

Paper 2: Thematic studies

B

Religion and life

The origins of the universe



B

Religion and life

4.1

The origins of the universe

Key terms

universe: all of time and space and its contents; includes planets, stars, galaxies, the contents of intergalactic space, the smallest subatomic particles, and all matter and energy.

Big Bang: a massive expansion of space which set in motion the creation of the universe.

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.

Time exists in the universe.
Outside the universe there is no time
God is outside of time.
God has no beginning and no end.

God was not created – he just *is*.

That is to say:
In the beginning, God made everything.

“The Heavens and the Earth” is seen as short hand. In the Tenakh, *the Heavens* refers to everything visible above one’s head. *The Earth* is everything under one’s feet.

The origins of the universe

Some good words to use...

Genesis 1

6 days – 'good'

Literally

Metaphorical

6000 years

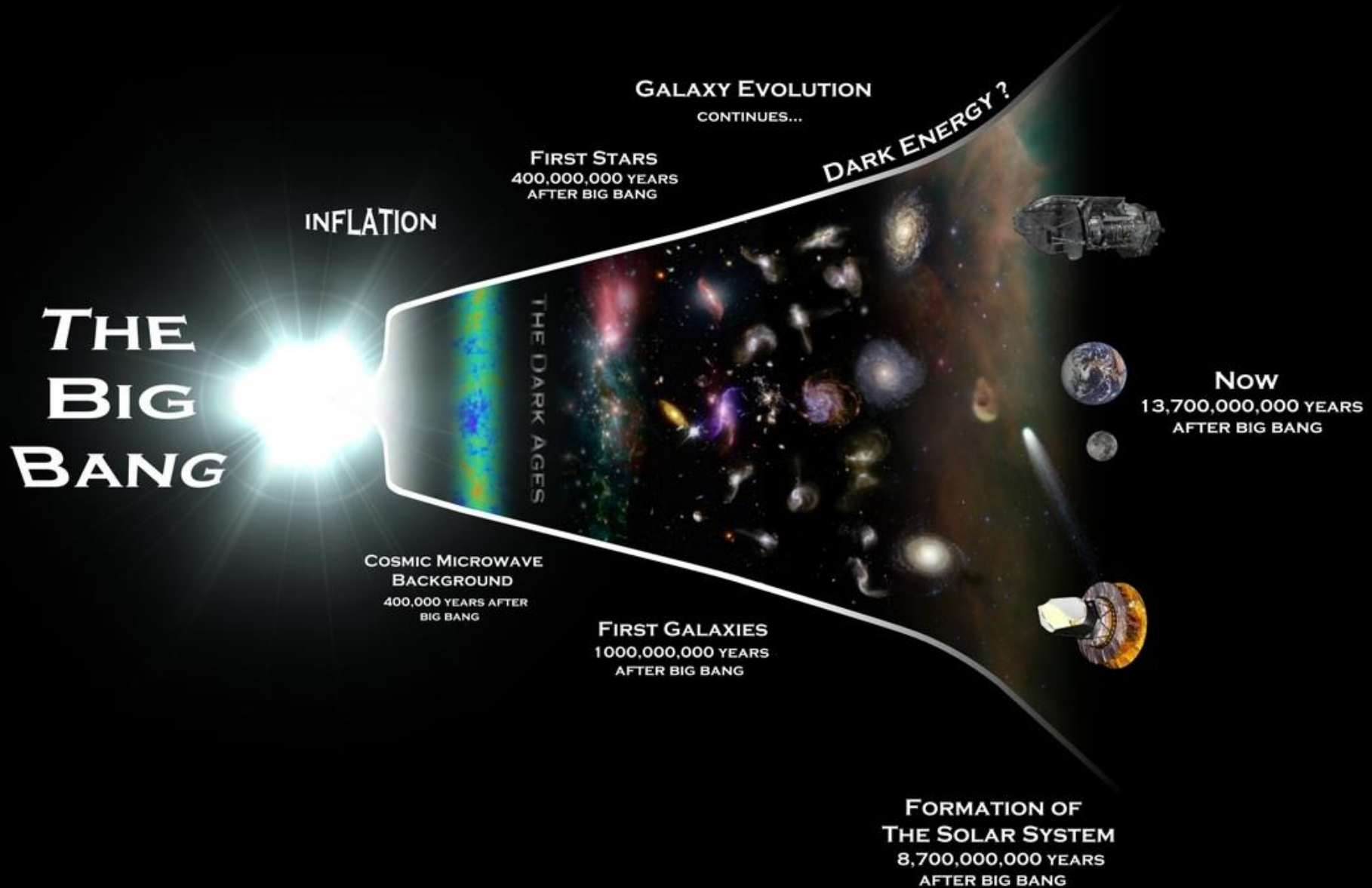
Spiritual ideas

Stages

Explain two contrasting view of creation. (4 marks)



The “Big Bang” theory: a replacement of Genesis?



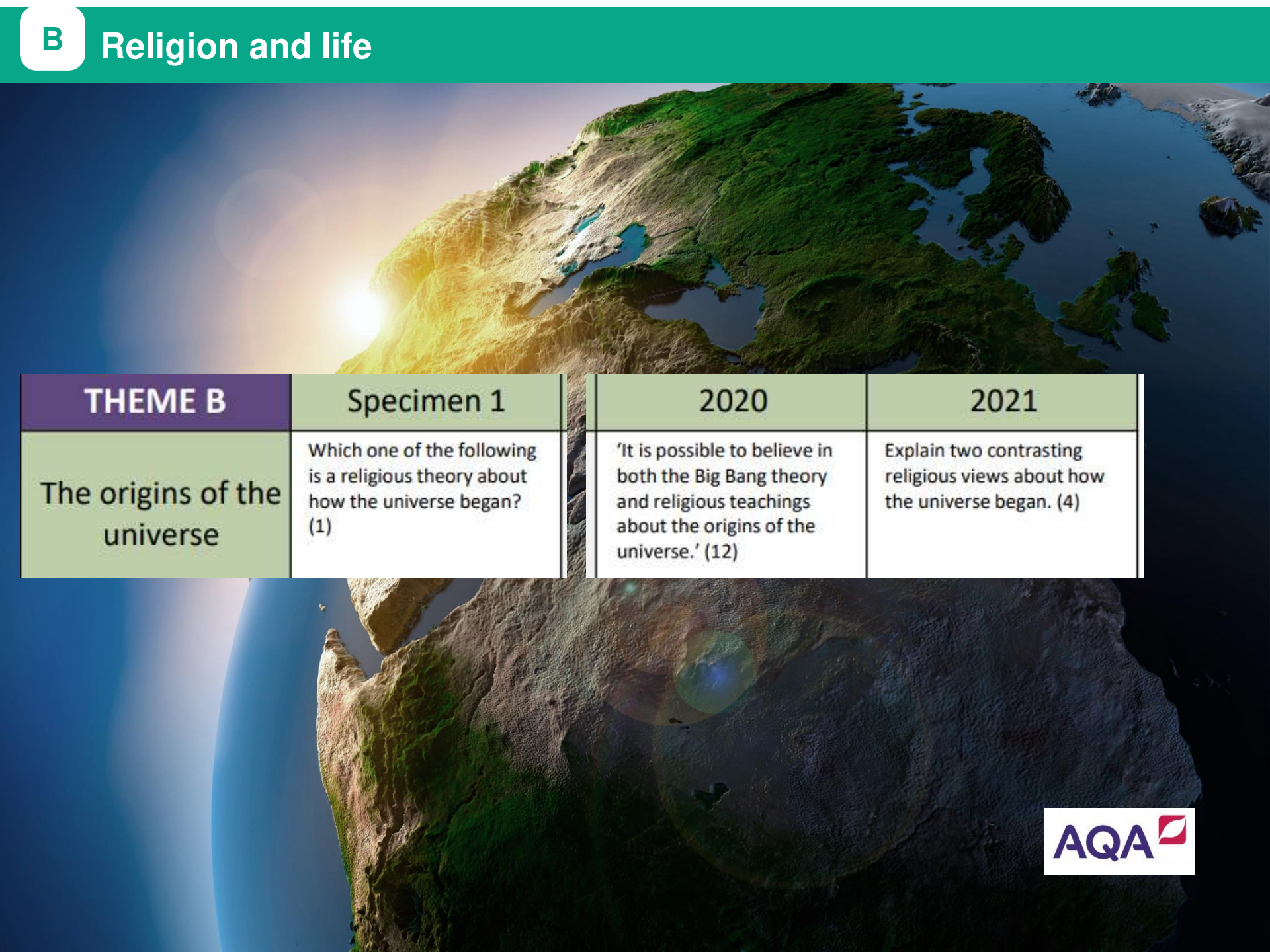
Which of the following is a religious theory about how the universe began? **[1 mark]**

A) The Big Cloud B) Creation C) Collision theory D) Atomic theory

Which of the following is a religious theory about how the universe began? **[1 mark]**

A) The Big Cloud B) Creation C) Collision theory D) Atomic theory

B) Creation



| THEME B | Specimen 1 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| The origins of the universe | Which one of the following is a religious theory about how the universe began? (1) | 'It is possible to believe in both the Big Bang theory and religious teachings about the origins of the universe.' (12) | Explain two contrasting religious views about how the universe began. (4) |

The value of the world

As discussed, Jews believe that God created the world and everything in it, as outlined at the start of Genesis.

