

Link to prior learning
Key Stage 3:
Faith and Science— The *Creation Story and Evolution*
Bible as Word of God — *Interpretation of the Bible, Literalist and Creationist*
Truth— *Scripture as a source of authority*

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Omnipotent
- Transcendent
- Torah
- Creation ex nihilo
- Imago De
- Evolution

Key sources: THE WHY

“You, O Lord...made something in the beginning... and you created this thing out of nothing” (St Augustine Confession xii, 7)

“There is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of faith” (Pope John Paul II’s Message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: On Evolution)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis)

Origin and Meaning Thread 1— The Bible

Revelation

Catholic Christians believe God is an omnipotent and transcendent creator. Their beliefs are based on the teachings of St Augustine. They believe that the creation story is not meant to be taken literally. Catholics read the stories of creation in a symbolic way: they reveal some important things about the nature of the world and humanity. The theory of evolution can be accepted as part of God’s plan for the universe. Jewish beliefs about the origin of the universe: God is the creator and source of all life. Most Orthodox Jews accept the Genesis accounts of creation as the literal world of God, as was revealed to Moses on Mt Sinai. They celebrate the creation of the world weekly by observing the Sabbath and they celebrate creation through the festival of Rosh Hashanah.

Christian creation
Liberal /fundamentalist

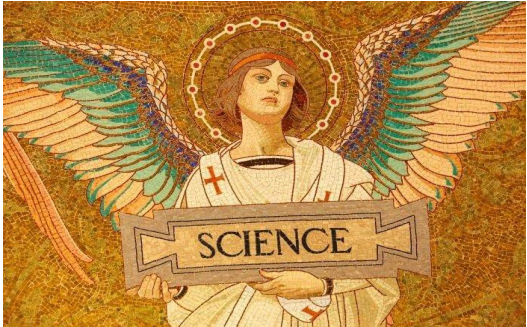
Fundamentalist Christian beliefs about the origin of the universe. Some Christians take a fundamentalist approach. They believe that the account of creation as it appears in the Bible is an accurate account of what happened – this belief is known as creationism. They believe that the creation of the world and everything in it took place in six calendar days, exactly as the book of Genesis says. This stems from the view that the Bible is the direct word of God, which is never mistaken.

Non religious views

Non-Religious views about the origin of the universe: The current scientific thinking about the creation of the world is that it was caused by the Big Bang. This claims that all matter was originally concentrated into a tiny point which, as a result of a massive explosion in space 13.7 billion years ago, expanded into the universe and is still expanding today. This thinking is associated with Professor Stephen Hawking. In addition, according to science, life came about as a result of a process known as Evolution. This idea was proposed by Charles Darwin. This is the idea that organisms gradually change and develop into new species by a process known as ‘natural selection’.

Link to future
B. Describe the teaching of the Catholic Church on the theory of evolution. (5)
c. Explain the attitudes of two different religions/religious traditions towards interpreting the Bible. (8)
d. ‘Genesis helps Christians understand what God is like.’ Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated to this question. (15+6)

Key symbols



Cross curricular links
Geography—Earth Rise (Why is the planet important?)

TIMELINE OF LEARNING
Imago Dei understanding—> abortion views and arguments with practise b,c,d answers—> RSE learning—> art depicting imago dei: Creation of Adam—> Tree of Life Mosaic—> Catholic Social teaching—> interfaith dialogue—> end of unit assessment

Origin and Meaning Thread 2— Sanctity of life

Link to prior: How is knowledge of God shown in revelation?
How is the bible organised?
How was the world formed according to the different views studied: fundamentalist/Catholic Christian/Jewish views.
How are these views also applied to the abortion/personhood debate?

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT
Sanctity of Life
Imago Dei
Omnipotence
Transcendence

Key sources: THE WHY

"Her dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is the image of God" (St Catherine of Siena)
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah)
"You formed my innermost being and knitted me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139)
"So God created mankind in his own image" (Genesis 1:27)
"In an imperfect world the 'right. choice is sometimes the lesser of two evils.'" (CofE 1988)
'Do not murder' (Exodus 20)
Humanist code: 'Be humankind.'

