KEY WORDS - unlocking the door to success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resurrection</td>
<td>The belief that after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immortality of the soul</td>
<td>The idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body.</td>
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<td>Purgatory</td>
<td>A place where Catholics believe souls go after death to be purified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heaven</td>
<td>A place of paradise where God rules.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hell</td>
<td>A place of horrors where Satan rules.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paranormal</td>
<td>Unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes e.g. ghosts, mediums.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctity of life</td>
<td>The belief that life is holy and belongs to God.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>The removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive.</td>
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<td>Euthanasia</td>
<td>An easy and gentle death</td>
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<td>Assisted suicide</td>
<td>Providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary euthanasia</td>
<td>The situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end his/her life painlessly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-voluntary euthanasia</td>
<td>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 e.g. switching off a life-support machine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contraception</td>
<td>Preventing conception from occurring.</td>
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SOME PRACTICE QUESTIONS

C2.1 (a) What is meant by immortality of the soul? (2)
(b) Outline Catholic attitudes to euthanasia (6)
(c) Explain why Christians believe in life after death. (8)
(d) “Near death experiences do not show there is life after death.”
Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity. (4)

C2.2 (a) What is contraception? (2)
(b) Some people do not believe in life after death. Outline their reasons. (6)
(c) Explain why Catholics believe that life is sacred. (8)
(d) “People who are suffering should be allowed to take their own lives.”
Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity. (4)
Differences among Christians in their attitudes to life and death, including resurrection, immortality of the soul, purgatory and heaven and hell.

Why Catholics believe in life after death.

Reasons for belief in life after death not specific to any religion including near-death experiences and the paranormal.

All Christians believe in life after death! They see death as:

- a doorway to a new kind of life.

However, some Christians believe in the resurrection of the body and some Christians believe in the immortality of the soul!

**The resurrection of the body** -
- after death, the body stays in the grave
- it will be resurrected on Judgement Day
- the body will then become eternal and the person will be judged!
- the good will go to heaven
- the evil will go to hell

**The immortality of the soul** -
- humans live as body and spirit (soul)
- when the body dies, the spirit lives on
- the spirit will be judged
- the good will go to heaven
- the evil will go to hell

CATHOLICS believe people will be judged by their:

(a) **use of talents** *(Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25)* and

(b) **how they have treated others** *(Parable of the Sheep and Goats - Matthew 25)*

Then, they will go to

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HEAVEN</th>
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<th>PURGATORY</th>
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<td>![Heaven Image]</td>
<td>![Hell Image]</td>
<td>![Purgatory Image]</td>
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</table>
HEAVEN - a place of Paradise where God rules!
- Here, people will enjoy eternal happiness in the presence of God.
- It is a New Jerusalem - where there are no more tears, no more pain, no more suffering. (Revelation 21)

HELL - a place of horrors where Satan rules!
- Here, people suffer eternal punishment in the absence of God.
- It is a place of fire - where people will cry and grind their teeth in torment.

PURGATORY - a place where souls go to be purified
- Here, people are cleansed of their sins.
- It is for those who have not committed mortal sins and on Judgement Day, the souls in purgatory will go to heaven.

Why do Catholics believe in life after death?

a) the resurrection (Jesus rose from the dead - Mark 16)
b) the church teaches there is life after death
c) the Apostles’ Creed talks of the ‘life everlasting’
d) Jesus spoke to one of the robbers when he was on the cross and said “Today, you will be with me in Paradise”

Other reasons for believing in life after death include:
1. near death experiences
2. mediums
3. ghosts and other paranormal experiences

Some people do not believe in life after death because:
a) no-one has come back to prove it
b) science says when the brain is dead, there can be no life
c) there is nowhere for the spirits to go
d) religions disagree about what happens indicating they really don’t know
Catholic teaching on sanctity of life.
Catholics believe - LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD!
They believe this because:

- The nature of abortion, including current British legislation and non-religious arguments concerning abortion.

Abortion is the removal of the foetus from the womb before it can survive. In 2004, there 185,000 abortions in the U.K.

