Religion and Animal Rights  Key words

Animal experiments Testing on animals, either for medical or cosmetic purposes, to ensure that the product is safe for use by humans.
Animal exports The selling of animals to other countries.
Animal rights The belief that animals have a dignity just as humans do and should be given care and protection.
Assisi Declarations Statements about the need to protect animals and the environment made on behalf of the different major religions.
Bull fighting Associated in particular with Spain, matadors fight bulls (and eventually kill them) to entertain the crowds.
Cloning The scientific method by which animals or plants can be created which have exactly the same genetic make up as the original, because the DNA of the original is used.
Conservation Looking after the environment and protecting animals.
Creation Belief that God created the universe and everything in it.
Evolution (evolved) Theory that says living things change gradually over a long time.
Extinction When all members of a species have died out and that species will never exist on Earth again.
Factory farming When animals are used for meat or dairy products, but are kept indoors in very small spaces.
Genetic modification Plants and animals that have had their natural make-up altered by scientists.
Hunting The chasing of animals to kill them, which may be done for food, protection or human pleasure.
Natural habitats The places where species of plants or animals live in the wild.
Ohito Declaration A statement of religious concern for the protection of the environment.
Oil spills Leaking of oil into the environment, usually the sea.
Origins of life How life began.
Preservation Look after the environment and life in order to keep it safe.
Pressure groups Collections of people outside government who campaign for changes in society.
Sacred Holy, precious because given by God.
Sanctity of life Life is sacred because it is God-given.
Stewardship The idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.
Vegan A person who will not use any animal product.
Vegetarianism The belief held by people that do not eat meat.
Vivisection The cutting up of animals for scientific experiments.
Zoos Places in which wild animals are kept to display to the public.

Religious beliefs/ teachings and animals.
1. In the Bible God said “I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds and all the wild animals.”
2. The Bible teaches that animals deserve a day off on the Sabbath, just like people.
3. Muslims are taught “If someone kills a sparrow for sport, the sparrow will cry out on the Day of Judgement “Oh Lord, that person killed me for nothing. He did not kill me for any useful purpose.”
4. Jesus talked about birds saying they do not have to worry about food because God looks after them. We are more important to God.
5. In the Bible God tells humans they can eat meat as well as plants. God also gave humans canine teeth.
6. Buddhism believes in ahimsa which means non violence.
7. Buddhism teaches “All breathing, existing, living creatures should not be killed or treated with violence, nor abused, nor tormented.”
8. Buddhists believe in reincarnation. In the past some animals may have been your friend.
9. Hinduism teaches “No person should kill animals helpful to all. Rather by serving them one should attain happiness.”
10. Jesus did not eat the Passover Lamb at the Last Supper.
11. Jesus threw the traders out of the temple because they were selling animals to be sacrificed to God.
12. If Jesus was a vegetarian why did he multiply fish in a miracle at the feeding of the 5000?
13. The Christian Thomas Aquinas said “It doesn’t matter if we treat animals badly because, unlike humans they do not have souls.”
14. Christians believe in the sanctity of human life. It is sacred and special to God. So animal life is not as important as human life.
1. Give two reasons why some animals are kept in zoos.
   So they can be seen by the public / entertainment / education purposes / to
   preserve species / breeding programme / help understand them / because they are
dangerous / rescue. One mark for each of two valid reasons. (2 marks)

2. Explain religious attitudes to experiments on animals. Refer to religious beliefs and
teachings in your answer. Suffering of animals / different types of experimentation /
important medical research may be justified / could benefit animals as well / results
on animals might be different from that on humans / research for make-up and
luxury goods may not be acceptable / stewardship / dominion. Max Level 3 if no
religious teachings or beliefs. (4 marks)

   Christians view animals as part of God’s creation. They believe part of their duty, as stewards of creation, is to protect
animals, not exploit them. Christians may agree on the use of animals for medical experiments, but would insist on humane conditions / many oppose tests for make-up, etc. Many campaign against cruelty. The RSPCA started as a Christian response to animal cruelty. A minority sees Genesis as meaning that as we are in charge of animals we can do what we want: Psalm 8 – man is lord over animals and fish, etc. Proverbs 12v10 – a good man is kind to his animals. Luke 12:6 God cares about sparrows. ‘Love thy neighbour’, ‘do not kill’ acceptable if in context, e.g. Quakers.

