



EDUQAS GCSE Religious Studies

Route B Component 1 Theme 1 Origins and Meaning

Origins and meaning: You will need to know and understand...
What St Augustine wrote about creation from 'nothing'
How to compare Catholic, other Christian and non-religious views on the origin of the universe and of human beings, including Hawking's theory of the Big Bang
Scientific theories of evolution from Darwin and Dawkins
How to explain the Catholic view that creation and evolution are compatible.
How the concept of Imago Dei relates to the sanctity of human life
How to explain views on abortion and the value of life from Catholic, fundamentalist Christian, Jewish and non-religious viewpoints.
Creation: You will need to know and understand...
That the two creation stories in Genesis convey different ideas about God.
The relationship that should exist between human beings and the rest of creation
How to compare Catholic, humanist and Jewish beliefs about care and respect of the planet and the environment
The Bible: You will need to know and understand...
How the bible is considered the 'Word of God'
That the bible is comprised of a collection of books written in different literary forms
How to compare Catholic and Fundamentalist Christian interpretations of the bible
Jewish views about the importance of sacred scriptures
Painting: You will need to know and understand...
The meaning of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam
How to explain how the painting expresses Catholic beliefs about creation, God and human beings.
Symbolism: You will need to know and understand...
The meaning of the symbols and images in the <i>Tree of Life</i> mosaic.
How to explain why the symbol of the cross in the mosaic is referred to as the ' <i>Tree of Life</i> '
Loving and serving in Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere: You will need to know and understand...
How the concept of Imago Dei has influenced Catholic Social Teaching
The Importance of justice, peace and reconciliation in the Catholic Faith
How the Catholic Church promotes understanding, respect, tolerance and harmony between different religions and those with no religious faith
How the Catholic charities of CAFOD and the SVP demonstrate love and service of their neighbours, in the work they undertake.

Name: _____

Class _____

Origins and Meaning. Lesson 1

Introduction Task: This is the beginning of the Catholic beliefs and practices section of your GCSE Course. Watch the video of students who took their RE exam in recent years. What tips for preparing for your exam will you take from this?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpJho1G_FHk

Big question:

What is the Catholic understanding of the Creation of the universe?

Small questions:

1. What does it mean to say that God created ex-nihilo?
2. How do Catholics view the creation of the universe?
3. How do Catholics view the Genesis account of creation?

Getting Started: What questions of meaning would you ask? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNQGaQSh2cA>

Introduction to the unit

Humans have always asked themselves questions about their origins:

- How did the first humans get here?
- Was it an accident or by design?
- Is there a reason why we exist?
- Is there a supreme being, or even beings, that brought everything into existence?

Many of the religions of the world have addressed these important questions and have explanations that set out their beliefs about the beginnings of the world, humans and everything that exists. Judaism, Christianity and Islam as the three **monotheistic** traditions, are united in their belief that there is one God who is responsible for all life.

Transcendent: The belief that God is outside time and space

Omnipotent: The belief that God is always all-powerful

Eternal: Something which has always existed and will continue to exist for ever

'Ex nihilo': Out of nothing



Monotheism: believing in one God

Knowledge Phase 1: Creation ex nihilo – out of nothing

When we think about creating something we generally are talking about making something new from things that already exist, for example, making a cake out of flour, eggs, butter and sugar.

Catholics believe the way that God created the universe was different to this because he created it out of nothing (**ex nihilo**). In other words, there were no 'ingredients' already in existence for him to use, as he created everything. Not only was there

'... you, O Lord... made something in the Beginning which is of yourself, in your Wisdom, which is born of your own substance, and you created this thing out of nothing... ...From nothing, then, you created heaven and earth'.
(Confessions XII,7)

no water, air, land, light or dark, there wasn't even any time or space. God is solely responsible for everything that exists. Only God can create out of nothing because he is **omnipotent** (all powerful). St Augustine of Hippo, an early Christian thinker, explored this idea in his writings.

Consolidation: Give an explanation for the following ideas.

1. God created everything ex-nihilo means

2. God is omnipotent means

Knowledge Phase 2: Catholic views about the creation of the universe

The biblical accounts of Creation are in Genesis. To understand the Bible properly, like any book, Catholics might need to know when it was written, what life was like at that time, how language differed then, why it was written, what messages it gives us and who it was written for.

However not all Christians interpret the Bible in the same way and, therefore, they understand the Creation accounts differently.

Interpret: To find an explanation of the meaning of the Bible

All Christians, however, believe...

- in God
- that the people who wrote the biblical accounts were inspired by God
- that God makes himself known to human beings through the Bible
- that the Bible is the Word of God and helps us to live our lives today.



Consolidation:

Give three things it is important to know about the books of the bible in order to understand it.

1.

2.

3.

What beliefs do all Christians have in common?

Knowledge phase 3: Catholic views on the Genesis accounts of creation.



When you read the accounts of Creation in Genesis you realise that they are two different stories.

- **Genesis 1** was written down about 450BCE as a poem and it tells of the six days of Creation, with God resting on the seventh, making the day holy.
- **Genesis 2** was written earlier in about 950BCE and focuses on the story of the creation of Adam and Eve in some detail.

Myth: A story that isn't literally true, but has gone deeper, hidden or symbolic meanings.

Catholics today accept that the two creation stories were written as **myths**. This does not mean that these religious myths are made-up stories or untrue. It means that they have an underlying or hidden truth and shouldn't be taken as literally true. The two accounts of Creation in Genesis are different in detail, but they share the same truths:

The first Genesis account of creation.

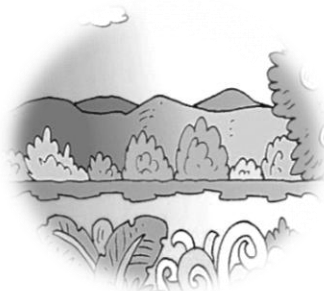


Day 1 – God created day and night

“God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”

Day 2 – God created the sky

God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.”



Day 3 – God created land and plants

“Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” ... Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.”

Day 4 - God created the sun, moon and stars.

God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night... God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.



Day 5 - God created the birds and the fish.

God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.

Day 6 – God created man

God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kinds: the livestock and every kind of wild animal, and God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

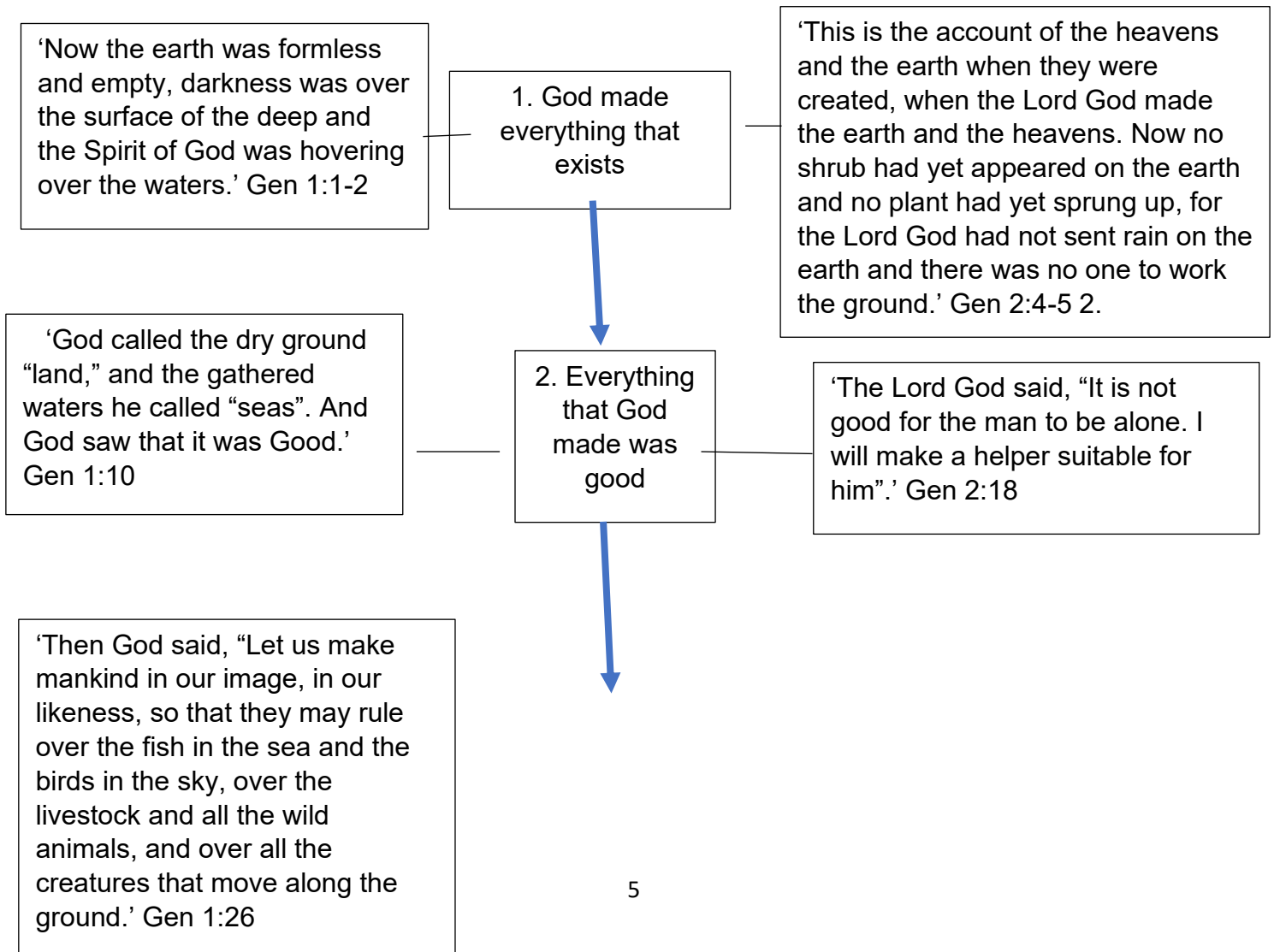
God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

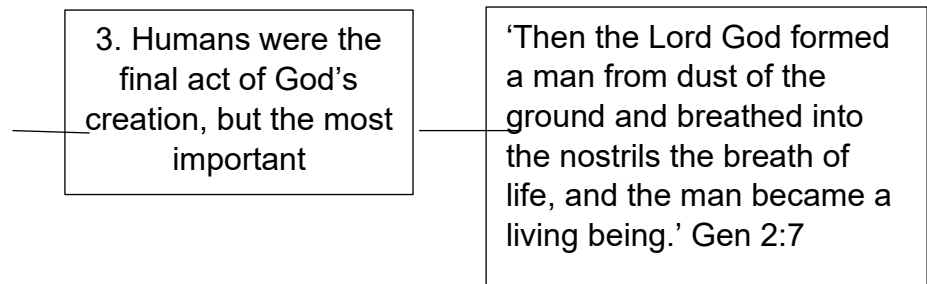


Day 7 – God rested

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Links to the second Genesis account of creation.





The Catholic Church believes that the Creation accounts should not be interpreted **literally** as they come from different times and reflect the thoughts and attitudes of the societies in which they were written. The most important message from the Creation accounts are...

- God created everything ex nihilo.
- The world was created out of love and humans were created to experience love. The love of God, creation and other humans

Consolidation: From what we have looked at write a word beginning with the letter given then write a sentence that relates to what you have learned.

Letter	Word	Sentence to show your understanding
C		
G		
E		
M		
A		
H		
O		

Application Phase: **Describe Roman Catholic belief on the creation stories in Genesis. (5 Marks)**

To answer this question, you need to use the What, Why, Wider formula.

I DO

Roman Catholics believe that the creation stories in Genesis reflect the belief that God created the world ex-nihilo. **This means** that God created the world from nothing and that before creation not even time existed. **Evidence for this** can be

found in the writings of St Augustine when he says “From nothing, then, you created heaven and earth”.

WE DO

Roman Catholics believe that the creation stories in Genesis... keeping the 7th day holy

This means... Sundays

Evidence for this... Quote from Genesis

YOU DO

Myth

Origins and Meaning Lesson 2

Do now: Quiz

Meaning	Word
The word which means that the creation stories shouldn't be taken as literally true but that they have meaning.	
The day on which God created humans.	
An early Catholic theologian.	
To find an explanation of the meaning of the Bible.	
The belief that God is outside time and space.	
All Christians believe that the writers of the Bible were this.	

Big question: What do other Christians and Non-Christians believe about the Creation accounts?	Small questions: 1. What do other Christians believe about the Creation accounts? 2. What do Jews believe about the Creation accounts? 3. What do non-religious people believe about the Creation accounts?
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Getting started: What message about creation does this song give?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAtzO8B1UK8>

Knowledge phase 1: What do other Christians believe about the Creation accounts?

Last lesson you looked at how Catholics interpret the creation stories in the Bible. It is important to know that not all Christians have the same way of interpreting this part of scripture.

Some Christians way of interpreting the Bible is to believe that it is a factual record

that describes events exactly as they happened they see it a literally true rather than it being a myth. The term used for these Christians is '**fundamentalist**' or '**literalists**'. They see the Genesis accounts as accurate, historical accounts of what actually, happened at the beginning of everything. So, a fundamentalist reading of

Fundamentalist: Christians who believe that the Bible is a factual, historical record.

Creationist: Christians who believe that the universe was created by God in six days as it says in the bible. Also known as literalists.



the Bible leads to the belief that the universe was created in six days; Christians who believe this are called '**Creationists**'. They would also believe that Eve was created from Adam's rib as it says in the Bible.

Does it matter that Christians have these conflicting views?

We know that Christians are united in their beliefs that God created the universe, that everything he made was good and that humans are the high point of his Creation. However, the fact that Christians interpret the Creation accounts differently is going to matter when considering what scientists say about the origins of the universe next lesson.

Consolidation: Complete the table below using what you have learned and your own evaluation skills...

What do creationists/fundamentalists believe?	What arguments might they face from other Christians?

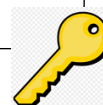
Knowledge phase 2: What do Jews believe about the Creation accounts?

For Jews God is the source of all life and referred to throughout the Torah as the sole creator. Prayers are said in Orthodox synagogues expressing this belief: e.g. '*Blessed be He who spoke and the world existed.*' The **Modeh Ani** prayer is said by many Jews each morning and thanks God for allowing life for another day.

Modeh Ani is a statement or prayer of gratitude. Spoken by Jews when they wake up in the morning.

Genesis (the first book of the Torah) tells two creation stories:

- Heaven and earth, animals and humans are created in six days with the seventh day being a day of rest. Each week Jews celebrate Shabbat and keep it as a day of rest.
- The second creation story in Genesis describes how Adam and Eve were created and placed in the Garden of Eden.



Both stories say humans are created on the sixth day. Adam, the first human being, was made in the image of God, from dust from the earth.

Adam and Eve had power over all things. Traditionally Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the New Year for Jews (Not January 1st) it is based on the day when God created the world.

Some Orthodox Jews believe these stories are true accounts. Others, perhaps more Reform Jews, believe that the Creation accounts are stories which shouldn't be

considered as historical facts. Some may believe that God started the universe through the Big Bang and has guided the creation of life through evolution.

Consolidation: complete the table below showing the different beliefs held by Jews and Christians

Beliefs	Catholic	Some other Christians	Orthodox Jews	Reform Jews
The Creation story is a myth				
The creation story is historical fact				
Adam and Eve were real people				
The sabbath is a special day				

Knowledge phase 3: What do non-religious people believe about the Creation accounts?

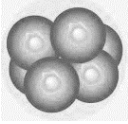
There is a general belief that science and religion are in opposition to each other, but this is far too simplistic. In human history, until the sixteenth century, the philosophers and theologians were the scientists; it was from their work that science originated.

In Medieval times belief about the structure of the universe was based on what scholars observed and mathematics. Any scientific reasoning was in line with the Christian faith and the accounts of Creation in Genesis. At this time people were more interested in how you should live your life so that you could enter heaven rather than knowing how the universe worked. The accepted view at this time was that the earth had been created by God, as described in Genesis.

However, science has developed and theories that have been generated can be thought to contradict the biblical accounts of creation. This study of the origin of the universe is called **cosmology**. One of the first challenges for many religious believers was the discovery that the earth went around the sun along with the other planets, rather than being the centre of the universe, as had previously been believed.

Alongside this it was discovered that the world is a lot older than people first thought and today it is believed that the universe is more than 13 billion years old, with our sun forming about 4.6 billion years ago.

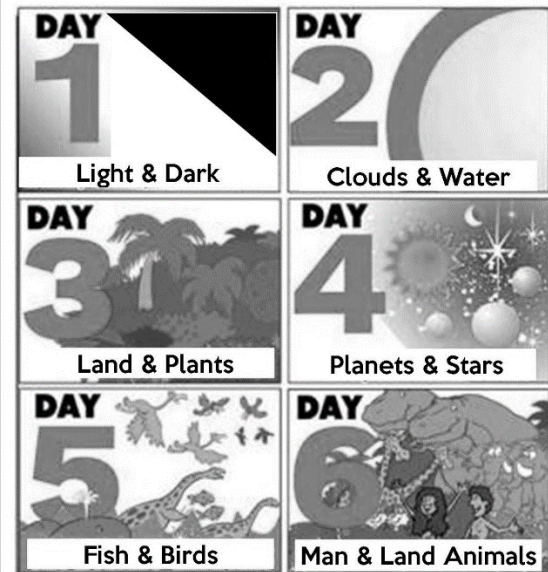
4.6 billion years ago formation of the sun 	4.54 billion years ago formation of the earth 
4.53 billion years ago formation of the moon 	3.8 billion years ago first evidence of oceans and the first forms of life 
2.1 billion years ago molecular life evolves	0.23 billion years ago dinosaurs evolve

	
0.222 billion years ago the first mammals evolve	0.2 billion years ago human life evolves
	

However, it has been pointed out that there are similarities between the scientific and biblical accounts of creation.

