

Religion and Life Revision Sheet

The origins of the Universe and Human Life

Creation Stories

CREATION STORY #1	CREATION STORY #2
1. God created HUMANS AFTER He created everything else. (Gen 1:26-27)	1. God created HUMANS BEFORE He created everything else. (Gen 2:7)
2. God created MAN and WOMAN at the SAME TIME . (Gen 1:27)	2. God created MAN first . After that, He created animals . Then, He created WOMAN . (Gen 2:21-23)
3. God just SPOKE , and from His Words, everything came into existence.	3. God had to "WORK" in order to create (form human beings from <u>dust</u> , breathe life into them, get a rib from Man to create Woman, etc.).
4. After Creation, God looked at all He has done and was greatly pleased and happy . (Gen 1:31- 2:4)	4. God banished the FIRST COUPLE (Adam and Eve) from the Garden of Eden in His Anger at their Disobedience. (Gen 3:24)

God made the world and he thought that it was good!

Everything was made with a purpose and an order.

The Christian Creation story suggest that God made the

Universe over 6 days and rested on the 7th day. It start off with God saying 'Let there be light' and finished with humans being his final creation on the 6th day.

Alternative view of how the world was made

The Big Bang Theory

Scientists have discovered that when looking into space using powerful telescopes, the stars and galaxies seem to be moving apart. They've also discovered 'background radiation' which they believe is the remains of a huge cosmic explosion. Based on this evidence, they have concluded that the Universe must have started from an explosion billions of years ago which formed everything we see today. This explains why the stars and galaxies are still moving apart today.

The Theory of Evolution

Charles Darwin studied birds and animals to develop his Theory of Evolution. He believes that all life started off as basic organisms like bacteria, and that over billions of years life has adapted to suit it's surroundings through mutation and natural selection. This Theory suggests that humans evolved from ape like creatures, who themselves would have evolved from more basic creatures. Fossil records provide evidence of very small changes and adaptations of all living creatures over vast periods of time which support this theory.

Literal Christians: These types of Christians accept the Bible as the 'literal word of God' and therefore an absolute fact.

Liberal Christians: These types of Christians believe that the Bible contains many truths, but that they have to be interpreted and are not to be taken literally.

Muslim perspectives

Muslims would argue that science does not affect their belief in Allah's (God's) creation of the world, instead it explains what the Qur'an does not say. An important part of being a Muslim is to strive for clear understanding, therefore scientific explanations are welcomed as they help Muslims to have a greater understanding of Allah. Muslims would say that the Qur'an has an account of the beginning of Creation which appears very close to modern scientific theories:

Do not the disbelievers realise that the heavens and earth were a solid mass, then We split them asunder, and We made from water every living thing? ... He it is Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon each gliding freely in its orbit.

Surah 21:31-34

Because of the Muslim interest in and respect for science which helps them come to know and understand more about Allah, ideas from cosmology and evolutionary biology do not cause any problems.

Religious teaching on stewardship and dominion

Stewardship - the idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.

Dominion - dominance or power over something; having charge of something or ruling over it.

Awe and Wonder - being amazed at the beauty of the world and universe

Christian views

'Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.' Bible

The Bible says that humans must 'rule over every living creature.' Bible

Muslim views

'Do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption.' Qur'an

'There is no altering the creation of Allah.' Qur'an

Types of pollution

Acid Rain

Buildings and forests in Northern Europe are being destroyed by acid rain. It is caused by burning fossil fuels. Pollutants go into the atmosphere and change the pH of the rain in clouds so acidic it burns things when it falls to earth.

Solution

Stopping the use of fossil fuels in power stations to prevent acid rain. More electricity from wind, sun, tides and nuclear energy.

Human Waste

Sewage, refuse and litter. Europe produces more than 2.5 billion tons of solid waste a year. Sewage is transported through sewers to sewage works where the raw sewage has to undergo treatments to make it safe to discharge into rivers and the sea. Raw sewage causes water pollution and eutrophication. Litter also chokes small animals, causes bike and car accidents, and leads to fires.

Solution

More recycling, using incinerators to produce electricity, sewage to produce methane or to provide fuel for power. Research into energy efficient ways of sterilising glass bottles. More laws to stop people dropping litter

Water Pollution

Too many nitrates, nitrites and phosphates in rivers lead to poor oxygen and more aquatic plants. This leads to fish dying and polluted water supplies. This is called eutrophication and is caused by fertilisers, sewage and a lack of trees to soak up the nitrogen. This leads to health problems in humans such as septicaemia.

Solution

Improved sewage treatments and less use of phosphates in fertilisers. However, organic farming is still a problem because manure forms nitrates.

Radioactive Pollution

Nuclear power stations produce nuclear waste which will take millions of years to be safe. The waste is buried and no-one knows how long it will stay safe in its containers. Radiation causes death, cancer and genetic mutilations in children.

Solution

More nuclear reprocessing plants like Sellafield, which can reprocess 97% of nuclear waste. This still leaves 3% of waste to be stored. More research into geological disposal.

Religious views on Animal Rights

Use animals how they want

'God created mankind in his own image.' - Bible

'He has only forbidden to you dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah.' - Qur'an

'You shall eat from that upon which God's name has been pronounced, if you truly believe in His revelations.' - Qur'an

Look after animals

The Bible says that humans must 'rule over animals' - Bible

'Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading the grain.' - Bible

Religious views on Abortion

Law

It is legal to have an abortion up to 24 weeks

If there is a risk to the woman's life or if there are fetal abnormalities there is no time limit.

Two doctors must agree to the abortion on the grounds that to continue with the pregnancy would present a risk to the physical or mental health of the woman or her existing children.

Christian views against

They believe life begins at the moment of conception and also believe in 'Thou shall not kill.' - 10 commandments

Sanctity of life - all life is holy and belongs to God

Christian views in favour

'Love thy neighbour.' - Jesus

Lesser of two evils

Muslim views against

Life begins at 120 days

'Kill not your offspring for fear of want.' - Qur'an

Muslim views in favour

Lesser of two evils

Life begins at 120 days

Religious views on Euthanasia

Christian views against

'Thou shall not kill.' - 10 commandments

Sanctity of life - all life is holy and belongs to God

Christian views in favour

'Love thy neighbour.' - Jesus

Lesser of two evils

Muslim views in favour

Muslim lawyers say that if the person is brain-dead then Allah has already taken their life.

Lesser of two evils

Muslim views against

'My slave hurried to bring death upon himself so I have forbidden him to enter paradise.' - Muhammad

Sin of shirk - playing the role of Allah

Religious views on Heaven and Hell

Christian views

Heaven - 'There shall be no more death, or sorrow, nor crying, or any more pain.' - Bible

'Whoever believes in him (Jesus) shall not perish, but have **everlasting** life.' - Bible

Hell - 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.' - Bible

'Throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' - Bible

Purgatory - a place where souls are cleansed before going to heaven. Believed in by Catholics.

Muslim views

Jannah - 'No soul knows what delights of the eye are kept hidden from them as joy, as a reward for what they did' - Qur'an

Jahannam - '...fear the Fire whose fuel is men and stones, which is prepared for those who reject Faith' - Qur'an