3. ‘Religious believers should not buy clothes made from real fur.’ What do you
   think? Explain your opinion. Involves slaughter of animals / often threatened species /
often result of poaching / question of legality / respect for created life / principle of
ahimsa / fake fur is just as good / socially unacceptable etc.

   Some animals bred for their fur / no different than keeping animals for meat or using
their skins for leather / if an animal is killed for its meat why not use its fur? /
traditional / cultural / dominion / economic benefits / keeps people warm etc. NB
Two sided evaluation is not required but is acceptable. (3 marks)

4. Describe what some religious believers do to help to protect the rights of animals.
   (3 marks) Join animal welfare groups like the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) or
the RSPCA / raise awareness e.g. write to press / MPs / monitor treatment of animals /
celebrate International Animal Rights Day on December 10th / candlelight vigils /
protest marches / petitions / personally set an example / prayer / sponsor an animal
etc. Maximum Level 2 for a simple list. NB The focus of the answers should be ‘how’
not ‘why’.

5. ‘Caring for people is more important than looking after wildlife.’ (6 marks)
   Agree People made in God’s image / idea of dominion / at the top of the
evolutionary chain / higher stage of samsara / humans more intelligent / more
important / millions of people in real need because of hunger / poverty / disease /
old age / disability, etc. and so should be looked after first / religious teachings
showing the importance of humans. Other Views Humans in charge of creation –
Genesis 1: 28 / both important as both created by God / world would be dull without
animals / need them for food / work / should look after them as good stewardship /
animals have rights as well as humans / interdependence / preventing extinction of
species. Max Level 4 if no reference to caring / looking after. Allow broad definition
of wildlife, e.g. all animals, flora and fauna.
1. Give two examples of animals which are used for transport. Donkeys, mules, camels, horses, dogs (pulling sleds), (carrier) pigeons, elephants, etc. One mark for each correct point. (2 marks)

2. Explain religious views about genetically modifying animals. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer. Enables scientists to study how genes work / genetic modification may help in fighting disease / enables testing of new drugs / may lead to supply of organs for human transplantation / help in increasing food production. General idea of playing God. Accept positive responses. Don’t accept cloning on its own. Must be justified. Max. L3 if no religious teachings or beliefs. Buddhism oppose GM as animal life is precious / idea of interdependence. Christianity believe in the value of animals to God but most accept limited testing in order to find cures for diseases. Hinduism deities appear as animals showing their value / part of the samsara cycle. Islam believe animals should have legal rights / may be used to find cures but suffering must be minimal. Judaism opposed to injuring animals / but GM allowed if helping to advance medical science. Sikhism believe animals should not be mistreated but GM allowed if it advances medical science. (4 marks)

3. ‘Religious believers should never support using animals for sport.’ What do you think? Explain your opinion. Hunting / bull fighting / bear baiting / cockerel fighting / fishing is cruel / animals are God’s creation / part of the samsara cycle / should show compassion to all living things / have dominion but should not abuse / animal cruelty is not allowed in any religion / responsible to God for looking after animals / in some cases it promotes gambling. Good entertainment for people, e.g. greyhound racing without harming animals / all depends on type of sport / gives opportunities to compete against animals, e.g. rodeos / shows the ability of animals, e.g. show jumping / horse racing / partnership between humans and animals etc. N.B. Two sided evaluation not required but acceptable. (3 marks)

4. Explain what religious people might do to help preserve endangered species. Campaign for laws to protect endangered species / write to MPs or MEPs / raise awareness through the press / petitions / support wildlife charities such as WWF / RSPCA / support Assisi and Ohito declarations / support work of zoos, safari parks and aquariums / make people aware of impact of climate change on wildlife / tell people of their responsibilities as outlined by their religion, e.g. responsibility to God for actions / adopt or sponsor an endangered species / prayer. N.B. Max L2 for a list. L2 could be reached by one point developed. (3 marks)

