1) CREATION EX NIHILO and DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TO THE CREATION STORY.

Recap phase: Fill in the correct keyword

O	The belief that God is all powerful
C	Creation out of nothing. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.
S	The duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.
E	The process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.
T	Existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything else that exists, above and beyond creation.
I	"God breathed" The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good and true.

Preparation: Watch the video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4MFw10kPrw

Knowledge phase: Ex Nihilo

Catholics believe that God created the Universe out of nothing (ex nihilo) - there were no 'ingredients' already in existence for him to use, as He created everything. Not only was there no water, air, land, light or dark, there wasn't even any time or space.

Only God can create out of nothing because he is omnipotent (all powerful) and transcendent (outside time and space)

St Augustine of Hippo, an early Christian thinker, explored this idea in his writings Confessions XII,7.

" …you , O Lord … made something in the Beginning which is of yourself, in your Wisdom, which is born of your own substance, and you created this thing out of nothing… From nothing, then, you created heaven and earth".

Consolidation phase:

1. **What existed before the universe?**
2. **What is meant by omnipotence?**
3. **What is meant by transcendence?**
4. **What is meant by creation ex nihilo?**
5. **Which quote from confessions shows that God created 'Ex Nihilo'?**

Knowledge phase: Genesis creation stories

Catholics do not believe that the Genesis creation stories are literally true. They are **MYTHS** with 3 **UNDERLYING TRUTHS.** These truths are...

1. **God made everything that exists** – "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Gen 1:1-2
2. **Everything that God made was good** – "And God saw that it was Good." Gen 1:10
3. **Humans were the final act of God's creation, but the most important** – "Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Gen 1:26.

Catholic views

- The authors of the biblical books are Inspired by God.
- The books of the Bible contain God's revelation.
- The books of the Bible are the Word of God but we must take into account the context in which the Bible was written.

- Genesis is seen as a symbolic myth about humans' relationship with God and creation.
- Catholics do not see Genesis as an alternative to the Big Bang and evolution but instead believe that science answers the how questions and religion why.

Non Catholic (fundamentalist) views.

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- They believe that the Bible accounts should be taken literally.
- Creationists are Fundamentalist Christians, and they have a literal understanding of how the universe was created as described in Genesis.
- They reject scientific ideas such as Big Bang and evolution.

Consolidation phase:

Give 2 similarities and 2 differences between Catholic and Fundamentalist beliefs about Creation.

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-
-
-

Practice Phase: Exam questions: Complete in Exercise book.

a) **What is meant by Omnipotence? (2)**
a) **What is meant by Creation Ex Nihilo (2)**
b) **Describe St Augustine's teaching on Creation. (5)**
b) **Explain Catholic beliefs about the Genesis Creation stories. (5)**

2) SCIENTIFIC THEORIES OF CREATION

Recap phase: Link the scholar to their idea

Charles Darwin	**Big Bang Theory**
Fr Georges Lemaitre	**Creation Ex nihilo**
St Augustine	**Evolution**
Michelangelo	**Imago Dei**
Catherine of Sienna	**Creation of Adam**

Preparation: Watch the video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEgfj6Bf4uc

Knowledge phase: Big Bang

- The Big Bang Theory was discovered by a Catholic Priest and scientist **Georges Lemaitre** who observed the universe and found the universe started from one point nearly 15 billion years ago.
- For atheists this means there is no need for God**. Stephen Hawking** suggested that the laws of gravity are enough to explain how the universe began.
- But nobody knows what happened before the Big Bang. For Catholics they believe that God started the Big Bang.
- This is the way God chose to start the universe. Some Christians have linked this explosion of gases from a single point to being similar to the description of Day One of the Creation Story. 'Let there be Light' Gen 1

Knowledge phase: Evolution

- **Charles Darwin** found out that animals (including humans) change to suit their environment over thousands of years. This process was based on "survival of the fittest" and meant that the natural world selected which species did well. There is evidence in fossil records and DNA of evolution.
- A famous scientist, **Richard Dawkins,** argues that there is no place for God, and no proof that humans are unique/special or have a soul.