Days of Creation

GENESIS 1



Consolidation: List three challenges to the Genesis creation accounts by the development of science.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Application phase:

Explain the theory of creation from two Christian traditions. (8Marks)

Roman Catholic theory on Creation	Other Christian theories on creation

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Create a plan for your answer using the table below

Now complete your answer in your book. You need to write four paragraphs using the What, Why, Wider structure.

Paragraph starters

Firstly Roman Catholics believe that ...

Secondly Roman Catholics also believe...

Thirdly other Christians believe...

Finally other Christians also think...

Origins and Meaning Lesson 3

Do now:

Meaning	Answer
Latin term meaning that God created from nothing	
A statement or prayer of gratitude. Spoken by Jews when they wake up in the morning.	
The study of the origin of the universe is called...	
The book of the Bible in which the creation stories are found is...	
Christians who believe the Bible is literally true are called...	
Christians who believe that the creation stories are literally true are called...	

Big question: How does science view the creation of the world?	Small questions: 1. What is the Big Bang Theory? 2. What do Catholics believe about the Big Bang theory?
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Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gup4Cc0Ube0>

Knowledge phase 1: The Big Bang theory

The best-known theory explaining how the world began is the Big Bang theory which became widely accepted in the 1960s. The theory was first put forward by a Catholic priest, Father Georges Lemaitre, and then much later built on by Professor Stephen Hawking. The theory arose as a result of various observations made about the universe, particularly...

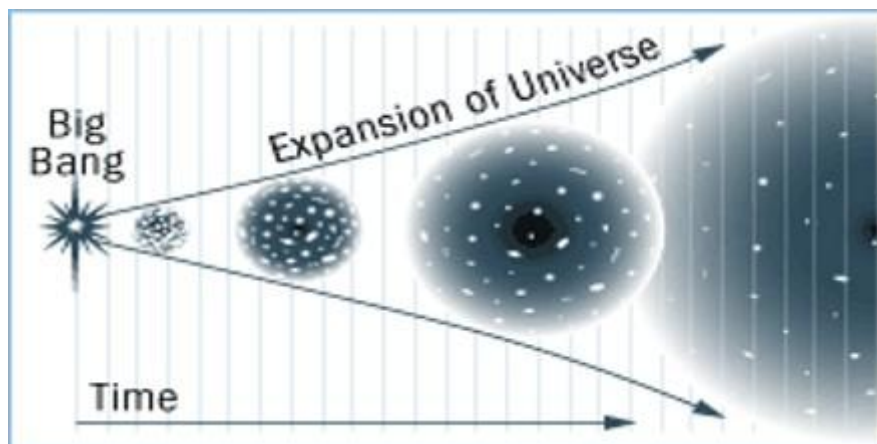
- Galaxies far away from our galaxy (which is called the Milky Way) are getting further away and as they do that the whole universe is cooling down.
- As you observe these galaxies and their stage of development, it seems to suggest that the universe is about 15 billion years old, which has led scientists to believe that there was a one-off moment when it all began, and before which nothing existed. Hawking calls this a 'moment of singularity'.

The explanation is that the matter that makes up the universe was once compacted together, but because it was so dense and hot, it could no longer keep itself together. As a result, the matter exploded, which is the moment we call the 'Big Bang'. At this point space and time were created. As temperatures cooled, elements such as helium and hydrogen were formed, islands of more solid matter took shape and these gradually combined to form billions of galaxies, containing billions of stars. These form the universe we know today.

The Big Bang theory has led Hawking and many other scientists to conclude that there is no evidence to suggest that there is a Creator responsible for the origin of the universe; instead things may just have happened by themselves.

Prior to the Big Bang time did not exist as the beginning of the process was the beginning of time.

Consolidation: Annotate the diagram below with the stages of the creation of the universe.



Knowledge phase 2: The Catholic view of Big Bang theory

The Catholic Church has no reason to question the evidence that scientists present about the origins of the universe. As we saw earlier, there is a long history of the Catholic Church being interested in, and leading on, areas of scientific discovery. In fact, it doesn't have to be a choice between religion and science because both are perfectly possible.

The theory raises almost as many questions as answers. For example, where did the matter come from that caused the Big Bang? Hawking suggests that since gravity exists, the universe can and will create itself from nothing, but the question is, where did the law of gravity come from? Gravity and matter are not 'nothing', so if either of these existed before the universe, then the universe has not come from nothing.



Stephen Hawking (left, guest starring in an episode of *The Big Bang Theory*) believes that how the universe was formed can be explained by science without the need for God.

Science and theology seem, in fact, to be answering different questions. The author of Genesis is explaining *why* the universe began. The story was told in a non-scientific age to explain that God was the creator of everything and that he had a special role for humanity to play in the world. These stories express meaning rather than presenting a factual account of historical events. Scientists are answering the question of *how* the universe was created. The conclusion for Catholics, therefore, is that if the Big Bang theory is correct then perhaps this is the way that God chose to create the world.

Consolidation: How would a Catholic respond to someone who said that science has disproved the belief that God created the universe?

Application: How would a scientist respond to someone who says that science cannot disprove that God created the universe.

Testing: d question:

"The Big Bang Theory disproves the existence of God" (15 Marks)

Evaluate this statement show that you have considered more than one point of view.

Origins and Meaning Lesson 4

Do now: Match the word to its meaning:

Monotheism	To find an explanation of the meaning of the Bible.
Interpret	A story that isn't literally true, but has deeper, hidden or symbolic, meaning.
Myth	A Christian who believes that the universe was created by God just as explained in the Bible.
Literal	Believing in one God.
Creationist	Understood to mean exactly what is written.

Big question:
What are the
Scientific
theories of
evolution?

Small questions:

1. What did Charles Darwin say about evolution?
2. What did Richard Dawkins say about evolution?
3. Is evolution compatible with Catholic beliefs?
4. What do other Christians believe about the Big Bang theory and evolution?

Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pktDqFy5lcE>

Knowledge phase 1: Charles Darwin

The Big Bang theory has provided a scientific explanation for the origin of the universe without a need to believe that God is responsible. Similarly, various theories have been proposed to explain how new species develop.

Charles Darwin rocked the Christian world in 1859 when he published his book called *On the Origin of the Species by means of Natural Selection*. He worked as a naturalist on HMS Beagle and spent a long time studying the animals and birds on the Galapagos Islands which are a thousand miles off the coast of South America. He noticed major differences in some of the animals across the different islands, particularly in relation to a type of bird called finches. Some of the finches had thin, sharp beaks whereas those on other islands had short, fat beaks. The size and shape of their beaks were best suited to the food source that was available to them on each island.

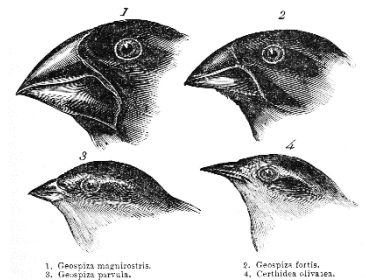
He concluded that these variations happened naturally by chance when a species produced offspring. However, in some cases the variation was very useful and made it more likely that these animals would survive and breed, producing the next generation. So, over time the useful variation was passed down and became more common, which eventually led to different variations of animal and eventually to whole new species. This process is referred to as **natural selection** or ‘**survival of the fittest**’.

Darwin proposed that this process had repeated itself many times over a long period of time, leading to completely new species of animals emerging. This process is known as **evolution**. This was highly controversial at the time; according to this theory one species is descended from another species from which it is different. If we are to work backwards, human beings have descended from an ape-like species which itself came from a species of mammal, and these mammals descended from a reptile who had come from a fish until eventually all life can be traced back to a simple bacterium.

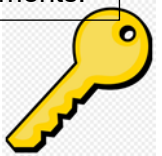
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci9jfMvoLb4>

The theory of evolution is supported by fossil records which reveal that a large number of species have not survived and also that earlier forms of animals have survived but in a mutated form (for example, elephants are closely related to the extinct woolly mammoth). DNA research also seems to suggest that there are very close similarities between many species, which further reinforces evolutionary theory.

Darwin's observations of variation in the beaks of finches led to his theory of evolution.



Evolution the process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.



Consolidation:

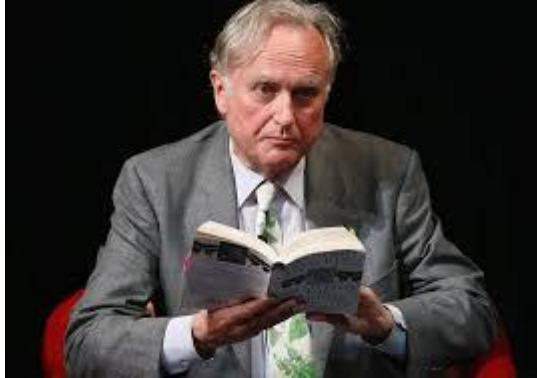
1. Explain how evolution happened

2. Give 2 ways that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution can be proved.

a.

b.

Knowledge phase 2: Richard Dawkins



Richard Dawkins is outspoken in his view that there is no God and that human life is explained entirely by the theory of evolution.

Professor Richard Dawkins is a British scientist who is often referred to as 'the most famous atheist in the world'. He has been outspoken about his support for Darwin's theory of evolution, **atheism**, **humanism** and is in opposition to religion. Dawkins believes that the theory of evolution and natural selection explain the origins of the universe much better than the idea of a creator God. He famously said that you could not be sane and well educated and disbelieve the theory of evolution. Dawkins is well known for the work that he has done to build on Darwin's theory of natural selection. In his book, *The Selfish Gene* (1976), he argues that it is the individual genes within organisms that adapt and evolve, not organisms themselves. Dawkins argues that each living organism's body is just a survival machine for its genes and does not serve any other purpose. He described life as just 'bytes and bytes and bytes of digital information'.

Atheism: Believing there is no God.

Humanism: A belief system based on rational thought and the importance of humans rather than a supernatural God.



Therefore, humans are no more than carriers of DNA whereby over time, good genes survive and bad genes die out. Dawkins, therefore, rejects...

- any notion of a creator God who has a plan for the universe
- the concept of an immortal soul given by God.

Consolidation: Give a sentence to explain the beliefs of Richard Dawkins

Choose two of the concepts from the table below and in your books explain what they mean.

Evolution	Atheism	Big Bang theory	Survival of the fittest/Natural selection	Humanism
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Knowledge phase 3: Is evolution compatible with Catholic beliefs?

For many, Darwin's and Dawkins' views are challenging because they appear to conflict with the Catholic idea that human beings have a special role in God's creation. Dawkins argues that evolution means that:

- the creation of humans was just a lucky genetic mutation
- humans are merely another slightly more advanced form of animals
- humans have no greater importance on this earth than other animals.

However, Catholics accept the theory of evolution but disagree with the idea that it means that humans aren't special and all life developed by chance. Pope St John Paul II restated the view of Pope Pius XII, that the Church saw no conflict between evolution and the teachings of the Christian faith. He went on to encourage theologians and scholars of Scripture to be informed by scientific research in their ongoing work.

The Catholic Church does not expect Catholics to believe that humans were created on the sixth day looking exactly as they do today. What is important to the Catholic Church is not whether God chose to create through a Big Bang and a process of evolution over many millions of years, but that in Genesis, God created with purpose

and so everything that exists is part of his loving plan. This is what is important for Christians to understand, not how it happened but why it happened. 'If methodical investigation within every branch of learning is carried out in a genuinely scientific manner and in accord with moral norms, it never truly conflicts with faith, for earthly matters and the concerns of faith derive from the same God.' (*Gaudium et Spes* 36)

Pope St John Paul II in his Message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: *On Evolution* (22 October 1996): '...In his encyclical *Humani Generis* (1950), my predecessor Pius XII has already affirmed that there is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of the faith regarding man and his vocation.'

Consolidation: Give an explanation of the two quotes from the Church

Which of these statements about Catholic teachings on the origins of the universe are true and which are false?

- a God created the universe from nothing.
- b The Big Bang theory is wrong.
- c Humans are the high point of God's creation.
- d Humans appeared on earth exactly in the form that they are today.
- e The account of Creation in the Bible should not be taken literally.

Knowledge phase 4: Other Christians beliefs

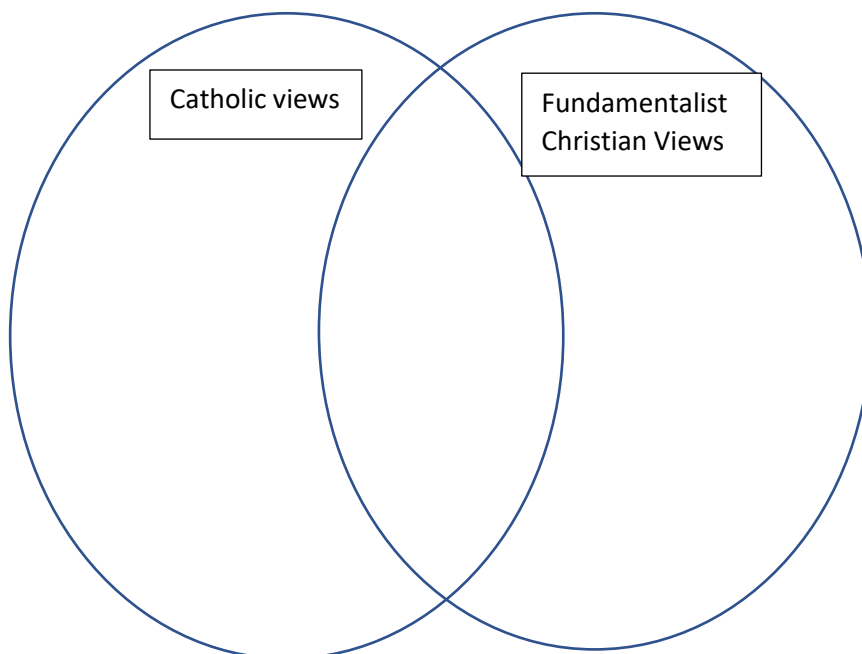
Whereas the Catholic Church and other Liberal Christians support these theories, some Christian denominations, most notably some Fundamentalist and Evangelical Christians, see them as an attack on their beliefs. These Christians interpret scripture literally and believe that the Bible has come directly from God and that every word is historically true and accurate. Any scientific account of creation that conflicts with the Genesis account is, therefore, considered wrong.

Their views would include:

- The actions of the creator God brought about all life.
- A great variety of life forms suddenly appeared on earth at the time of creation.
- Plant and animal species were created with their characteristics complete at the time of creation.
- Human life was created last, with characteristics that were complete at the time of creation.

The last two points, therefore, rule out the idea of evolution.

Consolidation: Using the Venn diagram on the next page, show what beliefs Catholic and Fundamentalist Christians have in common about the creation of the universe and how their views differ.



Application: What explanations would an atheist, a fundamentalist Christian and a Catholic give about creation and evolution? Complete the table.

Atheist	fundamentalist Christian	Catholic

Testing: Richard Dawkins said “you cannot be sane and well educated and disbelieve the theory of evolution”

- What arguments would he give to back up this statement?
- What arguments would a Catholic give to disagree with him?

Origins and Meaning Lesson 5

Do now: True/False

Statement	T/F
Richard Dawkins believes that God created the universe	
Charles Darwin wrote about the theory of evolution	
The Bible states that God created the world in 6 days	
Natural selection means the survival of the fittest	
The Big Bang theory is incompatible with a belief in God according to the church	

Big question: Is human life special?	Small questions: 1. What are the Catholic beliefs and teachings about the origin and sanctity of human life? 2. What is meant by Imago Dei?
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Knowledge phase 1: Catholic beliefs and teachings about the origin and sanctity of human life.

The fact that humans appear to be the only creatures capable of using reason to make moral decisions, has led many people, whether they are religious or not, to believe that human life has more value than other kinds of life and is precious. For those with no religious faith, life is special because it is the only life we have.

For Christians, human life has special value because they believe that each person is unique because God made them and there is no one else quite like them. Sadly, we know this when those we love die, because they leave a space that can't be filled by anyone else. We might have another sister, son or friend but they can't ever replace the person that we have lost. All Christian denominations believe that human life is special and a gift from God.

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred (holy) and that everyone has a right to life which should be protected and valued at every stage.

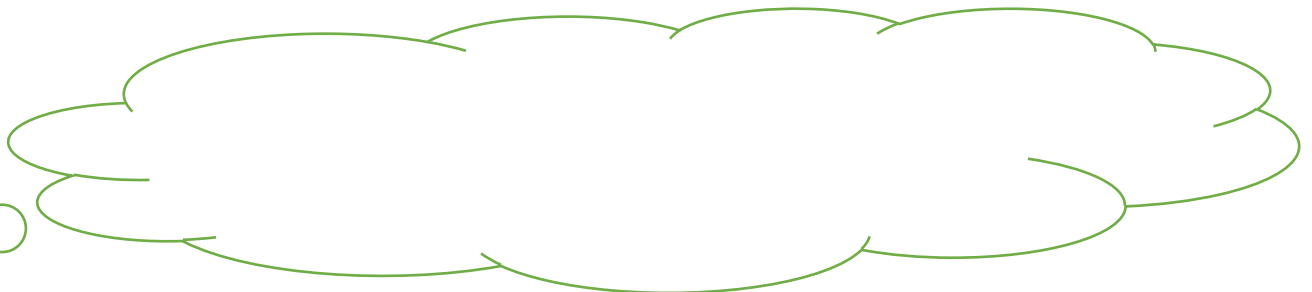
Consolidation: Is human life more important than other forms of life? Give 2 reasons for your response.

