

Miss Harrell's really amazing revision guide!  
Everything you need and a little bit more!



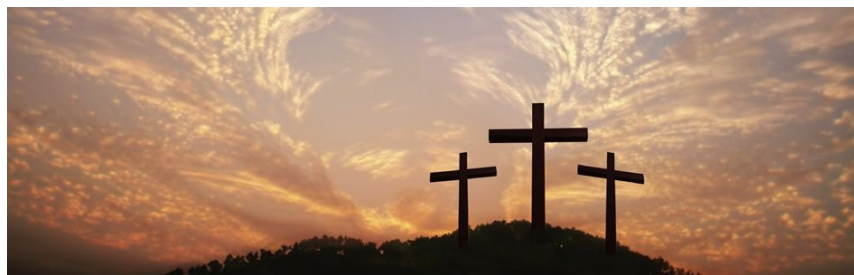
# GCSE

# Revision Guide

Route A

Component 2: Christianity

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies



Name:

# Unit 2:

## Christianity



# Key concepts

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<b>Omni-benevolent</b>	The state of being all loving and infinitely good—a characteristic often attributed to God
<b>Omnipotent</b>	The all powerful, almighty and unlimited power of God
<b>Omniscient</b>	The belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that is going to happen
<b>Trinity</b>	The 3 persons of God; the Father, Son and the Holy ghost
<b>Incarnation</b>	God becoming human in the form of Jesus
<b>Atonement</b>	The belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God
<b>Resurrection</b>	The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
<b>Sacraments</b>	An outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing be God, for example baptism
<b>Evangelism</b>	Preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith

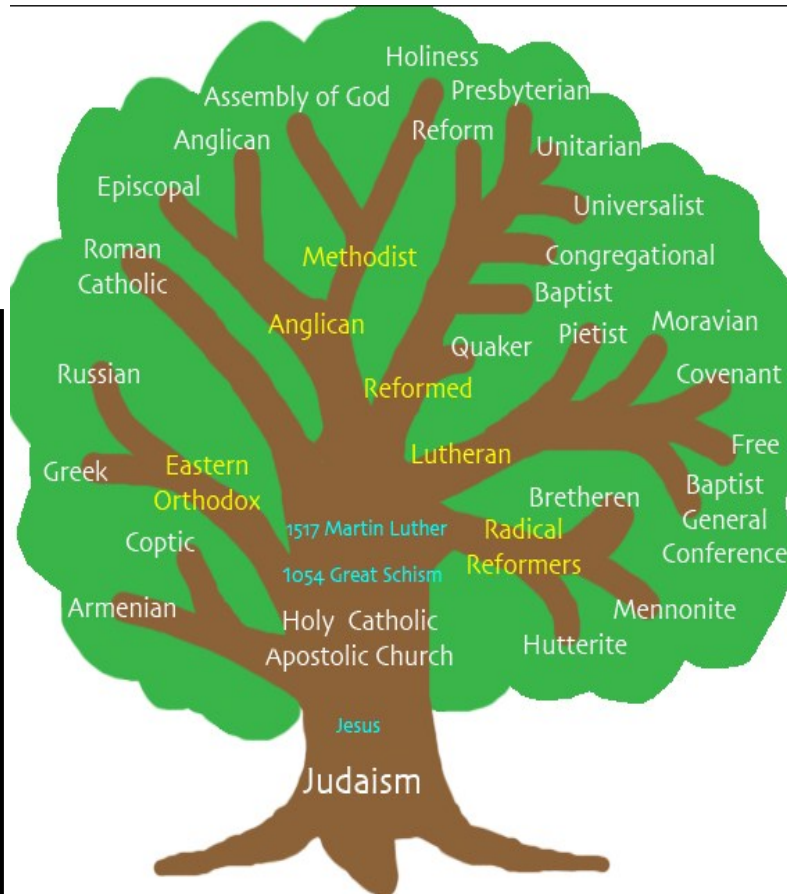


YOU MUST, MUST, MUST LEARN THESE AS THEY WILL BE THE FOCUS OF YOUR  
a) QUESTIONS FOR THIS UNIT

# Overview of Christianity and its place in Britain

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## Main denominations in Christianity



This diagram shows the development of the Christian religion.

There are lot of denominations which make up the Christian family.

Britain is religiously diverse but its main traditions are Christian.

Britain is **pluralist** (meaning lots of different religions are practiced alongside each other).

It is also becoming more **secular** (meaning fewer people see religion as important).

Many are religious but some do not practice a religion.

## The main Christian beliefs

Nature of God including the Trinity.

Belief in Jesus. Especially the incarnation, crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

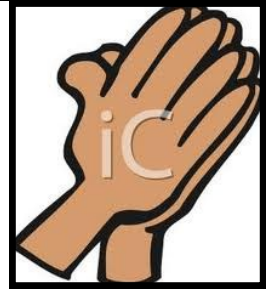
Sources of authority, such as the Bible, Gospels and the conscience

Ideas about the creation of the world and the role that humans play.

Belief that Jesus' death bought salvation which also means that humans will go to heaven with God when they die. Also, beliefs about living a sin free life and following Jesus' example. Judgement awaits them on the Last Day.

## 1. Worship

Helps to develop a relationship with God. Lots of different ways to do this

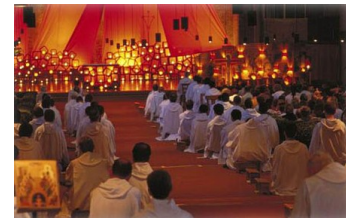


## 2. Sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist

Catholics and Anglicans see them as sacraments but other denominations do not

## 3. Pilgrimage

Are an expression of faith: Walsingham (UK) and Taize (France) are two important places of pilgrimage



## 4. Celebrations

Christmas and Easter are the two most significant events in the Christian calendar. Both contain lots of symbolism and ritual

## 5. Mission

Church reaches out through evangelism and aims to bring more people into the Church.



## 6. Charity and work for reconciliation

Christian Aid and Tearfund aim to help the poor. They are also trying to bring the Churches together through the World Council of Churches

The following pages discuss these ideas in more detail and also show you how to answer questions on the material that you need to know.



