

Religious Studies | Matters of Life and Death | 10 | HT6 (June-July)

Week 1

- **Situation Ethics** – the right action is decided by looking at the situation and deciding which choice would give most loving outcome.
- **Utilitarianism** – the right action is that which gives the greatest happiness to the greatest number.
- **Big Bang** – the most accepted scientific theory for the origin of the universe.
- **Commodity** – something that humans need/want.
- **Creationism** – belief that universe, and humans, were created in the way the Bible says.

Week 2

- **Sanctity of life** – human life is holy and sacred because it is a gift from God and therefore belongs to God.
- “The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” (Genesis 2:7)
- “...your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...” (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- “You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13)
- “God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

Week 3

- **Theory of evolution** – Charles Darwin’s scientific theory that the origin of human life was through the gradual development of species over millions of years.
- **Special Agenda IV** – Church of England document attempting to show that evolution and traditional Christians teachings on Creation can work together.
- **Abortion** – the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy.
- **Humanae Vitae** – written by Pope Paul VI (1968) stating that abortion is wrong.

Week 4

- Non-religious reasons for believing in an afterlife:
- **Near-death experiences** – when people about to die have out-of-body experiences.
 - **Paranormal** – unexplained events that are thought to have spiritual causes, e.g. ghosts.
 - **Remembered lives** – memories of a previous existence.
 - **Comfort** – The idea of life after death can give people hope and make them less afraid of death.
 - “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2)

Week 5

- Non-religious arguments against life after death:
- **Lack of evidence** – no one has ever returned to prove it exists.
 - **Comfort** – it provides a false sense of comfort.
 - **Social control** – the Church in the past may have been seen to ‘control’ people’s behaviour through making them afraid of going to hell.
 - **Fraudulent accounts** – Some people have tricked others into believing they can contact dead people, and some vulnerable people have been taken advantage of in this way.
 - **Humanist beliefs** – when a person dies their body decays and there is nothing else.

Week 6

- **Euthanasia** - the painless killing of someone dying from a painful/incurable disease.
- **Voluntary euthanasia** - where a person’s life is ended deliberately and painlessly at their request.
- **Assisted suicide** - where a person is given the means to end their own life.
- **Non-voluntary euthanasia** - ending a person’s life when they are unable to ask, but there is good reason for thinking it is what they would want.
- **Stewardship** - looking after something so it can be passed on to the next generation.