Due to our planet's beauty, resources, and possibly unique ability to sustain human life, Jews see the Earth as a priceless gift from God as a result of his love.

The value of the world

Humans created to be based on the **image of God**: this means humans are special and unique, and have priority for God over other creatures.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind **in our image**, in our likeness, so that they may **rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Genesis 1:26

God has left humans in charge of the Earth to rule over everything in it.

B Religion and life

The value of the world

Dominion / rule over:

To be in charge of something and have power over it. Jews believe that this is what God gave to humans after creating the world

Stewardship:

Most Jews interpret this to mean that we have a duty to look after the natural world due to being given this important responsibility

Other views:

A small proportion of Jews interpret this to mean we can do whatever we want with the Earth, because God put us in charge

*This is almost exactly the same as Christian beliefs, except that Jews also have a principle known as “**bal tashchit**” (do not destroy) which makes them even less likely to believe they can abuse the Earth’s resources.*

The value of the world

Which one of the following terms describes a religious duty to look after the world? (1)

Which one of the following describes the religious belief that humans have authority to rule over the world? (1)

Which one of the following describes a feeling of amazement at the complexity and beauty of the world? (1)

The use and abuse of the environment and pollution

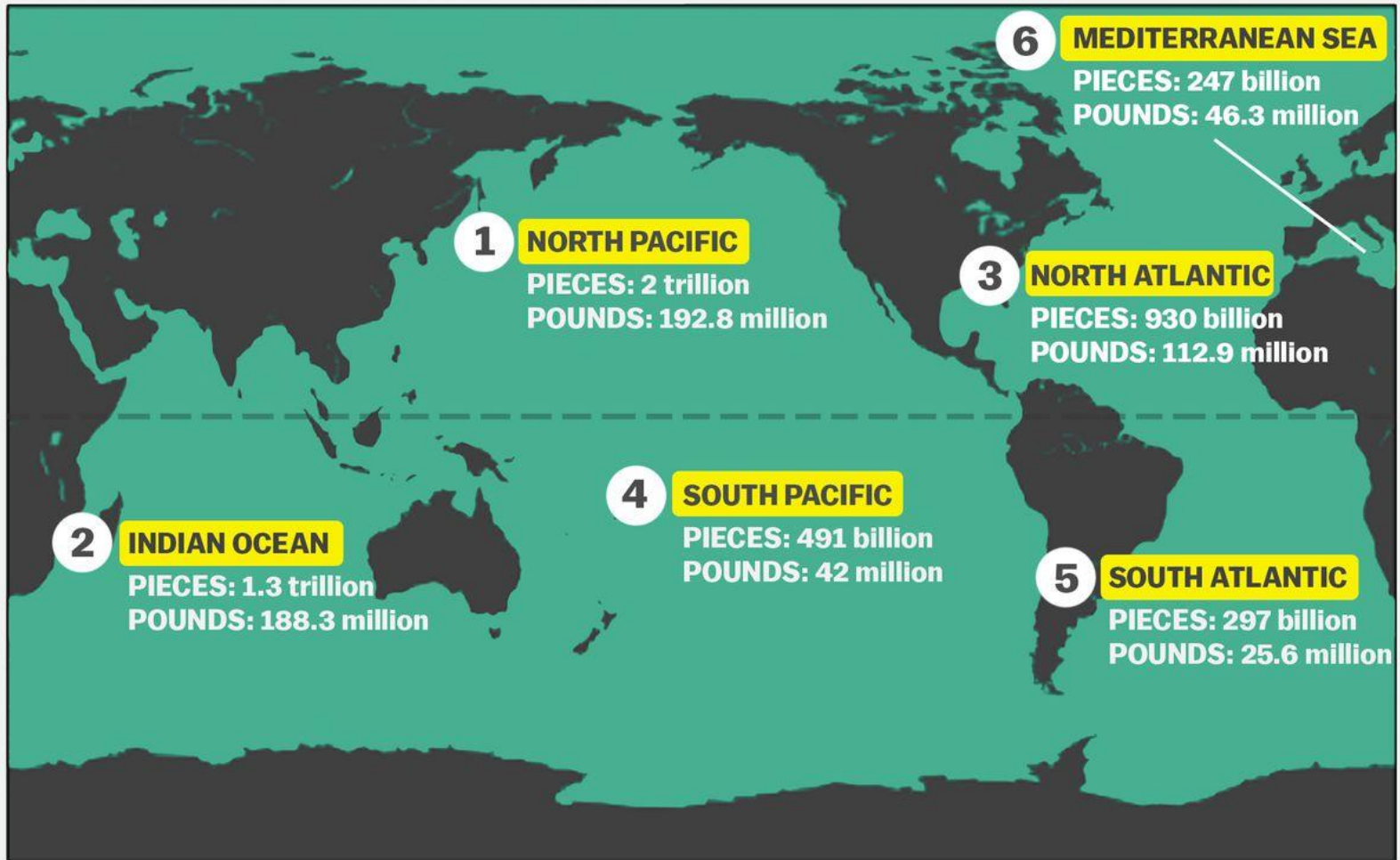
Key terms

Natural resources
Abuse
Non-renewable resources
Sustainable development
Recycling
Deforestation
Environment
Pollution

The use and abuse of the environment

The North Pacific Ocean contains the most plastic

Oceans ranked by estimated surface plastic (pieces and weight)



NOTE: individual ocean estimates were converted from metric tons, and deviate slightly from overall estimates

SOURCE: "Plastic Pollution in the World's Oceans" (2014; Eriksen, Lebreton, et al.)

B Religion and life

The use and abuse of the environment



“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...”

Genesis 1:31 (KJV)

The Creation story in Genesis makes it clear that God was very happy with what he had made.

Most Christians feel that our current destructive actions not only threaten the survival of life on Earth, but are deeply insulting to the God that gave us this beautiful and unique gift.

B Religion and life

The use and abuse of the environment

You may remember from the Religion, Peace and Conflict that Jews are given a fairly free rein to wreak whatever mayhem they wish upon the tribes already living in Israel, and in fact various battles techniques are recommended.

However, they are specifically warned against needlessly destroying fruit trees:

When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them?

Deuteronomy 20:19



The use and abuse of the environment

Check what you have written. Did you include these?

- **Air pollution** – caused mainly by fumes from factories and vehicles. Long-term exposure can lead to asthma attacks, lung cancer and other diseases. It also causes global warming, climate change and acid rain.
- **Land pollution** – caused by the ineffective disposal of waste. When chemicals enter the earth this can poison wildlife, make farming less efficient and result in contaminated food.
- **Water pollution** – caused by dumping waste into the sea. It can have a devastating effect on marine life. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, for example, released over 750 million litres of oil into the sea and killed thousands of birds and marine animals.

The use and abuse of the environment

What does the Tenakh say?

You already know about **stewardship**. What book of the Tenakh does this idea come from?