Religious beliefs about Abortion: Catholic Christians, Liberal Christians and Jews believe that life is sacred and belongs to God (the book of Genesis). All humans are created in God's image.

Catholics: 1. each person is unique because God made them.

2. Humans are unlike the rest of creation because they were made in the Image of God (Imago Dei).

3. All human life is sacred (sanctity of life)

4. everyone has a right to life which should be protected and valued from conception to natural death.

5. ..are against abortion in all circumstances.

6. Abortion is therefore seen as murder, a great moral evil.

7. **Do you about the principle of double effect?**

Liberal Christians (in this case the Church of England) agree that life is sacred and humans are created in God's image. Abortion is not a good thing, but sometimes it is 'the lesser of two evils'. There are some situations where abortion might be the best course of action such as if the pregnancy is the result of rape, continuing the pregnancy might be dangerous to the woman's physical or mental health or if the child is likely to be severely disabled and so affects its quality of life, then abortion should be allowed.

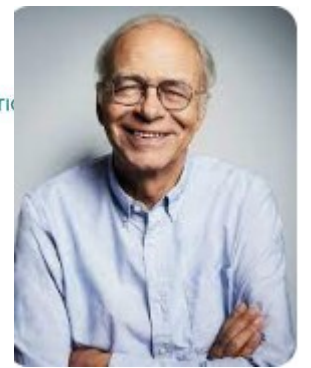
Catherine of Sienna and Speciesism:
These ideas of being made in God's image were developed by St Catherine of Siena in the 14th century. She is a doctor of the Church. She had 3 further thoughts:

Humans originate from God 'Her dignity is that of creation, seeing that she is in the image of God.' **Conscience** – it is like looking in 'God's gentle mirror' that we see ourselves. This is our conscience to direct our actions. **Love**– the love of God made us to be like him. He created out of love.

Peter Singer agrees with Catholics that life begins at conception, but describes this as 'biological' life. an embryo isn't a person, nor a person with dementia, a person in a coma or any other person who cannot reason, feel, hope, make moral decisions. If their lives can be taken to spare suffering & bring greater happiness, then Peter Singer says this is acceptable. à **what do you think about this? Singer has also developed his views to the idea of 'Speciesism'.**

For instance, a conscious animal, such as an African grey parrot has the same cognitive ability as a 4-6 year old. He argues we cannot therefore put humans above animals such as these. This is discriminatory. Speciesism is therefore morally wrong.

Key symbols



Cross curricular links:
An Inspector Calls
Science
RSE
Stewardship
Life and death RE

Non religious beliefs about abortion (humanism)

Humanists, such as Peter Singer disagree with this belief and focus on the quality of life and argue that human and animal life should have equal value. Humanists such as Peter Singer reject any belief in the sanctity of life. Human life does have value but it does not belong to God and humans were not created in the image of God. In terms of abortion, Humanists value happiness and personal choice. In making a decision they would look at the evidence, consequences and rights and wishes of everyone involved. Life is not sacred but is worthy of the highest respect. Generally they would take a pro-choice stance and argue that quality of life is more important than sanctity of life.

Link to future:

c) Explain either from Catholic Christianity and Judaism or two Christian traditions, beliefs about abortion. (8)

d. 'Abortion is always wrong.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) *Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated to this question.* (15+6)

TIMELINE OF LEARNING: GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Imago Dei understanding—> abortion views and arguments with practise b,c,d answers—> RSE learning—> art depicting imago dei: Creation of Adam—> Tree of Life Mosaic—> Catholic Social teaching—> interfaith dialogue—> end of unit assessment

Link to prior learning
Imago Dei—Catherine of Sienna

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT
Omnipotent—The belief that God is all powerful.

