



GCSE AQA A Religious Studies Practice Papers

Component 1: Christianity

Update v1.2, October 2025

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource consists of a selection of practice exam-style questions and mark schemes for AQA Specification A.

The sample questions are numbered as per the specimen materials published by AQA, so that all three examples from within a religion have the same number. This is to help avoid confusion between these materials and a live paper numbered as the relevant section. This resource is focused on Christianity, which is question 1 on a full paper 1, and so all three examples are numbered '1'.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

There are similar resources available for other religions so that it would be possible to mix and match an entire exemplar paper 1 from these resources. Note that the cover of each paper assumes it is being sat as a standalone 50-minute exam on one religion, whereas the real exam is a 1 hour 45 minute exam on two religions.

The mark scheme content given is indicative, meaning that it includes a selection of material likely to appear across a range of candidate responses but it does not seek to exhaustively list all possible material.

July 2017

Update v1.1, January 2020

SPaG marking has been removed from Question 10 Practices and applied to Question 5 Beliefs (12 mark questions) in all papers. SPaG marking has also been corrected to 3 marks.

Update v1.2, October 2025

As per the exam board assessment updates, the following changes have been made to these papers:

- "contrasting" replaced with "different" in the 4 mark question
- 5-mark question replaced with a 6-mark question
- 2-mark question reduced to a 1-mark question

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* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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Schemes of Assessment

Assessment Objectives

Assessment Objective 1 has three elements, which are assessed with different styles of question.

- 1(1) is assessed via questions 01.1, 01.2, 01.4, 01.6 and 01.7. Responses to these questions should demonstrate:
 - ✓ knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including practices and sources of authority
- 1(2) is assessed via questions 01.3 and 01.8. Responses to these questions should demonstrate:
 - ✓ knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including influence on individuals, communities and society
- 1(3) is assessed via question 01.9. Responses to these questions should demonstrate:
 - ✓ knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including differences and similarities between and within religions

Assessment Objective 2 is always assessed via the 12-mark questions, 01.5 and 01.10. The objective is to:

- ✓ analyse and evaluate aspects of religion, including their significance and influence

Allocation of Marks

Questions assessing Assessment Objective 1(1) are awarded one mark for each correct point, up to the maximum marks available for the question.

Questions assessing Assessment Objective 1(2) and 1(3) are either 4- or 6-mark questions which ask for two separate points to be made. One mark is given for the point itself, and a second for appropriate development of that point. In the 6-mark question, the final two marks available are awarded for the reference and application to teachings required by the question. One mark is awarded for naming a relevant source of authority, and one mark for the application. Each mark can be awarded individually, and if the source is both named and applied, then two marks should be awarded.

Questions assessing Assessment Objective 2 are 12 mark questions. Marks are allocated according to the following levels of response:

• One point of view stated, with limited justification	1–3 marks	(12 marks) Plus a possible 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)
• Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked and justified arguments supporting one position	4–6 marks	
• This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered or there is no mention of religion	7–9 marks	
• Good arguments on both sides of the issue, well justified and linked together • Clear reference to religion	10–12 marks	

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar. These marks are awarded based on the candidates' responses to the 12-mark questions only.

• No response is given OR the response contains no material relevant to the question asked OR the spelling, punctuation and grammar demonstrated in the response do not meet threshold performance	0 marks	-
• Spelling and punctuation is reasonably accurate • Any errors in grammar do not hinder the overall communication of meaning • A limited range of appropriate specialist terms is used	1 mark	Threshold
• Spelling and punctuation is mainly accurate • The rules of grammar are used to give an overall clarity of meaning	2 marks	Intermediate
• Spelling and punctuation are consistently accurate • The rules of grammar are used effectively to control and communicate meaning • A wide range of specialist terms is used	3 marks	High

Religious Studies

Component 1: Christianity

Practice Paper 1

Name	
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<p>Time allowed</p> <p>50 minutes</p> <p>Instructions</p> <p>Answer all of the questions.</p> <p>Information</p> <p>The total marks available for each religion is 51. The number of marks available for each question is shown in brackets.</p> <p>Marks are available in the 12-mark question of the Beliefs section for using good spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>

Question	Mark
01.1	
01.2	
01.3	
01.4	
01.5	
01.6	
01.7	
01.8	
01.9	
01.10	
Total	
SpaG	

Question 1: Christianity

If you answer Question 2: Catholic Christianity, you cannot answer this question.

