

- Origin and sanctity of human life
- Non-religious beliefs about evolution and importance of human and animal life and Dignity in Dying Movement
- Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia

### Key Concepts

<b>Afterlife</b>	Life after death; belief existence continues after death.	<b>Euthanasia</b>	'Mercy killing'. Allowing the death of someone suffering from a terminal illness.
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	Ensuring natural resources let people live well now and, in the future.	<b>Evolution</b>	Process by which different creatures are believed to have developed from earlier less complex forms.
<b>Abortion</b>	When a pregnancy is ended so there is no birth.	<b>Soul</b>	Spiritual aspect of a being that connects someone with God.
<b>Quality of life</b>	Extent to which life is meaningful.	<b>Sanctity of Life</b>	Belief that life is precious or sacred.

### Christian beliefs on the origin and value of human life

**Genesis** tells of **God's creation** of humans and animal life. Some Christians believe this **literally** and others interpret the accounts. As life is **God-given** it is **sacred** and should be preserved, so some Christians, (e.g. **Quakers**), argue against the **death penalty**. **Jesus's** practices and teachings (e.g. **Good Samaritan**) show that all life should be valued. As life is **God given** so only **God** should take life away.

### Non-religious beliefs about evolution

**Charles Darwin** wrote about the **theory of evolution** and how living creatures have **evolved** through a process of gradual change. Many Christians accept **evolution** although some see it as undermining religious beliefs. One of their arguments is that humans have a **God given soul**, but this is not compatible with views that humans have evolved from animals. **Richard Dawkins** argues that the **theory of evolution** is the best explanation of the **origin of life** and needs no help from **God**.

### Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia

Many Christians refer to **God's creation** of human life to argue that all life should be preserved and that it is wrong to **'play God'**. They use teachings from the **Bible** to argue against **abortion, euthanasia** and the **death penalty**. Some Christians, (e.g. **Anglicans**), believe some **abortions** are acceptable. However, many Christians, (e.g. **Catholics**), refer to **Jeremiah 1.5** to argue **God** knows each individual before they are born. The teachings of the **Catholic Catechism** show the importance of respecting all life. **Humanists** lobby for a choice regarding issues of death and provide advice to those thinking of assisted dying to help them die with dignity.

### Humanist Dying in Dignity Movement

### Non-religious views on human and animal life

**Humanists** value human life but they do not believe it is **God given**. They would consider the situations behind life and death issues such as **abortion** and **euthanasia**. **Peter Singer** believes that **quality of life** is more important than **sanctity of life** and argues that because of this not all human life is equal.

### Key Sources of Authority

- **God created human and animal life - Genesis 1**
- **Jesus's teachings and actions**
- **'You shall not kill' from the Ten Commandments**
- **'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you' - Jeremiah 1.5**
- **Views of Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins, Peter Singer**

### Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in **Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity)**. Consider how...

- **beliefs about the origin and value of human life relate to the dignity of human life (Component 1)**
- **beliefs about the origin and value of human life relate to the death penalty (Component 1).**

### Exam Practice

- What is meant by evolution? (2)**
- Explain from two religions or religious traditions different beliefs about abortion. (8)**