

# Year 9 Ethics End of Year Examination Revision Materials 2023



## Topics to revise:

1. How precious is human life?
2. Is it ever right to take life?
3. Do animals have rights?
4. Is it right to prolong life?

## 1. How precious is human life?

<b>Glossary of key terms – How precious is human life? (Abortion)</b>
<b>Sanctity of life</b> Life is sacred and holy, as it is created by God.
<b>Sacred</b> Something considered to be holy and deserving respect, especially because of a connection with God.
<b>Pro -life</b> Pressure groups which campaign against abortion.
<b>Pro-choice</b> Pressure groups which campaign for the right of a woman to decide on abortion.
<b>Conception</b> When the sperm fertilises the female egg creating life, allowing pregnancy to take place.
<b>Abortion</b> Deliberate termination of a pregnancy, the removal of a foetus, usually before 24 weeks.
<b>Quality of life</b> A measure of fulfilment of how good/comfortable life is.
<b>Value of life</b> The importance and worth of every living being.
<b>Embryo</b> An unborn human in the process of development, during the period from approximately the second to the eighth week after fertilization.
<b>Foetus</b> An unborn human more than eight weeks after conception.

## Arguments for and against abortion

### Arguments for abortion

- Every woman has the right to choose – it's her body
- Women would still have abortions even if they were illegal.
- Financial problems
- If the woman was raped
- The foetus is a collection of cells, it's like removing any other unwanted organ.
- The mother is too young
- If the mother's life is at risk.
- The child might be born with severe disability, affecting its quality of life.

### Arguments against abortion

- Abortion goes against the commandment 'DO NOT KILL', removing the foetus is murder.
- Sanctity of life
- Children are a gift from God.
- Don't have sex if you don't want a baby!
- The baby could be put up for adoption.
- The foetus has rights too but cannot voice its opinion.
- There is research to suggest the foetus can feel pain.
- Many women suffer post-abortion traumatic stress.

## Adoption and other alternatives to abortion

Adoption – the legal process where a person is taken into a family as a son or daughter.

Fostering – the taking of a child from a different family into a family home and bringing them up with the rest of the family.

Religious teachings against abortion	Religious teachings in favour of abortion
<p>'Do not Kill' 10 commandments.</p> <p>Sanctity of life – life is sacred as it is created by God.</p> <p>Life must be protected from conception until natural death – Catholic Church.</p>	<p>Jesus was compassionate – 'Love your neighbour'.</p> <p>Cases of rape, mother being too young, financial problems abortion considered acceptable.</p> <p>If the mother's life is at risk, lesser of 2 evils to save existing life of mother.</p>

<p>'Each person is created individually from a single clot of blood.' Qur'an Do not take life which Allah has created. 'No-one can die except by Allah's leave, that is a decree with a fixed term.'</p>	<p>Abortion is acceptable before ensoulment (when the soul enters the body) usually between 40 and 120 days. Quality of life – if the baby was to be born with severe disability.</p>
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## 2. Is it ever right to take life?

Is it ever right to take life? Glossary of key terms and meanings	
<b>Peace</b>	An absence of conflict which leads to happiness and harmony
<b>Justice</b>	Achieving what is right and fair, in accordance with the law
<b>Sanctity of life</b>	Life is sacred and holy as it is God given
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Rebuilding a relationship after conflict
<b>Pacifism</b>	The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence
<b>Protest</b>	Voicing disagreement about something
<b>Civil war</b>	Armed conflict between factions within the same countries
<b>Conflict</b>	Disagreement, tensions or violence between two or more groups
<b>Terrorism</b>	The unlawful use of extreme violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal

Religious teachings about Terrorism	
Christian beliefs	Muslim beliefs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Christians teach peace.</li> <li>• 'Love your neighbour'.</li> <li>• Christians should follow the law of the land, not go against the governing authorities.</li> <li>• Terrorism might be seen by some as freedom fighters.</li> <li>• Might be fighting against an injustice.</li> <li>• Terrorism might be seen as protecting their religion.</li> <li>• Sanctity of life – life is sacred and God given.</li> <li>• 'Do not kill' – 10 Commandments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Islam means peace and submission to Allah.</li> <li>• "O people of the scripture, do not exceed the limits in your religion." QURAN</li> <li>• "Whoever kills a soul it is as if he had killed mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely." QURAN</li> <li>• "You do not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you do deal with them with forgiveness and kindness"</li> <li>• Muslims are DUTY BOUND by their religion to follow the laws of the land they live in.</li> </ul>

## 3. Do animals have rights?

Do animals have rights? Glossary of key terms and meanings	
<b>Stewardship</b>	The idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.
<b>Dominion</b>	Dominance or power over something; having charge of something or ruling over it.
<b>Halal</b>	An Arabic word that translates to "permissible" in English, relating to meat prepared as prescribed by Islamic law.
<b>Haram</b>	Anything impermissible or forbidden by Islamic law.
<b>Kosher</b>	Food, or premises in which food is sold, cooked, or eaten, satisfying the requirements of Jewish law.
<b>Animal experimentation</b>	Procedures performed on living animals for purposes of research.