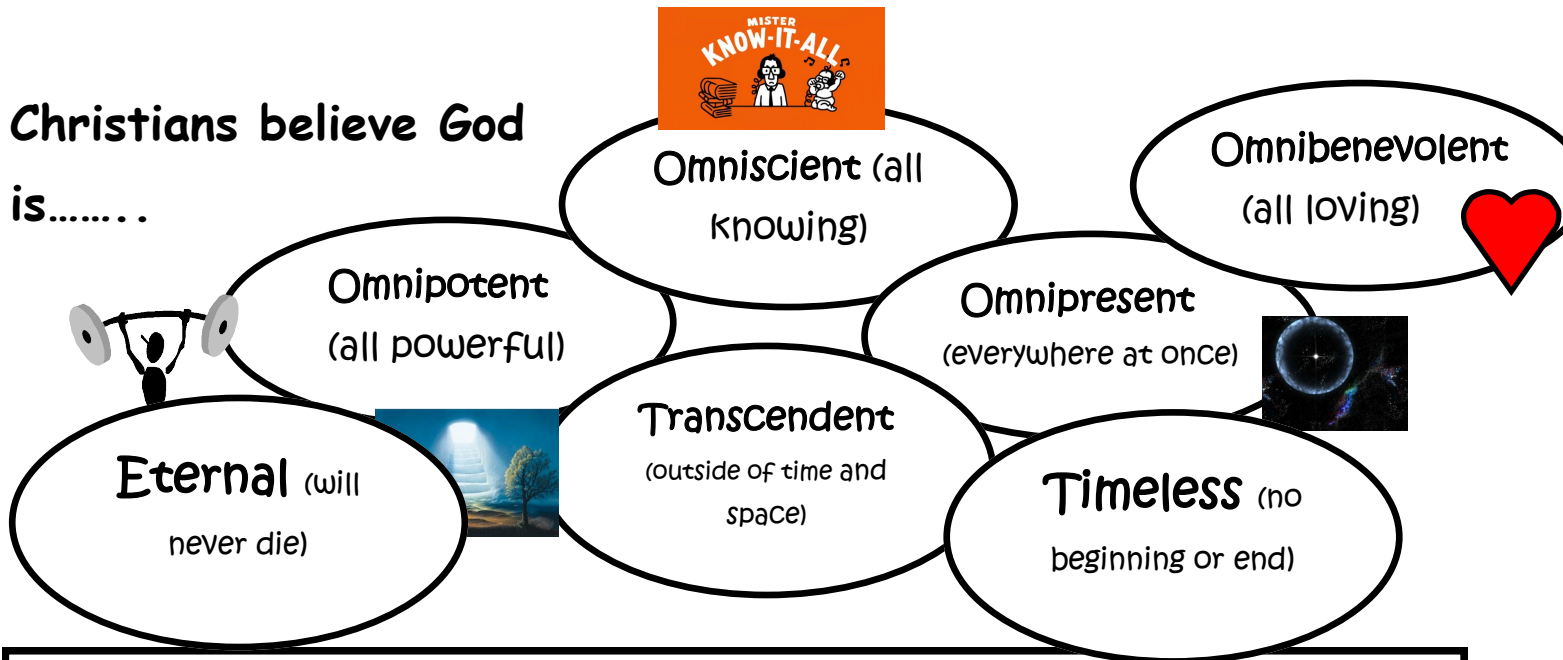
# Beliefs and Teachings



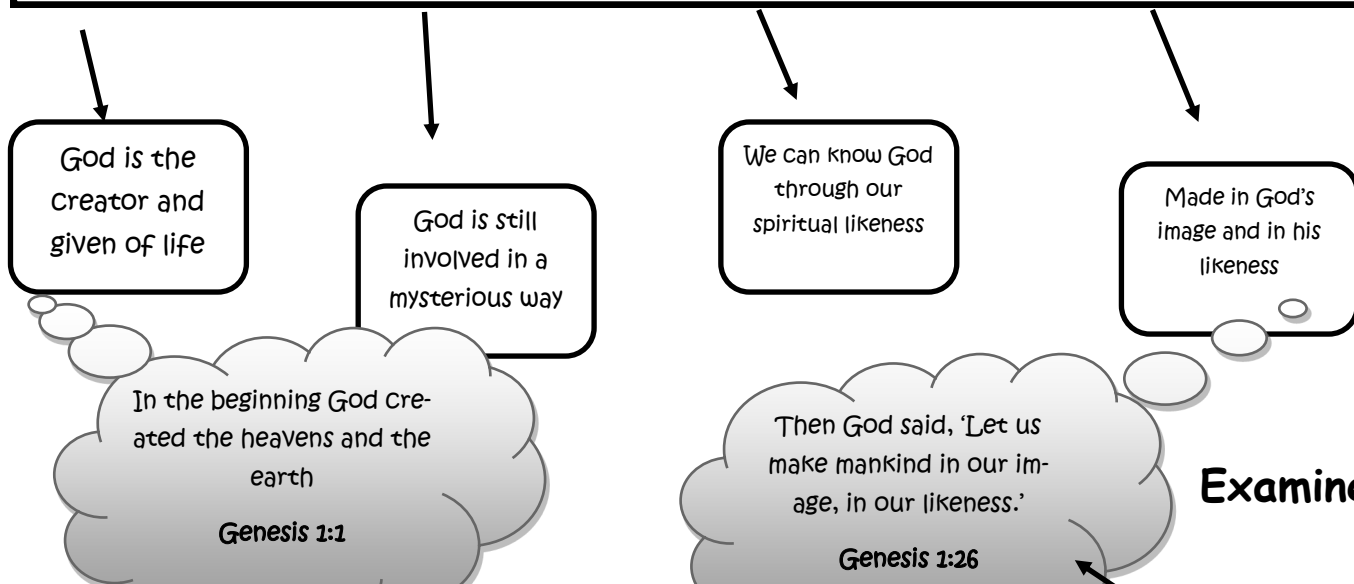


This involved trying to understand what god is like. A central idea is that there is only one God which makes Christians **monotheists** and Christianity a **monotheistic** religion.

Christians believe God is.....



These ideas come from the Bible:



**Examiners tips!**

God is omnipotent



- Shown in Exodus
- God sends 10 plagues to the Pharaoh
- God parts the Red Sea for Moses which allows the Jews to escape but also kills Pharaoh's soldiers
- Not all Christians interpret them as miracles but all agree it shows god power in freeing the Jews from slavery

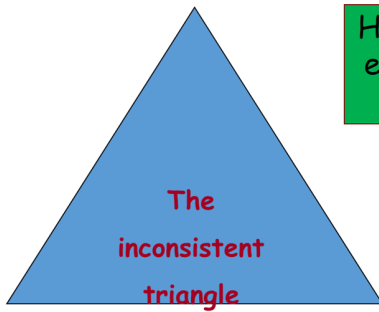
God is omnibenevolent

- Fundamental Christian belief
- Shown in many quotes such as Psalms 86:15
- Gospel of John 3:16 says God's love is shown in the sacrifice made by Jesus to allow mankind to have eternal life
- Paul in Romans 8:37-39 says God's love is superior to all

You must refer to sources of authority and wisdom in **b, c** and **d**.

God is loving

How can God and evil exist at the same time?



God is all powerful

God is all knowing

This is known as the problem of evil

Epicurus (341—270BC), an ancient Greek philosopher asked:

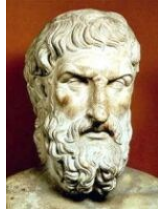
⇒ Is God willing to prevent evil, but is not able?

Then he is not omnipotent.

⇒ Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.

⇒ Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?

⇒ Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?



Often the problem of evil raises difficult questions for the theist. It is one of the main reasons that people are atheist (don't believe in God) or agnostic (are unsure about whether or not they believe in God).

How do Christians defend God against the existence of evil?

They use arguments that show that either suffering is necessary for humans or isn't God's fault; The main arguments are:

Humans chose to use their free will to do evil things. Their choices cause suffering.

It isn't God it is the devil (a fallen angel), that causes suffering not God

God shares in our suffering and suffers with us, showing his benevolence

Suffering is a test of our faith. Such as in the Story of Job. The faithful will be rewarded as Job was. Ensure you know this story

Suffering is as a result of man's sinful behaviour

Suffering allows humans to develop; it shapes our souls for the better

## B) Describe what Christians believe about the nature of God (5)

Christians believe that God is omnipotent (all powerful), this shows that God has the power to create the universe. This is shown in Genesis where it says 'in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'. This means that God is the creator of all and everything that happens is the will of God. Additionally, they believe that God is omnibenevolent (all loving) this shows that God loves and cares for his creation. This is shown through the crucifixion of Jesus where he died to save mankind. This could affect a Christian's life as they may sometimes wonder why a loving and powerful God would allow suffering to happen.

They may use the story of Job in order to understand this.





## The Trinity

Why do Christians believe in the Trinity?

Christians believe in the 'oneness' of God but speak of the 3 persons of God:

**God the father:** all powerful, all knowing, creator of the world. God is caring like a father

**God in the person of Jesus Christ:** Jesus is God in human form. This allowed humans to know God's nature

**God the Holy Spirit:** what was left after Jesus rose to heaven. It is what guides Christians on earth. It allows us to interpret the Bible. It allows God to intervene in church services like marriage, baptism etc. Charismatic Christians believe God can work 'in' them and 'talk in tongues.'

**John 10:30** says that Jesus said 'I and the father are one.'

Also, **John 14:6-11** includes a conversation where Jesus claims that he and the Father are one and the same. He says that it is only through believe in Jesus that one can gain access to God and salvation

**Examiner's top tips:** look up the full Bible passage online using the [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). This will help with your understanding

What does the apostles creed tell us about the nature of God?