1. _____
2. _____



Knowledge phase 2: *Imago Dei* – the image of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yV0pu60Uqs> In the space below note down what you think it means to be 'made in the image of God'?



Imago Dei 'In the image of God'. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.

Both of the Creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 describe how God planned and made the world. Everything that exists does so because God created it, including plants and animals and his final creation, humans, who were his most important.

‘Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end...’
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258)

We are told that other living things are created for three main reasons:

1. **Humans are special.** In Genesis 1, it states that humans were not just created by God but created in his image. In Genesis 2, God creates Adam from the earth and breathes life into him so that he can live. These accounts demonstrate that the creation of humans was unlike the rest of creation because they were made in a unique way and most importantly in the image of God. The Latin term for ‘in the image of God’ is ***imago Dei***. **Catholics** believe that since only humans have been made in God’s image, they, therefore, have a special **dignity** which should be recognised in everyone that they meet whatever their gender, colour, status or belief.
2. Furthermore, humans have an immortal **soul** which has come from God and will go back to God, so their **destiny** is to share eternal joy with God in heaven.
3. **Humans have freedom to make moral choices.** In Genesis 2, it says:

*‘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.
So God created mankind in his own image, **in the image of God he created them**; Male and female he created them.’* Genesis 1:26-27

*‘And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are **free** to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For when you eat from it you will certainly die.”’* (Genesis 2:16–17)

Consolidation: complete the acrostic with key information about the concept of Imago Dei

I
M
A
G
O
D
E
I

Application: Answer the following questions.

- Why might a non-religious person believe that human life is special?
- Why might a Christian believe that life is special?
- What are the three reasons that Genesis describes human creation as distinct from the rest of creation?

Testing phase: d question

'The only reason we believe people are more important than animals is because the Bible tells us they are made in the image of God.' (15 marks)

Plan your answer in the table below then write up the answer in your book.

Reasons from the Bible	Other reasons to show humans are special

Origins and Meaning Lesson 6

Do now:

How do the following three pictures link to the idea on the imago dei?



Big question: What does St Catherine of Siena say about the image of God?

Small questions:

- Who was St Catherine of Siena and what did she teach about the image of God?
- What are three important messages that Catherine gave?

Getting started <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UvUznvBzt4>

Knowledge 1: Saint Catherine of Siena on the image of God

St Catherine (1347–80) was a woman who had a deep spiritual faith and was passionate about making people aware of God. She spent most of her time with sinners and outcasts because she knew that God loved them all, as they were all created in his image. Her most famous work is called *The Dialogue of Divine Providence* and is a conversation between God and a soul trying to make *her* way to God. The choice of the word *her* in reference to the soul is a Latin tradition.



The Dialogue of St Catherine of Siena, of Discretion

‘Her dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is in the image of God, and this has been given her by grace, and not as her due. In that same mirror of the goodness of God, the soul knows her own indignity, which is the consequence of her own fault.’

‘What made you establish man in so great a dignity? Certainly, the incalculable love by which you have looked on your creature in yourself! You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you created her, by love you have given her a being capable of tasting your eternal Good.’

In *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*, Catherine of Siena says that humans were made by God in his image because he loves them

Consolidation: Explain what you understand about the quote from Catherine

Knowledge phase 2:

There are three important messages that come from St Catherine’s writing:

- a) **Humans originate from God** – in the same way that children originate from their parents or your reflection in the mirror originates from you: **‘Her dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is in the image of God.’**
- b) **Conscience** – when we look in a mirror we see our face, the good and bad; freckles, spots, wrinkles! Since humans have God’s truth in their lives, they have an inner **conscience** that tells them when their actions are right or wrong, just like looking in a mirror: **‘In that same mirror of the goodness of God, the soul knows her own indignity, which is the consequence of her own fault.’**

- c) **Love** – St Catherine reflects that the reason that humans have been made with such dignity in the image of God is because he loves them immeasurably. He created out of love. ***'You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you created her.'***

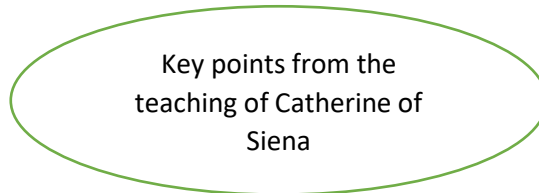
Consolidation: Give a ten-word sentence to sum up each of the messages from Catherine.

- a) _____

- b) _____

- c) _____

Application:



Testing: b question.

Describe the teaching of Catherine of Siena on imago dei (5)

WAGOLL – You will need to write two PEE paragraphs

Origins and Meaning Lesson 7

Do now: True/False

Statement	T/F	If false what should it be?
Imago Dei means 'image of Jesus'.		
Catherine of Siena believed that humans were made Imago Dei.		
Evolution is not compatible with Catholic beliefs.		
Many Catholics view the Genesis accounts of creation as myth.		
God created ex-nihilo		

Big question: What is abortion?	Small questions: 1. What is abortion 2. What are the different attitudes to abortion?
---	--

Getting started: Most human beings agree that human life is special and worthy of protection.

‘The child, by reason of its physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguard and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth.’ (United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

For religious believers, human life is considered to be sacred or holy because it has come from God. This idea is known as the **sanctity of life**. Since all life originates from God and is precious, it should be valued and protected, not destroyed.

Knowledge phase 1: What is abortion?

Abortion is the deliberate ending of a pregnancy. Before 1967, abortion was illegal in Britain, however this doesn't mean abortions didn't take place. Instead thousands of illegal or 'back street' abortions were carried out each year and led to serious injury and sometimes the death of the woman.

In 1967, abortion was legalised up to 28 weeks, as long as certain criteria were met. Two doctors must agree to the procedure for it to go ahead and decide that, if the pregnancy were to continue, it would be a risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or her existing family. Other grounds on which an abortion can be granted is if the woman's life is in danger or there is a substantial risk that the baby might be born with a physical or mental disability. The 1990 Abortion Act lowered the number of weeks to 24, however in rare cases where the woman's life is at risk or there is the likelihood of severe abnormality in the baby, then there is no time limit on abortion.

Consolidation: Give three criteria for a legal abortion.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Knowledge phase 2: Attitudes towards abortion

People's attitudes to abortion are linked to their beliefs about when life begins.

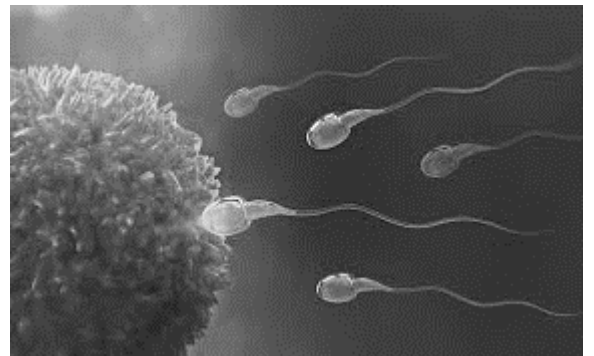
Some people believe that life begins at the moment of **conception** because the egg and the sperm are a living source of life.

Others believe that life begins when the **fertilized egg attaches to the wall of the womb between four to six days after conception.**

Some people believe life begins when the baby's **heart starts to beat at about 22 days.**

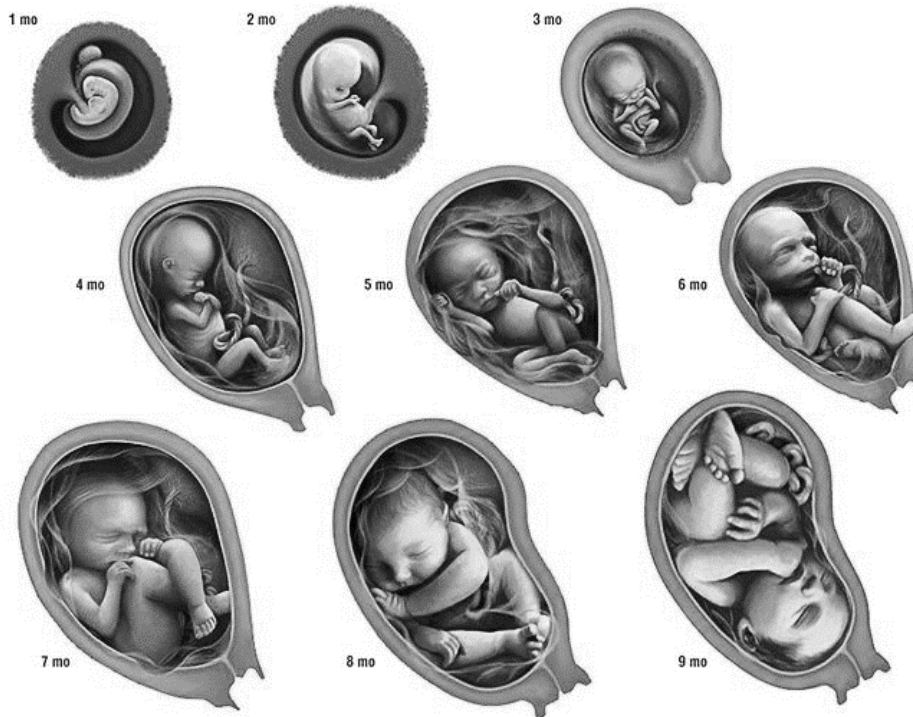
Other think that life begins when the mother can **feel the baby moving.** This is called '**quickening**' and this can be any time from 9 weeks.

At 24 weeks a baby reaches viability which is when it could survive outside the womb (though in rare cases babies born at **22 weeks have survived**) Some also believe that life begins at **birth**, 40 weeks after conception. In ordinary circumstances in the



UK abortion can take place up to 24 weeks. However, in exceptional circumstances this can happen up to 40 weeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH9ZJu4wRUE>



Consolidation: What is your opinion, when does life begin? Give your reasons

Abortion is a **highly controversial** issue and has been widely debated since its legalisation. Arguments on both side of the debate centre around three main issues:

1 Preserving Life	2 Quality of Life	3 Rights and Responsibilities
There are those who believe it is always wrong to take a human life and that includes the life of unborn babies. However, there are widely held views on when life actually does begin . Is it the moment of conception ? When implantation occurs? When the	There are those who argue that the issue isn't whether the unborn baby is a life or not, but whether having the child will adversely affect the quality of life of the mother or the child . If the mother is going to suffer mentally or physically by having the child, for example, if the	Some people believe that every human has a right to life , even an embryo, and potential parents should take responsibility for bringing new life into the world. This view is usually referred to as 'Pro-life' . On the other side of the debate, there are those who believe that the important issue is that the woman has rights . She has the right to do what she wants with her body and that includes having an abortion. Some

first movements can be felt in the womb? The instant the heart starts to beat? When a baby is born? Abortion is only ever morally 'wrong' if you believe the foetus is human/alive?	mother has been raped or if the child will be born with severe disabilities, then some argue that, in these circumstances, it is kinder to have an abortion. Stopping human suffering	who take this view accept that an unborn baby has rights but would argue that the woman's right to do what she wants with her body takes priority . This standpoint is referred to as 'Pro-choice' Currently, in law the father has no legal rights. Self-determinism
---	---	--

Consolidation: Summarise each of the issues.

1 Preserving Life	2 Quality of Life	3 Rights and Responsibilities

Application – In books

1. Explain what abortion is. (50 words)
2. Explain how belief in abortion is linked to the belief in when life begins. (50 words)
3. Describe the issues around abortion. (100 words)

Origins and meaning Lesson 8

Do now:

What are the three main issues around abortion?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Give three reasons that are necessary for a legal abortion

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Give three stages of pregnancy that could be when life begins

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Big question:	Small questions
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What do the Christian churches believe about abortion?	1. What does the Catholic Church believe about abortion? 2. What does the Anglican Church believe about abortion?
--	--

Knowledge phase 1: The Catholic Church and abortion

Preserving life

The Catholic Church is against abortion in all circumstances because human life is sacred. The Catholic Church teaches that life begins at conception. It is God who gives life at this moment and it is the start of a human being's relationship with God. This life is often described as 'a life with potential' rather than a potential life.

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' Jeremiah 1:5

Abortion is, therefore, seen as murder and a great moral evil, which is against one of the Ten Commandments: **'Do not murder'**.

The Church values the life of both mother and child. If a mother's life is in danger during the pregnancy then it supports some of the treatments which could save the life of the mother even if it threatens or destroys the life of the unborn child. For example, when the mother might need treatment for cancer, such as chemotherapy. This is known as **the principle of double effect**.

Consolidation: Describe Roman Catholic teaching on abortion.

Point _____

Evidence _____

Explanation _____

The principle of double effect

Some actions may have more than one effect – the intended effect and a side effect (double effect). Sometimes even if the intended effect of an action is good, the side effect can be bad. The Catholic Church teaches the principle of double effect – where an action that is intended to have a good effect, but has a bad side-effect can be morally right if it meets the following principles:

- The action itself must be either morally good or morally indifferent, not morally wrong.
- The bad effect/result must not be directly intended.
- The intended good effect/result must be a direct result of the action taken and not a result of the bad result/effect.
- The good effect/result must be 'proportionate to' the bad effect/result.

You will not be asked directly about the principle of double effect in your exam, but it will help you understand why, in some circumstances, the Catholic Church permits

medical procedures that will also end a pregnancy, if it is a side effect of saving the life of the mother.

Consolidation: Explain the principle of double effect in one sentence

Quality of life

The Church values all human life with no exceptions. All life is equally valuable because it has been given by God and every life is special and unique. The Church understands that continuing with a pregnancy in some situations might affect the quality of life of the mother, father or child. The Church teaches that the whole community has a responsibility in these cases. Parents, family and friends have an important role to play in providing love and compassion as well as emotional and practical support to women and couples who are considering an abortion.

The Catholic Church believes that all people are created in God's image and are equal and special, so abortion is wrong in all cases



Consolidation: Link the Churches ideas on quality of life to each of the images above.

Rights and responsibilities

The Church teaches that an unborn child is not merely a part of its mother's body. From the moment of conception, it is a separate individual and, therefore, a person with its own rights, even though it is reliant on its mother's body for life.

Instead of having an abortion, the Church encourages those in this situation to accept their responsibility to give the child life and would encourage them to have the child adopted if they are unable to be a parent.

'From the time the ovum is fertilised, a new life is begun which is neither that of the father nor of the mother [...] It would never become human if it were not human already.' (The Roman Catholic Declaration on Procured Abortion 1973)

Watch the clip from Pam Stenzel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDneJ_PXBN0

Consolidation: What is your response to the idea that an unborn child is not part of it's mothers body but a person in their own right?

The Anglican Church and abortion

The Anglican Church is also strongly opposed to abortion and agrees with the Catholic Church that it is a great moral evil. They also encourage adoption as the alternative course of action.

Anglicans uphold the sanctity of human life. However, where they differ from the Catholic Church is that many Anglicans believe there are strictly limited conditions when having an abortion would be preferable to having the child. This is sometimes referred to as 'the lesser of two evils'. The conditions where this might be the case include:

- ❖ If the mother's life is in danger, abortion is permitted but not encouraged.
- ❖ It should be carried out as early as possible.
- ❖ Abortion is permitted if a woman has been raped because of the effect on her ongoing quality of life.
- ❖ Abortion is permitted if the child is likely to be severely disabled. However, if this is the case there should be some certainty that the child would only have survived for a very short period of time.

The Anglican Church also calls for better sex education as a solution to unwanted pregnancies.

Consolidation: How does the Anglican Church differ from the Catholic Church on their ideas on abortion?

Catholic Church	Anglican Church

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Application:

Write down two sources of authority and explain what they mean.

1. _____

2. _____

Testing: c question

Explain from two Christian traditions the beliefs on abortion. (8 marks)

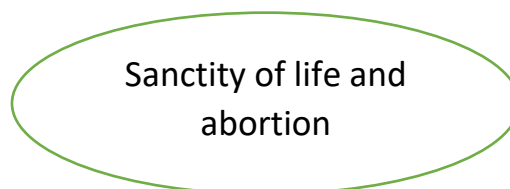
WAGOLL – I do

Firstly the Catholic Church believes that abortion is wrong as they believe that life begins at conception. This means that abortion is considered to be murder and the Ten Commandments state that 'you shall not murder'.

In your books you now need to write your 8 mark answer which means that you need 4 paragraphs.

Origins and meaning Lesson 9

Do now: Create a spider diagram.



Big question: What are non-Christian views on abortion?	Small questions: 1. What is the Humanist view on abortion? 2. What is the Catholic response to the humanist view? 3. What are the Jewish views on abortion?
--	---

Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI9AHJ1O8b4>

Knowledge phase 1; Humanist views on the value of life and abortion

Humanism is based on this life, the here and now, as humanists do not believe in God or any other supernatural being. For a humanist, this life is precious because it is the only one there is. Moral decisions should be based on what will allow all involved to live a full and happy life. They uphold these beliefs based on reason because it makes sense, and because they believe in personal choice and respecting others.

There is no one humanist view on abortion but they tend to take a more liberal 'pro-choice approach' and accept abortion as a morally acceptable choice.

Humanists...

