

GCSE AQA A Topic on a Page for Component 1

Christianity (Full Course)

H Dixon

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
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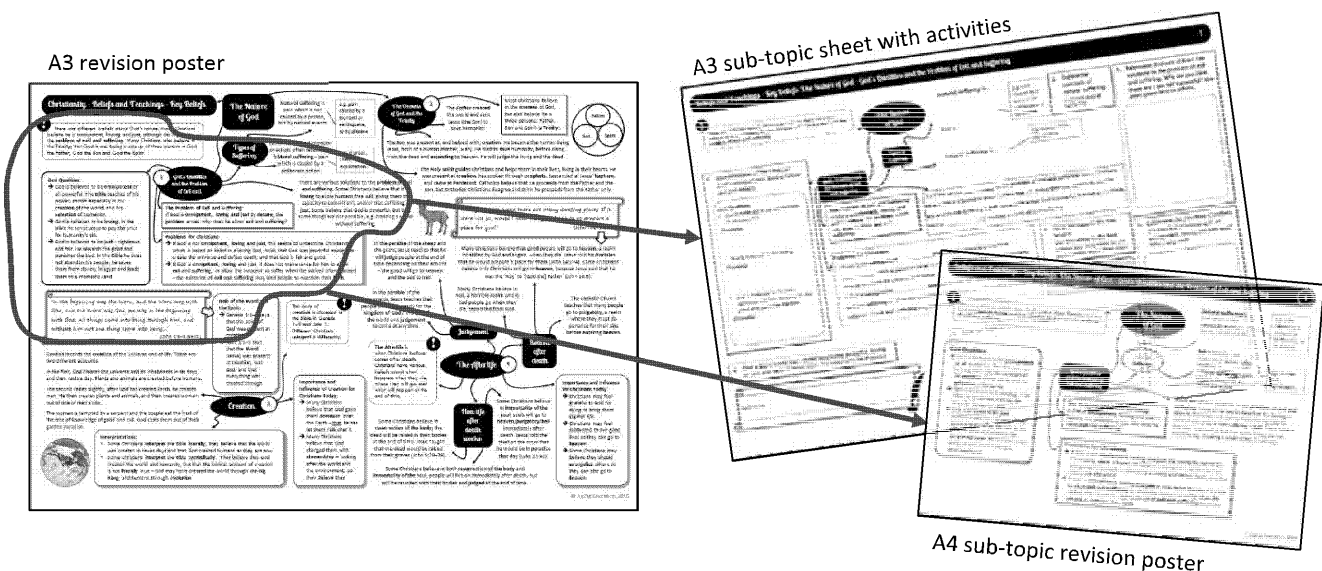
Teacher's Introduction

This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA A specification for Component 1: The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices, for the religion of Christianity.

Theme content is split into five sections as follows:

1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Four A3 revision posters**, between them covering the 16 subtopics. These are labelled: **1** to **4**. These posters are intended as a summary of all Christianity material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Sixteen A3 subtopic sheets with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one subtopic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A4 subtopic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles: **16**. Exam-style questions in the activity sheets are marked by a pencil icon: 
4. **Sixteen A4 subtopic revision posters.** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 subtopic activity sheets. As revision posters, these can be used as a summary for each area, and have enough space for teacher or student annotation. These are labelled with numbers inside black circles: **16**.
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A4 subtopic revision posters.

All posters can be displayed on classroom walls, or given to students to learn in lessons or at home.



As a whole, the resource can be used to help students to revise at the end of a topic/subtopic, or before a test or an exam. Different styles and layouts are used to make the information interesting and to help the students engage with the information in a productive way.

H Dixon, October 2016

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Christianity - Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs

There are different beliefs about God's nature. Many Christians believe he is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, although this highlights the **problem of evil and suffering**. Many Christians also believe in the **Trinity**; that God is one being made up of three persons – God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit.

The Nature of God

Natural suffering is pain which is not caused by a person, but by natural events

e.g. pain caused by a tsunami or earthquake, or by disease

Types of Suffering

Evil is morally bad intention or action, often resulting in **Moral suffering** which is caused by a person

e.g. murder, theft, exploitation...

God's Qualities and the Problem of Evil and Suffering

God Qualities:

- God is believed to be **omnipotent** or all-powerful. The Bible teaches of his power, shown especially in his **creation** of the world, and his **salvation** of humanity.
- God is believed to be **loving**. In the Bible he sends Jesus to die for humanity's sin.
- God is believed to be **just** and fair. He rewards the good and punishes the bad. In the Bible he does not abandon his people; he saves them from slavery in Egypt and leads them to a Promised Land.

Problem of Evil and Suffering:

If God is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just** by nature, the problem arises: why does he allow **evil and suffering**?

Problems for Christians:

- If God is **not** **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, this seems to undermine Christianity, which is based on belief in a loving God, holds that God was powerful enough to create the universe and defeat death, and that God is fair and good.
- If God is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, it does not make sense for him to allow **evil and suffering**, or allow the innocent to suffer when the wicked often succeed – the existence of **evil and suffering** may lead people to question their **faith**.

There are various solutions to the **problem of evil and suffering**. Some Christians believe God is **loving** to allow humans free will, giving them the capacity to commit evil, and/or that suffering is **just**. Some believe that God is powerful, but some things are not possible; e.g. creating a world without suffering.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being...'

(John 1:1–3 NRSV)

Genesis records the **creation** of the universe and of life. There are two different accounts.

In the first, God creates the universe and its inhabitants in six days, and then rests a day. Plants and animals are created before humans.

The second varies slightly; after God has created Earth, he creates man. He then creates plants and animals, and then creates woman out of one of man's ribs.

The woman is tempted by a serpent and then eats from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God then banishes them from the garden paradise.

Role of the Word and the Spirit:

- Genesis 1:1–3 says that the spirit of God was present at **creation**.
- John 1:1–3 says that the **Word** (Jesus) was present at **creation**, was God, and that everything was created through him.

The story of **creation** is discussed in the Bible in Genesis 1–3 and John 1. Different Christians interpret it differently.

Creation

Importance and Influence of creation for Christians today:

- Many Christians believe that God gave them **dominion** over the Earth – that he has let them rule over it.
- Many Christians believe that God charged them with **stewardship** – looking after the world and the environment, so they believe they

Interpretations:

- Some Christians **interpret** the Bible **literally**; they believe that the world was created in seven days and that God created humans as they are now.
- Some Christians **interpret** the Bible **symbolically**. They believe that God created the world and humanity, but that the biblical account of creation is not **literally** true – God may have created the world through the **Big Bang**, and humans through **evolution**.

In the past, the goal was to **judge** people's time deeds – the good and bad.

In the present, people should be **Kingdom of God** in the world and to come.

The **Afterlife** is what Christians believe happens where the soul goes at the end of life.

Some believe in **resurrection** – the dead will rise at the end of time, that they will live from the dead.

Some believe in **immortality** – the soul will live on.

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Christianity - Beliefs and Teachings - Jesus Christ and Salvation

Many Christians believe that Jesus was the **incarnation** of God; God in the flesh. Most Christians believe he was fully human and fully God. He is also referred to as the **Son of God**.

Biblical Basis for the Incarnation and Jesus Being the Son of God:

- God spoke approval at Jesus' baptism and at the Transfiguration.
- Jesus showed his glory at the Transfiguration.
- Jesus is spoken of as God in the flesh in the New Testament.
- Jesus had **divine** qualities:
 - ↳ he could heal
 - ↳ he performed miracles
 - ↳ he claimed authority
 - ↳ he came back from the dead

The Incarnation

Shows that God wants to have a relationship with humans, and makes it easier to relate to him

Understandings of the term 'Son of God':
Some Christians believe/believed that the term '**Son of God**' indicates that Jesus was a special human chosen by God, with a special relationship with God. Humans are often referred to as God's children. Some early believers felt that Jesus was a **divine** being, but not equal to God the Father. Many Christians believe that Jesus is as much God as the Father, but a different person of the Trinity.

Many Christians believe Jesus was the **Son of God**:
→ He is referred to as the **Son of God** in the Gospels, including by God.
→ Jesus' early followers believed him to be the **Son of God** (shown in the Acts of the Apostles and the letters in the New Testament).
→ Many churches teach that he is the **Son of God**.

'And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:17 NRSV)

Shows that God is **compassionate** and cares enough about humans to live with them and die for them

Shows that there can be life after death

Many Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish **Law**, so they do not need to follow it

Shows that God is **powerful**

Sin is an interesting concept, which often means acting against God's will, but can also refer to a state of separation from God.

Personal Sin:

Most Christians believe in **personal sin** – when someone acts/thinks against God's will, damaging their relationship with God.

Original Sin:

Some Christians (especially the Catholics) believe in **original sin**, which is believed to be inherited from birth.

The concept is generally credited to St Augustine, who believed that when Adam and Eve (the first people) **sinned** against God, their nature became damaged (fallen), and all future humans inherited sin when created through sexual reproduction. Only Mary (Jesus' mother) and Jesus are believed to have been born without sin.

Salvation within Christianity refers to being **saved** from sin and death. Christians believe Jesus brought them **salvation**, through **atonement**. Other means of salvation include **law**, **grace** and the **Spirit**.

Law:

Jesus was born to fulfill the Jewish Law. Christians believe they no longer need to follow all of this, as they receive **salvation** through following Jesus instead.

Grace and the Spirit:

Many Christians believe that **grace** is a gift from God, which can **save** them. Jesus coming to **save** humanity was an expression of God's **grace**. Many Christians also believe that they receive God's **grace** through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and **sacraments**.

