1. **RELIGION and MEDICINE**

Scientific advancement provides religious believers with moral problems – does religion make decisions easier or more difficult for them regarding ABORTION EUTHANASIA IVF

**\*\*\*\* ’Sanctity of life’ \*\*\*\***

This is a **biggie** and not just for MEDICINE topic \***APPLIES ALL RELIGIONS\***

**Life is sacred and holy and**

**a Gift from God (God given) and only**

**He (God) can take it away**

(abortion and euthanasia in this topic)

**\*\* ‘Free will’ \*\***

This is also a **biggie** and not just for MEDICINE topic

**Belief that HUMANS HAVE CHOICES in life which are God given** (some believers say then that we can choose to do right and follow God) (abortion and euthanasia in this topic)

These are definitions relevant to MEDICINE topic

Medical ethics A code of conduct deciding what is good medicine and treatment – believers apply their religious values to medical issues too Hippocratic Oath

A promise doctors make to preserve life at all costs and to treat patients to the best of their ability

These are definitions relevant to MEDICINE topic

Conscience An ‘inner voice’ that helps you chose right from wrong - believers say this is God given

Quality of life When life has meaning and is pleasurable e.g. freedom from pain

**These are not just to be learnt to answer (a) questions! – they must be used by you in your answers to show understanding of topic – they are key phrases and examiner wants to see them**

Example of an **(a)** type question - **DEFINITION**: Explain what religious believers mean by ……… Sanctity of life Free will Conscience Medical ethics Quality of life Hippocratic Oath

Have a go to know you can define them without peeking

Protestant & Catholic considered separate religious traditions for **(d)** type question - **ALL ABOUT FACTS** Protestants are more modern thinking and open to interpretation of teachings written a long time ago. Catholics consider this is disrespectful to God, just because they are old does not mean they are ‘OUT OF DATE’ as they are GOD’S WORD. They still apply today and the World would be a better place if we followed them so **AGAINST ABORTION, IVF AND EUTHANASIA BECAUSE AGAINST GOD’S WILL**

Medicine is advancing and we can save those who would have died before – leads to ethical and moral problems and therefore big struggles for believers When do you turn off life support? Must you preserve life when it has no quality? What if person wants to die, should they have choice? Are we playing God? Should organ donation be compulsory? DOES RELIGION HELP THEM TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS OR MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT?

What about abortion, euthanasia and IVF? …..read on

DOES RELIGION HELP THEM TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS OR MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT?

How do they decide what is right? Well how do they decide about **any moral uncertainty** e.g. contraception or capital punishment or homosexuality etc.?

1. Look to sacred texts like Bible (problem is that sometimes modern day issues are hard to relate to and Christians may think ‘What would Jesus do?’
2. Discuss with their religious community i.e. who they pray with & religious leaders within that community
3. Pray to God for guidance ‘to do the right thing’
4. Consider the effects on others of their decision
5. Their conscience ‘what they can live with’

**CATHOLICS (PRO- LIFE)** Abortion not accepted **Life is God given and only He (God) can take it away ‘sanctity of life’ Life has rights from first moment of existence**

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially (d) **ABORTION all to with choice and human rights**



Controversial statement questions like **(c) but especially (e)** don’t mind non-religious facts (secular), general moral views or even a bit of controversy back from you **along with religious (R) facts – these form the F and A arguments from FA(R)M – for example: Taking of a life is against the law in other situations It would have psychological effects on mother (and father) The mother should have the choice – it is her body and she has more rights than an unborn child – or does she? Do the unborn have human rights as they are not a developed human being as they need mother to survive? Unborn not mentioned in the Declaration of Human Rights Life is created at conception when sperm and egg fuse and that means they have human rights then?**

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially (d) **EUTHANASIA (assisted death)**

Controversial statement questions like **(c) but especially (e)** don’t mind non-religious facts (secular), general moral views or even a bit of controversy back from you **along with religious (R) facts – the F and A from FA(R)M - e.g. Only doctors should decide who lives and dies – they will take quality of life into consideration for what is best for that person and not their religion- they will be treated equally and fairly Life is too sacred to be placed in hands of humans – it could be abused or the person feel they have to agree because they feel a burden, they could have changed their mind later God is supposed to be loving – he would not want suffering and has given free will for us to make our own choices when we die – our bodies belong to us to die with dignity and peacefully Someone has to assist and they are taking a life which is illegal**

