

AQA Religious Studies A – Theme B: Religion and Life

Key Words			
Abortion	The ending of a pregnancy	Liberal	A type of Christian who reads the Bible as stories, myths and metaphors
Big Bang Theory	Scientific theory of the creation of the universe through a large explosion	Literalist	A type of Christian who believes the Bible is literally true + the word of God
Dominion	The power humans have over God's creation	Natural Resources	Materials found in nature (e.g. coal, oil) which are exploited by humans
Euthanasia	The painless killing of a terminally ill patient	Purgatory	Where Catholics believe souls are purified after death + before heaven
Evolution	Scientific theory of the development of humans from apes	Quality of Life	How easy or difficult someone's life is – e.g. cancer causes a low quality of life
Heaven	Paradise where those judged good go after death to be forever with God	Sanctity of Life	The belief that all life is sacred as man is made in God's image
Hell	Damnation where those judged bad go after death to be forever without God	Stewardship	The responsibility God gave humans to look after the world
Judgement	After death Christians believe you are judged by God	Vegetarian	The choice not to eat animals

Key Ideas		
Ideas about Creation 	Christian Ideas - Christians believe the universe was designed and made by God - The creation story in Genesis 1 says that God made the world in six days - Literalist Christians believe this is true and that God created Adam + Eve from whom all humans come - Liberal Christians say the creation story in the Bible is just a story and may agree with scientific ideas about creation <i>"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" – Genesis 1:1</i>	Scientific Ideas - The Big Bang Theory argues that the universe started as a dense collection of mass which massively expanded creating stars, galaxies and planets - The Theory of Evolution comes from Charles Darwin who observed that animals change over time and argued that humans were not designed by God but evolved from apes - These theories do not fit with a literalist Christian's view but could fit with a liberal view
Stewardship + Dominion 	Stewardship - Stewardship means Christians have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God and for future generations - This can be seen where Christians campaign for environmental charities or choose to reduce waste and recycle <i>"Rule over [...] every living creature" - Genesis 1:28</i>	Dominion - Dominion is the idea that God gave humans power and authority over the world - Some Christians believe this allows them to use natural resources (e.g. oil and coal) and animals to make their lives better - In Genesis God gives Adam and Eve the power to name the animals and rule over them
Abortion 	- Abortion is the removal of a foetus from the womb in order to end a pregnancy. - In the UK (except Northern Ireland) it is legal during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger or the foetus is severely deformed. ☒ The Catholic Church is strongly against abortion. They believe in sanctity of life, the idea that life is a sacred gift from God which only God can take away. They see the foetus as a living thing. ☒ The Church of England 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 quality of life	
Euthanasia 	- Euthanasia is the painless killing of a patient with a terminal illness. - Voluntary euthanasia is where the patient asks for their life to be ended. - Non-voluntary euthanasia is where the patient is not capable of asking to die, perhaps in a coma. - All forms of euthanasia are currently illegal in the UK. ☒ The Catholic Church is strongly against euthanasia. They believe that only God can give and take life and that life is sacred (sanctity of life) ☒ Some liberal Christians 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 quality of life is very poor.	
The Afterlife 	- Christians believe that when you die you will be judged and that those who are found to be good will go to heaven but those who have sinned and gone against God's wishes will go to hell. Roman Catholics believe that there is a middle stage called purgatory where souls go to be purified of sin before they go to heaven	Some Christians believe that Jesus will return on a future Day of Judgement when all souls will be judged