

Creation- Revision

Creation in Genesis 1

- Omnipotent- God creates the world *ex nihilo*. "And it was good" means that God had the power to create just as he wanted.
- Transcendent- "Let there be..." God does not need anything but his own words to create.
- Benevolent- "And it was good..."

Questions:

1. What do omnipotent, benevolent, transcendent and omniscient mean?
2. What is the scientific explanation for creation?
3. Find evidence of God's nature in the text.

Links to Scripture and Teachings

- Genesis 1: 1-31

Genesis 2

- Benevolent- God creates Adam and Eve personally. This is emphasised when God breathes life into Adam; sharing the Spirit of God.
- Free Will- He instructs Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge but the choice is still given to him.

- Shows the intimate relationship we have with God.

Questions:

1. How do we now that we are created in God's image?
2. Does this mean that we are only made to look like God?
3. Find evidence of God's nature in the text.

Significance of the Creation Stories

- Stewardship- God gives Adam and Eve dominion over the earth. We have responsibility to ensure that His perfect creation is respected.
- Dignity of Human Beings- We are made in the image and likeness of God; this means no one should be mistreated. The role of sex is to unite man and woman- this should not be undervalued. Due to free will, we are all entitled to express our beliefs freely.
- Sanctity of Life- all life is blessed by God and human life is sacred. Every stage of life from conception to death must be treated with respect.

Questions:

- Find evidence in Genesis 1 and 2 for these beliefs.



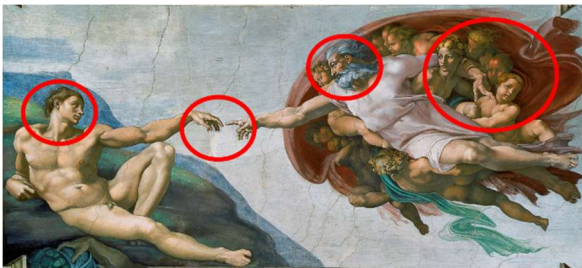
Links to Scripture and Teachings

- Laudato Si 67-68: "This responsibility for

God's earth means that human beings... must respect the laws of nature."

- Youcat 280: "Every person, from the first moment of his life in the womb, has inviolable dignity."

Creation and Art



Michelangelo's Creation of Adam

- Adam is shown to be the perfect man.
- Adam is not fully alive; he is waiting for the touch of life from God. Hands reaching out also shows close relationship.
- God is grey, showing wisdom and muscular showing his strength.
- The angels carrying God emphasises his transcendence.
- Adam and God are shown to look similar to each other.

Jean Baptiste Carponnier

- Animals in background and humans at front emphasise their importance.
- Physical similarity between God and Adam and Eve but also shown to be subservient and dependent on God.
- The snake links to the fall of man and disobedience in Genesis 3.

Hildreth Meire's Mosaic

- Depicts the hand of work at God.



- The lines going out show his influence and power over everything he touches.

Questions:

1. Which art do you think best portrays God's nature? Justify your answer.
2. Why would some find the use of art to portray God offensive?
3. How can art help a believer?

Links to Scripture and Teachings

- Genesis creation stories.

Origins and Structure of the Bible

- The Bible was written between 1000 BCE and 100 BCE. The

individual books were written for different purposes and audience.

- **Old Testament-** deals with the way God interacts with the Jewish people.
- Law- first five books show how the Jews became people of God and how God wanted them to live.
- History- show how God guided his people and how they often failed to listen to Him.
- Wisdom- prayers, psalms, books of advice and poems. This shows people how to use God-given talents.
- Prophets- contains words of inspired figures who were sent to teach people about how God is active in the world.
- **New Testament-** Jesus and early Christians used the OT to show how Jesus fulfilled God's promises. In the NT they detail his life, teachings and how this can be applied.
- Gospels- record the actions and teachings of Jesus.
- Acts of the Apostles- tell the events of the Early Church.
- Epistles (letters)- show Christians how to live life by Jesus' standards.

- Book of Revelation- writings from John's mystical visions describing how the world will end.
- Not all early Christian writings were accepted by the Church they must pass the following criteria;
 - Its material must come from an apostle.
 - Written early on e.g. before the end of the 1st century.
 - They matched the other writings about Christian beliefs.
 - They were accepted by all the Christian Churches.

Links to Scripture and Teachings

- Youcat 15: The Bible is not meant to provide precise scientific and historical information because they were written by certain people at certain times.

Bible as the Word of God

- The Bible is the way that God speaks to his people; it allows the Holy Spirit to inspire people.
- Prophets- inspired to see God in a special way and encourage people to stay faithful. They

passed on God's message and word.

- Gospels- Jesus is the word of God made flesh. In Jesus, God is able to speak directly to people. The gospels present the teachings and action of Jesus; God on earth.
- Epistles (letters)- these are the writings of the apostles and were early witnesses' to Jesus' life.
- Magisterium-Holy Spirit is seen to be constantly working through the Catholic Church. It is through the Magisterium that the true message of the Bible is to be interpreted.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Dei Verbum 11- books of scripture must be seen as teachings God's message without error.
- Dei Verbum 9- Apostolic succession means the writings of the Apostles and the Church have authority and truth.

Questions:

1. What is Apostolic Succession?
2. How does this given the modern teachings of the Church authority?

3. How can we know that the Bible is without error?

Interpreting the Creation Stories

- Catholic Interpretation- Considered to be a myth and there is no contradiction between the two. They both contain eternal truths; God made everything, He made it good and humans are the most important part of His creation. The stories should not be interpreted literally.
- Fundamentalist Interpretation- They believe that the Word of God must be totally accurate, God loves all humans and would not mislead them; the Bible must not be interpreted.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Dei Verbum 12- where people interpret the Bible they should carefully take into account what the writer intended.
- Pope Francis- evolution and the big bang theory do not contradict the idea that God created the world. We need someone powerful to have created the conditions to make evolution and the Big Bang possible.