- It is a statement of the main beliefs of Christians about the nature of God:
- Said in church on a Sunday or at solemn occasions like baptisms and funerals.
- Shows God as all powerful
- Shows Jesus was born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit
- Shows Jesus was crucified and rose again and ascended into heaven
- Shows there will be a Judgment Day where God will judge all
- Shows there is only one universal church
- Shows God's forgiving nature
- Shows that we too will be resurrected and have eternal life

## The Apostles creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty

From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Amen

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote from it and explain it**

**John 3:16**

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

**Job 1:8-12**

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." 12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

**Job 42: 1-6 1**

Then Job replied to the LORD: 2 'I know that you can do all things'

**John 10:30**

30 I and the Father are one.'

**John 14:6-11**

6 Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

d) "The existence of suffering proves there is no God." [15] Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer).

Some atheists would argue that God does not exist due to the evil and suffering that occurs. This is often known as the problem of evil; how can God be omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent if He allows suffering to happen? This essay will discuss whether suffering proves that God does not exist.

Use key words in your answers

Most Christians would disagree with this statement. This is because they believe suffering could be a test of faith. Therefore God and suffering can exist at the same time. This belief comes from the story of Job. Job was tested throughout his life but remained faithful even after losing everything. God then rewarded him with double he had before. This would affect the life of a Christian as they know that suffering is part of God's plan. They also know that good can come from suffering and God will reward those who remain faithful. This could be seen as a strong argument, as Christians understand sometimes suffering is needed in order for them to develop their moral souls.

Use sources of wisdom to show your knowledge

Evaluation

However, this could lead some Christians to question their faith or even lose their faith if they experience severe suffering. As a result, this could be considered a weak argument as why would an omnibenevolent God test his followers by causing them to suffer?

Nevertheless, Christians may also disagree with this statement because they believe suffering is not caused by God but by humans. This comes from the idea of original sin. This means because Adam and Eve disobeyed God humans are born with original sin. It could also be seen that suffering is a punishment for Adam and Eve's disobedience. This disobedience to God is known as the "fall". Furthermore, humans also have freewill. Therefore, some humans choose to cause suffering throughout their lives. Reinforcing the idea that God and suffering can exist at the same time. This would affect a Christian's life as they know that God is omniscient and will judge those who cause suffering on the day of judgement.

Similarly to Christians, most Muslims would also disagree with this statement. This comes from the belief of al-Qadr. This is the idea that everything that happens is part of Allah's plan and is the result of his will. This would affect the life of a Muslim because they know sometimes suffering is a test of faith and that if they stay faithful Allah will reward them on judgement day. They also know that there is a point to suffering and sometimes good can come from suffering such as child birth.

Again, why would a God who is supposed to be considered merciful make people suffer as part of his plan? Muslims would argue this is a weak argument as Allah knows everything and will know the bigger picture of a person's life. Muslims would also argue that Allah is transcendent and we can't possibly understand his greater plan. Therefore suffering does not prove that God doesn't exist.

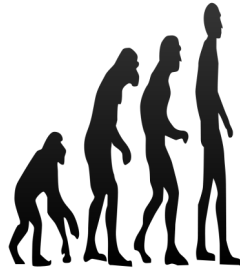
In conclusion, I disagree with both the Christian and Muslim views. This is because, as an atheist, I do not believe a loving God would allow suffering such as cancer and natural disasters. Therefore, I agree with the statement "suffering proves there is no God".

A well justified conclusion

1. Write a list of the different things Christians believe about god's nature and any sources of wisdom that support it.
2. Explain what the trinity is and why it is important.
3. How do Christians justify the existence of evil and God at the same time?
4. Give four ways that the Apostle's Creed shows God's nature
5. Describe what Christians believe about the trinity.
6. Describe what Christians believe about the Holy Spirit.
7. 'A loving God would not allow his creation to suffer.' Give arguments for and against this statement.

The question of how the earth/universe was made is a fundamental question

Religious and non-religious people alike look to science and cosmology to explain the creation of the universe via the Big Bang which we can prove through the Red Shift effect. Darwinian evolution is then used to explain the development of different species



## Main Christian ideas about Creation

- God is the creator of universe and everything within it
- God is the cause of the universe
- God's spirit is the source of all life and creation

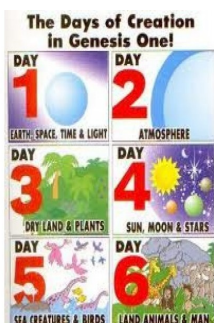
## What does the Bible say about creation?

The main events in Genesis 1 and 2 are: creation of the universe, creation of the earth, creation of Adam and Eve (humankind), the temptation of Adam and Eve, the fall from grace (first sin)

### Genesis I

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'*

1. *Light and dark*
2. *Sea and sky*
3. *Dry land and plants*
4. *Sun, moon, stars and planets*
5. *Birds and fish*
6. *Animals, Adam and Eve*
7. *Rested*



### Genesis II

God creates Eve from Adam's rib



God commands them not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge

"You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"

- Gen 2:16-17

### Genesis III and The Fall

Humans are created in God's image but have free will and can sin. They have dominion over the earth but must be stewards too.

Eve is tempted by the devil and then Adam is too.

It is significant because...

- It marks the break in the perfect relationship god has with humanity
- It is the reason they believe we are born with 'original sin'
- It is why it was necessary for Jesus to die as his death restored the relationship between God and man



How do Christians interpret the Genesis creation story?

**Response 1: Liberal protestants**

Scientific explanations are true, but they do not mean God doesn't exist. The Big Bang had to happen at exactly the right moment, within exactly the right conditions. This could only have happened with God's help.

Non-literal interpretation



**Response 2: Evangelical or fundamentalist protestants**

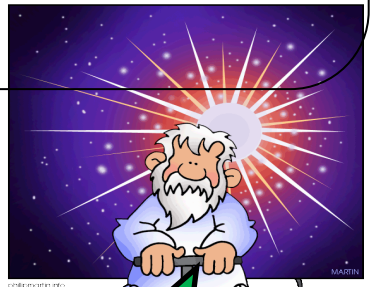
Science is wrong and the bible is right. God created the world in 7 days and the evidence of the Big Bang and evolution can be explained by the story of Noah and the flood which would have changed rock formations. This theory is called 'creationism.'

Literal interpretation



**Response 3: Catholics**

Both science and the Bible are correct, because some parts of the Bible fit with science. If God created the world in 7 days, each day could have actually been billions of years. When God said 'let there be light', this refers to the Big Bang.



Non-literal interpretation

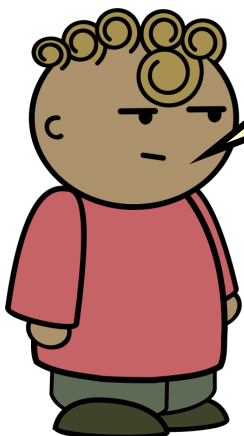
What do Christians believe the role of the Word and the Spirit is in creation?

John refers to the 'Word' in his Gospel

'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.'

Some interpret Word as God's creative spirit, purpose, plans

Most interpret it as being Jesus—Jesus has existed since the beginning of creation and is God





Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote from it and explain it**

### Genesis 1-3

**The Beginning** - 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

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3 And God said, "Let there be light,"

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26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

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27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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God created the world and "it was good"

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### John 1:1-5 - The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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1. What is the main idea of *Genesis*?
2. Describe what happened on each day of creation.
3. Explain what is meant by literal and non-literal interpretations. Give examples.
4. Explain what Christians believe about the word and the spirit in terms of the creation of the universe.
5. 'God created the world in 7 days.' (15)  
Come up with arguments for and against this statement.



# Christianity: what do Christians believe about Jesus Christ

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## Most important events in the life of Jesus



### 1. Incarnation (God becomes flesh)

**Incarnation** = god becoming human in Jesus

**Born of a virgin** not via sexual intercourse

**Gospel of Luke** describes Mary's visit where she is told she will give birth to Jesus

Referred to as the **Son of God**

Evidence Christians believe prove that Jesus was divine:

1. miracle of the virgin birth
2. God's voice at Jesus' baptism
3. Jesus' ability to perform miracles
4. Transfiguration of Jesus when he appeared to the Apostles
5. The resurrection of Jesus

### 2. Crucifixion and death

Jesus' teachings conflicted with Jewish authorities.

