

0 2 Theme B: Religion and life

0 2 . 1 Which one of the following means that human life is precious and sacred? **[1 mark]**

- A Quality of life**
- B Meaning of life**
- C Length of life**
- D Sanctity of life**

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority

Answer: D: Sanctity of life

0 2 . 2 Give two reasons why some religious people do not eat meat. **[2 marks]**

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority

One mark for each of two correct points.

Students may include two of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

Against killing of animals as they believe that animals should not be harmed / animals are God's creation / idea of stewardship / object to cruelty eg of some factory farming or killing methods / believe that vegetarianism is healthier / medical reasons / upbringing / dislike the taste of meat / if land used to raise cattle was used to grow vegetables more food would be produced/ goes against religious teaching eg. Buddhist and Hindu belief in ahimsa / God sees every sparrow that falls / may not be kosher or halal / the Sikh Langar is vegetarian, etc.

0 2 . 3 Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about euthanasia.

In your answer, you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs

First contrasting belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Second contrasting belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

The contrast may refer to either the religious belief (s) used or the issue.

If similar beliefs are given only **one** of them may be credited up to 2 marks max.

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

Goes against the sanctity of life / seen by some as murder / God gives and takes life / playing God to end it / life is special and should be preserved/ it's against the law and therefore wrong / can be seen as assisted suicide.

It is loving and compassionate to end suffering – all religions teach love and compassion / intention is to help, not to harm / voluntary euthanasia is the wish of the suffering individual / euthanasia by withdrawing treatment allows natural death / God doesn't want people to suffer / people have freewill given by God / quality of life issues / euthanasia allows a 'good and peaceful death', etc.

Buddhism

The First Precept is to help not hurt others / hospices which help people face death are supported by Buddhists / believe that life is special and should be protected / must show compassion and practise ahimsa.

Guiding principle is to reduce suffering / every situation must be judged separately / right action is important / has karmic consequences / The Dalai Lama said that 'Where a person is definitely going to die, and keeping them alive leads to more suffering, then termination of life is permitted under Mahayana Buddhism', etc.

Christianity

All life is sacred life and should end naturally / The Ten Commandments – 'Do not kill' / God gives and takes life / very few support active euthanasia but some do eg Dutch Protestant Church see it as an act of love and compassion / some may support passive euthanasia (ending of treatment) believing that doctors do not have an overriding obligation to prolong life by all means possible eg Church of England / Catholic teaching does not support any form of euthanasia / support the hospice movement, etc.

Hinduism

Hindu virtues include compassion, ahimsa and respect for life / may be suffering because of karmic consequences – Yajur Veda warns that the one who tries to escape from the trials of this life by taking their own life will suffer more in the next life / life is special and sacred / some support passive euthanasia – may be acceptable to refuse food and treatment / active euthanasia considered murder/ principle of caring for the dying, etc.

Islam

Euthanasia is zulm – wrong doing against Allah/ playing God/ Qur'an says that no one can die except by Allah's leave, that is a decree with a fixed term / life is sacred, created by Allah who has a plan for each life / Muhammad told a story of a man who helped a friend die because he was suffering so much and as a result of his action was denied entry into paradise / the suffering may be part of Allah's plan / life should end when Allah wills it / passive euthanasia (with holding of treatment) is accepted where there is no hope of recovery, etc.

Judaism

Life is sacred / The Ten Commandments – 'Do not kill' / God gives and takes life / active euthanasia is considered wrong as it actually causes death- murder / it is wrong to throw life away / passive euthanasia – shortening the act of dying, that is, not doing anything which extends or prolongs the pain is seen as acceptable by many Jews eg switching off of a life support machine / acceptable to give pain relief even if it will hasten death provided the intention is not to kill but to relieve pain, etc.

Sikhism

Sikhs believe that life is sacred and God-given / no one has the right to decide to end life as it is decided by God / 'Praise the Great Giver, who gives sustenance to all .. Those who are sent come, O Nanak; when they are called back, they depart and go' Guru Granth Sahib 1239 / karmic consequences - escaping suffering in this life would result in suffering in the next life / duty to care for the dying - Gurus began hospitals for the sick and dying / against deliberately ending life but many support not artificially prolonging life when a person is in a vegetative state (non-treatment decision), etc.

