

**0 2** Theme B: Religion and life

**0 2**. **1** Which one of the following describes the religious belief that humans have authority to rule over the world?

[1 mark]

- A Abuse
- B Dominion
- C Evolution
- D Misuse

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

Answer: B Dominion

**0 2**. **2** Give two reasons why many religious people use animals for food.

[2 marks]

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

1 mark for each of two correct points.

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

Their religion doesn't forbid it / examples from sacred writings of eating meat / permission given by God eg to Noah / personal choice as there isn't a law against it / most people eat meat (only a minority of people are vegans or vegetarians) so it must be alright / enjoy the taste / good for health / good source of protein, vitamins, and minerals / it's the tradition, etc.

**0 2 . 3** Explain two contrasting religious beliefs in contemporary British society about euthanasia.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other 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 contrast – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks

**Second contrasting belief**

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

**Students must refer explicitly to a belief from Christianity, so showing that they know and understand that the main religious tradition of Great Britain is Christian. The belief they choose to explain may vary according to the denomination or tradition they refer to.**

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

**If students do not refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain (Christianity) a maximum of 2 marks may be awarded.**

**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 / People change their mind / Relatives could pressurise a person to seek an early death so they can inherit his or her property, etc.

**Buddhism**

The First Precept is to help not hurt others / Hospices which help people face death are supported by Buddhists / Belief that life is special and should be protected / Must show compassion and practise ahimsa / Has karmic consequences, etc.

**Christianity**

All life is sacred life and should end naturally / The Ten Commandments – 'Do not kill' / God gives and takes life / Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 / Support given to the hospice movement allowing a sufferer to die naturally with dignity, 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 / 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, etc.

### **Judaism**

Life is sacred and precious / 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 / Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 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, etc.

**0 2 . 4** Explain two religious beliefs about the use of natural resources.

**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

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

God created natural resources for people to use but not abuse / God gave people free choice so no one can stop people doing what they want to the world / Humans are the most intelligent beings and have dominion and modern lifestyles require the use of resources eg for generating electricity, transport (oil) / Should try to live sustainably and trees can be replanted but deforestation is having a negative effect on the world's climate / Need for stewardship eg reduce, reuse and recycle / Need for conservation as humans are only tenants and future generations need to be considered and natural resources left for them / less selfish to use renewable energy sources such as wind, wave and solar power as natural resources take millions of years to renew / religious believers should not be selfish, etc.

**Buddhism**

Greed is one of the poisons so do not abuse natural resources / First moral precept – avoid causing harm / Consider future generations and live simply and sustainably / Concept of dependent arising / Karmic consequences if used unwisely / Support projects like the Holy Isle project – replanting trees, water conservation / Unskilful action to abuse the natural resources / Caring for the earth leads people towards enlightenment, etc.

**Christianity**

God created humans to look after the world (Genesis – Adam and Eve looked after the Garden of Eden) / Ideas of stewardship and trusteeship – Genesis 2 : 15, Psalm 8 : 6 / Important to live sustainably / God will hold people accountable on Judgement Day / Support for Earth summits eg Assisi and Ohito meetings / Resources are available to use but not abuse / Humans are only tenants of God's world (Leviticus 25 : 23), etc.

### **Hinduism**

Idea of karmic consequences so natural resources should not be abused as it will otherwise affect reincarnation / Need to live sustainably as natural resources are precious / The Upanishads teach that material resources should be used wisely / Idea of stewardship / Interdependence / Gandhi's quote about not enough resources for human greed / Nature is sacred and cannot be destroyed without humanity destroying itself, etc.

### **Islam**

Religious duty to look after what Allah has created / Khalifah 'He has given you the earth for your heritage.' (Surah 6:165) / 'To him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth' (Surah 2: 256 & 257) / The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (ITEES) has developed conservation projects and protection of natural resources / Belief in importance of replanting trees and sustainable development / Oppose the abuse of natural resources, etc.

### **Judaism**

God created humans to look after the world (Genesis – Adam and Eve looked after the Garden of Eden) / Ideas of stewardship and trusteeship / The bal tashchit (do not waste) precept supports conserving resources / Leviticus – love thy neighbour / 'All that I created for you ... do not corrupt or desolate my world ...' (Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7 : 13) / Resources are available to use but not abuse / God will hold people accountable on Judgement Day, etc.