5. ‘There is nothing wrong with killing animals for food.’ Agree 90% of people in the UK eat meat / good source of protein, vitamins and minerals / the way farmers make their living / Christians, Muslims and Jews believe that animals were created by God to provide humans with food / Noah told people may eat animals / St. Paul said that all foods may be eaten / some religions believe only certain animals may be eaten and that they should be slaughtered in specific ways, e.g. Muslims and Jews / canine teeth / St. Peter’s vision / personal preference / Proverbs 12:10 / dominion (Genesis). Other Views Most Buddhists / Hindus and Sikhs are vegetarian / linked to samsara / cruelty / intensive farming method / slaughter / transport / ahimsa / idea of not harming living creatures / langar serves only vegetarian food / some animals are specifically forbidden, e.g. pigs in Islam and Judaism / vegetarian lifestyle healthier and more cost effective / more food available to feed the world / personal preference / Proverbs 12:10 etc. (6 marks)
1. Give two reasons why some religious people do not eat meat. One mark for each reason
   Religious teachings encourage them not to, e.g. 1st Precept, ahimsa / regard it as cruel / do not like the taste / worry about disease / sacred cows / not halal / not kosher / not good stewardship / because they are vegetarian or vegan, etc.(2 marks)

2. Explain why some religious people believe that humans are more important than animals.
   People made in God’s image / at the top of the evolutionary chain / more intelligent / more adaptable / can make and build things / dominion / Taqwah-awareness of Allah’s presence / enlightenment, etc. (3 marks)

3. ‘Religious believers should try to prevent species of animals from becoming extinct.’ should give more support to conservation projects, e.g. safari parks / could publicise more / write to media and M.P.s / teach importance of species, etc.
   Little they can do on their own – responsibility of everyone / progress will mean habitats will be destroyed / people are more important / believers already speak up for protection of species / many join preservation groups / already involved in statements like the Assisi Declarations. (3 marks)

4. Explain religious attitudes towards hunting animals.
   Ideas of God as creator / cruelty / inhumane / stewardship / countryside management / conservation / debate re hunting for food as against for entertainment.
   **Buddhism** Animals are part of cycle of birth, death, rebirth / non-violence should be shown to them / compassion and loving-kindness should be shown to animals / hunting not in keeping with Eightfold Path – Right Living.
   **Christianity** Some hunt as Genesis 128 gives instruction to bring animals under control / foxes and deer pests to farmers / others believe as stewards they should protect animals from cruelty.
   **Hinduism** All creatures are part of Brahman and should be respected / dharma (duty) to protect animals / show ahimsa (non-violence) / most regard it as cruel and unnecessary.
   **Islam** Animals have rights / should not be hunted for sport / hunting for food allowed / action can be challenged on judgement day (Hadith).
   **Judaism** Disapproval of hunting, even for a living / idea of stewardship (Psalm 86 / Proverbs 1210). **Sikhism** Some Gurus hunted e.g. Gurus Har Gobind and Gobind Singh / most Sikhs against hunting for sport / individual choice.

5. ‘It is wrong to experiment on animals.’
   **Agree**
   It is cruel and causes much suffering / results on animals might be different from that on humans / research for make up and luxury goods not necessary or acceptable / protecting the natural world and living in harmony with it is part of Buddhist teaching 1st Precept / all creatures are part of cycle of rebirth. Compassion and loving kindness should extend to all living things / Christians and Jews believe in duty to protect not exploit animals – Psalm 1210 stewardship / Hindu dharma to protect animals and show ahimsa / the Qur’an teaches that animals have feelings and purpose in their lives Khalifahs / Sikhs believe humans are custodians of the earth and not as having superiority to mistreat animals, etc.

   **Other views**
   Important medical research may be justified / could benefit animals as well / Christians may agree on the use of animals for medical experiments, but would insist on humane conditions / Islam – Scientific experiments should not involve cruelty and should only be done for important medical research, etc. (6 marks)
Religious beliefs about the status of animals.
In the past, most people believed that non-human animals didn’t have feelings or intelligence. It was thought that animals weren’t important and that they existed simply for people to use for food, clothing, transport, labour and entertainment. However, as human society has advanced, we have come to realise that animals do matter. We now know that animals are capable of feeling physical pain just like we are. We also know that they experience emotions such as fear, sadness, loneliness and depression.

CHRISTIANITY
The way Christians relate to animals is dictated by two key principles: dominion and stewardship.

Genesis 1:28  Adam is told to rule over the earth – God gives humans dominion

“God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 2:15  Adam is told to take care of the earth – God instructs humans to be stewards.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Some Christians might think that as we have dominion (the right to rule) over the earth we can do as we please with animals as we are more superior and should use them for our own needs.

