

Theme B: Religion and life

Abortion

Deliberate ending of a pregnancy, intended to prevent new life.

Afterlife

Beliefs about what happens to 'us' after our body has died.

Animal rights

Belief that animals should be treated with respect, so have rights to adequate food/water/shelter/rest/freedom.

Awe

Sense of wonderment, often linked to the feeling that God is involved/revealed.

Big Bang Theory

Scientific theory about the origins of the universe – that the universe was created in a huge explosion.

Charles Darwin

The man who proposed the theory of evolution (19th century).

Creation

Belief that God created the world/universe from nothing, eg Genesis creation story.

Conception

Point at which sperm fertilises an egg to begin pregnancy.

Conservation

The practice of repairing/protecting the natural environment and/or animal species.

Dominion

Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world.

Environment

The world around us, can be natural or artificial.

Euthanasia

Mercy killing; ending the life of a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness. Can be voluntary (person seeks this), or non-voluntary (person is on life support so family makes decision). Can be active (what is done kills directly), or passive (medical support removed to allow natural death).

Evolution

Scientific theory of the development of species, which comprises natural selection and survival of the fittest.

Fossil fuels

Coal, oil, gas – fuels that developed over millions of years beneath the earth's surface.

Hospice

Place of medical care for the dying, but which also gives emotional support to the dying and their families.

Natural resources

Resources which are found in nature – fossil fuels, plants etc.

Pesticide

Chemicals used to kill pests, especially on farmed crops.

Pro-life

Stance of being anti-abortion and/or anti-euthanasia; many pressure groups exist with this view, eg SPUC.

Pro-choice

Stance of being for a woman's right to decide what happens to her own body, which extends to the right to have an abortion.

Quality of life

How good or comfortable a person's life is.

Right to die

Belief that a human has the right to end their life, or seek it to be ended if they want that.

Sanctity of life

Belief that life is sacred/special, because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals.

Science

Knowledge that comes from observed regularity in nature and experimentation.

Stewardship

Duty given by God to mankind to look after the created world, and all life within it.

Sustainable energy

Resources that are renewable and will not run out, eg solar, wind, etc.