

Beginning-of-Life and End-of-Life Issues Worksheet Answer Key

Part 1: Abortion	
Give four arguments used by proponents to justify abortion.	What is the Church's response to each of these arguments?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A human embryo, or fetus, is not a unique human being with his or her own rights and dignity—at least in the first days, weeks, and months after conception.2. A pregnant woman has the right to make choices about her own body, including the baby growing inside her.3. If a baby's father abandons the unborn child and its mother, the mother should not have to carry the burden of having and raising the child by herself.4. Abortion is legal in the United States and in many other countries around the world.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A unique human life begins at the moment of conception. From the moment the sperm and ovum meet, the cell forms its own unique human DNA.2. While a woman does have the right to make choices about her body, science proves that a baby's body is separate and unique from its mother's body.3. The mother still has a responsibility to protect her unborn child's right to life. Society should make fathers accountable for the children they conceive, to reduce the frequency of this situation.4. Although abortion is legal according to the laws of the United States and countries around the world, it is considered a serious sin against moral law by the Church.
Part 2: Other Beginning-of-Life Issues	
Identify arguments in favor of each of the following issues.	Describe the Church's teaching regarding each of these issues.
Prenatal Testing Prenatal testing can help parents identify disease and birth defects in their children before they are born. This can make parents more prepared to take on these health issues once the child is born.	Prenatal testing is morally acceptable as long as it does not harm the fetus, and is done only for the safety and healing of the baby in the womb or after birth. Prenatal testing to determine whether to abort a baby is immoral.
Genetic Engineering Genetic engineering can be used to prevent disease or physical disability.	Forms of genetic engineering, such as gene therapy, are considered moral when used to prevent disease or physical disability, so long as there is no significant possibility of harm to the fetus. Genetic engineering for the purpose of creating a "designer baby" is immoral because it falsely puts human beings in God's role as the Creator of each unique person.
Stem Cell Research Stem cell research can help make important medical advancements, and save many lives.	Though stem cell research itself is not immoral, the use of aborted embryos and fetuses in this research is immoral. The good intention of helping sick people cannot justify the use of such cells in research.



Part 3: Euthanasia	
Give three arguments used by proponents to justify euthanasia.	What is the Church's response to each of these arguments?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Euthanasia is an issue of human freedom. People who are terminally ill or in severe pain, and their families, have the right to choose to end their suffering.2. Euthanasia is motivated by good intention.3. Rejecting euthanasia is a lack of compassion for those who are suffering and dying.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At the end of life, a person has the right to reject treatments that are used only to prolong life, and the use of painkillers is also allowed. However, the direct intention of such actions must be to relieve the dying person's suffering, not to cause death. It is never right to end a person's life before natural death.2. The Fifth Commandment states that the intentional cause of human death is immoral, regardless of motive or circumstance.3. We must show compassion for those who are suffering or dying by helping them to make the transition from death into new and eternal life with God. The morally right response to suffering and death is the human being placing their trust in God until the natural end of their days on Earth.