Transcendent—The belief that God exists above and beyond space and time.

Imago Dei—The belief that humans were created in the image of God.

Stewardship—The belief that humans should protect and preserve the environment and hand more on to the next generation.

Transcendent—The belief that God exists above and beyond space and time.

Key sources: THE WHY
“So God created mankind in his own image”
Genesis 1:27

“All men possess a rational soul and are created in God’s likeness”
Gaudium et spes

“Every type of discrimination...is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God’s intent”
Gaudium et spes

Origin and Meaning Thread 3— Forms and practice

Creation of Adam

Beliefs about God—

Presented as dynamic and active. He is hard at work at His greatest creation. God is reaching out to Adam (passive figure). God is shown as older and has a muscular physique. It also highlights that God is **omnipotent** (all-powerful) as God created the universe. His hand stretching out symbolises giving Adam the spark of life. Some people believe the cloud represents a brain highlighting **omniscience**.

Beliefs about Humans—

Adam is a perfect human being; young, handsome, strong and resembles God. Adam mirrors the pose of God. This is linked to the belief of the **imago dei** which comes from the book of Genesis and the teachings of Catherine of Siena. Adam is lying back on the earth from which he has been formed as described in Genesis. This links to the idea of **stewardship** as humans have been created to protect and preserve the environment.

Tree of life

The Tree of Life Mosaic can be found in the Apse (semi-circular dome) of the Church of San Clemente in Rome. The mosaic is filled with symbolism. The central image is a cross which merges with many other important symbols.

The twelve lambs represent the twelve disciples who were given the task of passing on Jesus’ message.

The lamb in the centre with a halo represents Jesus who is known as the lamb of God who sacrificed his life.

The tree and vines are symbolic of how the message of Christianity will grow and spread throughout the world. The tree is the tree of life and vines/branches will grow as Jesus’ message is passed on.

The hand represents God reaching out to his son Jesus and taking him to heaven.

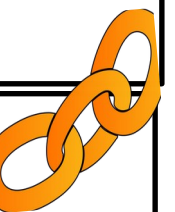
The hand shows God’s power to overcome death. The Alpha and Omega are the first and last Greek letters of the alphabet.

This Chi-Rho is a Greek term for Christ. It is one of the earliest Christian symbols and links to the belief that Jesus is a saviour.

Key symbols
Alpha and Omega—used to show Jesus has no beginning or end



Cross curricular links



Link to future learning

(C) Explain the meaning of the symbols and images in Christian art. (8)

Explain... Michelangelo’s Creation of Adam

Explain... San Clemente Mosaic The Tree of Life



Stewardship/CST/Interfaith dialogue

Catholic Social Teaching, Interfaith Dialogue & Catholic Charities Catholic Social Teaching is a set of principles about building a just and fair society.

It is linked to the concept of the Imago Dei. Catholic Social teaching led to Catholic beliefs about interfaith dialogue which means treating people of other faiths with respect.

Catholic Charities try to reflect Catholic beliefs that humans were created in the image and likeness of God, and that each human life is sacred.

This is linked to Jesus’ teaching that we must ‘love our neighbour, as we love ourselves.’

Dialogue (two way communication) between people helps us to understand one another.

Many Christians believe this should be between different religions as well as different denominations (groups) within their religion.

For Christians within their own religion, they see themselves as one church and so work to promote unity and equality. This is called Ecumenism.

ECUMENISM = Calls for unity amongst Christian groups.

INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE = Different religions meeting to share mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and harmony. They identify common ground. They engage in shared action for the common good of society.

Community cohesion = to establish a better society where all groups feel that they belong and can live peacefully together.

d. ‘~~The world is ours to do what we like with.~~’ Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated to this question. (15+6)

d. ‘Genesis helps Christians understand what God is like.’ Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated to this question. (15+6)

d. ‘In today’s world there is a great need for people from different faiths to work together.’ Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated to this question. (15+6)