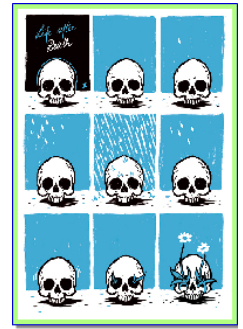


# Matters of Life and Death

This is about what happens when we die, abortion and euthanasia (mercy killing)



## Matters of Life and Death

WORDS THEY CAN ASK YOU FOR THE MEANING IN THE EXAM:-

- Abortion** = The removal of the foetus from the womb before it can survive.
- Assisted suicide** = Providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
- Euthanasia** = The painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease
- Immortality of the soul** = The idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body.
- Near Death Experience** = When someone who is about to die has an out of body experience
- Non-voluntary euthanasia** = Ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so.
- Paranormal** = Unexplained things that are thought to have spiritual causes.
- Quality of Life** =
- Reincarnation** = The belief that, after death, souls are reborn in a new body.
- Resurrection** = The belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised.
- Sanctity of Life** = Life is special because it is created by God.
- Voluntary Euthanasia** = When someone asks to die.

## 1. What happens when we die?



What Happens when we die?

### What do Christians believe?

All Christians believe in life after death. They believe this because of the evidence in the Bible. Jesus was resurrected three days after he died. But Christians disagree about what happens when someone dies.



Why do Christians believe in life after death?

Evangelical Protestants believe in...

Many Protestants believe in...

Roman Catholics believe in the...

The resurrection of the body:-	The immortality of the soul:-	Resurrection AND the immortality of the soul:-
<p>At the end of time there will be a day of judgement. On this day everyone will be brought back to life in their bodies. Those that accepted Jesus will go to heaven, those that did not will go to hell.</p> <p>Evidence: Jesus was resurrected.</p>	<p>When you die your soul (which lives forever) will go straight to be judged. If you have lived as a Christian you will go to heaven. Some Protestants believe evil people will go to hell. Some think there is no such thing as hell.</p> <p>Evidence: Jesus said on the cross "today you will be with me in paradise"</p>	<p>When you die your soul will go to heaven if you have been perfect. Some souls will go to purgatory to suffer for sinfulness – but they will eventually go to heaven. Those that have been evil will go to hell. On the day of judgement people's souls will be reunited with their bodies. God will make a new world for the good to live in. Those that have been in purgatory will join God. Those that have been in hell will be sent back there.</p> <p>Evidence: Jesus was resurrected &amp; other teachings in the Bible</p>

## How might these beliefs affect the life of a Christian?:-

- They will treat others in a loving way because they know they will be judged.
- It gives them hope that they might live again
- It offers comfort to know that those that have died will live in an afterlife



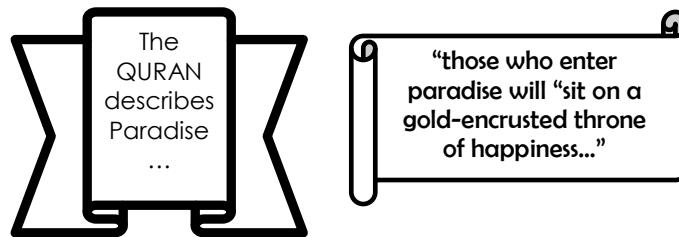
How does this belief affect their lives?

## What do Muslims believe?

- The Qur'an teaches that there will be a day of judgement.
- On that day everyone will be resurrected (brought to life in their body) and will be judged.
- All your actions in this life will have been recorded in a book.
- Those who followed the teachings of the Qur'an and followed Shari'ah law (law based on the Qur'an) will be rewarded with Paradise.
- Those who did not do this will be sent to hell.



Why do Muslims believe in Life after Death?



## Why do non-religious people believe in a life after death?

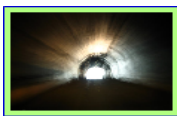
The possible evidence that there is a life after death might be:-



Mediums



Ghosts



Near death experiences

- Mediums – “spiritualists” who claim that the dead talk to them. They are often able to pass messages from the “spirit world” to the relatives of those that have died.
- Ghosts – many people have reported sightings of ghosts – spirits of those who have died?
- Near-death experiences – people who have been pronounced dead by doctors and then revived have reported floating above their bodies, In some cases they report that they have met dead relatives. Many claim they travel through a tunnel towards a bright light.
- Reincarnation – some people claim that the feeling of déjà vu (feeling you have been somewhere before) is evidence that we have all lived past lives.



