

Year 10

RP - Mock Revision Guide

Name:

Teacher:

1 Beliefs and teachings

1.1 The nature of God

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christianity is the main religion in Great Britain.
- Christianity has three main traditions: Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox.
- Christianity is **monotheistic**, meaning that Christians believe in one Supreme Being, **God**.

Different branches of Christianity

CHRISTIANITY

Catholic – based in Rome and led by the Pope.

Orthodox – split from Catholic Christianity in 1054 CE and practised in Eastern Europe.

Protestant – split from Catholic Christianity in the 16th century and branched out into different **denominations** (distinct groups), e.g. Baptist, Pentecostal, Methodist, United Reformed Churches. Protestants agree that the Bible is the only authority for Christians.

TIP

If you are asked about similarities and differences in a religion, try to remember that even though Christianity has different denominations, they all share the same belief in God.



What do Christians believe about God?

- There is only one God:

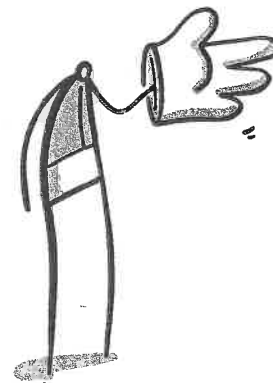
“We believe in one God”

The Nicene Creed

- God is the creator and sustainer of all that exists.
- God works throughout history and inspires people to do God's will.
- People can have a relationship with God through prayer.
- God is spirit (John 4:24) – neither male nor female – but has qualities of both.
- God is **holy** (set apart for a special purpose and worthy of worship).
- Jesus is God's son – the true representation of God on earth (Hebrews 1:3).

TIP

See page 15 for more Christian beliefs about God.



APPLY



A

Christians believe that there is only one God. Refer to scripture or another Christian source of authority to support this idea.

B

'Christianity is a major influence on people's lives.'

Write a paragraph to **support this statement**.

1.2 God as omnipotent, loving and just

RECAP






Essential information:

Christians believe:

- God is **omnipotent**, almighty, having unlimited power.
- God is **benevolent**, all-loving and all-good.
- God is **just**, the perfect judge of human behaviour who will bring about what is right and fair or who will make up for a wrong that has been committed.

Some qualities of God

Omnipotent	Benevolent	Just
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God is the Supreme Being who is all-powerful.• God has unlimited authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God uses his power to do good.• God shows his love by creating humans and caring for them.• God showed his love by sending God's Son, Jesus, to earth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God is a just judge of humankind.• God will never support injustice, ill-treatment, prejudice or oppression.

The problems of evil and suffering

The problems of evil and suffering challenge belief in these qualities of God:

- If God is benevolent, **why does God allow people to suffer**, and to hurt others?
- If God is omnipotent, **why does God not prevent evil and suffering**, such as the suffering caused by natural disasters?
- If God is just, **why does God allow injustice** to take place?

Christians believe a just God treats people fairly, so they trust God even when things seem to be going wrong.

TIP

See page 107 for more arguments in response to these challenges to belief in God.

APPLY



A

Give **two** ways in which Christians believe God shows his benevolence.

B

Write the response a Christian would make to someone who said that a loving God would not allow suffering. Think of **two** arguments and develop them.

TIP

In the 12 mark exam answer, using the key terms 'omnipotent', 'benevolent' and 'just' where appropriate, and spelling them correctly, may gain you more marks for SPaG.

1.3 The Oneness of God and the Trinity

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christians believe there are three persons in the one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This belief is called the **Trinity**.
- Each person of the Trinity is fully God.
- The persons of the Trinity are not the same.

TIP

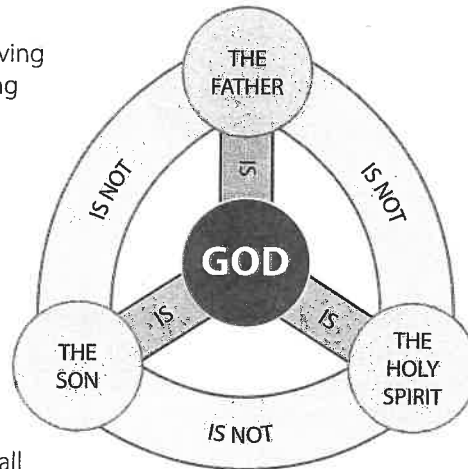
The Apostles Creed and/or the Nicene Creed, Christian statements of belief, are useful to know when discussing the Trinity. They begin

'We believe in one God' and include references to 'the Father Almighty, 'the Son' and 'the Holy Spirit'.

The Trinity

- God is understood by Christians as a relationship of love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- In describing God as Trinity, 'person' does not mean a physical being, although Jesus did have a physical presence in history.

God the Father, the creator of all life, acts as a good father towards his children. He is all powerful (omnipotent), all loving (omnibenevolent), all knowing (omniscient) and present everywhere (omnipresent).



God the Son became incarnate through Jesus, who was both fully human while on earth and fully God at all times. Jesus is called the **Son of God** to show his special relationship to God the Father.

God the Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God at work in the world, who influences, guides and sustains life on earth.

APPLY



A

Here are **two** Christian beliefs about the Trinity. Develop each point with further explanation or a relevant quotation:

1. "The Trinity is the Christian belief that there are three persons in the one God." _____

2. "One of the persons of the Trinity is God the Father." _____

B

Here are some arguments that could be used to evaluate the statement, 'The Trinity is a helpful way of describing God.' Sort them into arguments in support of the statement, and arguments in support of different views. **Write your own justified conclusion.**

1. The Trinity is a helpful idea because it describes God as a loving relationship of persons.	5. If God is One, then how can God have three persons?
2. The love of God the Son is shown in Jesus' mission and sacrifice.	6. The Holy Spirit is the outpouring of love between Father and Son that encourages Christians to love their neighbour.
3. The Trinity seems contradictory.	7. Jesus was a Jew and believed in the oneness of God.
4. The love of God the Father is shown in his sending his Son to earth to save humankind.	8. The Trinity is not helpful to people of other faiths as they may think that Christians believe in three different Gods.

1.4 Different Christian beliefs about Creation

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christians believe in **creation** by God, the act by which God brought the universe into being.
- God, the Father, chose to design and create the earth and all life on it.
- The Holy Spirit was active in the creation (Genesis 1:1–3).
- The **Word**, God the Son or Jesus, was active in the creation (John 1:1–3).
- The Trinity, therefore, existed from the beginning and was involved in the creation.

Creation: Genesis 1:1–3

“ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ”

Genesis 1: 1–3 [NIV]

- Many Christians believe that the story of the creation in Genesis, while not scientifically accurate, contains religious truth.
- Some Christians believe that God made the world in literally six days.
- God created everything out of choice and created everything ‘good’.
- Christians believe that God continues to create new life today.
- Although God the Father is referred to as the creator, the Holy Spirit was active in the creation, according to Genesis.

Creation: John 1:1–3

“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ”

John 1: 1–3 [NIV]

- In John’s gospel, everything was created through the Word, who was both with God and was God.
- The Word refers to the Son of God who entered history as Jesus.
- Christians believe that the Son of God, the Word of God, was involved in the creation.



TIP

See pages 92 and 104–105 for more detail on different Christian beliefs about creation.

APPLY



- A** Explain **two** ways in which belief in creation by God influences Christians today.
- B** Here is an argument in support of the statement, ‘The Bible is the best source of information about the creation.’

Evaluate the argument. Explain your reasoning.

“The Bible contains the truth about the creation of the world by God. God is omnipotent, so God can just say ‘Let there be light’ and it happens. The Bible is God’s word, so it is true. Other theories about the creation, like evolution and the Big Bang theory, have not been proved.”

TIP

Show the examiner that you are aware of contrasting views within Christianity about the way Genesis 1 is interpreted, that is, between those who take the story literally and those who do not.

1.5 The incarnation and Jesus, the Son of God

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christians believe that Jesus was God in human form, a belief known as the **incarnation** (becoming flesh, taking a human form).
- Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God, one of the persons of the Trinity.

The incarnation

“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, **she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.**”

Matthew 1:18 [NIV]

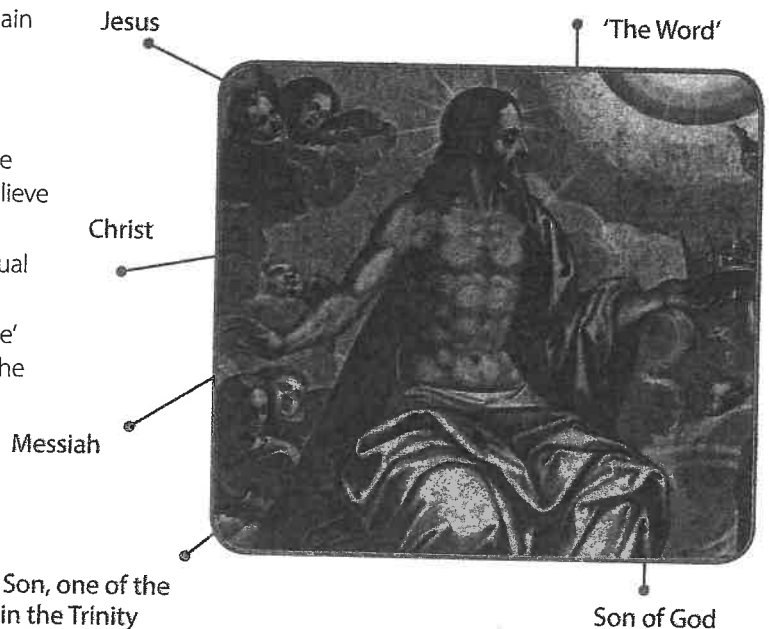
- On separate occasions an angel appeared to Mary and Joseph explaining that it was not an ordinary conception and it was not to be an ordinary child.
- The gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Mary conceived Jesus without having sex.
- The virgin conception is evidence for the Christian belief that Jesus was the Son of God, part of the Trinity.
- Through the incarnation, God showed himself as a human being (Jesus) for around 30 years.

