



Starters and Plenaries

For GCSE AQA Religious Studies (Short Course)

Section A: The Study of Religions (Christianity)

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of GCSE AQA Religious Studies (Short Course) Section A: Christianity. All areas of the specification are covered, with different activities providing a way into new topics or allowing students to reinforce and consolidate their learning. Some activities can be done individually, others in groups or with the entire class, and there is flexibility to adapt this.

This resource focuses on the two areas of the specification:

- Key beliefs
- Jesus Christ and salvation

The starters and plenaries in this resource are designed to help teachers allow students providing short activities which can be slotted in at the beginning and end of lessons between 5 and 15 minutes to complete, though some could be adapted into a longer time desired (this works best if you have purchased the digital copy of the resource, so as desired).

A plan of the activities and teacher's notes are provided at the beginning of the resource to teach the content. Answers, or possible answers, are included at the end of the resource for teacher marking, and in some cases it may be helpful to distribute these as revision notes.

This resource should be informative and educational, and hopefully also enjoyable for teachers with a base which they can build on when teaching additional content and activities.

The Christianity in this specification covers over 2,000 years' worth of events and cover an appropriate number of relevant areas in a sufficient level of detail, ideally and giving them insight into different perspectives and interpretations.

Bible quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, published by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

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Topic Coverage

For many of these it will be useful for the students to have some knowledge of the to

Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	
Key beliefs	Nature of God	1 – Assign the nature of God to the Bible verse which reveals this	S or P	Individual activity
	Problem of Evil	2 – Argue or explain concept to the class	P	A class activity which levels of ability If spending a few lessons of evil and suffering use a couple of cards of each lesson, rather in one go. Please cut up cards
	Trinity	3 – Fill in the gaps	P	Individual activity
	Creation	4 – Match quotes to Bible reference	S or P	Can be done alone or discussion.
	The Afterlife	5 – True or false	P	Individual activity, worth feeding back

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Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	
Jesus Christ and Salvation	Jesus: Importance as Incarnate Son of God	6 – Match the sentence beginnings, middles and ends	S or P	Individual activity
	Jesus: Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension	7 – Spider diagram with questions to test understanding	P	Can be done individually (use A3 paper for
	Jesus: Sin and Original Sin	8 – Answer the questions about the video	S	This should be done although the video is a class. Time might be needed to load the video.
	Salvation	9 – Match the term to its description	S	Individual activity
	Jesus: Atonement and Salvation	10 – Tweet the lesson	S or P	Individual activity for the class Please photocopy to lesson
	Whole Topic	11 – Assessment	S or P	Individual activity

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Activity 1 – Nature of God

Christians believe that the Bible tells us a lot about the nature of God, because it is the medium through which God has chosen to reveal himself. Read the Bible verses and the space provided what you think the verses indicate about Christian belief regarding the nature of God, choosing from the options given at the bottom of the sheet.

Jesus answered, 'The most important is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one"'

– Mark 12:29

a)

So in everything you do, love one another as you love yourselves, for this sums up the law that hangs on these words: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength and with all your possessions; love your neighbor as yourself."

– Matthew 22:37-40

b)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

– John 3:16

c)

But Jesus told them, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

– Matthew 19:26

d)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

– Psalm 107:1

e)

All-loving (benevolent)

All-powerful

Just

Oneness

Completely Good

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Activity 2 – Problem of Evil

Pick students from the class, or ask for volunteers.

- Give them a prompt card (which prompts an explanation and/or argument). This can be done at random, or give more able students more difficult cards.
- Get them to explain or argue to the class.
- Adjust as necessary – you can add extra cards.

1) **Explain the problem of evil.	2) *If God v (omnibenevolent) help to solve
3) *What is the problem if God is <i>not</i> all-loving (omnibenevolent)?	4) *What may cease to believe (omnibenevolent) (omnibenevolent)
5) *How might the theory that God is <i>not</i> all-powerful (omnipotent) solve the problem of evil?	6) ***What n Book of Job ha
7) **Explain why free will might solve the problem of evil.	8) **Why cou free will does n
9) **Why might the laws of nature need to be taken into consideration in the problem of evil?	10) **Expand the problem
11) **Expand on the link between the problem of evil and moral character. (Hint: vale of soul-making)	12) **Expand the problem
13) *Give a biblical teaching which reflects on the problem of evil and explain its relevance. (Hint: Psalm 103 or 119)	14) **Give a b reflects on the explain

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Activity 3 – Trinity

Fill in the gaps in the statements about Christian beliefs about the Trinity, and how beliefs about the Trinity impact on worship.