Another Christian might think that the word dominion means with that power comes the responsibility to be a good steward. Stewardship means that to rule, we must be responsible and protect other species. We have a duty to look after and care for the planet and all its resources on God’s behalf.

Image of God.
When it comes to animals, many Christians do not consider animals to be as important as humans. The story of creation, in the Bible, recorded that humans were created in the image of God. For that reason alone human life is important and should not be ruined or damaged.

Only humans have a soul?
“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Genesis.

St Thomas Aquinas said, ‘It doesn’t matter if we treat animals badly because, unlike humans, animals do not have souls.’ Other Christians disagree and claim that animals have “the same source” as humans, namely God. The most famous Christian to believe that animals have souls was St Francis of Assisi
Some Christians say, ‘Although animals are important they are not as important as people because they do not have sanctity of life.’ Sanctity means sacred and special to God.

Animals are part of God’s creation.
Dr Andrew Linzey (a leading modern Christian writer on animal rights) has said: ‘Human beings should care for animals, because they are part of God’s creation.’
Some Christians say, ‘Animals are part of God’s creation and should be treated with respect.’
Simon Phipps, former Bishop of London said, ‘God is father and we are his children...Animals are part of God’s family.

Activities.
1. Explain the difference between dominion and stewardship. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer. (4 marks)
2. Explain why some religious people believe that humans are more important than animals. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer. (4 marks)
3. Explain why some religious people believe that animals are important. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer. (3 marks)
**Animal Rights.**

**What rights do animals need?**

No-one suggests that animals should have the same rights as people. The right to vote, or to freedom of speech for example, would make no sense to a dog. But the right not to be tortured or hurt unnecessarily is as important to an animal as it is to a person. And the right not to be imprisoned is important, too. We know, for example, that social animals, such as monkeys and mice, suffer emotional distress when they are kept on their own in captivity.

**SOME ARGUMENTS AGAINST ANIMAL RIGHTS**

**Animals don’t understand...**

Some people argue that animals can’t have rights because they don’t understand or know what it means to have rights. However, defenders of animal rights point out that young babies and people with severe mental disabilities also don’t understand the idea, yet this does not prevent us from giving them rights. Furthermore, animals such as chimpanzees are more aware of what’s going on around them than are human babies.

**Animals are not intelligent...**

Other people say that animals cannot be granted rights because they are not as intelligent as human beings. But if you think about it, your rights don’t depend on how intelligent you are – if you achieved an A in your exam, it wouldn’t mean that you have any more basic rights than someone who got a Fail.

**Activities.**

4. Identify ways in which humans and animals are different.
5. Identify some basic animal rights.
6. Describe what some religious believers could do to help to protect the rights of animals. (3 marks)

Join animal welfare groups like the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) or the RSPCA [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk) / raise awareness e.g. write to press / MPs / monitor treatment of animals / celebrate International Animal Rights Day on December 10th / candlelight vigils / protest marches / petitions / personally set an example / prayer / sponsor an animal etc. Maximum Level 2 for a simple list.

NB The focus of the answers should be ‘how’ not ‘why’.

7. ‘Religious believers should do more to protect animal rights.’

What do you think. Explain your opinion. (3 marks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Other views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Stewardship.</td>
<td>A. Many religious charities consider human rights more important than animal rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Animals are God’s creation.</td>
<td>B. Human suffering is more important to alleviate than animal suffering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Parallel status of animals and humans.</td>
<td>C. Roman Catholic view that it is ‘unwise to spend money on them that should as a priority go to the relief of human misery’. (Catechism)</td>
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The Contemporary use of animals.
In the past Christians believed that God created everything only with humans in mind. The words “bring it under their control” Genesis were understood in terms of domination rather than stewardship. Many Christians now believe it is a Christian duty to conserve the Earth for future generations. Many Christians are concerned with the rights of animals because:

What is different should be treated with respect, not discriminated against.
God wants humans to take care of the Earth and everything on and in it.
Jesus spoke of God’s love for his world and its creatures.

At the same time Christians note Jesus’s words:

So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than sparrows (New Testament)

For this reason, many Christians eat meat and think that animal experimentation is needed in medical research. However they believe that animals should be treated humanely.