“**The Word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us.”

John 1:14 [NIV]

Son of God, Messiah, Christ

- Jesus was fully God and fully human, which helps explain his miracles and **resurrection** (rising from the dead).
- His words, deeds and promises have great authority because they are the word of God.
- Most Jews expected a Messiah who would come to save Israel and establish an age of peace, but Jews do not believe that Jesus was that person.
- Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah, but a spiritual rather than a political one.
- Gospel writers refer to Jesus as the Christ ('anointed one' or Messiah), but Jesus warned his disciples not to use the term, possibly because his opponents would have him arrested for **blasphemy** (claiming to be God).



APPLY



- A** Explain **two** Christian beliefs about Jesus' incarnation. **Refer to sacred writings in your answer.**
- B** **Develop this argument** to support the statement, 'The stories of the incarnation show that Jesus was the Son of God' by explaining in more detail, adding an example, or referring to a relevant religious teaching or quotation.

"The stories of the incarnation in the gospels of Matthew and Luke show that his mother, Mary, was a virgin. Joseph was not the natural father of Jesus. Jesus' conception was through the Holy Spirit, so really God was his father. That is why he is called the Son of God."

TIP

In a 5 mark question, you need to give a detailed explanation of each belief and then support your answer by quoting from scripture or sacred writings for full marks. The sacred writings may refer to just one of the beliefs or to both of them.

1.6 The crucifixion

RECAP



Essential information:

- Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, a death by **crucifixion** (fixed to a cross).
- Jesus forgave those who crucified him and promised one of the men crucified with him that he would join God in paradise.
- Jesus' body was buried in a cave-like tomb.

Jesus' crucifixion – what happened?

- Although Jesus was fully God, he was also fully human so suffered pain and horror.
- Jesus' last words before dying were:

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Luke 23:46 [NIV]

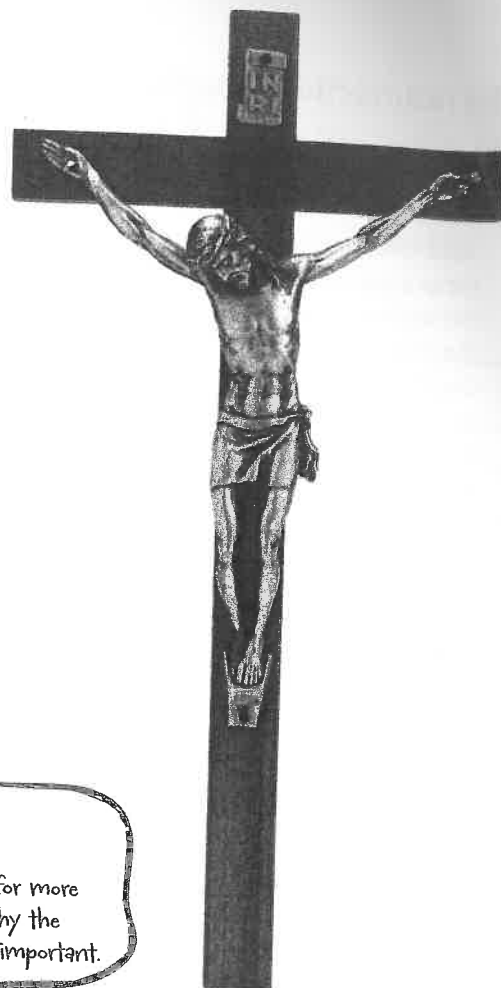
- A Roman centurion acknowledged Jesus was innocent, and said he was the Son of God (Mark 15:39).
- The Roman guards made sure Jesus was dead.
- Joseph of Arimathea was permitted to bury Jesus in a cave-like tomb, rolling a large stone to block the entrance.
- Jesus' burial was rushed because the Sabbath was about to begin.

Jesus' crucifixion – why is it important?

- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross gives hope to Christians that **their sins will be forgiven if they sincerely repent**.
- Christians believe that **God understands human suffering** because Jesus, who is God, experienced it.
- **Christians accept that suffering is part of life**, just as it was a part of Jesus' life.

TIP

See page 25 for more detail on why the crucifixion was important.



APPLY



A

Here are two ways in which Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today:

- 1) *Their sins are forgiven.*
- 2) *They have hope when they are suffering.*

Develop both points by **explaining in more detail or by adding an example**.

B

Read the following response to the statement, 'The crucifixion is the most important belief for Christians.' Underline the **two** best arguments. Explain how this answer could be improved.

"Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and brought to trial, first before the Jewish Council and then before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. In the gospels it says that Pontius Pilate did not think Jesus was guilty of anything, so he didn't want to have him killed. Instead he had him flogged. The Jewish leaders called for Jesus' death, so Pilate gave in to their wishes and sentenced Jesus to death. After about six hours of agony on the cross, Jesus died. A Roman centurion said that because Jesus was innocent, he must surely be the Son of God. When Jesus died, he took the sins of everyone on himself. This is called the atonement. If Jesus had not died, he would not have risen from the dead."

TIP

Keep rereading the statement to make sure you are answering the question asked.

1.7 The resurrection and ascension

RECAP



Essential information:

- The gospels say that after Jesus died and was buried, he rose from the dead. This event is known as the **resurrection**.
- The **ascension** of Jesus took place 40 days after his resurrection, when he returned to God the Father in **heaven**.
- There would be no Christian faith without the resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus – what happened?

- Early on Sunday morning, some of Jesus' female followers, including Mary Magdalene, visited the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.
- Jesus' body was not there.
- Either a man or two men, who may have been angels, told the women to spread the news that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- Over the next few days, Jesus appeared to several people including Mary Magdalene and his disciples. He told them he had risen from the dead, as he predicted he would before the crucifixion.



“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead [...] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

1 Corinthians 15:14, 20, 22 [NIV]

The ascension of Jesus – what happened?

- After meeting with his disciples and asking them to carry on his work, Jesus left them for the last time, returning to the Father in heaven. This event is called the ascension.

“While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”

Luke 24:51 [NIV]

The significance of these events for Christians today

The significance of the **resurrection**:

- Shows the power of good over evil and life over death.
- Means Christians' sins will be forgiven if they follow God's laws.
- Means Christians will be resurrected if they accept Jesus, so there is no need to fear death.

The significance of the **ascension**:

- Shows Jesus is with God in heaven.
- Paves the way for God to send the Holy Spirit to provide comfort and guidance.

TIP

This quote shows that Christianity would not exist without the resurrection. It also shows that the resurrection is important because it is significant evidence for Christians of the divine nature of Jesus.

APPLY



A Give **two** reasons why the disciples believed Jesus was alive after his resurrection. (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)

B 'The resurrection is the most important belief for Christians.'

Develop this response to the statement, by adding a relevant religious teaching or quotation.

"Without the resurrection, there would be no Christian faith. Jesus' death would have been the end of all the hopes the disciples placed on him. He would have been just like all the other innocent victims put to death for their beliefs."

1.8 Resurrection and life after death

RECAP



Essential information:

- Jesus' resurrection assures Christians that they too will rise and live on after death.
- Christians have differing views about what happens when a person who has died is resurrected.
- Belief in resurrection affects the way Christians live their lives today.

Different Christian views about resurrection

Some Christians believe a person's soul is resurrected soon after death .	Other Christians believe the dead will be resurrected at some time in the future , when Jesus will return to judge everyone who has ever lived.
Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe in bodily resurrection. This means resurrection is both spiritual and physical : the physical body lost at death is restored and transformed into a new, spiritual body.	Some other Christians believe resurrection will just be spiritual , not physical as well.

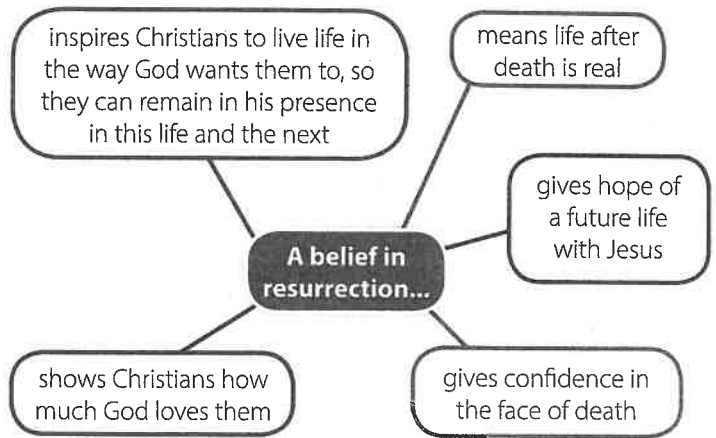
“So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 [NIV]

TIP

This quote explains some of the differences between a living body and a resurrected body. For Catholics and Orthodox Christians, it suggests there is a physical element to resurrection, as it talks about the resurrected body being a 'body', even if it is a spiritual one.

Impact of the belief in resurrection



APPLY



- A** Explain **two** ways in which a belief in resurrection influences Christians today.
- B** The table below presents arguments for and against the belief in bodily resurrection. **Write a paragraph** to explain whether you agree or disagree with bodily resurrection, having evaluated both sides of the argument.