- Catholics **accept** the idea of evolution but reject Richard Dawkins' conclusions. Catholics see the Creation Story as a myth so accept that God guided evolution over millions of years. It is part of God's plan. Catholics still believe that humans are special, have a soul and are the most important part of Creation.
- Fundamentalist Christians **(creationists)** would reject both big bang and evolution and claim that science must be wrong. They try to prove that the evidence presented by fossils is not strong enough to support Darwin's theory.

Consolidation phase:

1. Who first proposed the big bang theory?
2. Why do Catholics accept the big bang theory?
3. Why do fundamentalist Christians reject both theories?
4. Who argues that Evolution rules out God as creator?
5. What do Catholics believe about evolution?

Practice phase: Complete this in your book

D) 'Only God could have created the universe'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than 1 point of view (15)
(You must refer to religious and non-religious views in your answer.)

3) IMAGO DEI & SANCTITY OF LIFE

Recap phase: Insert the correct keyword

	"Creation out of nothing". Before the universe, nothing existed but God.
	The spirit of God guides humans. The Bible is seen as "inspired by God".
	The belief that God is all-powerful.
	The ways God makes himself known to humans. The Bible and the life of Jesus are examples of revelation
	The process of natural selection that leads to change over time. This happens to all animals -including humans– to suit their environment.

Preparation: Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgrVXJLF5zg

Knowledge phase: Sanctity of life and Imago Dei

- The **Sanctity of Life** means life is precious and holy. It should be preserved and protected.
- For Catholics this means that life should be protected from the moment of conception (when the sperm fertilises the egg) until natural death. (from the womb to the tomb). This means it is **always** wrong to take a life including abortion and euthanasia.
- For Jews, the Ten Commandments forbid taking life. Most Jews believe the foetus is not a person until birth.

IMAGO DEI: The term has its roots in Genesis 1:27, **"God created man in his own image."**

- Humans can think, feel, make decisions and love. For Christians this makes human life special. In the Creation Story we are made in the "image of God".
- We have a soul and all have dignity (being worthy of respect). **St Catherine of Siena** wrote a story of the soul trying to reach God. This is a famous source of authority for Catholics. In it she stated that humans originate from God, so we reflect qualities of God.
- We all have a conscience-the ability to choose right from wrong. This is like a mirror for our soul. Humans have been made by God in a loving way.
- Jews believe that humans are made in the image of God, and believe "Pikuash Nefesh" that saving a life is more important than following commandments.

Consolidation phase:

1. **What does sanctity of life mean?**
2. **Why do Catholics not allow abortion and euthanasia?**
3. **What does Genesis say about Imago Dei?**
4. **Why does Catherine of Sienna say we reflect the qualities of God?**
5. **How do Jews show belief in Imago Dei?**

Practice phase: Complete in your book

C) Explain Catholic beliefs about imago Dei and sanctity of life (8)

4: ABORTION DEBATE

Recap phase: Sources of Authority: Link the teaching to the keyword

Sanctity of Life	Pope John Paul II said, "there is no conflict between evolution and faith"
Imago Dei	Saint Augustine wrote "From nothing, you created heaven and earth."
Creation Ex Nihilo	The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Human life is sacred because it involves the creative action of God...human life is in a special relationship with God."
Stewardship	Genesis says, "God made humans in his own image." This makes us special.
Evolution	Pope Francis says, "once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently...the world is a gift to be shared with others."

Preparation

"Human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognised as having the rights of a person" CCC2270

- What does this conception mean?
- Do you agree that life begins at conception?
- Why would some people disagree with this?

Knowledge phase:

The UK Law on Abortion

- Must be before 24 weeks and two doctors must agree.
- Conditions are that there must be some risk to the mothers mental or physical health or to other children if the pregnancy continued.
- If there is a risk that the baby will be born severely disabled or if there is a risk of physical harm to the mother, then there is no time limit on the abortion.

Catholic views

- Deliberate abortion is **NEVER** allowed. **The Catholic Church is PRO-LIFE**
- The Catholic Church believes that God gives us the gift of life at the moment of conception. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you" Jeremiah 1
- From conception onwards the Catholic Church believes that no one has the right to interfere with anyone's life and that we have a duty to preserve life. **(Sanctity of life)**
- The Church will always think that **adoption** is a better solution to abortion in the case of an unwanted child.
- In some situations, the Church will support the **doctrine of double effect.** This does not mean abortion is permitted; only that a mother may receive treatment for an illness even if that treatment might end the pregnancy.

