Knowledge Organiser - Matters of Life and Death

Origins and value of the universe

- 1. **The Big Bang Theory** The most widely held scientific theory about the origins of the universe which suggests that the universe is expanding away from a single point. Started 13.7 billion years ago.
- Creationism The Christian argument against the Big Bang Theory which argues that science is wrong and the Bible is correct. God created the world.
- 3. **The compatibility response** The Christian argument that science and religion are compatible. The Big Bang theory was controlled and used by God to create the universe. Genesis explains the step by step process of the Big Bang.
- Commodity A useful or valuable thing which satisfies particular wants or needs.
- Stewardship The belief that Christians have a responsibility to look after the earth.
- Dominion The belief that Christians 'dominate' or are to rule over Gods creation.

Life after death

- Resurrection Rising from the dead. The rising of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 For Christians, this made sure that there will be an afterlife for those who believe in him.
- 2. **Remembered lives** Some claim to remember a past life. These experiences support reincarnation the soul is born again in another body.
- 3. **Spiritualist** Someone who believes that the spirits of dead people can communicate with living people.
- 4. **Paranormal** Experiences which suggest that there may be a spirit world, such as ghosts. Where spirits of the dead can be contacted through a medium e.g. a spiritualist.
- 5. **Logic** It is logical to believe in life after death. This life isn't all there is.
- Reward Living a good life will mean that they will be rewarded somehow after they die.
- 7. **Comfort** Belief in life after death provides comfort for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
- Meeting loved ones One day being able to meet loved ones who have already
 passed away

Responses to arguments against life after death

- 1. **Lack of evidence** Life after death cannot be scientifically proven.
- Fraudulent accounts Spiritualists may be simply exploiting those who are bereaved.
- Social control Belief in heaven and hell are ideas invented to control people's behaviour.

Origins and value of human life / Sanctity of Life

- 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 with Christian beliefs to see if they are compatible.
- 4. Sanctity of Life The belief that life is created by God and made holy by him.

Abortion

- Abortion Ending a pregnancy by deliberately removing a foetus from the womb.
- 2. **Conception** The moment when a sperm fertilises an egg, creating an embryo that can develop into a baby.
- Pro-choice Holding the belief that the mother should be able to choose whether to have an abortion.
- 4. **Pro-life** Holding the belief that the foetus has a eight to life.
- Situation Ethics Ethical decisions made based on what the most loving thing to do is.

Euthanasia

- Euthanasia The painless death of a person suffering from an incurable or painful disease at his or her request.
- 2. **Voluntary euthanasia** A person's life is ended painlessly at their own request.
- 3. **Non-voluntary euthanasia** A person's life is ended painlessly when they are unable to ask, but there are reasonable grounds for doing so.
- 4. **Quality of life** The value given to life depending on how far a person can find enjoyment and pleasure from it.
- Hospice A place which provides care for people with a serious, terminal, or incurable illness.
- 6. **Natural Law** A set of moral principles based on the idea that people should choose good actions that comply with God's wishes.

Issues in the natural world

- Environment The surroundings in which plants and animals live and on which they depend for life.
- 2. **Utilitarianism** Ethical decisions made based on what will produce the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.
- The Christian Declaration on Nature, Assisi 1986 When Prince Phillip, invited leaders of five world religions to meet to discuss how their faiths could help save the natural world.

Exam Practice

A Question:

One...

Another...

A final...

B Questions:

One reason why/belief is... This suggests/is important because...

Another reason why/belief is... This suggests/is important because...

C Questions:

One reason why/belief is... In the Quran/Bible it states... This suggests/is important because...

Another reason why/belief is... This suggests/is important because...

D Questions:

Some Muslims/Christians would agree/disagree with the statement because...

In the Quran/Bible it states... This suggests/is important because...

This is a strong argument because... However, this is a weak argument because... (Repeat)

In conclusion, the strongest argument is... because...