

## Euthanasia

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK, It can be seen as assisted suicide, therefore breaking the **Suicide Act of 1961**. It can be viewed as manslaughter or murder and carries a prison sentence.

However a medical decision may be made to withhold treatment if it is considered to be in the patient's best interests.

FOR	AGAINST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God gives people free will to end their own life.</li> <li>• It may be the most loving and compassionate thing to do – 'Love your neighbour'</li> <li>• Allows a dignified death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only God should take life at the time of his choosing</li> <li>• Open to abuse and may be against the will of the ill person.</li> <li>• Inheritance issues may encourage relatives to pressurise the ill to agree to euthanasia.</li> </ul>

**Active euthanasia:** being given lethal drugs to end a persons life so there illness does not kill them.

**Passive euthanasia:** a person stops taking medication to end their life.

## Sanctity of Life

Christians believe that all life is **sacred**, and precious. Some Christians do not believe that anyone should take their own life or the life of someone else. Therefore some Christians believe that euthanasia and abortion is wrong, as it is wrong to end a human life.

**Dominion:** the belief that God gave humans the right to decide what happens to the world and the species in it. **ADD A QUOTE:**

## Theme B: Religion & Life

### Life after death

#### HEAVEN

Heaven is traditionally seen as a physical place where God is. Jesus called it "paradise" or "my Father's house". A more modern view is that heaven is simply 'with God'.

#### PURGATORY

Roman Catholics believe there is a place before heaven, where people go to have their sins cleansed. People say prayers for **souls** to be released from Purgatory.

#### HELL

Hell can be an actual place of torment and suffering OR it can be when man is separated from God. It is described as a place of punishment for the unrighteous: "throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:50)

#### Views

Christians believe death is not the end. God judges whether a person will go to heaven/hell.

**Catholic Church:** believes in purgatory.

**SOME** Christians believe in immediate judgement on death and the transition to heaven/hell. **OTHERS** believe that they will wait until the Day of Judgement and the return of Jesus.

## Abortion

The law defines abortion as "*the deliberate expulsion of a foetus from the womb, with the intention of destroying it*". In the UK abortion is allowed up until 24 weeks of a pregnancy under special circumstances, i.e. if two registered doctors agree that there is a danger to the women's mental or physical health, the foetus will be born with disabilities, or the mental or physical health of existing children will be put at risk.

However, many people believe that it is the woman who should have the choice as to what happens to her body and therefore it is for her to make up her own mind. There are also circumstances such as rape, genetic abnormalities or failed contraception which cause debate on both sides of the argument.

**Pro-Life:** term used for arguments against abortion.

**Pro-choice:** arguments in favour of having the CHOICE to choose an abortion

FOR	AGAINST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Christians agree with abortion if the baby will have a very poor quality of life.</li> <li>• CoE and the Methodist church say that sometimes it is 'the lesser of two evils'.</li> <li>• The woman's life comes first – she has the right to choose whether she continues the pregnancy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Catholic Church believes life begins at conception so abortion is taking away life.</li> <li>• Jeremiah 1:5 shows that God has a plan for everyone – abortion takes this away, so is considered wrong.</li> <li>• "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.</li> </ul>

## Origins of the Universe & Life

Some Christians believe that the universe was created by God in **7** days. This is described in the bible in the book of **Genesis**. The bible says that Adam and Eve were the first man and women. Christians who believe the literal truth of the bible are known as **Creationists**.

Other Christians think the creation story is a metaphor for the creation of the Universe, but do not believe that the world was created in 7 days. Scientists believe that the Universe was created billions of years ago and is constantly evolving. This is known as **the Big Bang Theory**.

**Charles Darwin** was a famous scientist who came up with the theories of evolution and natural selection. This theory explains that humans are descended from apes and that species are constantly evolving to adapt to their changing environment.

**Stewardship:** the idea that God created the world and that humans have a responsibility to look after it.

**TASK: Christians can be stewards by...**

FOR or AGAINST euthanasia?

- Harold Shipman was a G.P serial killer. Euthanasia would make it easier for Drs like him to kill people.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Christians believe suffering has a purpose and should be endured. \_\_\_\_\_
- The majority of Christians believe in the sanctity of life.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If we allow voluntary euthanasia that would then make way for involuntary euthanasia.(slippery slope)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- We have free will so we should be able to choose when we die. \_\_\_\_\_
- Liberal Christians allow the withdrawal of treatment as Jesus encouraged us to be compassionate loving.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Most Christians regard all forms of euthanasia as murder which is forbidden in the 10 commandments.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- There are hospices to help care for the terminally ill so they are not in pain. \_\_\_\_\_
- People have the right to a quality of life and human dignity. Dying from a terminal illness does not allow this. \_\_\_\_\_

# Theme B: Religion & Life

## The use of animals - for food & experimentation

Many medicines are tested on animals before they can be used on humans to ensure that they are safe. This is very controversial because many people think that it cruel and unnecessary. However others believe that animal experimentation is necessary to make breakthroughs in science and technology, and to manufacture effective cures. For example many surgical procedures such as transplantation surgery were traditionally perfected on animals.

**FOOD** – some Christians believe God gave humans animals for food and are happy to eat meat (Genesis 9:3). Romans 14:3 – “The one who eats everything (including meat) must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.”

**EXPERIMENTATION** – Most Christians believe testing should be allowed for essential human needs but animals should be treated with compassion. Some Christians would use the principle of **dominion** to support their use of animals to benefit humans.

**Vegetarian:** a person who does not eat meat.

**Vegans:** a person will not use anything from an animal including leather, milk and eggs.

### Exam practice

Give TWO legal criteria that would allow an abortion in the UK. [2 marks]

Explain TWO contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about euthanasia. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious tradition. [4 marks]

Explain TWO religious beliefs about what happens when a person dies. Refer to scripture or scared writings in your answer. [5 marks]

Religious believers should not eat meat. Evaluate this statement. [12 marks]

There must be life after death. Evaluate this statement. [12 marks]

Type	Caused by...	Affects
Air pollution		
Land pollution		
Water pollution		