

Matters of Life and Death Knowledge Organiser

1) <u>Sanctity of Life</u>	
Sanctity of Life	All life is sacred and a gift from God. God gives life and God takes it away.
Christian teachings on Sanctity of Life	“All made in the image of God” “You knit me together in my mother’s womb” “I knew you before you were born”
Buddhist view on Sanctity of Life	Life is not created by God therefore it is not sacred. Humans are special though because they been reborn as a human and they are closer to enlightenment.
Humanist view on Sanctity of Life	Humans are special but not because they were created by God. We have a duty to be kind and compassionate to all humans.

2) <u>When does life begin?</u>	
Conception	When the sperm and egg meet
Quickening	When first movements can be felt (9 weeks)
Ensoulement	Some believe a foetus receives it soul at around 19 weeks.
Viability	When a foetus if born could survive outside the womb. (24 weeks currently)
Birth	40 weeks after conception

3) <u>Law on Abortion</u>
Two doctors
Up to 24 weeks if it will affect mental or physical health of the mother or her existing children.
Up to 40 weeks if the mothers life is at risk or the foetus has a severe disability.
Father has no rights

4) <u>Religious views on Abortion</u>	
Roman Catholic View	No Abortion. It is a sin. Life begins at conception, therefore it is murder. “Thou shall not kill”
Roman Catholic View	Abortion goes against the Sanctity of Life. God gives life and takes it away.
Church of England View	Abortion is wrong, but if it is the lesser of two evils it is allowed.
Church of England View	Support the mother’s choice “Love thy neighbour” and “treat others how you want to be treated”
Buddhist View	Abortion is wrong, life begins at conception therefore it is murder “Do not harm any living being”
Buddhist View	Causes Dukkha to the foetus and Blind Turtle Story reminds us that all humans are lucky to be reborn as a human, so do not destroy.
Buddhist View	Some Buddhists might allow it for ‘Right Intention’ if the pregnancy would cause the mother more dukkha.
Humanist View	There is no one humanist view. They would look to do the most loving thing in each situation. Many humanists are pro-choice, believing a woman has the right to choose what happens to her body.

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5) Euthanasia terms	
Euthanasia	“Easy death”. The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness.
Voluntary	A person asks for help to die.
Active	A person takes an action to end their own life eg an overdose
Involuntary	A person is unable to choose to authorise euthanasia eg coma
Passive	Withdrawing treatment that is keeping the person alive.

6) The Law on Euthanasia
Illegal in the UK for active euthanasia
Legal for Passive euthanasia if authorised by medical professionals
Living wills or Do Not Resuscitates (DNRs) are written by some, outline that they do not want medical assistance if anything happens to them.
Switzerland – Legal for euthanasia with strict conditions. 2 doctors must authorise and counselling given.

7) Arguments for and against Euthanasia	
For	Against
Free will	Makes vulnerable people feel a burden
Poor Quality of life	Slippery Slope to others wanting to commit euthanasia for invalid reasons (inheritance/burden)
Animals can be put to sleep why can't humans?	No need for people to suffer. Use a hospice for palliative care.
Expensive life support in hospitals	It is murder.

8) Religious Views on Euthanasia	
Most Christians	Euthanasia is not acceptable because all life is sacred (sanctity of life). It is murder and goes against “Thou shall not kill”
Most Christians	Suffering should be accepted like Jesus had to suffer. There will be no suffering in heaven.
Most Christians	Suggest that people suffering should go to a hospice where support can be given.
Some Liberal Christians	Some would argue that helping someone die when they wanted to as ‘love thy neighbour’ and they would argue that Jesus showed love and compassion to people.
Buddhist view	Euthanasia is wrong because it goes against the precept Do not kill or harm a living being. Buddhists will receive bad karma in their next life if they take this action.
Buddhist view	Some Buddhist agree with euthanasia due to metta. Show a person loving kindness and karuna when they make the decision
Buddhist view	Some Buddhists argue that it is removing dukkha and therefore acceptable.
Humanist view	Humanists support the right to die. They believe people should die with dignity. It is their human right and choice.

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9) <u>Christian creation of the World</u>	
Who?	God
Where?	Genesis
How?	Over 7 days God spoke and created different aspects of creation.
Why?	Everything was planned by God with a purpose.
Humans	Humans were a special part in creation. God breathed life into Adam and made them 'in his image'. Adam was made from the dust, and Eve from Adam's rib as his 'helper'. Humans were told to be stewards of the world.

10) <u>Buddhism creation of the World</u>	
Who?	No creator
How?	No point asking how the world was created because there are no answers (Poisoned arrow story)
Why?	The universe has always existed and life is a cycle of births and deaths, changing and developing.
Humans	All beings need to aim to reach enlightenment and nirvana.

11) <u>Humanist/Science creation of the World</u>	
Who?	No creator – Science – Big Bang
How?	Big Bang – 15 billion years ago. Stephen Hawking, the universe began from a single point and expanded. Over time the universe expanded and formed planets. The universe is still expanding (background radiation)
Humans	Evolution – Charles Darwin studied creatures changing over time. Survival of the fittest, allowed certain creatures to survive and breed. Humans are not special, they have struggled into existence from simpler life forms.