### **Sikhism**

God created everything (Guru Nanak), therefore everything should be treated with respect / Ideal to live a simple life free from conspicuous waste / Karmic consequences to abusing natural resources / Need to live in harmony with nature / Avoid waste and live sustainably / Conservation projects in the Punjab / Reuse, recycling and share resources where possible / Greed one of the five evils / GGS refers to the earth as mother so should be looked after and not exploited / Trees are regarded as special and some species are named as sacred, etc.

**0 2 . 5** 'It is possible to believe in both the Big Bang theory and religious teachings about the origins of the universe.'

**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: AO2:1a and 1b Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
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. <b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b>	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. <b>Clear reference to religion.</b>	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. <b>OR</b> Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. <b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b>	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**

- Some believe that God created/caused the Big Bang as a way of forming the universe.
- Most scientists believe that the universe had a beginning. So was God the first cause?
- Some creation stories suggest that God created the universe in six days but the days might stand for a long period of time and so not disagree with the Big Bang theory.
- The creation stories may only be designed to show that God was involved in creation and not to explain how it happened, etc.

### **Arguments in support of other views**

- The Big Bang theory does not need a supernatural cause as the universe could have come into being by accident.
- Scientists say that the universe has evolved naturally over billions of years not in six days for instance.
- There are contradictions in the religious teachings about the origins of the universe.
- The creation stories are just myths, etc.

### **Buddhism**

Buddhist teachings neither explicitly support nor deny the Big Bang theory / All things are dependent upon conditions (dependent arising) / Buddhists believe in the cycle of samsara – cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth / There is no teaching in a creator God / Doesn't teach that the universe has any origin / Suggests that universes come into existence, expand and evolve, and then wither and die, over and over again, etc.

### **Christianity**

Genesis 1:1 – Genesis 2 : 3 gives an account of how God created the universe in six days and rested on the seventh / Genesis 2 gives a second creation story / fundamentalist Christians believe that these stories are exactly how God created the universe as they believe that every word in the Bible has been inspired by God and is therefore true / The Big Bang theory suggests that the universe has come into being over billions of years so the six days cannot be true / Many Christians see the six days of creation as just symbolic of a period of time which can be interpreted as an indefinite length, so there is no contradiction / Some Christians believe that the Genesis stories are myths that portray important truths about the universe, eg that it is good / The 'why' is more important than the 'how' / They may argue that the Big Bang was how God formed the universe, etc.

### **Hinduism**

Hindu beliefs are based on a cyclical idea of time / Worlds are continually being recreated / They see the universe as like one of many bubbles in space / There isn't just one universe or act of creation as it is a continuous process / There are various creation stories such as that of Lord Vishnu, Brahma and the lotus flower / The story of the golden egg expanding until it cracked open could be compared with the Big Bang / The Big Bang followed by the Big Crunch followed by another Big Bang would fit in with the Hindu ideas of a cyclical universe, etc.

### **Islam**

Only God existed before the universe which he created with his divine word / Most Muslims believe that the Qur'an refers to six phases or distinct periods of time in the creation of the universe / What is included in the Qur'an concerning creation closely resembles the Big Bang theory / The heavens and stars were at one time in 'smoke' material / Could be interpreted as the universe gradually cooled and matter joined together to form the stars / The Qur'an is more concerned about why the universe came into being whereas scientists focus on how / Islam teaches that creation wasn't an accident but was designed by God, etc.

### **Judaism**

The Torah, Genesis 1 and 2 tell the creation stories of God creating the world by speaking it into existence / It tells of six days of creation and God resting on the seventh day / Some Orthodox Jews believe this account literally / Other Jews believe that it is symbolic and that the days mean a passage of time / Some Jews believe that the creation stories are important not as scientific accounts of creation but in emphasising the importance of human beings being made in the image of God / Some believe that the universe started at a particular moment in time as the Big Bang theory suggests / They believe that it came about by design and not by accident, etc.

### **Sikhism**

Sikhism does not find itself in conflict with the Big Bang theory because this theory attempts to explain how things happened rather than why / Sikhs believe that the universe happened because of God's will - GGS 1035 / GGS 276 supports the idea of an expanding universe / GGS 117 shows that Sikhs believe that the current universe is not permanent / There is a continuous cycle of creation and destruction of the universe, etc.

**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**