The idea of the _____ has not always been fixed in Christian belief. In the early Church, it was believed in God the Father, who was attributed many of the characteristics of God, though it was Jesus who taught Christians to pray to God as _____, and the Church was built on the _____ Testament. Christians followed the teachings of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit had been sent at Pentecost.

However, disagreements arose, and Christians disagreed about Jesus' _____ for a number of years. There were people, such as a priest called Arius, who thought Jesus was _____ to God. However, other people, including a bishop called Athanasius, believed Jesus was God, and should be given _____ status. The Council of _____ was called to discuss the matter. It was agreed that Jesus was one _____ with God.

The Nicene Creed was finished after the Council of Constantinople. It was agreed that the Trinity – Father, _____ and Spirit – were three distinct _____ substances; one God. This is important because Christianity is a _____ religion.

The mainstream _____ and Protestant Churches accept the Nicene Creed, though the beliefs of individual Christians may _____ differ. There were, and are, many Churches which view the Father, Son and Spirit differently. The _____ Church is one of the few which the Catholic Church made to the Creed. The _____ Church did not believe the Spirit came from the _____ as well as the Father.

God the Father is important because Christians believe he created the world. The Son is important because Christians believe that he _____ them from their sins. The Spirit is important because Christians believe that he helps them in their daily lives. The _____ was reportedly all at Jesus' _____ (Matthew 3:13–17).

Belief in the Trinity impacts on worship in a number of ways. The Trinity, and the _____ Trinity, are celebrated – Christians celebrate _____ Sunday, Christmas and _____.

Christians often ask prayers in _____ name, and Jesus' words recorded in the Bible are considered the word of God. _____ Churches place a particular importance on the _____.

Son	Jesus'	Catholic	Orthodox	related
Jewish	divine	Orthodox	saved	
Father	inferior	Gospels	baptism	
Trinity	Pentecostal	substance	Trinity	

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Activity 4 – Creation

Match the Bible references to the quotes. Cut and stick! Cut out the references, then cut out the individual quotes and match them up. Circle the two quotes from the Bible (and are made up)!

Genesis 1:1–2 NRSV	'He said, "Who told you that you were not eating from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
John 1:3	'Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made'
Genesis 1:3 NRSV	'... and male and female were created in the image of God, exactly the same before God'
Genesis 1:26 NRSV	'Let there be light'
Genesis 1:28 NRSV	'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God'
Genesis 2:7 NRSV	'God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
Genesis 2:16–17 NRSV	'He was in the world, and the world did not know him...'
Genesis 2:22 NRSV	'In the beginning when God created the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.'
Genesis 3:6 NRSV	'... the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living creature.'
Genesis 3:11 NRSV	'And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.'
John 1:1 NRSV	'And God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness..."'
John 1:10 NRSV	'... "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day that you eat of it you will die."
Incorrect!	'And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.'
Incorrect!	'So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some of the fruit and ate it. And she gave also from the fruit to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.'

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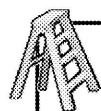
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Activity 5 – The Afterlife

- a) Mark whether the statements about Christian eschatology are true or false.
b) Correct the false ones with your knowledge. (Make notes on the back.)

1)	In John's Gospel, Jesus raises a man called Lazarus from the dead.
2)	In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says that people will be judged at the end of time, and split into sheep and cows.
3)	No one except Jesus raises people from the dead in the New Testament.
4)	Jesus' resurrection from the dead gives Christians hope that there will be life after death for them.
5)	Jesus taught that his believers would have eternal life.
6)	Jesus compared judgement to a bride being late to her wedding.
7)	Jesus tells his disciples that he will go to prepare a place for them in heaven.
8)	In Matthew 25 Jesus says that everyone will go to heaven, no matter what.
9)	All Christians believe that they will enter the afterlife immediately after dying.
10)	All Christians believe in heaven and hell, and nothing in between.
11)	For a long time, the Catholic Church taught that giving money to the Church could speed up a person's entry into heaven.
12)	All Christians believe that anyone can enter heaven.
13)	Belief in life after death does not affect Christians' lives.
14)	Belief in life after death is not important to Christians.



