

YEAR 9 HOME LEARNING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WK BEG 18th MAY AND WK BEG 1st JUNE

FEEDBACK SHEET This sheet is to be used by parents to help students reflect on their answers to the questions and activities completed during the RE home learning for Week beginning 18th May and 1st June. This sheet is not to be used by students whilst completing their work.

Lesson 1: Title: Key Issues Surrounding the Abortion Debate

Activity 1 – Knowledge retrieval quiz – ANSWERS

Q1) What is the difference between passive euthanasia and active euthanasia? (2 marks)

Passive euthanasia is when artificial food/water or medical treatment is withdrawn and so eventually due to a lack of treatment someone dies prematurely. Whereas, active euthanasia is when someone performs a deliberate action to end life (e.g lethal injection).

Q2) Give 2 reasons why many Christians believe that euthanasia is wrong. (2 marks)

Life is holy and sacred, so ending life by humans is wrong (breaks the sanctity of life)

Against the 10 commandments – “Thou shall not kill”

God has predetermined when we die, ending life prematurely through euthanasia is going against God's plan.

Suffering has value, the Bible says “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)

Q3) Give 2 reasons why some people from the Modern Church People's Union may argue that assisted dying is acceptable in some cases. (2 marks)

Argue Jesus taught to love your neighbour. Sometimes, assisted dying is the most loving thing to do.

Jesus taught to treat others as they want to be treated – 80% of people say they would like to have assisted dying if it was available.

People have been given free will and so should have the right to determine what happens after they die.

Q4) Give 2 reasons why many Muslims believe that euthanasia is wrong. (2 marks)

The Qur'an says that suicide is wrong “Do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction”, so therefore assisting suicide must also be wrong.

Euthanasia is considered as murder which is against the Qur'an as only Allah has the right to give and take life away.

Muslims believe this life is a test, ending life prematurely is like cheating on the test.

Q5) What is the main difference between pro – life organisations and pro – choice organisations? (2 marks)

Pro-choice organisations are in favour of a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. The rights of the mother outweigh anyone else's rights (including the foetus). Whereas pro-life organisations are against abortion and are in favour of the rights of the foetus to life.

Q6) What does it mean to say a foetus is 'viable'? (1 mark)

When a foetus is viable it can have prolonged life outside the womb.

Q7) What does the term 'conception' refer to? (1 mark)

The term conception refers to the moment when the sperm fertilises the egg, it is the very start of human life.

Activity 3: ANSWERS

1) **Outline when abortions are legal in England and Wales.**

Abortions are legal in England and Wales if 2 doctors agree that the pregnancy involves risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or any child within her care. Or if the termination is necessary to prevent permanent injury to the body or mind of the mother. Also, abortions may be carried out if there is a real risk that the baby will be born severely mentally or physically handicapped. The upper time limit for most abortions is 24 weeks.

2) **Do you think the law on abortion in England and Wales is right? Give reasons for your opinion.**

Arguments which suggest the law is 'right' may include;

- It provides women with full reproductive choice.
- Can prevent the suffering of a potential child born with a disability.
- Prevents unwanted children from being born.

Arguments which suggest the law is 'wrong' may include;

- Easy access to abortion encourages people to be sexually irresponsible.
- Life is sacred from the moment of conception – abortion takes life away.
- Children born with disabilities can have a good quality of life.

Activity 5: MODEL ANSWER I believe that life begins at the moment of conception. This is because at fertilisation the zygote contains all the DNA required to become a human. Therefore, I think that if the fertilised egg developed naturally it would become a human and so this must be the moment life begins. My view on life beginning at conception means that I am opposed to abortion as it destroys human life, which is precious and sacred.

Lesson 2: Religious views on Abortion (to be completed week beg 1st June)

Activity 1: ANSWERS

- 1) The Abortion Act of 1977 legalised abortion in England and Wales. **FALSE – (1967)**
- 2) A woman may have an abortion in England and Wales if 3 doctors agree certain criteria is met. **FALSE – (2 doctors have to agree)**
- 3) Conception is the moment of fertilization- when the sperm enters the egg. **TRUE**
- 4) Viability refers to the capability of the fetus to have prolonged life outside the mother's womb. **TRUE**
- 5) According to the Abortion Act, viability is at 22 weeks of pregnancy. **FALSE (24 weeks)**
- 6) Pro life organisations believe that abortion should be the mother's choice. **FALSE – pro life organisations are against abortion and believe the foetus should have a right to liife.**
- 7) Many Christians are against abortion because they believe life begins at conception. **TRUE**

Activity 2: ANSWERS

Statement on Abortion	FOR	AGAINST
God gives life and only God can take it away.		✓
Severely handicapped fetuses won't have a good quality of life if they are born.	✓	
Unwanted pregnancies can ruin young women's lives.	✓	
Our bodies and our lives are our own and we can make the decision that is best for us.	✓	
A new cell is formed at conception that has the potential to be a person.		✓
Abortions are emotionally scaring for some women.		✓
When abortion is illegal women die from "back-street" abortions which are unsafe.	✓	
The foetus has a right to life the same as the mother and is an innocent being		✓
Modern abortion methods do not cause physical harm to the woman.	✓	
Abortion based on disability such as downs syndrome is discrimination.		✓
Abortion reduces population and the cost to welfare as unwanted children are not born.	✓	
People should accept the responsibility that comes with having sex: It might produce children.		✓

Activity 4: ANSWERS

Some early Christians believed that life begins at "quickening". This means **when the mother first feels the foetus move.**

Evidence of this is from **Luke's Gospel it states "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."**

They might believe that abortion is **wrong after the mother has felt the foetus move, but maybe acceptable before she does.**

Some Liberal Christians think that abortion is the lesser of 2 evils. This means **that in some circumstances abortion is less evil than allowing a pregnancy to continue.**

They would believe that abortion **can be justified in certain exceptional circumstances.**

An example of this view would be... **if the pregnancy was a result of rape, or if the pregnancy is likely to harm the mothers health, arguably aborting the foetus is less evil than forcing the woman to continue with the pregnancy.**

The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is... **wrong under any circumstances,**

They would believe that abortion is **a grave moral disorder. Since it is the deliberate killing of innocent human life.** Evidence of this belief is **from the Catechism of the Catholic Church it states "From the first moment of his (her) existence, a human being must be recognised as having the rights of a person, including the right of every innocent being to life"**



Some Christians think that life begins at fertilisation. This means **human life begins as soon as the sperm fertilised the egg (conception).**

The evidence for this is from Psalms it states, **"You created every part of me; you knit me together in my mother's womb"**

They would believe that abortion is... **wrong under any circumstances as the unborn foetus has a right to life because it is classed as a person.**

Activity 5: MODEL ANSWER

Explain two contrasting Christian beliefs about abortion. (4 marks)

Many conservative Christians believe that life begins at conception. So they view abortion as comparable to murder and therefore abortion is wrong as it goes against the 10 commandment, thou shall not kill. Abortion is also seen as breaking the sanctity of life, life is holy and given by God at conception and so only God has the right to end pregnancy.

In contrast, some Christians believe abortion should be approached using situation ethics so that the lesser of two evils is chosen. So if an abortion was to save the life of the mother or prevent a severely disabled child from being born then this would be favourable. Jesus taught to be loving towards each other, sometimes allowing an abortion is the most loving thing to do if it prevents a child from being born that would suffer.