TIP

If you need to give different points of view in your answer to an evaluation question, you could include contrasting non-religious perspectives as well as religious perspectives.

For	Against
Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples.	Science has shown the body decays after death, so there cannot be a physical resurrection.
The gospels insist he was not a ghost, as he ate with them and showed his wounds to them.	Some people are cremated so their bodies no longer exist.
Yet he could appear and disappear suddenly, so it seems that his body was transformed.	Stories of the resurrection appearances may have been exaggerated.
Paul says 'the body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable', suggesting the natural body is raised as a spiritual body, but a body nevertheless.	The disciples may have felt Jesus' presence spiritually rather than seeing him physically.
Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe people's bodies are transformed into a glorified state in which suffering will not exist.	Christians believe in the soul and it is the soul that rises again, not the body.

1.9 The afterlife and judgement

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christians believe in an **afterlife** (life after death) that depends on faith in God.
- The afterlife begins at death or at the **Day of Judgement**, when Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead.
- Judgement will be based on how people have behaved during their lifetimes, as well as their faith in following Jesus. This has an effect on how Christians choose to live their lives today.

The afterlife

Christian beliefs about life after death vary, but many believe that:

- They will be **resurrected** and receive **eternal life** after they die.
- This is a gift from God, and **dependent on faith** in God.
- They will be **judged by God** at some point after they die, and either rewarded by being sent to heaven or punished by being sent to hell.
- This judgement will happen either **very soon after death** or **on the Day of Judgement**. This is a time in the future when the world will end and Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Some of these beliefs about the afterlife are found in the **Apostles' Creed**, which is an important statement of Christian faith.

“He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead: I believe in [...] the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.”

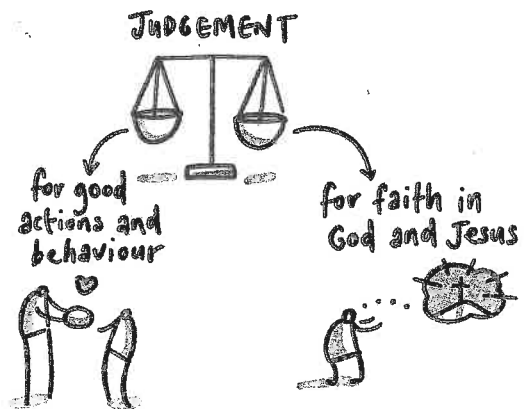
The Apostles' Creed

Judgement

- Christians believe that after they die, God will judge them on their **behaviour and actions** during their lifetime, as well as their **faith in Jesus** as God's Son.
- In the Bible, Jesus' **parable of the Sheep and the Goats** describes how God will judge people.
- This parable teaches Christians that **in serving others, they are serving Jesus**, so this is the way they should live their lives.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25:35–36 [NIV]



- Before he died, Jesus told his disciples he would prepare a place for them in heaven with God. He also made it clear that **having faith in him and following his teachings** was essential for being able to enter heaven when he said:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6 [NIV]

APPLY



- A** Explain **two** Christian teachings about judgement. **Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.** (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)
- B** **Evaluate the statement**, 'The afterlife is a good way to get people to behave themselves and help others.' Refer to two developed Christian arguments, and two developed non-religious arguments. **Write a justified conclusion.**

TIP

When writing a justified conclusion, do not just repeat everything you have already said. Instead, weigh up the arguments and come to a personal view about their persuasiveness.

1.10 Heaven and hell

RECAP

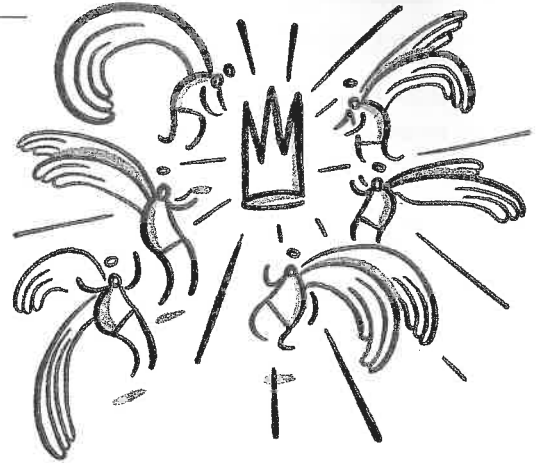


Essential information:

- Many Christians believe God's judgement will result in eternal reward or eternal punishment.
- Heaven** is the state or place of eternal happiness and peace in the presence of God.
- Hell** is the place of eternal suffering or the state of being without God.

What happens after God's judgement?

- After God's judgement, Christians believe they will either **experience eternal happiness in the presence of God** (heaven), or **be unable to experience God's presence** (hell).
- Catholics believe some people might enter an intermediate state, called purgatory, before they enter heaven.
- Knowledge of these states is limited and linked to imagery from the past.



Heaven and purgatory

- Heaven** is thought to be either a **physical place** or **spiritual state** of peace, joy, freedom from pain and a chance to be with loved ones.
- Traditional images of heaven often show God on a throne with Jesus next to him and angels all around him, or a garden paradise.
- Christians differ in their views about **who is allowed into heaven**, where there may be:
 - only Christians (believers in Jesus)
 - Christians and other religious people who have pleased God by living good lives
 - baptised Christians, regardless of how they lived their lives.
- However, many Christians believe heaven is a reward for **both faith and actions** – not just one of these – as the parable of the Sheep and the Goats seems to show (see page 22).
- Purgatory** is an intermediate state where souls are cleansed in order to enter heaven. This is a Catholic belief.

Hell

- Hell** is seen as the opposite of heaven – a state of existence without God.
- It is often pictured as a **place of eternal torment** in a fiery pit ruled by Satan (a name for the Devil), who is the power and source of evil.
- However, many people question whether a loving God would condemn people to eternal torment and pain in hell.
- Christians who believe God would not do this see hell as an **eternal state of mind of being cut off from the possibility of God.**
- Hell would then be what awaits someone who did not acknowledge God or follow his teachings during their life.



APPLY



A

Give **two** reasons why some people do not believe in hell.

B

Make a list of arguments for and against the idea that heaven and hell were invented to encourage people to behave themselves.

TIP

If this question said 'some Christians', you should offer Christian objections to the idea of hell. 'Some people' means you can give non-religious reasons if you wish.

1.11 Sin and salvation

RECAP



Essential information:

- Sin** is any thought or action that separates humans from God.
- Original sin** is the in-built tendency to do wrong and disobey God, which Catholics believe all people are born with.
- The ways Christians can be saved from sin to gain salvation include following God's **law**, receiving God's **grace**, and being guided by the **Holy Spirit**.

The origins and meanings of sin

A sin is any **thought or action that separates humans from God**. Sinful thoughts (such as anger) can lead to sinful actions (such as murder).

- Some sins, like murder or assault, are illegal.
- Other sins, like adultery, are not illegal but are against the laws of God.

Christians believe that all humans commit sins. Some Christians (particularly Catholics) also believe humans are born with an in-built tendency to sin, called **original sin**.

- The idea of original sin comes from Adam and Eve's disobedience of God, when they ate the fruit of the tree of

knowledge of good and evil which was forbidden by God. This was the first (original) sin.

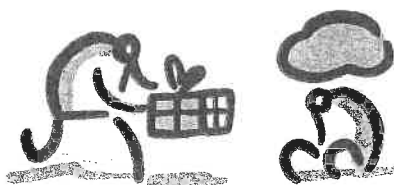
- The result of their sin was separation from God, and the introduction of death into the world.

Christians believe **God gave people free will**, but they should use their freedom to make choices God would approve of, otherwise they will separate themselves from God. God provides people with the guidance to make good choices in his law, for example the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–19), the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12) and other Christian teachings.

Salvation

- **Salvation** means to be saved from sin and its consequences, and to be granted eternal life with God.
- Salvation **repairs the damage caused by sin**, which has separated people from God.

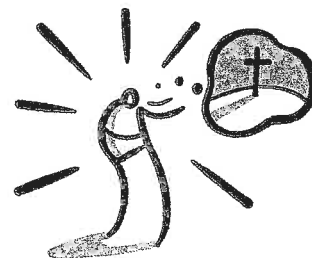
There are two main Christian ideas about how salvation can come about:



- Through **doing good works** – the Old Testament makes it clear that salvation comes through faith in God and obeying God's law.

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

James 2:17 [NIV]



- Through **grace** – salvation is given freely by God through faith in Jesus. It is not deserved or earned, but is a free gift of God's love.

“For it is by grace you have been saved”

Ephesians 2:8 [NIV]

- Christians believe it is the **Holy Spirit** who gives grace to Christians and continues to guide them in their daily lives, to help them achieve salvation.

APPLY



- Explain **two** Christian teachings about the means of salvation. **Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.** (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)
- 'As nobody is perfect, it is impossible not to sin.' **Evaluate this argument** and explain your reasoning.

"It is perfectly possible to live a good life without sin. Jesus lived his life without sin. Many saints have lived good lives without acting badly to other people. It is true that nobody is totally perfect, but that's different. Sin separates you from God and goes against God's law, and there are many people who stay close to God and keep his commandments, so I disagree with the statement."

1.12 The role of Christ in salvation

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christians believe that salvation is offered through the life and teaching of Jesus.
- Jesus' resurrection shows that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice as **atonement**. This means that through the sacrifice of his death, Jesus restored the relationship between God and humanity that was broken when Adam and Eve sinned.

TIP

To remember the meaning of 'atonement', think of it as 'at-one-ment', because Jesus' death and resurrection make people at one with God.