Accused of blasphemy for saying he could forgive sin

Charged with treason by the Romans for claiming to be the 'messiah' also meaning King

Jesus was crucified alongside two criminals at Golgotha and humiliated with the **crown of thorns** and is mocked by the crowd

Jesus suffers as a normal man showing God understanding normal suffering  
Jesus prays on the cross saying 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me' and then dies

### 3. Resurrection

### 4. Ascension into heaven

It is important to know that Jesus was seen as the fulfilment of the Jewish prophecy in the Old testament although he was a very different messiah to the one they were expecting

#### The Last Supper

Jesus foretells of his crucifixion, betrayal and denial by Judas and Peter

Gives the disciples wine and bread which are his blood and body—this becomes the **Eucharist**

Also, foretells eternal life in heaven

**Isaiah** is said to have prophesied Jesus, rejection, crucifixion, oppression in the **Old Testament**

#### Salvation and atonement

Death **atones** for the sin created by Adam and Eve, sin takes people away from God

Jesus' death **restores the relationship** between God and man—before Jesus Jews used animal sacrifices to atone as shown in **Leviticus**

Jesus became the '**sacrificial lamb**' paying for all sin  
There is no further need for animal sacrifice

# Christianity: what do Christians believe about Jesus Christ

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## 3. Resurrection

The belief that Jesus **rose from the dead** on Easter Sunday and conquered death

This is **fundamental** to Christian belief—seen as the greatest miracle of the New testament

The disciples **truly believed** the resurrection had happened. In Corinthians Paul says that if there was no resurrection, then what has been the point of their faith and all those who died as martyrs for the new religion

The gospel accounts differ slightly but the **main events** after the resurrection are outlined in Corinthians by Paul who says:

- Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene
- Jesus appears to the 11 disciples
  - Jesus appears to 500 at the **ascension**
- Jesus appears to Saul, who then becomes Saul after his conversion

## 4. Ascension into heaven

The idea that Jesus rose to heaven 40 days after his resurrection

The accounts of what happened after the resurrection differ and the accounts are vague

**Some believe** that when it says Jesus rose into heaven it means it in a **literal** sense

**Some believe** it was **symbolising** the ending of Jesus' **physical presence** on earth but recognised the **spiritual presence** left behind which is still at work in the world. This is therefore a **non literal** interpretation

Ministers follow the example of Jesus shown in Luke 24:50-53 and bless individuals and groups in the same way

### Examiner's top tips

It is really important that you can explain and analyse the significance of the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension for Christians

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know

### John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### Luke 1:28-33

28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### Matthew 27:28-50

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Summarise it/paraphrase it

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote** from it and **explain** it

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews. 38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### Matthew 26:26-29

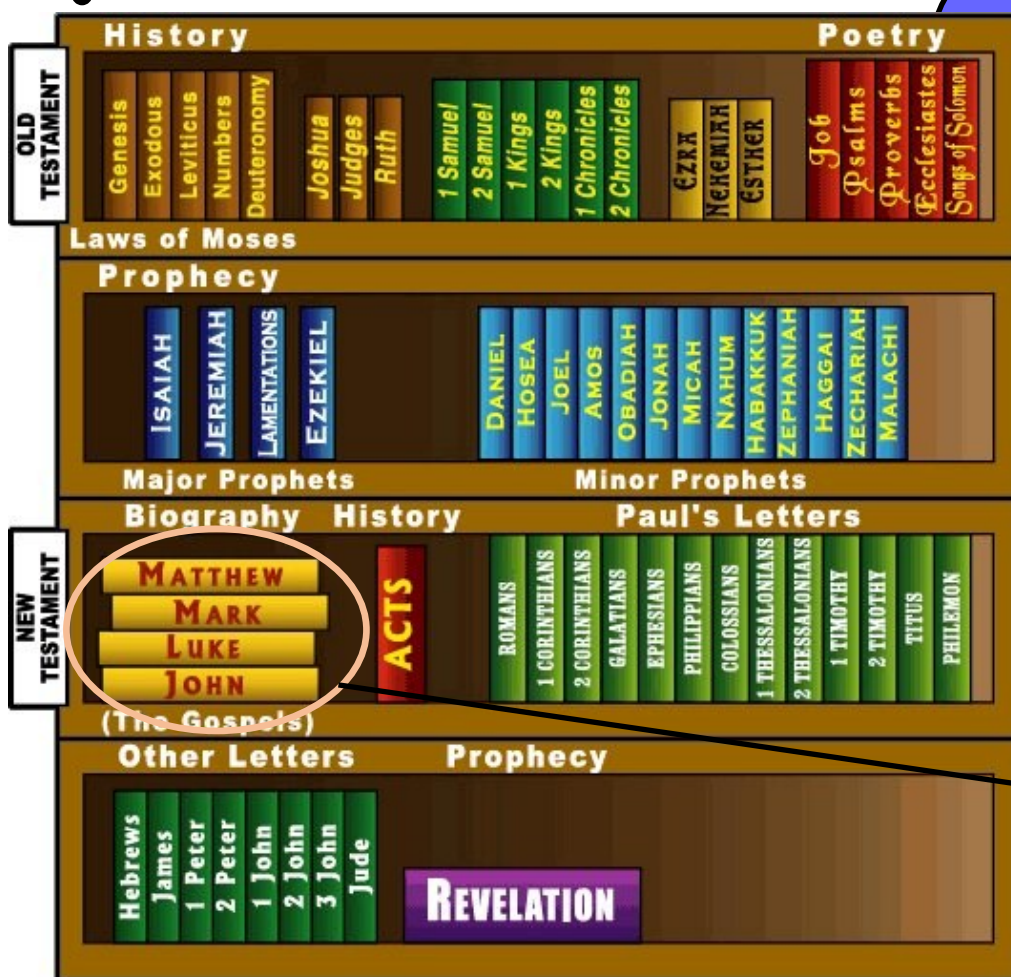
26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood"

Summarise it/paraphrase it



## The divine law and word of God in the Bible



The bible is basically a book of books. Written by many authors over a long period of time.

Old testament = before Jesus

New testament = After Jesus

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record the story of Jesus' life and death

All Christians see the Bible as a book of **revelation**. God's nature is revealed through the Bible so they can know more about him. It is seen as a record of **divine law** and as such can be used to help **guide daily life** and answer big questions. The gospels show Christians the perfect model for living in Jesus Christ. However, there are different views on how Biblical writings should be interpreted :

- Some see the Bible as the **most important** sources of authority
- They believe the Bible is **literally true**
- They believe biblical **accounts** like genesis over scientific explanation if it contradicts the Bible

- Other Christians think it requires interpretation
- They see it as a product of its time and context
- Needs to be reinterpreted to suit the modern day

- Liberal Christians don't believe the literal stories
- They see them as containing symbolic messages that help us live our lives. For example, the Parable of the Good Samaritan

Christians also use other sources of authority such as the Church (through a priest), or their conscience which is seen by some as the direct word of God

Sin is an immoral act that goes against God's law. The **Bible** contains ideas about sinfulness and its link to salva-



## Achieving salvation

There are different interpretations of how it is achieved:

- Catholics believe the **sacraments** will help achieve this. Baptism cleanses, confession **absolves them of sin**
- Many Protestants believe their **faith** in Jesus and **repenting their sins** will achieve salvation

## Original sin

Caused by Adam and Eve and passed down through the generations

Original sin causes humans to act against God's will

### Problems with the idea of original sin

- Doesn't fit with evolution—impossible for sin to be passed down unless genesis is literally true
  - Seems unkind to punish all for the sin of one person
- Many Christians have a non-literal interpretation of the Fall and see it as symbolising the human tendency towards doing bad things and acting against God's law



## Sin

## Sin and salvation

Sin separates us from God

Jesus' death atoned for human sin and allows us to have eternal life after death

Different views of how Jesus' death achieved salvation:

1. Jesus was a sacrifice. Jews sacrificed animals to pay for sin, Jesus death did this once and for all
2. Jesus paid the ransom for human sin, allowing us to be free from sin and be saved



## Grace and the Holy Spirit

- Christians believe that the Holy Spirit was given as a gift to humans as recorded in the book of Acts when Jesus ascends into heaven
- The Holy Spirit brings grace which enables humans to pray to God for help and live sin free and good lives
- Many Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is present in sacraments such as baptism, and the Eucharist
- All Christians believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the world today

### Evangelical congregations

- May feel moved by the spirit .
- It may allow them to '**talk in tongues**' which is seen as a gift.
- They may believe in '**faith healing**' which may be physical or spiritual

# holy spirit

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote from it and explain it**

### Acts 2:1-6

#### The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

### Summarise it/paraphrase it

Examiner's model answers!

