1) Origins and Meanings

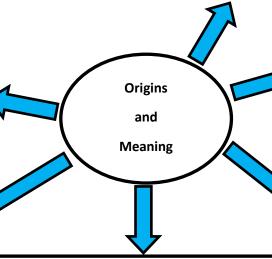
- 1. Catholic beliefs about the origin of the Universe. St Augustine and ex nihilo (Confession 12, 7).
- 2. What do fundamentalist Christians believe?
- 3. Non-Religious views: Stephen Hawking's theory of the Big Bang.
- The theory of evolution: Charles Darwin and Richard Dawkins, versus Catholic beliefs with reference to Pope John Paul II's message.
- 5. Sanctity of Human Life. What are the Catholic beliefs about the origin and sanctity of human life and the concept of imago dei as found in the writings of St Catherine of Sienna?
- 6. Catholic teachings on abortion. Non-religious views towards abortion. Pro-life versus pro-choice.
- 7. Humanist attitudes (Peter Singer) about sanctity of life. Speciesism: What is it? How do Christians respond to these beliefs?

2) Beliefs: Creation

- 1. Compare the two Genesis creation stories. How do they represent God and human beings? Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 1:3 and Genesis 2:4-24.
- 2. What do the creation stories teach us about the nature of human beings and their relationship with creation?
- 3. How are we damaging the environment? Can you compare Catholic and Humanist beliefs on the importance of preserving the planet and the environment?

3) Sources: The Bible

- 1. What is revelation?
- 2. What is inspiration?
- 3. How is the Bible structured?
- 4. Know the origins of scripture and the different types of writing.
- 5. Why is it important to understand that the Genesis story is a symbolic story?



4) Forms: Painting

- Michelangelo's Creation of Adam.
- 2. How does this painting express Catholic beliefs about creation, God and human beings?

Key Words / Concepts

- Creation ex nihilo
- Evolution
- Imago Dei
- Inspiration
- Omnipotence
- Revelation
- Stewardship
- Transcendence

<u>6) Practices: Loving and Serving in Catholic Communities in Britain</u> and Elsewhere

1. What does Gaudium et spes teach us about justice, peace and reconciliation?

- 2. The importance of interfaith dialogue.
- 3. The work of CAFOD: Love of neighbour.
- 4. The work of SVP: Love of neighbour.
- 5. The influence of the concept of imago dei on all of the above.

5) Forms: Symbolism

- The Tree of Life Apse mosaic in San Clemente in Rome.
- 2. Explain the symbols of Alpha and Omega Chi Rho, lamb, dove and the 4 Evangelists.
- 3. How does the Cross of Jesus how Jesus as the New Adam?