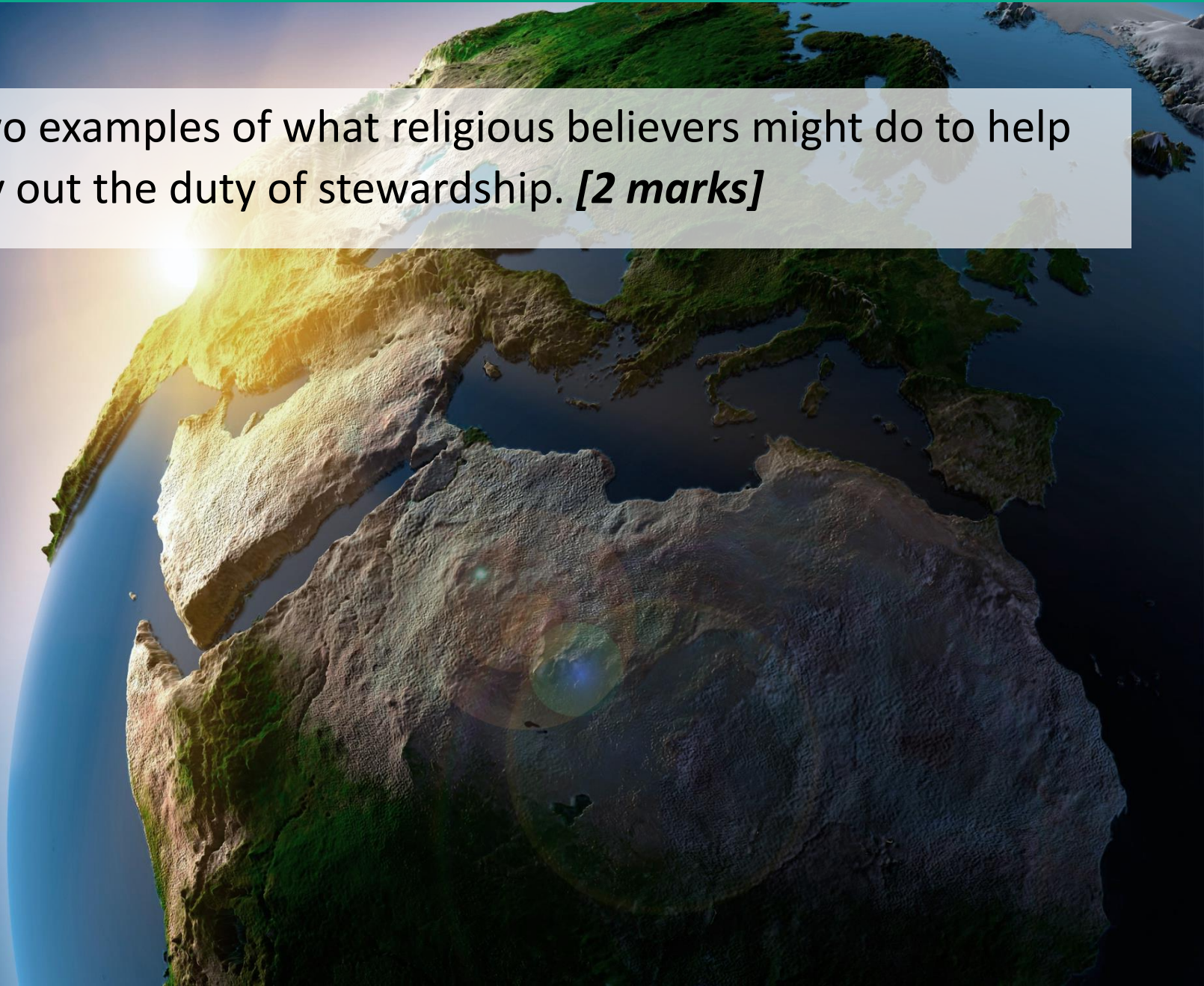
Psalm 24:1 says “**The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.**”
Write this in your book.



Write a quick note about how the Psalms were written by King David, who Jews revere as a successful King of Israel, and various references suggest the Messiah will be one of his descendants

B Religion and life

Give two examples of what religious believers might do to help to carry out the duty of stewardship. **[2 marks]**



B Religion and life

Give two examples of what religious believers might do to help to carry out the duty of stewardship. **[2 marks]**

One mark for each of two correct points.

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

- Recycle
- Protect the environment
- Stop pollution
- Raise awareness about environmental issues, etc.

The use and abuse of the environment

Give two examples of what religious believers might do to help to carry out the duty of stewardship. (2)

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Explain two religious beliefs about the use of natural resources. (5)

Give two ways that religious believers can help to protect the world's natural resources. (2)

Pollution

Give two religious beliefs about pollution. (2)

Give two ways religious believers might help to reduce pollution. (2)

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Part 2: Thematic studies

B

Religion and life

The use and abuse of animals



Key terms

vegetarian: a person who does not eat meat or fish

vegan: a person who does not eat animals or food produced by animals (such as eggs); a vegan tries not to use any products that have caused harm to animals (such as leather)

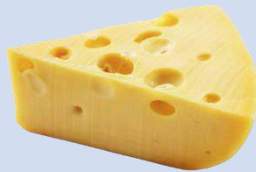
4.4 The use and abuse of animals

Judaism has strict rules when it come to food.



Dietary laws

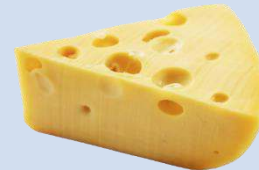
Examples of kosher food



CERTIFIED KOSHER



Examples of trefah food



NOT CERTIFIED KOSHER



Kosher butchers

There are specific instructions in the Torah about how meat should be prepared. The throat of the animal must be cut with a sharp knife, without it being unconscious. The blood must be drained from the meat before it can be consumed. They also avoid eating offal (intestines, kidneys etc)



Our Kosher verse from the Torah is.....

**‘Do not boil a young goat (kid)
in its mother’s milk.’**

Deuteronomy 14:21

The use and abuse of animals

God gave mankind “**dominion**” over the animals (*Genesis 1:28*)

Humans are made in God’s image, whereas animals are not.
(*Genesis 1*)

“Do not muzzle an ox while it is out treading grain.” *Deuteronomy*

Noah saves animals from the flood.

Many references in the Tenakh to making animal sacrifices to God.

“The righteous cares for the needs of his animals” *Proverbs*

God provides a lamb for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac.

Israel banned animal testing for cosmetic products in 2007.

The use and abuse of animals

- God gave mankind “**dominion**” over the animals (*Genesis 1:28*)
- Humans are made in God’s image, whereas animals are not. (*Gen 1*)
- “Do not muzzle an ox while it is out treading grain.” *Deuteronomy*
- Noah saves animals from the flood.
- Many references in the Tenakh to making animal sacrifices to God.
- “The righteous cares for the needs of his animals” *Proverbs*
- God provides a lamb for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac.
- Israel banned animal testing for cosmetic products in 2007.

Explain two contrasting religious views about how animals should be treated. **[4 marks]**

Explain two religious beliefs about animal experimentation.

[5 marks]

First way:

simple explanation of a relevant and accurate way - 1 mark

detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate way - 2 marks

Second way:

simple explanation of a relevant and accurate way - 1 mark

detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate way - 2 marks

Relevant and accurate **reference to scripture** or sacred writing - 1 mark

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

General points

Good purposes for animal experimentations would include testing and developing life-saving medicines but not testing frivolous things such as cosmetics

Respect for animals would include not using them unless there is no alternative and the outcome is likely to be of value, otherwise it is not right to experiment on animals.

Christianity

- Opposes cruelty but may accept animal experimentation if it benefits humans
- ideas of stewardship stress responsibility for animals and their welfare, so may be opposed to testing
- beliefs about dominion stress animals may be used to benefit humans
- opposes testing of cosmetics on animals

Proverbs 12:10 / Luke 12:6.

Judaism

- Jews are taught not to blemish or injure animals:
Deuteronomy 22:6; Deuteronomy 25:4
- Human beings take priority over animals and have dominion over them *Genesis 9:1-3*
- may be allowed if it helps to advance medical science
- The righteous person regards the life of his beast. *Proverbs 12:10.*



The use and abuse of animals

Explain two religious beliefs about animal experimentation. (5)

Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of animals for food. (4)

Give two reasons why some religious people do not eat meat. (2)

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about animal experimentation. (4)

Give two reasons why many religious people use animals for food. (2)


Explain two religious beliefs about the use of animals for food. (5)

The origins of human life

Key terms

evolution: the process by which living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms of life during the history of the earth

adaptation: a process of change where an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment



Mutation: a process of changing the structure of a gene or chromosome that gives the life form a different feature to that of the parents'; this difference may be transmitted to the following generations.