12) <u>Christian response to Science and Religion</u>	
Conservative Christians	Read the bible literally. God created the world exactly as it says in Genesis. The Bible is 'God-breathed' and is precise and accurate.
Liberal Christians	Bible should be interpreted as not historically accurate. They acknowledge that the creation of the world and humans was started by God but through the Big Bang and Evolution. Fossils evidence for evolution.
Design Argument	Liberal Christians use the Design Argument to emphasise that God created the world. William Paley, watch needs a designer as it is complicated, the universe is complicated and so needs a designer also. Universe too precise to just come into existence through the Big Bang and Evolution.

13) <u>Environmental Sustainability</u>	
Environmental Sustainability	Natural resources should be used but protected so that all people, animals and plant life can live well now and in the future.
Humanists	'Humanists for a better life' They campaign for climate change and the environment. All humans should care for the planet – moral duty and need to for future generations .
Christians	God made the world and 'it was good '. God told humans to be stewards (care and responsibility) "Till the earth and keep it" Campaign for Green issues. Dominion over the planet – take responsibility. Love thy Neighbour.
Buddhists	Care for the planet because of pratitya (everything is dependent). Should care for the planet ' Right Action ' to gain 'good karma'. Don't want to cause dukkha for future generations. Buddhist Action Month (June) to care for the world and social justice.

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<u>14) Christian View on Life after Death</u>	
Soul	Spiritual aspect of a being. This is the non-physical part that lives beyond a physical death.
Evidence of a soul	“God breathed life in to Adam” “Made in the image of God” – animals weren’t
Dualism	The belief we are made of two separate parts.
Ensoulment	The moment when the human soul is said to enter the baby’s body.
Spiritual Resurrection	Many Christians believe that upon death the soul will rise to everlasting life in heaven. The body rots on earth. St Paul “The physical body is perishable, the spiritual body is imperishable”
Bodily resurrection	As Jesus rose from the dead, some Christians believe in a bodily resurrection. Upon death, the soul will rise to heaven but on Judgement Day the soul will go back to its body and rise as a physical body.
Jesus	Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives believing in me will never die”
Catholics	Good souls go straight to heaven. Most go to purgatory where they will be cleansed. Prayers are said for those in purgatory.
Heaven	Sheep and Goats story talks about those who support vulnerable and needy people will be given eternal life in heaven. “I will see you in paradise” Jesus told the criminals they could go to paradise. “There are many rooms in my father’s house” Some Christians believe it is a physical/literal place. Being in God’s presence.
Hell	The opposite of heaven – constant torment. An absence of God.

<u>15) Buddhist View on Life after Death</u>	
Soul	No permanent soul (anatta)
Rebirth	Rebirth is the key to breaking away from the endless cycle (samsara) of birth, growth decay and death
Nirvana	State of mind after enlightenment where greed, hatred and ignorance cease.
Actions	Buddhists will try to follow the 8fold path to get good karma to improve their next life outcome.
Life on earth	Buddhists should focus on how they live their life not what lies in the future.

<u>16) Humanist View on Life after Death</u>	
Soul	No evidence of a soul. Humanists are materialists (physical body only)
Afterlife?	No afterlife. No empirical evidence of an afterlife. When a human dies, it is the end.

<u>17) Christian Funerals Rites</u>	
Prayers for the dying person	Asking God for forgiveness
Roman Catholics – last communion	Sacraments important.
“I am the resurrection and the life”	Those who believe will be resurrected and go to heaven.
Some Burial only	If they believe in a bodily resurrection, then need their bodies for the Last day when the souls return to their bodies.

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<u>18) Buddhist Funeral Rites</u>	
Transferring merit	Theravadan Buddhists will chant each day for 7 days after death so that the living can help the dead gain good merit.
Binding hands and feet and held by the monks	Theravadan's do this to connect the monk to the deceased to support the transferring of merit.
Chanting for 49 days	Buddhists will chant daily. It is believed it takes 49 days for the persons energy to be reborn.
Sky burial	Tibetan Buddhists feed the body to the vultures. It shows pratitya (all life is interdependent).

<u>19) Humanist Funeral Rites</u>	
Funeral anywhere	Funeral can take place anywhere as there is no need for a sacred place. The place is usually important to the person.
Readings and Songs	Personal choices showing that life is the most important thing, often it will remind people of the person.
Life of the person told, no readings from sacred texts	No belief in God. Just focus on the memory and life of the person.

<u>Questions to consider</u>	
b)	Describe from one religion their view on caring for the planet (5)
b)	Describe the concept of the sanctity of life (5)
b)	Describe from one religion their view on creation of the world (5)
b)	Describe what happens when someone dies from one religion (5)
b)	Describe from one religion their view on active euthanasia
c)	Explain from two religions or religious traditions their view on abortion (8)
c)	Explain how religious believers can link science and religion (8)
c)	Explain why stewardship is important for Christians (8)
c)	Explain from two religions or religious traditions their view on euthanasia (8)
c)	Explain the concept of judgement from two religious viewpnts (8)
c)	Explain why humans are special (8)
d)	"Everyone has the right to die when they choose" (You must include humanism as one of the viewpoints) (15)
d)	"Death is not the end" (You must include humanism as one of the viewpoints) (15)
d)	"A woman has the right to do what she wants to her body and should be allowed an abortion" (You must include humanism as one of the viewpoints) (15)
d)	"Euthanasia should be legalised in the UK" (You must include humanism as one of the viewpoints) (15)
d)	"Science is right, religion is wrong when it comes to the creation of the universe" (You must include humanism as one of the viewpoints)(15)

