

- The origin of the universe and relationship between Christian and non-religious views
- Christian and non-religious beliefs about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability and global citizenship

Key Concepts

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

Different Christian and non-religious beliefs about the origin of the universe

There are many different beliefs about the origin of the Universe. Accounts of **God's creation** of the Universe in seven days can be found in **Genesis**. Some Christians believe these stories **literally** e.g. **Creationists**. Some Christians take a **non-literal** view and believe the **creation stories** can be interpreted and not factually true.

Beliefs about the Big Bang

Hawking argues that at the birth of the Universe, the cosmos must have emerged from a singularity - **the Big Bang** and that the Universe is expanding. Some Christians and many non-religious believers believe in the **Big Bang theory**. Some Christians believe that **God** caused the '**big bang**' which started the Universe and then life **evolved** over many years. **Charles Darwin** wrote about the **theory of evolution** describing how living creatures have **evolved** through a process of gradual change.

Christian and non-religious beliefs about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability and global citizenship

Christians believe humans are expected to look after and be '**stewards**' of the world **God** has **created**. Some Christians believe this includes having **dominion** or 'rulers' of **creation** as in **Psalm 8**. **Humanists** believe it is a **moral duty** to care for the planet and create organisations to campaign for a better world.

Key Sources of Authority

- Origins of the universe in **Genesis 1 and 2**
- **Psalm 8:6** refers to humans being 'rulers' over creation
- **Stephen Hawking's** views on the **Big Bang**

Key Connections

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

Consider how...

- Beliefs about the origin of the Universe relate to the *origin of human life* (Component 1)
- Beliefs about the origin of the Universe relate to *Creation* (Component 2).

Exam Practice

Religious creation stories successfully explain the origins of the universe. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religious and non-religious views in your answer. (15)

Describe the Big Bang Theory of creation. (5)