Other Christian views

- **The Church of England is PRO-LIFE**
- The Church of England recognises that there will be different views on the issue of abortion, but summarises its own position to be as follows: *'The Church of England combines strong opposition to abortion with a recognition that there can be – strictly limited – conditions under which it may be morally preferable to any available alternative.'*
- This is called **'the lesser of two evils'** and may apply in cases of rape, serious risk to the life of the mother, or certain and serious disability in the foetus.
- It considers the number of abortions in the UK to be unacceptably high.

Non-Religious (Humanist) views

- **Humanists are PRO-CHOICE**
- The rights and wellbeing of the mother should be considered first.
- Many argue that life does not start at conception.
- The **QUALITY OF LIFE** is important. If the baby is unwanted or will have poor health, this should be considered.
- Peter Singer argues that giving human rights to a foetus is **'speciesist'** as we do not afford these rights to more developed non-human animals.

Practice phase: Complete this in your book

D 'Abortion is always wrong'

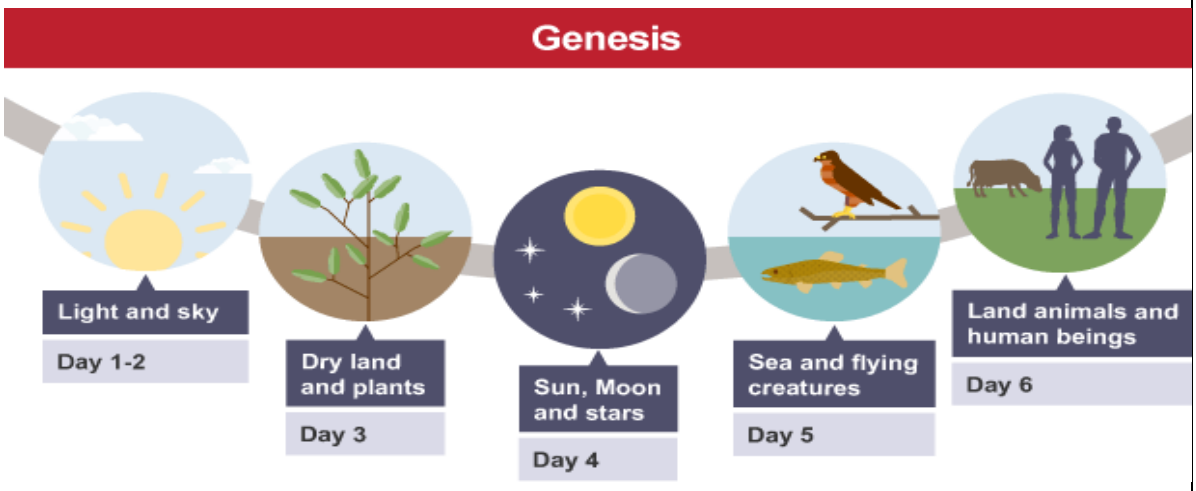
Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than 1 point of view (15)
(You must refer to religious and non-religious views in your answer.)

5) Creation stories and Stewardship

Recap phase: Who would believe this? (it may be more than 1)

	Catholic	Church of England	Humanist
Human life is sacred			
Abortion should never be permitted			
Quality of life is more important than sanctity of life			
Life begins at conception			
Pro Life			
Pro choice			

Preparation: This diagram illustrates Genesis 1. What happens in Genesis chapter 2?



Knowledge phase:

The two main stories of creation in the Book of Genesis are:

- Genesis 1: Describes the creation of the Earth and Heaven
- Genesis 2: Focuses on the creation of Adam and Eve, the first humans

Here are some key points from these stories:

- **Creation of the Earth and Heaven**

In Genesis 1, God created the Earth, plants, trees, vegetation, sun, moon, stars, sea creatures, and birds.

- **Creation of Adam and Eve**

In Genesis 2, God created Adam from dust and breathed life into him. God then created Eve from one of Adam's ribs to provide companionship and help. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden and were tasked with caring for it.

- **Central messages**

The central messages of Genesis 1 and 2 are that God made everything, that God made everything good, and that humanity is the highpoint of creation.

WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

God is eternal. *'In the beginning'* Nothing existed before God

God is transcendent. God exists above and beyond creation

God is Omnipotent *'let there be light, and there was light'* God is all powerful and can create **Ex Nihilo**

God is Omnibenevolent *'and God saw that it was good'* Everything God creates is good, especially human beings which God makes *'In our image'* **Imago Dei**

God is Immanent. This means that God can interact with His creation

WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

We are made in God's image. *'So God created mankind in his own image'* **Imago Dei**

We are made with Sanctity of Life. In Genesis 2, God personally creates Adam from the dust of the earth and breathes life into his nostrils.

We are made for relationship. In Genesis 2 God makes Eve as a suitable companion for Adam

We are Stewards of God's creation. God instructs Adam to name the animals, have authority over nature and cultivate the land.

Consolidation phase: Put the information into a table. Add sources where possible

What Genesis 1 and 2 tell us about God	What Genesis 1 and 2 tell us about Humans

Knowledge phase: Stewardship

Catholic Views

- Christians are concerned about the damage being done to the environment. The earth is holy because it comes from God. Humans do not own it. It is our duty to protect it.
- Pope Francis in his encyclical (letter) Laudato Si said that the earth is a gift that needs passing on to future generations such as our children.
- In Genesis, humans are given authority to look after the planet. We are stewards, and should be aware of the damage we are doing and how it can be stopped. Jesus says the greatest commandment is to "love others as you love yourself". This extends to the whole planet and future generations. We should do what is good for all people.

- The Ten Commandments say "Do not steal". We should not steal the resources of the planet for future generations.

Non-Religious Views

- Humanists are concerned about the planet too as human happiness depends on having a safe and secure world to live in. But they do not see themselves as stewards for God, as many don't believe in God.
- Humanists believe we have one life, so it should be a good one.
- Some Humanists think we should work on population control, such as limiting the number of children that are born.
- Peter Singer says it is "speciesism" to think that humans are special and that animals have no rights. Especially animals that can think and feel pain.

Practice phase: Complete in your book

a) **What is meant by stewardship? (2)**
b) **Describe what the Genesis creation stories teach us about God (5)**
c) **Describe what the Genesis creation stories teach us about Human beings. (5)**

6) The Bible

Recap Phase: Add the keyword next to the definition

	The word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes himself known to human beings
	"God breathed" The belief that spirit of God guides and individual to act or write what is good and true .
	The duty to care for creation responsibly , as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.
	Existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything else that exists, above and beyond creation.
	In the image of God. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God'

Getting started:

The Bible is a collection of different books. It was written by many authors, over a thousand years. By the year 325 the books of the Bible were finalised, and there is an accepted list of books that are included in every Bible. The Bible contains many types of literature including laws, history and letters written to the early Church. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament, which tells of the Jewish people and their relationship with God. It also predicts a future point where someone will save the world. The New Testament tells of this person: Jesus. It contains four accounts of his life and work known as the Gospels. These are the most important books for Christians as they help us to follow the example Jesus gave us.

Knowledge phase:

Catholic views

- Catholics believe that the Bible emerged from certain events, which were interpreted and passed on in oral traditions, before eventually being written down by human authors in different literary forms.
- Catholics believe that the Bible contains God's revelation. **Revelation** means "uncovering" or "showing". In the Bible God communicates himself and his will to human beings.
- "In order to discover the sacred authors intention, the reader must take into account the condition of their time and culture, literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating" (CCC110) We must read the Bible in the context of when it was written including the literary forms.

- Catholics believe that the authors of the Bible were inspired however they do not believe that everything that is written in the Bible is 100% true. (The Genesis creation stories)

Non-Catholic views

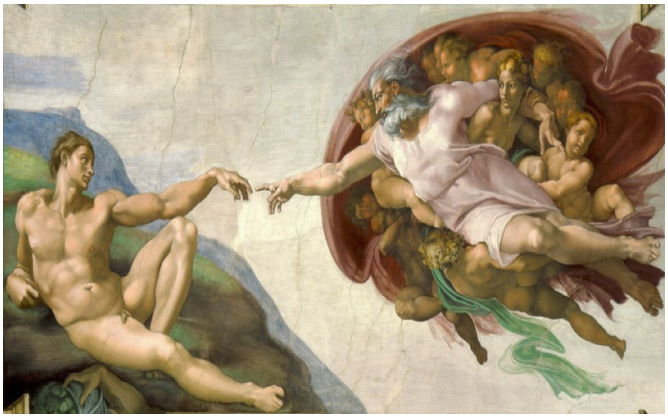
- Fundamentalist Christians believe that in order to understand the Bible all we need to do is read it.
- They take every word in the Bible as literally true. They have a literalist approach. Fundamentalist Christians do not take into account the different literary forms in the Bible.