4.5 The origins of human life

In the book of Genesis at the start of the Tenakh, it says that
“God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God
he created them; male and female he created them”

According to Genesis Chapter 2, Adam was formed by God from the soil and God breathed life into him. Adam was given the task of looking after a wonderful garden called Eden and was given the instruction not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

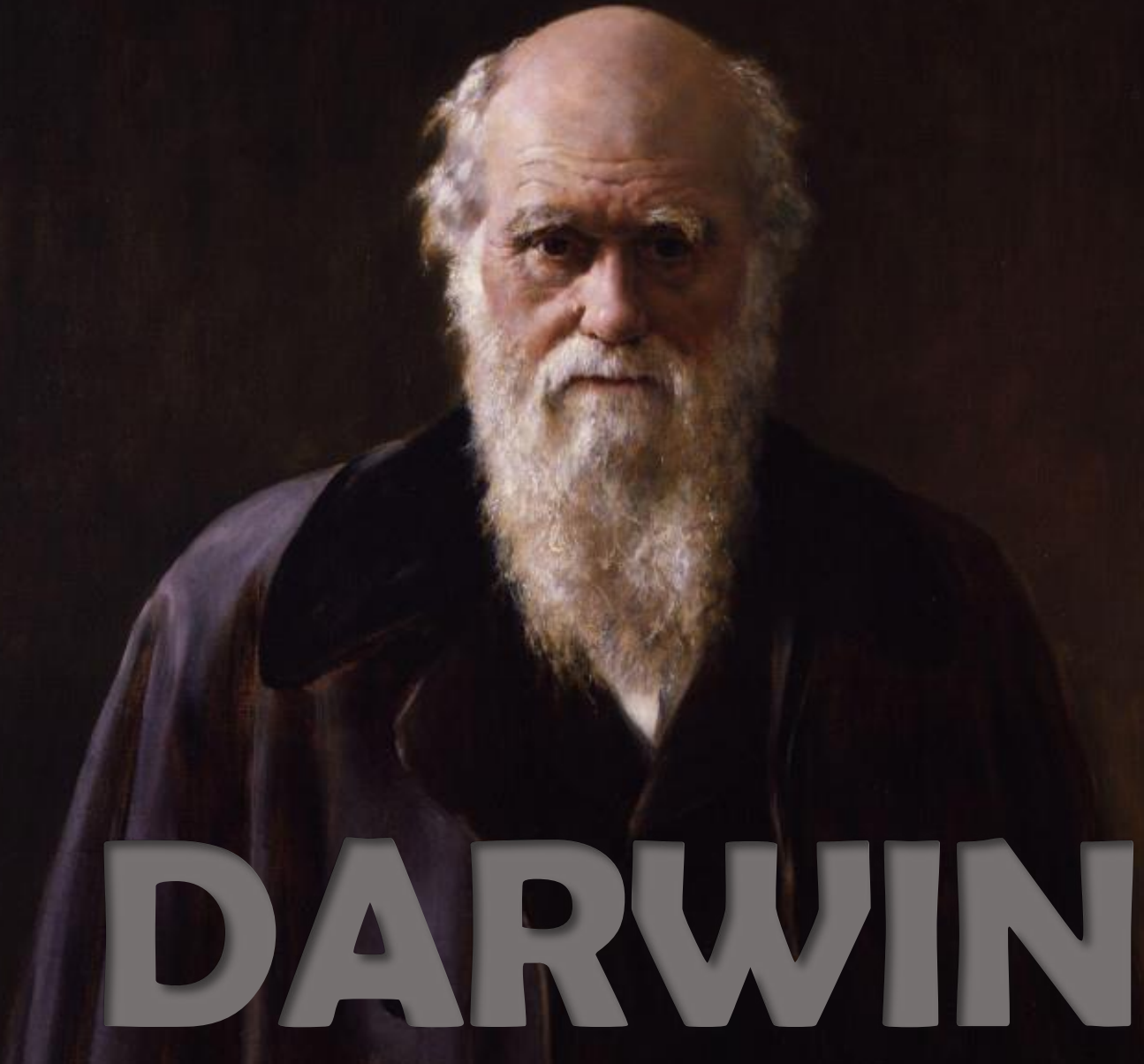
B Religion and life

Then God created a helper for Adam – while Adam was sleeping, God took one of his ribs and formed Eve, the first woman. The intention was that they would live in a close relationship with God.

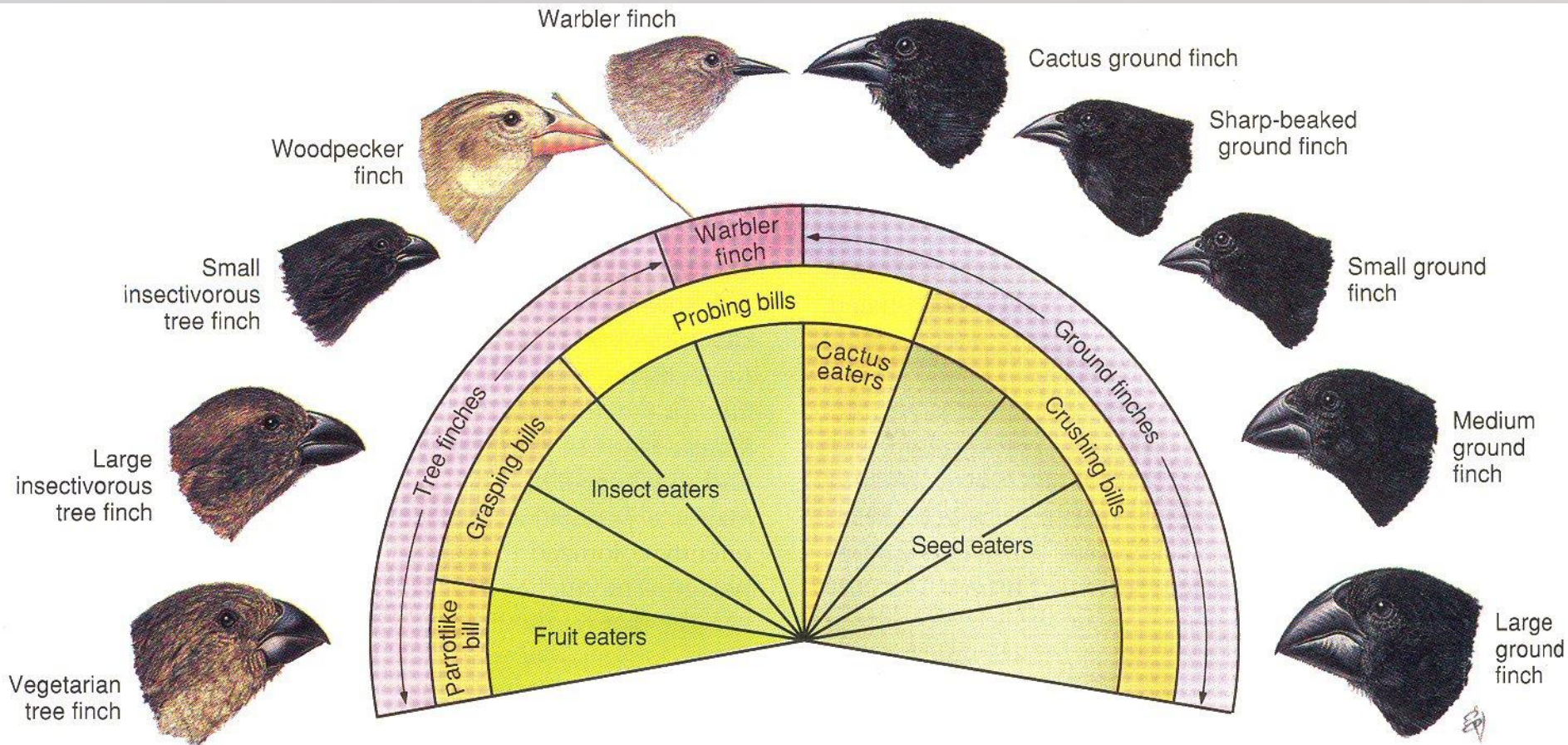
Different Jews understand this story in different ways.