Extension: Give three beliefs about the afterlife in a non-Christian religion, making comparisons and contrasts in the exam.

1.
2.
3.

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Activity 6 – Jesus: Importance as Incarnate

Complete the sentences to show which biblical teaching links to which belief about the person of Jesus as the incarnate Son of God, and why this is important to Christians.

You can cut up the statements and stick them into the correct order.

Biblical teaching	Belief	
At Jesus' baptism, and the Transfiguration, God speaks from heaven and says that he is 'well pleased' with Jesus, and that Jesus is his Son (Matthew 3:17 and 17:5 NRSV)...	... so Christians believe that Jesus is God...	...
When Jesus healed the paralysed man who was let down through the roof, he says that he can heal and forgive sins (Mark 2:10–12)...	... so Christians believe that they can come to God through Jesus...	... the ...
In examples such as the centurion and the Samaritan woman, Jesus is kind to and heals non-Jews (Luke 7, John 4)...	... so Christians believe that through Jesus they have been saved...	...
Jesus claims that he is the 'way' to God (John 14:6 NRSV)...	... so Christians believe that Jesus is God's Son...	... the ...
Jesus was crucified, and the Gospels tell of his resurrection, and his claim that his death fulfilled the Law and paved the way for forgiveness (Luke 23–24)...	... so Christians believe that Jesus has God's authority...	... the ...
Jesus is described as the Word of God, who existed before Creation. He is believed to be God in the flesh (John 1:1–18, 1 Timothy 3:16)...	... so Christians believe that God chose to extend salvation to everyone...	Ch ... the ...



Extension: Write a short answer giving two reasons why Christians' beliefs are important to them. This is good practice for writing exam-style questions.

e.g. **Biblical teaching**

Belief

Importance

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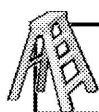


Activity 7 – Jesus: Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension

Write the answers to these questions on the spider diagram overleaf. Write sentences.

According to the Bible (or tradition):

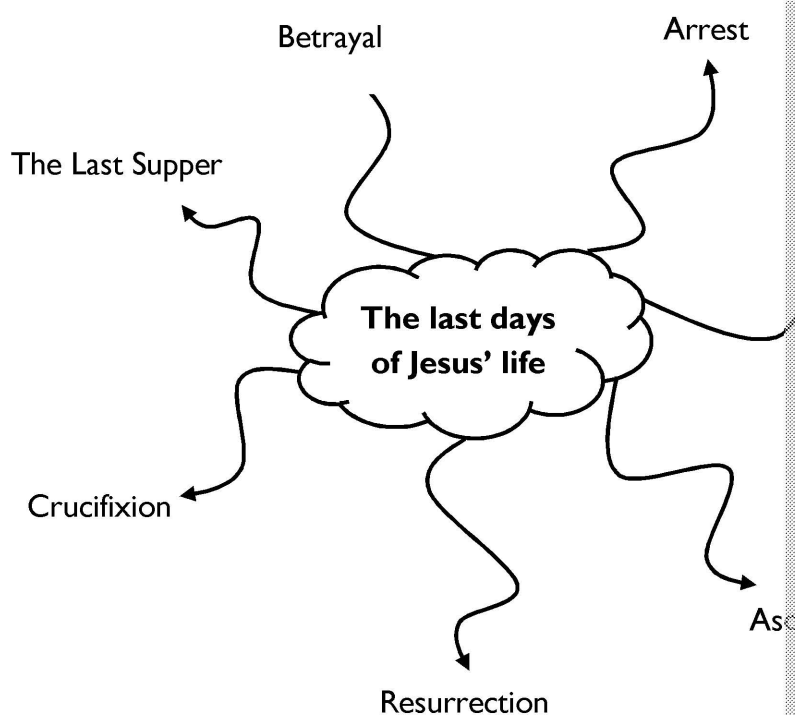
- 1) How many disciples were at the Last Supper?
- 2) Which items of food and drink did Jesus liken to his body and blood?
- 3) What did Jesus do to his disciples' feet?
- 4) Who betrayed Jesus? And how?
- 5) Where was Jesus betrayed?
- 6) In the Gospel of Luke, what does Jesus do to a slave's ear at his arrest?
- 7) Which three groups or individuals did Jesus stand trial in front of?
- 8) Who did Pontius Pilate free instead of Jesus?
- 9) What did Pilate do before handing Jesus over to be crucified? What was on the cross?
- 10) What did the Roman soldiers do with Jesus' clothes when he was crucified?
- 11) What day was Jesus resurrected on?
- 12) Who saw Jesus first after his resurrection? (There are different accounts)
- 13) Who doubted that Jesus had risen?
- 14) What did Jesus tell his disciples to do after he had been resurrected?
- 15) When do Christians celebrate the Ascension?



