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| Abortion | Deliberate ending of a pregnancy, intended to prevent new life. |
| Afterlife | Beliefs about what happens to ‘us’ after our body has died. |
| Animal rights | Belief that animals should be treated with respect, so have rights to adequate food/water/shelter/rest/freedom. |
| Awe | Sense of wonderment, often linked to the feeling that God is involved/revealed. |
| Big Bang Theory | Scientific theory about the origins of the universe – that the universe was created in a huge explosion. |
| Charles Darwin | The man who proposed the theory of evolution (19th century). |
| Creation | Belief that God created the world/universe from nothing, eg Genesis creation story. |
| Conception | Point at which sperm fertilises an egg to begin pregnancy. |
| Conservation | The practice of repairing/protecting the natural environment and/or animal species. |
| Dominion | Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world. |
| Environment | The world around us, can be natural or artificial. |
| Euthanasia | Mercy killing; ending the life of a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness. Can be voluntary (person seeks this), or non-voluntary (person is on life support so family makes decision). Can be active (what is done kills directly), or passive (medical support removed to allow natural death). |
| Evolution | Scientific theory of the development of species, which comprises natural selection and survival of the fittest. |
| Fossil fuels | Coal, oil, gas – fuels that developed over millions of years beneath the earth’s surface. |
| Hospice | Place of medical care for the dying, but which also gives emotional support to the dying and their families. |
| Natural resources | Resources which are found in nature – fossil fuels, plants etc. |
| Pesticide | Chemicals used to kill pests, especially on farmed crops. |
| Pro-life | Stance of being anti-abortion and/or anti-euthanasia; many pressure groups exist with this view, eg SPUC. |
| Pro-choice | Stance of being for a woman’s right to decide what happens to her own body, which extends to the right to have an abortion. |
| Quality of life | How good or comfortable a person’s life is. |
| Right to die | Belief that a human has the right to end their life, or seek it to be ended if they want that. |
| Sanctity of life | Belief that life is sacred/special, because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals. |
| Science | Knowledge that comes from observed regularity in nature and experimentation. |
| Stewardship | Duty given by God to mankind to look after the created world, and all life within it. |
| Sustainable energy | Resources that are renewable and will not run out, eg solar, wind, etc. |