Knowledge organiser: GCSE Catholic Christianity Unit 1 - Creation

Sub topics

- The origins and structure of the Bible
- The Bible as the Word of God
- Interpreting the Genesis creation accounts
- Genesis 1 and the nature of God
- Genesis 2 and the nature of humans
- Imago dei and human dignity
- Stewardship and caring for the environment
- CAFOD and sustainability
- Michelangelo's creation of Adam
- Different pieces of art on creation
- Natural law
- The Catholic Church and science
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Key words

Creation - Bringing the world into existence; the belief that the world is God's loving creation.
Creator – Understanding of the nature of God, the belief that he created the universe.
Image of God/imago dei
The belief that humans share some of the qualities of God; it is stated in Genesis 1:27 "So God created humankind in his image."
Natural law - Belief in a natural order to the world, and a natural moral law, given by God.
Omnipotent - All-powerful; an attribute of God.
Stewardship – The idea that humans have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.
Sustainability - Working to develop ways of living that help protect natural resources and ecological balance, often with long-term goals in mind.
Transcendent - An attribute of God; belief that God is beyond time and space, he is unlimited.
Magisterium - Teaching and authority of the Catholic church; includes conciliar magisterium where bishops of the church form a council to make decisions about teachings, and pontifical magisterium which is papal infallible teaching.
Sanctity of life - The belief that all human life is precious and holy/sacred as it is created by God.

Assessed tasks

1. **12-mark essay question**
2. **Creation EMA**

Students may be set additional assessed tasks by their class teacher which will help the class teacher to assess their progress and inform their planning.

Opportunities for independent learning/Stretch and challenge

- A deeper knowledge and personal assessment of 'Laudato Si'. (CAFOD website)
- Create a history/timeline of scientific discoveries and theories relating to the creation and sustenance of the Universe.
- Design a sustainable approach to a specific issue within the developing world.
- Investigate alternative Creation stories from Non-Judeo/Christian traditions.
- Research the cosmological and teleological arguments and evaluate their impact on a Christian understanding of creation

The Bible

- The Bible us a collection of many small books. The Catholic Church recognise 73 books in the Bible.
- These books were written over 1000 years and were written for different audiences and different purposes. There are therefore different literary types in the Bible including history, poetry, psalms, law and prophecy.
- The Old Testament is the first main section of the Bible and deals with the ways that God related to the Jewish people throughout their history before the coming of Jesus.
- The New Testament is the second main section and is focused on the life and teaching of Jesus and the apostles.
- Catholics regard the Bible as the word of God, as God divinely inspired the writers and guided them to communicate the will of God. Catholics therefore make use of the Bible alongside the magisterium to help understand God's will.

Genesis 1 and 2- The nature of God and nature of humans

- The first chapters of Genesis- the 1st book of the Bible introduces the Christian stories of creation.
- In Genesis 1 we read of the seven-day creation story. From Genesis 1 Christians can understand the nature of God and some of his key attributed including omnipotence, omnibenevolence and transcendence.
- In Genesis 1 we also learn of God's love for humanity. Humanity were created imago dei and are therefore a special creation. Catholics believe that as humans are created Imago dei, all human life must be respected and protected at all times.
- Genesis 2 contains the second creation story. In this creation story we learn that humans were created with free will so that they could have a meaningful and loving relationship with God.
- There are debates amongst Christians as to how the Genesis creation stories should be interpreted. Some interpret them literally whilst some regard them as myths to be interpreted.

Science and Natural Law

- Many suggest that there exists a conflict between Religion and science based on the creation stories in Genesis.
- The Catholic Church teaches that there is no conflict between Religion and science and that they can work in harmony
- Many Catholics throughout history have contributed significant developments to scientific research

Stewardship, CAFOD and Sustainability

- In Genesis 1 and 2, students are given the responsibility to care for creation.
- By caring for creation, Christians are fulfilling the greatest commandment to love THY neighbour. Humans are part of God's creation and those most affected by environmental issues are the poor.
- Sustainability is a key aspect of stewardship. It is the ability to carry on working in the right balance. CAFOD supports many sustainability initiatives.

Creation and Art

- Michelangelo's creation of Adam is a painting that represents key Christian beliefs about creation.

The painting communicates key Christian beliefs about creation, including the creation of humans in the image and likeness of God and God's omnipotence.
Some regard the painting as inaccurate as it doesn't accurately reflect scripture
Another key piece of art associated with Creation is Hildreth Meiere's mosaic depicting God's hand. This also reflects God's nature as creation.