The Catholic church states: It is legitimate to use animals for food and clothing. They may be domesticated to help man in his work and leisure. Medical and scientific experimentation on animals, if it remains within reasonable limits, is a morally acceptable practice since it contributes to care for or saving human lives. (Catechism of the Catholic Church.)

Other Christians disagree with this. Professor Andrew Linzey believes that animals should receive positive discrimination because their rights were so abused in the past. Many Christians are vegetarian and some are against medical experimentation, arguing that other methods of research are possible and more reliable.

Different ways animals can be used.
Transport, sniffer dogs, drugs, search and rescue, police, carrier pigeons, mine detection, Navy/dolphins, dogs used as tank destroyers by Russians ww2, sports, meat/food, medical research. Some animals are kept in zoos so the public can be entertained and educated. Some zoos have a breeding programme to help prevent a species from becoming extinct. Zoos can also rescue orphaned or injured animals from the wild. Some animals may be too dangerous to be kept as pets by some owners. Many animals are kept as pets for companionship while others are used as guide dogs.

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) says...

Their lives are restricted to human homes where they must obey commands and can only eat, drink, and even urinate when humans allow them to. Because domesticated animals retain many of their basic instincts and drives but are not able to survive on their own in the wild, dogs, cats, or birds, whose strongest desire is to be free, must be confined to a house, yard, or cage for their own safety . . . Even in "good" homes, cats must relieve themselves in dirty litterboxes and often have their digits removed by "declawing," and dogs often have to drink water that has sat around for days, are hurried along on their walks, and are yelled at to get off the furniture or be quiet.

https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/pets-people
http://www.peta.org/videos/kate-del-castillo-fiercely-defend-your-animals/
“Religious believers should not keep animals as pets.” What do you think Explain your opinion? (3 marks)

Against.
2. Reduces status/become a possession/fashion statement/trend, loss of dignity.
3. Inappropriate habitat./not natural.
4. Train to do tricks demeaning.
5. Money time care love could be spent towards needy humans.

For.
A. Freedom of choice/Freewill.
B. Good companions friendly caring.
C. Keeping pets can teach younger children about care and compassion.
D. Use of blind dogs for blind or disabled.
E. Morally good to adopt an animal that would be destroyed.
animals part of God’s creation/stewardship.

https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/pets-people

a. Christianity - Dominion (the right to rule) we can do as we please with animals as we are more superior and should use them for our own needs.
b. Christianity - Dominion with the right to rule comes the responsibility to be a good steward.
c. Jesus spoke of God’s love for his world and its creatures.
d. The Catholic church states: ... animals ... be domesticated to help man in his work and leisure.
e. Islam ‘You will be rewarded by Allah for your acts of kindness towards living creatures.’
f. Islam “It is God who provided for you all manner of livestock, that you may ride on some of them and from some you may derive your food. And other uses in them for you to satisfy your heart’s desires.”
g. Jains believe that animals, like humans, have souls and that each of these souls is considered of equal value and should be treated with respect and compassion.
h. Buddhism - karma teaches that any wrong behaviour will have to be paid for in a future life, cruel acts to animals should be avoided, good behaviour, such as kindness to animals, will be rewarded.

But what about guide dogs?

Working Dogs

Relationships of mutual respect and benefit are truly wonderful between dogs and humans; however, working dogs are instead often used as a substitute for innovative non-animal programs that intelligently address human needs. Sometimes working dogs are used in situations that are considered too dangerous for human beings—and therefore too dangerous for animals. They may be treated cruelly in preparation for and during their lives of servitude. Some people love their working dogs, but others don’t, which means that working dogs cannot count on having a home where they will be treated well. Also, some working-dog training programs contribute to overpopulation by breeding their dogs (with the notable exception of programs for the deaf, which rescue dogs from shelters).

When working dogs become too old to work, they may be separated from their human companions and either “retired” to another family, returned to the training center, or even killed. Optimally, humans should be relied upon for support of the disabled rather than working dogs and other animals—it is too common for animals to be exploited and abused.

General revision Christianity and Islam.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBhi4AHO_sM
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBuu-pkJF6w
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GybYf3RZCDk

Activities.
1. Give two examples of animals which are used for transport.
2. Give two reasons why some animals are kept in zoos.
3. Give two reasons why animals can make good companions.
4. Give two OTHER ways animals can be used in a positive way.
5. “Religious believers should not keep animals as pets.” What do you think Explain your opinion? (3 marks)
Genetic modification and cloning of animals.

