

# Lesson objective

- The aim of this lesson is to examine the law regarding abortion and understand the two different opinions about abortion – pro life and pro choice.

# Lesson outcomes

- All will be able to explain the terms “pro life” and “pro choice” and give an argument used by each side
- Most will be able to give two reasons whether they agree or disagree with abortion law.
- Some will be able to evaluate pro-life and pro-choice arguments before being able to explain which they agree with the most.

# Starter - get a reaction

- Here are some figures about abortion in the UK. Read them carefully then write a sentence giving your reaction to what you have read.

In 2007 there were 198,500 abortions

In 2006 there were 193,700 abortions

Largest number of abortions were carried out on 19 year old women

4.4 per cent of abortions were carried out on girls under 16

20 per cent of abortions were carried out on girls under 18

There have been 6.7 million abortions in the UK since 1967

# The LAW

Before 1967 abortion was illegal in the U.K.  
(200,000 probably occurring illegally).

## The 1967 Abortion Act

The Abortion Act made abortion legal if :

- 2 doctors agree
- it is carried out before 28th week
- The mothers life is at risk.
- If it will cause risk to any existing members of the family
- It is necessary to avoid permanent injury, physical or psychological to the mother.
- There is real risk that the baby would be born handicapped or deformed.
- The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act lowered the time of viability to 24 weeks.



# The LAW

“Abortion law in the UK doesn't protect the unborn child enough”

Do you agree? Give two reasons for your point of view.

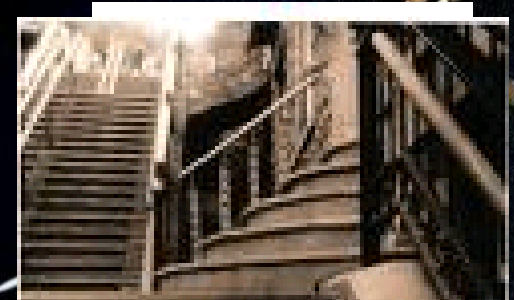
“I agree/disagree because....”

“Another reason why I agree/disagree is....”

# Pre 1967 Backstreet abortions

*"In the thirties, my aunt died self-aborting. She had three children and couldn't feed a fourth ... So she used a knitting needle. She died of septicemia leaving her children motherless."*

- Prior to 1967 around 100,000 illegal abortions were carried out each year in Britain.
- It is estimated that 35,000 women were hospitalised each year due to botched backstreet abortions in Britain.
- Every day 55,000 unsafe abortions take place around the world, 95 percent of them in developing countries. They cause one in eight maternal deaths.
- Abortion is illegal in Ireland, Portugal, Malta and Poland except in extreme circumstances.
- Last year over 1,000 women were hospitalised after unsafe abortions.



Why was The Abortion Act so important, especially to women seeking an abortion?

# **A world without abortion?**

- What are the problems associated with backstreet abortions mentioned by Diane Munday?**

# Pro life or pro choice?

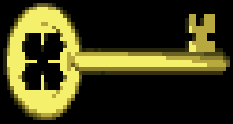
- There are two different ways of looking at abortion....



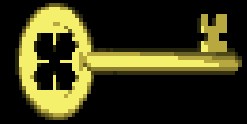
Pro life



OR Pro choice



# Key Words



## PRO LIFE

People who believe that the child has a right to life.

## PRO CHOICE

People who believe that the mother should be able to choose whether to have an abortion.

# TASK...

- 1) Read the different arguments on the printed sheet
- 2) Decide which arguments are pro-life and write pro-life next to them.
- 3) Write pro-choice next to the rest.
- 4) Complete the task on the back of the sheet.



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# Plenary: 5-5-1

Summarise today's topic in 5 sentences.

Reduce to 5 words.

Now to 1 word.