What evidence is there for life after death?

## 2. Abortion

The law: The Abortion act was passed in 1967 & made abortion legal up to 24 weeks when having the baby could:-



Abortion



What does the law say?

- harm the physical or mental health of the woman
- harm the physical or mental health of the woman's existing children.
- The child were born it would be seriously mentally or physically handicapped.
- The mothers life is in danger (even after 24 weeks)



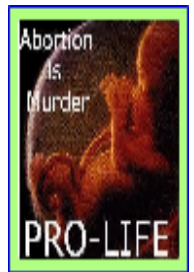
Abortion is ok because...

### Arguments FOR abortion:-

- The woman's life is more important than the life of the foetus.
- If the woman was raped it would be unfair to expect her to have the child.
- A woman has a right to chose
- A woman can get pregnant at the wrong time.

### Arguments AGAINST abortion:-

- An unwanted baby can be adopted
- Disabled people have a right to life too
- Just because you have not been born does not mean you do not have the right to life.
- Life really begins at conception.



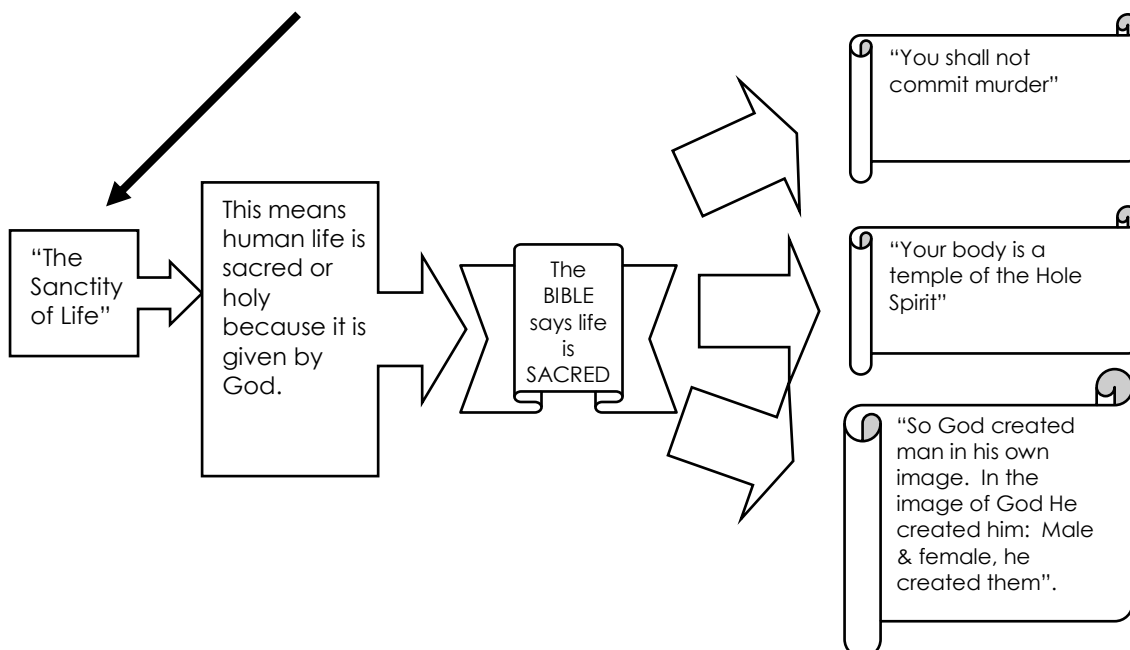
Abortion is wrong because...

## What do Christians believe about abortion?

Christians do not all share the same beliefs about abortion. However they do all agree that it is not a good thing. This is because all Christians believe in:-



What do Christians believe about abortion?



"Traditional" Christians (like Catholics & Evangelical Christians) argue that abortion is wrong because:-

"Liberal" Christians (like the Church of England) argue that abortion is sometimes the right thing to do because....

- Life is sacred
- Life begins at conception.
- Abortion is murder
- All human life is wanted by God
- God has a plan for us all.