What is cloning? [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoEWYJHf0kU]

Cloning is the process of making a genetically identical organism through nonsexual means. In 1997, Doctors in Scotland, successfully cloned a sheep named Dolly. Doctors transplanted a nucleus from a cell of a Finn Dorsett sheep into the enucleated egg of a Scottish blackface ewe. The nucleus-egg combination was stimulated with electricity to fuse the two and to stimulate cell division. The new cell divided and was placed in the uterus of a blackface ewe to develop. Dolly was born months later.

In December 2004 the first fully cloned Kitten was developed, at the cost of $50,000, from the DNA of her owner's previous cat who had died the year before.

Why clone animals?
1. Animals with special qualities could be mass produced to create important drugs for humans like insulin.
2. Animals could be produced which grow quicker and could be sold and slaughtered sooner.
3. Animals could catch fewer diseases and are cheaper to raise.
4. Pets which have died could be replaced.
5. Repopulate endangered or extinct species e.g. baby bull gaur (a wild ox) called Noah.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atMKZgXhcps]

Religious believers should not support the cloning of animals. What do you think? 3 marks.

Religious beliefs and animals.
1. Pope John Paul 2 said “Scientists must abandon laboratories and factories of death.”
2. Some Christians say, ‘We are stewards of the earth and therefore we must be responsible.’
3. Some Christians say, ‘Animals are part of God’s creation and should be treated with respect.’
4. Simon Phipps, former Bishop of London said, ‘God is father and we are his children...Animals are part of God’s family
5. Some Christians say “God has created a “good” world. Therefore we should leave it as it is, and not take animals out of their natural environment or treat them badly.”
6. St Thomas Aquinas said, ‘It doesn’t matter if we treat animals badly because, unlike humans, animals do not have souls.’

Thoughts?
A. ‘Playing God’
B. Tampering with God’s creation unnatural
C. Disrespect for nature
D. Long term harm to human health in the food chain
E. May produce deformities,
F. Motivated by profit
G. Acceptable if intentions are good for saving human lives.
H. Destruction of embryos.
I. Produce animals that are resistant to disease, cattle without horns.
J. ‘dominion’ over animals justifies using them to improve human life.
K. Life is a gift from God.
L. Animals have independent personalities, souls?
M. Impact upon karma/reincarnation?
N. Cows (Hinduism) /animals sacred in some religions.
O. Jesus’ healing miracles broke laws of nature.

7. Some Christians say, ‘Although animals are important they are not as important as people because they do not have sanctity of life.’ Sanctity means sacred and special to God.
8. God said in Genesis, ‘I will make humans to have dominion over the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and all the wild animals on the Earth. Humans will spread over the earth and subdue it’. Dominion means to rule over the earth.

Subdue means to make obedient.
Experimenting on animals.  By now you should have a good idea about how some religious groups feel about using animals for food. Another issue about animals which arouses strong feelings is vivisection. Vivisection is the use of live animals for scientific research, for example, in testing new drugs or researching into the effects of disease.  

http://www.slideshare.net/againstanimaltesting/animal-experiments

‘It is wrong to experiment on animals.’ Do you agree?

http://www.drhadwentrust.org/index.php

Arguments AGAINST vivisection.

a) It’s selfish. Some diseases are our fault, for example, when smokers get lung cancer. Why should animals be killed to find cures for something that is our fault?
b) It’s unreliable. A drug may work when it is tested on an animal, but that does not mean it will work on a human.
c) It’s unnecessary. We could make much greater use of computer technology to model human organs.
d) It’s cruel. Event though rules are followed, that does not mean that innocent creatures do not suffer pain and stress.
e) It’s against God’s will. Animals are a part of God’s creation too.
f) Research for make up and luxury goods not necessary.
g) Protecting the natural world and living in harmony with it is part of Buddhist teaching.
h) All creatures are part of cycle of rebirth.
i) Compassion (pity, mercy) and loving kindness should extend to all living things.
j) Christians and Jews believe in duty to protect not exploit animals, stewardship.
k) Hindu dharma (duty) to protect animals and show ahimsa non-violence, respect for life.
l) Islam the Qur’an teaches that animals have feelings and purpose in their lives
m) Sikhs believe humans are custodians (take care, supervise) of the earth and not as having superiority to mistreat animals,

Arguments FOR vivisection.