### C) Explain the link between sin and salvation (8)

You could use any of the following points in this question.

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Christians believe that when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden that this was the 'original sin, ' this was then passed down to every human being that has ever lived. It is only through the crucifixion of Jesus that we are saved from this because Jesus became a 'sacrificial lamb' for us.   |
| 2. | Some Christians also believe that there are certain things that we can do to attain salvation such as participating in sacraments such as the Eucharist and also through living a sin free life. This will enable them to be absolved of the sins they commit in this life.   |
| 3. | Some Christians believe that when Jesus died that he paid the ransom for human beings and the sin created by Adam and Eve. It is only through this act that we can become free from captivity and be saved. This in turn allows us to gain eternal life through this salvation  |
| 4. | In Acts it shows that when Jesus ascended into heaven that those who saw him were 'filled with the Holy Spirit.' Christians believe that the Holy Spirit enables people to pray to god which helps them to live good lives. The sacraments, such as the Eucharist also enable us to access the Holy Spirit and this in turn will enable them to be saved. |

1) What do the following terms mean?

A) Incarnation, B) Crucifixion C) Resurrection D) Atonement

E) Ascension F) Salvation G) Grace H) Sin I) Original Sin

2. Explain why each of the terms above is significant for Christians.

3. What happened to Jesus after his death?

4. Explain what happened at the Last Supper and show how it links to the prophecy made in Isaiah

5. Describe what is meant by the term revelation in relation to the Bible.

6. Describe what Christians believe about the ascension .

7. Explain why Jesus Christ is of central importance to Christians.

8. 'The different accounts of Jesus' actions after his resurrection show that the story is not real.' Come up with arguments for and against this statement.

# Christianity. What do Christians believe about the afterlife?

25

## Eschatological beliefs

- Refers to beliefs about the 'last things' or 'end days'
- **Life after death** and the resurrection of Jesus is **central to Christian belief**
- In Corinthians St Paul says if it isn't true then faith is futile
- Eschatological beliefs are **mentioned in the Nicene and Apostles Creeds**
- *'I look for the resurrection of the dead, and for the life of the world to come.'* (Nicene Creed)
- The crucifixion and resurrection are highly significant as they provide Christians with evidence that death is not the end
  - Physical bodies die but the immortal soul will live on
  - The cross is an important symbol of both death and resurrection



## The Gospel of John:

Referred to as the '**eschatological gospel**'

Miraculous accounts of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead

In it Jesus says those who believe in him will never die *'the one who believes in me will live, even though they die.'*

You need to know these parables!

## Judgement and the afterlife

Christians believe in a judgement day



They believe it will involve the '**second coming**' of Jesus

This is known as the **Parousia**. The end of human existence on earth

Parable of the Sheep and Goats and Lazarus and the Rich Man show Christians how and why they will be judged

Jesus said:  
Lazarus, come forth!





What do Christians believe about resurrection?

There will be a spiritual resurrection of the soul which will join god in heaven

There will also be a bodily resurrection. A different and glorified body as per St Paul in Corinthians

This is stated in the Creeds. Jesus did not teach much about the nature of the afterlife

## different beliefs about heaven and hell

Not many description of heaven in the Bible

Most believe you go to heaven if you have lived the **right life**

Many believe that **God and the angels** are located there

Some believe it is a **physical place**

Others believe it is a **spiritual dimension**

All believe hell is a **place of suffering**

Some believe it is a **literal place of torment and fire**

Others believe the torment comes from a **separation from God's presence**

HELL AND HEAVEN





# Christianity. What do Christians believe about the afterlife continued.....?

## Traditional and contemporary beliefs about heaven and hell

### Traditional beliefs

Heaven and hell are real  
with hell underground and  
heaven above the earth

### Contemporary beliefs

Heaven is being in the  
presence of God and hell is  
not

If God loves us all then  
does he forgive all  
eventually?

Heaven and hell are seen as connected to ideas about reward  
and punishment and are significant as an important basis for the  
belief in an afterlife even if we can't say much about them!

## Belief in purgatory

Not everyone enters heaven immediately due to  
sin, those who do not enter purgatory

Here they are cleansed of the sin over time

One judgment day those in purgatory will go to  
heaven

This is a catholic belief

Catholics pray for the dead and those in  
purgatory



Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote** from it and **explain** it

### John 11:25-26

.25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### John 14:2-7

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### Matthew 25:31-46

#### **The Sheep and the Goats**

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote from it** and **explain it**

me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### Luke 16:19-31

#### **The Rich Man and Lazarus**

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Read and summarise the main meanings. **These are important** and you need to know the **main ideas** or be able to **quote** from it and **explain** it

27 "He answered,

'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Summarise it/paraphrase it

### 1 Corinthians 15:42-55

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we] bear the image of the heavenly man.

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

Summarise it/paraphrase it

## Examiner's model answers!

**A) What do Christians mean by the term atonement (2)**

This is the idea that Jesus' death restored the relationship between God and human-

**B) Describe traditional and contemporary beliefs about heaven and hell (5)****Christians believe different things about heaven and hell.....**

1.	Traditionally heaven is seen as a physical place that is literally true and where God and the angels inhabit. In the traditional view heaven
2.	Contemporary Christians often see heaven as being a spiritual place instead and see it as a kind of state of being rather than a physical place. They would see heaven as being in the presence of God and hell being separated from
3.	Both tradition and contemporary Christians believe heaven and hell are based on reward and punishment from the way we live our lives, this is demonstrated

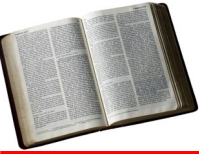
1. Use the word eschatological in a sentence
2. How does the Nicene creed show eschatological beliefs?
3. Explain the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats and how it helps Christians to understand the afterlife.
4. Explain what Paul claims about the resurrection of the soul and body in Corinthians.
5. Imagine you are a Church of England vicar and a couple have come to you explaining they want a divorce. Write down the conversation you might have with them.
6. Draw a diagram to represent what traditional and contemporary Christians believe about heaven and hell.
7. Explain why belief in the afterlife is significant for Christians.
8. 'Belief in Jesus is enough to get you into the afterlife.'  
Come up with arguments for and against this statement.



# Practices



Worship is an outward expression of adoration and praise for god.