The role of Jesus in salvation

Christians believe Jesus' life, death and resurrection had a crucial role to play in God's plan for salvation because:

- Jesus' crucifixion **made up for the original sin** of Adam and Eve.
- The death of Jesus, as an innocent man, was necessary to **restore the relationship between God and believers**, to bring them salvation.
- Jesus' resurrection shows the goodness of Jesus defeated the evil of sin. It was proof that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice on behalf of humankind.
- Jesus' resurrection means humans can now receive forgiveness for their sins.
- Jesus' death and resurrection made it possible for all who follow his teachings to **gain eternal life**.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23 [NIV]

TIP

This quote shows the Christian belief that death came into the world as a punishment for sin, but salvation is offered through the life and teaching of Jesus.

Atonement

- Atonement **removes the effects of sin** and allows people to restore their relationship with God.
- Many Christians believe that through the sacrifice of his death, Jesus took the sins of all humanity on himself and paid the debt for them all. He **atoned for the sins of humanity**.
- This sacrifice makes it possible for all who follow Jesus' teachings to **receive eternal life** with God.

“[...] if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 2:1–2 [NIV]

Jesus' death + grace and good works



APPLY



- A** Give **two** reasons why the death and resurrection of Jesus is important to Christians.
- B** Here are some sentences that could be used to evaluate the statement, 'Salvation is God's greatest gift to humans.'

Sort them into arguments in support of the statement, and arguments in support of different views. Try to put them in a logical order. What do you think is missing from these statements to make a top level answer? Explain how the answer could be improved.

1. Atheists do not consider salvation important because they do not think there is a God who saves people.	5. Without salvation, humankind would have to pay the price of human sin.
2. God shows his great love for people by sending his Son to save us.	6. People may doubt the truth of Jesus' resurrection so they don't see the need for a belief in salvation.
3. Even some religious people may think there are greater gifts to humans, such as nature or life itself.	7. Some people may question whether God is loving if God demands the death of his Son in payment for human sin.
4. Everyone needs forgiveness from God.	8. Humans should be grateful every day of their lives for Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf.



Test the 1 mark question

- 1 Which **one** of the following is the idea that God became human in Jesus? [1 mark]
 A Atonement B Incarnation C Resurrection D Creation
- 2 Which **one** of the following is the idea that God is loving? [1 mark]
 A Omniscient B Omnipotent C Benevolent D Immanent

Test the 2 mark question

- 3 Give **two** ways that Christians believe salvation can come about. [2 marks]
 1) _____
 2) _____
- 4 Give **two** Christian beliefs about life after death. [2 marks]
 1) _____
 2) _____

Test the 4 mark question

- 5 Explain **two** ways in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today. [4 marks]

● Explain one way.	<i>One way in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today is that they believe that the crucifixion was a sacrifice Jesus chose to make for them.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	<i>in order to give them the opportunity to be granted forgiveness by God, so they can live in confidence that their sins have been forgiven.</i>
● Explain a second way.	<i>A second way in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today is that it helps Christians who are suffering because they know Jesus suffered as well.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	<i>For example, Christians who are suffering persecution for their faith will be comforted to know that Jesus understands what they are going through because he too was innocent and suffered for his beliefs.</i>

- 6 Explain **two** ways in which the belief in creation by God influences Christians today. [4 marks]

● Explain one way.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	
● Explain a second way.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	

TIP

The student has explained the influence a belief in Jesus' crucifixion has on a Christian's attitude (their confidence in being forgiven and their comfort in dealing with their own suffering). You could also discuss the influence of this belief on a Christian's life (e.g. it might encourage them to spread the message of Jesus or to make the sign of the cross when they pray to remind themselves of Jesus' sacrifice).

- 7 Explain **two** ways in which the belief that God is loving influences Christians today. [4 marks]

1 Exam practice



Test the 5 mark question

8 Explain **two** Christian beliefs about salvation.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

● Explain one belief.	<i>One Christian belief about salvation is that salvation can be gained through good works.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	<i>These good works may be following teachings such as the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule and 'love your neighbour'. Worshipping and praying regularly also help Christians to earn salvation.</i>
● Explain a second belief.	<i>A second Christian belief about salvation is that it is gained through grace.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	<i>God gives salvation to people who have faith in Jesus. It is a gift for the faithful.</i>
● Add a reference to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching. If you prefer, you can add this reference to your first belief instead.	<i>Paul wrote in his letters that it is through grace, which is a gift from God, that people are saved, not simply through their good works.</i>

TIP
The references to scripture here count as development of your first point.

9 Explain **two** Christian teachings about God.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

● Explain one teaching.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	
● Explain a second teaching.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	
● Add a reference to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching. If you prefer, you can add this reference to your first teaching instead.	

TIP
You only need to make one reference to scripture in your answer. It can support either your first or your second point.

10 Explain **two** Christian teachings about atonement.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

1 Exam practice

Test the 12 mark question

11 'The stories of the incarnation prove that Jesus was the Son of God.'

Evaluate this statement. 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.

[12 marks]
[+3 SPaG marks]

<p>REASONED ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain why some people would agree with the statement. ● Develop your explanation with more detail and examples. ● Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority. ● Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this. 	<p>Christians believe in the incarnation. This means that God took human form in Jesus. The stories of Jesus' birth show he was not conceived in the normal way. The fact he was conceived through the actions of God and born of a virgin proves that he was special and if God was involved it is likely that Jesus was his son. However, even though he was a physical person, he was also God at the same time. John's gospel calls Jesus 'the Son of God' and says he was the Word made flesh, living among us. This supports the idea that Jesus was both God and human.</p>	<p>TIP</p> <p>The question is about stories (plural) so it would improve the answer to mention details of Jesus' conception in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.</p>
<p>REASONED ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain why some people would support a different view. ● Develop your explanation with more detail and examples. ● Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority. ● Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this. 	<p>Many people do not agree that Jesus was conceived through the actions of God and believe that Mary, his mother, was not a virgin. If the stories of the incarnation are not correct, they cannot be used as evidence that Jesus was the Son of God although his actions showed he was very special.</p>	<p>TIP</p> <p>This argument could be developed further for more marks. For example, after the sentence that ends 'not a virgin' you might add 'Mary was engaged to Joseph, making it possible that Joseph was Jesus' father.'</p>
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Give a justified conclusion. ● Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning. ● Include evaluation. Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other or why they are equally strong. ● Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion. 	<p>It may be true that the title 'Son of God' does not mean that there is such a close relationship between Jesus and God. It is possible that he was chosen by God, maybe when he was baptised, to do good works on earth and tell people about Christianity without there being a family relationship between himself and God. If this is true, there is no such thing as incarnation as far as Jesus is concerned.</p>	<p>TIP</p> <p>The conclusion shows logical chains of reasoning. It evaluates different interpretations of the title 'Son of God' in relation to the stories of the incarnation. The examiner will want to see that you can link ideas together when developing your argument, and not just repeat what you have said already.</p>

1 Exam practice

12 'There is no such place as hell.'

Evaluate this statement. 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.

TIP

Spelling, punctuation and grammar is assessed on each 12 mark question, so make sure you are careful to use your best written English.

[12 marks]
[+3 SPaG marks]

<p>REASONED ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain why some people would agree with the statement. ● Develop your explanation with more detail and examples. ● Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority. ● Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this. 	
<p>REASONED ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain why some people would support a different view. ● Develop your explanation with more detail and examples. ● Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority. ● Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this. 	
<p>CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Give a justified conclusion. ● Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning. ● Include evaluation. Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other or why they are equally strong. ● Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion. 	<p>TIP</p> <p>It's essential to include evaluation because this is the key skill that you are being tested on in the 12 mark question. You can evaluate after each viewpoint, and/or at the end as part of your justified conclusion.</p>

13 'The best way to gain salvation is to obey God's law.'

Evaluate this statement. 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.

[12 marks]
[+3 SPaG marks]



Check your answers using the mark scheme on pages 158–159. How did you do? To feel more secure in the content you need to remember, re-read pages 14–25. To remind yourself of what the examiner is looking for, go to pages 7–13.

2 Practices

2.1 Worship

RECAP



Essential information:

- Worship** is the act of religious praise, honour or devotion. It is a way for Christians to show their deep love and honour to God.
- Worship can take different forms, including liturgical, non-liturgical and informal worship.
- Private worship** is when believers praise or honour God in their own home.

Why do Christians worship?

To praise and thank God

To ask for forgiveness

To seek God's help for themselves or others

To deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their faith

Different forms of worship

Type of worship	What form does it take?	Examples	Why is it important for Christians?
liturgical worship is a church service that follows a set structure or ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • takes place in a church • priest leads the congregation and may perform symbolic actions • formal prayers with set responses • Bible passages are read out, there may be a sermon • music and hymns 	the Eucharist for Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worldwide set order for service that is familiar to everyone • ritual passed down through generations gives a sense of tradition • Bible readings follow the Christian calendar and teach Christian history and faith
non-liturgical worship is a service that does not follow a set text or ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • takes place in a church • often focused on Bible readings followed by a sermon • may also have prayers and hymns but there is no set order, the number and type can change from week to week 	services in non-Conformist churches, e.g. Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services can be planned and ordered to suit a certain theme • non-Conformist churches place an emphasis on the word of God in the Bible
informal worship is a type of non-liturgical worship that is 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community or house churches meet in private homes and share food • Quaker worship is mainly silent, people speak when moved by God to offer their thoughts or read from the Bible • 'charismatic' worship may involve dancing, clapping, calling out and speaking in tongues 	community or house churches, Quaker worship, charismatic ('led by the spirit') worship of the Pentecostal Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the style of worship in house churches is similar to the worship of early Christians • people can share readings and prayers and can take an active part in church by calling out or speaking without formal training • service may have an emotional impact with a feeling of personal revelation from God

APPLY



A

Going on pilgrimage, celebrating festivals and religious art are also forms of worship. Give **two** more ways that Christians worship.