1) Important medical research may be justified
2) Islam – Scientific experiments should not involve cruelty and should only be done for important medical research,
3) It’s rare. Look at how little we use animals for experiments!  4) It brings massive benefits to humans. We now live much healthier and safer lives than our grandparents. We expect things we buy to be safe. They have to be tested. This includes animal testing. Diabetes can only be controlled because of animal research.
5) Could benefit animals as well
6) It’s carefully controlled. There are government rules that have to be followed when using animals.
7) It’s necessary. You need a whole body to experiment on – you can’t just use boy cells or tissues.
8) It’s within God’s will. God gave us the skill to find ways of making our lives better.
9) Christians may agree on the use of animals for medical experiments, but would insist on humane conditions / etc.
10) Some Christians might say God has granted man dominion over the animals and therefore we can use them as we like.
11) Humans are more important than animals because we have sanctity of life.
12) Some Christians believe that because animals don’t have souls they don’t have rights.
13) If we are more important then if we allow an animal to die to save a human life it is worth while.
• ‘It is wrong to experiment on animals.’ Do you agree?
Implications of Animals Testing

Many chemicals and drugs that have been tested on animals have later been shown to cause different reactions when used by humans.

- The contraceptive pill can cause blood clots in humans yet has the opposite effect on dogs.
- Morphine helps humans to sleep yet excites cats.
- Aspirin is a human painkiller yet causes birth defects in mice.

Other cases show that humans and animals can be too dissimilar.

- The testing of rats informed scientists that humans did not need Vitamin C.
- Testing on animals produced results that suggested alcohol did not cause liver damage and that smoking did not cause cancer.

Testing on humans has shown these not to be the case.

RELIGIOUS VIEWS ON ANIMAL TESTING.

- Some religious people don’t agree with scientists ‘playing God’ and interfering with nature by cloning or genetic modification.
- Most Christians accept testing on animals so long as it is to find a cure for diseases.
- Buddhists are generally against because of the First Precept – not to harm living things.
- It could lead to bad karma and rebirth. It does not show metta – loving kindness.
- However, if the intention is good (i.e. saving lives), it could be seen as Right Intention.
- Animals have had legal rights in Islam since the 13th century.
- Caging animals is forbidden in Islam.
- Many Muslims accept animal testing to find a cure for diseases so long as the suffering is minimal.

Buddhist views on animal testing.

Buddhists say that this is morally wrong if the animal concerned might come to any harm. However, Buddhists also acknowledge the value that animal experiments may have for human health.

A Buddhist approach to experiments on animals might require the experimenter to:

- accept the karma of carrying out the experiment
- the experimenter will acquire bad karma through experimenting on an animal
- experiment only for a good purpose
- experiment only on animals where there is no alternative
- design the experiment to do as little harm as possible
- avoid killing the animal unless it is absolutely necessary
- treat the animals concerned kindly and respectfully

Muslim views on animal testing.

Islam does allow testing and experiments on animals if it is for improving human health or human safety. However Islam believes that you should not be cruel to animals and these experiments should only been done if absolutely necessary and are for the benefit of humans. These experiments or testing should not cause pain to the animal as the Qur'an says that animals have feelings (all animals should be slaughtered in a painless way) This is because the Qur'an says that animals are created by Allah (God). It is God who provided for you all manner of livestock, that you may ride on some of them and from some you may derive your food. And other uses in them for you to satisfy your heart's desires. It is on them, as on ships, that you make your journeys.--Qur'an 40:79-80

Jewish views on animal testing.

Judaism teaches that we are forbidden to be cruel to animals and that we must treat them with care. Since animals are part of God's creation, people have special responsibilities to them. These concepts are short in the biblical order not to cause "pain to any living creature." While the Torah clearly indicates that people are to have “power over the fish of the sea, and over the rooster of the air, and over every living thing that creeps upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28), there was to be a basic relatedness, and people were to consider the rights of animals. Animals are also God's creatures, possessing sympathy and the capacity for feeling pain; therefore they must be protected and treated with compassion and honestly.
Religious responses to the preservation of species.