Extension: Add extra useful information which you have learnt to the spider diagram.

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Activity 8 – Jesus: Sin and Original Sin

Your teacher will play you a video ([zzed.uk/9325-sin-salvation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzed.uk/9325-sin-salvation)) about the nature of sin and salvation as a result. Pay attention, and answer the questions below using the video.

- 1) What is the definition of sin according to the video?
.....
- 2) What does the video say is the difference between a crime and a sin?
.....
- 3) Who commits sin?
.....
- 4) Which specific group does the video say believes in original sin?
.....
- 5) Which biblical story does the idea of original sin come from?
.....
- 6) What happened in this story? Provide three points.
-
-
-
- 7) What role does the devil play in sin today, according to the video?
.....
- 8) What is free will?
.....
- 9) How does the video suggest Christians wish to use free will?
.....
- 10) Which Bible story does the video use to support the idea of salvation through faith?
.....
- 11) Give the three ways in which the video discusses ways to achieve salvation.
-
-
-

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Activity 9 – Jesus: Salvation

Draw lines to match the word to Christian relevance and interpretations.

Salvation	Some Christians believe that God chose Jesus and in doing so, save. However, this is not true for all Christians, who feel that this leaves hanging their salvation. Many Christians hope for a better way.
Law	If Christians are condemned by sin, then they have to take the consequences – this is the Law. Christians believe that Jesus achieved freedom from the Law and resurrection (see John 3:10–21 and Galatians 3:1–2). Some have argued that people can work towards salvation, but others have claimed that God has chosen in advance who will be saved.
Sin	This is <i>how</i> Jesus redeemed Christians. Some believe that if people would not be saved, which is why it is important to follow Jesus. This is quite varied. Some feel that Jesus' death was a sacrifice which compensated for sin, while others feel that his death somehow overcame evil for ever, removing any negative power over humans. There are many different approaches.
Grace and the Spirit	Jews at the time of Christianity kept the Law, which was from the first five books of the Bible, and tried to please God. Christianity teaches that Jesus freed people from this, and that Christians are now able to live in the Spirit with God through following Jesus instead of the Law. Some follow some of this, but do not believe in the Law.
Atonement	The Christian concept of this in the Vulgate was developed by St Augustine. He taught that all people were guilty of the Fall in Eden, where humanity had been expelled from Eden. St Paul taught that 'the wages of [this] sin is death' (Romans 6:23 NRSV), but that, through Jesus, God offered forgiveness. Christians feel that personal actions will determine their fate, with examples of this.



Extension: Explain two reasons why salvation is important to Christians.

.....

.....

.....

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Activity 10 – Jesus: Atonement and Sa

Tweet the lesson! Sum up what you have learnt about Atonement and Salvation.
Tip: Use a pencil.

[illegible]

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Tweet the lesson! Sum up what you have learnt about Atonement and Salvation.
Tip: Use a pencil.

[illegible]

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Tweet the lesson! Sum up what you have learnt about Atonement and Salvation.
Tip: Use a pencil.

[illegible]

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Activity 11 – Assessment One

Below are some examples of exam-style questions. Answer them to the best of your ability for exam practice!

- 1) Which of the following is not an event in the final days of Jesus?