B

'Worship is most powerful when believers follow a set ritual.'

List arguments to support this statement and arguments to support a different point of view.

TIP

The arguments should apply to Christianity. Try to use religious language (see key terms in red).

2.2 Prayer

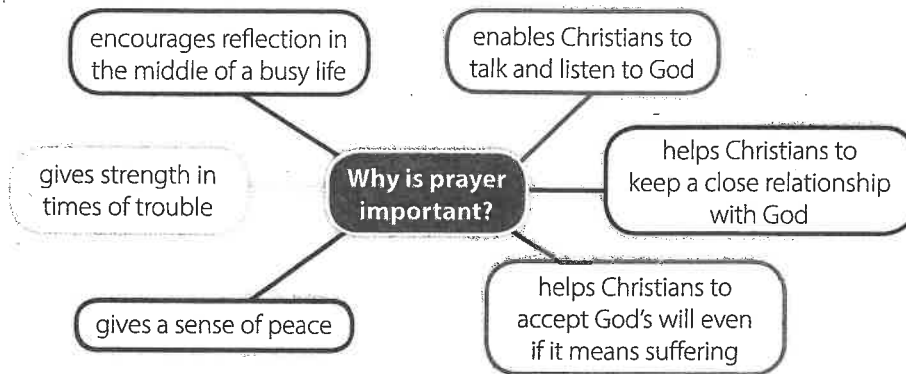
RECAP



Essential information:

- Prayer** is communicating with God, either silently or through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession, or requests for God's help or guidance.
- Christians may use **set prayers** that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person. An example is **the Lord's Prayer**, which is the prayer Jesus taught to his disciples.
- Christians may also use **informal prayers** (made up by an individual using his or her own words) to communicate with God. Some Christians find they can express their needs to God more easily by using their own words.

The importance of prayer



The Lord's Prayer

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.”

The Lord's Prayer



- When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, he answered with the Lord's Prayer.
- Christians see it as a **model of good prayer**, as it combines praise to God with asking for one's needs.
- It reminds Christians to **forgive others in order to be forgiven**, since prayer is only effective if people's relationships with others are right.
- It reminds Christians that **God is the Father of the whole Christian community**, and it can create a sense of unity when everyone in the congregation says it together.
- The Lord's Prayer is often used in worship and is nearly always said at Holy Communion, baptisms, marriages and funerals. It is also used in schools and in commemoration services in Britain.

APPLY



A Give **two** reasons why the Lord's Prayer is important to Christians.

B 'Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship' (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)

Develop this argument to support the statement by explaining in more detail, adding an example, or referring to a relevant religious teaching or quotation.

"An individual Christian can choose how they want to worship in private, whereas in public worship they have to follow what everyone else is saying and doing. Therefore private worship has more meaning because they can put their heart and soul into it."

TIP

Always analyse the statement carefully. For example, here 'has more meaning' might depend on an individual's reasons for prayer.

2.3 The sacraments: Baptism

RECAP



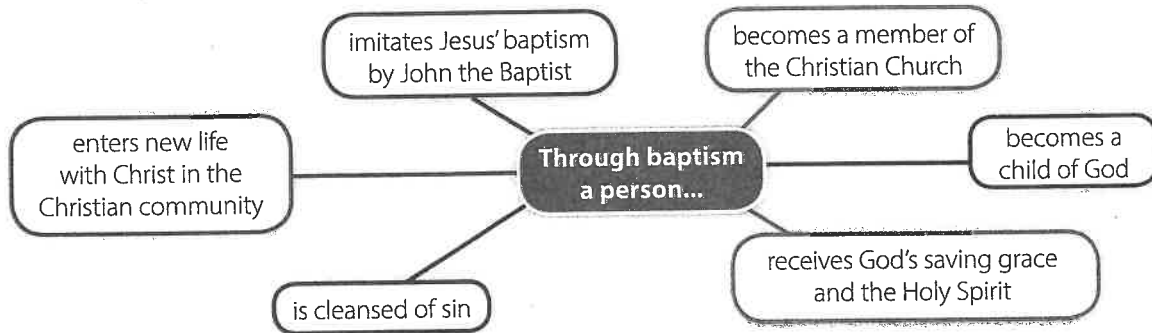
Essential information:

- Sacraments** are holy rituals through which believers receive a special gift of grace (free gift of God's love). Some Christian denominations recognise seven sacraments while others acknowledge fewer.
- Baptism** is the ritual through which a person becomes a member of the Church. It involves the use of water to symbolise the washing away of sin.
- Infant baptism** is for babies and young children. **Believers' baptism** is for people who are old enough to understand the significance of the ritual.

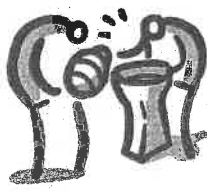

The sacraments

- **Catholic and Orthodox** Christians recognise **seven** sacraments: baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, marriage, Holy Orders, reconciliation and the anointing of the sick.
- Many **Protestant** churches recognise **two** sacraments – baptism and Holy Communion – because they believe Jesus taught people to undertake these.
- Some churches that practise believers' baptism consider it to be important but not a 'sacrament'.
- Some churches, like the Quakers or Salvation Army, do not see any ritual or ceremony as being a 'sacrament'.

Baptism



Infant baptism and believers' baptism

	Practised by	Reasons why	What happens
Infant baptism 	Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, and United Reformed Christians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes original sin (Catholic and Orthodox belief). • Allows the child to be welcomed into the Church as soon as possible. • The parents can thank God for their new baby and celebrate with family and friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priest or minister pours blessed water over the baby's head and says, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' • Godparents and parents promise to bring up the child as a Christian. • The child is welcomed into the Christian community.
Believers' baptism 	Baptists, Pentecostals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be old enough to consciously make a mature decision about their faith. • The decision to live a life dedicated to Jesus is what saves a person, rather than the baptism itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person is fully immersed in a pool which symbolises cleansing from sin and rising to new life in Christ. • When asked whether they are willing to change their lives, the person gives a brief testimony of their faith in Jesus. • The person is baptised 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

APPLY



A

Explain **two** contrasting ways in which Christians practise baptism and develop each point.

B

'Parents should not have their children baptised if they have no intention of bringing them up as Christians.'

Evaluate this statement.

2.4 The sacraments: Holy Communion

RECAP



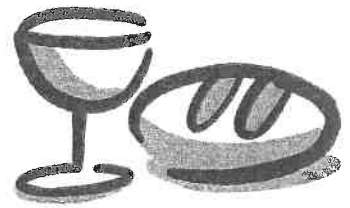
Essential information:

- Holy Communion** (also known as the Eucharist) is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection.
- It recalls the Last Supper of Jesus, using his words and actions.
- Christians interpret the meaning of Holy Communion in different ways, but all agree that it brings them closer to each other and to God.

The meaning of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is a service which celebrates and gives thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus' death and resurrection (see pages 19–20). It has different meanings for different Christians:

- **Catholics, Orthodox Christians** and **some Anglicans** believe the bread and wine become **the body and blood of Christ**. This means Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine. This is a divine mystery that helps believers share in the saving sacrifice of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- **Protestant Christians** celebrate Holy Communion as a **reminder of the Last Supper**. They do not believe the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. Instead, the bread and wine remain **symbols of Jesus' sacrifice**, which helps believers to reflect on its meaning today.



“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

1 Corinthians 11:26 [NIV]

The impact of Holy Communion

For many Christians, Holy Communion is at the centre of their lives and worship. It affects individuals, local communities and the wider society in a number of ways:

Individuals	Communities	Wider society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians receive God's grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus. • This helps to strengthen their faith. • They become closer to God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion brings the community of believers together in unity by sharing the bread and wine. • This can provide support and encouragement for those going through a difficult time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion acts as a call to love others in practical ways. • It encourages Christians to work for equality and justice for all. • Many churches collect money during the service to help support those in need, such as the poor or homeless.

APPLY



A

Explain **two** ways in which Holy Communion has an impact on the lives of believers.

B

Use the table below with arguments about the statement, 'It is more important to help the poor than to celebrate Holy Communion.'

Write a paragraph to explain whether you agree or disagree with the statement, having evaluated both sides of the argument.

TIP

Decide on two ways and explain each. Do not simply list a number of ways without developing any of your points.

In support of the statement

The poor need urgent help, particularly if they are living in less economically developed countries, so of course it is more important to help them than to receive Holy Communion. Christians are taught to love their neighbour so that must come before their own needs. Remembering Jesus' death and resurrection through Holy Communion is nice, but not very useful to anyone. It's just focusing on the past when people should be thinking about the present.

Other views

It doesn't need to be such a stark choice. After all, when Christians break bread together at Holy Communion they remember that people in the world are starving and they try to help them. Many churches collect money for the poor during the service of Holy Communion, so celebrating this sacrament encourages people to care for others, not just themselves. 'Eucharist' means 'thanksgiving', so it makes Christians grateful for God's love and this makes them want to share it.

2.5 Celebrating Holy Communion

RECAP



Essential information:

- In most churches the Holy Communion service has two parts: the ministry of the Word (which focuses on the Bible), and the ministry of Holy Communion (the offering, consecrating and sharing of bread and wine).
- Christians have different practices when it comes to celebrating Holy Communion.