It is mentioned a number of times in the Bible which shows its importance. For example, one of the 10 commandments is 'keep holy the Sabbath ' many interpret this to mean that they should worship God

**Key source of wisdom!**

• In **Matthew 18;20** it states that '**where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there with them.**'

They believe that this shows that Jesus is with them when they pray

**What are the main different forms of worship?**

There are 3 types: Liturgical, informal and individual worship

## Liturgical

- set pattern, rituals
- Part of public/**corporate** worship
- May have set prayer and set worship book as in C of E
- The C of E was influenced by Thomas Cranmer 's *Exhortation and Litany* of 1554 -was the first 'service book' and showed how church services should take place

### Most Churches

- Include Lord's prayer because Jesus says it in the Bible during the Sermon on the Mount
  - Eucharist is a good example of liturgical worship
- Catholic Church includes:
- Liturgy of the word
  - Liturgy of the Eucharist

## Informal

- More difficult to identify a liturgical structure in these settings
- Charismatic and evangelical denominations have moved away from protestant traditions
- Emphasise the Holy Spirit and spontaneous action .i.e. singing, talking in tongues, faith healing
- Seems modern but is probably what early worship was like for Christians
- Some have moved away from worship in a church and worship wherever Christians gather

## Individual

- Emphasise the possibility of a personal relationships with God
- Private worship is popular with many Christians who may never attend church (the Bible instructs for both private and corporate worship)
- Has been a huge decline in church attendance even though many in Britain still consider themselves to be Christian



## The nature and importance of prayer

- Prayer was part of Jesus' lifestyle
- Worship must be genuine; not just words but followed with action too
- Can be done in many ways; privately, in a church, kneeling, in the mind
- It is the way that Christians communicate with God
- For some it is a conversation between them and God/ for others it is more mysterious

- Personal prayer is very significant for protestants as a result of the Reformation and belief that all can experience God
- Both personal and corporate prayer can have power for the individual
- Jesus encouraged group prayer
- **Lords Prayer is significant for all**

You should know what this is and why it's important

# Different types of prayer

### Set prayers

For example, Lord's prayer said together in church

### Extemporaneous prayers

Spontaneous prayer  
*Some totally reject set prayers*

### Informal prayer

Using informal language to pray

## Main reasons for praying

Adoration

Confessional

Contemplation

Penitential

Praise

Thanksgiving

Supplication

## Examples of different styles of worship

### Quaker worship



- Sit in silence and meditation to get closer to god
- No official leader
- Informal

### Evangelical worship

- Informal
- Moved by the Holy Spirit
- May fall into trances/talk in tongues

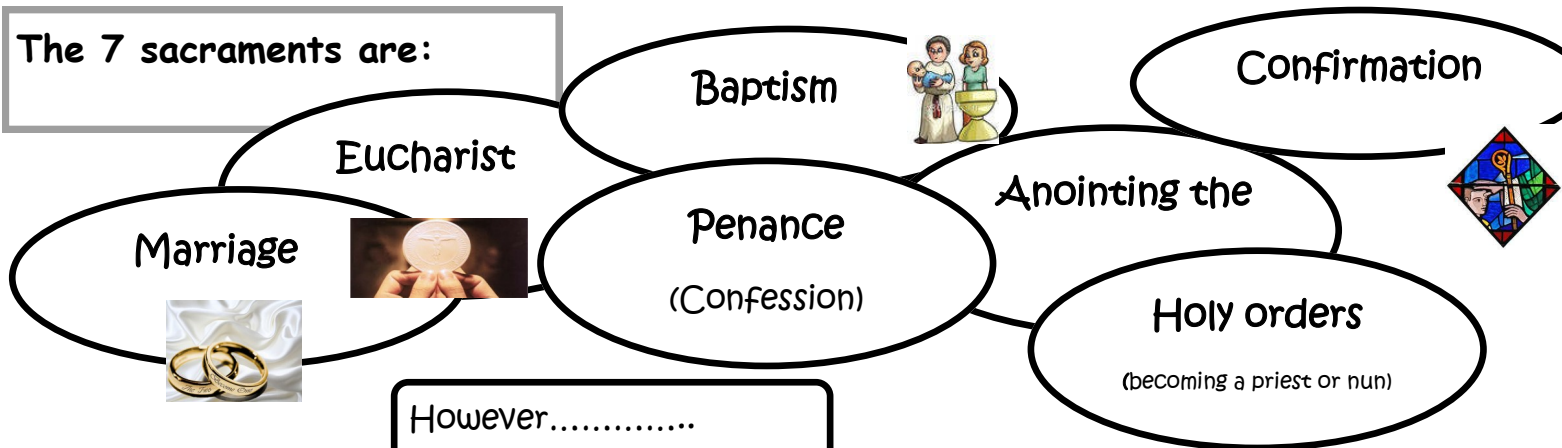


## B) Describe some of the different ways that Christians pray (5)

All Christians believe that prayer is important but they often pray in different ways. Some Christians choose to pray in a church, known as corporate prayer. Whilst doing this they will recite set prayers such as the Lord's Prayer; "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name". This is important as it brings Christians all over the world together. Other Christians may choose to pray privately and may prefer extemporaneous prayer. This is informal, spontaneous prayer without a structure. It is often seen in charismatic churches and involves singing and music. Prayer will affect the life of a Christian as it will help them to communicate with God and will sometimes give them hope and reassurance.

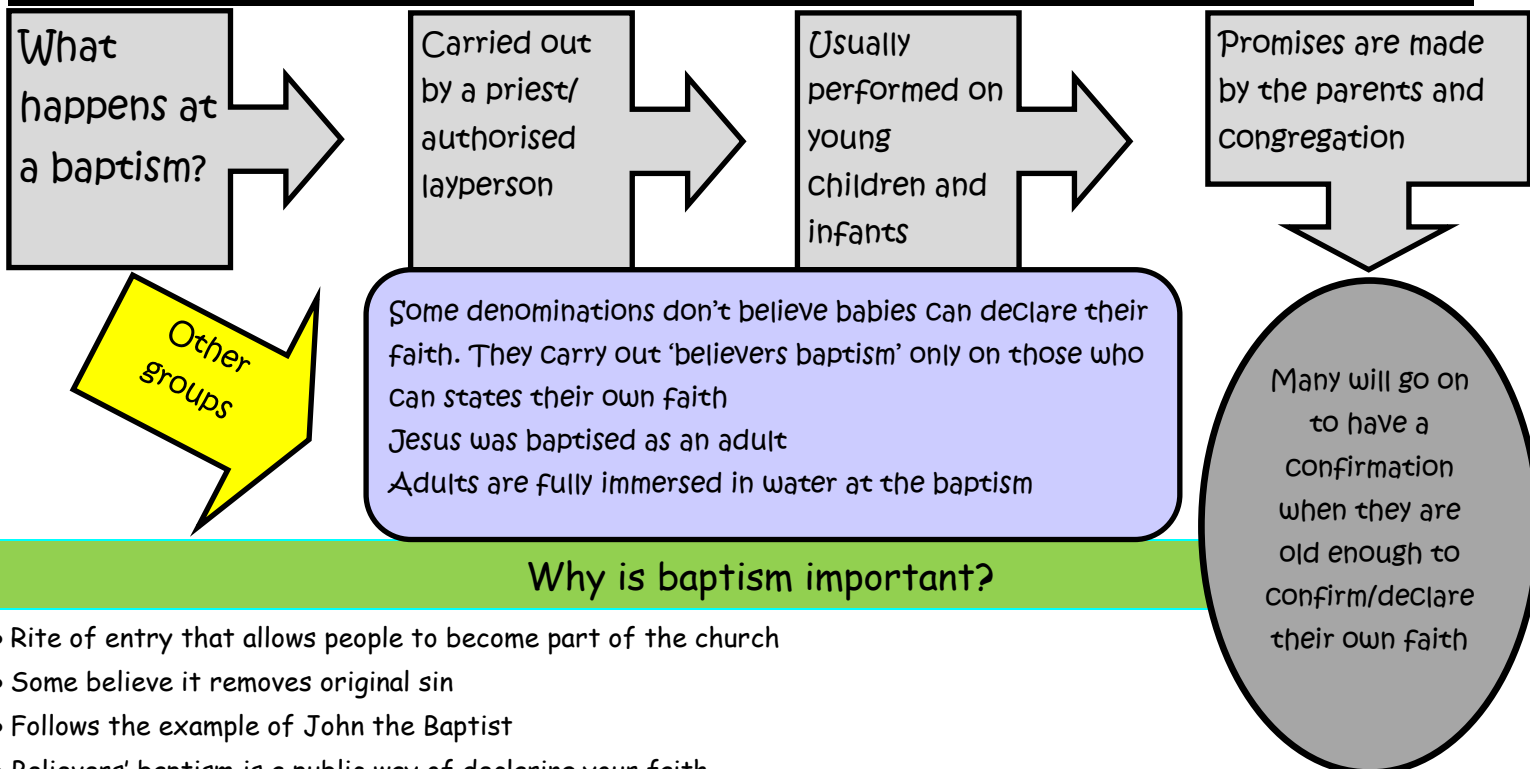
**Sacrament** comes from the term '*sacramentum*' meaning an oath or allegiance sworn by Roman soldiers. By the 2nd century CE it was used to describe Christian **rites** (ritual acts with symbolic meaning). The 5th century thinker St Augustine claimed that they were a '**visible sign of invisible grace**' meaning God is present when they are performed. There are 7 sacraments accepted by the Catholic and Orthodox Church