- do not consider life sacred (though they do believe it is special) but instead they think that 'quality of life' is an important consideration and that this outweighs preservation of life
- do not think an unborn baby is a person until well after conception
- encourage careful consideration of both long-term and short-term effects before a decision is made
- promote adoption as a possible alternative that might bring about greater happiness
- support the legalisation of abortion so that unsafe, illegal abortions don't take place
- consider that better sex education and easier access to contraception would reduce the number of abortions.

Peter Singer – a humanist's view

A well-known humanist and moral philosopher, Peter Singer, an Australian, has some interesting ideas about abortion and the value of life that many find controversial.

Non-person humans

Singer agrees with the Catholic position that life begins at conception. However, he describes this life as 'biological' and denies that embryos are 'persons'. Singer defines a human person as a being that can reason, feel, hope and make moral choices. Therefore, embryos, new born babies, those in a coma and the elderly with dementia are all examples of biological, but 'non-human' persons. It is morally acceptable to take the lives of these 'non-human' persons if it will bring about less suffering and greater happiness for all involved.

Speciesism

Singer is critical of the Catholic view that human life is more special than any other type of life. He believes that treating animals as less important than humans is

discriminatory and speciesist', in the same way that discriminating against people because of their colour is racist.

Singer argues that animals have similar responses to humans, in that they feel pleasure and pain and, therefore, their interests must be considered. A conscious animal, such as a cat, has more mental capacity and is more of a 'person' than an infant baby or an elderly person with dementia. Singer argues that speciesism is, therefore, morally wrong.



African grey parrots are very intelligent and, in some experiments, have been shown to have the same cognitive ability as a 4–6-year-old child. Should they have the same rights as humans?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rfGEtALHYs>

Consolidation:

What is humanism? _____

Give three examples of humanist views on abortion

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What does Peter Singer mean by 'non-person humans'?

Knowledge phase 2: Catholic response to Singer's views

Catholics would argue that since God gives humans a soul, they are and remain 'persons' whether they are conscious or not, even when they are asleep, in a coma or haven't yet been born.

With regard to Singer's views on speciesism, Catholics would agree that human beings should respect and care for animals, since they are God's creatures and part of his Creation. However, they make a distinction between animals and humans because humans have been made in the image of God.

Humans, therefore, have a special dignity that animals don't. Human beings should care for animals and must not inflict unnecessary cruelty, but they can use animals for food and clothing.

Consolidation: Give three Catholic responses to Singer's view.

1. _____

2. _____
3. _____

Knowledge phase 3: Jewish views

For many Jews, God is believed to be the sole creator, giver and taker of life.

Genesis (the first book of the Torah) teaches that humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27) and life is precious. In the Tenakh, there are references to a relationship with God even before birth (Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 1).

The Ten Commandments, believed to have been given to Moses, forbid the taking of a life. The Talmud discusses a number of cases in which *mitzvot* in the Torah can be disregarded in order to save a human life. This includes working on Shabbat and breaking the fast on Yom Kippur.

There are many different Jewish views concerning abortion. These are often formed by interpretation of religious texts and teachings.

- Some Jews believe that, as God is Creator, only he can take life. An important belief in Judaism is *Pikuach Nefesh* – the saving of a life. It is taught that ‘Anyone who destroys a human life is considered as if he had destroyed an entire world.’ In the Ten Commandments it is forbidden to kill and some Jews believe this can refer to unborn babies.
- However, most Jews believe that the unborn foetus is not a person until it is born.
- Many Reform Jews believe that abortion can be permitted but only for serious reasons, such as when the mother’s life is at risk.

Consolidation: Sum up Jewish views on abortion in one sentence

Application phase: What are the arguments for and against abortion?

Include sources of authority

For abortion	Against abortion

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Lesson 10: Origins and meaning Revision

**Big question: What have I learned about the sanctity of life and attitudes to abortion.
Preparation for assessed questions.**

Key words:

1. Sanctity of life

2. Abortion

3. Non-person humans

4. Monotheism

5. Fundamentalist

6. Creationist

7. Natural selection

8. Atheism

9. Humanism

10. Conception

What do Catholics and Jews believe about abortion?



What are Christian and non-religious beliefs on creation?



Lesson 11: Origins and Meaning
Assessment lesson

Big question:

What have I learned so far?

Small questions:

1. Do I know the key terms for this unit?
2. What do I know about Creation?
3. What do I know about abortion?

Complete your assessment

Lesson 12: Origins and Meaning

Big question: How did I do in my assessment?	Small question: 1. What did I do well in my assessment? 2. What do I need to do to improve further?
--	--

Use the WCOS and the WAGOLL to make green pen improvements to narrow the gap in your knowledge.

Lesson 13: Origins and Meaning

Revisit: Match key word and meaning.

Creationist		Perfect or God-like
Creation ex nihilo		The idea that doing something for the right reason can have bad effect that was not intended.
Divine		A Christian who believes that God created the universe in six days exactly as described in the Bible.
Ectopic pregnancy		The freedom to choose right from wrong.
Principle of double effect		When a fertilised egg implants outside the womb, often in the fallopian tube.
Freewill		‘Creation out of nothing’

Big question: What do the two Creation accounts in Genesis tell us about God?

Small questions:

1. What do Genesis 1 and 2 tell us about God?
2. What do the two creation accounts tell us about humans?

Do now: How do you know what a person is like?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwQPtMdyXEU>

Knowledge phase 1: Genesis 1

Just as you can get to know someone by looking at the things they say and do, you can get to know God in the same way. One way we get this information is in the Bible.

In Genesis 1 the emphasis is on the greatness of God as creator of the universe:

- **Transcendence** – God exists above and beyond creation which makes Him unlike anything else that exists:
‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’ Genesis 1:1
- **Eternal** – the fact that God creates heaven and earth *‘In the beginning’* shows that he already existed, God has no beginning.
- **Omnipotent** – God is all powerful, creation happens just by him commanding it: *‘And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.’* (Gen 1:3). Furthermore, he creates from nothing, **Creation ex nihilo**; before he creates, nothing exists and only God can do this.

Genesis 2

The second account shares many of the themes of Genesis 1 but in addition God is portrayed as:

- **Omnibenevolent** – God is all-loving; he created the universe with humans in it out of love and because he loved them he created everything they needed to live on:

‘Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.’ Genesis 2:8–9.

In addition, God does not want man to be lonely so he creates other species to keep him company, and he allows Adam to name them, but he knew that these were not suitable companions for Adam so he created Eve.

Transcendence

Existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything that exists, above and beyond creation.



'The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man". 'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and they become one flesh.' Genesis 2:23–24

- **Immanent** – This account emphasises God being involved in his Creation, particularly humans and their lives. In this account God talks to Adam, he forms him from the dust of the earth and breathes life into him and he creates woman from Adam's rib. For this reason, Christians today believe God is omnipresent – present everywhere.

Immanent: The belief that God is involved with creation by making himself known or understood by humans.

Consolidation: Summarise what the two creation accounts tell us about God in the table below:

Genesis 1	Genesis 2



Knowledge 2: What do the two Creation accounts in Genesis tell us about human beings?

In both accounts the messages given about human beings are the same and reinforce the belief that human life is precious and sacred. Humans have been created to have a close relationship with God but they also have a duty to care for everything that God has created.

What do the Creation accounts tell us about humans?



Sanctity of life - Humans are created last in Genesis 1 and are the high point of God's creation. In Genesis 2 God personally creates Adam and Eve, Adam from the dust of the earth and Eve from Adam's rib. Furthermore, he breathes life into Adam which demonstrates how precious and sacred human lives are compared to everything else in creation. As part of his Creation, God reflects again that all that he has made is good, which includes human beings.

Image of God - Humans were created imago Dei - in the image of God, 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them.' (Gen 1:27) which makes them sacred and holy.



Male and female - God deliberately creates humans male and female, he wants Adam to have a companion in the second story; in Genesis 1 humans are encouraged to have children: 'Be fruitful and increase in number.'

Freewill - God gives Adam and Eve freedom to do God's will or to choose not to, 'And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die".' (Gen 2:16-17). Although God instructs Adam not to eat from the tree, he gives him the choice to disobey him.



Stewards of God's Creation - God commands that humans have authority over nature but also have a responsibility to care for it. In Genesis 1 God creates humans to rule over his creatures. In the second Genesis account, Adam is put in the garden to 'work it and take care of it' but his authority is seen when God asks him to name all the animals.

Consolidation: Create an acrostic to show what the creation stories tell s about humans.

H U M A N S

Application: C question in your books.

Explain what the creation accounts in Genesis tell Catholics about God and humans.
[8 marks]

WAGOLL:

You need to write four paragraphs which need to be developed points, you also need to add a source of authority. There are sentence starters to help.

Firstly one of the things the genesis account tell us about God is...

A second thing they tell us about God is...

Thirdly what the Genesis accounts tell us about humans is...

Lastly they tell us that humans are...

If you have finished give an argument for two different opinions of the statement...

‘The most important thing the Genesis accounts of creation are that they teach us about God’

Lesson 14 – Origins and Meaning

Do now: Who are the following people?

1. Charles Darwin

2. St Augustine

3. Stephen Hawking

4. Richard Dawkins

Big question: What are Catholic beliefs about humans and their relationship with creation?	Small questions: 1. What are the problems for the environment caused by humans? 2. What are Catholic beliefs about humans and their relationship with creation?
---	--

Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-nEYsyRIYo>

What is your response to the message in this video?

Knowledge phase 1:

What are the problems for the environment caused by humans?

- Ten thousand years ago there were probably only a few million people on the planet, by the 1920s this had risen to 2 billion and in 2017 the figure topped 7.3 billion.
- All of our water, food and fuel come from the earth's natural resources, and as the population has grown, so too has our consumption of these resources. Many of the essentials for life are 'non-renewable' which means once they have been used they cannot be replaced.
- As well as a growth in population there has been a huge demand for goods such as food, phones, computers, cars, houses and many more material possessions.
- Scientists believe that the effects of increased transport, factories and the pollution they cause, among other harmful practices such as deforestation, have changed the composition of the atmosphere leading to climate change.
- Changes to the world's climate are thought to be having a devastating effect on hundreds of millions of people worldwide as well as threatening the existence of many different species.

- Furthermore, the effects of climate change with more unpredictable and extreme weather have a greater impact on the world's poor because they are already vulnerable.
- Ninety per cent of people who die in natural disasters live in the poorest countries. Climate change is not just an environmental issue but a **justice** issue too.



Justice: Fairness in the way people are treated

The effects of climate change are often felt most by the poorest in society

Consolidation: Create a spider diagram giving as many environmental issues as you can



Knowledge phase 2: What are Catholic beliefs about humans and their relationship with creation?

Christianity is certainly not the only religion that believes that

- God created all living things, including people
- God created the earth with the right conditions to sustain life and that plants, fish, birds and animals were made for humans to use and make the earth beautiful
- The earth belongs to God and not to human beings; we are just the 'caretakers' of God's world.

Catholics believe that all of creation is holy because it comes from God. It is a sign of his love because he created the earth in a way that was sustainable for human life. One important way of showing love for God is by valuing what God has created.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, encourages Catholics to think about the gift they have been given and to consider what type of world they will be passing on to future generations. This will mean that humanity needs to look beyond personal gain and instead consider the effects of its actions on the environment.

Encyclical: A letter sent by the Pope to the Church.



‘Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit.’

Laudato Si 159

Consolidation:

Give three Catholic beliefs about the environment.

- i. _____

- ii. _____

- iii. _____

Application:

A question: What do Catholics mean by the term ‘Encyclical’

B question: Describe Catholic teaching on the relationship between humans and the environment. (5 marks)

WAGOLL

I do

P - Catholics believe that the earth belongs to God and humans are the ‘care-takers of the world.’

E- We see this in the book of Genesis where God tells Adam to ‘Rule over... every creature that moves on the ground.’”

E – This means that God entrusted the world to humans to care for all of the environment, we are not supposed to be destroying it.

You do

P – gift from God

E- Pope Francis encyclical

E – put the environment first

Lesson 15: Origins and meaning

Do now:

Which of these statements about Catholic teachings on the origins of the universe are true and which are false?

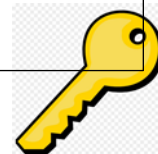
Statement	T/F
a. God created the universe from nothing.	
b. The Big Bang theory is wrong	
c. Humans are the high point of God's creation.	
d. Humans appeared on earth exactly in the form that they are today	
e. The account of Creation in the Bible should not be taken literally.	

Big question: What is the importance of preserving the planet and the environment?	Small questions: 1. What is stewardship of the world? 2. What does stewardship look like?
--	--

Knowledge 1: What is the stewardship of the world?

Stewardship of the world. In the Genesis creation stories humans are given the authority to rule over all living things. The very first law that seems to be given to humanity was that they should be stewards of the earth. A steward has a care-taking role and will often look after people on someone else's behalf. A steward at a football match will direct people to the right seats, deal with first aid when needed and ensure that everyone is safe during the game and after. The steward is working on behalf of the football team owners, acting as a servant to others, watching out for the most vulnerable, making sure that everything is as it should be and not allowing any destructive or dangerous behaviour.

Stewardship: The duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.



When humans are made stewards of the earth by God, they are given the same type of caretaking role in relation to looking after the planet:

'The LORD God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' Genesis 2:15

An important aspect of looking after it involves protecting it for future generations so that they can live and enjoy God's creation. In return for good stewardship, the earth provides everything humans need to survive, but they do not have the right to abuse the natural world; instead they must live in a sustainable way.

Consolidation: Answer the following questions

i. Why do we need stewards?

ii. What are the important aspects of humans being made stewards of the earth by God?

Knowledge 2: What does good stewardship look like?

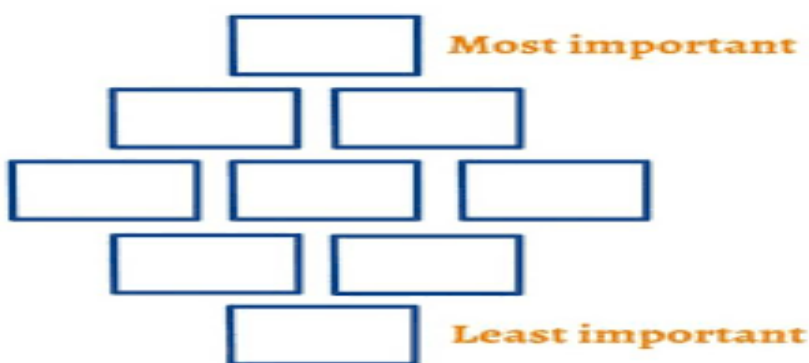
Catholics can take care of the planet in many different ways, at an individual, local and global level. In Laudato Si, Pope Francis has highlighted sound, practical ways that people can do this:

‘Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.’



Catholics believe that God gave humans authority over the natural world, but that we must not abuse it and should protect it for future generations

Consolidation: Chose nine of the ways which Pope Francis tells us that we can be good stewards write them into the diamond nine grid.



following.

Why have you chosen your most important?

e en'

1. **Love your neighbour as yourself**

Christians are frequently reminded of the greatest commandment, to love God and to love others. For Catholics this extends to everyone we know now and even those that we don't. This means that Catholics need to be concerned about those in other countries who bear the brunt of the most devastating effects of climate change through floods, storms and drought. **'Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.'** (1 John 4:20) Those we don't know and to whom we still must show love include those not even born yet; 'we do not inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children'.

2. **The common good**

The Catholic Church teaches that every individual has a duty to contribute to the good of society, the common good. As individuals, Catholics should act justly and seek justice for others, especially the poor. This approach is most likely to lead to good things for everyone because if all individuals are cared for, everyone will benefit from living in an orderly, prosperous and healthy environment.

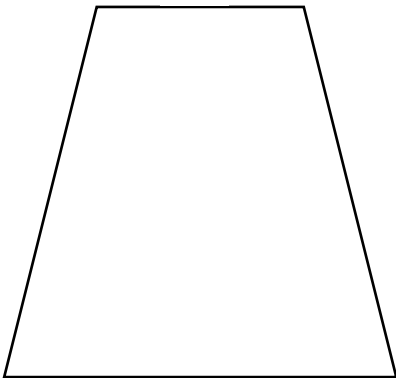
3. **Universal destination of goods**

Do we ever really own possessions, or is it more likely that we own them for a time before they become somebody else's when we recycle them or give them away? The Catholic Church sees the earth in this way – the current generation does not own it, they are looking after it to pass on to future generations. One of the commandments is **'You shall not steal'** (Exodus 20:15) and a refusal to look after the planet is stealing from future generations.

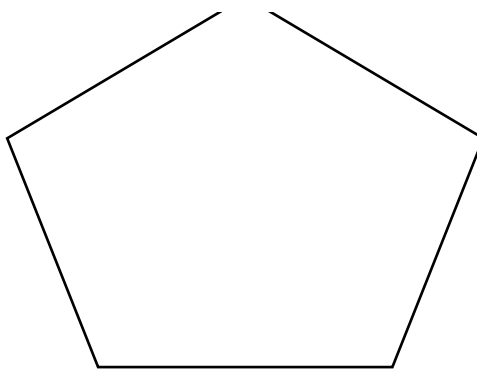
'The seventh commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one's neighbour and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. It commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods and the fruits of people's labour. For the sake of the common good, it requires respect for the universal destination of goods.' CCC 2401

Consolidation: Summarise these three reasons in the shapes below then give one word that could be used to remind you of each one.

