




RS: Issues of Life and Death Knowledge Organizer

1. Key People

Charles Darwin	Put forward the theory of natural selection, which led to theories of evolution.
Peter Singer	A philosopher who has said that to treat animals differently because they aren't like us is "speciesism".
Stephen Hawking	His work on quantum theory and general relativity raises questions about the need for a creator of the universe.
The Dalai Lama	Has said that, although taking a life goes against the First Precept, the extent of the suffering and the intentions of the people involved in an abortion must be taken into account.
Noel Conway	He suffered from Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and campaigned for UK law to change, so that helping someone die in certain circumstances can take place in the UK.

4. Concepts

Living a Good Life	morality 	worship 
Ultimate Questions	relationships 	

2. You need to know...

- Christianity is based on the belief that a god **created** the universe.
- Buddhists have **no** creation story and **no** concept of a creator god
- Many non-religious people believe that the **Big Bang Theory** is the best **explanation** for the existence of the universe, not any religious explanation
- Christians see themselves as **stewards** of Earth, responsible for the planet's maintenance and survival. This includes all other living things.
- Buddhists believe in **dependent origination**, which means that everything is caused by what came before it. If humanity harms Earth and itself, the main consequence will be Earth's and humanity's **suffering**.
- Many Christians, Buddhists and atheist humanists promote **environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship**.
- Christians believe that humans are made 'in the **image** of God'
- Many Buddhists say human life is so precious, we shouldn't take it for granted
- The Roman Catholic Church teaches that It's okay to give medicine for **pain** but helping someone die is sinful. Abortion is a **sin**.
- The Church of England (Anglican Church) **opposes** abortion but says that there can be strictly limited conditions under which it may be morally **preferable** to any available alternative. It **opposes** euthanasia.
- Christianity teaches that we have an **eternal** soul and the way we live determines whether the soul has a good **afterlife** or not.
- As well as **Heaven** (being with God in God's kingdom) and **Hell** (eternal punishment and/or absence from God), the Roman Catholic Church teaches that souls may need to be **cleansed** after death in **purgatory**.
- Buddhism teaches that part of a person's consciousness or personality will be **reborn** into a new life after death unless they've developed their understanding so that they become **enlightened** and reach the state of **Nirvana**.
- Non-religious funerals in the UK focus on the **life and achievements** of the deceased.
- Christian funerals often focus on the life and achievements of the deceased. They also contain **hymns** and **prayers** asking God to **accept** the deceased into Heaven. The deceased are **either** buried or cremated.
- **Chanting** by mourners and/or monks and passing on **merit** (good karma) are a feature of many Buddhist funerals.

3. Key words

afterlife	Life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death.
environmental sustainability	Ensuring that the demands placed on natural resources can be met without reducing capacity to allow all people and other species of animals, as well as plant life, to live well, now and in the future.
euthanasia	The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness.
evolution	The process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier, less complex forms during the history of the Earth.
abortion	When a pregnancy is ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child
quality of life	The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable.
sanctity of life	The belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.
soul	The spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. The soul is often regarded as nonphysical and as living on after physical death, in an afterlife.