating stars, galaxies and planets</li> <li>- The <b>Theory of Evolution</b> comes from Charles Darwin who observed that animals change over time and argued that humans were not designed by God but evolved from apes</li> <li>- These theories do not fit with a <b>literalist Christian's</b> view but could fit with a <b>liberal</b> view</li> <li>- <b>Humanists</b> believe we can understand the creation of the world through science</li> </ul>
<b>Stewardship + Dominion</b> 	<b>Stewardship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Stewardship</b> means Christians have a <b>duty</b> to look after the environment on behalf of God and for future generations</li> <li>- This can be seen where Christians campaign for environmental charities or choose to reduce waste and recycle</li> </ul> <i>"Rule over [...] every living creature" - Genesis 1:28</i>	<b>Dominion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dominion</b> is the idea that God gave humans power and authority over the world</li> <li>- Some Christians believe this allows them to use <b>natural resources</b> (e.g. oil and coal) and animals to make their lives better</li> <li>- In <b>Genesis</b> God gives Adam and Eve the power to name the animals and rule over them</li> </ul>
<b>Abortion</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Abortion</b> is the removal of a foetus from the womb in order to end a pregnancy.</li> <li>- In the UK (except Northern Ireland) it is <b>legal</b> during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger or the foetus is severely deformed.</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The <b>Catholic Church</b> is strongly against abortion. They believe in <b>sanctity of life</b>, the idea that life is a sacred gift from God which only God can take away. They see the foetus as a living thing.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The <b>Church of England</b> think abortion is sometimes acceptable as a pregnancy as a result of rape or where the child would be very ill would lead to a very poor <b>quality of life</b></p>	
<b>Euthanasia</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Euthanasia</b> is the painless killing of a patient with a terminal illness.</li> <li>- <b>Voluntary</b> euthanasia is where the patient asks for their life to be ended.</li> <li>- <b>Non-voluntary</b> euthanasia is where the patient is not capable of asking to die, perhaps in a coma.</li> <li>- All forms of euthanasia are currently <b>illegal</b> in the UK.</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The <b>Catholic Church</b> is strongly against euthanasia. They believe that only God can give and take life and that life is sacred (<b>sanctity of life</b>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some <b>liberal Christians</b> think euthanasia can be an act of mercy which Jesus tells them is a good thing to do, this is especially the case when someone's <b>quality of life</b> is very poor.</p>	
<b>The Afterlife</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe that when you die you will be judged and that those who are found to be good will go to <b>heaven</b> but those who have sinned and gone against God's wishes will go to <b>hell</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Roman Catholics</b> believe that there is a middle stage called <b>purgatory</b> where souls go to be purified of sin before they go to heaven</p>	<p><b>Some Christians</b> believe that Jesus will return on a future <b>Day of Judgement</b> when all souls will be judged</p>