

Issues of Relationships Knowledge Organizer

1. Key People

St. Paul	Many argue whether Jesus or Paul is the founder of Christianity. Some of what Paul wrote to other Christians is controversial, including his views on women and sexuality.
St. Thomas Aquinas	Thomas promoted the ancient theory of Natural Law: humans are naturally good, should live a certain way to please God, and can work out what that is.
The Dalai Lama	The Dalai Lama has said that the ways religious people should behave differently to non-religious people in relationships.
The Church of England (C of E)	This church says people should get married, but even if they don't, they can still look to the church for support. There are several different approaches to same-sex relationships in this church.
The Roman Catholic (RC) Church	This church says having children should only happen within marriage. There are several different approaches to same-sex relationships in this church.

4. Themes

contraception 	relationships 	family 
gender 	sexuality 	tradition 

2. You need to know...

- Christian and Buddhist attitudes towards how families should work are **similar**. **Supporting** the very young and old, **passing on** key religious ideas and **educating** children are some of the duties and roles common to many people in both religions.
 - In Christianity, it's taught that people **should** get married, and that families should be formed **within** marriage
 - Adultery is a **sin** in Christianity; it goes against the Seventh Commandment
 - Divorce is **discouraged** by the C of E but accepted in some cases. The RC Church teaches that divorce is **always** a sin, but an **annulment** is sometimes possible.
 - The RC Church teaches that using contraception is **wrong**, but other churches see it as good **family planning** and, as in Buddhism, a way of preventing potential **suffering**.
 - RC priests are **celibate** (don't have sex) and stay single, but priests in most other churches marry and have sex in their relationships
 - Many Christians say homosexuality goes **against** God's plan for human reproduction. Others say that to be gay is **not sinful** as all humans are made in God's **image**.
 - The RC Church doesn't have **female** priests, but some other churches do.
- Buddhism does **not** teach that people should get married. If Buddhists do get married, there are religious teachings to **guide** their behaviour within marriage, as there are for Christians.
 - Adultery is seen as a **cause** of suffering, and goes against the **Third Precept** of Buddhism.
 - Some schools of Buddhism view homosexual sex as going against the Third Precept. Others disagree, saying **acts** causing suffering are wrong; someone's orientation is **irrelevant**.
 - In some Buddhist countries, the **tradition** is to have monks, not nuns.
 - Monks and nuns in the Theravada tradition are **often** single and celibate, but in some Mahayana traditions they **marry**
 - The Buddha allowed women to become nuns on condition that they follow extra **rules** to ensure their **safety**; the Eight Garudhammas

3. Key vocabulary

adultery: Voluntary sex between a married person and a person who's not their spouse

divorce: To legally end a marriage

cohabitation: To live together and have a sexual relationship, without being married or in a civil partnership

commitment: A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something

contraception: Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sex

gender equality: People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives

responsibilities: Actions/duties you're expected to carry out

roles: A position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them

5. Contexts

Life in the UK has changed very much in the last 100 years. Changes in the law have given people more choices when deciding how to live and what to do with their lives.

The concept of karma leads to different responses when Buddhists think about issues. On one hand, performing good deeds is encouraged as it reduces suffering. On the other hand, "what goes around comes around", so should people be "blamed" for their misfortunes and not helped?

While most people in the UK say they belong to a religion, there is a greater variety of religious beliefs than in the past. Also, secular (non-religious) worldviews are increasing in popularity.

"Love your neighbour as you love yourself." – Jesus said that people do what is best for others and think about how their actions affect others, whoever they are. This raises big questions when we think about many of the issues in this topic.

Issues of Life and Death Knowledge Organizer

1. Key People

Charles Darwin	His book "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection" challenged literal interpretations of the Bible and led to theories of evolution.
Peter Singer	He is a philosopher who has said that to treat animals differently (badly) 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	He's 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 suffers from Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and has campaigned for UK law to change, so that helping someone die in certain circumstances can take place in the UK.

4. Themes

environment 	life 	faith 
death 	effects 	tradition 

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
- Despite the fact that the worldviews presented do not share the same ideas about how the universe began, their ideas about how humanity should **treat** Earth are very similar.
- 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, being born a human is like a **blind turtle** surfacing and putting its head through a floating gold ring every 100 years.
- The Roman Catholic Church teaches that It's okay to give medicine for **pain** but if euthanasia is allowed, it could be used too often by doctors and people could lose faith in them. 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 accumulated enough positive karma and understanding to 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: From Greek, eu 'good' + *thanatos* 'death'. Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing'. 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.

5. Contexts

- Earth Overshoot Day marks the date each year when humanity's use of natural resources exceeds what Earth can regenerate that year. In 2017, it was 2nd August, in 2018 it was 1st August and in 2019 it was 29th July. C19 has slowed it a bit, but this year EOD will fall on 22nd August. That's still over four months early...
- The Suicide Act states that anyone helping another person die, for whatever reason, can be imprisoned for up to 14 years. This means that families of people wanting to die (because they have a terminal illness or degenerative condition) have taken their loved ones to clinics abroad, risking arrest upon their return to the UK.