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| a) Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane |
| b) The Nativity |
| c) Crucifixion |

- 2) Which of the following did Jesus **not** claim to be?

- | |
|----------------------|
| a) The Way |
| b) The Son of God |
| c) The Final Prophet |

- 3) Give two beliefs about the afterlife in Christianity.
- Basic, applicable and correct detail – 1 mark
 - Thorough, applicable and correct detail – 2 marks

- 4) Evaluate the following statement:

‘It is impossible for a Christian to believe in an all-loving, all-powerful God when faced with the problem of evil.’

In your answer you should:

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

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Answers

Activity 1 – Nature of God (Answers)

- a) Oneness of God
- b) Just
- c) All-loving
- d) All-powerful
- e) Completely Good

Activity 2 – Problem of Evil (Answers)

Possible points which should be discussed:

- 1) 4 The problem of evil is a 'problem' because, if God is all-loving, and all-powerful, why is there evil and suffering?

Either:

- he is not all-loving; he does not care about evil and pain
- he is not all-powerful; he is loving and wants to stop evil, but cannot
- God is all-loving and all-powerful, yet he allows evil

- 2) If God was not all-loving and did not care about creation, he might not have created it.
- 3) Christians want to believe that their God is loving; the Bible and Jesus taught that if he was not, he would deny this would start to undermine Christianity.
- 4) If people start to believe that God is not all-loving, or all-powerful, this may lead to a loss of faith if they cannot accept that God does not have these characteristics.
- 5) If God is not all-powerful, he might still care about humans but be unable to stop evil. This allows Christians to believe in a benevolent God while explaining evil and suffering.
- 6)
 - The Book of Job shows that Job has a deeper relationship with God after his trials, which can help Christians to keep working on their faith.
 - The Book of Job shows that Job had everything, and he had no reason for his suffering, so suffering can be important to help distinguish between genuine faith and false faith.
 - The Book of Job shows that it was easier for Job to be a good person when he was rich, and suffering help to show whether people really are good, or will cease to be good when they are suffering.
 - The Book of Job shows that people do not know what God knows, and God's ways are beyond human understanding, so maybe humans should not try to solve the problem of evil.
- 7) It is more loving for God to give humans free will than to make them puppets who cannot choose to do evil.
- 8)
 - It might be more loving to give people the semblance of free will and stop suffering.
 - Free will does not account for natural suffering.
- 9) There may be necessary evils for physical laws to work: the way physics works means that things will happen, and the way biology works means that there will be viruses, etc.
- 10) Evil tests faith; without difficulties, people could not build as deep a personal relationship with God by praying for help.
- 11) Evil improves our character. You cannot say that someone is good if there is no temptation. Hard times to test moral character. Hicks' vale of soul-making theory argues that God allows evil to make their soul through trial.
- 12) Without evil and suffering, there would be no opportunities for charity, for helping others, and being charitable is important to Christians, especially as Jesus taught in the parable of the goats that those who were charitable would go to heaven.

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13 and 14) Examples:

- The Bible shows God as loving, especially in the Gospels and New Testament (Psalm 103), so Christians should not doubt God is loving. This means that the God is not all-powerful, or accept some other reason for why he allows evil and suffering.
- The Bible does teach that God is powerful, especially in the Old Testament with his battles, so this might make Christians reluctant to believe he has no power over evil, or accept another reason for why he allows evil.
- In the Book of Job, God tells Job how different he is from Job, and all the things he can do in the world, showing Job that God does not think in the same way that he does. This is God's plan.
- The Psalms show that the ways of God are beyond human understanding.
- The Psalms show that, while some of the psalmists may believe they have been helped, they believe that God has helped them, when they asked him for help.
- Psalm 119 suggests that God may allow evil and suffering as a just punishment. However, God should be a comfort to those suffering – so maybe suffering helps people to turn to God with God.

Activity 3 – Trinity (Answers)

The idea of the **Trinity** has not always been fixed in Christian belief. In the Early Church, God the Father, who was attributed many of the characteristics of the **Jewish** God, was the God Christians to pray to God as **Father**, and his portrayal of God built on the **Old Testament** teachings of Jesus, and believed that the **Holy Spirit** had been sent at Pentecost.

