

ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

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| <p>1. Key Words</p> <p>Afterlife: Life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death.</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability: Ensuring that the demands placed on natural resources can be met without reducing capacity to allow all people and other species to live well now and in the future.</p> <p>Euthanasia: Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing'. The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a terminal illness.</p> <p>Evolution: The process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier less complex forms during the history of the earth.</p> <p>Abortion: When a pregnancy is deliberately ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child.</p> <p>Quality of Life: The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable.</p> <p>Sanctity of Life: The belief that life is precious or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.</p> <p>Soul: The spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. It is often regarded as non-physical and lives on after death.</p> | <p>2.Christian views on creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †There are two creation stories in the Bible - Genesis 1 and Genesis 2. †Genesis 1 describes how God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. †Day 1: light & dark; Day 2: sea & sky; Day 3: sun; moon & stars; Day 4: land & plants; Day 5: fish & birds; Day 6: animals & humans. †There are 2 main interpretations of this account: †Literal - it's a holy text from God and creation happened exactly as described in the Bible. †Liberal - the Bible should be seen as a parable or symbolic story. The meaning is the same, even if it is not historically accurate. †Many evangelical Christians are creationists - they reject the theories of the Big Bang and evolution because they contradict the literal interpretation of the Bible. †Young Earth Creationism: the world was created by God in 6 days, less than 10 000 years ago. Old Earth Creationism: God must have created the world but it took place millions of years ago. The 7 days of creation refer to long periods of time. †Some Liberal Christians say that you can accept the Big Bang and evolution. † Theistic guided evolution: life came about through evolution but this process was guided by the intervention of God. Natural evolution: evolution is the natural process by which life emerged but God put these laws of nature into place before the universe existed. | <p>3.Jewish views on creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★God is the source and purpose of all life. ★Genesis gives 2 accounts of the creation of the world. ★Most Orthodox Jews believe they are true accounts of the origin of the world. They were revealed to Moses by God. ★Reform Jews question whether Moses was the actual author of Genesis - it might have been different people at different times. ★Some Orthodox Jews see Genesis as historical fact and find it difficult to accept modern scientific theories. ★Other Jews, such as Reform, accept scientific theories such as the Big Bang theory & evolution, with God being the sustainer and provider. God started the universe through the Big Bang. <p>Humanist views on creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □We understand the world through science - religion does not give a reliable account. □There are no good reasons for believing in God and is plenty of evidence □Evolution helps us to understand the way species are related to each other. | <p>4.□Science vs Religion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Charles Darwin was the first person to show that life has arisen through the slow natural process of evolution. He used his studies from the Galapagos Islands to prove his work. □His theory became known as the 'survival of the fittest' as useful characteristics were passed on from one generation to the next. □In 1965 the Big Bang theory became the accepted explanation for the origin of the universe. □Whilst many religious believers accept Darwin, some see it as an attack on their beliefs as it undermines God, the Bible and removes the need for a soul. □Some religious believers reject the Big Bang Theory as it removes the idea that God created the earth and humans for a purpose. □However, some see the two working together, as there is no scientific explanation for what caused the Big Bang. □Many religious believers say that the world was designed by God as it is so beautiful & well-ordered. □Intelligent design is a theory put forward by some, as they believe the world is too ordered for it to have happened by chance. |
| <p>5.Life: Chance or God's plan?</p> <p>Religious believers say that there is a divine mind behind all life. The Bible says that God knows all people before their birth and has a plan and purpose for all living beings.</p> <p>Atheists and Humanists believe that life is a result of blind chance.</p> | <p>†Life: Chance or God's plan?</p> <p>Religious believers say that there is a divine mind behind all life. The Bible says that God knows all people before their birth and has a plan and purpose for all living beings.</p> <p>Atheists and Humanists believe that life is a result of blind chance.</p> | <p>6.Christian attitudes to stewardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Life is a gift from God and God has given humans the role of stewards in the world. †Some Christians see themselves as having dominion because Genesis 1:28 says that God created humans to 'rule over' nature. †Other Christians argue that we should be stewards of the earth - 'cultivating and taking care of it' (Genesis 2:15) | <p>7.Jewish attitudes to stewardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Jewish leaders teach that human beings must behave as responsible global citizens acting as stewards of God's creation. ★Humans must |
| <p>9.Christianity and the Sanctity of life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Life is created by God, protected by God and valued by God. †God is interested and involved in each human's life. †God created each individual person and made them unique in their own right. †God created humankind in His own image. | <p>10..Judaism and the Sanctity of Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Life is precious and a gift from God. ★All humans are important. ★Life is precious and cannot be thrown away. ★Adam was created to teach us the significance; importance and sanctity of each individual. ★Pikuach Nefesh - preservation of human life overrides everything else. | <p>11.Humanism and the Sanctity of Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □There is a special value in human life. □The value of life does not come from God. □We only have this life and it ends when we die. □Life has special importance because it is our only one. □Life is not sacred but worthy of respect. □The central purpose of life is happiness:ours & others | <p>8.Humanist attitudes to stewardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □Humanists base their thinking on reasoning and evidence. □Most humanists agree with the idea of stewardship - we have a responsibility to work for a sustainable world causing as little environmental harm as possible |
