



REVISION

Our world Unit

**L0 : TO FOCUS ON HUMANITY
AND WHAT MAKES US HUMAN**

Questions on keywords are worth 2 marks. When answering a question about a keyword it is important to remember 2 things...

1. **Explain**, do not just state – so you need to include reasons or causes; you are explaining the why behind something.
2. Provide an **example** – this will reinforce your definition.

Example: Creation – Is the act of designing and making something(1) An example of this is when God created the universe(2)

Why are we here?

People give different reasons why they exist, but many people whether they are religious or not, think that it is important to care for each other and the planet we live on.

All religious teachings teach that human beings are unique and different from all other animals. To have a relationship with God.

Humans are not the same as animals

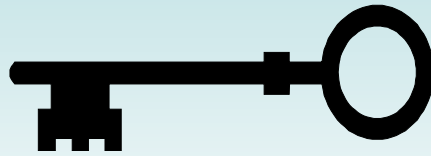
You need to make 4 points

1. **Intelligence** – Ability to think and reflect to apply knowledge and learning to reason.
2. **Morality** – A sense of right and wrong.
3. **Language** – ability to speak, write and read languages.

4. MOST IMPORTANT: YOU NEED TO ADD THIS

Religious people believe that humans have a soul. This is the part of us that will live on after the body has died. It is the part of humans that allows people to relate to God and to worship God.

Key word:



Stewardship = Looking after the world for God. We don't own the world. God put us in charge of it, to care for it responsibly and we shall be held accountable for what happens to it.

Stewardship

- GCSE Q. Explain the teachings about looking after the world.
- Christians have been given stewardship of the world. This is a God given responsibility to manage the earth.
- They are told to look after the environment which is seen as Gods creation
- To take care of the earth for future generations
- Humans have **DOMINION** this means that they are in charge of the world for God.

Biblical quotes to help with this unit

Christianity

Freewill and consequences



Genesis 1:16 You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, except for one tree.

Genesis 1:28 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth'.

Mark 12:30 'Love God with all your heart, mind soul and strength.'

Religious teachings about the place and purpose of humankind in the world

Christians

- To serve God and live for him. (this includes telling others about and sharing ones faith)
- To enjoy the world and its fruits and resources (they are a gift from God)
- To look after the world for God (**stewardship**) this includes the sensible use of resources and trying to conserve nature.
- To look after and live in harmony with others. (This is also a way of serving God, by serving others in a selfless and unconditional way)
- To have sexual relationships and children. This is seen as natural and a God given ability and calling.

Talents

- A talent is a skill or ability. Religious believers state that everyone has a talent which they must use.
- Talents were given by God.
- Failure to use them for the benefit of others is not only wasteful, but and insult to God.

Natural Resources (key word)

- A phrase that means the products that come from the earth: all things that grow , minerals, soil, rock and water

How Christians put stewardship into practice

- Acts of worship (Harvest) reminds themselves and others of the need to protect our environment
- Organisations and individuals work to protect the earth and well being of animals.
- Example : Chico Mendes – a rubber tapper from Brazil. He organised people to stop hard wood trees being chopped down. He did this by organising non violent resistance to the exploitation (chopping down) of forests

Creation

- A unique design planned by a maker.
- Religious people believe that God is the creator of the universe.
- The story in Genesis makes clear the belief that God created everything.
- Psalm 24 1-2 'The earth belongs to God everything in all the world is his. He is the one who pushed oceans back to let dry land appear.'
- Muslims and Christians say the world was created in 6 days and on the 7th day God rested.

Literalist View

The main points of creation happened literally the way it is described in the bible.

Example. There were 6 days of 24 hours in which God created the world.

Literalists see a conflict between science (theory of evolution) and religion (Genesis - 6 day creation).

Non literalist view

The main point of the Genesis story is not about how God created it but to state that he did.

It is not a literal account but contains important truths.

God did create the world

There were definite periods of time but not 24 hours.

Important Beliefs about Creation

- Christians and Jews agree that the Genesis story tells important key beliefs.
 1. God created everything for a purpose.
 2. The beginning of the world and of life was not accidental.
 3. Human beings are different from other creatures in that they are made 'in the image of God.' and have responsibility to look after the world.
 4. The world was basically good.

The Big Bang

- Many people feel that this theory is a little more acceptable to creation to scientific thinking.
- This theory is as the name suggests, it states that everything started with a big bang. The dense matter that made up the universe began to expand about 15,000 million years ago, bursting out with great force and speed. Since then, the expansion has continued, with a gradual cooling down of the earth and other planets.
- Strength: The knowledge we have of the universe seems to confirm this theory, as the stars in universe are all burning masses, just like our sun.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE BIG BANG.

- It is only a theory, and some scientists do not accept some of the evidence and question its accuracy
- There are some unanswerable questions about the theory, such as 'what caused the bang?' and 'where did the matter come from in the first place?'
- Many Christians accept the Big Bang theory and understand God as the cause of it.