However, disagreements arose, and Christians disagreed about Jesus' **relationship** with God for a number of years. There were people, such as a priest called Arius, who thought that Jesus was not **divine**. However, other people, including a bishop called Athanasius, believed that Jesus was **divine** status. The Council of **Nicaea** was called in 325 CE to discuss the matter. It was agreed that Jesus was **substance** with God the Father.

The Nicene Creed was finished after the Council of Constantinople. It was agreed that God the Father, **Son** and Spirit – were three distinct **persons**, though all were one substance because Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion.

The mainstream **Catholic** and Protestant Churches accept the Nicene Creed, at least, though individual Christians may **vary**. There were, and are still, some Churches which view the Trinity differently. The **Orthodox** Church disagrees with a qualification which the Catholic Church did not agree that the Holy Spirit came from the **Son** as well as the Father.

God the Father is important because Christians believe he created the world. God the Son is important because Christians believe that he **saved** them from their sins. The Holy Spirit is important because Christians believe that he helps them in their daily lives. The three persons were reportedly at the Pentecost (Acts 2:13–17).

Belief in the Trinity impacts on worship in a number of ways. The Trinity, and even the Holy Spirit, are celebrated – Christians celebrate **Trinity Sunday**, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Christians often ask prayers in **Jesus'** name, and Jesus' words recorded in the **Gospel**. **Pentecostal** Churches place a particular importance on the Holy Spirit.

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Activity 4 – Creation (Answers)

Genesis 1:1–2 NRSV	‘In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.’
Genesis 1:3 NRSV	‘Let there be light’
John 1:3 NRSV	‘Through him all things were made; without him nothing came into being.’
Genesis 1:26 NRSV	‘And God said, “Let us make humankind in our own image, after our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”’
Genesis 1:28 NRSV	‘God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; for the earth is under your dominion... over every living thing...”’
Genesis 2:7 NRSV	‘... the LORD God formed man from the dust on the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...’
Genesis 2:16–17 NRSV	‘... You may freely eat of every tree in the garden; but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...’
Genesis 2:22 NRSV	‘And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he brought her to the man’
Genesis 3:6 NRSV	‘So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.’
Genesis 3:11 NRSV	‘He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you disobeyed my command?”’
John 1:1 NRSV	‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’
John 1:10 NRSV	‘He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.’
Incorrect!	‘... and male and female were created equal in his eyes, except for their parts.’
Incorrect!	‘And the LORD God made plants after he made man, to feed him.’

Activity 5 – The Afterlife (Answers)

- 1) True
- 2) False
Jesus said that people would be split into sheep and goats at judgement.
- 3) False
People other than Jesus do raise people from the dead in the New Testament. Jesus raised Eutychus from the dead after he fell out of a window (Acts 20).
- 4) True
- 5) True
- 6) False
Jesus compared judgement to a bridegroom being late to a wedding, and some were prepared with extra provisions.
- 7) True
- 8) False
Jesus says that those who feed the hungry and thirsty, welcome the stranger, and visit prisoners will go to heaven, and that others will not.
- 9) False
Some Christians believe in the immortality of the soul, and entering the afterlife. Jesus telling the robber on the cross that he would be in paradise that day (Luke 23:43) refers to the resurrection of the body at the end of time, and this is emphasised in several other passages.
- 10) False
Catholics believe in purgatory as well as heaven and hell, a place where souls go to be purified before entering heaven.

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- 11) True
- 12) False
Some Christians believe that anyone can enter heaven. Others believe that only through Jesus can we enter heaven. John 14:6, where Jesus says that people can only come to the 'Father' through him.
- 13) False
Belief in life after death affects Christians' lives in many ways – they may try to live a good life so that they will go to heaven when they die, and some try to convert others so that they can go to heaven.
- 14) False
Belief in life after death is important to Christians for many reasons, e.g. it motivates them to live a good life, some try to withdraw from normal life to focus on worshipping God as they prepare for afterlife.

Extension examples:

- Buddhists believe that people are reborn after death.
- Buddhists believe that they can achieve liberation from the cycle of rebirth, through enlightenment.
- Buddhists believe that earning good karma will help them to achieve a better rebirth.

