UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

PAST PAPER QUESTIONS
2011-2014

MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

UNIT 1 : SECTION 2
UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

2014 - Question 3

(a) What does **reincarnation** mean? (2)

(b) Do you think Christians should agree with abortion? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain why some people do not believe in life after death. (8)

(d) "Religious people should accept euthanasia." In your answer you should refer to one religion other than Christianity.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

2014 - Question 4

(a) What is meant by **non-voluntary euthanasia**? (2)

(b) Do you think Christians should agree with euthanasia? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain what the British law says about abortion. (8)

(d) "Beliefs about life after death affect the way a person lives their life." In your answer you should refer to one religion other than Christianity.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

2013 - Question 3

(a) What is abortion? (2)

(b) Do you think life after death is impossible? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* c) Explain why euthanasia is a controversial issue. (8)

(d) “The media should not be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

2013 - Question 4

(a) What is meant by paranormal? (2)

(b) Do you think belief in life after death should affect the way Christians live their lives? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain why some Christians accept abortion. (8)

(d) “Euthanasia should never be allowed.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

2012 - Question 3

(a) What is meant by quality of life? (2)

(b) Do you think that abortions should be completely banned? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain why Christians believe in life after death. (8)

(d) “Euthanasia is the same as murder.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

2012 - Question 4

(a) What does immortality of the soul mean? (2)

(b) Do you think everyone should have the right to die when they want? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Choose one religion other than Christianity and explain how their beliefs about life after death affect the way they live their lives. (8)

(d) “Abortion should always be allowed.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

2011 - Question 3

(a) What is euthanasia? (2)

(b) Do you agree that the media should be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death?
   Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain why some non-religious people believe in life after death. (8)

(d) “The law on abortion should be changed.”
   In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.
   (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
   (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

2011 - Question 4

(a) What is meant by near-death experience? (2)

(b) Do you think that euthanasia should be legal in the UK? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain why some followers of one religion other than Christianity do not agree with abortion. (8)

(d) “Life after death is impossible.”
   In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.
   (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
   (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
(a) What does reincarnation mean? (2)

The belief that after death souls are reborn in a new body
• the rebirth of a soul into another body
• after death the soul comes back inside another body

(b) Do you think Christians should agree with abortion? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think that Christians should agree with abortion are likely to use such reasons as:

• Christians should try to reduce suffering
• it might be the lesser of two evils
• it might be the most loving thing to do

Answers which do not think that Christians should agree with abortion are likely to use such reasons as:

• it is against one of the Ten Commandments
• it goes against the sanctity of life
• only God should end a life

*(c) Explain why some people do not believe in life after death. (8)*

The main reasons include:

• there is no scientific proof for life after death
• life after death is a logical impossibility
• there is nowhere for life after death to take place
• no one has come back from the dead to prove it
(d) “Religious people should accept euthanasia.”
In your answer you should refer to one religion other than Christianity.

Islam

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
• Allah has already decided the person’s life should end
• it might reduce suffering
• the person might be brain dead

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
• it is against the sanctity of life
• only Allah can take a life
• it may interfere with Allah’s plans for that person

2014 - Question 4

(a) What is meant by non-voluntary euthanasia?  
Ending someone’s life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so
• a doctor ending the life of an ill person who cannot ask for euthanasia

(b) Do you think Christians should agree with euthanasia?
Give two reasons for your point of view.

Answers which think that Christians should agree with euthanasia are likely to use such reasons as:
• Christians should try to reduce suffering
• it might be the lesser of two evils
• it might be the most loving thing to do

Answers which do not think that Christians should agree with euthanasia are likely to use such reasons as:
• it is against one of the Ten Commandments
• it goes against the sanctity of life
• only God should end a life
* (c) Explain what the British law says about abortion.  