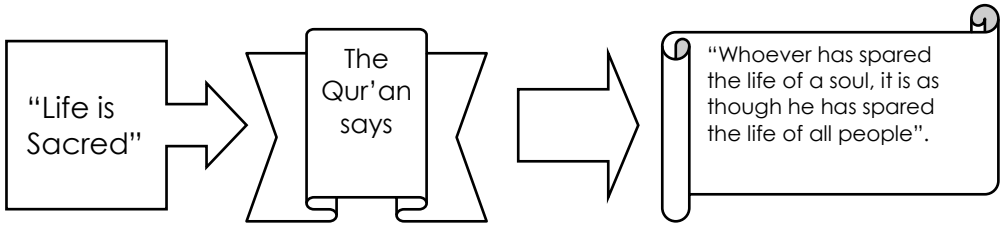
- Abortion is sometimes the loving thing to do (e.g... in cases of rape.
- Jesus acted lovingly to everyone
- Life may not begin at conception

### What do Muslims believe about abortion?

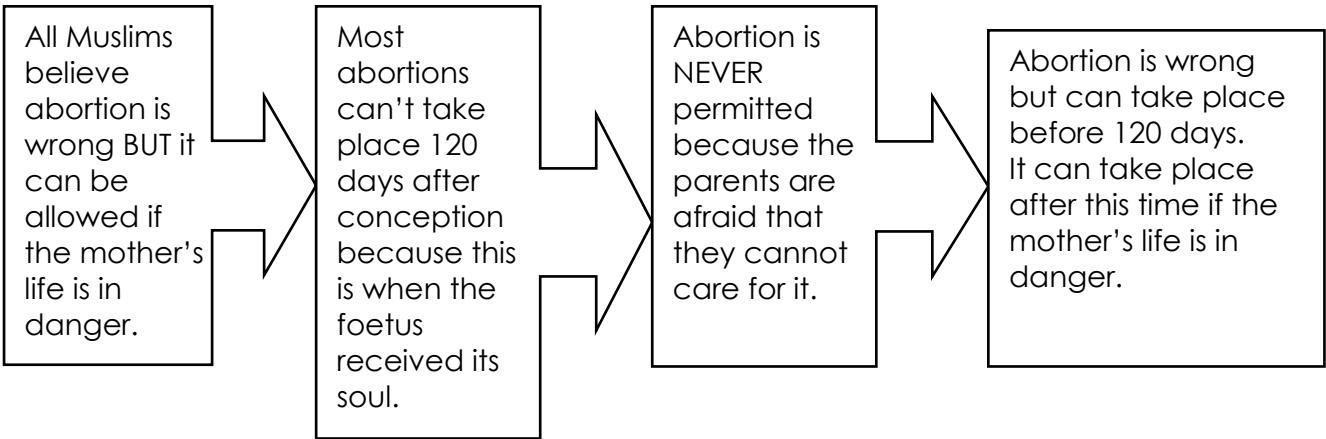
For all Muslims, like Christians, life is sacred. They base this on the teaching of the Qur'an:-



What do Muslims believe about abortion?



"Kill not your offspring for fear of poverty; it is we who provide for them and for you. Killing them is a great sin". (QUR'AN)



## 2. Euthanasia (or mercy killing)

Euthanasia is to provide a patient with an "easy & painless death". In Britain it is illegal to perform euthanasia.



**Euthanasia  
(Mercy Killing)**

### Arguments FOR Euthanasia

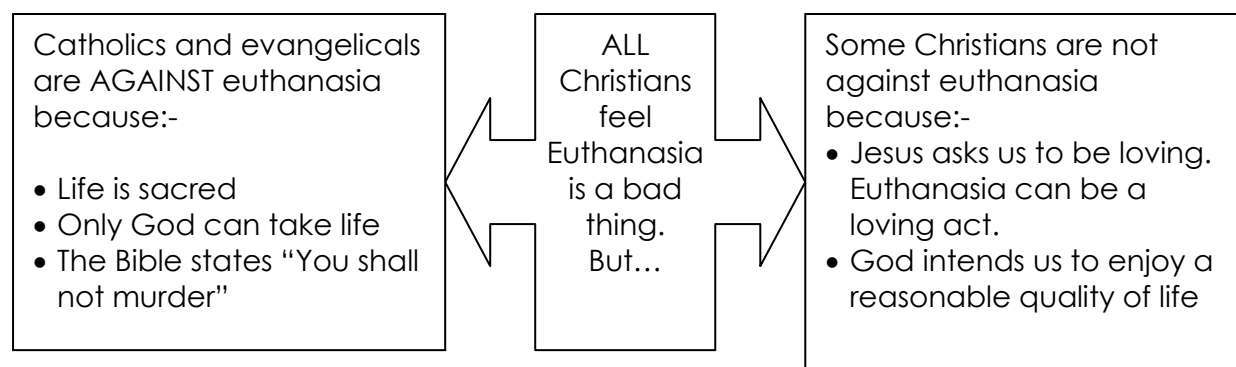
### Arguments AGAINST Euthanasia



## What do Christians think about Euthanasia?



What do Christians believe?