Activity 6 – Jesus: Importance and Incarnate Son of God (Answers)

Biblical teaching	Belief	
At Jesus' baptism, and the Transfiguration, God speaks from heaven and says that he is 'well pleased' with Jesus, and that Jesus is his Son (Matthew 3:17 and 17:5 NRSV)...	... so Christians believe that Jesus is God's Son...	... and they believe...
When Jesus healed the paralysed man who was let down through the roof, he says that he can heal and forgive sins (Mark 2:10–12)...	... so Christians believe that Jesus has God's authority...	... and in Jesus...
In examples such as the centurion and the Samaritan woman, Jesus is kind to and heals non-Jews (Luke 7, John 4)...	... so Christians believe that God chose to extend salvation to everyone...	... and duty to achieve...
Jesus claims that he is the 'way' to God (John 14:6 NRSV)...	... so Christians believe that they can come to God through Jesus...	... and Christians believe Jesus can...
Jesus was crucified, and the Gospels tell of his resurrection, and his claim that his death fulfilled the Law and paved the way for forgiveness (Luke 23–24)...	... so Christians believe that through Jesus they have been saved...	... and Christians believe they are saved...
Jesus is described as the Word of God, who existed before Creation. He is believed to be God in the flesh (John 1:1–18, 1 Timothy 3:16)...	... so Christians believe that Jesus is God...	... and Christians believe God came in the form of a man and died for us...

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Extension examples:

(In an exam, you would get a mark for each point, and one mark for developing a point. So two developed reasons would get you the maximum 4 marks for a 4-mark question.)

Believing that Jesus was the incarnation of God is important to Christians because:

- In the Gospels, Jesus showed people love, and if he is God, this provides Christians with evidence of God loving them.
- In the Gospels, Jesus told his disciples that they could come to God through him, providing a tangible link between humanity and the divine, so that they can have a relationship with God.
- The Gospels show Jesus as the fulfilment of the Jewish Law, so Christians not only believe in God but also in the Jewish God.

Activity 7 – Jesus: Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension (Answers)

- 1) There were 12 disciples at the Last Supper.
- 2) Jesus likened his body to bread, and his blood to wine.
- 3) Jesus washed his disciples' feet.
- 4) Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Peter also betrayed Jesus by denying him three times.
- 5) Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- 6) In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus heals a slave's ear after one of his disciples cuts it off.
- 7) Jesus stood trial before the Jewish Council; Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.
- 8) Pilate freed Barabbas, who had been in prison for insurrection and murder.
- 9) Pilate washed his hands before handing Jesus over to be crucified. He had 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' written above the cross.
- 10) The Roman soldiers cast lots (gambled) for Jesus' clothes.
- 11) Jesus was resurrected on a Sunday.
- 12) Jesus was seen by Mary Magdalene (sometimes with other women) in most of the Gospels. In the Gospel of Luke, he is seen by Simon Peter and the two on the road to Emmaus (and it is these).
- 13) Thomas doubted that Jesus had risen.
- 14) Jesus told his disciples to make other disciples, baptise them and teach them to obey his commands.
- 15) Christians celebrate the Ascension of Jesus 39 days after Easter.

Extension examples:

- Jesus told his disciples that he would be betrayed.
- Jesus prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane to save him from death if possible.
- The sky went dark for a few hours before Jesus died.
- The curtain in the Temple tore in two.

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Activity 8 – Jesus: Sin and Original Sin (Answers)

- 1) A sin is a moral choice/action which goes against God's wishes or laws.
- 2) While all crimes are illegal, not all sins are – for example, adultery is not illegal, not against the law in the UK.
- 3) All humans sin.
- 4) Roman Catholics.
- 5) The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- 6)
 - Adam and Eve live in Eden, and are instructed not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge.
 - Adam and Eve are tempted to eat of the tree by the devil, and do so, thus sinning.
 - Therefore, they are separated from God and removed from the Garden of Eden.
- 7) The role the devil plays is in tempting humans to sin.
- 8) Free will is the freedom of humans to make moral decisions about their actions.
- 9) To make free good choices to follow God, with the support of their church, with prayer, and, in some cases, gaining salvation.
- 10) The parable of the prodigal son.
- 11) Salvation through Grace, Salvation through Law, Salvation through the Spirit.