Beliefs

- 01.1 Which **one** of the following describes how the Word became flesh?
- A) John 1:1–3 B) Genesis 1:1–3 C) Proverbs 1:1–3
- 01.2 Give **one** place Christians believe people might go after death.
- 01.3 Explain **two** ways in which beliefs about the crucifixion influence in Christians.
- 01.4 Explain **two** Christian beliefs about the incarnation. Refer to Scripture or sacred writings in your answer.
- 01.5 'Salvation is only achieved through belief in Christ.' Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
- refer to Christian teaching
 - give developed arguments to support this statement
 - give developed arguments to support a different point of view
 - reach a justified conclusion

Practices

- 01.6 Which **one** of the following is considered a sacrament?
- A) Baptism B) Pilgrimage C) Evangelism
- 01.7 Give **one** example of Christian worship.
- 01.8 Explain **two** different ways the sacrament of Eucharist is interpreted.
- 01.9 Explain the significance of **two** different forms of prayer. Refer to Christian teaching in your answer.
- 01.10 'The Church is a blessing for the local community.' Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
- refer to Christian teaching
 - give developed arguments to support this statement
 - give developed arguments to support a different point of view
 - reach a justified conclusion

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Question 1: Christianity

If you answer Question 2: Catholic Christianity, you cannot answer this question.

Beliefs

01.1 Which **one** of the following describes how the Word became flesh?

- ☐ A) John 1:1–3 ☐ B) Genesis 1:1–3 ☐ C) Proverbs 1:1–3

01.2 Give **one** place Christians believe people might go after death.

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01.3 Explain **two** ways in which beliefs about the crucifixion influence in Christians.

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01.4 Explain **two** Christian beliefs about the incarnation.
Refer to Scripture or sacred writings in your answer.

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01.5 'Salvation is only achieved through belief in Christ.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- refer to Christian teaching
- give developed arguments to support this statement
- give developed arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion

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01.6 Which **one** of the following is considered a sacrament?

☐ A) Baptism

☐ B) Pilgrimage

☐ C) Evangelism

01.7 Give **one** example of Christian worship.

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01.8 Explain **two** different ways the sacrament of Eucharist is interpreted.

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01.9 Explain the significance of **two** different forms of prayer.
Refer to Christian teaching in your answer.

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01.10 'The Church does nothing for the local community.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- refer to Christian teaching
- give developed arguments to support this statement
- give developed arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Mark Scheme

Question 1: Christianity

If you answer Question 2: Catholic Christianity, you cannot answer this question.

Beliefs

01.1 Which of the following is **not** one of the Trinity?

A) Holy Spirit

B) Dove

C) Son



Correct response: B) Dove

01.2 Give **one** event in the life of Jesus.

Responses may include the following, but any relevant point will be

- baptism
- performing miracles
- teaching
- arrest and trial
- crucifixion
- resurrection

01.3 Explain **two** ways in which Christians solve the problem of evil.

Responses may include the following, but any relevant point will be

- God has gifted human beings with free will; to be genuine love necessarily creates the possibility of doing evil
- Only God has a complete understanding of why things happen; we have faith that suffering serves God's ultimate purpose
- Suffering is the result of Adam and Eve's fall from grace, which broke the relationship between humanity and God and means that all human beings are born with a sinful nature



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- 01.4 Explain **two** Christian teachings about the nature of God.
Refer to Scripture or sacred writings in your answer.