All Christians would encourage the dying to go into a **hospice**. These are places which care specifically for the dying. Many hospices are run and paid for by Christians.

## What do Muslims think about Euthanasia?



What do Muslims believe?

All Muslims think euthanasia is always wrong because:-

- Life is sacred – it is given by Allah (God) – only Allah can take it away.
- Euthanasia is seen as suicide which is forbidden
- Suffering is a test from God
- The Qur'an and Hadith both forbid suicide and mercy killing (see opposite)

“When their time comes they cannot delay it by a single hour nor can they bring it forward by a single hour”  
QUR'AN.




The Hadith says:-  
  
Anyone who kills themselves to avoid a painful death will go to hell

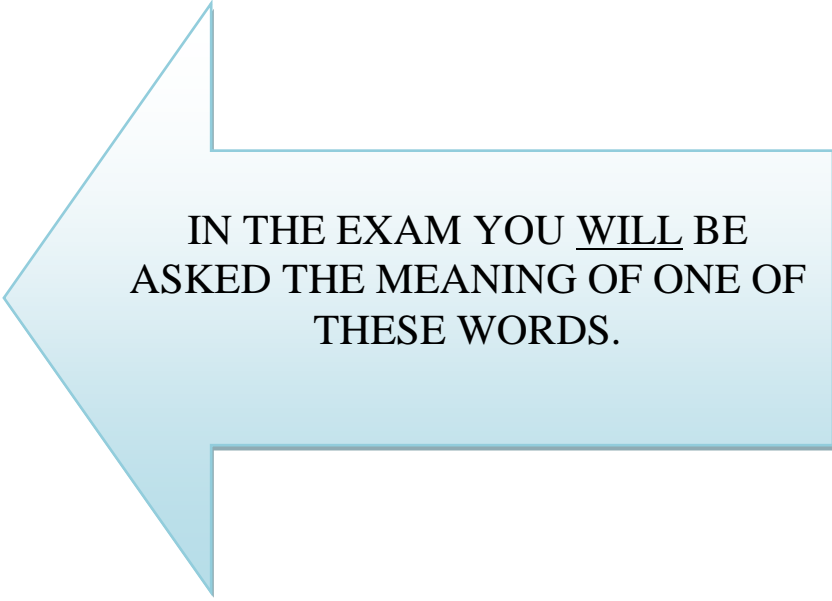
## 3. Matters of Life and Death in the Media



As part of your GCSE you will be shown a variety of TV programmes / films that try to deal with what happens after death / Abortion & Euthanasia.

Should the Media be free to criticise religious people about their beliefs?

Name of programme / film	What issues did it deal with? What was the plot?	How effective was it (up to 5 stars)
		
		
		



IN THE EXAM YOU WILL BE  
ASKED THE MEANING OF ONE OF  
THESE WORDS.

Example 'c' question on this topic:-

Explain why Christians believe in life after death (8 marks).

Example 'd' question on this topic:-

"Life after Death is impossible"

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion (3 marks)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you (3 marks)

Example 'c' question on this topic:-

Explain why some religious people believe in life after death (8 marks).

Example 'd' question on this topic:-

"The law on abortion should be changed"

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion (3 marks)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you (3 marks)

Example 'c' question on this topic:

Explain why some Christians do not agree with abortion. (8 marks)

Cont on next page...

(cont....)

An example 'c' question on this topic.

Explain why some Muslims will allow an abortion (8 marks)

Example 'b' question on this topic:-

Do you agree with euthanasia? Give two reasons for your point of view (4 marks).

Example 'c' question on this topic:-

Explain why followers of one religion *other than Christianity* do not agree with euthanasia. (8 marks).

Cont... on next page

(from previous page...)

## Exam Question

(a) What is **non –voluntary euthanasia**?

(b) Do you agree with euthanasia?

Give **two** reasons for your point of view (4 marks)

(c) Explain why some Christians do not agree with abortion (8 marks).

(d) "Your soul will never die"

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion (3 marks).

(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you (3 marks).