Orthodox Jews: Jews who believe the Torah was given directly to Moses by God, should be completely believed and its laws followed very closely

Reform Jews: Jews who take a more metaphorical interpretation of the holy book



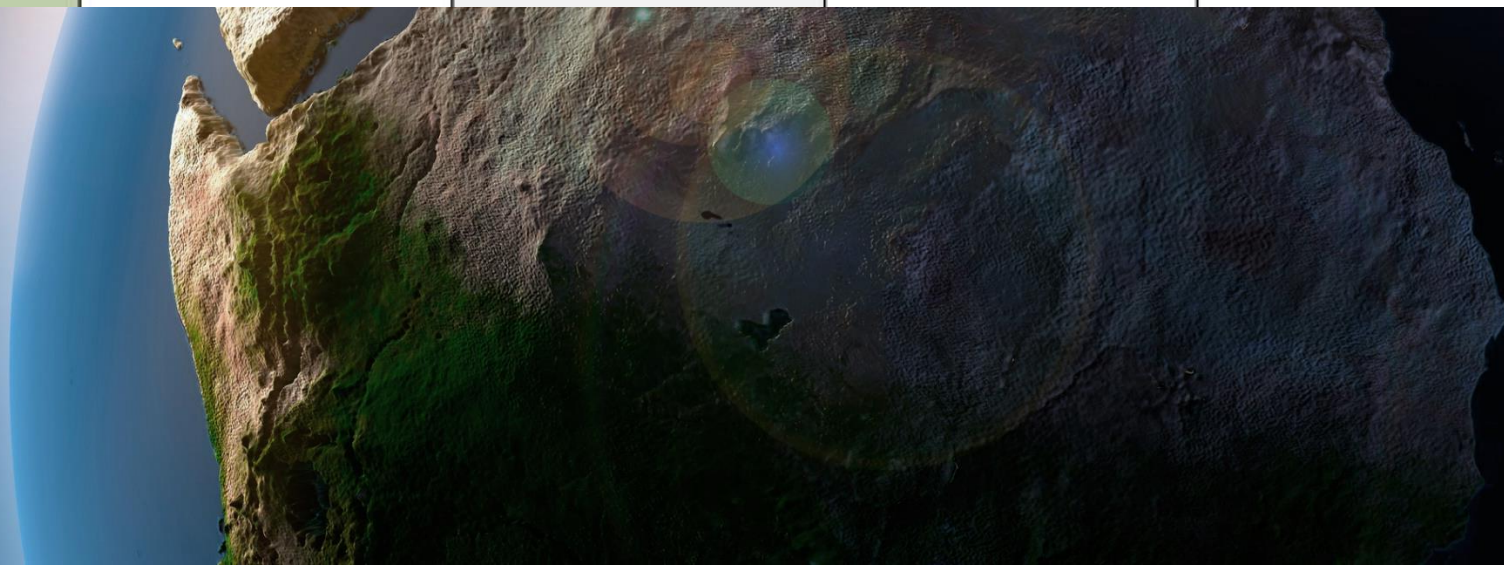
4.5 The origins of human life



DISCOVERY



| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| The origins of human life | | | 'Evolution proves that religious beliefs about the origins of life are wrong.' (12) | Explain two religious beliefs about how human life began on earth. (5) |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|



Part 2: Thematic studies

B

Religion and life

Abortion



Objectives

- Understand what is meant by the sanctity of life and the quality of life.
- Consider Jewish beliefs about whether or not it is right to have an abortion.

Abortion

Key terms

sanctity of life: all life is holy as it was created and loved by God; Christians believe human life should not be misused or abused

quality of life: the general well-being of a person, in relation to their health and happiness; also the theory that the value of life depends upon how good or satisfying it is

Abortion

Abortion: the removal of a fetus from the womb to end a pregnancy, usually before 24 weeks.

Give two reasons why a woman might choose to have an abortion. [2 marks]



Abortion

Give two reasons why a woman might choose to have an abortion. [2 marks]

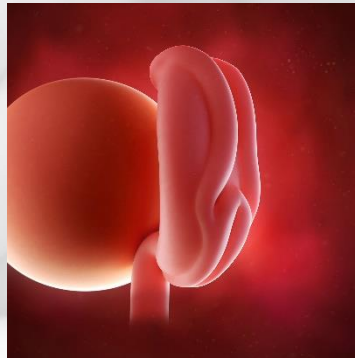
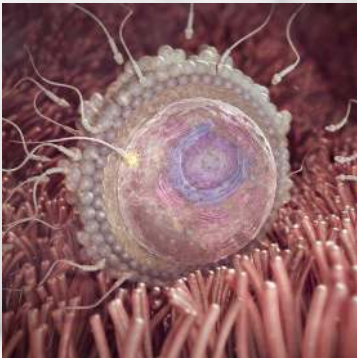


Abortion

Some Christians think that life begins at conception. This is when the unique blueprint of the human is formed. Do you remember who?

Some believe that life begins at week three when the heartbeat can be detected.

Others believe that life begins at week six, when brainwaves are detected.



Abortion

Others believe that life begins at week eight, when kicking starts. Some argue that at this point, pain is felt.

At week 11, the main body systems are functioning, grasping, yawning, feeling and smelling.

At week 20, the foetus can recognise its mother's voice.



Abortion

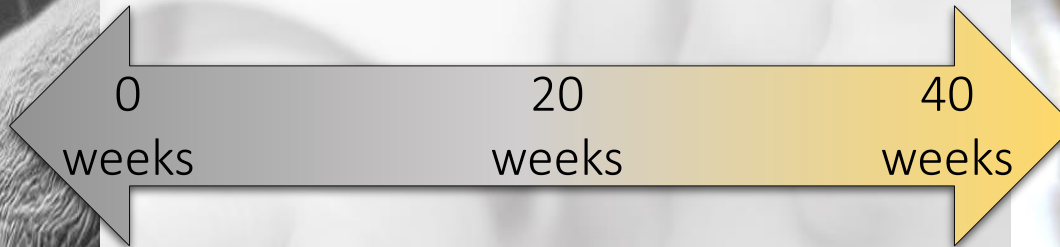
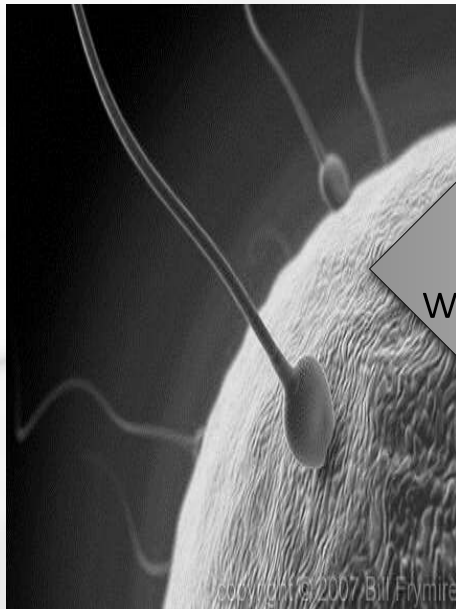
Week 24 is an important stage to many. This is known as **the age of viability**. It means that if the baby was taken out of the womb, it would be likely to survive.