The main elements of the law include:
• It is legal if certain conditions are met
• it must be agreed by two doctors
• usually it is before 24 weeks pregnancy
• it must take place in a registered medical unit
• the mother’s life is at risk
• to protect the physical or mental health of the mother
• to protect the mental or physical health of existing children
• if the baby would be very seriously ill

(d) “Beliefs about life after death affect the way a person lives their life.”  
In your answer you should refer to one religion other than Christianity.

Islam

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

• Muslims will try to follow the teachings of the Qur’an as they will be judged on this
• Muslims will try to obey Shari’ah law to get into paradise
• Muslims will follow the example of Muhammad

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

• Muslims should treat others well regardless of reward
• it is not belief in life after death that makes a person live well, it is wanting to do what God teaches that affects behaviour
• Allah has a plan for every person’s life and Muslims should strive to fulfil this plan
UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

2013 - Question 3

(a) What is abortion?  

The removal of a foetus from the womb (before it can survive)  
• the termination of a pregnancy / expulsion of a foetus before it is viable  
• ending a baby’s life before it is born  

(b) Do you think life after death is impossible?  
Give two reasons for your point of view.

Answers which think that life after death is impossible are likely to use such reasons as:

• once the body dies you are dead  
• no one has come back from the dead  
• there is no evidence of life after death

Answers which do not think that life after death is impossible are likely to use such reasons as:

• Jesus came back from the dead  
• near death experiences  
• remembered lives

* c) Explain why euthanasia is a controversial issue.

The main features include:

• some people regard euthanasia as murder  
• it might lead to misuse by people who want to gain by it  
• doctors might face increased ethical dilemmas  
• the person might change their mind when it is too late for them to say so  
• some people think it is person’s right to choose  
• it can be the most loving thing to do
(d) “The media should not be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
• what religions say is only for the benefit of religious followers
• by criticising religions the media could cause conflict
• the media may be biased

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
• media has the right of free speech
• by criticising what religions say the media can educate people
• the media should point out contradictions in what religions say

2013 - Question 4

(a) What is meant by paranormal? (2)

Unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes (eg ghosts, mediums) / an event that is supernatural

(b) Do you think belief in life after death should affect the way Christians live their lives?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think belief in life after death should affect the way Christians live their lives are likely to use such reasons as:
• they want to be forgiven after death
• they do not wish to be sent to hell
• they wish to be sent to heaven

Answers which do not think belief in life after death should affect the way Christians live their lives are likely to use such reasons as:
• Christians should concentrate on what they are doing now
• Christians should do good things because Jesus taught them to
• Christians have many more important things to think about
* (c) Explain why some Christians accept abortion. (8)

The main reasons include:

- it can be the most loving thing to do
- the Bible does not say anything about it
- it can the lesser of two evils
- it is allowed legally
- some Churches allow it in extreme circumstances

(d) “Euthanasia should never be allowed.”

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

- it is against the sanctity of life
- it is against one of the commandments
- it may be abused

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

- it could be the most loving thing to do
- people should have the right to choose
- it might prevent suffering

2012 - Question 3

(a) What is meant by quality of life? (2)

(The idea that) life must have some benefits for it to be worth living
- The physical and emotional happiness of a person
- The well-being of a person
(b) Do you think that abortions should be completely banned? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think that abortions should be completely banned are likely to use such reasons as:
• Abortion is the murder of an unborn child
• The baby could be adopted
• Abortion is against most religious teachings

Answers which do not think that abortions should be completely banned are likely to use such reasons as:
• Women should have the right to choose
• Abortion should be allowed in cases of rape
• Some abortions save the life of the mother

*(c) Explain why Christians believe in life after death. (8)

The main reasons include:
• Jesus rose from the dead
• Jesus taught his disciples that there is life after death
• The creeds teach that there is life after death
• St Paul taught that Christians will be resurrected
• Paranormal experiences lead to belief in life after death
• Life after death is a reward for living a good life

(d) “Euthanasia is the same as murder.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
• Christians believe life is sacred, so euthanasia is murder
• Euthanasia is the premature ending of a life which is against the law
• No human should take another human's life