Means of Salvation, and Role of Christ in Salvation

Some think people **save** themselves by using their **will** to follow Jesus

The Gospel that Jesus taught (crucifixion, resurrection, fulfillment of the prophecies) is the path to Jesus' achievement of long-term happiness

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Christianity - Practices - Worship and Festivals

Worship covers any acts of devotion to God and can come in different styles and involve different practices.

The Bible is used in many ways. It can be used to teach about God and God's will, in group or private **worship**, and is important because Christians may feel that God speaks to them through the Bible and gives his **grace**. The Bible may also help to comfort and guide Christians, and to help them to make decisions.

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Worship

Forms of worship

Liturgical worship:

This is **worship** which follows a structure. Many churches may follow the same **liturgical** style every week, but use different hymns and **prayers** (for example). It allows different aspects of worship to be incorporated, and helps Christians focus on God by following a familiar structure.

Used by many churches for ordinary church services, and for special services at celebrations, and when performing special duties.

Non-liturgical and informal worship:

These involve worship with or no structure, which may be spontaneous and/or more relaxed. These types of worship can be used if Christians want to **worship** God in the way which feels appropriate at the time, rather than having it planned in advance, or if they feel more at ease without the formal **liturgy**.

Used by some churches for normal services, or occasionally. This may be done privately and individually when Christians want to **worship** God more personally.

Private worship: Christians worship God wherever and whenever they want to. They may like to focus on particular areas of their relationship with God on their own, and choose which **worship** practices to use.

Prayer is communication with God. Christians **pray** in different ways and for many reasons; above all, to have a close relationship with God.



Some Christians believe that infants must be **baptised**, or they will go to hell or a state called limbo if they die. This is an uncommon view today. Most Christians who **baptise** their children do so to introduce them to the **faith** and to commit to raising them as Christians.

Baptism is being in water to **symbolise** God. It is an important step in their journey of **disciples** to **baptism**.

Some churches, e.g. the Anglican Church, practise **infant baptism**, also known as **christening**. A young child is **anointed** with water from a **font**, and the parents and godparents make promises to raise the child in the Christian **faith**.

'Go therefore to all nations and baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

Prayer

Pilgrimage

Styles of Prayer

Some **prayers** are **informal prayers**, which Christians can use to share their own thoughts with God and talk to him about their feelings and things currently happening in the world and their lives.

Some **prayers** are **specific prayers** which Christians use for particular purposes.

Pilgrimage involves

going on a physical journey, in order to complete a spiritual journey. Christians believe that by travelling to these places, their faith is strengthened.

Importance:

- Some places may be considered important because of people who have lived there, or visions that have happened there (popular Catholic view).
- Not all Christians believe places are important in themselves, but may go to a **pilgrimage** site to spend time **worshipping** with other Christians, or for their own reasons (popular Protestant view).

Places of Pilgrimage

Iona – important because it hosts a Christian community

Lourdes – important because a vision of Mary was seen here, and people go in the hope of being healed

Significance of Prayer:

- **Prayer** allows Christians to have a relationship with God.
- The ability to **pray** helps Christians to rely on God for help and guidance.
- **Praying** fulfils Jesus' command to **pray** to God.
- **Praying** allows Christians to praise and thank God.
- **Praying** allows Christians to ask God for help – for themselves or others.
- **Praying** allows Christians to ask for forgiveness.

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Christianity - Practices - The Role of the Church in the Local and Worldwide Community

- Provides **worship** services and groups, e.g. to study the **Bible** / **pray**
 - ↳ help Christians to maintain, strengthen and understand their **faith**
 - ↳ help Christians to focus on their Christian identity and encourages them to continually practise their **faith** in their everyday lives
- Provides fellowship; the opportunity to spend time with other Christians
 - ↳ allows them the opportunities to discuss their **faith** and form friendships
- Provides activities for children
 - ↳ helps children to learn about Christianity and grow in their **faith**
- Church members will visit those who are ill or unable to
 - ↳ Christians will receive spiritual and practical support
- Churches may do **outreach** as running courses and activities
 - ↳ this may help non-Christians to grow in their **faith**
 - ↳ activities may provide education and support for those in the community who need practical support or companionship
- The Church may speak out about local issues or help local charities
 - ↳ this helps add weight to the community voice and support to local projects

The **local church**, or parish, is important because it tries to help local believers and the local community, with **faith** and with practical issues.

Role of the Church in the Local

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How the Church helps local believers and the community

- Local Christians may help street pastor or food bank initiatives
 - ↳ Street pastors provide practical support on the streets, talking to members of the community, providing practical support for vulnerable people, and discouraging antisocial behaviour
 - ↳ food banks help to provide food for those who have financial problems and cannot afford food

Ecumenism – is when (local) churches and **denominations** work together. This is important as Christians stay united and followers of Jesus work together to achieve their goals.

'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'
(Luke 3:11 NRSV)

The Church has tried to **grow** through **missionary** work and **evangelism**, which are important to many Christians. The **Church** has **grown** greatly since the time of Jesus, though it is now declining in some Western countries.

Place of Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth

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Evangelism is spreading the good news and hoping to **convert** people to Christianity. Christians do this because Jesus commanded them to; so they do so to serve God. Christians may also want to **evangelise** to help others through bringing them to Jesus. The Church may **evangelise** to maintain church members; needed to provide funds and volunteers to continue Christian work.

Missionary work is often abroad; trying to **evangelise** in areas which are less economically developed, while also helping with practical considerations. As well as a **mission**, the Church also has **charities** which help with humanitarian support abroad and also inform people about Christianity.

Jesus said to them, 'Go to all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation...'
(Mark 16:15 NRSV)

- History of Church growth:**
- Early Christians **evangelised** locally, and then spread out further.
 - **Evangelism** was helped by the Roman Emperor Constantine, other leaders, and trade.
 - Churches have tried to **convert** people in the where they are active.
 - Some Christians have tried to **evangelise** overseas through **missionary** work.

Example of evangelism

Alpha courses and Church activities open to the public – designed to get people interested in Church and Christianity, and to teach them about the religion

Centres and drop-ins where the homeless, elderly, or overly-drunk people on a night out, can receive food, shelter and help, which also provide a space to discuss religion



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There are different beliefs about God's nature. Many Christians believe he is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, although this highlights the **problem of evil and suffering**.

1. Give examples of the Christian God's omnipotence, loving nature and just nature.

God Qualities:

→ God is believed to be **omnipotent** or all-powerful.

Example:

→ God is believed to be loving.

Example:

→ God is believed to be just – righteous and fair. He rewards the good and punishes the bad.

Example:

The Problem of Evil and Suffering:
If God is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just** by nature, the **problem** arises: why does he allow **evil** and **suffering**?

Problems for Christians:

- If God is not **omnipotent**, _____ and **just**, this seems to undermine _____, which is based on belief in a loving God, holds that God was powerful enough to create the universe and defeat _____, and that God is fair and good.
- If God is **omnipotent**, _____ and **just**, it does not make sense for him to allow **evil** and **suffering**, or allow the innocent to suffer while the wicked often succeed – the existence of **evil** and **suffering** may lead people to _____ in their _____.

4. Find a Bible quote that relates God being powerful, loving or just, and write it here: (Hint: Try the Psalms.)

Reference:

5. Give two types of suffering. (2 marks)

1)

2)

Natural suffering is...

Evil is...

Moral suffering is...

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The Nature of God

The Oneness of God and the Trinity

1. Explain the concept of the Trinity and who it contains.

Many Christians believe in the Trinity...



The **Father** created the world and sent **a** _____ (the **Son**) to **save** humanity.

Most Christians believe in the **oneness** of God, but he is three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit (a **Trinity**).

The **Son** was born of a human mother, Mary. He died to **save** humanity, before rising from the dead and **ascending** to heaven. He will **c** _____ the living and the dead.

The **Holy Spirit** guides Christians and helps them in their lives, living in their hearts. He is present at **creation**, has spoken through prophets, descended at Jesus' **d** _____, and came at **e** _____. Catholics believe that he proceeds from the **Father** and the **Son**.

2. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps above.

a –	Spirit	Jesus	Moses
b –	Creation	Judgement	the Ten Commandments
c –	destroy	create	judge
d –	baptism	crucifixion	resurrection
e –	Christmas	Easter	Pentecost

3. Find a Bible quote that mentions a member of the Trinity and write it here: (Hint: Find one which will be useful for answering question 6 – the Gospels are a good place to look.)



Reference:

4. Give a reference to a Bible passage where the Bible notes the involvement of a member of the Trinity, and a quote / quotes to back this up.

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1. Fill in the Bible quote.

In the beginning... _____

(John 1:1–3 NRSV)

Role of the Word and

→ Genesis 1:1–3 says that God was present at **creation**.

→ John 1:1–3 says that the Word, who was with God at **creation**, was God and created through him.

2. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box to the left.

universe
animals two woman

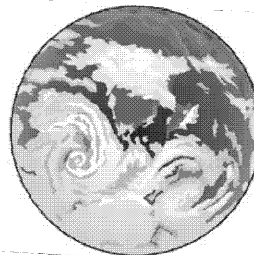
Genesis records the creation of the _____ and of life. There are _____ different accounts.

In the first, God creates the universe and its inhabitants in _____ days, and then rests a day. Plants and _____ are created before humans.