Differences between Holy Communion services

- In the **Orthodox Church**, Holy Communion is called the Divine Liturgy, and is believed to recreate heaven on earth. Much of the service is held at the altar behind the iconostasis, which is a screen that represents the divide between heaven and earth. The priest passes through the iconostasis using the Royal Doors.
- Holy Communion in the **Catholic and Anglican Churches** is very similar. The main difference is that Catholics believe the bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Christ, whereas many Anglicans believe Jesus is only present in a spiritual way when the bread and wine are being eaten.

Further examples of how Holy Communion services differ from each other include the following:

Orthodox Divine Liturgy	Catholic Mass and Anglican Holy Communion	Holy Communion in the United Reformed Church
<p>Liturgy of the Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are hymns, prayers and a Bible reading. • The priest comes through the Royal Doors to chant the Gospel. • There may be a sermon. <p>Liturgy of the Faithful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priest receives wine and bread baked by church members. • Prayers are offered for the church, the local community and the world. • Behind the iconostasis, the priest says the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. • Most of the bread is consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. • The priest distributes holy bread and wine on a spoon. • Prayers of thanksgiving are said. • Unconsecrated pieces of bread are given to people to take home, as a sign of belonging to the Christian community. 	<p>Liturgy of the Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three Bible readings, a psalm and a homily. • The Creed is said. • Prayers are said for the Church, the local community, the world, and the sick and the dead. <p>Liturgy of the Eucharist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Anglican Holy Communion, people give a sign of peace to each other. • Offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar. • The priest repeats the words of Jesus at the Last Supper over the bread and the wine. • People say the Lord's Prayer. • In the Catholic Mass, the sign of peace is given at this point. • People receive the bread and wine. • The priest blesses people and sends them out to live the gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service begins with a hymn and prayer of praise and thanksgiving. • Bible readings and a sermon are given. • Prayers for the world and the needs of particular people are said. • The minister repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. • There is an 'open table' so anyone who wishes may receive Holy Communion. • Sometimes the bread is cut beforehand, other times it is broken and passed around by the congregation. • Wine is sometimes non-alcoholic and is usually distributed in small cups. • The service ends with a prayer of thanksgiving, a blessing, and an encouragement to go out and serve God.

APPLY



- A**
- B**

Explain **two** contrasting ways in which Holy Communion is celebrated in Christianity. (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)

Write a paragraph in response to the statement, 'Holy Communion services should focus more on the Liturgy of the Word than on the Holy Communion itself.' **Develop your reasons** and include a reference to scripture or religious teaching in your answer.

TIP

Holy Communion services have many similarities. Be sure to choose aspects that show a real contrast.

2.6 Pilgrimage

RECAP

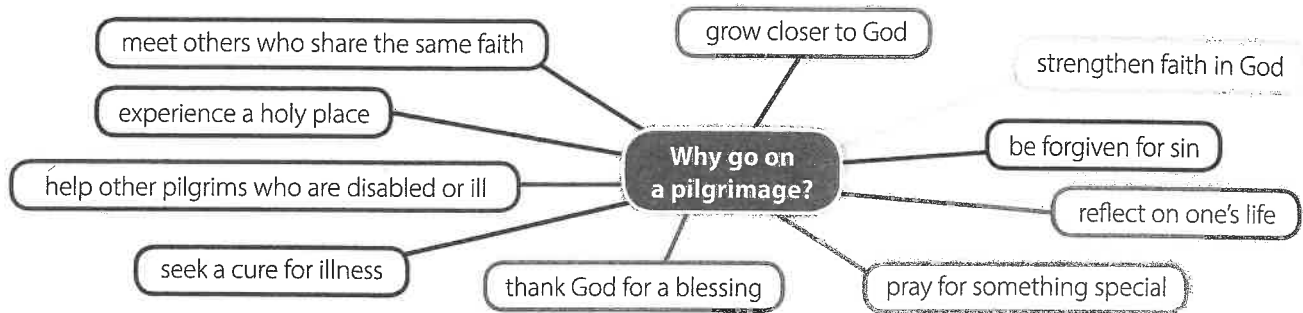


Essential information:

- A **pilgrimage** is a journey made by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons. As well as making a physical journey to a sacred place, the pilgrim also makes a spiritual journey towards God.
- A pilgrimage gives many opportunities for prayer and worship, and is itself an act of worship and devotion.
- Two popular pilgrimage sites for Christians are Lourdes (a town in France) and Iona (a Scottish island).



The role and importance of pilgrimage



A pilgrimage can impact on a Christian's life in a number of ways. It can:

- give them a better understanding of their faith
- renew their enthusiasm for living a Christian life
- help them to see problems in a new light
- help them to feel cleansed from sin
- help them to feel more connected to the Christian community
- give them a good feeling about helping other pilgrims who are disabled or ill.

Places of Christian pilgrimage

Place	Significance	Activities
Lourdes (a town in France)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Mary, Jesus' mother, is said to have appeared in a number of visions to a girl called Bernadette. • Mary told Bernadette to dig in the ground, and when she did a spring of water appeared. • The water is believed to have healing properties, and a number of healing miracles are claimed to have taken place here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrims go to Lourdes to bathe in the waters of the spring, or to help other pilgrims who are ill or disabled to bathe in the waters. • Pilgrims also pray for healing or forgiveness. • They may recite the rosary together.
Iona (an island off the coast of Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where St Columba established a monastic community in the 6th century AD. • The community now has an ecumenical centre where pilgrims can stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because it is quiet, peaceful and a place of natural beauty, pilgrims can spend time praying, reading the Bible, and reflecting or meditating. • Pilgrims can also attend services in the abbey church, take part in workshops, and visit the island's holy or historic sites.

APPLY



A

Explain **two** contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage. (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)

B

'There is no difference between a pilgrimage and a holiday.'

Develop this argument against the statement by explaining in more detail, adding an example or referring to Christian teaching.

"Although a pilgrimage can seem a lot like a holiday, especially if you travel abroad, there is a big difference. A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that people undertake for religious reasons rather than just to sightsee."

TIP

You need to explain why the examples are contrasting, rather than just describing the two places, so be sure to explain the different reasons why pilgrims go there.

2.7 Celebrating festivals

RECAP



Essential information:

- A **festival** is a day or period of celebration for religious reasons.
- Festivals help Christians to remember and celebrate the major events in their religion – particularly the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Christmas** commemorates the incarnation and the birth of Jesus. Celebrations begin on 25 December and last 12 days, ending with Epiphany (which recalls the visit of the wise men).
- Easter** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Celebrations begin before Easter Sunday and finish with the feast of Pentecost.

Christmas

Christmas **commemorates the incarnation of Jesus**, which is the belief that God became human in Jesus (see page 18). The celebrations reflect Christian beliefs and teachings in the following ways:

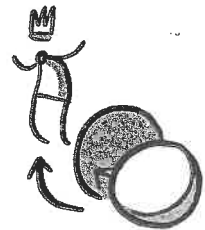
- **lights** represent Jesus as the light coming into the world of darkness
- **nativity scenes** show baby Jesus born into poverty
- **carol services** with Bible readings remind Christians about God's promise of a saviour and the events of Jesus' birth
- **Midnight Mass** reflects the holiness of the night and the joy Christians feel at Jesus' birth
- **Christmas cards and gifts** recall the wise men's gifts to Jesus
- Christians **give to charity** in this time of peace and goodwill because God gave humanity the gift of Jesus, his Son.

Easter

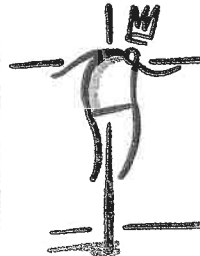
Easter is the most important Christian festival, which **celebrates Jesus' rising from the dead** (see page 20).

Holy Week (the week before Easter Sunday) remembers the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, including his arrest and trial.

- On **Saturday night**, some churches hold a special service to celebrate Christ's resurrection.
- Orthodox Christians walk with candles in procession, then enter the dark church as if going into Jesus' empty tomb.
- The priest announces 'Christ is risen!' to which people answer 'He is risen indeed!'
- Catholics and Anglicans have a vigil that begins in darkness, before the Paschal candle is lit to symbolise the risen Christ. The service ends with Holy Communion.



On **Good Friday** (the day Jesus was crucified), there are special services and processions led by a person carrying a cross.



- On **Easter Sunday**, churches are filled with flowers and special hymns are sung to rejoice at Jesus' resurrection.
- Services are held at sunrise, and shared breakfasts include eggs to symbolise new life.

“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.”

Traditional Orthodox hymn at the Easter Divine Liturgy

APPLY



- A
- B

Give **two** ways in which Christians celebrate the festival of Easter.

'Christmas is no longer a religious festival.' **Evaluate this statement.**

2.8 The role of the Church in the local community: Food banks

RECAP



Essential information:

- The Church** is the holy people of God, also called the Body of Christ, among whom Christ is present and active.
- A church** is a building in which Christians worship.
- Individual churches and the Church as a whole help the local community in a variety of ways, including the provision of **food banks**. These give food for free to people who cannot afford to buy it.

What does the Church do?

Individual churches and the Church as a whole help the local community in many ways.

Individual churches:

- educate people about Christianity (e.g. Bible study groups)
- are meeting places for prayer and worship
- provide activities for younger people (e.g. youth clubs)
- are places where Christians can socialise and obtain spiritual guidance.