0 2 . 4 Explain two religious beliefs about how peoples' actions in this life affect what happens to them in the afterlife.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority

First belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Second belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching – 1 mark

Max 2 marks in total for a response which is only a description of the afterlife, including reference to sacred writing / belief / teaching.

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

Buddhism

Buddhists believe in rebirth / type of world that a Buddhist is reborn into (eg as a human, animal or human being) depends on the quality of their actions (kamma) in their previous lives / the thoughts, actions and intentions of each life shape the next / the Tibetan Wheel of Life – shows continual cycle of birth, death and rebirth (samsara) / a person's actions create the conditions for their future happiness and suffering / the ultimate aim is to break free and achieve nibbana (a state of liberation, peace and happiness) / this is achieved by following Buddhist teaching through breaking the habit of craving (tanha) and meditation, etc.

Christianity

Christians believe that when people die God judges whether they should go to heaven or hell / some believe in immediate judgement, others that there is a Day of Judgement when Jesus returns / the Catholic Church believes it is important to live righteous lives to avoid spending a long time in purgatory, where souls undergo purification in order to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven / many believe that good works are essential eg like helping the poor and needy (Parable of the Sheep and Goats) and James' teaching that faith without works is dead, in order to get to heaven / others believe that it is through faith and trust in Jesus that a person is saved from an eternity in hell / heaven is described as indescribably wonderful eg Revelation 4 and 21:4 / hell is portrayed as for sinners and as something to be avoided (Matthew 13: 50, 25:41, Revelation 14:11), etc.

Hinduism

Hindus believe that the soul continues its journey (with the eventual goal of reaching moksha) by being born into a new body (reincarnation) / its bodily form may be different – a person in a different place or social group, or an animal, a reptile or an insect / this is determined by its desires in this life and its merits (how much good karma it has achieved in its previous life) / the Puranas state that there are worlds of demons and heavenly beings / Hindus hope that they will perform dharma well enough in one life to reach a better level in the next and not fear the afterlife / The Bhagavad Gita 2.22 describes the new life as ‘putting on new clothes’ / the goal is to achieve enlightenment and become one with the Ultimate Reality, so stopping being reincarnated, etc.

Islam

Muslims believe that this life is a test to decide what will happen to them in the afterlife / after death there is a state of waiting in the grave until judgement (barzakh, meaning barrier) / people are unable to cross the barrier to put right things which they did wrong or warn others / on the Day of Judgement the dead will be resurrected in their new bodies, brought in front of God, a book of their life as recorded by two angels will be opened / their good and bad deeds will be examined and weighed / God will then decide their fate / failure to believe results in the punishment of hell (Jahannam) – Qur’an 67:6-8) a place of physical and spiritual torture / believers who performed more good deeds than bad are promised the reward of spending eternity with God in paradise / if life is hard Muslims believe that God may be testing their faith and if they please Allah they will ultimately enjoy the eternal garden of physical and spiritual pleasures (Qur’an 39:20, 52:22), etc.

Judaism

Although unlike the other religions there is little teaching in the Jewish holy books about what happens in Olam Ha-Ba (the World to Come) Jews believe that it is important to live life in obedience to God and trust him for what is to come / this means keeping the laws as laid down in the Torah eg keeping the Ten Commandments, keeping the Sabbath / this is not motivated by a belief that punishment in the afterlife is permanent - many Orthodox Jews believe in heaven (Gan Eden) but not in a place of permanent punishment / a soul-cleansing process as a result of a person’s actions, which is part of traditional Jewish belief, is seen as temporary / the Talmud contains some ideas about resurrection at the coming of the Messiah / Reform and Liberal Jews reject the idea of the resurrection of the dead unlike Orthodox Jews / Daniel 12:2 / Job 10:21-22, etc.

Sikhism

Sikhs believe in samsara, the cycle of birth, death and rebirth / sometimes they refer to death as like a sleep and then awaking in a new body (reincarnation) / the soul is born into many lifetimes, whose quality is decided by the words, thoughts and deeds of the previous lifetime (s) / the aim is to get good merit or karma/the point of each life is to serve and worship God, enter into union with God and eventually obtain liberation from the samsara cycle and suffering of this world / failure to worship and meditate on God results in wandering through the 8.4 million species (Guru Granth Sahib 88 and 115) / what the mind last remembers will affect what happens after death (Guru Granth Sahib 526), etc.