The second varies slightly; after God has created Earth, he creates man. He then creates plants and animals, and then creates _____, out of one of man's ribs.

The woman is tempted by a serpent and the couple eat the fruit of the _____ of knowledge of good and evil. God casts them out of their garden paradise.

Creation



3. What or who caused man and woman to fall from God's favour and be thrown from the garden? (1 mark)

- a) Killing animals
- b) Cursing God
- c) St Augustine
- d) Eating forbidden fruit

Importance and Influence of Creation for Christians today:

→ Many Christians believe that God gave them **dominion** over the Earth, that is, to let them rule over it.
Many Christians believe that God charged them with **stewardship** – looking after the world and the environment, so they believe they should do this.

4. Write A or B next to the correct term to complete the text. Also fill in the gaps.



literally



symbolically

Interpretations:

→ Some Christians **interpret** the Bible **A** _____; they believe in a 6-day creation and that God created humans as they are now.

→ Some Christians **interpret** the Bible **B** _____. They believe in the evolution of humanity, but that the biblical account of creation is not **A** _____ world through the **Big Bang**, and humans through **evolution**.

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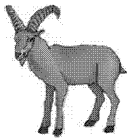
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Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs: The Afterlife

1. Write the correct multiple-choice answer in the gaps.

- A** – sheep cows pigs
B – tenants sower bridesmaids
C – resurrection reincarnation immortality
D – buried judged praised
E – nirvana Hades purgatory



In the **parable** of the **A** _____ and the goats, Jesus teaches that he will **judge** people at the end of time depending on their actions – the good will go to **heaven** and the bad to **hell**.

In the **parable** of the **B** _____, Jesus teaches that _____ people should _____ at the end of the world a **Judgement** to come at any time.

Some Christians believe in **C** _____ of the **body**; the dead will be raised in their bodies at the end of time. Jesus taught that the dead would be raised from their graves (John 5:28–29).

Some Christians believe in both **resurrection of the body** and **immortality of the soul**; people will live on immediately after death, but will be reunited with their bodies and **D** _____ at the end of time.

Some Christians believe in **immortality of the soul**; souls will go to **heaven/E** _____/hell immediately after death. Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be in paradise that day (Luke 23:43).

2. Fill in the gaps with places Christians believe people go to after death. You may need to use some more than once.

Many Christians believe in _____ a horrible realm where bad people go when they die, separated from God.

'In my Father's house there are many rooms. If you were not so, would I have a place for you?'

Many Christians believe in _____

_____ they die. Jesus

_____ place for them

_____ Christians will go

_____ he was the

The Catholic Church teaches that _____

people go to _____

where they must do penance for _____

sins before entering _____

Importance and Influence

→

→

→

The Afterlife

Judgement

Realms after death

How life after death works:

Importance and Influence

→

→

→

The Afterlife is what Christians believe comes after death. Christians have various beliefs about what happens when we die, where they will go, and what will happen at the end of time.

4. Find a Bible quote about the afterlife. You may use one which is already in the text. Write it here:

Reference:

5. Find another parable or teaching about judgement. (Hint: Try Matthew 24 or 25) – what does it teach?

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Biblical Basis for the Incarnation and Jesus Being the Son of God:

- God spoke approval at Jesus' **baptism** and at the **Transfiguration**.
- Jesus showed his glory at the **Transfiguration**.
- Jesus is spoken of as God in the flesh in the New Testament.
- Jesus had **divine** qualities:
 - ↳ he could **heal**
 - ↳ he performed **miracles**
 - ↳ he claimed **authority** to forgive **sins**
 - ↳ he came back from the dead



Many Christians believe that Jesus was the **incarnation** of God; God in the flesh. Most Christians believe he was fully human and fully God. He is also referred to as the **Son of God**.



3. Give three different understandings of the term 'Son of God', when referring to Jesus, modern beliefs, and Jesus' status.

The Incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God

Importance of the incarnation for Christians today:

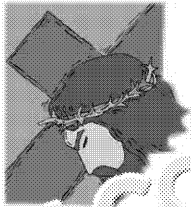
1. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box below.

Shows that God is _____ and cares enough about humans to live with them and die for them

Many Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish _____, so they do not need to follow it

Shows that there can be _____ after death

Shows that God wants to have a _____ with humans, and makes it easier to relate to him



Shows that God is _____

law life compassionate
relationship powerful

4. Find examples in the Bible of God's love for humanity. Make a few notes.



5. If there is a God, do you think that it might come down to Earth in human form? Why or why not?

2. Fill in the Bible quote: 'And a voice from _____'

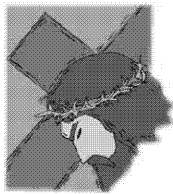
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Beliefs and Teachings - Jesus Christ and Salvation: Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension

! The Gospels record the last days of Jesus' life, including:
 → his **crucifixion** and death;
 → his **resurrection**; and
 → his **ascension**
 The suffering and death of Jesus are known as the **Passion**.



Synopsis:

The **Gospels** record that after eating a last meal with his _____, and being betrayed, Jesus was taken to the _____ High Priest and the _____ Council; the Roman Governor _____ Pontius Pilate; and in _____ Herod. The Jews convinced Pilate to kill Jesus, and he was **crucified**. When he died, the _____ two. After he died on the _____, _____ after _____, _____ going to Jesus' tomb on the _____ empty. Jesus appeared, **resurrected** _____ the dead, to his **disciples** on several occasions. After _____

Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension

2. Write the correct multiple-choice answer in the gaps.

The **Gospels** show that Jesus' death (**crucifixion**) and **resurrection** fulfilled **A** _____ **Testament prophecy**, and so the purpose of Jesus' life was to achieve God's long-term plan for humanity.

Jesus came to die as a sacrifice, to **save** humanity – he told his **disciples** that the forgiveness of **sins** is possible because of him, then died to pay the price for human **sin**, and was **resurrected**, showing that he had also defeated **B** _____; the punishment _____; the punishment _____; the punishment _____.

As Jesus **E** _____ to heaven after his death, he is believed to be alive, and able to help Christians in their daily lives. Jesus' **resurrection** and **ascension** show his **D** _____ and reassure Christians of his power and **authority**.

Many Christians believe Jesus came to reunite God with the **gentiles** as well as the **Jews**, meaning that anyone can come to God through Jesus, because of his **crucifixion** and **resurrection**.

The **crucifixion** symbolises that humans are no longer separated from **C** _____ and that Jesus came so that humans and God could be **reconciled** and have a relationship.

3. Fill in the

4. Find another Bible quote that crucifixion or resurrection and

- A – New
 B – hate
 C – sin
 D – divinity
 E – ascended
- resurrected
 crucified
 Jewish
 death
 gentiles
 forgiveness
 humanity

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! **Sin** is an interesting concept, which often means acting against God's will, but can also refer to a state of separation from God.

Sin



2. Explain personal sin.

Personal Sin:

3. Which people/Church should gaps? Research if necessary.

Christians believe that they need **saving** from **sin**, so that they can have a good relationship with God, and so they do not go to hell. The consequence of sin is believed to be death; those who are saved receive eternal life.

Most Christians believe that they are saved from their sin through Jesus, and that if they believe in him, confess their sins and ask for forgiveness, then they will be saved.

Original Sin:

Some Christians (notably the ? Church) believe in **original sin**, which be inherited from birth.

The concept is generally credited to St ? , who believed that when Ad ? (the first people) **sinned** against God, their nature became damaged and all future humans inherited sin when created through sexual reproduction.

Only ? (Jesus' mother) and Jesus are believed to have been born with

1. Find a Bible quote which supports one of these ideas and write it here: (Hint: Try Romans 6.)



Reference:

4. How do you think beliefs about sin influence Christian life today?

5. Find out what is taught about sin in the Bible. (Hint: Look at Genesis 2 and 3, and 1 John 1:8-10.)

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Salvation within Christianity refers to being **saved** from sin and death. Christians believe Jesus brought them **salvation**, through **atonement**. Other means of **salvation** include **law, grace and the Spirit**.

1. Explain the concepts of salvation and atonement, and Jesus' role in these.

Salvation: It is what Jesus achieved for Christians.

Atonement: It is how Jesus achieved salvation for Christians.

2. Give three reasons why atonement is important to Christians.

Salvation and importance to Christians believe →
→
→

A _____:
Jews try to achieve **salvation** by following the Jewish **A** _____. Christians _____ they no longer need to follow all of this, as they receive **salvation** through following Jesus instead.

B _____ and the Spirit:
Many Christians believe that **B** _____ is a gift from God, which can **save** them. Jesus coming to **save** humanity was an expression of God's **B** _____. Many Christians also believe that they receive God's **B** _____ through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and **sacraments**.

Some Christians think that people are **saved** if they use their **free will** to accept Jesus' sacrifice

Some Christians believe certain people are **predestined** to be **saved**

Jesus' death was a _____ by paying the price _____

Jesus' death _____

Different theories of atonement:

3. Write A or B next to each term to match it to the correct places in the text. Also fill the gaps with the correct terms.

☐ _____

☐ _____ **grace**

4. Which understanding of who receives salvation (predestination or free will) makes most sense to you? Explain.

5. Explain why Christ's death was necessary for salvation/atonement.

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Practices - Worship and Festivals: Worship

Worship covers any acts of devotion to God and can come in different styles and involve different practices.

1. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box below.