## Religious beliefs about animal rights

<p><b><u>Christianity</u></b></p> <p>The Christian attitude to animals is drawn from the Creation account of Genesis: <b>“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth”</b> (Genesis). Many Christians interpret this as showing that humans are the most important creatures on Earth as they are made in God’s image, but that humans also have the responsibility to be stewards of the Earth – in other words, they have to look after the Earth and all its creatures. There is no requirement for Christians to adopt a specific approach to what they eat in their daily diet.</p>	<p><b><u>Islam</u></b></p> <p>Muslims believe that animals were given by God for the benefit of humans: “It is God who provided for you all manner of livestock, that you may ride on some of them and from some you may derive your food. And other uses in them for you to satisfy your heart’s desires.” (Qur’an 40:79). However, Islamic teaching is also clear that animals must be treated with kindness and compassion: <b>“If you have to kill, then kill in the best manner. If you slaughter, then slaughter in the best manner. Let one of you sharpen his knife so his animal feels no pain.”</b> (Hadith).</p> <p>Most Muslims eat meat, but not pork. All meat is required to be slaughtered in a specific way so as to be <i>halal</i> (permissible). Halal slaughter methods are considered to be humane by many Muslims.</p>
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<p><b><u>What are animal rights?</u></b></p>	<p>Animal rights are the rights of animals to live free from exploitation and abuse by humans. At its simplest, the idea of animal rights is the recognition that animals are entitled to live their own lives for themselves and should be allowed to live according to their own desires and needs, not to exist solely for the use of humans. A Christian teaching known as ‘The Sanctity of Life’ says that all life is sacred because it is created by God and this extends to animal life. Therefore, to treat animals cruelly for Christians is seen as sinful and against God’s teaching.</p> <p>Animal rights activists argue that humans need to stop regarding animals as property and products, and start regarding non-human animals as sentient beings with their own wishes and needs.</p>	<p>There are laws against animal cruelty, which vary from country to country. For example, in the UK, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 introduced fines of up to £20,000, jail terms of up to 51 weeks, and lifetime bans on owning animals for people who were found guilty of animal abuse. The term ‘animal abuse’ can cover acts of violence towards animals, but also covers neglect of animals: for example, underfeeding an animal, failing to get veterinary care for a sick animal, or keeping an animal in unhygienic or cramped conditions.</p>
<p>Factory farming is a major contributor in the rise of global warming. In factory farming, animals are kept in highly cramped and unsanitary conditions and fed GM crops instead of their natural diet. In order to prevent the diseases which are caused by the stress of the cramped conditions as well as the vitamin deficiencies in their diet, the animals are given antibiotics, which run off into the rivers and end up in our water supply. Not only this, but factory farming is responsible for 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity.</p>	<p>The rise of animal rights awareness, as well as awareness of environmental issues relating to the harmful intensive farming practices, has caused many people to change their attitudes to eating meat. This has seen an increase in the number of people adopting vegan and vegetarian eating patterns, but also pescatarian and ‘flexitarian’ diets. Meat reductionist diets have also become more common; this is where people still eat meat and fish, but do so less often and ensuring that they only buy animal products from local or organic farms.</p>	

#### 4. Is it right to prolong life?

Glossary of key terms and meanings: Is it right to prolong life?
<p><b>Euthanasia</b> A gentle or easy death; mercy killing.</p>
<p><b>Right to die</b> The belief that a human being should be able to control their own death.</p>
<p><b>Sanctity of life</b> Life is sacred and holy, as it is created by God.</p>
<p><b>Palliative Care</b> Care given to improve the quality of life of patients with life-threatening illnesses to prevent and relieve suffering, providing pain relief and psychological support.</p>
<p><b>Quality of life</b> A measure of fulfilment of how good/comfortable life is.</p>
<p><b>Hospice</b> A home providing care for people who are terminally ill.</p>
<p><b>Active euthanasia</b> Taking deliberate steps to end a person's life, eg. By giving a lethal injection. Illegal in the UK.</p>
<p><b>Passive euthanasia</b> When death is brought about by withdrawing or withholding treatment, for example, switching off a machine that is keeping a person alive, so that they die of their disease.</p>
<p><b>Afterlife</b> Belief about what happens after we die to our body/soul.</p>
<p><b>Voluntary euthanasia</b> When the person who is suffering asks for euthanasia to end their life, eg. By being given a lethal drug, or by choosing to stop taking medication.</p>
<p><b>In-voluntary euthanasia</b> The patient is unable to say what they want to happen, so their family decide, eg if on life support.</p>

Arguments against euthanasia	Arguments in favour of euthanasia
<p>Goes against the sanctity of life. It is seen by some as murder – ‘Do not kill’ (10 commandments) God gives and takes life so it is playing God to end it. Active euthanasia is against the law and therefore wrong – God set down the original laws so it is going against God. If it was legalised, it could be abused by doctors and family members. Hospices provide palliative care to care for terminally ill to give them the best quality of life. 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.</p>	<p>It is a loving and compassionate to end suffering – all religions teach love and compassion. No quality of life when dying – many people suffer in pain. Jesus was compassionate – ‘Love your neighbour.’ euthanasia by withdrawing treatment – passive euthanasia allows natural death to avoid suffering – compassionate. A loving God doesn’t want people to suffer - euthanasia is acceptable where there is no hope of recovery. People have freewill given by God. Dignitas in Switzerland offers a dignified death – a person should be able to choose when to die.</p>