| <p>12.Religious views against abortion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Roman Catholics - abortion is forbidden in all circumstances as life is sacred and God given. From the moment of conception a new life begins. - it's a human being with potential. †Abortion is murder and goes against the Ten Commandments. †Only God can create life and take it away. †Church of England - all life is precious as it is made by God. Abortion is not acceptable for social reasons (e.g. failed contraception) †Some Christians believe that the UK law is applied too liberally. ◊Judaism does not permit abortion on demand. ◊Most Orthodox Jews disagree with abortion, because life is God's greatest gift & it should be preserved at all costs. Only God can take life. | <p>13.Religious views agreeing with abortion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Some Church of England Christians agree with abortion in a couple of circumstances - if the mother's life is in danger due to the pregnancy; if the pregnancy is a result of rape or if the baby will be born with severe and life-threatening disabilities / illnesses. ◊In Judaism, a foetus is not considered a person until it is born. ◊Judaism does not explicitly forbid abortion, but abortion on demand is not permitted. Most Jews would accept abortion if the mother's life is at risk due to the pregnancy; if the pregnancy is a result of rape; if the babe will be born with severe & life-threatening disabilities / illnesses. ◊Most Humanists consider each situation differently; looking at the needs of those involved and finding the kindest course of action, ensuring happiness is taken into account. This is known as situation ethics. | <p>14.Religious views against euthanasia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Most Christians agree that euthanasia is not acceptable because: all life is sacred; taking life is wrong; it goes against the Ten Commandments; life is a gift from God & therefore precious; suffering can have a purpose & should be endured as God will not give us more than what we can cope with; hospices (such as St Lukes) offer an alternative where care & support can be given. ◊Most Jews are opposed to euthanasia. Active euthanasia is seen as murder. Jews believe that all life is precious and a gift from God. It is not ours to throw away. Only God can decide when life begins and when it ends. Every moment of human life has equal value. | <p>15.Religious views agreeing with euthanasia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †It can be acceptable to turn off a life-support machine if there is medical evidence that the person is brain dead. Some Christians accept that euthanasia might be the most loving & compassionate way to treat someone who is suffering great pain. ◊Some Jews agree with the Christian idea above; turning a life support machine off can be acceptable and they also believe that doctors should not make a person suffer more by artificially extending their life. ◊Humanists have supported attempts to legalise euthanasia in the UK. Humanists uphold the right to life but don't believe that life should be prolonged in the face of pointless suffering. Being able to die with dignity, in the manner of our choosing, is seen as a fundamental human right. |
| <p>16.Christian views on life after death</p> <p>The soul is an inner part of our being & it is through this that we connect with God. Some Christians say the soul is a distinct separate part of us, whilst others say body & soul is combined. Christians believe in resurrection & eternal life. Death is not the end. As Jesus was resurrected, those who believe in Him & follow his teachings will be rewarded with life in heaven after death. Some Christians believe in whole body resurrection, with others just thinking the soul goes to heaven. Some Christians see heaven & hell as real places, whilst others see them as symbolic. Roman Catholics also believe in purgatory.</p> | <p>17.Christian funeral rites</p> <p>When someone is close to death, if possible they are given the last rites, with prayers for forgiveness said by the dying person. (Roman Catholic tradition.) Funerals are usually held in a church, with the coffin placed at the front. Flowers are displayed; candles lit (symbolising Jesus being the light of the world) & prayers said. The priest will say 'I am the resurrection & the life' to remind mourners of Jesus' resurrection and Christian belief in heaven. When the person is buried, the phrase 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust' is said, as a reminder that God created humans out of the earth and when they are buried they are returning to it.</p> | <p>18.Jewish views on life after death</p> <p>Jews see the soul as a divine energy in each person - a fragment of God in each human being. Body & soul are different aspects of a person but cannot be separated. Breath is a symbol of the soul. Early Judaism says nothing about afterlife. It was originally thought that you live on in people's memories although some also believed in Sheol - a shadowy underworld. Recent Jewish thinking accepts an afterlife: at death body & soul will be temporarily separated but reunited on the Day of Judgement. Many Orthodox Jews believe in body resurrection at the end of time - either rewarded or punished for your life on earth.</p> | <p>19.Jewish funeral rites</p> <p>As they are dying, Jews try to say the Shema, which shows their belief in God. Preferably, the body is buried within 24 hours after death. It is washed & wrapped in a white sheet to show that everyone is equal in death. A male might be buried with his tallit, with the fringes cut (symbolising he doesn't have to follow the mitzvot any more). Upon hearing of the death & before the burial, mourners make a tear in their clothes, to show grief. For the next 7 days, the close family observe shiva when they stay at home, sitting on low stools, burning a candle and saying the Kaddish prayer 3 times a day. Mirrors are also covered.</p> |

