

Y9 RE Knowledge Organiser HT3 - Abortion

Key words

Abortion: An abortion is the medical process of ending a pregnancy so it does not result in the birth of a baby.

Pro-life: opposing abortion.

Pro-choice: supporting the right of a woman to have an abortion.

Abortion Facts

- Abortion is legally available in the UK until birth.
- Abortion was legalised in the UK in 1967.
- Abortion is only available after 24 weeks if the baby or mother is at risk of death or disability.
- Most abortions are carried out before 8 weeks.
- The Abortion Act 1967 covers England, Scotland and Wales but not Northern Ireland, and states:
 - abortions must be carried out in a hospital or a specialist licensed clinic.
 - two doctors must agree that an abortion would cause less damage to a woman's physical or mental health than continuing with the pregnancy.



Arguments for abortion (pro-choice)

- Women should have the right to choose- it is their body.
- In cases of rape, abortion should be allowed.
- It is kinder to allow abortion if the child will be severely disabled.
- Babies have the right to be loved and cared for and the woman cannot always provide this.

Arguments against abortion

- Life begins at conception.
- An embryo has the potential to be a human and should have the right to life.
- Even disabled children have right to life.
- Adoption is alternative.

Questions for debate

1. Should abortions of any kind be permitted?
2. Does a woman have a right to her body that includes a right to abortion?
3. Is abortion OK in dealing with "unwanted" children? Vs. adoption?
4. Is abortion justified in order to save the life of a mother?
5. Is abortion justified when an unborn child suffers a disability?

The Sanctity of Life

Christians believe that all people are made 'in the image of God'. They believe that their 'body is a temple' which has God's spirit in it, and that every life was planned by God and so is a gift from him. The term 'sanctity of life' means that life is holy and should be respected. Christians believe that they should try to preserve life, not destroy it.

What do the churches think?

ROMAN CATHOLIC:

Believe abortion is murder, The Bible says 'Do not kill' and they believe life starts from conception. Life is a gift from God. = **'PRO-LIFE'**

CHURCH of ENGLAND:

The church provides strong opposition to abortion. They believe life is God given; it should be protected and nurtured. However, we should show compassion. CofE recognises that a number of abortions should be carried out early in pregnancy.

OTHER GROUPS:

Believe women should be fully informed about all options and let God guide them or have the choice to decide. It says you cannot make one set of rules as all cases are different. = **'PRO-CHOICE'**

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