Application phase: Complete in your book

a) What is meant by inspiration? (2)
a) What is meant by Revelation? (2)
b) Describe Catholic beliefs about how the Bible should be interpreted. (5)

7: Art and Symbolism

Recap/Knowledge 1 Watch the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPdYwwlALNQ
Make notes around the image on the symbols identified and what they mean.



Recap knowledge 2 Watch the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfLyHE0VL7E&t=36s
Make notes around the image on the symbols identified and what they mean



Application phase: Complete in your book

c) **Explain how Michelangelo's Creation of Adam depicts the nature of God. (8)**
c) **Explain the meaning of 3 symbols used in the Tree of Life apse mosaic. (8)**

8) Catholic Social Teaching, Interfaith Dialogue and Charities

Recap phase: complete the video quiz.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ud0Vg0x_GwI&t=202s

Preparation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLfnDtCxUSg
Watch the video on Catholic social teaching and list the 7 principles

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Knowledge phase:
CST or **Catholic Social Teaching** is based on the principle that every human being was created by God, has dignity, should be treated with respect, and have the freedom to live in a safe, fair world. This means that Catholics should support all efforts to

- Promote equality and justice for all people
- Take care of the Earth
- Promote peace and reconciliation where there is war and conflict
- Protect human life from conception to natural death
- Work together to make the world a better place

All this comes from the example of Jesus in the Gospels. He treated everyone equally and the story of the good Samaritan shows that we should all have responsibility for one another, even our enemies.
This means that Catholics have a responsibility to work together with members of other religions and those who do not have a religion, to build community and avoid conflict. This is especially important in a **multi-faith society** such as the UK. **Interfaith dialogue** is when people from different faith backgrounds work together to build understanding and tolerance to make society better.

Consolidation phase:

1. **How did Jesus inspire Catholic Social Teaching?**
2. **What is a multi-faith society?**
3. **What is interfaith dialogue?**
4. **How does the principle of 'Imago Dei' link to Catholic Social Teaching?**

Knowledge phase: Catholic charities

CAFOD	**SVP (St Vincent De Paul)**
• Work overseas • Help people who are refugees, in poverty, war or natural disasters • Help people to work their own way out of poverty • Challenges unfairness in the world through political campaigning	• Work with those in need in local communities • Help the elderly, poor, lonely, asylum seekers, homeless • Run foodbanks, drop in centres, counselling. • Offer support to poor families such as holiday camps for children

Practice phase: Explain How 1 Catholic charity lives out Catholic Social Teaching (8)

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY FOR THIS TOPIC	
CREATION EX NIHILO	Saint Augustine wrote "From nothing, you created heaven and earth."
EVOLUTION	The Pope said "there is no conflict between evolution and faith"
SANCTITY OF LIFE	The Catechism of the Catholic Church says " Human life is sacred because it involves the creative action of God...human life is in a special relationship with God."
	The Bible says "God made humans in his own image." This makes us special.
IMAGO DEI	St Catherine of Siena wrote "The soul knows her own errors by looking into the mirror of goodness that is God." This explains how the conscience works.
ABORTION	God says in the Bible "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you". This means you exist as a person before birth.
	The Catholic Church teaches that "the fertilised egg is neither father or mother. If would not be human if it was not already human.
OMNIPOTENCE	In the Bible: "God said 'let there be light' and there was light." He can create from nothing.
OMNIBENEVOLENCE	In the Bible: "God created trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food".
STEWARDSHIP	The Pope says "once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently...the world is a gift to be shared with others." This is in "laudato si" an encyclical to the Church.
	The Bible says "God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
REVELATION	The Bible says "all scripture is inspired by God". Scripture is writing in the Bible.
	The Catechism says "in order to know the intentions of the Bible writers, the reader needs to think about the time and the culture." This means that some stories in the Bible do not need to be literally true.
CREATION OF ADAM	The Bible says "God formed man from dust and breathed life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being".
THE TREE OF LIFE	Jesus said "I am the vine." The cross made the "vine of the Church" bloom and spread around the world.
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING	The Pope said "there will no peace or justice until we return our sense of dignity and children of God."
RECONCILIATION	Nelson Mandela said "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then they become your partner."
INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE	The Pope said "Together all people want peace...dialogue between different cultures and religions is vital."
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	The Catholic Church says "Feed the people dying of hunger, because if you do not, you are killing them". This was in Gaudium et Spes.