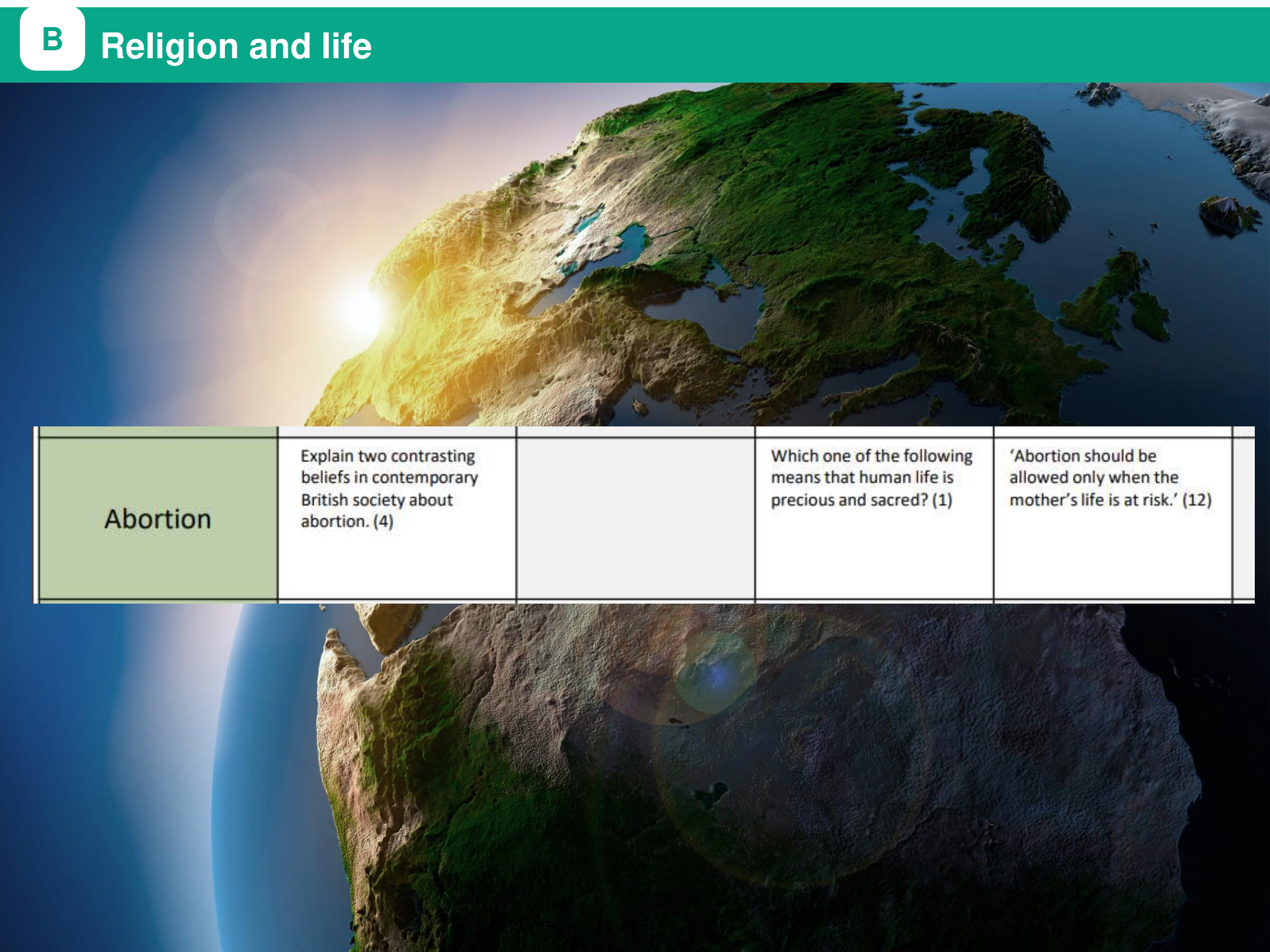


B Religion and life

Abortion

In Judaism, a foetus is not considered to be a person until it is actually born, so most Jews don't think abortion counts as taking a life





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|----------|---|--|--|---|
| Abortion | Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about abortion. (4) | | Which one of the following means that human life is precious and sacred? (1) | 'Abortion should be allowed only when the mother's life is at risk.' (12) |
|----------|---|--|--|---|

Euthanasia

Key term

euthanasia: the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma

Key term

active euthanasia: ending a life by deliberate action, such as giving a patient a lethal injection

passive euthanasia: allowing a terminally ill or incurably ill person to die by withdrawing or withholding medical treatment

Euthanasia

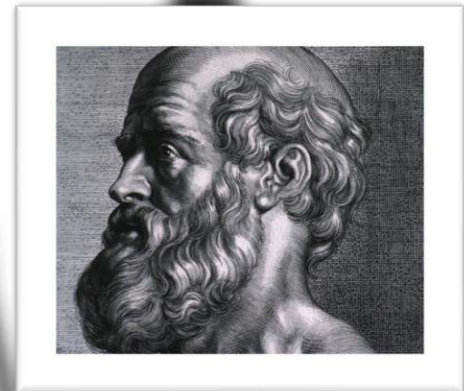
The word **euthanasia** comes from two Greek words: *eu* meaning good and *thanatos* meaning death



Euthanasia

Euthanasia has a long history. Hippocrates, a doctor from Ancient Greece openly stated that he would not prescribe drugs to help someone end their life.

Hippocrates' stance has become the basis for the Hippocratic Oath, sworn by doctors in the UK, which says, "I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest such counsel."



Euthanasia

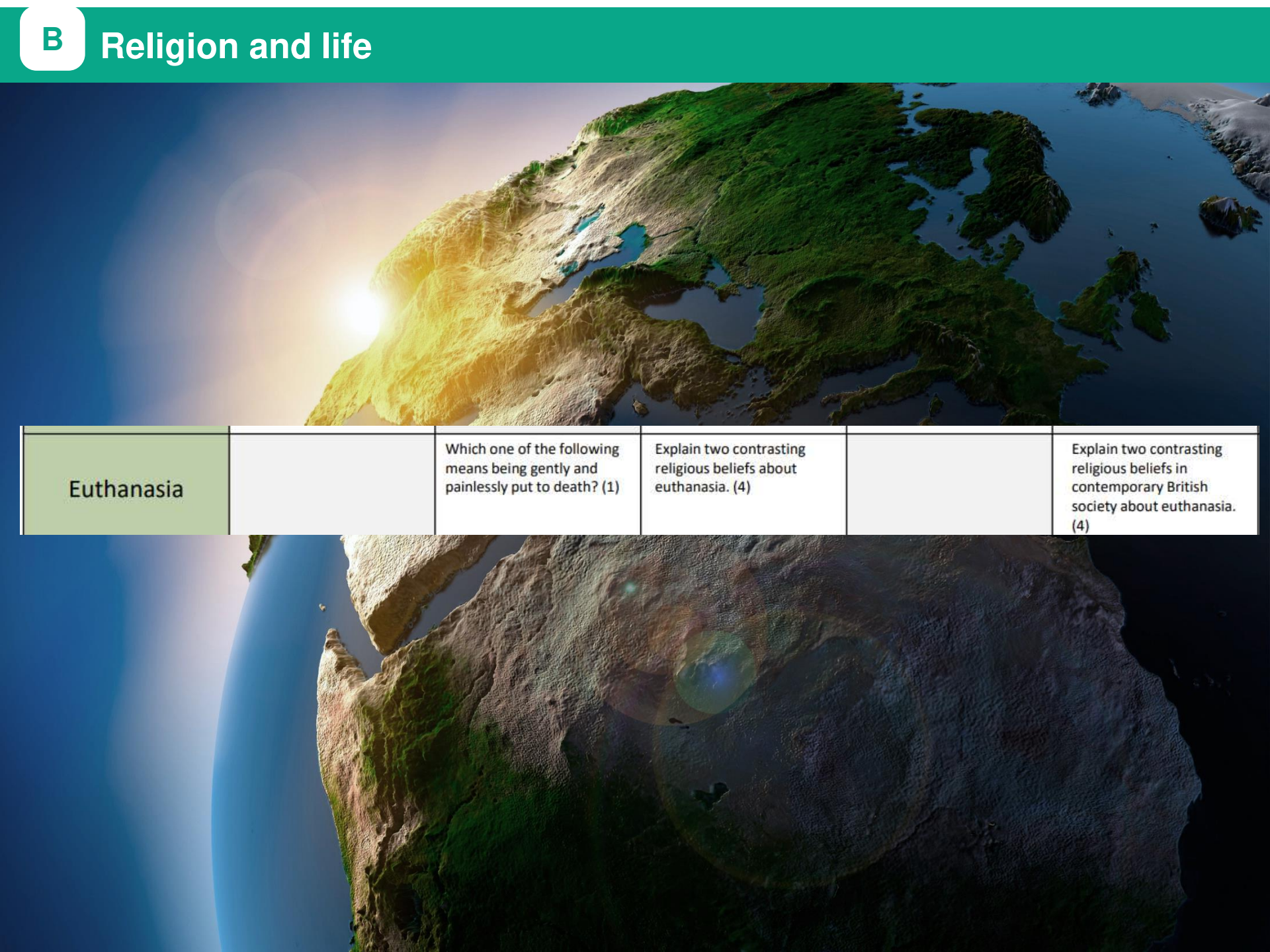
Keeping someone alive is using God-given wisdom.

Ending someone's life early is an act of mercy if they are suffering.