The Bible is used in many ways. It can be used to _____ about God and God's will, in _____ or private **worship**, and _____ because Christians may find _____ to them through the Bible and gives his _____. The Bible may also help to _____ and guide Christians, and to help them to make decisions.

group speaks
comfort teach grace

Liturgical worship:

This is **worship** which follows a structure. Many churches may follow the same **liturgical** style every week, but use different hymns and **prayers** (for example). It allows different aspects of worship to be incorporated, and helps Christians connect with God following a familiar structure.

3. When...

Forms of worship

Non-liturgical and informal worship:

These involve worship with which may be spontaneous. These types of **worship** may want to **worship** God in the appropriate at the time, rather than planned in advance, or if they want to without the formal **liturgy**.

2. Explain what private worship is, when it might happen and what it might contain.

Private worship:



Used by some churches for non-liturgical services, or occasionally. These can be done privately or individually when Christians want to **worship** God more personally.

4. Give three different types of worship practice (e.g. reading the Bible).

5. Why do you think worship is important to Christians? Give three reasons.

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'Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive
us our debts, as we also have forgiven our
debtors. And do not bring us to the time of
trial, but rescue us from the evil one.'

(Matthew 6:9-13 NIV)

1. What is prayer and what is its purpose?

Prayer is...



Prayer

Styles of Prayer

Some **prayers** are **A** _____
which Christians can use
thoughts with God and
feelings and things current
world and the

e.g. Christians **pray** the _____
because Jesus taught his disciples to **pray** this, and it
allows Christians to ask God for provision and guidance.

2. Which prayer do Christians pray which
Jesus taught his disciples to pray?

Significance of Prayer:

- **Prayer** allows Christians to have a relationship with God.
- The ability to **pray** helps Christians to rely on God for help and guidance.
- **Praying** fulfils Jesus' command to **pray** to God.
- **Praying** allows Christians to praise and thank God.
- **Praying** allows Christians to ask God for help – for themselves or others.
- **Praying** allows Christians to ask for forgiveness.

Some **prayers** are **B** _____
prayers –
exact **prayers** which
Christians use. Christians
may **pray** these for
particular needs.

3. Write A or B in the
of prayer to match the
correct box. A



info

4. When teaching the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6, Jesus said that
God would forgive someone's sins if they did what?

Which object do many Catholics use to pray
they do this?

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Practices - Worship and Festivals: Sacraments

1. Explain what baptism is, what it symbolises and why Christians get baptised / baptise others.

Baptism is...

Baptism

Sacraments

Sacraments are important for Christians. They **worship** God and receive God's **grace** through **sacraments** which are powerful. Christians see **sacraments** as symbols.

Some churches, e.g. the Anglican Church, practise **A** _____

Some churches, e.g. the Catholic Church, practise **B** _____ (children) – only **baptism** is a sacrament.

baptism, also known as **christening**.

A young child is **anointed** with oil from a **font**, and the parents and godparents make promises to raise the child in the Christian **faith**.

Christians must make promises to commit their life to God and are fully immersed in water.

2. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Matthew 28:19 NRSV)

Some Christians believe that infants must be **baptised**, or they will go to hell or a state called limbo if they die. This is an uncommon view today. Most Christians who **baptise** their children do so to introduce them to the **faith** and to commit to raising them as Christians.

The Catholic Church believes in **D** _____: that the bread and wine somehow become the body and blood of Jesus for Christians to receive. Catholics must be confirmed to receive the **E** _____.

Eucharist

In the Orthodox Church, the bread and wine are mixed together and given on a **E** _____.

In the Anglican Church, ordained clergy bless the bread and wine and distribute it; often the **congregation** come to the **C** _____. The **Eucharist** will be part of a **liturgy**. The bread is thin wafers, and the wine is usually in one chalice. A blessing will be given for those who do not receive bread and wine.

Also known as Communion, the **Eucharist** is a sacrament that commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3. Write the correct multiple-choice answer for each question.

- A** – adult
B – believer
C – altar
D – real presence
E – plate
- baby
convert
lectern
incarnation
spoon
pulpit
transubstantiation
skewer

4. Find a Bible quote that relates to the Eucharist and write it here:
(Hint: Try Matthew 26, Mark 14, or Luke 22.)

Reference:

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1. What is pilgrimage and why do Christians go on pilgrimage?

Pilgrimage...



3. Write the name of the pilgrimage site next to its description. Use the words in the box below.

→ _____ – important

because it hosts a Christian community

_____ – important because a vision of Mary was seen here, and people go in the hope of being healed

L _____ Iona

4. Which girl had a vision of the mother Mary at Lourdes?

- a) Cécile
- b) Lucie
- c) Bernadette
- d) Clémence

Places of Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage

2. Give two different reasons why pilgrimage / pilgrimage places may be thought important.

Importance:

→ Some places may be considered important because...

(popular Catholic view).

→ Not all Christians think that places are important in themselves, but may go to a pilgrimage for other reasons.

(popular Protestant view).

5. Give three other places where Christians go on pilgrimage.

2)

3)

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- Find a Bible quote about the events that Christmas celebrates and write it here: (Hint: Use the start of Matthew's or Luke's Gospel.)



Reference:

- Find a Bible quote about the events that Easter celebrates, or one discussing Jesus' death/resurrection in the New Testament letters, and write it here:



Reference:

A: _____

A is the celebration of Jesus' birth, and _____ is the time of preparation leading up to it.

Christians celebrate this because they believe God sent his son, Jesus, who many believe to be God **incarnate**, to **save** them and _____ them with _____.

A is important because Jesus' birth was when Jesus came into the world to live with and _____ humans, and without his birth he would not have been able to die and rise to **save** humanity.

B: _____

On _____, Christians celebrate Jesus being **crucified to atone** for Christians. They also celebrate him being **resurrected** from the dead, overcoming death. These are the events that Christians believe that through these Jesus brought them _____ and **redeemed** them.

During _____, the period before **B**, Christians traditionally repent of their sins.

- Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box to the right.

Good Friday
salvation

- Write **A** or **B** next to each festival to match it to the right piece of text, and write the name of the festival at the top of the correct box.

☐ Christmas

☐ Easter

How might Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter – what do you think?

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Practices - The Role of the Church in the Local and Worldwide Community: Role of the Church in the Local Community

1. Fill in the (four) gaps about what a church does in the local community – with no prompts!

→ Provides **worship** services and groups, e.g. to study the **Bible** / **pray**
↳ help Christians to maintain, strengthen and understand their _____
↳ help Christians to focus on their Christian identity and encourages them to continually practise their **faith** in their everyday lives

→ Provides fellowship; the opportunity to spend time with other Christians
↳ allows them the opportunities to discuss their _____ and form friendships

→ Provides activities for children
↳ helps children to learn _____ and grow in their **faith**

→ Church members will visit those who are _____ or unable to attend church
↳ Christians will receive spiritual and practical support in hard times

→ Churches may do **outreach** work, such as running _____ courses and activities
↳ this may help non-Christians come to **faith**
↳ activities may provide enjoyment and support for those in the community who need practical support or companionship

→ The Church may speak out about local issues or help local charities
↳ this helps add weight to the community voice and support to local projects

4. Find another Bible quote which provides a reason why the church helps the local community and write it here:
(Hint: Try Matthew 7, Matthew 25, Mark 10, or 1 Peter 5)

Reference:

The **local church**, or parish, is important because it tries to help local believers and the local community, with **faith** and with practical issues.



How the Church helps local believers and the community

→ Local Christians may help street pastor or food bank initiatives
↳ Street pastors provide practical support on the streets, talking to members of the community, providing practical support for vulnerable people, and discouraging antisocial behaviour
↳ food banks help to provide food for those who have financial problems and cannot afford food

3. What is _____

Ecumenism

Why the local church helps local believers and the community

Church members may want to help others with their **faith**, and with their lives due to **compassion**

2. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Luke 3:11 NRSV)

5. Why do you think different churches work ecumenically on a local level?

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The Church has tried to **grow** through **missionary** work and **evangelism**, which are important to many Christians. The **Church has grown** greatly since the time of Jesus, though it is now declining in some Western countries.

History of Church growth:

- Early Christians **evangelised** locally, and then spread out further.
- **Evangelism** was helped by the Roman Emperor Constantine, other leaders, and trade.
- Churches have tried to **convert** people in areas where they are active.
- Some Christians have evangelised overseas through **missions**.

3. Fill in the gaps! Use the words in the box below.

Missionary work is often abroad; trying to **evangelise** in areas which are less economically developed, while also helping with _____ considerations. As well as a **mission** to _____, and help, others, the Church also has other **missions**, such as working for _____.

elderly charities convert
practical alpha peace

1. What is evangelism? Why do Christians / the Church

Evangelism is...

2. Fill in the

Place of Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth

Examples of evangelism and missionary work

_____ courses and Church activities open to people interested in Church and Christianity, and to teach

Centres and drop-ins where the homeless, _____ night out, can receive food, shelter and help, with

_____ which help with humanitarian support for Christianity

4. Give two examples of methods of evangelism (2 marks)

Do you think it is right for Christians to focus on evangelism seek to help people practically?

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The **worldwide church** can mean all Christians, or all churches of a particular **denomination**. Many **denominations** try to work together as members of the World Council of Churches, though the **A** _____ Church is not a member. The **worldwide church** is important for many reasons.

1. Give another three roles of the worldwide church (Hint: Use the other boxes as prompts).

Role and importance:

- To help coordinate beliefs and practices out their faith
- To evangelise to convert more Christians

Importance of the Worldwide Church

In some countries Christians are **persecuted** for their **faith**. Christian churches may try to seek **reconciliation** with their persecutors, and **B** _____ the Jesus taught. The _____ work together with other organisations to combat _____ in. Many Christians try not to lose **faith** due to **persecution**, believing it is part of God's **C** _____. However, some Christian churches may meet and **worship** in secret to preserve the safety of their members.

