



PAPER 2: RELIGION AND LIFE

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (8062)

PAPER 2: THEMES
RELIGION AND LIFE

ABOUT THE TOPIC

This topic explores how Christians, Muslims and non-religious people think about important moral issues in life.

It includes:

- Creation
- Environmental issues
- Animal rights
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Beliefs about life after death



KEY BELIEFS THAT INFLUENCE ATTITUDES



CHRISTIANS

- God is Creator and everything has value because it is made in His image.
- Life is sacred – from conception to natural death.
- We are called to be stewards of creation and care for others.



MUSLIMS

- Allah is the Creator and Sustainer of all life.
- Humans are stewards (Khalifah) on Earth.
- Life is a trust (Amanah) from Allah and should be protected.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Decisions are often based on reason, evidence, human rights and personal freedom.
- Different views exist; respect and compassion are important.

KEY QUOTATIONS



"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

This shows Christians believe God created the world.



"And do not spread corruption on the earth after it has been set in order." Qur'an 7:56

This teaches Muslims to protect and care for the Earth.



"The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge." Bertrand Russell

This shows a non-religious view that reason and compassion guide morality.

CREATION



CHRISTIANS

- God created the universe out of nothing.
- Humans are made in the image of God.
- The Genesis account teaches humans to care for creation.



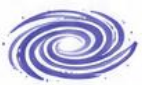
MUSLIMS

- Allah created the universe in six days.
- Humans are Allah's vicegerents (Khalifah) on Earth.
- The Earth is a trust (Amanah) from Allah.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Many believe the universe formed through natural processes (e.g. Big Bang).
- Humans evolved over millions of years.
- We should care for the planet for future generations.



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



CHRISTIANS

- Stewardship: look after God's world.
- Wasting resources and pollution are wrong.
- Act now to protect creation for others.



MUSLIMS

- Do not waste or cause corruption.
- Pollution and destruction are harmful and sinful.
- We must protect the environment for future generations.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- We have a responsibility to protect the Earth.
- Conservation and sustainability are important.
- Science shows climate change is a serious global issue.



ANIMAL RIGHTS



CHRISTIANS

- Animals are part of God's creation.
- Humans can use animals but should not cause suffering.
- Some support animal testing and others do not.



MUSLIMS

- Animals are Allah's creatures.
- Causing suffering is wrong.
- Animals may be used for food but must be treated with kindness (Halal).
- Unnecessary harm is forbidden.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Many believe animals have a right not to suffer.
- Some are for animal welfare (e.g. better living conditions).
- Some are for animal rights (animals should not be used by humans).



ABORTION



CHRISTIANS

- Life begins at conception.
- Abortion is usually wrong.
- Some believe abortion is allowed in cases of rape, risk to mother or severe disability.



MUSLIMS

- Life begins at conception (most believe).
- Abortion is not allowed except in serious circumstances.
- Different scholars have different views about when life begins.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Views vary.
- Many support a woman's right to choose.
- Focus on personal freedom, rights and circumstances.



EUTHANASIA



CHRISTIANS

- Life is sacred; only God decides when life ends.
- Euthanasia is usually wrong.
- Some allow it in extreme cases of suffering with no hope of recovery.



MUSLIMS

- Only Allah can take life.
- Euthanasia is not allowed.
- Muslims should be patient and accept Allah's will.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Some believe people should have the right to end their suffering.
- Focus on quality of life and personal choice.
- Others worry about abuse or devaluing life.



BELIEFS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH



CHRISTIANS

- Believe in heaven and hell.
- How you live on Earth determines your eternal destiny.
- Encourages Christians to live a good and moral life.



MUSLIMS

- Believe in Day of Judgement.
- People go to Jannah (Paradise) or Jahannam (Hell).
- Encourages good deeds and following Allah.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Many do not believe in an afterlife.
- Some believe we should live well now.
- Focus on legacy and making the world a better place.



SANCTITY OF LIFE vs QUALITY OF LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE



Sanctity of life means life is sacred and should be protected from beginning to end.

- Life is a gift from God (Christians and Muslims).
- All life has value, regardless of age, health or ability.
- Life should not be intentionally ended (e.g. abortion, euthanasia) because only God gives life.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life means how good, fulfilling or happy someone's life is.

- If life is full of pain, suffering or has no hope, it may be better to end it.
- Focus on happiness, dignity and freedom of choice.
- This view can support abortion or euthanasia in some cases.



THINGS TO CONSIDER



- Balancing respect for life with care for individuals.
- Respect for beliefs and personal choices.
- Impact on families and society.
- What is right and just?

SUMMARY: HOW VIEWS MAY DIFFER

ISSUE	✝ CHRISTIANS	☾ MUSLIMS	👤 NON-RELIGIOUS
Creation	God created the world; humans should care for it.	Allah created the world; humans are stewards.	Universe formed naturally; humans should protect Earth.
Environmental Issues	Stewardship; protect creation.	Do not waste or corrupt; protect Earth.	Science shows problem; protect for future generations.
Animal Rights	Animals are God's creation; avoid cruelty.	Treat animals with kindness; unnecessary harm is wrong.	Many support animal rights and welfare.
Abortion	Life begins at conception; abortion usually wrong.	Life begins at conception; some differences of opinion.	Views vary; focus on choice and circumstances.
Euthanasia	Life is sacred; euthanasia usually wrong.	Only Allah decides life's end; euthanasia not allowed.	Some support choice at end of life; others object.
Life After Death	Believe in heaven and hell; eternal life.	Day of Judgement; Paradise or Hell.	Many do not believe in afterlife; focus on this life.

KEY VOCABULARY

Sanctity of life – Belief that life is sacred.
Quality of life – How good or happy someone's life is.

Stewardship (Khalifah) – Responsibility to care for creation (Christians/Muslims).
Vicegerent (Khalifah) – A representative of Allah on Earth.

Halal – Permitted in Islam.

Jannah – Paradise in Islam.

Abortion – Ending a pregnancy.

Euthanasia – Intentionally ending someone's life to stop suffering.

STUDY TIPS



Learn key beliefs and what they teach.



Compare Christian, Muslim and non-religious views.



Make links between beliefs and attitudes.



Use key vocabulary in your answers.



Practise 4, 6 and 12-mark exam questions.



Think about similarities and differences.