The Church:

- supports local projects such as food banks
- provides social services such as schooling and medical care
- helps those in need
- campaigns for justice.

“And God placed all things under his [Jesus] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body.”

Ephesians 1:22–23 [NIV]

TIP

You could use this quote in your exam to show that Christians think of the Church as the followers of Jesus, who together are the body of Christ on earth.

Examples of the Church helping the local community

The Trussell Trust and The Oasis Project are two organisations that help the local community by providing food banks and other services. The work of these charities is based on Christian principles (such as the parable of the Sheep and the Goats).

The Trussell Trust

- A charity running over 400 food banks in the UK.
- These provide emergency food, help and support to people in crisis in the UK.
- Non-perishable food is donated by churches, supermarkets, schools, businesses and individuals.
- Doctors, health visitors and social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a food voucher.
- Their aim is to bring religious and non-religious people together to help end poverty and hunger.

The Oasis Project

- A community hub run by Plymouth Methodist Mission Circuit.
- Provides an internet café, creative courses, a job club, training opportunities, a meeting place and a food bank.
- Spiritual and practical help is given to those in need because of ill health, learning disabilities, domestic violence, substance abuse, low income and housing problems.

TIP

You will not be asked about these particular organisations in your exam, but if you learn what they do, you will be able to give detailed examples of how the Church helps in the local community.

APPLY



A

Give **two** meanings of the word 'church'.

B

Here is a response to the statement, 'There will always be a need to feed hungry people in Britain.' Can you **improve this answer** by including religious beliefs?

"At first this statement appears untrue. No one should be hungry in Britain as there is a welfare state. People who can't work to feed themselves or their families can apply for benefits."

"However, I agree with the statement because people can suddenly be faced with bills they can't pay, or lose their jobs, or become ill so they can't work. It may take many weeks to apply for benefits and be accepted, so what do they do in the meantime? If they don't have much savings they will be really hard up and need the help of food banks."

2.9 The role of the Church in the local community: Street Pastors

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christians should help others in the local community because Jesus taught that people should show **agape** love (a Biblical word meaning selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love).
- Christians believe it is important to put their faith into action. They do this through many organisations and projects that help vulnerable people in the community.
- Street Pastors** are people who are trained to patrol the streets in urban areas. They help vulnerable people by providing a reassuring presence on the street.

The importance of helping in the local community

- Jesus taught that **Christians should help others by showing agape love** towards them. For example, in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus teaches Christians they should give practical help to people in need (see page 22).
- Two examples of Christian organisations that provide practical help to local communities are Street Pastors and Parish Nursing Ministries UK.

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

James 2:17 [NIV]

TIP

You could use this quote in your exam to show that Christians believe it is very important to take practical action to help others.

Street Pastors and Parish Nursing Ministries UK

Street Pastors

- An initiative started in London in 2003, by the Christian charity the Ascension Trust.
- Adult volunteers are trained to patrol the streets in urban areas.
- The main aim originally was to challenge gang culture and knife crime in London.
- The focus then widened to responding to drunkenness, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
- Street Pastors work closely with police and local councils.
- They listen to people's problems, advise on where they might get help, and discourage anti-social behaviour.
- A similar group called School Pastors was set up in 2011 to discourage illegal drug use, bullying and anti-social behaviour in schools.

Parish Nursing Ministries UK

- This Christian charity supports whole-person healthcare through the local church.
- They provide churches with registered parish nurses, who promote well-being in body, mind and spirit among the local community.
- The nurses help to provide early diagnosis of health problems.
- They train and coordinate volunteers to help combat loneliness or provide support during times of crisis.
- They give additional help to the NHS.
- They encourage people to exercise and have a good diet.
- They focus on the whole person, including listening to people and praying with them if asked. They also direct people to specific services if needed.

TIP

When using Christian charities as examples in your answers, focus on their work and why they do it, rather than details about when they were founded and by whom.

APPLY



A

Explain **two** ways in which Street Pastors carry out their Christian duty. Refer to Christian teaching in your answer. (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)

B

'All Christians should do something practical to help their community, including praying for their neighbours.'

Develop two religious arguments in support of this statement, and **two** non-religious arguments against it.

2.10 The place of mission and evangelism

RECAP



Essential information:

- A **mission** is a vocation or calling to spread the faith. The Church has a mission to tell non-believers that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world as its saviour.
- Christians spread the faith through **evangelism** (showing faith in Jesus by example or by telling others).
- They do this to fulfil Jesus' instructions to the disciples to spread his teachings (the **Great Commission**).

The Great Commission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19–20 [NIV]

TIP

You can use this quote in your exam to show what the Great Commission involves. Jesus instructs his disciples to baptise people and to spread his teachings.

- Jesus gave a Great Commission to his disciples to **spread the gospel** and **make disciples of all nations through baptism**.
- The **Holy Spirit** at Pentecost gave the disciples the gifts and courage needed to carry out the Great Commission.
- All Christians have a duty to spread the gospel and tell others of their faith, but some become **missionaries** or **evangelists** (people who promote Christianity, for example by going to foreign countries to preach or do charitable work).
- The aims of missionary work and evangelism are to **persuade people to accept Jesus as their Saviour**, and to extend the Church to all nations.

Alpha

- Alpha is an **example of evangelism in Britain**.
- It was started in London by an Anglican priest, with the aim of helping church members understand the basics of the Christian faith.
- The course is now used as an **introduction for those interested in learning about Christianity**, by different Christian denominations in Britain and abroad.
- The organisers describe it as ‘an opportunity to explore the meaning of life’ through talks and discussions.
- Courses are held in homes, workplaces, universities and prisons as well as in churches.

APPLY



A

Give **two** ways in which the Church tries to fulfil its mission.

B

Unscramble the arguments in the table below referring to the statement, ‘Every Christian should be an evangelist.’ Decide which arguments could be used to support the statement and which could be used against it.

Write a paragraph to explain whether you agree or disagree with the statement, having evaluated both sides of the argument.

1. If Christians don't help to spread the faith, it might die out.	4. Not every Christian should be an evangelist because some people are just too shy.
2. Some Christians live in countries where they are persecuted, so if they spoke in public about their faith they would be risking death or imprisonment.	5. All Christians have received the Great Commission from Jesus to preach to all nations.
3. Evangelism can happen in small ways, for example Christians can spread their faith to people they meet in everyday life or just give a good example of loving their neighbours.	6. Christians who go around evangelising can annoy people, so it does not help their cause.

2.11 Church growth

RECAP

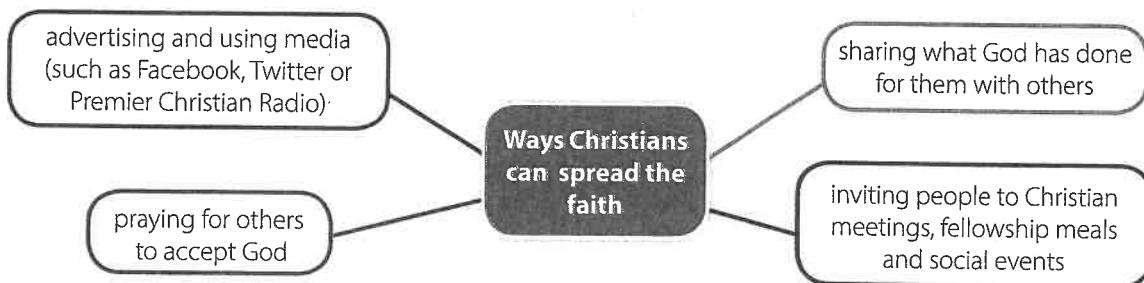
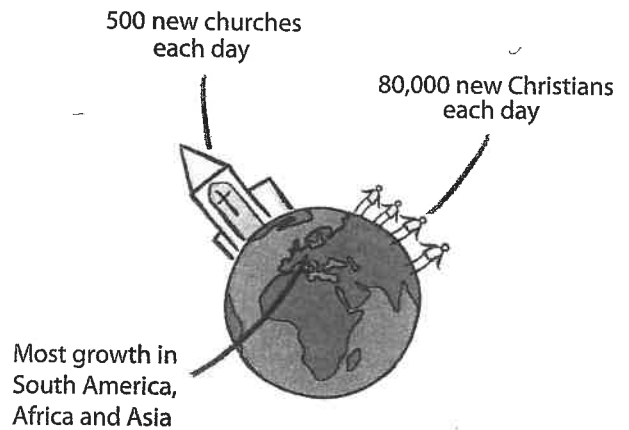


Essential information:

- Up to a third of the world's population claim to be Christian (including people who rarely attend church), and around 80,000 people become Christians each day.
- The Church expects new Christians to help spread the faith as part of their commitment to Jesus.
- Christ for all Nations is an example of a Christian organisation that promotes evangelism.

The growth of the Church

- The Church is growing rapidly in South America, Africa and Asia, but not in the USA, Europe and the Middle East (where Christians have been persecuted).
- Worldwide around 80,000 people become Christians each day, and over 500 new churches are formed.
- The Church's mission is to make disciples, not just new believers. This means **new Christians are also expected to help spread the faith**.
- Evangelism should therefore be followed up by training new **converts** (people who decide to change their religious faith) in the way of following Jesus.
- Every Christian has a role in **encouraging fellow believers**. They might do this in the following ways.



Christ for all Nations

- Christ for all Nations is an example of a **Christian organisation promoting evangelism**. They do this by holding evangelistic meetings throughout the world, but particularly in Africa.
- They are led by the evangelists Richard Bonnke and Daniel Kolenda.
- Some of their large open-air rallies held in Africa have drawn crowds of up to 1.6 million people.
- It is claimed that many miracles of healing take place at the meetings.
- Christ for all Nations claims that 74 million people have filled in decision cards to follow Christ at their meetings.