The **worldwide church** works out of **compassion**. They work in poor countries and religious groups to create a better world, and because they have been badly and taught that people should help others.

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'
(Matthew 25:40)

The worldwide church gives charity:

Christians believe that they should help, and give to, others.

- Jesus taught them that they ought to help others, including in the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 where he indicates that those who perform acts of **charity** will go to **heaven**, because helping others is a service to God. Those who do not help others will go to **D** _____.
- St Paul also teaches that Christians should love everyone and help them through **E** _____, rather than as an empty gesture.

2. What does Christian Aid aim to do – and how and why?

Christian Aid...

3. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

- A** – Anglican **D** – hell **E** – duty
- B** – forgiveness **C** – punishment **D** – hell **E** – duty
- C** – punishment **D** – hell **E** – duty
- D** – hell **E** – duty
- E** – duty

4. What do you think is the most important thing the worldwide church does? Why?

5. If you could change one thing about the worldwide church, what would it be?

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Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs: The Nature of God - God's Qualities and

The Nature of God

There are different beliefs about God's nature. Many Christians believe he is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, although this highlights the **problem of evil and suffering**.

God Qualities

- God is believed to be **omnipotent** or all-powerful. The Bible teaches of his power, shown especially in his **creation** of the world, and his **salvation** of humanity.
- God is believed to be **loving**. In the Bible he sends Jesus to pay the price for humanity's **sin**.
- God is believed to be **just** – righteous and fair. He rewards the good and punishes the bad. In the Bible he does not abandon his people; he saves them from slavery in Egypt and leads them to a Promised Land.

God's Qualities and the Problem of Evil and Suffering

Types of Suffering

The Problem of Evil and Suffering:

If God is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just** by **nature**, the **problem** arises: why does he allow **evil** and **suffering**?

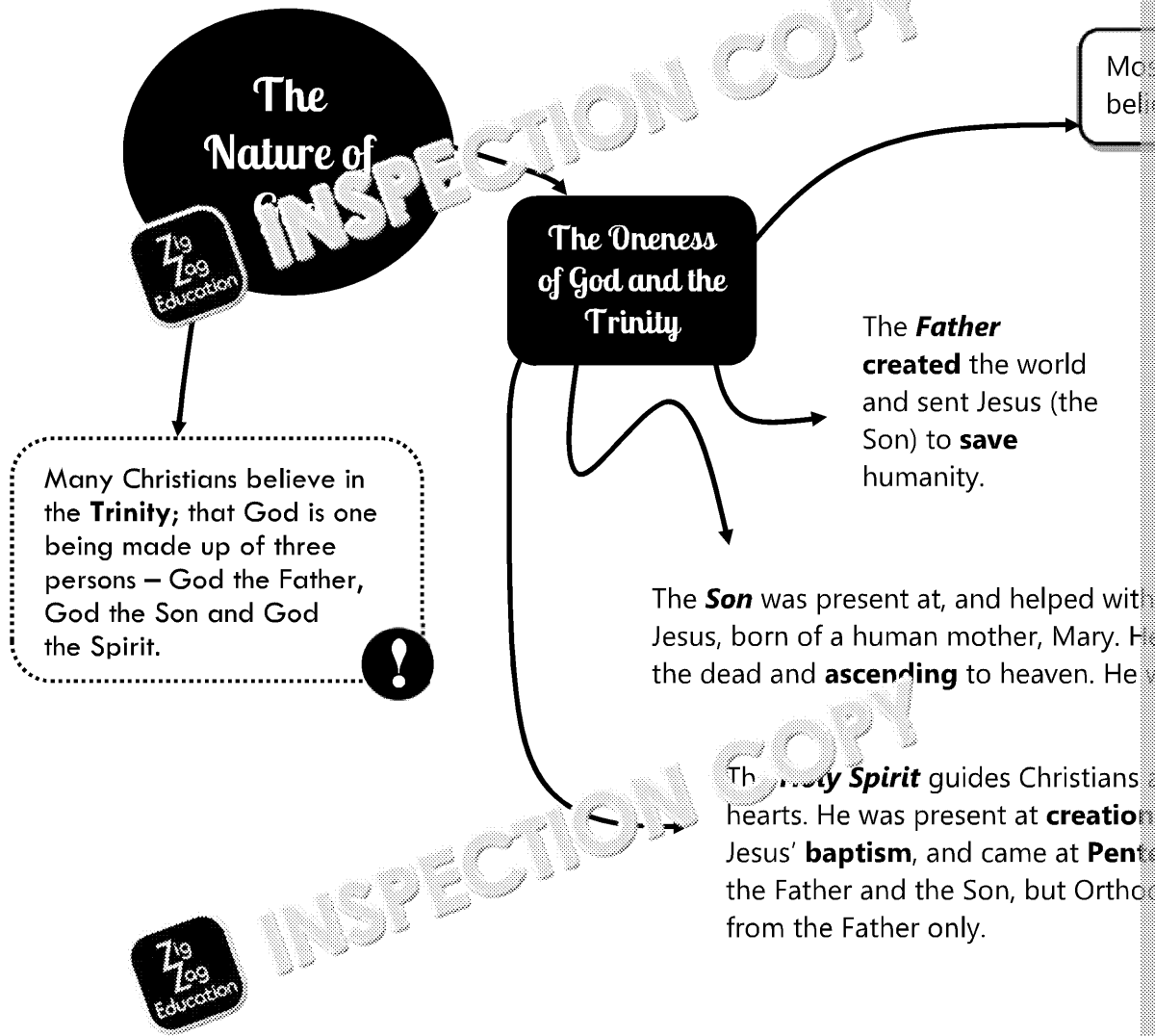
Problems for Christians:

- If God is *not* **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, Christianity, which is based on belief in God, was powerful enough to create the universe and that God is fair and good.
- If God is **omnipotent**, **loving** and **just**, why does he allow **evil** and **suffering**, or allow the wicked often succeed – the existence of evil and suffering lead people to question their **faith**.

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Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs: Creation

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being...'

(John 1:1–3 NRSV)

Role of the Word Spirit:

→ Genesis 1:1–3 spirit of God at **creation**.

→ John 1:1–3 say **Word** (Jesus) at **creation**, v. that everything through him.

Genesis records **creation** of the universe and of life. There are two different accounts.

In the first, God creates the universe and its inhabitants in six days, and then rests a day. Plants and animals are created before humans.

The second varies slightly; after God has created Earth, he creates man. He then creates plants and animals, and then creates woman, out of one of man's ribs.

The woman is tempted by a serpent and the couple eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God casts them out of their garden paradise.

Creation

Interpretation

Some Christians **interpret** the Bible **literally**; they believe world was created in seven days and that God created humans as we are now.

→ Some Christians **interpret** the Bible **symbolically**. They believe God created the world and humanity, but that the biblical creation is not **literally** true – God may have created the world through the **Big Bang**, and humans through **evolution**.

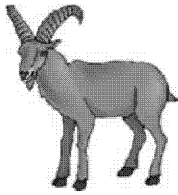


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Beliefs and Teachings - Key Beliefs: The Afterlife



In the **parable** of the sheep and the goats, Jesus teaches that he will **judge** people at the end of time depending on their actions – the good will go to **heaven** and the bad to **hell**.

'In my Father's house, there is room for you, would I not?' (Matthew 23:34)

In the **parable** of the bridesmaids, Jesus teaches that people must be ready for the **Kingdom of God** at the end of the world and **judgement** will come at any time.

Many Christians believe in **hell**, a horrible realm where bad people go when they die, separated from God.

Judgement

Some Christians believe in **resurrection of the body**; the dead will be raised in their bodies at the end of time. Jesus taught that the dead would be raised from their graves (John 5:28–29).

Some Christians believe in both **resurrection of the body** and **immortality of the soul**; people will live on immediately after death, but will be reunited with their bodies and **judged** at the end of time.

How life after death works

Some Christians believe in the **immortality of the soul**; souls will go to **paradise/heaven** or **paradise/hell** immediately after death. Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be in **paradise** that day (Luke 23:43).

The **Afterlife** is what Christians believe comes after death. Christians have various beliefs about what happens when we die, where they will go, and what will happen at the end of time.

The Afterlife

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Beliefs and Teachings - Jesus Christ and Salvation: The Incarnation and Je

Biblical Basis for the Incarnation and Jesus Being the Son of God:

- God spoke approval at Jesus' **baptism** and at the **Transfiguration**.
- Jesus showed his glory at the **Transfiguration**.
- Jesus is spoken of as God's **Son** in the New Testament.
- Jesus had **divine abilities**:
 - ↳ he could **heal**
 - ↳ he performed **miracles**
 - ↳ he claimed **authority** to forgive **sins**
 - ↳ he came back from the dead

Many Christians believe that Jesus was the **incarnation** of God in the flesh. Most Christians believe he was fully human and fully God. He is often referred to as the **Son of God**.

The Incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God

Why

- He
- Je
- M

Shows that God is **compassionate** and cares enough about humans to live with them and die for them

Shows that there can be life after death

Importance of the Incarnation for Christians today:

Many Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish **Law**, so they do not need to follow it

Shows that God wants to have a relationship with humans, and makes it easier to relate to him

Shows that God is **powerful**

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Beliefs and Teachings - Jesus Christ and Salvation: Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension

The Gospels record the last days of Jesus' life, including:

- his **crucifixion** and death;
- his **resurrection**; and
- his **ascension**

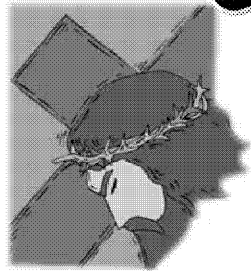
The suffering and death of Jesus are known as the **Passion**.

Synopsis:

The **Gospels** record that after eating a last supper with the High Priest and the other disciples, Jesus was taken into custody by King Herod. The Jews, when he died, the **temple** curtain tore. On the Sunday morning, Jesus appeared to his **disciples** on several occasions. As Jesus **ascended** to be alive, and abode with his Father in heaven.

As Jesus **ascended** to be alive, and abode with his Father in heaven.

Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension



The **Gospels** show that Jesus' death (**crucifixion**) and **resurrection** fulfilled **Old Testament prophecy**, and so the purpose of Jesus' life was to achieve God's long-term plan for humanity.

The importance of these events for Christians

Many with anyone

Jesus **died** as a sacrifice, to **save** humanity – he told his **disciples** that the forgiveness of **sins** is possible because of him, then died to pay the price for human **sin**, and was **resurrected**, showing that he had also defeated death; the punishment of **sin**.

The **temple** curtain tearing from top to bottom is thought to symbolize that humans are no longer separated from God and that Jesus can bridge the gap between humans and God could be reconciled and have a relationship with God.

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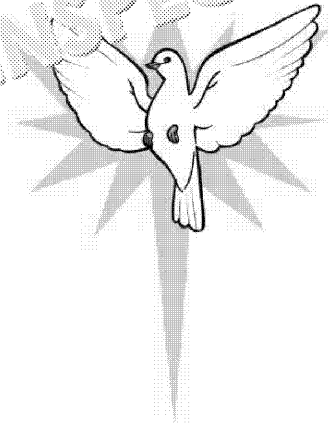
Beliefs and Teachings - Jesus Christ and Salvation: Sin

Sin is an interesting concept, which often means acting against God's will, but can also refer to a state of separation from God.



Personal Sin:

Most Christians believe that personal sin is acting against God's will.



Sin

Christians believe that they need **saving** from **sin**, so that they can have a good relationship with God, and so they do not go to hell. The consequence of sin is believed to be death: those who are saved receive eternal life.

Most Christians believe that they are saved from their sin through Jesus, and that they believe in him, confess their sins and ask for forgiveness, then they will be saved.



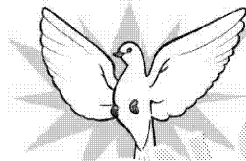
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Beliefs and Teachings - Jesus Christ and Salvation: Means of Salvation and

Salvation within Christianity refers to being **saved** from **sin** and death. Christians believe Jesus brought them **salvation**, through **atonement**. Other **means of salvation** include **law**, **grace** and the **Spirit**.



Law:

Jews try to achieve **salvation** by following the Jewish **Law**. Christians believe they no longer need to follow all of this, as they receive **salvation** through following Jesus instead.

Means of Salvation, and Role of Christ in Salvation

Salvation:

Christians believe that Jesus **saved** them from **sin** and death through his death and **resurrection**. This is known as **salvation**.

It is *what* Jesus achieved for Christians.

Grace and the Spirit:

Many Christians believe that **grace** is a gift from God, which can **save** them. According to **save** humanity, an act of God's **grace**. Many Christians also believe that they receive God's **grace** through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and **sacraments**.



Some Christians believe that people are **saved** if they use their **free will** to accept Jesus' sacrifice

Some Christians believe certain people are **predestined** to be **saved**

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Practices - Worship and Festivals: Worship

Worship covers any acts of devotion to God and can come in different styles and involve different practices.



The Bible is used by many Christians. It can be used to learn about God and God's will, to guide public or private **worship**, and is important because Christians may feel that God speaks to them through the Bible and gives his **grace**. The Bible may also help to comfort and guide Christians, and to help them to make decisions.



Liturgical worship:

This is **worship** which follows a structured form. Many churches may follow the same **liturgical** form but use different hymns and prayers (for example). It allows different aspects of worship to be incorporated, and helps Christians follow a familiar structure.

Worship

Forms of worship

Private worship:

Christians can **worship** God whenever and wherever they want to. They may like to pray on particular occasions, such as at bedtime or when they are in a difficult situation. They may also choose which **worship** practices to use.



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Practices - Worship and Festivals: Prayer

'Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread. And forgive our debts, as we
also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us
to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.'
(Matthew 6:9–13 NRSV)

Prayer is communication.
Christians **pray** in different ways
and for many reasons.
They have a close relationship with God.

e.g. Christians **pray** the **Lord's Prayer**
because Jesus taught his **disciples** to
pray this, and it allows Christians to ask
God for provision and guidance.

Some **prayers** are **set prayers** – exact
prayers which Christians use. Christians
may **pray** these for particular purposes.

Some **prayers** are **informal prayers**,
which Christians can use to share their
own thoughts with God and talk to him
about their feelings and things currently
happening in the world and their lives.

Styles of Prayer

Significance of Prayer

- **Prayer** allows Christians to communicate with God
- The ability to **pray** is a gift from God
- **Praying** fulfils Jesus' command to love God with all our heart, mind and strength
- **Praying** allows Christians to seek God's will for their lives
- **Praying** allows Christians to seek God's forgiveness for their sins

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Practices - Worship and Festivals: Sacraments

Baptism is being **anointed** with or immersed in water to **symbolise** committing one's life to God. It is an important step for many Christians in their journey of **faith**. Jesus commanded his **disciples** to **baptise** followers.

Sacraments are important practices in Christian **worship** God. Some see God's **grace** through the **sacraments** are powerful in the **see sacraments** as **symbolic**.

Some churches, e.g. the Anglican Church, practise **infant baptism**. A young child is **anointed** with oil from a **font**, and the parents and godparents make promises to raise the child in the Christian **faith**.

Some Christians believe that infants must be **baptised**, or they will go to hell or a state called limbo if they die. This is an uncommon view today. Most Christians who **baptise** their children do so to introduce them to the **faith** and to commit them as Christians.

Baptism

Some churches, e.g. the Baptist Church, only **baptise** adults (and older children) – this is known as **believer's baptism**. Christians must make promises to commit their life to God and are fully immersed in water.

Sacraments

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'
(Matthew 28:19 NRSV)

In the Anglican Church, the ordained clergy use bread and wine and it; often the **consecrated** bread and wine come to the **altar**. The **Eucharist** will be celebrated in **liturgy**. The bread is broken into small wafers, and the wine is drunk from one chalice. A **communion** can be given for those who cannot receive bread and

The Catholic Church believes in **transubstantiation**: that the bread and wine somehow become the body and blood of Jesus for those who receive. Catholics must be confirmed to receive the **Eucharist**.

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Pilgrimage involves going on a physical journey, in order to assist a spiritual journey, it helps Christians strengthen, and grow, their faith.

Pilgrimage

Importance:

- Some places may be considered important because of people who have lived there, or visions that have happened there (popular Catholic view).
- Not all Christians believe places are important in themselves, but may visit a pilgrimage site to spend time in prayer with other Christians, or for other reasons (popular Protestant view).

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Practices - The Role of the Church in the Local and Worldwide Community:

- Provides **worship** services and groups, e.g. to study the **Bible / pray**
 - ↳ help Christians to maintain, strengthen and understand their **faith**
 - ↳ help Christians to focus on their Christian identity and encourages them to continually practise their **faith** in their everyday lives

- Provides fellowship; the opportunity to spend time with other Christians
 - ↳ allows them the opportunities to discuss their **faith** and form friendships

- Provides activities for children
 - ↳ helps children learn about Christianity and grow in their **faith**

- Church members will visit those who are ill or unable to attend church
 - ↳ Christians will receive spiritual and practical support in hard times

- Churches may do *outreach* work, such as running alpha courses and activities
 - ↳ this may help non-Christians come to **faith**
 - ↳ activities may provide enjoyment and support for those in the community who need practical support or companionship

- The Church may speak out about local issues or help local charities
 - ↳ this helps add weight to the community voice and support to local projects

- Local Christians may help street pastor or food bank initiatives
 - ↳ Street pastors provide practical support on the streets to help members of the community, providing practical support for vulnerable people, and discouraging antisocial behaviour
 - ↳ food banks help to provide food for those who have financial problems and cannot afford food

The **local church**, is important because believers and the church live with **faith** and with

Role of the Local Church

How the Church helps local believers and the community

'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

(Luke 3:11 NRSV)

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Practices - The Role of the Church in the Local and Worldwide Community: Place

The Church has tried to **grow** through **missionary** work and **evangelism**, which are important to many Christians. The **Church has grown** greatly since the time of Jesus, though it is now declining in some Western countries.

History of Church Growth

- Early Christians **evangelised** locally, and then spread out.
- **Evangelism** was helped by the Roman Emperor Constantine, other leaders, and trade.
- Churches have tried to **convert** people in the areas where they are active.
- Some Christians have tried to **evangelise** overseas through **missionary** work.

Evangelism is spreading the good news to all humanity. Christians do different things, but they do so to serve God. They may **evangelise** to help others through teaching, or they may **evangelise** to maintain church funds and volunteers to continue Church work.