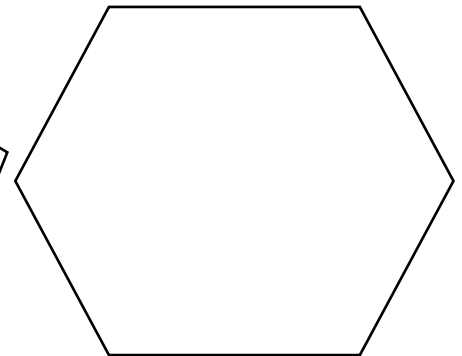
a



b



c



Single word
summary

Application:

a) What is meant by the term 'stewardship'? (2 marks)

For an 'a' question you need to give a definition of the term

b) Describe Catholic teaching on stewardship. (5 marks)

For a 'b' question you need to give 2 PEE paragraphs

Peer mark your answers using the marking grid below. Highlight what you see in the answer.

Band	Band descriptor	Mark total
3	An excellent, coherent answer showing awareness and insight into the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. Excellent understanding of how belief influences individuals, communities and societies. Uses a range of appropriate religious/specialist language and terms and sources of wisdom and authority extensively, accurately and appropriately.	4–5
2	A good, generally accurate answer showing knowledge and understanding of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. A good understanding of how belief influences individuals, communities and societies. Uses religious/specialist language and terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority generally accurately.	2–3
1	A limited statement of information about the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. A limited understanding of how belief influences individuals, communities and societies. Uses religious/specialist language and terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority in a limited way.	1
0	No relevant information provided.	0

Lesson 16: Origins and meaning

Do now: Here are the meanings, what are the key concepts?

	The belief that God is all powerful
	'Creation out of nothing'. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.
	The process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.
	'In the image of God'. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.
	'God breathed'. The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good and true. Omnipotence The belief that God is all powerful.
	The word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes himself known to human beings. Christians believe that God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.
	The duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.
	Existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything that exists, above and beyond creation.

Big question: What are other beliefs about stewardship?	Small questions: What do humanists believe about stewardship? What do Jews believe about stewardship?
---	--

Knowledge 1: Humanist views

Humanists have much in common with Catholics with respect to their concerns about the environment and the future of the planet. There are three main ways that their view would differ from that of a Catholic:

1. 'Good without God'
Most humanists agree with the idea of stewardship and see the world as beautiful and valuable.
They believe that ...
 - more should be done to preserve habitats and species because if they are lost then we may be damaging ourselves without realising it.
 - we should care about the future of our planet because we should care about other human beings, even those not born yet.

What makes humanists different to Catholics or other religious believers is that they seek to live a good life because they believe it is the only life we have. They uphold these beliefs based on reason, because it makes sense and because they believe in respecting others. Their views are not based on belief in a supernatural being or beings (God).

2. Population control

Humanists see population growth and overcrowding of the planet as a major threat to life on earth. They recognise that a growing population increases the demand for food, water, shelter and fuel as well as more material possessions and wealth.

They believe that

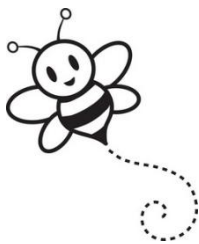
- demand for the earth's resources can increase tension and even lead to war which then threatens the happiness and safety of humans
- birth control programmes to limit population growth are an option.

This is contrary to the Catholic view which holds that God wants humans to flourish and multiply, as seen in Genesis.

3. Speciesism

This is the view that humans are prejudiced in favour of their own species and that we discriminate against animals because we believe that being human sets us above other animals. Increasingly humanists see this view as wrong, in the same way that racism or sexism is wrong. A famous moral philosopher and humanist who takes this view is Peter Singer.

- A humanist might ask us to consider a bee. Bees are threatened globally and in many areas their numbers are declining alarmingly. It is estimated that a third of all the food we eat, such as fruit and vegetables, have been pollinated by bees. If this is the case, are humans really superior to bees, as we are reliant on them for our food source?
- One reason a humanist would give for treating animals equally is that it makes sense to us as humans for our future survival. Other humanists might go further and say that animals have equal rights to humans.



This is contrary to Catholic views which hold that humans are special and holy because of the way they were created by God, in his image, as described in Genesis.

Consolidation: sum up in a sentence for each the three main differences between Humanist and Catholic Views.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Knowledge 2: Jewish views

A modern view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enw2FtXs1gY>

God is the source of all life and referred to throughout the Torah as the sole creator. Prayers are said in Orthodox synagogues expressing this belief: **'Blessed be He who spoke and the world existed.'** For many Jews the universe is too wonderful and complex to have happened by chance.

- In the first book of the Torah, God gave humans a duty to take control over nature (Genesis 1: 26–28). Many Jews believe it is their responsibility to continue the work of creation by making the world a better place to live in. This is referred to as **tikkun olam** (healing the world). This includes not wasting or destroying the environment (**bal tashchit**), not causing stress to living creatures and not causing pollution or harm to trees. This can be seen in the Torah when soldiers are told not to destroy trees in war.
- Many Jewish festivals celebrate God's creation, such as Sukkot which is a harvest festival. The keeping of Sukkot is a mitzvot (duty or obligation). Living in the sukkah (a temporary shelter often made of leaves and plants) during the festival is a reminder of human connection with nature and the environment.
- Jewish people also have a festival where they plant trees (Tu BiShvat – New Year of the Trees/Ecological Awareness Day). Trees are vital to the well-being of our environment and the damage caused by having too few trees can be seen in the rainforests of South America which have suffered significant deforestation.

Consolidation: Explain the terms

I. tikkun olam

II. bal tashchit

III. Tu BiShvat

Who would agree with the views stated below? Some may apply to more than one group!

View	Catholic	Humanist	Jew
God is the creator of every living thing.			
Animals have equal rights to humans			
Humans should take responsibility to continue the work of God's creation by making the world a better place to live in.			
Birth control programmes should be used to limit the world's population.			
Humans should flourish and multiply.			
God gave humans a duty to take control over nature.			
We should care about our planet and human beings not even born yet.			
We should care about the poorest nations who suffer most due to climate change.			
We should live well and look after the environment because it is the only life we have.			

Application Phase

Choose one of these views that you **disagree** with and explain why.

- The earth belongs to God.
- The earth belongs to humans.
- The earth belongs to those not even born yet.

Testing phase

c) Explain from a religious and non-religious point of view why we should care for the environment (8 marks)

In this answer you need to give four paragraphs.

You can include...

- ❖ Catholic Views
- ❖ Humanist views
- ❖ Jewish views

I do WAGOLL

Catholics believe we should care for the environment as humans were put in charge of the world by God. We see this in the book of Genesis where God says to Adam "Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." This means that we should care for Gods creation and not abuse the trust he has put in us to be his stewards.

You do:

You now need to write four paragraphs to answer the question.

Lesson 17: Origins and Meaning

Do now: In one paragraph explain Catholic teaching about caring for the environment using the following key terms.

Genesis	Stewardship	Authority or dominion
Common good	Laudato Si	Universal destination of goods.

Big question:

What is the background to the Bible?

Small questions:

1. Why was the Bible written?
2. How is the Bible structured?

Getting started:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak06MSETeo4>

Knowledge Phase 1: The Bible

The Bible is the source of Christianity's main beliefs and is considered to have been inspired in some way by God. Although it is usually referred to as one book, it is in fact a collection of different books written by many authors over a period of more than a thousand years.

In early times there was no need for a written holy book as religious accounts were passed on by the oral tradition because most people could not read or write. The stories were shared by word of mouth. **Scribes** began to write down parts of the oral tradition from around 1,000BC.

Similarly, the accounts of the life of Jesus were not recorded straight away as there was a strong belief that Jesus would return to earth very soon. The realisation that this was not the case and that eye witnesses were dying out, prompted the writing of the first New Testament writings. What became the accepted version of the Bible was agreed, after much discussion, by Pope Damasus I in the fourth century. The accepted list of the books that make up the Bible in the Catholic tradition is called the Canon of Scripture.

Oral tradition: Stories passed down by word of mouth rather than being written down.

Scribe: A record keeper

Canon of scripture: The list of texts that make up the Bible in the Catholic tradition.



Consolidation: answer the following questions...

1. What is the word that describes how God caused the Bible to be written? _____
2. Why was there originally no need to write a holy book?

3. Why were the stories of Jesus not written down straight away?

4. What is the term for the accepted list of books in the Catholic Bible?

Knowledge phase 1 continued: Literary forms

Living in the current age provides us with a greater variety of forms of communication than our ancestors could ever have dreamed of: email, text messages, online newspapers as well as traditional books full of examples of poetry, fiction, non-fiction and plays. Just as modern communication can be taken the wrong way, there can also be different interpretations of the Bible.

It is very easy to misunderstand writing. Think about text messages; we sometimes get offended needlessly because we can't hear the tone of the person writing, we only see the words themselves.

To understand any piece of writing fully it is helpful to know who wrote it, when, why, what life was like at the time and the reason they wrote in the first place. This is also true of the books contained in the Bible as there is a whole library full of variety included within it.

Consolidation: Why is it important to know the background to a piece of writing?

Knowledge phase 2: How the Bible is structured

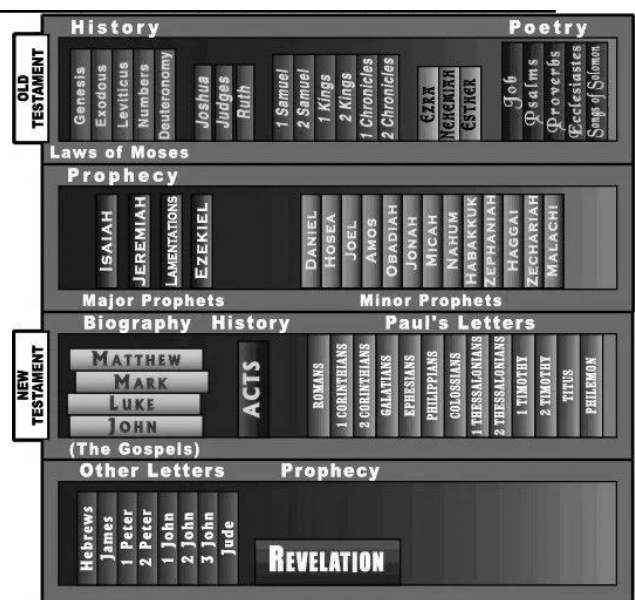
The Bible is divided into two large sections called the Old and New Testament. The word 'testament' means 'covenant' which is an agreement between two different groups.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament has 46 books according to the Catholic Canon; it begins with the origins of the universe and human beings. It traces the relationship between God and the Jewish people before the arrival of Jesus.

It is made up of:

- Law – the first five books form the Pentateuch. These books give instructions on how to live life according to God and contain the Ten Commandments.



- History – Joshua, Samuel and Chronicles are some of the books that trace the history of God's people from when they entered the Promised Land, detailing how they were guided by God and encouraged to keep the Covenant God had made with Abraham and later with Moses.
- Prophets – a prophet is a messenger sent by God to inspire and challenge those who are failing to stay faithful to God; Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel are some of the most famous prophets.
- Wisdom – these books encourage people to stay close to God in their lives and come in the form of songs, poetry, prayers and sayings.

The New Testament

The New Testament has 27 books according to the Catholic Canon; it contains the accounts of the life of Jesus and the growth of the Church after he had returned to heaven.

This section of the Bible contains:

- Gospels – the books of 'Good News' that detail the life of Jesus. The four Gospel writers were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Acts of the Apostles – these document the growth of the early Church.
- Letters – these were written by early Christian leaders, like Peter and Paul, to encourage, guide and sometimes criticise people in the Church.
- Book of Revelation – written by John, this is full of symbolism that some Christians believe refers to the end of the world.

Consolidation: Choose three from the table below and write a one sentence explanation of what they mean.

The Torah	The Bible	Old Testament
Literary forms	New Testament	Canon of Scripture

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Application:

Describe the structure of the Catholic Bible in four paragraphs.

You need to use the what, why, wider structure for each paragraph.

Lesson 18:Origins and Meaning

Do now:

True or false

Catholics believe that the writers of the Bible were inspired by God.	
---	--

The oral tradition is when the Bible was written down.	
The common good means that every person should only look after themselves.	
Jesus said 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.	
A scribe is a record keeper	
The Canon of Scripture makes up the Jewish Bible	
The New Testament tells us about Jesus and the early Church	
We do not need to know what life was like at the time the books of the Bible were written to understand their meaning.	

Big question: Do all Christians understand the Bible in the same way?	Small questions: 1. What is revelation and inspiration? 2. How do different Christians interpret the Bible?
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Knowledge phase 1: Revelation and inspiration

'All scripture is inspired by God.' 2 Timothy 3:16

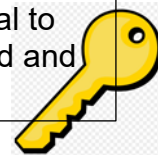
Christians describe the Bible as the Word of God. They believe that through the Bible God is making himself known to them; he is speaking to his people, providing them with a way to live and be holy.

Christians believe that God reveals himself to humans in other forms too, for example, through creation, through other people and most importantly, in the person of Jesus. **This is known as revelation.**

In Genesis, it is described how God breathed into Adam so that he could live. God's spirit was shared with human beings. Christians believe that God continues to send his spirit to guide people towards goodness and truth today, and **this is known as inspiration.** God's Holy Spirit guided the writers of the Bible, so the Bible is 'the Word of God'; meaning that the Holy Spirit inspired believers to accept God's message in their lives and in turn to share it with others.

Revelation: The word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes himself known to human beings. Christians believe that God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.

Inspiration: 'God breathed' The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good and true.



Consolidation:

Explain 'revelation'

Explain 'inspiration'

Knowledge phase 2: Interpreting the Bible

What influences our understanding of the events in our lives?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSamfnvVLcw>

The Catholic view

Not all Christians read or understand the Bible in the same way. The Catholic Church teaches that the authors of the Bible were inspired and gained truthful

insights about God but that not everything they wrote was historically or literally accurate, for example, their understanding of science was very limited. The Church, therefore, asks that in order to fully understand what God wanted to reveal to humanity, readers should consider the context in which it was written and the meaning of the literary form used; a poem is very different from a piece of historical writing.

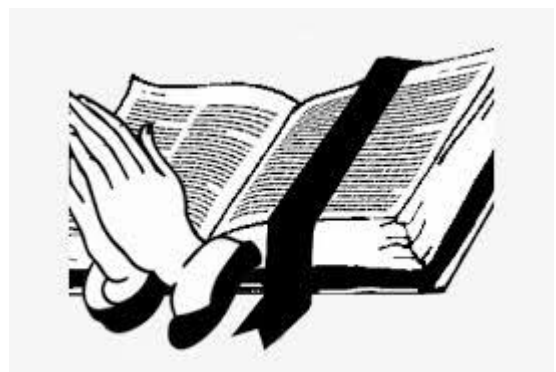
For Catholics, the accounts given in Genesis 1–3 can be considered myths; stories that, whilst not being ‘true’, contain great ‘truths’.

‘In order to discover the sacred authors’ intention, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at the time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current.’ CCC110

Other Christian views

Other Christians, such as Fundamentalists, believe that God inspired the biblical writers, so the Bible does not contain any errors. It is just as accurate in today’s world as it was when it was written, even if it seems to conflict with the modern world. Some Fundamentalists are literalists, taking everything in the Bible as being literally true. E.g. fundamentalist Christians would reject the discovery of fossils as evidence of evolution

For Catholics the Bible does not have to be taken literally but still contains important messages about God, whereas some Fundamentalist Christians believe that what is written in the Bible is completely true in a literal sense



Jewish views

The Torah The Torah is the first five books of the Tanakh (Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim) and is believed to be the holiest and most authoritative scripture for Jews. Moses is believed to have received the Torah from God on Mount Sinai.

The many different views among Jews derive from their consideration of the Torah as an authoritative text.

- For some they believe it was given by God to Moses and as such must be taken literally and not changed. Many Orthodox Jews will seek to obey the mitzvot as duties in life. Society may change but Jewish teachings don't. One of Maimonides' (a Jewish teacher) principles was that the Torah was given in its entirety to Moses and can never be changed.
- For many Reform and Liberal Jews, it is not necessary to take the scriptures literally and they believe that sometimes they have to be adapted for modern life.

Mishna: The Oral Torah.

Talmud: Commentary on the Mishnah which includes teachings and stories.



The Oral Torah

For many Orthodox Jews, the Oral Torah is also considered as a source of authority. It is believed to be God's words revealed to Moses and passed down to successors to form the Mishnah and Talmud. Many Reform Jews may refer to the Oral Torah but not see it as a source of Divine authority.

Consolidation: List the attitudes of Christians and Jews to interpreting the Bible.
(remember not all Christians or Jews believe the same thing.)

Catholic Christians	Fundamentalist Christians	Orthodox Jews	Reform Jews

Testing phase:

Explain the attitudes of two different religions towards interpreting the Bible.
[8 marks]

WAGOLL:

You need to give 4 paragraphs in your answer.
Include Christian and Jewish views.

Lesson 19: Origins and Meaning

Do now: match the statements to the religious groups.

Fundamentalist Christians	refer to the Oral Torah but not see it as a source of divine authority.
Catholic Christians	everything in the Bible as being literally true
Orthodox Jews	the authors of the Bible were inspired and gained truthful insights about God but that not everything they wrote was historically or literally accurate
Reform Jews	the Torah was given in its entirety to Moses and can never be changed.

Big question: How do Catholics see beliefs expressed through art?	Small questions: 1. In what ways do people choose to express their faith? 2. What is the meaning of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam and how does it express Catholic beliefs about God, creation and human beings?
---	---

Knowledge phase 1:

Vocation: A feeling that you have been called by God to do a certain type of work.



Expressing beliefs through art

There are very many different ways in which people express their religious beliefs and faith. They may...