The 7 sacraments are:



Most protestants only recognise baptism and the Eucharist  
Some such as the Quakers and the Salvation Army reject them all

## The role, meaning and celebration of baptism



## Why is baptism important?

- Rite of entry that allows people to become part of the church
- Some believe it removes original sin
- Follows the example of John the Baptist
- Believers' baptism is a public way of declaring your faith
- Seen as the first covenant between God and her people
- St Paul claims it links us to the resurrection in Romans 6:4
- Jesus instructed people to baptise others
- It is a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit—allows people to be resurrected on death and go to heaven as shown in John 3:3-6

## The Eucharist



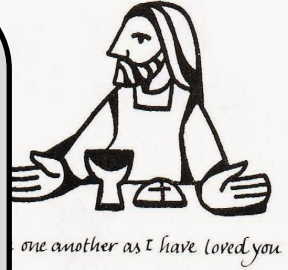
### What is it?

Many believe it originated with the last Supper and Jesus' words

It is carried out when Christians meet for worship

Means 'thanksgiving'/being grateful

Eucharist services are examples of liturgical worship



Denomination	Different views on the Eucharist
Catholic	Belief in <b>transubstantiation</b> —bread and wine actually become flesh and
Lutheran	Accept <b>consubstantiation</b> —blood and body are present yet distinct (not
Protestant	Present spiritually and not physically in the Eucharist It is an act of remembrance
Baptist	Christ is not present at all, it is an act of remembrance—referred to as <b>memorialism</b>

### C) Explain why the sacrament of baptism is significant for Christians (8)

There are many diverse views on the significance of baptism within Christianity. Firstly, Catholics and orthodox Christians believe it is a sacred rite, St Augustine claimed that it is a 'visible sign of an invisible grace' meaning that God is with them when it is performed. It is for this reason that some see it as the first covenant between God and her people which makes it very significant. It is also an act that enables a person to become part of the church. This is shown through the promises that are made by both the parents and the congregation at the service. The act of baptism will affect a Christian's life as it enters an infant into the church and will also mean that they are raised as a Christian which is important for the continuation of the faith.

Furthermore, many Christians believe they are following in Jesus' footsteps because he was baptised by John the Baptist. Jesus commended the disciples to 'go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28). Jesus is their role model so following in his footsteps is a desirable thing for them to do. St Paul claimed in Romans that baptism connects us with Jesus' resurrection and will enable us to be resurrected too. This is important for Christians because they want to ensure that they go to heaven when they die and believe that this sacrament will help them to achieve this.

### EXAM WATCH

Remember you need to **explain fully** and **include sources of wisdom** and must **explain the significance of particular beliefs for religious people** to show you know what the question is asking you.



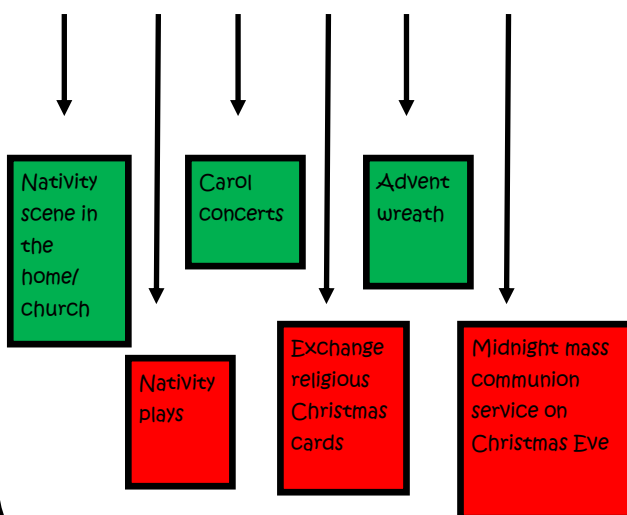
## Celebrations

### Christmas

- Celebrates the birth of Jesus and the **incarnation**
- Most don't believe he was born on this day but use this date as a focal point
- **Advent** is the period of preparation leading to Christmas. In Orthodox Christianity they fast however, the Western Churches no longer fast.
- Many have advent calendars or candles to count down the days



#### How do Christians celebrate Christmas?



- Going to church during Lent
- Visiting cemeteries to pray and leave flowers for the deceased
- Read the Bible
- Hold an evening vigil on the Saturday of Holy Week
- Exchange religious Easter cards/eggs

### Easter

- Most important festival; remembers the death and resurrection of Jesus



### LENT

Commemorates Jesus' period of fasting and praying and overcoming temptation in the desert for 40 days. Begins 40 days before Easter and starts with **Ash Wednesday**—people usually fast on this day.

**Shrove Tuesday** is the day before Ash Wednesday and is a day to rid the house of luxuries ahead of Lent and the time of abstinence (people will usually give something up during this time)



#### Significance of Easter week

Day	What happens and what's the significance
Palm Sunday	Commemorate the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem. Church services are held and sometimes crosses made of palm leaves remind them of Jesus entering
Maundy Thursday	Commemorates the Last Supper where Jesus gave the Eucharist. Christians hold communion services
Good Friday	Commemorates Jesus' death and is a day of mourning. Church services are held. In some countries processions or re-enactments of Jesus' death are
Easter Sunday	A celebration of the discovery of the risen Christ by Mary. A day of celebration with services in flower filled

Christians may also celebrate by:



## Pilgrimages

A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. Pilgrims used and still do travel to the Holy land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Pilgrimage is carried out for lots of reasons and recognises life as a spiritual journey. A pilgrimage is an example of faith in action, the journey that the pilgrim goes on symbolises the journey Christians take from life to death.

Walsingham

**YOU MUST  
KNOW THESE 2  
PLACES OF  
PILGRIMAGE**

Taize

**What is Walsingham and why is it important for Christians?**

- ⇒ Situated in Norfolk
- ⇒ Created initially in 1061 when Riceldis de Faverches had a religious experience where she saw Mary in a dream. Mary commanded her to build a replica of the place where the birth of Jesus was announced
- ⇒ People from all over the world visited
- ⇒ Later a small monastic church was built
- ⇒ Was destroyed during the reformation and rebuilt when Catholics were again allowed to practice in Britain
- ⇒ There is now also an Anglican shrine
- ⇒ **It's important because** our own journeys begin with birth so a place to commemorate the announcement of Jesus' birth is a special site



**What is Taize and why is it important for Christians?**

- ⇒ Situated in Burgundy in France
- ⇒ Founded by Roger Schultz in 1940 and is an important ecumenical (promotes unity within the different groups of the church) order of monks. The monks come from lots of different places worldwide
- ⇒ The monks (all men) come from different denominations which is unusual and live, pray and contemplate together
- ⇒ Houses more than 100 Christian brothers from protestant and Catholic denominations
- ⇒ Promotes reconciliation and unity
- ⇒ **It's important because:** More than 100,000 young people go each year for a range of reasons including; curiosity; adventure; religious devotion; atonement; supplication; follow in the footsteps of other religious people

**What do they do?**

- The young pilgrims share in the monastic life and pray, study the Bible and join in discussion groups
- The services are famous for their chanting and music
- Each pilgrim is expected to go to a service 3 times a day

# Christianity: Christianity in Britain and the role of the Church in the local community

40

Belief	Percentage
Christianity	60%
Islam	5%
No religion	25%
Religion not stated	7%
Hinduism	1.5%
Sikhism	0.8%
Judaism	0.5%
Buddhism	0.4
Other religion	0.4

\*There is a changing picture of religious belief and practice in the UK as shown by the table. It contains data from the 2011 census.

