

■ The origin and value of human life
 ► What is sanctity of life?

Who owns my body? Am I special? Are we simply the sum of the chemicals and minerals that make up our bodies or do we have greater worth than that? Whose life is it anyway?



Key Concept



Sanctity of life The belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.

Medical ethics the process of deciding what is good and acceptable in medicine.

Most people, whether they hold a religious belief or not, would accept that human life is special and worthy of being preserved. For religious believers, life is special because it comes ultimately from God. Life is a gift and is unique and priceless. For those without a religious faith, life is no less precious, but its importance does not hail from God. Life is priceless because it is the only life we have.

This belief leads us to go to extraordinary lengths to protect and preserve human life. It also has a huge impact on various **medical ethics** issues, especially those which relate to life-creating or life-ending procedures.

Task

For both of the religions (or denominations) you are studying, explain in detail religious teachings about **sanctity of life**. Use the guidance below to help you to write a **developed explanation** for Christianity. Ensure that you use key terms fluently and frequently.

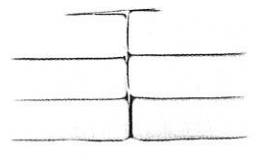
All/many/most Christians believe that This comes from the teaching/Bible quote This means that/Because of this they

Some/other Christians such as believe that This comes from the teaching/Bible quote This means that/Because of this they

Finally, Christians such as believe that This means that/ Because of this they Beliefs do/do not differ because

► What makes us human?

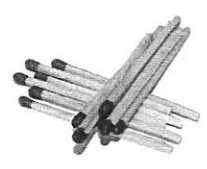
Ingredients for human beings:



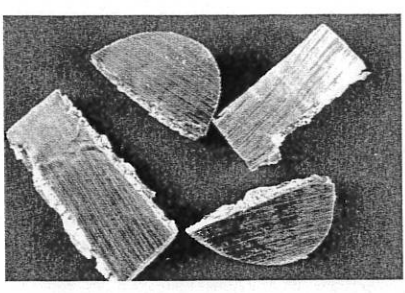
Seven bars of soap



Lime – to whitewash a chicken coop



Phosphorous – for 2,200 match heads



Magnesium – a small dose



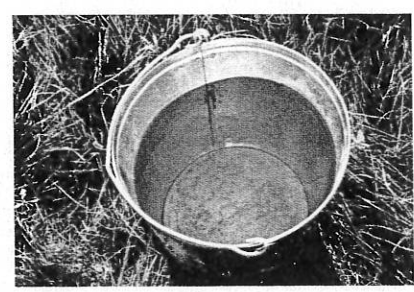
Iron – for a medium-sized nail



Potassium – to explode a small toy cannon



Sugar – to fill a sugar sifter



Water – five buckets



Sulphur – a pinch

► Religious teachings about the sanctity of life

The sacred texts of Christianity, Islam and Judaism all emphasise the sanctity of human life.

What is missing?

The nine images above show the physical elements that make up human beings. What do you think is missing?

Christian attitudes to the sanctity of life



Christians believe that life is created by God, protected by God and valued by God. God is interested and involved in each human's life. God has created each individual person, and made them unique in their own right, just as he made Adam and Eve. Genesis 1:27 states that God created humankind in his own image. For literalist Christians this means that every human being who has ever walked the earth bears God's image. It is for this reason that all Christians, irrespective of denomination, believe that life is sacred and is a gift from God.