1. pray, meditate or take part in an act of worship
2. choose to help others by supporting a charity or doing other good works
3. respond to a 'call' from God to follow a vocation as a nun or priest, teacher or social worker
4. express their beliefs about the meaning of life and the nature of God creatively through art, literature or music.

Originally, paintings and stained glass were important ways to share Bible stories and key Catholic beliefs with the many ordinary people that could not read or write. Consolidation: When you are older which of the four ideas above do you think may be the best way for you to express your faith? Explain your reason.

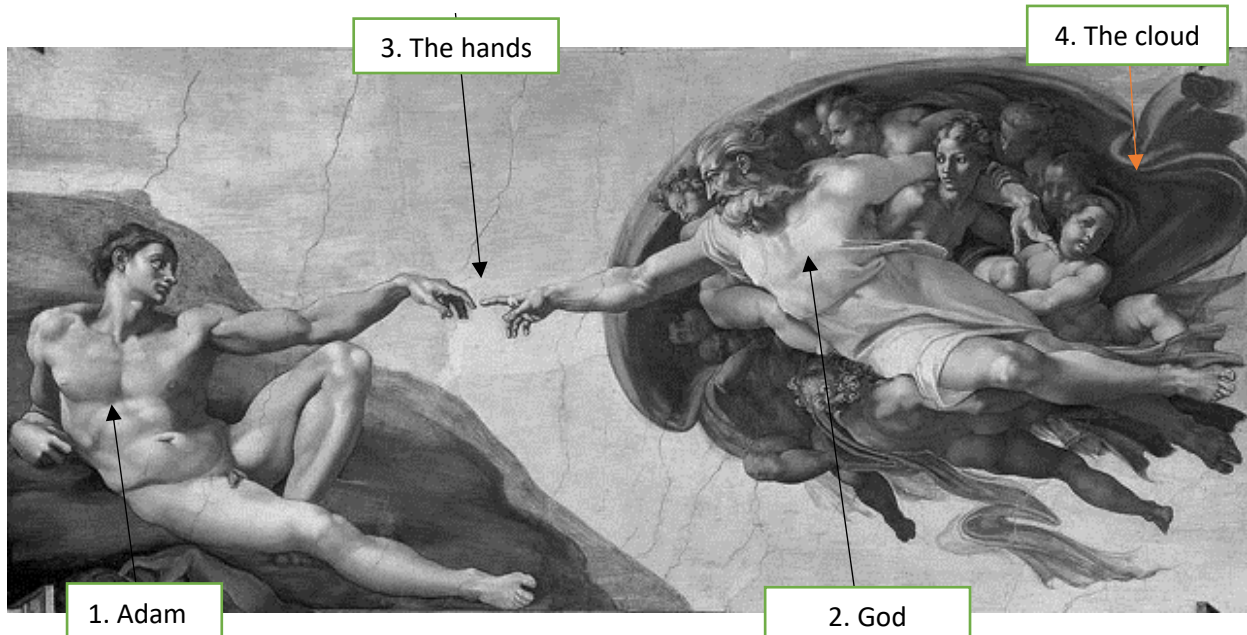
I chose number ____ because _____

Knowledge phase 2: Michelangelo's Creation of Adam

Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrkuPpggJkw>

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome is famously decorated by paintings from the artist Michelangelo. The Chapel is part of the Vatican and is also the place that new popes are chosen by the cardinals of the Catholic Church. There are nine scenes painted on the ceiling showing stories from Genesis, with the Creation of Adam being the one that is most well-known. It was painted somewhere between 1508 and 1512 and was commissioned by Pope Julius II.

How does the painting express Catholic beliefs about creation, God and human beings? To analyse the meaning of the painting we can divide it into four distinct parts.



1 Adam

Adam is seen on the left of the painting, lying back on the earth from which he has been formed as described in Genesis:

'Then the LORD God formed a man from dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.' Genesis 2:7

Adam is portrayed as a perfect human being; young, handsome and strong. This reflects the Catholic belief that everything that God created was good, as mentioned repeatedly in Genesis 1.

Furthermore, Adam resembles God (on the right of the picture); he has the same physical build, is striking a similar pose and details such as the arms, shoulders and feet are almost identical. All this is a reminder that humans are made in the image of God: *imago Dei*.

In the painting, Adam appears quite a laid-back figure, his arm resting on his knee, barely reaching out to God, suggesting that he is not fully alive yet. This symbolises that humans need God to give them life.

2 God

Unlike Adam, God is presented as a dynamic, active figure as if he is hard at work at his greatest creation. God reaches out to the more passive figure of Adam because he loves him, reflecting the Christian belief that God loves the world.

Michelangelo's God is portrayed as a much older being; bearded yet strong and powerful in his body. The viewer is reminded of the belief that God is both eternal and all powerful; he is responsible for all of creation which he made from nothing, because nothing existed before God. The youthfulness of Adam is a reminder that in comparison to God, humanity and the earth itself are new. The difference in age

between Adam and God also signifies the parent-child relationship that exists between God and humanity; indeed, God is the Father of all Creation.

3 The hands

Adam and God are seen reaching out to touch each other with their fingertips. The viewer is reminded here of the second account in Genesis where God breathes life into Adam. In the painting Adam's fingers are bent, signalling that they have not yet received life from God in order to straighten them. The touch of fingertips represents the spark of life given to all humans by God – human life is sacred and a gift from God. Not to be overlooked in the painting is that there appears to be a close, loving relationship between God and man.

4 The cloud

The shape behind God that shows him being carried towards earth by a group of angels has caused much debate. On a simple level this detail shows the transcendence of God and conveys his greatness in sharp contrast to the earth-bound figure of Adam. However, two elements of the cloud-like shape have provoked much discussion; what does the shape of the cloud represent and who is the female looking figure under the left arm of God?

- Some believe the cloud resembles the brain and that the message being expressed is that God is the source of all knowledge and wisdom – he is omniscient.
- Others believe that the cloud represents a womb because of the red background. Furthermore, the green cloth hanging down could be the umbilical cord. This interpretation of the cloud reinforces the idea that God gives all life, in the same way that the womb gives life to a new child. Furthermore, God is the Father of all humanity, who are his beloved children.

The female figure under the arm of God seems to be an important feature of the painting because he has his arm around her and she in turn has her arm around a child. Some believe the figure represents Eve who has not yet been created for Adam, but is already in the mind of God:

'The LORD God said, "it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him".' Genesis 2:18

If this is true then it is reinforcing the great love that God has for humanity because he does not want them to be lonely but to experience the gift of love.

Others believe the figure to be that of Mary, Mother of God and that the child on her left is her son Jesus. Those who take this view describe Mary as the 'new Eve' and Jesus as the 'new Adam'. Michelangelo may be expressing the idea that Adam will soon sin and that Jesus will come in the future to bring humans back to God. In the Bible, St Paul compares Jesus to Adam:

'So it was written: "The first man Adam became a living being", the last Adam, a life giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.' 1 Corinthians 15:45–47

Consolidation: In the table below summarise how Michelangelo's painting expresses Catholic beliefs, focusing on the four parts of the painting.

	Beliefs about creation	Beliefs about God	Beliefs about humans
Adam			
God			
The hands of Adam and God			
The red cloud shape behind God			

Application: give one PEE paragraph for each answer.

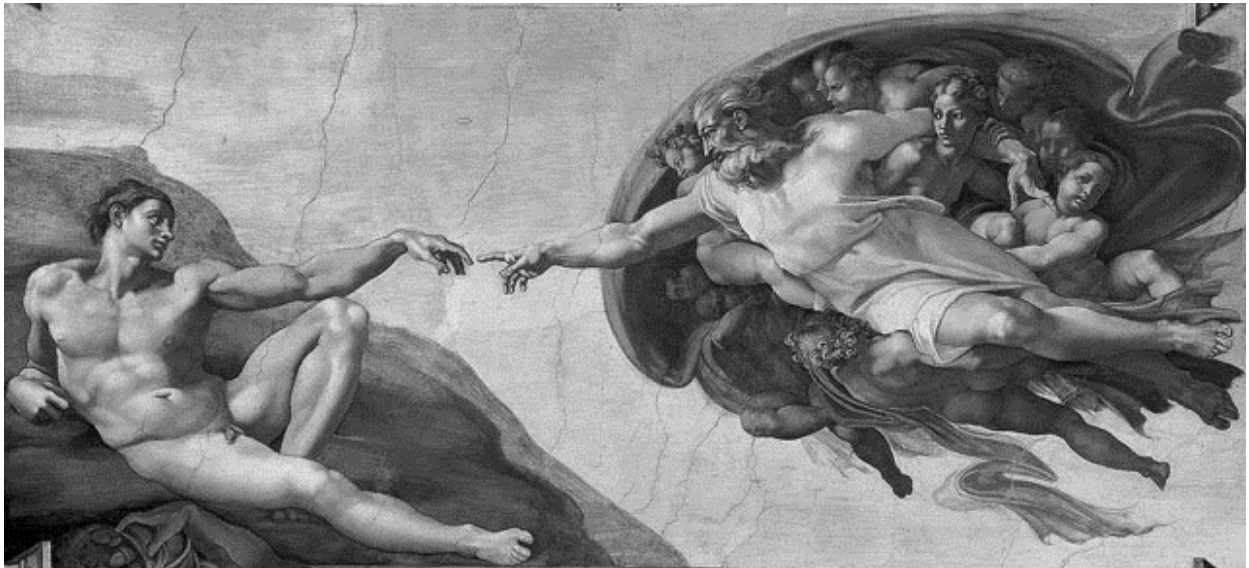
- a) What beliefs do we see expressed in the figure of Adam in Michelangelo's painting of The Creation of Adam?

- b) What beliefs do we see expressed in the figure of God in Michelangelo's painting of The Creation of Adam?

- c) What beliefs do we see expressed in the position of the hands in Michelangelo's painting of The Creation of Adam?

- d) What beliefs do we see expressed in the cloud in Michelangelo's painting of The Creation of Adam?

Do now: What do you know about the four key parts of this painting?



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Big question:

What symbolism and imagery can be found in Christian art?

Small questions:

1. What is The Tree of Life mosaic in the apse of the Church of San Clemente in Rome created by Masolino da Panicale.
2. What is the imagery and symbolism of The Tree of Life mosaic.

Symbolism: Where symbols are used to represent something else, e.g. an idea or belief.

Apse: An area with curved walls and a domed roof at the end of a church.

Vestments: Items of clothing worn by priests or other Church officials.

The twelve Apostles: Jesus' closest followers who went on after Jesus' death, to spread the word about his, life and resurrection and so established the Christian Church.



Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8ecMNPJO3M>

This gives a good view of the piece of artwork from the church of St Clement in Rome which is the focus of this lesson.

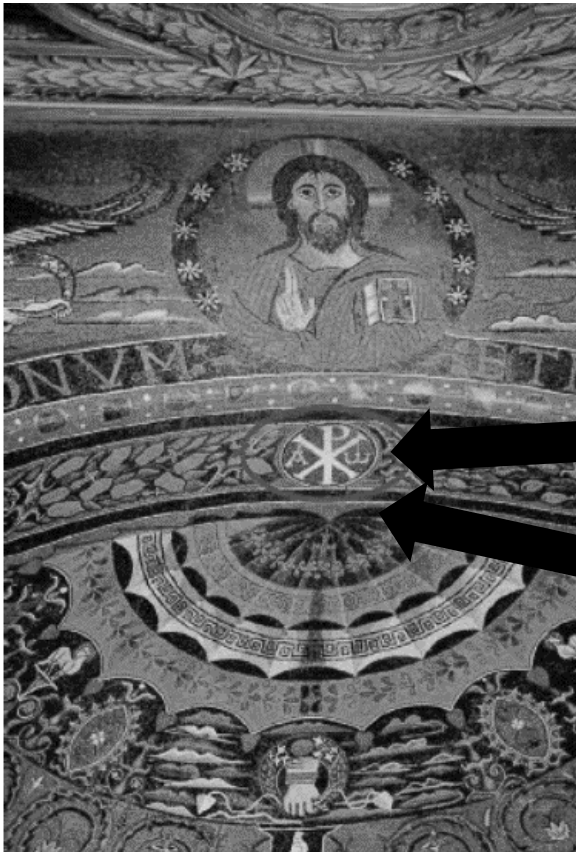
Knowledge 1:

To understand the meaning behind any piece of art you need to understand the symbolism. This involves working out the meaning that the artist is trying to convey through the images that have been used in the piece.

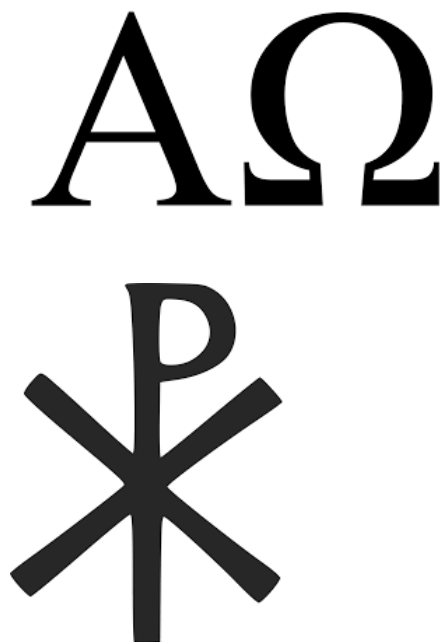
The Tree of Life mosaic

The Tree of Life mosaic in the apse of the Church of San Clemente in Rome is an example of Christian symbolism. It was created by Masolino da Panicale in the twelfth century. The central image is one of Christ on the cross but an interesting

feature of this piece of art is that there are many other symbolic images surrounding the main frame.



The Tree of Life mosaic features both the Alpha and Omega letters and the Chi-Rho symbol.



Representations of Jesus

Apart from the predominant symbol of the cross, there are other representations of Jesus in the mosaic. The two symbols Chi-Rho and the Alpha and Omega are combined into one at the top of the cross.

- The Alpha and Omega – In the book of Revelation, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega are used several times to symbolise Christ. They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which expresses the idea of something being complete. In the book of Revelation, God speaks of himself as the Alpha and Omega and from early Christian times these words were also used to refer to Jesus. We are, therefore, being reminded that Jesus is eternal because he is God.
- Chi-Rho – This symbol is frequently used in Catholic churches today on baptismal candles and the priest's vestments. The symbol looks like the

letters X and P which are the first two letters of the word Christ in Greek. With the use of both of these symbols the artist is emphasising the importance of Christ.

Consolidation: Give an explanation for...

The Alpha and Omega

The Chi-Roh

Knowledge 2:

The twelve Apostles

There is reference made to the twelve Apostles who were specially chosen by Jesus to continue to spread the Good News once he had left them.

The lamb

At the bottom of the cross there are twelve lambs who are pointing towards a thirteenth lamb at the centre of the picture directly under the cross. This central lamb has a halo and is representing Christ, whom Christians refer to as the 'Lamb of God'. In the story of the Passover in the Old Testament book of Exodus, a lamb was sacrificed and its blood put on the doorposts of the homes of the Israelites. The Angel of Death 'passed over' these houses and instead killed the first-born sons of the Egyptians. The event is celebrated by Jews every year in the feast known as the Passover. The Israelites had been saved from their slavery.

The Tree of Life mosaic features 13 lambs at the bottom of the cross



Jesus is described as the 'Lamb of God' because his death saved humanity from their sin and death, just like the sacrificed lamb had saved the Israelites. It is, therefore, fitting that this sacrificial lamb is placed under the cross in the mosaic. The Apostles also lived a sacrificial life; they gave up their homes and families to follow Jesus and spread the word after his death. For some, it also literally cost them their lives, for example, St Peter was executed in Rome. This is why they are also depicted as lambs.

a) Explain why Jesus is described as 'The Lamb'

b) Explain why the Apostles are depicted as Lambs

Knowledge 3:

The doves

The twelve doves on the cross not only represent the twelve Apostles but also the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove. The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles at Pentecost, and filled them with courage and they began to spread the word. This is often described as the 'Birthday of the Church' because without this event Christianity may not have spread.

Four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; the authors of the four Gospels of the New Testament that tell us about Jesus' life.

St John: One of the twelve Apostles.

The four evangelists are depicted at the top of the Tree of Life mosaic, next to the image of a living risen Jesus



The Tree of Life mosaic features 12 doves on the cross



of...

The four evangelists

Additional important figures in Church history appear throughout the scene including the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), who were so instrumental in spreading the Good News. They appear at the top next to the image of a living, risen Jesus.

Consolidation: explain the inclusion

a. The doves

b. The evangelists

Knowledge 4

The symbol of the cross as the tree of life



The cross emerges from a tree at its base serving as a reminder that all people are saved through the crucifixion of Jesus.

The cross is a complete crucifixion scene with Mary and St John present either side of the cross, but this symbolic creation goes far beyond just depicting the death of Jesus. The hand of God the Father can be seen at the top of the cross reaching down to earth from heaven handing a crown to Christ. This symbolises how the transcendent God becomes an immanent God (in the person of Jesus).

The cross

Christian art often focuses on the suffering and death of Jesus but this image is different. Jesus is placed on a black cross but this emphasises the brightness of his figure set against it. Jesus' sacrifice is about life and hope not death and despair.

The tree of life

The cross emerges from a tree at its base. This is considered to be the tree of life. This phrase is a reference to the Book of Revelation 22.2

'On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.'

The image is, therefore, a reminder that all people are saved through the crucifixion of Jesus; his death 'healed the nations' because he came not just for Jews but for everyone. Through his death all sins are forgiven and humans can look forward to life after death with God.