Place of Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth

Missionary work is often abroad; trying to **evangelise** in areas which are less economically developed, while also helping with practical considerations. As well as a mission to convert, and help, churches also have **missions**, such as working for the poor.

Examples of evangelism and missionary work

Alpha courses for people interested in Christianity

Centres and charities which provide food, shelter and other practical help

Charities which support people about Christianity

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Practices - The Role of the Church in the Local and Worldwide Community:

The **worldwide church** can mean all Christians, or all churches of a particular **denomination**. Many **denominations** try to work together as members of the World Council of Churches, though the Catholic Church is not a member. The **worldwide church** is important for many reasons.



Role and importance:

- To help coordinate beliefs and
- To help Christians work together
- To help support all Christians,
- To help others, e.g. through g
- To **evangelise**, to **convert** mo

In some countries, Christians are **persecuted** for their faith. Christian churches may try to seek **reconciliation** with their persecutors, and forgive them, as Jesus taught. They may also work with other organisations to combat **persecution**. Many Christians try not to lose **faith** due to **persecution**, believing it is part of God's plan. However, some Christian churches may meet and **worship** in secret to preserve the safety of their members.

Importance of the Worldwide Church

The worldwide church gives charity:

Christians believe that they should help, and give to others.

- Jesus taught them that they should help others, including in the parable of the talents and the parable of the sheep in Matthew 25 where he indicates that those who perform acts of **charity** will go to **heaven**, because helping others is a service to God. Those who do not help others will go to **hell**.
- St Paul also teaches that Christians should love everyone and help them through **compassion**, rather than as an empty gesture.

Christian Aid:

Christian Aid is a charity that helps economically developed countries suffering. They do this through Practical support the

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Christianity Topic on a Page Activities

Some questions ask for comparison between religions. This is not expected in the exam, but activities involving comparison should help students to remember points about Christianity and broaden their understanding of similarities and differences between religions.

Always check information, specification

1. The Nature of God – God’s Qualities and the Problem of

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
'God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world for him.' (1 John 4:9 NRSV)
- 5) For example:
 - Moral effort
 - Natural suffering1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 6) For example:
 - Free will is a fairly good solution to the problem of evil and suffering because we prefer to have free will, and there be a possibility that some will use this freedom to make real choices. Therefore I think it is successful in explaining moral suffering but it does not provide an explanation for natural suffering.
 - I do not think that evil and suffering are just, so this is not a successful solution. Many bad people do not suffer, while good people do. Also, if Jesus came to earth, he no longer need to be punished.
- 7) For example: I do not think that Christians are justified in believing in an omnipotent God because there do not seem to be satisfactory solutions for there being the amount of evil in the world, if God is loving and all-powerful. Either God does not exist, or he is not loving because a loving God could not want humans to suffer as much as they do.

2. The Nature of God – The Oneness of God and the Trinity

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) For example:
'Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."' (Matthew 16:16)
- 4) For example: Jesus' baptism, creation (Father and Spirit mentioned in Genesis, John 1:1-3)
'In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove and a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."'
'In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.' (Genesis 1:1-2)
'The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God, but the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.' (John 1:17-18)
- 5) For example:
 - Christians believe that God the Father is powerful. They believe that he created the world, and by helping his people (the Jewish people in the Old Testament, and Christians in the New Testament). Some believe that he is in charge of the other persons of the Trinity.
 - Christians believe that the second person of the Trinity has existed both in the past and the future. They believe that he was present at the creation of the world, but also that he came to earth as Jesus. The person of Jesus is known as God the Son.
 - 'Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."' (Matthew 16:16)Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.
1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for scripture.
If only one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture.

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- 6) For example:
- Jesus comes from the Father, but is one being with him.
 - Jesus' mother was a virgin.
 - Jesus will come to judge those alive and those dead.

3. Creation

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) d) Eating forbidden fruit
- 4) See summary sheet
- 5) For example:
'Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.' (Genesis 1:3 NRSV)
- 6) For example:
- Literal pro: You can use it to justify believing parts of the Bible and not others.
 - Literal con: It disagrees with the biblical accounts of creation.
 - Symbolic pro: Christians can believe in religion and science without them conflicting.
 - Symbolic con: Believing that God created the world / life through the Big Bang seem less powerful and involved.
- (Note: cons for the literal view may be pros for the symbolic view, and vice versa)
- 7) For example: The doctrine of the Fall is the idea that humans fell from God's grace. This corrupted all of humanity, not just Adam and Eve. This led to original sin being reproduced (the first, original sin of Adam and Eve was passed on to their children). Humans really need saving as they are very separated from God. It also makes sex

4. The Afterlife

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
'Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will come out...' (John 5:28-29 NRSV)
- 5) For example: The parable of the talents teaches that people will be rewarded for what they have and given more, but those who do not use what God has given them will be punished.
- 6) For example:
- Some Christians believe that after death the soul will live on immediately – good people to heaven and bad people to hell (some believe that some people will go to purgatory to be purified before going to heaven). Death begins immediately after death and the soul is immortal. This is reinforced by Jesus talking about life immediately after death.
 - [to the thief on the cross] 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'
 - Some Christians believe that life after death does not begin immediately after death, but is raised at the end of time, known as resurrection of the body, and it is their bodies, and they will be judged before being sent to heaven or hell.
 - 'Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will come out...' (John 5:28-29 NRSV)

Accept all relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for scriptural reference. If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scriptural reference.

- 7) For example: I do not think some Christians are justified in interpreting John 14:1-6 as people going to heaven. Many Christians claim this means that people can only know God as Jesus the Son, and as Christians believe in a loving God, this seems a better interpretation. God would condemn people to hell for not worshipping him and following another

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5. The Incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: Jesus cried when his friend Lazarus died (John 11:35); Jesus was not afraid of death (John 11:12); Jesus slept (e.g. Mark 4:38); Jesus died in agony (Jesus' Passion in any of the Gospels)
- 5) For example: I think it makes sense for God / a God to come down to Earth in human form so that they are following his teaching, and they will respect him for living among them and making things better.
- 6) For example:
 - One argument with justification
 - Different arguments for and against with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and justification for

- Jesus showed divine qualities such as healing and rising from the dead.
- Jesus is spoken of as God in the flesh in the New Testament.
- Christianity has taught this for years – if Jesus was not God, God would have been angry with them.

Points and Justification against

- Jesus' followers may not have thought he was God incarnate during early Christianity. Evidence of Jesus being thought to be God in the Gospels.
- References to Jesus as God's son may not mean that he is divine – they could be metaphorical – many Christians have believed this.
- Other prophets in the Bible have been able to heal and perform miracles, but they were not divine.

Accept any relevant point or justification.

- 7) For example:
 - Docetism claims that Jesus was fully divine and just appeared to be human.
 - Adoptionism holds that Jesus was a sinless human who God adopted at some point. Some forms of Adoptionism hold that after Jesus' adoption, he became divine and was the Father.

6. Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:

'While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood by them. They were terrified and bowed to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you doubt? He is not here. He has risen." (Luke 24:4–5 NRSV)
- 5) For example:
 - Reconciliation between people and God, so that they can have a relationship with God.
 - Overcoming sin and death, so there can be eternal life for humans.

Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 6) For example: I think they vary because they are compiled from different witnesses, Jesus, and because the Gospel authors want to emphasise different points.
- 7) For example: I think Jesus' crucifixion should be more important for Christians, as it shows his sacrifice for humanity and atoned for man's sin.

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7. Sin

- 1) For example:
'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus'
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: Because Christians believe they are sinful, they are likely to want to repent and be sure to ask God for forgiveness when they sin again. Those that believe in God's grace to save their fallen nature.
- 5) For example:
 - Jesus taught that people should try very hard to avoid sin.
 - Jesus taught that disabilities were not due to sin.
- 6) For example:
 - Christians believe that if sin is not remedied, they deserve to be punished by ultimate punishment which is death. However, they believe that Jesus paid the price for sin and saved those who will live on after death.
 - 'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus'
 - Some Christians believe in original sin. The Catholic Church teaches that the eating of the forbidden fruit has been passed on through sexual intercourse so that all humans are born with a sinful nature. Jesus can be seen as a second Adam who came to save fallen humans.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for scripture.

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture.

- 7) For example:
 - Similarities with Judaism: Jews, like Christians, believe that breaking God's law is sinful. They believe that sin will be punished by God.
 - Differences between Judaism and Christianity: Christians do not believe that the law still need to be kept – breaking some of these is not sinful because Jesus fulfilled the law. That Jesus saved humanity from sin – Jews do not believe this.

8. Means of Salvation and Role of Christ in Salvation

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: I think it makes most sense that people can be saved if they come to God. This means people can choose to accept Jesus, and need to make an effort to come to God. If people are predestined to be saved this seems unfair on those who cannot achieve salvation. Humans if God has already chosen to save them.
- 5) For example: Some Christians believe that it was necessary for Jesus to die for sin. God is loving and just – he wanted to save humans, but something had to be done. Jesus himself had to die as only he was able to die for all sin, and this achieved salvation for those who are not punished.
- 6) For example:
 - Because Christians believe they have received salvation in Jesus, this influences how they live. Christians want to thank him for freeing them from the law of sin and death.
 - Because Christians believe that they have been saved through Jesus, they need to live by his teachings. They believe that Jesus fulfilled this, and so following Jesus and accepting his teachings is the way to salvation.