\*In comparison with the 2001 census number of Christians have fallen from 73% to 60%

\*Those with no religion rose from 15% to 25%

\*The Muslim population grew by 1.8%

Many people are now atheist or agnostic and society is **religiously pluralistic**. People aren't attending church regularly except for Christmas.

## How does Christianity affects UK laws, festivals and traditions?

Traditions	Laws	Festivals
<p>⇒Keeping the Sabbath holy—larger shops are restricted in their trading hours</p> <p>⇒Using the Bible in a court of law. People can also use other holy books now or if non-religious can promise to tell the truth without a holy book</p> <p>⇒Christian hymns and readings are used on special days such as Remembrance Sunday</p> <p>⇒Getting married, baptised and having a funeral in a church even though they are not religious</p>	<p>⇒The law is made by the two houses of parliament. House of Commons and the house of Lords. The Lords Spiritual is a group of 26 Church of England Bishops</p> <p>⇒For laws to be passed they must also go through the House of Lords; this means the Church of England has a direct role in shaping UK law</p> <p>⇒Meetings in the House of Commons/ lords open with Christian prayers</p> <p>⇒Christian commandments such as 'Do not kill' and 'Do not steal' are reflected in UK law</p>	<p>⇒The Christian calendar influences UK public holidays with Christmas and Easter</p> <p>⇒School holidays fall in this time</p> <p>⇒St Valentine's Day (although generally not religiously celebrated)</p> <p><b><u>Other religions/non-religious festivals?</u></b></p> <p>⇒Religions such as Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam celebrate their own festivals in Britain</p> <p>⇒Non religious festivals like Bonfire night/Notting Hill</p> <p>⇒Humanists may celebrate Human Rights Day or World Humanist Day in June</p>

### B) Describe how Christianity affects the law in the UK (5)

The law is influenced by Christianity in a number of ways in Britain:

- When people are witnesses in court they are asked to swear on the Bible that they will tell the truth. This clearly shows that the UK legal system is influenced by Christianity through the use of its holy book.
- Christians followed the 10 commandments for many hundreds of years. Commandments such as 'Do not kill' and 'Do not steal' have become part of UK law. They are still sins in Christian belief but are also now crimes for which you can be punished.

## Christianity: Christianity in Britain and the role of the Church in the local community cont.....

41



What role does the church play in the local community?

Refreshments after Sunday service

Weekly meal for the homeless through donations

Youth clubs

Running food banks

Coffee morning for the elderly and vulnerable

Crèche facilities

Emergency shelters

Community services like fitness and slimming clubs

### Why do they do this?

The church tries to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by reaching out to the local community. Some of these services are religious in nature and promote Christianity such as baptisms, marriages and funerals. However many churches are meant to be inclusive spaces and therefore offer lots of other services to the community as well.

#### C) Explain the role of the Christian Church in local communities (8)

When answering this question there are a number of points you could include.

The Church has many functions in the local community, some of which are religious in their nature and others that are not.

- The Christian Church is a place where Christian families will go to get their children baptised. In fact many parents who are not really religious still opt for the tradition which shows that the Church still has significance.
- Churches also provide non religious services such as fitness classes, crèche facilities for working parents. These services show the church reaching out to the local community and following in the footsteps of Jesus. This kind of work is supported by the teaching of "Love thy neighbour". They believe this will result in God's favour on judgement day.
- In addition to this churches also provide services such as marriages and funerals. These are important services that in the case of marriage, help to strengthen the church, and in the case of funerals, provide comfort to those who have lost loved ones.
- Churches provides outreach work for vulnerable people like the elderly for disabled. They will often run coffee morning whereby people get the chance to socialise. This kind of work is very reflective of Jesus' teaching in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. By helping those in need the church is carrying on the work of Jesus.

## The importance of mission, evangelism and Church growth

What is evangelism?

It is the way the gospel is spread and means 'preaching the good news.'



Christians hope to convert others by telling them Jesus' message

For most Christians their evangelism is shown through their actions

Christians previously had missions in poor parts of the world where they converted and also brought education and health care

Mission is the effort to evangelise and spread the word of the gospel



What is meant by mission?

Mission supports the idea of the great commission where Jesus said to the disciples 'go make nations of the tribes.' By this he meant convert them to Christianity

The idea of mission is controversial today because we live in a pluralistic society.

Is the Church growing?



Church attendance has declined. C of E attendance was at the lowest ever level in 2016. This means many churches will close

Some churches are growing through 'church planting.' This is setting up new non-traditional churches. The Ichthus Fellowship has done this successfully in the UK and abroad

Some churches are thriving though. Evangelical churches are more popular and are very energetic and focus on the Bible and singing and the Holy Spirit

**Fresh expressions** is a new Church of England movement that bases services at non-traditional places like cafes, workplaces and even beaches. They are informal and try to attract those who wouldn't normally come to church

### Worldwide church growth

Christianity may be declining in the UK but in Asia, Africa and South America it is successfully growing

## The importance of mission, evangelism

### tearfund

Tearfund are a charity that aim to put 'loving your neighbour' at the heart of their work. They are showing selfless love, known as agape, through their work.

They work through church groups and help those in need who may be poor and/or may have suffered from environmental disasters. They also work on long term local community projects.

#### Why is Tearfund important?

- Raise awareness of social issues like poverty and discrimination
- Campaign against poverty worldwide
- Give practical help following the teachings of Jesus
- Encourage self help through their projects for local communities

**Tearfund in Columbia:** work through churches with young people who are at risk of becoming involved in gangs/drugs and violence. Also offer mentoring to help them identify better paths in life

#### Working for Christian reconciliation

There are many different denominations which has led to tension in the past. For example Catholic versus protestant in Northern Ireland. There are groups who seek to reunite them such as:

##### The Ecumenical Movement

Ecumenical means relating to many different churches. They aim to bring together different denominations. They help to minimise the differences and work together sharing buildings and space. For example, in Taizé

##### The World Council of Churches

- Hold a week of prayer for Christian unity
- Roman Catholic Church not a member but still takes part in some activity
- 'Churches Together in England' movement grew out of this and helps to bring churches together. Their main aim is to provide practical help to attain great unity.
- During the week of prayer special ecumenical services are held to show unity

#### Persecution of Christians

Christians have been persecuted since the time of Jesus. Jesus was crucified and all of the disciples were eventually killed for their beliefs (this is called being **martyred**).

Evangelising can put Christians in personal danger and in some parts of the world where religious extremism has taken hold such as Iraq and Syria many Christians in the area have been killed or have fled



Established by Brother Andrew in 1955 who smuggled Bibles into Communist Russia where they were illegal

Supports persecuted Christians by:

- Distributing Bibles to those in need or may have had them confiscated
- Trains Christian leaders to deal with the trauma while maintaining their faith
- Provides practical support for those involved in disasters
- Raises awareness and speaks out on behalf of those who are oppressed and persecuted

They are supported financially by UK and Irish charity donations



1. What are the 3 different types of worship?
2. What is the difference between set prayers, extemporaneous prayers and informal prayers?
3. What is baptism and why is it important?
4. Explain the importance of prayer, give at least 5 reasons and include the different purposes of prayer.
5. Create a table that shows the different views about the Eucharist held by the following groups: Catholic, Lutheran, Protestant and Baptist.
6. Why are Christmas and Easter important?
7. Describe the role that the Church has in the local community.
8. Explain why pilgrimage is significant for Christians.
9. 'Prayer is the most important practice for Christians.'  
Come up with arguments for and against this statement.
10. 'Baptism is the most important sacrament for Christians'  
Come up with arguments for and against this statement.