There are also lots of references to Genesis in the image;

- The tree at the base of the cross is perhaps a reminder of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve eating the fruit from this tree against the wishes of God was the first sin of humanity.
- The presence of the serpent wrapped around a fawn that is drinking from the rivers of life seems to confirm the link, as a serpent tempted Eve to taste the fruit. The message is that sin ruins life on earth as well as the relationship between God and humans.

The vine

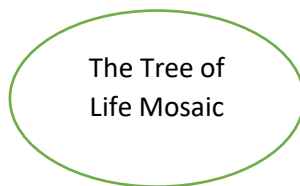
One of the most predominant features apart from the cross itself is the green vine that wraps around the entire scene and emerges from the tree of life. This is another reminder of the Garden of Eden and the green paradise God created for all of humanity. The vine can also represent Christ himself who in John's Gospel said 'I am the vine'. (15:5)

The vine is labelled as the Church by an inscription along the band just above the sheep: **'We have likened the Church of Christ to this vine; the Law made it wither but the Cross made it bloom.'**

Consolidation: fill in the table below with key ideas.

<u>The Cross</u>	<u>The Tree of Life</u>	<u>The Vine</u>

Application: In the space below create a mind map for this piece of art using key terms and sources.



Testing Phase (mini assessment)

What do Catholics mean by the term 'Inspiration' (2 marks)

Describe what the images in the Tree of Life mosaic tell us about Catholic belief. (5 marks)

Explain two different Christian understandings of the Bible (8 marks)

Lesson 21: Origins and Meaning

Do now:

Meaning	Answer
Latin term meaning that God created from nothing	
Where symbols are used to represent something else, e.g. an idea or belief.	
Items of clothing worn by priests or other Church officials.	
The book of the Bible in which the creation stories are found is...	
Christians who believe the Bible is literally true are called...	
Christians who believe that the creation stories are literally true are called...	

Big question: Why is it important for Catholic communities to serve others?	Small questions: 1. Do humans possess any rights and what is social justice? 2. How does the idea of Imago Dei link to social teaching and equality for all?
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Knowledge 1:

What rights, if any, do all humans possess?

Getting started <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDglVseTkuE>

Many people would turn to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (1948) for an answer to this question. The declaration contains 30 'articles' that state the rights that all humans should have. They include the right to

- life, freedom and personal safety
- a standard of living that ensures good health and well-being, including access to food, clothing, housing and medical care and social services
- an education, employment and leisure time
- freedom of movement and residence in their own country, the right to seek and experience asylum from persecution in other countries.

All 30 articles are based on the first:

'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.' (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

All countries are legally required to uphold the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many have formally agreed to do so. When any of these articles have been denied, other countries and international organisations will intervene and try and restore these basic human rights. The reason they do this is because they aspire to social justice for everyone in society.

For many Christians, the **UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights** reflects the main principles of Christianity and what 'Loving your neighbour' looks like in practice.

DECEMBER 10 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Human Rights Day, on 10 December each year, marks the day when the UN issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Human Rights Day 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nY2NrJLIk>

What is social justice?

Social justice is the desire to achieve a just and fair society where everyone regardless of their sex, age, race, religion or country of origin has access to the same basic provisions to live and can look forward to equal opportunities and human rights.

Consolidation: What three human rights do you think all humans should have? Explain your choices.

- I. _____

- II. _____

- III. _____

Knowledge 2: Imago Dei and Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching

Over the centuries many Popes have spoken out about the social issues of their day after having reflected on God's word in the Scriptures. They have often chosen to do this through various encyclicals, and these have become known as Catholic Social Teaching. The first modern instance of this can be traced back to 1891 when Pope Leo XIII spoke out in favour of oppressed factory workers who were demanding justice from their reluctant employers.

Imago Dei

During the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s the Church published an influential document called *Gaudium et Spes* which reflected on the role of the Church in the modern world. The document drew on the creation accounts in Genesis which outline how humans have been created in the image and likeness of God, *imago Dei*. This belief is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching.

Since humans are made in the image of God they are all God's children, sacred and holy, and possess special dignity. The Church, therefore, calls on people to not rest until there is equality for all.

(annotate and highlight important sections of this quote.)

'Since all men possess a rational soul and are created in God's likeness, since they have the same nature and origin, have been redeemed by Christ and enjoy the same divine calling and destiny, the basic equality of all must receive increasingly greater recognition. True, all men are not alike from the point of view of varying physical power and the diversity of intellectual and moral resources. Nevertheless, with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent. For in truth it must still be regretted that fundamental personal rights are still not being universally honoured... Human institutions, both private and public, must labour to minister to the dignity and purpose of man. At the same time let them put up a stubborn fight against any kind of slavery, whether social or political, and safeguard the basic rights of man under every political system

Gaudium et Spes 29

What does 'equality for all' mean?

It is estimated that every second of every day four more babies are born across the world, 255 per minute and 353,000 per day. For many the birth of a baby brings joy, happiness and hope for the future. However, are they all born equal?

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Babies are born every day into poverty, war, neglect and even slavery. Very soon after birth, the future for these children begins to look very different. Whereas some will be happy, safe, warm and well looked after, others will face a lack of peace due to fear, disease, injustice and death.

This situation is seen as unacceptable for Catholics, as every human being is equally important to God. Therefore, every effort must be made to ensure that everyone, no matter where they are born, experiences peace and is treated justly.

Consolidation:

What is Catholic Social Teaching?

What is Imago Dei?

What is equality for all?

Application: Fill in the grid with four points to answer the big question.

Why is it important for Catholic communities to serve others?

Point 1 Evidence Explanation 	Point 2 Evidence Explanation
Point 3 Evidence Explanation 	Point 4 Evidence Explanation

Lesson 22: Origins and meaning

Do now: Multiple choice

Revelation is...	a. The ways God makes himself known to us. b. The Spirit of God guiding people to write the truth c. Being called by God to do a certain type of work
A <i>creationist</i> is...	a) A letter sent by the pope to all catholic bishops b) The belief that life is precious because it is given by God c) Someone who believes the universe was created exactly as it says in the Bible
An Encyclical is	a) A letter sent by the pope to all catholic bishops b) The belief that life is precious because it is given by God c) Someone who believes the universe was created exactly as it says in the Bible
Inspiration is...	a) The ways God makes himself known to us. b) The Spirit of God guiding people to write the truth c) Being called by God to do a certain type of work
Sanctity of life is...	a) A letter sent by the pope to all catholic bishops b) The belief that life is precious because it is given by God c) Someone who believes the universe was created exactly as it says in the Bible
Vocation is...	a. The ways God makes himself known to us. b. The Spirit of God guiding people to write the truth c. Being called by God to do a certain type of work

Big question: How can Catholics work for peace, justice and reconciliation?	Small questions: 1. How can Catholics work for peace? 2. How can Catholics work for justice? 3. How can Catholics work for reconciliation?
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Knowledge 1: Working for peace

Living with conflict <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6UQP-CdNow>

People experience a lack of peace in their lives in different ways:

1. War and conflict

There are very few countries in the world that are not affected by internal conflict between groups or involved in some way with a war with another country or regime. As a result, the people who live in these places often lose their homes, jobs, their chance at education – many become refugees because they are running away to try and find somewhere peaceful and safe to live.

Wars also cost people their lives and health, and many will be maimed due to violence or suffer from conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

2. In families

There can be tension and conflict within families due to the pressures of life, for example, money worries, abuse of drugs and alcohol or the effects of adultery which sometimes result in separation and divorce. These situations bring about much heartache and pain for everyone involved.

3. Personal conflict

Many people suffer from their own personal traumas caused by a range of factors including bullying, racial hate crime, anxiety, depression, fear and mental health issues. This can lead to people being too scared to go to school or work, personal attacks, mental breakdowns and even suicide.

The Catholic Church emphasises the importance of peace and reminds all people that they have a Christian duty to promote it. Peace begins with individuals. At every Catholic Mass, churchgoers are reminded of this as they give each other the sign of peace and say the words 'peace be with you'. This means they have to think about their relationships with others and how they treat them.

Popes over the centuries have called for peace. Pope Francis has spoken on the matter, calling war a 'madness' that 'ruins the most beautiful work of his (God's) hands; human beings.' Every week when he appears at St Peter's to lead the people in prayer, he mentions ongoing conflicts and asks those gathered to pray for peace. He leads by example; the Vatican provided homes for two refugee families recently and he called for all parishes to host a family. There are many Catholic organisations that have been influenced by the Church's calls for peace, such as Pax Christi and the Justice and Peace Commission.

Consolidation: Fill the table with key ideas to explain each type of conflict

War and conflict	Families	Personal conflict
Response from the pope		

Knowledge 2: Working for justice

‘There will be no peace or justice in the world until we return to a sense of our dignity as creatures and children of God.’
Pope John XXIII

The message from Pope John XXIII is echoed in *Gaudium et Spes*, which made a link between peace and justice. There can’t be true peace in the world unless there is justice first. The reason for this is that a lack of peace is usually caused by some form of injustice. For example, there are those fighting wars because they are rising up against an evil or oppressive regime such as the war in Syria. This began as a peaceful uprising against Syria’s President Assad in 2011 but it became a full-scale civil war which has devastated the country and resulted in 300,000 people dead. Before the conflict began many Syrians complained of high unemployment, lack of political freedom and corruption.

We already know that many people in our world today have their human rights abused and they are not treated with dignity and respect. Consequently, the Catholic Church calls on believers to challenge these situations in the world and to not rest until all of God’s children experience peace and justice and every type of discrimination is eliminated.

Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice ... peace on earth cannot be obtained unless personal well-being is safeguarded and men freely and trustingly share with one another the riches of their inner spirits and their talents. A firm determination to respect other men and peoples, and their dignity, as well as the studied practice of brotherhood, is absolutely necessary for the establishment of peace. Hence peace is likewise the fruit of love, which goes beyond what justice can provide. **Gaudium et Spes 78**

Consolidation: list 3 ways given in *Gaudium et Spes* which will show there is peace in the world.

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

Knowledge 3: Working for reconciliation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILnSkgoegEU>

When people are faced with unjust situations, they can understandably become angry about the way they have been treated and this can lead to an attempt to get revenge, as well as violence and conflict.

Christians argue that sometimes anger is justified if it is directed towards tackling injustice – this is often known as righteous indignation or anger. Jesus himself got angry in the temple and overturned the tables when he found that the sellers there were cheating the poor.

It can be very hard to achieve peace after a conflict because of the pain and suffering caused on both sides. However, true peace can only be gained by reconciliation, healing the pain and bringing the two sides together again. For example, when Nelson Mandela was released from 27 years of captivity on Robben Island, many of his people wanted him to seek revenge. Instead he emerged without bitterness towards his captors and continued his dignified fight to achieve equality and justice in South Africa.

‘If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.’ Nelson Mandela

Black South Africans at the time were seen as ‘less human than white people’, they had to go to different schools, couldn’t travel on the same buses as white people and were not allowed to vote. However, Mandela worked with the President at the time, de Klerk, to establish a multiracial government which earned them the Nobel Peace prize. Many celebrated when Mandela was sworn in as President in 1994. He soon set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (putting Archbishop Desmond Tutu in as chair), improved race relations and proclaimed the country ‘*a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world*’.

Jesus highlighted the importance of reconciliation when he told the Parable of the Forgiving Father (prodigal son). The message of the story is that God wants those who sin to come back to him. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SNr5zJFngg>

Consolidation: in 50 words explain how the parable of the forgiving father shows reconciliation.

Knowledge 4: How can Catholics help to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation?

Catholic Social Teaching asks everyone to treat other people with dignity and to take action when needed by

- upholding the rights of individuals
- standing in solidarity alongside those who are oppressed and treated unjustly
- caring for and respecting the planet and the environment
- praying for justice and peace for all.

Consolidation: Give one example of an action a Catholic can take for each of the bullet points above.

- A Catholic can uphold the rights of individuals by ...

- A Catholic can stand in solidarity alongside those who are oppressed and treated unjustly by...

- A Catholic can care for and respect the planet and the environment by...

- Catholic can pray for justice and peace for all...

Application

- a. What is Gaudium et Spes? (2 marks)
- b. Describe Catholic teaching on reconciliation (5 marks)

Lesson 23: Origins and meaning

Do now: True/False - The Catholic Church teaches...

that life begins at the moment of conception.	
that abortion is allowed up to 12 weeks of pregnancy	
that the Bible is the inspired word of God	
that human life is sacred	
that animals and humans are equal	
that all people are equal	
that the theory of evolution is a lie	
that God created ex-nihilo	

Big question: Does the Catholic Church see a need for inter-faith dialogue?	Small questions: 1. How has Pope Francis reached out to people of other faiths? 2. How did Britain develop as a multi faith society? 3. What is interfaith dialogue?
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Knowledge 1: Pope Francis

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vXOVe6nM_c

Pope Francis has shown the importance of inter-faith dialogue through his own actions



On 13 March 2013, Argentinian Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis, the 266th leader of the Catholic Church, the first non-European pope since the eighth century, the first from the Americas and in fact the first from the southern hemisphere. Quickly, he gained a reputation for breaking convention, preferring to live in a guesthouse in the Vatican rather than the papal apartments and choosing to travel on public transport. Eighteen days after becoming Pope he made headlines again as he entered a young offenders' institute in Rome on Maundy Thursday to wash the feet of ten young men and two women at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. He knelt before them and washed, dried and kissed their feet in a symbolic act of

service. What surprised the world's press and many onlookers was not just that he chose a prison to celebrate Mass in, but that he washed the feet of inmates of different nationalities and faiths, including at least two Muslims

Why did the Pope's actions cause such surprise? Certainly, the notion that the pope would enter a prison to perform this service would challenge some – they might question whether this was a suitable place for the pope to be. However, his actions were a powerful reminder of the first Mass where Jesus performed this same action

on the twelve Apostles, who were equally surprised by his actions and did not feel worthy enough to receive this sign of love.

Pope Francis reminded those gathered that the person who is most high among them must be at the service of others and that they were all called to help one another. He explained that he performed this act of service out of love for them.

On another level, the Pope's actions surprised many because included among those whose feet he washed were young people from other faiths.

The Catholic Church has, in fact, a long history of mutual respect and dialogue with those of other faith traditions and indeed, those of no faith at all. The actions of Pope Francis in his first days as pope sends a very clear message out to the world that all people are called to serve, inspired by the great command Jesus gave to 'love one another'. This call extends to people from every walk of life regardless of gender, faith or standing in society.

Consolidation:

Describe Pope Francis' actions on Maundy Thursday

Explain why his actions were important

Knowledge 2: Britain: a multi-faith society

The UK has a strong Christian heritage that originated in Roman times and became more visible from the fourth century onwards. Today, the UK is a multi-faith society and includes Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists among its population.

How did the UK change from being a country of one faith to many?

Britain has in fact always been a multi-ethnic and multi-faith society:

- Over the centuries, Saxons, Danes, and Vikings, to name but a few, have all settled in Britain, each group bringing its own culture and belief system.
- The UK has always provided refuge for those suffering **persecutions**. This has included French Protestants in the seventeenth century and European Jews in the last century.

- During the nineteenth century, the British Empire included many countries across the world. Citizens from the Empire were allowed to settle in Britain. Small communities grew in British cities as a result and included those who had been slaves in their country of origin until they came to Britain and were given their freedom.
- As countries gained independence from Britain, the Empire became known as the Commonwealth. After the Second World War, in the 1950s, many immigrants came to Britain from Commonwealth countries such as India, Pakistan, the Caribbean and West Africa because there was a shortage of workers in Britain. Many of these immigrants had fought for Britain in the war. The British armed forces relied heavily on those from the Commonwealth who fought with them.
- Immigration has continued due to the free movement of many from the European Union to Britain up until Brexit.

Persecution: being treated cruelly, often due to religion or belief

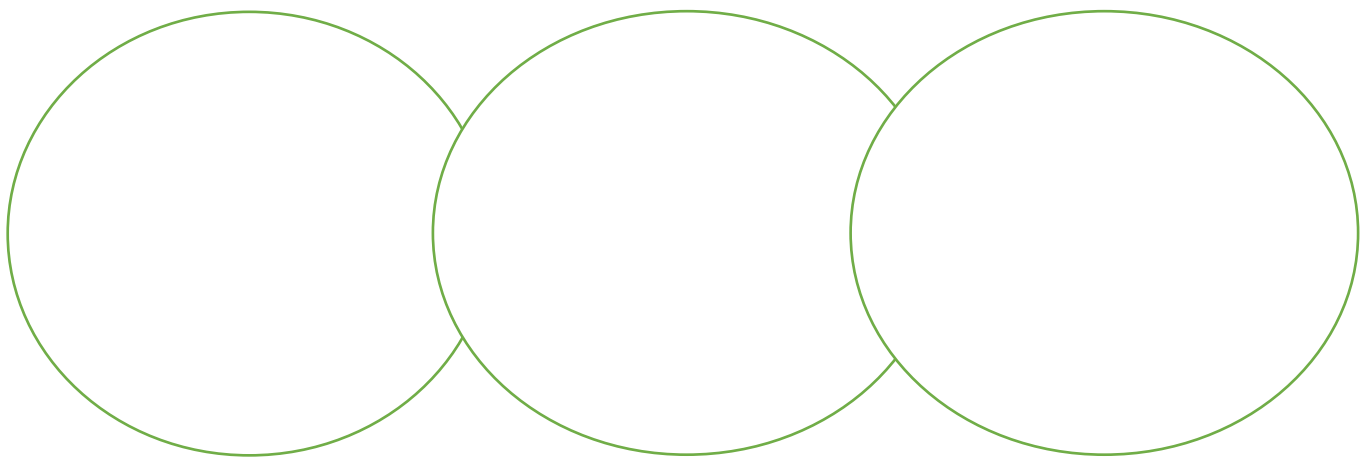
Religious pluralism: The existence of different religious beliefs within a society.