Questions:

1. What is the theory of evolution?
2. What is the Big Bang theory?
3. Which interpretation of the Bible do you agree with? Justify your answer.

- *Gaudium et Spes* 36- Where things are investigated in a proper scientific manner then they will not contradict with faith.

Questions:

1. Research the following religious scientists; St. Albert the Great, Jean Baptiste Lamarck, Friar Gregor Mendel and Georges Lemaitre.

Natural Law and Science

- Humans find fulfilment in becoming what God wants them to be- living in peace with all His creation.
- Natural Law: Basic law- 'Do good, avoid evil'. Implies that each of us know what is good.
- W- worship God
O- Live in an ordered society
R- reproduce
L- learn (educate)
D- defend the innocent.
- During the Second Vatican Council, the need for religion and science to support each other was emphasised. Science and religion may have different answers because they are asking different questions- science explains the how and religion the why.

Caring for the Environment

- All of nature was created by God therefore, should not be rejected or neglected by humans.
- Valuing nature means caring for the environment.
- 'Love thy Neighbour'- changes to the environment can have devastating effects for humans too. We need to work to help those around us as well as future generations.
- Words should turn into action- we need to actively work to help the environment.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 333- If people are to do good and avoid evil then what is good and bad must be already within them.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- *Laudato Si* 76- 'Creation' has a broader meaning than 'nature'

because it links to God's loving plan for every creature.

- Mark 12: 29-31- Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts as well as love our neighbour.
- Laudato Si 159- The world is a gift we have received and must share with others.

Questions:

1. How has the Vatican tried to help the environment?
2. Give three examples of how a Catholic can work to help the environment.

Meaning of Stewardship

- As Christians we must actively work to help the environment since we are interdependent on it.
- Local Level- reduce amount of rubbish we produce, recycle more, use public transport, take part in local campaigns.
- National Level- put pressure on politicians to support laws that help the environment, buy environmentally friendly products.
- Global Level- Put pressure on governments to support and implement global policies,

boycott multinational companies that harm the environment.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- 1 Peter 4: 10- Good stewards serve each other with the gifts God has given.
- CCC 340- no creature is self-sufficient. We are all dependent on each other.
- Pope Francis- each person's talents are needed to help reverse the problems caused by human abuse of God's creation.

Questions:

1. Research the Rio+20 conference. How did this help address climate change on a global level?

CAFOD and Sustainability

- Sustainability is the ability of the world to carry on working on in the right balance. We need to ensure that we are using resources in a way that allows this to continue.
- Sustainability projects aim to reverse damage that has already been done to the environment, reduce poverty and reduce the fight over resources across the world.

- Pope Francis believes that we must put the needs of the poorest first politically and socially.
- CAFOD- they encourage people to live more simply, work with international organisations to ensure sustainability is addressed, work with groups like MONLAR.

Questions:

1. What does CAFOD stand for?
2. What is MONLAR?
3. What are the sustainable development goals?

Exam Questions

1. Explain two ways in which the idea of stewardship influences the work of CAFOD. (4)
2. Explain two ways the commandment 'Love Thy Neighbour' influences attitudes to stewardship. (4)
3. Explain two ways in which Cafod's work on sustainability expresses Christian beliefs. (5)
4. Explain two similarities or difference between Michaelangelo's Creation of Adam and one other piece of art. (5)
5. Explain two ways Genesis expresses Christian beliefs about God. Refer to Catholic beliefs in your answer (5).
6. 'The fundamentalist approach is the only meaningful way to appreciate

the Genesis creation stories.'

Evaluate this Statement (12)

7. 'The most important gift God gave to humans was free will.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
8. "The old testament books contain nothing that Christians need." Evaluate this Statement. (12)
9. 'There is no need for Catholics to support sustainability programmes.' Evaluate this statement. (12 Marks)
10. "Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* provides a good understanding of Catholic teaching about humanity." Evaluate this statement. (12)

Create your own exam questions:

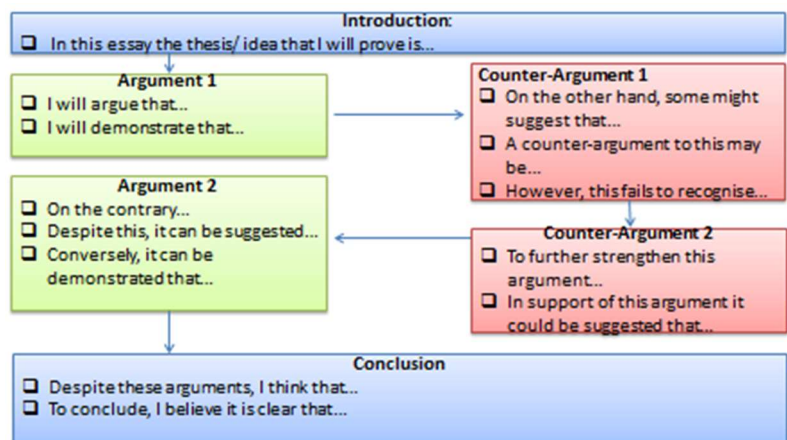
How does X influence Y? (4)

Explain 2 ways in which.... Might influence...(4)

Explain 2 similarities/differences...

Explain how expresses beliefs about..... (5)

Exam Skills



OR

Intro: In this essay I am going to agree/disagree with the statement...

ACR 1

The first argument to support my thesis is...

Others would argue against this by saying...

I don't accept this counter-argument because...

ACR 2

Furthermore, I would argue that...

Again, others would disagree because...

However, their arguments are not good arguments because...

Conclusion: Overall, I think that...