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
• Euthanasia is sometimes the lesser of two evils
• Euthanasia is sometimes the most loving thing to do
• If it is the person's choice it is not murder
UNIT 1 - MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

2012 - Question 4

(a) What does immortality of the soul mean? (2)

(The idea that) the soul lives on after the death of the body
• the soul never dies
• persistence of the spirit

(b) Do you think everyone should have the right to die when they want? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think that everyone should have the right to die when they want are likely to use such reasons as:

• Euthanasia is often the most loving thing
• Euthanasia can be the lesser of two evils
• It could protect the family from watching people suffer

Answers which do not think that everyone should have the right to die when they want are likely to use such reasons as:

• Life is sacred, no one has the right to take it
• Only God has the right to end someone’s life
• people might not be able to make an informed decision

*(c) Choose one religion other than Christianity and explain how their beliefs about life after death affect the way they live their lives. (8)

Islam

The main Muslim ways include:

• They will try to be good Muslims so that they go to heaven
• Because life is a test, they will obey all Muslim laws
• They will try to live good lives because they believe they will be judged
• Because they believe in resurrection of the body they will want to be buried and not cremated
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(d) "Abortion should always be allowed."
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
• It is the woman's right to choose
• It should be allowed as people make mistakes
• It is better than having an unwanted child

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
• Abortion should not be allowed beyond 24 weeks
• Abortion is regarded as sinful by some Christians
• Abortion can be seen as murder

2011 - Question 3

(a) What is euthanasia? (2)

The painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease
• An ill person being helped to die in a painless way

(b) Do you agree that the media should be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which agree that the media should be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death are likely to use such reasons as:

• The media has freedom of speech
• Religious beliefs often contradict each other, the media is right to say this
• The media should educate and by criticising they can do this

Answers which disagree that the media should be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death are likely to use such reasons as:

• Religious beliefs are too personal for the media to criticise
• The media is frequently biased
• The media might make comments which could cause conflict in society
*(c) Explain why some non-religious people believe in life after death. (8)*

The main reasons include:

- Paranormal experiences lead to belief in life after death
- Life after death is a comforting thought
- Life after death is a reward for living a good life
- There must be something after this life, it can’t be the end

(d) “The law on abortion should be changed.”

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

- Christians believe life is sacred, so abortion should be illegal
- Babies can survive before 24 weeks gestation so the time should be reduced
- It should be the mother’s right to choose

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

- The law has been democratically agreed
- The law, in practice, allows abortion for all reasons anyway
- The law prevents suffering

2011 - Question 4

(a) What is meant by near-death experience? (2)

When someone about to die has an out of body experience
- When you nearly die and see a bright light
- Looking down at yourself when you are nearly dead
- When you are nearly dead and have a vision of heaven
(b) Do you think that euthanasia should be legal in the UK? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think euthanasia should be legal in the UK are likely to use such reasons as:
- It is often the most loving thing to do
- It can be the lesser of two evils
- People should have control over whether they live or die

Answers which do not think euthanasia should be legal in the UK are likely to use such reasons as:
- Life is sacred
- Only God has the right to end someone’s life
- If it were legal people would abuse it

*(c) Explain why some followers of one religion other than Christianity do not agree with abortion. (8)

Islam
The main Muslim reasons include:
- The Qur’an says that murder is wrong
- Muslims believe in the sanctity of life, and abortion goes against the sanctity of life
- Many Muslim scholars are against abortion
- After death a Muslim must explain why they aborted an unborn child

(d) “Life after death is impossible.”

In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
- There is no evidence to prove life after death
- Some people would say that it is just an idea to comfort people
- Religious ideas about life after death all conflict

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
- Religious scriptures teach about life after death
- It is stated as part of the Christian creeds / Muslim six articles of faith
- Christians believe in it because Jesus rose from the dead