In Britain today, **religious pluralism** and freedom are encouraged, meaning that all faiths have an equal right to exist together and to practise or change their religion.

Of course, not every person in Britain today is a person of faith. In the 2011 census, about a quarter of the population, 14.1 million people, declared they have no religion.

Consolidation: in each of the circles below give one way that British society changed over the years.



Knowledge 3: What is inter-faith dialogue?

In this context 'dialogue' means co-operative, constructive and positive engagement between people of different faiths and people of no faith such as humanists and atheists, to

- promote mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and harmony
- identify common ground
- engage in shared action for the common good of society.

'Inter-faith dialogue' relates to engagement between those of all faiths. More recently, the term 'interpath dialogue' has become more common, which is favoured by some humanists, atheists and agnostics because this term does not exclude them.

Consolidation: Explain the term 'interpath dialogue'

Application: in three paragraphs explain why interpath dialogue is important in the UK today.

Testing:

b question: Describe the ways in which Pope Francis has tried to promote inter faith dialogue (5 marks)

One of the ways which Pope Francis has tried to promote inter faith dialogue is by...

We see this

This shows that...

Lesson 24: Origins and meaning

Do now: Old Testament or New Testament?

Book of the Bible	OT/NT
St Paul's letter to the Corinthians	
The Gospel of Matthew	
Genesis	
The Acts of the Apostles	
Exodus	
Deuteronomy	
Revelation	
Isaiah	
Job	
Timothy	

Big question:
How does the Church promote inter-faith dialogue?

Small questions:

1. Why do we need inter-faith dialogue?
2. How does the Catholic Church promote community cohesion?
3. How does the Church promote inter-faith dialogue in the modern world?

Getting started: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPnZArtsG_c

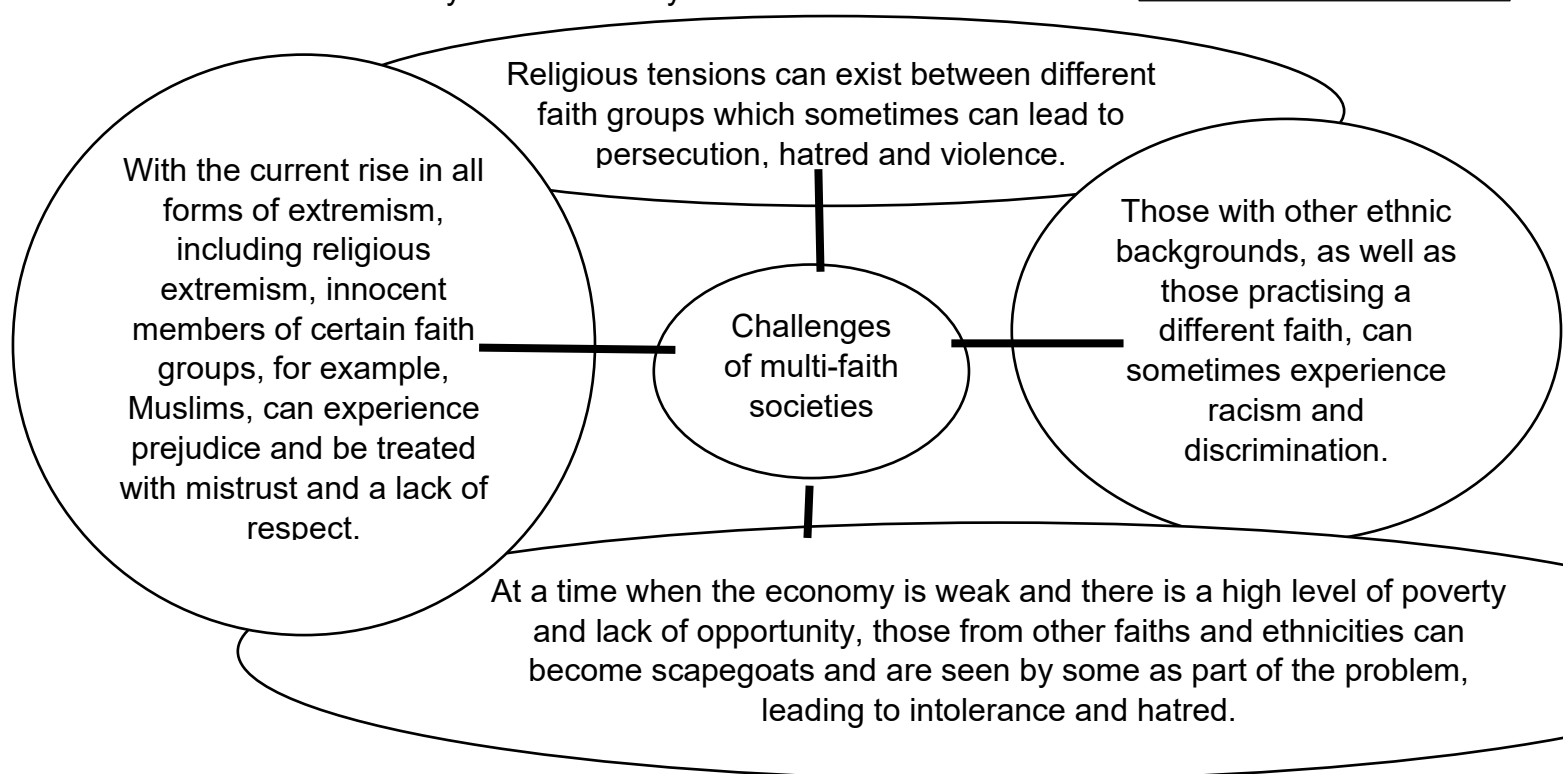
Knowledge phase 1: Why do we need inter-faith dialogue?

Living in a multi-faith society brings many benefits. Different religious cultures and traditions bring with them a variety of food, clothes, music and literature into our lives. With this come new ways of living and enjoying life. By living and working alongside those from other religious backgrounds we can gain greater tolerance, respect and understanding towards those who have a different viewpoint to us. This leads to harmony and a safe, happy society.

However, there are also many challenges faced when living in a more diverse society in Britain today:



Scapegoat: Someone who is blamed for something they did not do or were not completely responsible for.



Since the Referendum of 2016 when Britain voted to leave the European Union, racial and religiously motivated hate crime has risen significantly in Britain.

Consolidation: Give three ways in which our multi faith society is currently being challenged.

1)	2)	3)

Knowledge 2: Promoting community cohesion

The aim of community cohesion is to establish a better society where all groups feel that they belong and can live peacefully together. To achieve community cohesion requires all those involved to: listen to each other, respect differences, recognise common features between faiths and promote shared values of tolerance and respect. Over the last few decades there have been many initiatives involving religious groups promoting community cohesion. This includes the Inter Faith Network, the Forum of Faiths, the Council of Christians and Jews and the Muslim Council of Britain.

Consolidation: What is the purpose of community cohesion?

Knowledge 3: The Catholic Church and inter-faith dialogue

Revisit - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vXOVe6nM_c

Although Pope Francis' actions on his first Maundy Thursday as Head of the Catholic Church may have surprised some, they should not have done so. Recent popes have had much to say about the need for understanding, tolerance and respect between the different faith groups and Catholics play an active role on many inter-faith committees.

Pope Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, stressed on many occasions the importance of inter-faith dialogue in the modern world:

‘Together with all people of good will, we aspire to peace. That is why I insist once again: interreligious and intercultural research and dialogue are not an option but a vital need for our time.’ February 2007

In the 1960s, Pope Paul VI spoke to the Church in a document called *Nostra Aetate*, which was a declaration on the relationship of the Catholic Church to non-Christian religions. One very important statement that this document made was that Jews should not be blamed for the death of Christ. Over the centuries and even today, many Jews experience prejudice and persecution, which is partly fuelled by the belief of some that they should be held accountable for the death of Jesus on the cross.

In this document, Pope Paul referred to Church teaching on *imago Dei* to implore people to respect the faith of others.

‘The Church regards with esteem also the Moslems. They adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has spoken to men ... We cannot truly call on God, the Father of all, if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man, created as he is in the image of God.’

Consolidation; Explain what Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Paul VI said about inter-religious dialogue and other faiths. (include a quote from each pope.)

Application:

C question

Explain the importance of interfaith dialogue for the Roman Catholic Church.
(8 Marks)

Remember you need to write four paragraphs for an 8-mark question.

Lesson 25: Origins and meaning

Do now: Around the diagram give as many of the key ideas that you have learned from this unit.

Key ideas from the
origins and
meanings unit.

Big question:
Why do we need
charities to work
with the poor?

Small questions:

1. What is the situation of the world which means that charities are necessary?
2. What is 'the preferential option for the poor'?

Getting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIG5-nXD0B8>

Knowledge 1: Why do we need charities to work with the poor?



1.3 billion people
around the world live
in absolute poverty,
which means they
live on less than £1 a
day

There is a huge gap between rich and poor in the world, not just globally but also in the UK today. To understand the scale of it, here are a few estimated facts:

- In a world population of around 7.3 billion, 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty, living on less than a pound a day, 1.1 billion people in developing countries don't have access to clean water and 1.6 billion live without electricity.
- Around 22,000 children die every day due to the effects of poverty; hunger, lack of sanitation and access to clean water.

- Infectious diseases that can easily be cured, such as malaria, cause the death of 1.8 million children every year.
 - In the UK, in a classroom of 30 children, nine are living in poverty.
- Consolidation: Which of these facts are most shocking to you? Why?

Knowledge 2: The Preferential Option for the Poor.

Pope Francis warns of becoming immune to statistics and failing to see the human lives and the genuine suffering behind them:

‘Poverty has a face! It has the face of a child; it has the face of a family; it has the face of people, young and old. It has the face of widespread unemployment and lack of opportunity. It has the face of forced migrations, and of empty or destroyed homes.’ (June 2016)

The Catholic Church and the preferential option for the poor

‘Feed the people dying of hunger, because if you do not feed them you are killing them.’
Gaudium et Spes 69

The Catholic Church teaches that Catholics have a duty to work against the forces in society that create poverty. This duty comes before many other acts of Christian love and service that a Catholic might perform because the Church asks its followers to put the poorest and most vulnerable people first. This is what the term ‘preferential option for the poor’ means.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches that we must ‘feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger’ and that ‘Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me’.

Consolidation: Describe Church teaching on the preferential option for the poor.

Application and testing ‘The most important duty a Christian has is to care for the poor’ Evaluate this statement. 15 marks

Lesson 26: Origins and meanings

Do now: Key concepts

_____ 'Creation out of nothing'. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.

_____ The process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.

_____ 'In the image of God'. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.

_____ 'God breathed'. The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good and true.

_____ The belief that God is all powerful.

_____ The word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes himself known to human beings. Christians believe that God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.

_____ The duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.

_____ Existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything that exists, above and beyond creation.

Big question:	Small questions:
What are Catholic charities that work for the poor?	What is Cafod?
	What is the St Vincent de Paul Society?

The work of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzDPkRbTlxY>

Love your neighbour

CAFOD is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It is a member of Caritas International, a group of over 160 Catholic agencies from around the world who are known as 'the helping hand of the Church'. CAFOD works with local churches and other partners in places like Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, to tackle injustice and poverty.

CAFOD's mission is to:

- **Overcome poverty** by working with the poorest and most vulnerable communities to bring about sustainable development. They do this by working alongside local partners to plan programmes together. They fund projects for long-term change in communities, such as providing: seeds, tools and machinery for food production, materials to build wells for clean water, education, hospitals, health care programmes and training in skills and advocacy.

- **Respond** in times of an emergency such as an earthquake, flood, drought or war to save and protect the vulnerable lives of the poor. CAFOD, along with other aid agencies and local partners including the Church, will provide food, water, shelter and medicine to people who have lost everything so that lives can be saved.
- **Educate** people on the causes of poverty and injustice so that lasting change can be achieved. CAFOD provides resources for schools and parishes to use to raise awareness of issues and as an inspiration for prayer and worship. • Campaign and challenge those in positions of power, such as governments and businesses, to ensure their policies and practices are just and fair and contribute to alleviating poverty.
- **Fundraise** in schools and churches to enable them to carry out their projects, helping the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. CAFOD organises two Family Fast days a year, which they rely on for much of their income.

CAFOD has been part of many campaigns for change over the years, including 'Make Poverty History' which united 31 million people globally in a call for action against poverty. As a result, world leaders pledged to increase aid spending and the **G8** agreed to cancel some of the debt owed to the World Bank by some of the poorest countries in the world.

G8: A forum that brings together eight global leaders to address international issues and challenges. It comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK and USA

The dignity of every person

For Christians, the Parable of the Good Samaritan provides a strong message about their responsibilities in relation to their fellow human beings. It is the last words of Jesus in the story that Christians are called to respond to, when they are faced with those in need:

'Go and do likewise.'

The Parable of the Good Samaritan:

A story told by Jesus about a Samaritan who helps an injured Jewish man even though Samaritans and Jews did not get on.



One of CAFOD's fundamental principles is the belief in the intrinsic dignity of every person. Some ways that this belief is demonstrated in their work include:

- working with people regardless of their gender, race, religion or political views. Even though CAFOD is a Catholic organisation, they do not limit their work to only helping Catholics. All support is welcomed, including from people of other faiths and those with none.
- working alongside those who need help retaining their dignity. People often do not want to rely on others to survive, so CAFOD equips them with skills so that they can support their own families and give something back to their communities.



Dermot O'Leary is one of CAFOD's celebrity ambassadors who helps draw attention to some of its important causes

Respecting Creation

We have seen previously that poverty and environmental concerns are closely linked.

Sustainable development which protects the environment, as well as promoting human development, is at the heart of CAFOD's work. Their campaign 'One Climate, One World' was organised in response to the needs of the poorest communities and Pope Francis' call to care for 'our common home'. CAFOD's campaign contributed to a climate deal in Paris (December 2015) which agreed a path towards

- ❖ a low carbon future
- ❖ global temperature increases no greater than two degrees centigrade
- ❖ financial support for poorer countries to cope with the impact of climate change which disproportionately affects them.

Explain the importance of the work of CAFOD for the Catholic Church.

The work of the St Vincent de Paul Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHaZkHxn3fU>

The St Vincent de Paul Society, commonly known as the SVP, was founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam in Paris in 1833, inspired by St Vincent de Paul (1581–1660), a Catholic priest who dedicated his life to helping the poor. Active involvement with the poor is the Vincentian way and their aim is to tackle poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those who are suffering in whatever form. Many parishes and schools have SVP groups which are called 'conferences'.

'The knowledge of social well-being and of reform can be learned not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor person's garret, sitting by their bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces them, sharing the secrets of their lonely hearts and troubled minds.' Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Inspired by Christ's call to 'Love your neighbour'

The SVP takes its inspiration from Christ's message to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'. They do this by

- ❖ visiting and befriending individuals and families at home, in hospital or hospices, residential homes and young offender institutes. The aim of the visits is to show they care and ensure that people who are vulnerable don't

feel lonely and isolated. Visitors may also help with practical tasks such as shopping, gardening or filling out official forms.

- ❖ running support centres providing a range of services such as counselling, training in basic literacy and numeracy and debt advice
- ❖ organising soup runs in disadvantaged areas, providing warm drink, food and companionship
- ❖ contributing to protecting the environment by encouraging people to donate pieces of furniture, instead of throwing them away, so they can be repaired and recycled and redistributed to those who need them
- ❖ showing compassion to those they work with by not judging them
- ❖ being generous with their time, possessions and selves in the service of others
- ❖ being alert to the changing needs of the communities they serve.



The St Vincent de Paul Society aims to tackle poverty and disadvantage by providing practical support to those who are in need.



Human dignity

A founding principle of the society is that they respect the dignity of each person they work with because they believe that they are all equal. Although the SVP is a Catholic organisation, it is non-discriminatory and helps those in need regardless of their colour, race, faith, status or sexual orientation. The kind of people they help includes the homeless, single parent families, the socially isolated and asylum seekers.

Consolidation: Explain the difference in the work done by CAFOD and the St, Vincent DePaul Society.

Lesson 27 Origins and Meaning

Revision for end of unit assessment

Do now: Write the meanings of these key concepts

Evolution_____

Imago Dei_____

Creation ex nihilo_____

Inspiration_____

Revelation_____

Stewardship_____

Transcendence_____

Is human life sacred?

What does the term 'Sanctity of life' mean?

What are the teachings which show that human life is sacred?

Did God create the universe?

What are the three beliefs linked to this question?

1. Creationists

2. Atheist / Scientific view

3. Roman Catholic view

Give evidence for each of the beliefs on the origins (creation) of the universe

Creationist Remember to include sources of authority.	
Atheist Scientific Remember to include sources of authority.	
Roman Catholic Remember to include sources of authority.	

What can we learn about Church teachings from religious art?

Annotate the image of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam to show what it tells about the creation of the universe.



What sources can be used for this?

Lesson 28 Origins and Meaning Assessment

Big question:
Can I answer exam questions on this unit?

Small questions:
What have I learned about the different aspects of the Origins and Meanings unit?

Lesson 29 Origins and Meaning Feedback

Big question: How can I improve for future assessments?

Small questions?
What mark did I get for this assessment?
How could I have achieved a better mark?