Ending someone's life early is 'playing God'.

Keeping someone alive when they are in a coma is dragging out their death. God has decided it is their time to die.





| | | | | | |
|------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Euthanasia | | Which one of the following means being gently and painlessly put to death? (1) | Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about euthanasia. (4) | | Explain two contrasting religious beliefs in contemporary British society about euthanasia. (4) |
|------------|--|--|---|--|---|

B

Religion and life

Death and the afterlife



Objectives

- Understand Jewish beliefs about death and an afterlife

Key term

Eternity: a state that comes after death and never ends.

Key term

Resurrection: the belief that after death the body remains in the grave until the end of the world, before rising again when God will come to judge.

A Christian view

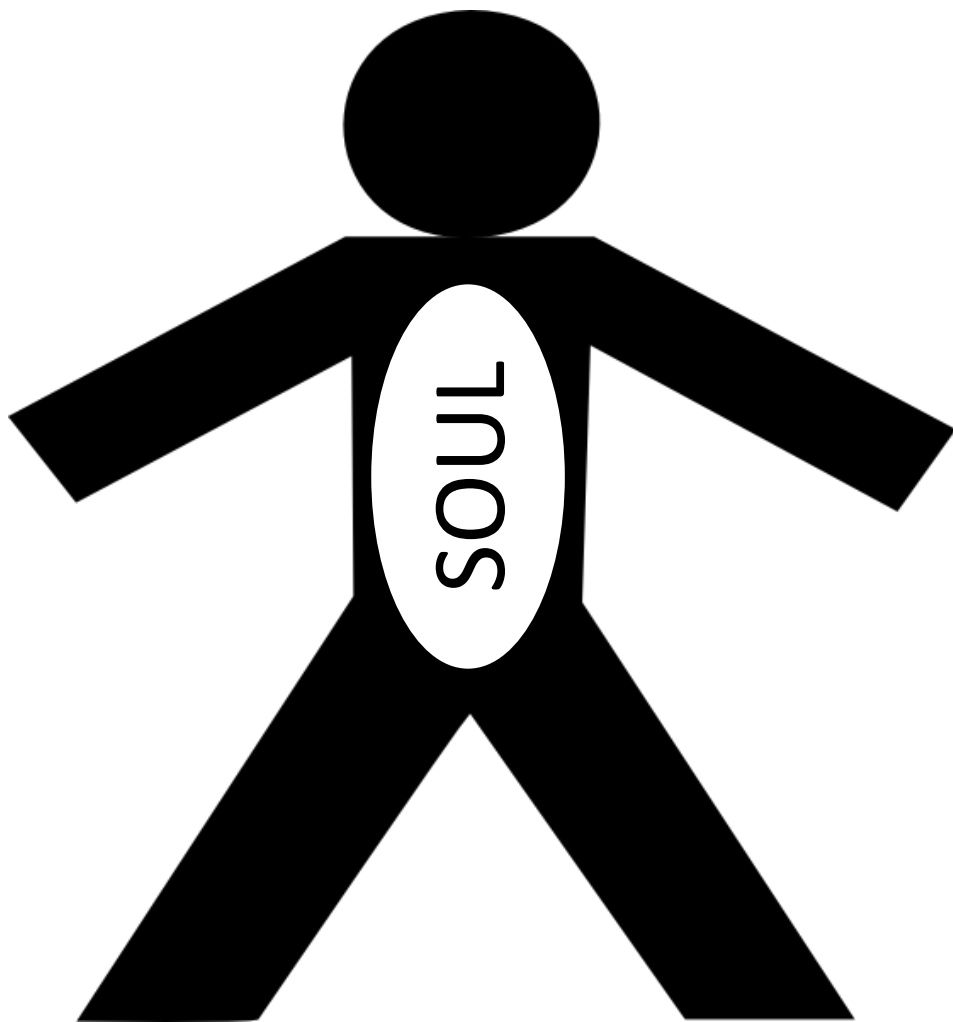
- God's decision
- Only those that have been 'reborn'. They have made a decision to say sorry for their sins and follow the teachings of Jesus.
- Heaven and hell



Recap ...

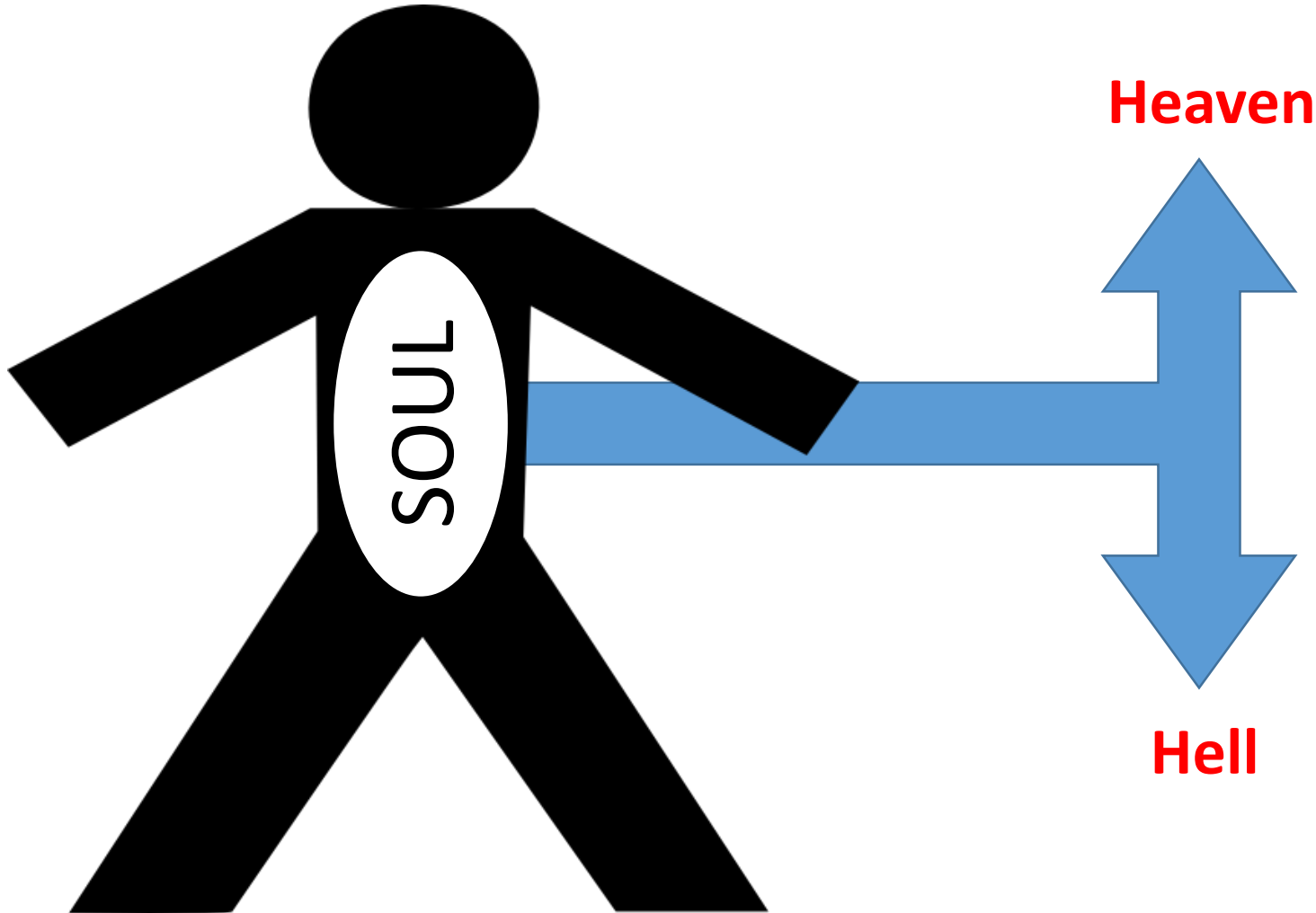
Death and the afterlife

Some Christians believe that you have a body and a **soul**.