0 2 . 5 ‘Abuse of the environment is impossible to stop.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

- **should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement**
- **should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**
- **should refer to religious arguments**
- **may refer to non-religious arguments**
- **should reach a justified conclusion.**

[12 marks]
[Plus SPaG 3 marks]

Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion.	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.	4–6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

Arguments in support

- There are so many people in the world the environment is certain to be abused, damaged or destroyed. There is great demand on resources like oil, wood, minerals, etc.
- People abuse the environment to survive eg need for wood and energy for cooking.
- Modern lifestyles and technology demand resources. Use of fossil fuels causes pollution. CFCs in fridges are destroying the ozone layer. Carbon emissions from vehicles, power stations and factories are causing climate change (the greenhouse effect) and acid rain, etc.
- It is impossible to turn the clock back once it has started to happen.
- There are increasing amounts of waste are being created by a throwaway society. People are

demanding more and more – the Earth cannot cope: forests are being destroyed, plastic and non-biodegradable materials are causing pollution and pesticides are getting into the food chain. People are more concerned with practising dominion than stopping abuse of the environment, etc.

Arguments in support of other views

- People should be concerned about future generations and encourage sustainable development.
- Harm the planet and it affects us all so it should be an important priority to stop abuse eg. reduce, recycle, reuse.
- Take action to prevent animal habitats being destroyed and species becoming extinct.
- Religions teach to be good stewards and to look after mother earth. Humans have been given responsibility to care for the world for God and should live sustainably.
- Earth summits show that things can be done, etc.
- Education changes the way people behave.
- More efforts by more people makes more difference.
- We can pass laws to protect the environment and punish transgressors.
- Campaigns have been effective in the past so will be in the future, eg. reintroducing species / ant plastic.

Buddhism

Concept of interdependence / everything depends on other things and the environment / taking too much from the environment goes against the second Noble Truth – suffering is caused by greed / first precept – help not harm other sentient things / caring for the environment is a step towards enlightenment / the Dalai Lama has said that the destruction of nature results from ignorance, greed and lack of respect for the Earth's living things / this has karmic consequences, etc.

Christianity

'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it' Psalm 24:1 / trustees and so will be answerable to God / ideas of stewardship and dominion – Genesis 1:28 / only tenants of the world – Leviticus 25:23 / the Assisi and Ohito meetings and Earth Summits / must face God on Judgement Day / nothing more important than seeking God – Matthew 6:33 / Pope John Paul II has said that people are responsible for the future of the planet, etc.

Hinduism

Respect must be given to all life, including the environment / all life seen as interdependent / belief that souls will be reborn into more lifetimes on Earth, so need to look after the future / God is seen as part of nature, so protection and worship important – Svetasvatara Upanishad 5, Chandogya Upanishad 3:14 / world often referred to as 'mother' as it provides the nourishment needed to sustain creation so needs protection / enough for human need but not for human greed - Gandhi, etc.

Islam

The Qur'an teaches that the world is green and beautiful and Allah has appointed people as his stewards / the world has been created as a place of worship / people are trustees or khalifahs and answerable to God as people are tenants of the world 'do not seek from it more than you need' – Hadith / have a duty to pass on to those who come after them a world fit to live in / most important to follow the Five Pillars eg pray five times a day, fast during Ramadan and serve and worship Allah, etc.

Judaism

Creation story in Genesis says that God created an environment that was good / humans given the role of stewardship / 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it' Psalm 24 : 1 / idea of dominion / duty to treat the world with respect eg leave fallow to restore fertility / healing the world (tikkun olam) / concept of do not destroy (bal tashchit) / not possible to 'love your neighbour' if damaging the environment, etc.

Sikhism

Guru Nanak said that God created everything / Adi Granth says that in nature we see God, and in nature, we hear God speak / believe in sewa (service) which includes looking after the world and safeguarding it for future generations / Cycle of Creation demands that Sikhs support and protect the creation / avoid waste and promote sustainable development / Guru Granth Sahib refers to the Earth as Mother and so should be treated with respect / most important to meditate on God's name, etc.

[Plus SPaG 3 marks]