Evolution

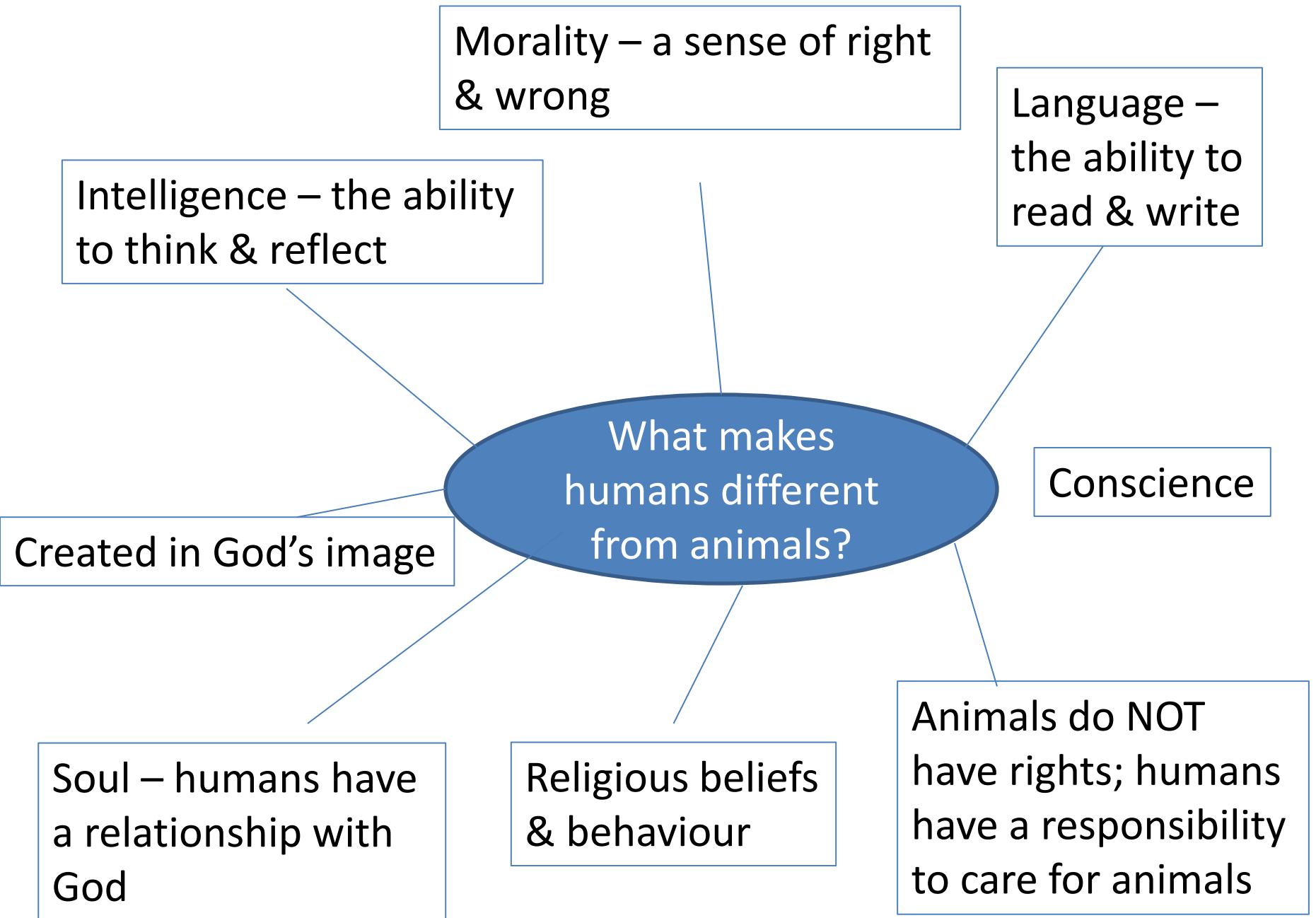
- Another scientific theory that raises questions about belief in creation is Charles Darwin's theory of the origins of life – or evolution.
- During the nineteenth century, when investigating the distribution of animals in the Islands of the Southern Hemisphere, Darwin noticed how animals had adapted to changes in their environment. He noticed that the best and fittest animals survived and passed on their characteristics to a new generation.
- Darwin suggested in his book *The Origin of the Species* that over millions of year's changes have been happening. The life forms that exist today are not the same life forms that existed years ago. The idea suggests that human beings have evolved from apes and a merely a more complex and rational version.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

- It is a theory and has not been proved absolutely.
- It describes a process of development and changes in a species.
- It does not explain where the first life forms came from.
- It does not explain the order in the universe, or the reason for 'natural laws' that exist within the universe.
- It is still not clear about transformation from one species to another.

Science and Religion

- Science and religion seek to answer different questions.
- Science asks how things happen? And religion asks why things happen?
- However science and religion can agree. The story in Genesis does not give us technical answers on how the world began. BUT it gives us a big answer that things exist because of God's will.



Purpose of Humans

- To have a relationship with God – worship
- The belief that they will have eternal life with God
- To help other people - duty
- To enjoy life
- To procreate and bring children them up as a Christian/Muslim
- To work hard and use the talents that God has given them

Our World

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
A	Talents	Soul	Environment	Creation	Humanity	Dominion
B	Soul	How treat animals	Talents	Natural resources	Treat animals	Beliefs about creation
C	Why human?	Human animals with soul	Humans just bodies	Creation stories meaning?	Animals have souls	Humans physical bodies
D	Earth resources	Caring for planet	Belief about creation	Attitude to animals	Teachings about creation	Caring for environment
E	Rel teaching creation	Life to be enjoyed	Everyone care for the world	Humans more than bodies	Life is to be enjoyed	Animals are treated
F	Human more than bodies					