Activity 9 – Jesus: Salvation (Answers)

Salvation	If Christians are condemned by sin, this is <i>what</i> means they do not like it, and this is why it is important. Christians believe that Jesus achieved this through his resurrection (see John 3:10–21 and Acts 4:8–12). Some thinkers have argued that humans are responsible towards this themselves; others have claimed that God has chosen in favour of humans.
Law	Jews at the time of Christianity kept this. A lot of it was derived from the Old Testament, the Bible, and Jews kept it in order to please God. Christianity teaches that humans should fulfil this, and that Christians are now able to experience a relationship with God following Jesus instead. However, Christians also follow some of the laws that were saved through it.
Sin	The Christian concept of this in the West was extremely influenced by the idea that all people were born with it, since the Fall in Eden, where humans were separated from God. St Paul taught that 'the wages of [this] is death' (Romans 6:23). However, Jesus, God chooses to give us life. Most Christians feel that persons who sin are examples of this.
Grace and the Spirit	Some Christians believe that God chooses who to bestow this upon. However, this is not popular with some Christians, who feel that they are powerless in their salvation. Many Christians hope to receive this through prayer.
Atonement	This is <i>how</i> Jesus redeemed Christians – without this Christians would not be saved. It is important. Christian views on this are quite varied. Some feel that Jesus' death was a sacrifice which compensated for sin. Others think that Jesus overcame evil forces so that they no longer had any negative power over humans. There are varied approaches.

Extension examples:

(In an exam, you would get a mark for each point, and one mark for developing a point. So, two developed reasons would get you the maximum 4 marks for a 4-mark question.)

Salvation is important to Christians because:

- It means that they no longer need to fear death and going to hell because Jesus died for them, and the consequences.
- It means that they can have a full relationship with God – this was shown by Jesus dying for them.

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Activity 10 – Jesus: Atonement and Salvation

Answers can include any relevant fact about Atonement and Salvation that fits with the question.
An example would be:

‘Some Christians believe that they have to atone for sins by doing good deeds, which were offered freely by Jesus.’ (137 characters).

Activity 11 – Assessment One (Answers)

- 1) b
- 2) C – Final Prophet
- 3) Answer should include good explanation of the basic ideas of the afterlife with any of the following ideas:
 - Christians believe that there is an afterlife, and that this is manifested with different beliefs.
 - Heaven in the Bible has many descriptions. It is described as a pleasant place where there is no more earthly pain and tears. There is common imagery used such as a garden, or a feast. Some Christians believe it is a physical place, whereas others believe it is a place – a state of unity with God.
 - Many of the ideas of hell within the Bible are descriptive of a place which causes suffering. Some believe that it is a place of suffering. Others believe it is a place of eternal punishment.
 - Some Christians believe that those who die go to heaven or hell immediately, whereas others believe that those who die will not go to their destinations until the Day of Judgement.

4)

Student provides one argument with sufficient justification.

Student provides multiple different points/arguments both for and against, with sufficient justification for each point made.

OR multiple interlinking arguments for one position, sufficiently justified.

Justified and relevant arguments which interlink with each other.

Excellent argumentation, interlinking justified arguments, including positions for and against which lead to a thought-out conclusion.

Points and justification for

- Students should show in this answer awareness of the problem of evil. This is the idea that it is hard to reconcile an idea of an all-knowing, all-powerful, benevolent God when suffering exists. The argument posits that should God possess all these qualities, then it should not be possible for suffering to exist, as he would have the desire and power to stop it.
- The idea of natural evil specifically as being an argument against the existence of God – surely a good God would not allow earthquakes to take place?
- Students should demonstrate a knowledge of the difference between natural evil and human evil (evil as a result of moral choices made by human beings).

Points and justification for

- Ideas that suffering in the world could be a result of sin.
- Awareness of the fact that people suffer due to natural causes is the fault of the world, not God.
- Awareness of the fact that people suffer due to human choices to argue the Christian view that the existence of evil should be a result of the Book of Job.
- Ideas that suffering in the world has a greater purpose, such as the bettering of our souls, therefore, is a necessary part of an ultimately good world.
- Ideas of suffering in the world as a result of human choices.

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