# Why are theories of evolution unacceptable to some Christians? 10 marks

Theories of evolution are unacceptable to some Christians for a number of reasons. First of all it challenges a more literal translation of Genesis and the way the Bible has traditionally been understood. If life has evolved over million of years then this suggests the creation account in Genesis must be inaccurate because it suggests that God created the world about 10,000 years ago in six days and rested on the seventh. If Genesis is inaccurate this casts doubt on the accuracy of the rest of the Bible.

If evolution theory is correct then it follows that death and struggle existed before the fall in the first homo sapiens. This challenges Romans 5:12 where it says that sin came into the world through one man, Adam, "and in this way death came to all men because all sinned." It would also follow that God must therefore have built into his creation struggle and death, whereas the Bible says that God created everything good (Gen.1:31). Suffering and death were therefore not the result of Adam and Eve’s sin as Genesis says, but part of the evolutionary process long before the Adam and Eve. This challenges central Christian beliefs about the origin and nature of sin.

Another problem raised by evolutionary ideas concerns the dignity of mankind. If human beings evolved from apes this challenges the Christian belief that they were created in the image of God as a special creation, the pinnacle of God's creative process as Genesis says, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness….’”

If human beings evolved from the apes then perhaps humans are no higher than the animals. This challenges Genesis which says humans are like God in certain ways and can have personal relationships with each other and God. They were made with characteristics like God, unlike the animals, and have been made stewards of this world.

Going even further, if evolution is true then all life has evolved through random processes of mutation, natural selection and survival of the fittest. The question could then be asked, is there any need for a belief in a creator God and a God who sustains the universe? This view of evolution does away with the very existence of God.

There is also the challenge to the Christian view that life has meaning and purpose. The theory of natural selection appears to replace God's creative activity with a wholly impersonal process which makes it difficult to argue that human beings have a special place in the scheme of things, as part of an overall divine plan which gives meaning and purpose to life and the universe.

This naturalistic model seeks to explain the physical and biological universe as a "self-directed development from primeval matter, the origin of which is unknown. Naturalistic evolution rules out any direction or intervention by a personal God." Gleason Archer.

This is obviously an unacceptable position for Christians to hold.