The 1967 Abortion Act stated that an abortion is legal up to 24 weeks into the pregnancy if 2 doctors agree:
- the mother’s life is at risk;
- there is a risk of injury to the mother’s mental or physical health; (95% of abortions are done on this basis)
- there is a risk of harm to an existing child’s mental or physical health;
- there is a substantial risk that the baby would be seriously handicapped. (Only 1% of abortions are done for this reason)

NON-RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTS CONCERNING ABORTION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FOR</th>
<th>AGAINST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is a woman’s right to choose</td>
<td>The unborn child has rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>It is wrong to have unwanted children</td>
<td>Unwanted children could be adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal abortion stops illegal abortion</td>
<td>Women can suffer long-term guilt after abortion</td>
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A key question is:  

**WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN?**

- Is it at *conception*?
- Is it at *some point in the pregnancy*?
- Is it *when the baby would be capable of surviving*?

**Christian attitudes to abortion and the reasons for those attitudes.**

**CATHOLICS OPPOSE ABORTION BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE:**
- life begins at conception
- “ALL HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED” (Humanae Vitae) including the life of the unborn child
- abortion is murder which breaks one of the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20)

**OTHER CHRISTIANS GENERALLY OPPOSE ABORTION BUT ALLOW IT IF:**
- the mother has been raped
- the foetus is so handicapped it would have a life of suffering
- it is the lesser of two evils

**Differences among Christians in their attitudes to contraception, and the reasons for them.**

**CATHOLICS OPPOSE ARTIFICIAL MEANS OF CONTRACEPTION BECAUSE:**
- it prevents participation in God’s creative plan
- it is INONESTUM - out of step with God’s will
- it encourages promiscuity

HOWEVER, *natural means* of contraception (like the *rhythm method*) are permitted.

**OTHER CHRISTIANS ALLOW ARTIFICIAL MEANS OF CONTRACEPTION BECAUSE**
- they enable parents to plan their families responsibly
- they enable committed couples to express their love without fear of pregnancy

*Why are there differences?*

There is no specific Bible teaching about contraception so some Christians believe you should follow *traditional teaching* on family life while others think you should *move with the times*. 
The nature of *euthanasia* (assisted suicide, voluntary and non-voluntary euthanasia), including current British legislation and arguments concerning euthanasia. Differences among Christians in their attitudes to euthanasia and the reasons for them.

!!! SEE KEY WORDS TABLE FOR DEFINITIONS !!!

**EUTHANASIA is not allowed in the U.K.** However, doctors may:
- switch off life support machines in certain situations
- stop feeding those in a persistent vegetative state
- administer life shortening drugs if they are being used to *alleviate pain* (This is known as the Principle of Double Effect.)

Christians generally oppose euthanasia because:
- God gave life (*Genesis 1*) so only God should take it
- “All human life is sacred” (*Humanae Vitae*)
- it is murder which breaks one of the 10 Commandments (*Exodus 20*)
- “Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. You are not your own!” (*1 Corinthians 6*)

However, some Christians would say:
- you do not need to go to *excessive lengths* to prolong life
- if there are *no signs of life*, it is OK to turn off a life support machine
- a suffering person they should be given drugs to help them even if they shorten life
- turning off a life support machine may be the *lesser of two evils*.

**Why are there differences?**
- Because some Christians believe you should follow biblical teaching *literally*.
- Other Christians believe you should follow the *main ideas* of the teaching of Jesus and apply them to modern situations
  - e.g. Jesus *came to end suffering* and turning off a life support machine may end suffering
  - **AGAPE** love should be the guiding principle

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**C2.3**

(a) What does *resurrection* mean? (2)
(b) Outline British law on abortion (6)
(c) Explain why there are different attitudes to contraception in Christianity. (8)
(d) “*When you’re dead, you’re dead and that’s the end of you.*”
Do you agree? *Give* reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity. (4)

**C2.4**

(a) What is *sanctity of life*? (2)
(b) Outline different attitudes to euthanasia in Christianity. (6)
(c) Explain why there are different attitudes about what happens after death in Christianity (8)
(d) “*Every woman should have the right to an abortion if she wants one.*”
Do you agree? *Give* reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity. (4)