

Knowledge Sheet – Matters of Life and Death – Christianity

Topic	Christian Arguments	Arguments Against Christianity
<b>Origins of the universe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Creationist Christians believe the world was created in 6 days by God</li> <li>● Liberal Christians believe that God started the Big Bang</li> <li>● They both believe the world is precious and made by God so we should look after it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scientists believe in the Big Bang Theory</li> <li>● The world was created 14 Billion years ago</li> <li>● Scientific evidence and fossils back this up</li> </ul>
<b>Origins of Human Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Humans were created by God</li> <li>● All life is precious – The Sanctity of life</li> <li>● Creationist Christians believe God made us in his image</li> <li>● Liberal Christians believe God formed us through evolution</li> <li>● The Church General Synod have accepted evolution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Humans were created be evolution</li> <li>● Natural selection and survival of the fittest have shaped how we are today</li> <li>● There is no God – it is just down to nature</li> </ul>
<b>Abortion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pro-Life – The foetus has the right to life</li> <li>● Life begins at conception</li> <li>● God made every human unique and we should not take life</li> <li>● Abortion is murder – against 10 Commandments</li> <li>● Liberal Christians – treat others with kindness and love – should let abortion happen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pro-Choice – The mother should have a choice if to have an abortion</li> <li>● If the child is servery disabled abortion is best for everyone</li> <li>● Humanism – Quality of life is important for both mother and baby</li> <li>● Situation Ethics – Should always do the most loving thing so sometimes abortion is right</li> </ul>
<b>Euthanasia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● God made every human unique and we should not take life</li> <li>● Only God can decide when we die</li> <li>● God has a plan for everyone</li> <li>● Euthanasia is murder – against 10 Commandments</li> <li>● Liberal Christians – treat others with kindness and love – should let euthanasia happen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We shouldn't let humans suffer</li> <li>● Humanism – Quality of life is important</li> <li>● Situation Ethics – Should always do the most loving thing so sometimes euthanasia is right</li> <li>● The Hospice Movement – Should support people in their death and be treated with dignity</li> </ul>
<b>Life After Death</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The is an afterlife with God – heaven or hell</li> <li>● God will judge our lives and decide where we go</li> <li>● The Resurrection of Jesus shows we will live on after death</li> <li>● Other Arguments for LAD: Remembered Lives, Paranormal, Logic, Reward, Comfort, Meeting loved ones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Humanism – Reject LAD – we only get one life</li> <li>● Richard Dawkins – Atheist – rejects LAD</li> <li>● Story made up to comfort people</li> <li>● No Evidence</li> <li>● Social Control</li> </ul>
<b>Issues in the Natural World</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians are concerned about the issues faced by the natural world: Pollution, Global Warming, Deforestation, Abuse of Animals etc</li> <li>● There are 3 different Christian approaches to these issues: Dominion, Stewardship, Utilitarianism</li> <li>● The Christian Declaration of Nature says that Christians should respect the environment and care for it</li> <li>● Many Christians believe animals should be treated with care and respect – BUT it is acceptable to use them for human benefit up to a point</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some Christians disagree and oppose to the use of animals for human benefit</li> </ul>
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Key Quotes	Linked Topics
<i>'All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together'</i>	Origins of the Universe, Natural Issues
<i>'God made man in his own image'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'The body is the temple of the holy spirit'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'You knit me together in my mother's womb'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'Do to others as you would have them do to you'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'Love thy neighbour'</i>	Origins of Human Life, Abortion, Euthanasia
<i>'A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence' – David Hume</i>	Origins of the Universe / Life, LAD
<i>'A delusion is something that people believe in spite of a total lack of evidence' - Richard Dawkins</i>	Origins of the Universe / Life, LAD

Key Words	Meaning
The Big Bang Theory	The scientific theory that the world was created by a big bang 14 billion years ago
Commodity	A useful or valuable thing which satisfies particular wants or needs
Stewardship	Looking after something so it can be passed on to the next generation
Sanctity of Life	The view that all life is holy and made by God
Evolution	The process by which different species have developed from earlier forms
Survival of the Fittest	The idea that members of a species that are best suited to an environment survive
General Synod	The national group within the Church of England that debates current issues
Abortion	Ending a pregnancy by deliberately removing a foetus by surgical or medical means
Pro Life	Holding the belief that the mother should be able to choose where to have an abortion
Pro Choice	Holding the belief that the foetus has the right to life
Conception	The moment when the sperm fertilises the egg, creating an embryo that develops into a baby
Situation Ethics	The belief that decisions should be made in a situation based on what is the most loving thing to do
Humanism	The belief that there is not a God – but we should support and respect human beings
Euthanasia	The deliberate ending of life of someone dying from a painful disease
Voluntary Euthanasia	Ending a person's life when they have asked for it
Non- Voluntary Euthanasia	Ending a person's life when they cannot ask but you believe it is what they would have wanted
Assisted Suicide	When you help someone to end their own life via suicide
Quality of Life	The belief that life has value depending on how much enjoyment and pleasure someone has
The Hospice Movement	A place which provides care for people with serious illnesses
Resurrection	Rising from the dead, like Jesus after the Crucifixion
Spiritualist	Someone who believes the spirits of dead people can communicate with the living
Utilitarianism	The belief that the right course of action is the one that will produce the greatest happiness for the greatest number