**PROTESTANTS (PRO- CHOICE) Life is sacred and a gift from God but God is loving and would not want us to suffer unnecessarily God gave us FREE WILL to decide what to do with our lives**

**CATHOLICS (PRO- LIFE)** Euthanasia not accepted

 **Life is God given and only He (God) can take it away ‘sanctity of life’ The aim should be to aid suffering with medical care**

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**PROTESTANTS Life is sacred and a gift from God but God is loving and** **would not want the couple to suffer by being unhappy God gave us the technology for a reason and we should use it**

**CATHOLICS** IVF not accepted

**If God had wanted you to have a baby he would have let you get pregnant Left over eggs do not survive and this is against the will of God**

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially (d) **In-Vitro Fertilisation (eggs fertilised outside womb)**

Controversial statement questions like **(c) but especially (e)** don’t mind non-religious facts (secular), general moral views or even a bit of controversy back from you **along with religious (R) facts – these form the F and A arguments from FA(R)M - e.g. There are enough children starving who could be adopted without bringing more that were not meant to be So much money is spent on IVF which could be better spent on something else like diseases that kill and on the starving and on the homeless Why can’t IVF be God given technology? Children should always know who their parents are for their own wellbeing and sometimes an anonymous donor sperm is used which would prevent this**

‘ALL LIFE IS SPECIAL’

**(c)**

Give two reasons why a religious believer might agree or disagree with this statement (maybe 2 agree or 2 disagree or 1 of each)

* All religions regard life as holy and sacred and God given. Animal life is regarded as less important than human life as we are made in God’s image and have souls but nevertheless all life is special
* Even with all our technology we cannot come close to making it. Life has never been found anywhere else in the universe so all life is special (look how non-religious views are okay in a controversial question **along with a religious**)

**(b)** Explain how having a religious faith might influence someone making a choice concerning medical ethics. (These **(b)‘s** are about **IMPACT OF FAITH** on life – must refer **mostly** to religious facts) They would be deciding what the best medical treatment would be but their decisions would be influenced by their beliefs based on **teachings** and the advice **of religious leaders** and their own **religious community** e.g. would it go against the sanctity of life? A Catholic would struggle to accept abortion and euthanasia for this reason. A Protestant on the other hand would have more liberal views and believe that they would be acceptable in some circumstances. People **may pray** for an answer and think of the **effect on others** and on their **own conscience**.( Religion may make these decisions more difficult as additional things to consider? )

**(e)** ‘Religion should not play a role in medical decisions – only doctors should decide who lives or dies’ Do you agree? Give reasons for you answer, showing more than one point of view and including religious beliefs. **(FARM)** For view general – doctors are experts and will only do what is right for individual as they are not involved personally. They will take quality of life into consideration Against view general – if you are religious then your beliefs matter as they guide your life. All religions have opinions when life begins and whether organ donation is acceptable etc. and these are important to that person. Religious fact – all religions believe in the sanctity of life and that it is too important to be placed in the hands of humans as it may not be part of the divine plan for our existence so religion should play a role Religious fact – teachings do not relate well to scientific advances because written too long ago. Teachings have to be interpreted - like Protestants who are more liberal with their views than Catholics on modern issues such as medicine and allow religion to play a lesser role My opinion – what do you think?? Religion guides almost every aspect of some people’s lives – is it okay as long as it affects no one else adversely??

**(b)** Explain how having a religious faith might influence a view on the sanctity of life (these **(b) ‘s** are about **IMPACT OF FAITH** on life – must refer **mostly** to religious facts) All religions believe in the sanctity of life – that life is special and God-given and only God decides when it ends. Some religions take that at its word e.g. Catholics who are against IVF, abortion and euthanasia. Some religions are more liberal with more modern views e.g. Protestants would for example take the mother’s wellbeing into account with abortions and quality of life with euthanasia.

(SANCTITY OF LIFE COULD BE ASKED WITH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND WAR as involves taking of life – see later)