KEYWORDS

Omnipotence—The belief that God is all powerful

Creation ex nihilo—Creation out of nothing. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.

Imago Dei—In the image of God. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.

Inspiration- "God breathed" The belief that spirit of God guides and individual to act or write what is good and true .

Revelation—The word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes himself known to human beings. Christians believe that God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.

Stewardship-The duty to care for creation responsibly , as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.

Transcendence—Existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything else that exists, above and beyond creation.

HOW TO STRUCTURE EXAM QUESTIONS		
QUESTION NUMBER	**WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED**	**MINUTES /MARKS**
(a)	What a **KEY WORD** means. All will be identified at the top of the knowledge organisers and should be learned word-for-word.	2
(b)	Will always ask you to **DESCRIBE** something to do with religion. You should show your knowledge by using religious terms and any relevant teachings from **SOURCES OF AUTHORITY**.	5
(c)	You need to **EXPLAIN** a religious belief or practice. For full marks you should show that religion has a range of views. In Paper 1 you MUST show two religious views. You should use religious terms and refer to **SOURCES OF AUTHORITY.**	8
(d)	You must **DISCUSS** a statement. This means you need to write down views for and against the statement. (These must include non-religious views in the ORIGINS AND MEANING topic) Essay-writing structure such as "P.E.E." work very well here.	15

Answer to Practice Question: Page 3

The statement 'Only God could have created the universe' reflects the belief held by many religious people that a divine being is responsible for the origins of the universe. Catholics, for example, believe that God initiated the Big Bang and guided the process of evolution as part of His divine plan. This view is supported by Fr Georges Lemaitre's discovery of the Big Bang Theory, which some Christians interpret as aligning with the Bible's Creation Story, specifically Genesis 1: "Let there be Light." Additionally, Catholics maintain that humans are unique, possess a soul, and are central to God's creation.

On the other hand, non-religious perspectives, such as those of atheists and scientists like Stephen Hawking and Richard Dawkins, argue that the universe's origins can be explained through scientific principles without the need for a divine creator. Hawking, for instance, suggested that the laws of gravity are sufficient to explain how the universe began. Similarly, Dawkins' theory of evolution posits that natural selection is responsible for the development of life, leaving no room for the concept of a creator.

Fundamentalist Christians reject both the Big Bang Theory and evolution, insisting that the biblical Creation Story is literal and that science must be mistaken. They argue that evidence for evolution, such as fossil records, is insufficient and flawed.

In conclusion, while religious believers see the universe's creation as proof of God's existence and power, non-religious perspectives rely on science to explain the origins of the universe. This debate ultimately hinges on one's worldview and the weight given to faith versus empirical evidence.

Explain Catholic beliefs about *imago Dei* and sanctity of life (8 marks) Page 4

Catholics believe that humans are created in the *imago Dei* (image of God), as stated in Genesis 1:27: "So God created mankind in his own image." This means that humans reflect God's nature in their ability to reason, love, and make moral choices. Being made in the image of God gives every person inherent dignity and worth, regardless of their abilities, age, or circumstances. This belief forms the foundation of Catholic teachings on the value of human life.

The concept of the *sanctity of life* flows from the idea of the *imago Dei*. Catholics hold that all life is sacred because it is created by God and belongs to Him. Life begins at conception, and only God has the authority to give or take life. This belief underpins Catholic opposition to practices like abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment, which are seen as violations of the sacredness of life.

Catherine of Siena, a Doctor of the Church, emphasized the sacred nature of human life in her writings. She described humans as being made with infinite love and called humanity "God's creation" and "His image." Catherine taught that the *imago Dei* means every person is precious