Death and the afterlife

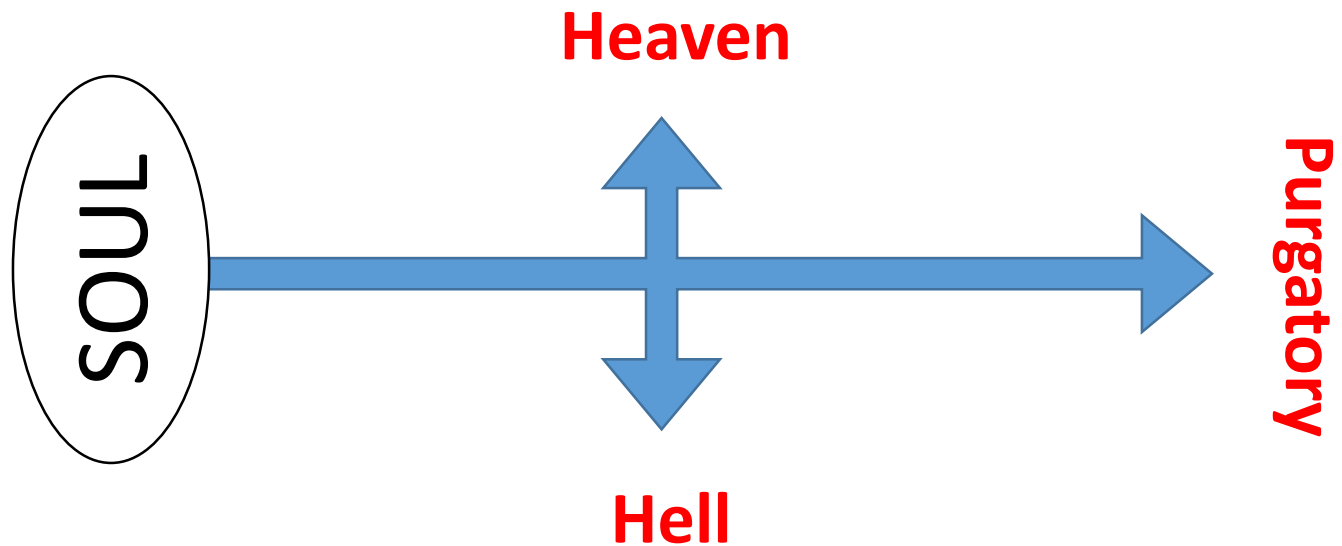
...but your soul, the real you, this lives on forever, even in **heaven** or **hell** and according to the Bible, there is no other place it can go.



B Religion and life

Death and the afterlife

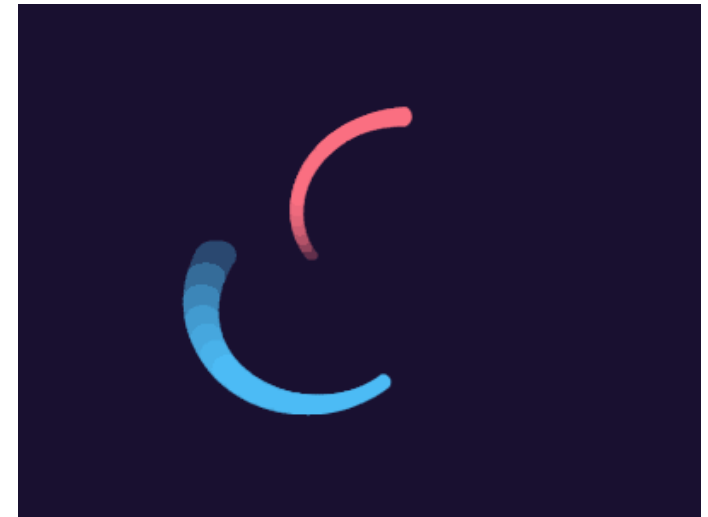
Catholics do believe in an intermediate state called **purgatory**, where the souls of Christians wait to receive a place in **heaven** – but there is absolutely no mention of this in the Bible.



B Religion and life

Death and the afterlife

Some Christians believe that **Heaven** is a physical place
... and some think that it is a spiritual place.



Death and the afterlife

A Christian view

- God's decision
- Only those that have been 'reborn'. They have made a decision to say sorry for their sins and follow the teachings of Jesus.
- Heaven and hell

A Jewish view

- God's decision
- There is no clear teaching on the Afterlife. Jews focus on their life on earth.
- They do not believe in a place of eternal punishment, hell.



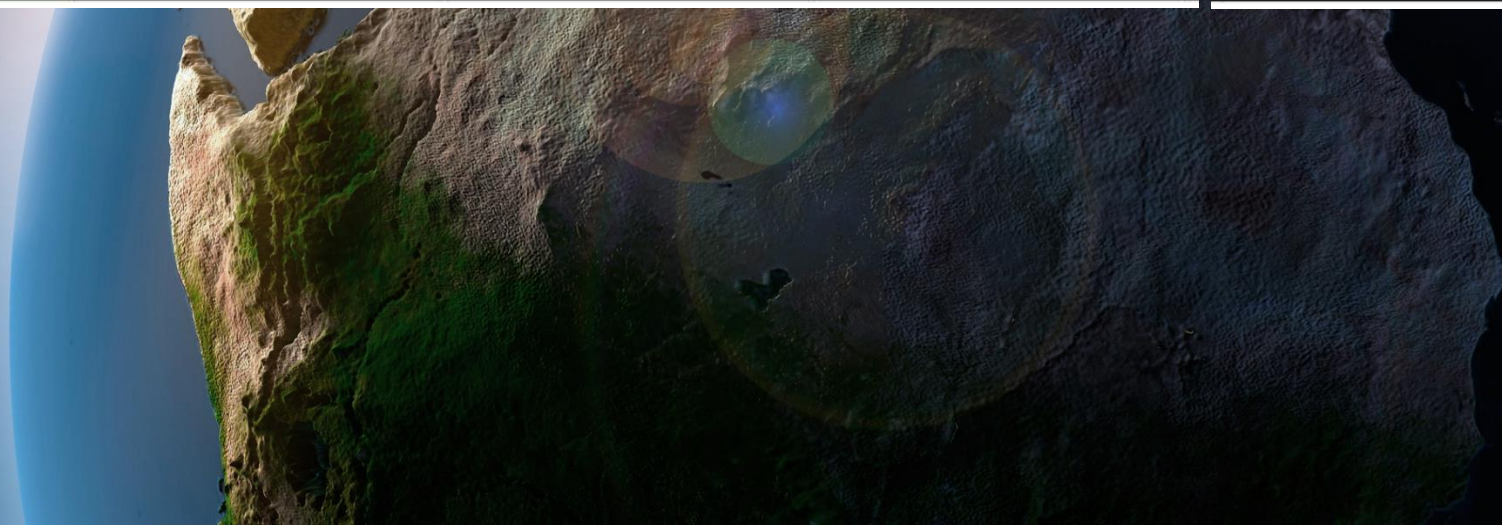
Death and the afterlife

'It is not reasonable to believe in life after death.' (12)

Explain two religious beliefs about the afterlife. (5)

Explain two religious beliefs about how peoples' actions in this life affect what happens to them in the afterlife. (5)

'Death is not the end; there is an afterlife.' (12)



'It is not reasonable to believe in life after death.' **[12 marks]**

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

Plus SPaG [5 marks]

| Levels | 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 or the argument is one-sided. | 4-6 |
| 1 | Point of view with reason(s) stated in support. | 1-3 |
| 0 | Nothing worthy of credit. | 0 |

Arguments in support

- Many atheists and humanists would argue that there is no proof of any form of afterlife / or of a soul or spirit that could survive death
- Nobody has come back from the dead in a way that is guaranteed
- Even Jesus' 'appearances' could have been made up
- Neither reincarnation nor resurrection make sense / a person can only be human in one physical body
- Another body means another person / you cannot live without a body.
- Ideas of spirits etc. are just wishful thinking because people are scared of facing the reality that they are alive only for a short time.

Arguments in support of other views

Christianity

- It is claimed that Jesus rose from the dead and promised that those who follow him will enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Jesus claimed to be the 'resurrection and the life' (John 11:25) and that those who believe in him will have eternal life (John 5 :24).
- Jesus told one of those crucified with him that he would join him in paradise (Luke 23:43).

Arguments in support of other views

Judaism

- Jewish scriptures say that after death everyone goes to Sheol (e.g. Psalm 86 : 13, Job 14: 13)/ Daniel 12: 2 “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”
- Some believe good people will enter paradise and wicked people will go to Gehenna (hell) after the last judgement.