Conservation. Looking after the environment preserving, and protecting animals.

Stewardship. The idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.

Facts.

- There are more than 30 types of whales and dolphins in British waters, yet they have virtually no protection.
- Over the last 30 years songbirds in the UK have declined: song thrushes by 73%, bullfinches by 76%, lapwings by 58%, skylarks by 58% and swallows by 43%.
- Tropical rainforests cover 7% of the planet but contain over half of the world's species of plants, animals, insect etc. At the present rate of destruction, they may all be gone in 50 years.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTTEdewT1xU
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZRbbiOimI8
http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/map.html
https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/tiger-fur-and-rhino-horn

Stewardship.

The Genesis story says: “I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.” Christians think this means human life is more important life than animal life but humans have a duty to look after animals. The Bible also says: “God looked at everything and he was very pleased.” For Christians this means the planet’s real owners is God and we should never do anything to destroy God’s creation. Humans only live on the earth for a short time, like caretakers, or stewards, then they hand it back to its real owner in good condition.

Orthodox Church. “Just as a shepherd will in times of great hazard, lay down his life for his flock, so human beings may need to forego part of their wants and needs in order that the survival of the natural world can be assured.

The Noah Project – Jewish Education, Celebration and Action for the Earth. British Jews formed an environmental group called the Noah project in 1998. They chose the name Noah because he took the animals into the ark. He was obeying God's command and preserving the biodiversity of the planet. Males and females could reproduce and save their species from extinction. The Noah Project works with other groups like Friends of the Earth to preserve the earth for future generations.

Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)

In 1986, HRH Prince Philip, then President of WWF International issued an astonishing invitation. He asked five leaders of the five major world religions – Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism – to come and discuss how their faiths could help save the natural world. He decided to do this at Assisi in Italy, because it was the birthplace of St Francis, the Catholic saint of ecology. It was a unique occasion, involving some of the world’s leading environmental and conservation bodies sitting down for the first time with the world’s major faiths to discuss how they could all work together. It created more press interest than any other WWF event to date.

http://ubraintv.com/watchnews.php?id=100247

What can religious people do to help preserve endangered species?

Religious people could campaign for laws to protect endangered species. They could write letters to MPs or MEPs to put pressure on governments to do more. They could vote for a political party that has policies on this issue. They could support petitions which protest against poachers and hunters. They could also support wildlife charities such as WWF, RSPCA, The Noah project or ARC. They could support the work of zoos, safari parks and aquariums. Religious people could make people aware of the impact of climate change on wildlife or tell people of their responsibilities as outlined by their religion, e.g. responsibility to God for actions. They could adopt or sponsor an endangered species, work with endangered animals (e.g. elephant sanctuaries in India) or even pray to their God.
All: Know the terms conservation, stewardship and be aware of the threat of extinction for many species of animals.

Most: Understand practical actions which might be taken to help endangered species.

Some: Evaluate what religious believers should do regarding the preservation of species from extinction and the extent to which animals are as important as humans.

Activities.

1. What is conservation? (2 marks)
2. What is stewardship? (2 marks)
3. Explain what religious people might do to help preserve endangered species. Refer to religious groups and teachings in your answer. (4 marks L2 if no reference to religion)
4. ‘Religious believers should try to prevent species of animals from becoming extinct.’ What do you think?
5. ‘Caring for people is more important than looking after wildlife.’ (6 marks) Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.

https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/save-them-save-us
https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/praise-bugs

a. Islam ‘You will be rewarded by Allah for your acts of kindness towards living creatures.’
b. Islam “Eat the lawful and good food which Allah has provided for you.”
c. Buddhism - karma teaches that any wrong behaviour will have to be paid for in a future life, cruel acts to animals should be avoided, good behaviour, such as kindness to animals, will be rewarded.
d. Buddhism - hunting not in keeping with Eightfold Path – Right Living.
e. Jains believe that animals, like humans, have souls and that each of these souls is considered of equal value and should be treated with respect and compassion
f. Hinduism – “No person should kill animals helpful to all. Rather by serving them one should attain happiness.”
g. Catholic “Although God put humans in charge of the resources of the universe, this power must be used with concern for the rights of neighbours and future generations.”

http://www.truetube.co.uk/film/praise-bugs