Responses may include the following, but any relevant point will be

- God is a trinity of three persons in one; the three persons of the Holy Spirit – are a single God with one divine nature (Matthew 28:19, John 14:26)
- God created the world and all the things in the world, including humans made in the image of God and given the gift of free will (Genesis 1:1-3, 26-27, God's love)
- God is a spirit (John 4:24) and, as such, is distinct from the world which inhabits the world (1 Timothy 1:17, Isaiah 40:18)

- 01.5 'God is not just.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- refer to Christian teaching
- give developed arguments to support this statement
- give developed arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion

Responses may include some of the following evidence and arguments that will be credited:

Arguments in support of the question:

- Bad things happen in the world and people suffer, even people who do wrong-doing and/or who are good Christians. Similarly, people who do good get away with them, and live happy lives. A just God could prevent this.
- By giving human beings free will, God created the possibility of human action with which God cannot interfere; if God were to interfere, justice of injustice should be intolerable
- Doctrines such as Original Sin suggest that all human beings are born from the moment they are born; since they cannot have control over their actions at this point, to see them as sinners is unjust
- The existence of Christ and the possibility of salvation and the forgiveness of worst sinners suggest that love is more important to God than justice

Arguments in support of other views:

- Human beings can only see some of what happens in the world; they cannot see the whole picture and they cannot know the mind of God so it is not a human perspective whether God is just or not
- This life is not the only one; all actions and choices will be judged at that time people will be rewarded or they will pay for their actions
- Justice and fairness are related concepts but they are not always the same; people may view something as unfair which does not equate to being unjust; actions considered to be sins might not be seen that way by the person who committed them that would not make God unjust in punishing them.

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01.6 Which **one** of the following describes worship that follows a set pattern?

A) Non-liturgical

B) Prayer

C) Liturgical

Correct response: C) Liturgical

01.7 Give **one** example of the work of the world-wide Church.

Responses may include the following, but any relevant point will be accepted.

- charity work
- education
- disaster relief
- church-building
- missionary work

01.8 Explain **two** different ways in which baptism is carried out in Christianity.

Responses may include the following, but any relevant point will be accepted.

- Baptising infants to cleanse them of Original Sin at the earliest opportunity to welcome them into the Christian faith
- Believer's baptism is performed for people who have chosen to follow Christ; it marks their acceptance of Christian teachings
- Baptism can be understood as a part of salvation in itself; the water washes sins away and so contributes to saving the person
- Baptism can be understood as symbolic of the intention to abstain from sin from that point forward, but salvation is only by the grace of God

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- 01.9 Explain **two** ways in which individual Christians might engage in mission. Refer to Christian teaching in your answer.

Responses may include the following, but any relevant point will be credited:

- Witnessing is the sharing of one's faith with other people. It is not about argument or actively trying to convert, but the sharing of stories and experiences with others as a means of showing them what a Christian life can be like.
- Charity work / volunteering means giving up time to contribute to a good cause. This kind of work is following in the footsteps of Christ and trying to show others this kind of love to other people demonstrates the greatest commandment.
- Evangelising means spreading Christian teaching and doctrine to new people outside the Church. It is important in Christianity to spread the faith to new people. The original disciples were sent out to spread the good news and teachings of Jesus (Matthew 28:19–20, Mark 16:15).



- 01.10 'The world today does not need missionaries.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- refer to Christian teaching
- give developed arguments to support this statement
- give developed arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion

Responses may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but any relevant point will be credited:

Arguments in support of the question:

- Information is so readily available in the modern world that people look for it if and when they want it rather than forcing it on them.
- Christianity is about personal beliefs; one person can't change the beliefs or values of the modern world say that they have no right to interfere with human rights.
- There are pressing problems in the world such as war, poverty, and environmental issues. A better use of Christians' time, energy, and money to contribute to solving these problems.

Arguments in support of other views:



- Missionaries do lots of good work, contributing to charitable causes in resources where they are needed; without the missionary work, much of the charity work wouldn't get done.
- Christians have been commanded by Jesus to evangelise, and it is considered a Christian duty. Even if a person can't travel to another country, they can witness their faith on a day-to-day basis and help others to understand their faith.
- Freedom of speech is a human right; no one can be forced to believe in a particular religion. If missionaries feel compelled to spread the word, then no one should be forced to accept it.

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Preview of Answers Ends Here

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