Accept any relevant points

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)

- 7) For example: Predestination is associated with John Calvin, an important Christian Reformation, and held in Calvinism. Calvin believed that God had chosen some people to be saved and some to be condemned. In this belief, it is God who guides those he has chosen to save to be saved, and just in condemning others.

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9. Worship

- 1) See summary sheet
 - 2) See summary sheet
 - 3) See summary sheet
 - 4) For example: sermons, singing hymns, venerating icons, meditation, prayer...
 - 5) For example: I think worship is important to Christians because it allows them to... They can ask him for help, praise him, and also ask for his forgiveness. Without... able to interact with God and enjoy the reconciliation with him which Jesus achieved.
 - 6) For example:
 - Sometimes Christians use liturgical worship – worship which follows a strict pattern (set words and actions). This can be used so that people are familiar with the service, concentrate on God, and so that various services can be planned in advance.
 - Sometimes Christians use spontaneous worship, which is less structured and more spontaneous. This can be used so that worship is more spontaneous, and people can worship God as they feel. Christians believe that liturgical worship helps them to have a personal relationship with God.
- Accept any relevant points
1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)
If the two ways of worship are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks
- 7) For example:
 - Similarities with Islamic worship: Prayer is very important in both Christianity and Islam. Christians and Muslims listen to sermons to learn more about God and his will.
 - Differences between Christian and Islamic worship: Muslims must worship in a mosque, but there is no such compulsion in Christianity. Muslims must perform certain rituals, but Christians do not have to.

10. Prayer

- 1) See summary sheet
 - 2) See summary sheet
 - 3) See summary sheet
 - 4) For example: Jesus said God would forgive someone's sins if they forgave others.
 - 5) For example: Many Catholics use a rosary to pray with – a necklace made of beads to concentrate on prayer and to remember to pray certain prayers.
 - 6) For example:
 - Some prayers are set prayers which are prayers where there are exact words and a set style. These can be used to convey specific thoughts to God and so that Christians can have the same prayers as other Christians.
 - Some prayers are informal prayers, which are prayers with less or no structure. These can be used to convey Christians' personal thoughts and feelings to God, and can be used when praying set prayers.
- Accept any relevant points
1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)
If the two ways of prayer are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks
- 7) For example: The prayer 'Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace' is a famous prayer, a set prayer, as it has set words, so anyone can pray this exact prayer. Its purpose is to make them better people who will act on his will, allowing them to focus on becoming better people. It expresses the thoughts of someone who is not always perfect, but who wants to become better.

11. Sacraments

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet

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- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
‘Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ (Luke 22:19 NRSV)
- 5) For example:
 - Matrimony
 - Confirmation
 Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 6) For example: Quakers and the Salvation Army do not observe sacraments as they feel that people receive God’s grace through Jesus and do not need sacraments. They want people to rely on what they see as outer symbols, but to focus on God.
- 7) For example: Catholics believe in transubstantiation – as Jesus says, they take Jesus’ words that he is giving his followers his body and blood. St Paul’s letters have also been interpreted of this – that the bread and wine really become Jesus’ body and blood.

12. Pilgrimage

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) c) Bernadette
- 5) For example: Jerusalem, Taizé, Rome...
- 6) For example: Some Christians may think that pilgrimage is unimportant because they go on a physical journey to improve their relationship with God. They may also feel that God is in any physical location. Some Christians feel that pilgrimage has become too commercial and the commercial aspect of pilgrimage detracts from its spiritual focus.
- 7) For example: Jerusalem has always been a significant pilgrimage site for Christians. Pilgrims become closer to Jesus through walking where he walked. Jerusalem is especially significant as Jesus was condemned to death, and he would have been crucified and was reported to have been buried in the surrounding area. Pilgrims can see the remains of the temple at which Jesus was crucified and the surrounding area are also Bethlehem, his birthplace, and the River Jordan with other places of interest. Pilgrims in Jerusalem will spend time visiting important sites such as the temple (which remains after the temple’s destruction), and places which they believe were visited by Jesus. Some will walk the route of the crucifixion.

13. Celebrations and Festivals

- 1) For example:
[Prophesy, taken to be about Jesus] ‘For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; he has taken on our shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Father of the Merciful, Prince of Peace, God the Everlasting Father’ (Isaiah 9:6 NRSV)
- 2) For example:
‘But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as through a man’s sin the death came to all people, so all will be made alive in Christ.’ (1 Corinthians 15:20–22 NRSV)
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) See summary sheet
- 5) For example: Christians may attend a midnight service containing the Eucharist to re-welcome Jesus into their lives. They may pray for peace and the end of conflict. They may make donations to charity at Christmas to help others. At Easter, Christians may attend a service on Maundy Thursday, at some time on Good Friday, and possibly several times on Easter Sunday. They may reflect on what God has done for them, and read the Bible. Many will take part in the Easter Vigil.

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- 6) For example:
- One argument with justification 1–3 marks
 - Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position 4–6 marks
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together 7–9 marks
 - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against,
linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. 10–12 marks

Points and Justification for

- Without Christmas, there would be no Christianity – if Jesus did not enter the world, he could not have died for Christians.
- Christmas is often emphasised more than other festivals. Christians often spend time with their families and treat Christmas differently to other times of the year.
- Christmas celebrates Jesus coming into the world and celebrates him revealing God to humans and teaching them God's will. This is really important to Christians.

Points and Justification against

- Many Christians feel that Easter is the most important time of the year, because this celebrates when Jesus brought humanity salvation.
- While many Christians focus on Christmas Day more than on Easter Sunday, Christmas time is often obscured by present buying and parties. At Easter, many Christians have space to focus on repentance and accepting Jesus' sacrifice.
- Many Christians feel that while festivals are important, all the year is equally special to Christians – they believe that Jesus died so that they could live good lives in a close relationship with God all the time!

Accept any relevant point or justification.

- 7) For example: Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter and celebrates when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. Christians remember that those first disciples received the Holy Spirit, and are grateful that they too can receive the Holy Spirit in their lives.

14. Role of the Church in the Local Community

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
'... whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.' (Mark 10:43–44 NRSV) – Jesus taught that people should serve others, and so the church tries to do this by helping the community.
- 5) For example: Different local churches may work together to strengthen bonds between Christians in the same community. They may also work together to carry out joint work which they might not have the money/volunteers to help with individually, such as outreach days.
- 6) For example:
 - One way in which the local church helps the local community is by making donations to food banks. Members of church congregations can donate food or money to buy food, which can be used to help those in need / financial difficulty. Jesus taught that Christians should help others, and that this included everyone, not just people they were close to (taught in the parable of the Good Samaritan). He taught that people should share with others.
 - 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' (Luke 3:11 NRSV)
 - The local church also helps the local community by running activities and offering support – such as for the elderly, or for parents with toddlers. These can help people to get out and about and to be able to spend time with others. Christians believe that they should help others as Jesus taught to do to others what you would want done to you – and people want help when they need it.

Accept any relevant points and reference to Christian teaching.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for relevant reference to Christian teaching.

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for Christian teaching.

- 7) For example: I think local churches are effective in reaching local believers, and actually providing weekly worship and personal support. I think non-believing members of the community may still interact with activities at / carried out by local churches, but would not be interested in the worldwide church and what it does.

15. Place of Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example:
 - Alpha courses
 - Missionary work abroadAccept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
- 5) For example: I do not think that it is right for Christians to put monetary resources into evangelism when there are so many people worldwide who need practical help to live. I think they should focus money on this first. However, as evangelism is important to Christians, I do not think they are wrong to evangelise if they are not putting evangelism before practical help.
- 6) For example: I think Christianity is likely to shrink in the more economically developed world as people feel less need for God and atheism is becoming very socially acceptable. However, I think Christianity may continue to grow in developing and less-developed areas of the world because people feel a need for God. If the economically developed world faces more uncertainty or instability, numbers of Christians may rise there again.
- 7) For example: David Livingstone (1813–1873) was a famous Christian missionary who tried to spread Christianity by travelling through Africa and preaching the Gospel. He also supported ending the slave trade, and hoped that he could help end it by evangelising in Africa and providing opportunities for (moral) trade.

16. Importance of the Worldwide Church

- 1) See summary sheet
- 2) See summary sheet
- 3) See summary sheet
- 4) For example: I think the most important thing which the worldwide church does is working for reconciliation. It has the influence to help to end inequalities and conflicts and to help people work together, and this is important for a harmonious world.
- 5) For example: If I were a persecuted Christian, I think I would be scared and try to worship in secret or move to a safer area if I could. I think it is brave to try to reconcile with those who persecute you, and that it would be really hard if you were in that position.
- 6) For example:
 - The worldwide church is important because it helps with reconciliation. It helps to reconcile people who are conflicting with each other – for example, warring countries – and it helps to reconcile people who have been unjustly treated with those who have treated them badly. It does this partly because Jesus taught people to be compassionate and love others, and reconciling people is loving; and also because Jesus taught that reconciliation was important – that people should reconcile with each other before approaching God, as, if they were conflicting with others, it would make it hard for them to be fully committed to God.
 - The worldwide church is also important because it encourages charity and helps to give charity. Charity is important because it helps people to live stable and happy lives and because Jesus taught that people would not go to heaven if they did not help others.Accept any relevant points and reference to Christian teaching.
1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for relevant reference to Christian teaching.
If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for Christian teaching.
- 7) For example: CAFOD is a Catholic charity which aims to put Catholic teachings into practice to help people. They help people in need internationally. They try to help with sustainability as well as emergency relief, teaching people skills so that they can help themselves. They campaign against injustice and encourage prayer for their work.