

Origins and value of the universe:

The Big Bang Theory:

- An enormous explosion started the universe around 14 billion years ago, it suggest that all mater was concentrated into a great mass which then began to expand to form the universe.

Christian responses to the scientific explanations of the universe:

Christians believe the story of creation as found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. They believe the world is a gift from God, created over six days with the seventh day being a day of rest

- ✓ Some Christians reject the scientific theories of creation, instead believing that the creation story in the Bible is true in all detail.
- ✓ Some Christians believe there is no conflict between science and religion. They being that the Big Bang is part of God's plan – God started the Big Bang.

Sanctity of life

Christians believe that human life is special and holy – this is known as the sanctity of life.

Why human life is holy:

Christians believe that human life is holy and sacred because it is a gift from god and therefore belongs to him.

The Bible teaches Christians that God made them in his image. This means humans are different form the rest of creation as God created them in a different way.

The importance of the sanctity of life today:

1. It determines Christian beliefs on issues such as abortion or euthanasia
2. They will value human life and this will impact how they live
3. It will guide them when making moral decisions and help them to know how to treat others

Human Origins:

Theory of evolution:

The theory of evolution is based on Charles Darwin's theories that the origin of human life the gradually

Matters of Life and Death

Paper 1: Section 4

The future of the Church

Missionary and evangelical work:

A missionary is a person who is sent out on a religious mission, especially to promote Christianity in foreign places.

Evangelical work refers to the spreading of faith by missionaries. The reason why Christians do missionary work is because Jesus said '**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation**' (Mark 16:15)

Different ways Churches grow locally, globally and nationally:

Locally:

- ✓ Local churches fund projects to spread God's word e.g. via grants to community projects
- ✓ Events open the Church to non-believers and introduce them to Christianity
- ✓ Local churches provide community support e.g. through local food banks

Nationally:

- ✓ Many Churches are linked across the country and put on national events e.g. conferences and summer camps
- ✓ Special event days are held where people from different areas come together.

Globally:

- ✓ There may be opportunity to study or create links with Christians in other countries.
- ✓ People go on missionary work abroad or do charity work for Christian charities such as Christian Aid.

The worldwide Church

All Christians are united in being a part of the worldwide Christian Church,

The importance of the world wide Church:

- Gives a global identity to Christians
 - Promotes unity
- Provides support when needed – to Christians, other religious believers and non-religious individual
- Shows how Christian teachings can be put into action globally

Christian teachings about Charity

1. Christianity teaches about compassion and treating other people fairly; 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31)
2. Jesus taught about helping others e.g. in **the parable of the Good Samaritan**
3. Christians believe God made all humans in his image so they should be treated equally
4. Christians believe that humans are accountable to God in this life: In **the parable of the Sheep and the Goats** it talks about how humans will be judged according to how they have helped others.

The Church in the local community:

Role and importance of the Church community:

1. Unites the local community
2. Provides support and comfort when needed
3. Can give advice from sources of authority such as minister or vicar
4. Gives identity and belonging to people in a community

How does the Church help the local community?

1. **Centre of Christian identity** – Brings people together e.g. through clubs for children, social groups such as coffee morning etc.
2. **Ecumenism** – breaks down the barriers of different Christian denominations e.g. groups of Christians might visit each other, some share buildings and hold joint services.
3. **Out reach work** – Many Christians do volunteer work or work in positions that involve them going out into the local community.
4. **Worship through living practices** – Celebrate events such as Christmas and Easter, hold baptisms, funerals and marriages.

Important key words:



Monogamy: marriage is only to one person at a time

Cohabitation: Living together in a sexual relationship without being married

Sacraments – an outward ceremony through which God's grace is given

Diocese – a Church area under direction of the bishop

Gender prejudice- believing one sex is superior to another

Gender discrimination- putting the prejudice into action and treating one sex differently because of their sex

Sources of wisdom and authority:

- 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31)
- The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- The parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)
- 'God created mankind in his own image' (Genesis 1:27)
- 'Go into the world and preach the gospel to all of creation' (Mark 16:15)
- 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit ((Matthew 28:19)