TIP

You will not be asked a specific question about Christ for all Nations in your exam, but being able to give examples of the work of Christian organisations or charities may be very helpful.

APPLY



A

Give **two** ways in which the Church gets its message to people.

B

Evaluate this argument in response to the statement, 'Christians should just rely on evangelists for Church growth.' Explain your reasoning and suggest how you would improve the argument.

"Christians should not just rely on evangelists for Church growth because there are not that many specially trained evangelists to promote Christianity. People are more likely to be drawn to Christianity by the inspiration of someone they know, like a neighbour who is kind and considerate and demonstrates the love that Jesus taught."

2.12 The importance of the worldwide Church

RECAP



Essential information:

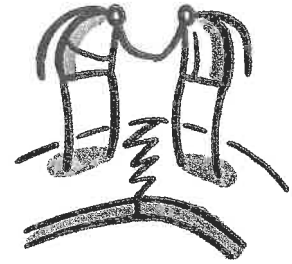
- The worldwide Church has a mission to restore people's relationship with God and with one another.
- The Church therefore plays an important role in **reconciliation** (restoring harmony after relationships have broken down), through initiatives to develop peace and understanding.

Working for reconciliation

- Christians believe humans were **reconciled to God** through Jesus' death and resurrection. This means Jesus' death and resurrection helped to **restore the relationship between God and humanity**, which had been broken by sin (see page 24).
- For Catholics, the **sacrament of Reconciliation** also helps to restore people's relationship with God.
- Matthew 5:23–24 teaches that Christians should be **reconciled to each other**.
- Reconciliation is therefore an **important part of the Church's work**. This might involve anything from trying to restore relationships between individual people, to working for peace between different religious groups or nations at conflict.

“For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

Romans 5:10 [NIV]



TIP

You could use this quote in your exam to show that humanity's relationship with God was restored (or reconciled) through the death of Jesus.

Examples of organisations working for reconciliation

- The **Irish Churches Peace Project** brings Catholics and Protestants together in Northern Ireland.
- The project aims to develop peace and understanding between these two denominations.

- The **World Council of Churches** works for reconciliation between different Christian denominations and members of other faiths.
- For example, the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace initiative supports inter-religious dialogue and cooperation.

- After the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in World War II, local Christians showed forgiveness to those responsible, and the cathedral became a world centre for peace and reconciliation.
- The cathedral is home to the **Community of the Cross of Nails**, which works with partners in other countries to bring about peace and harmony.

- The **Corrymeela Community** brings together people from different backgrounds, including people of different faiths or political leanings.
- They meet at a residential centre in Northern Ireland to build trust and explore ways of moving away from violence so they can work together constructively.

APPLY



A

Give **two** examples of how the Church has helped to work towards reconciliation.

B

'Reconciliation to God is more important than reconciliation to other people.'

Develop this argument to support the statement by explaining in more detail, adding an example, or referring to a relevant religious teaching or quotation.

"Reconciliation to God is more important because God is the Supreme Being. God will judge us when we die and if we are not sorry for our sins we will not receive eternal life with God in heaven."

2.13 Christian persecution

RECAP

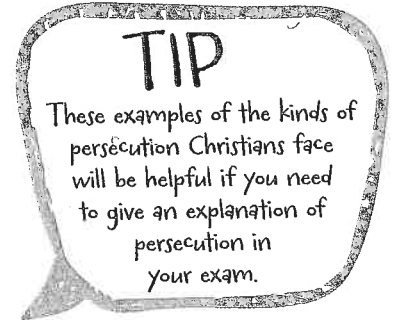


Essential information:

- Christians have faced **persecution** (hostility and ill-treatment) from the beginning of the Church, and Christians are still persecuted worldwide today.
- For some Christians, persecution can have positive effects: it can strengthen their faith, allow them to share in Jesus' sufferings, and even inspire others to become Christian.
- The Church helps those who are persecuted through prayer, practical help and financial support, and by raising awareness of persecution and campaigning against it.

What is persecution?

- The International Society for Human Rights estimates 80% of all acts of religious discrimination today are aimed at Christians.
- This persecution happens around the world, but particularly in countries such as North Korea, Somalia, Iraq and Syria.
- It might involve:
 - being forced to pay extra tax
 - job discrimination
 - being forbidden to build churches
 - attacks on Christian homes, churches and families, including murder.



Some Christian responses to persecution

Response	Supporting quote from scripture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For some Christians, persecution can have a positive effect, as it strengthens their faith and conviction. • It also allows them to share in the suffering of Jesus. 	<p>“I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings” <i>Philippians 3:10 [NIV]</i></p> <p>This quote shows that one way Christians can get to know Jesus is by sharing in his suffering.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church believes it is important to act against persecution, by supporting persecuted Christians wherever possible and campaigning on their behalf. 	<p>“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” <i>1 Corinthians 12:26 [NIV]</i></p> <p>This quote refers to the Church. It shows that helping individual Christians also helps the whole Church.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians are encouraged to show love and forgiveness towards their persecutors. 	<p>“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” <i>Romans 12:21 [NIV]</i></p> <p>This quote shows that Christians should respond to evil with love.</p>

Some ways the Church has helped persecuted Christians

- Christians have smuggled Bibles into the USSR (Russia) to strengthen and give comfort to persecuted Christians.
- The Barnabas Fund sends money to support people persecuted for their faith.
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide campaigns for religious freedom for all.

APPLY



A

Give **two** ways in which Christians support those in countries where it is forbidden to follow Jesus.

B

Develop one religious argument and one non-religious argument in response to the statement, 'It is not possible to "rejoice and be glad" if you are suffering persecution.'

TIP

'Develop' means you need to add some detail to your argument, for example by explaining it more fully and giving examples.

2.14 The Church's response to world poverty

RECAP



Essential information:

- Christian charities follow the example and teaching of Jesus in working to relieve poverty.
- Christians believe they should show Jesus to the world through helping the disadvantaged.
- Three Christian charities that help the poor are Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD.

Helping those in poverty

Christians try to help those living in poverty because Jesus taught that this was important. For example:

- Jesus once told a rich man to sell everything and give to the poor (Mark 10:21).
- The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31) tells of a rich man who ends up in hell for ignoring a beggar.
- The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–37) teaches the importance of helping all people.
- Jesus helped outcasts such as lepers, tax collector and sinners.

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

1 John 3:17–18 [NIV]

TIP
You only need to know about one of these organisations for your exam.

Three Christian charities that help those in poverty are Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development).

Charity	Examples of their work
Christian Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports projects to encourage sustainable development. • Provides emergency relief, such as food, water, shelter and sanitation. • Campaigns to end poverty alongside organisations such as the Fairtrade Foundation, Trade Justice and Stop Climate Chaos.
Tearfund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with over 90,000 churches worldwide to help lift people out of poverty. • Supplies emergency aid after natural disasters and conflict. • Provides long-term aid to help communities become more self-reliant, such as education or new farming equipment. • Supported by donations, fundraising events and prayer from churches in the UK.
CAFOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with local organisations to train, supply and support communities to work their own way out of poverty. • Gives short-term aid such as food, water and shelter during conflicts and disasters. • Lobbies UK government and global organisations for decisions that respect the poorest. • Encourages Catholic schools and parishes to pray, give money and campaign for justice.

APPLY



- A** Here are two ways in which a worldwide Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas. **Develop one of the points** by adding more detail and by referring to a relevant religious teaching or quotation.

“One way that Christian Aid carries out its mission overseas is to provide emergency relief when there is a disaster.”

“Another way they help is by setting up longer-term programmes that encourage sustainable development.”

- B** Write a paragraph either supporting or against the statement, ‘Religious charities should just concentrate on emergency aid.’ Include a Christian teaching in your answer.

TIP
Emergency aid gives help such as food, water and temporary shelter to people immediately after a disaster. In contrast, long-term aid tries to help people to become more self-sufficient over a longer period of time.



Test the 1 mark question

- 1 Which **one** of the following is a type of worship that follows a set pattern?
 A Informal worship B Private worship
 C Non-liturgical worship D Liturgical worship
- 2 Which **one** of the following is the festival that celebrates the incarnation of Jesus?
 A Easter B Good Friday C Christmas D Lent

[1 mark]

[1 mark]

Test the 2 mark question

- 3 Give **two** ways in which the Church responds to world poverty.
 1) _____
 2) _____
- 4 Give **two** reasons why prayer is important to Christians.
 1) _____
 2) _____

[2 marks]

[2 marks]

Test the 4 mark question

- 5 Explain **two** contrasting ways in which Christians worship.

[4 marks]

● Explain one way.	<i>Some Christians worship with other people in church on Sunday by going to a service called Holy Communion.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	<i>During the liturgy, they receive bread and wine that they believe is the body and blood of Jesus.</i>
● Explain a second contrasting way.	<i>Other Christians prefer informal worship, sometimes meeting in someone's home.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	<i>These Christians share their faith by reading and discussing a passage from scripture and praying together in their own words.</i>

TIP

In this answer formal worship is contrasted with informal worship, but you could also contrast public worship with private worship or liturgical worship with charismatic worship.

- 6 Explain **two** contrasting ways in which Christians practise baptism.

[4 marks]

● Explain one way.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	
● Explain a second contrasting way.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example/reference to a religious teaching or quotation.	

TIP

The question asks for different 'ways' in which Christians practise baptism, not different beliefs about baptism. The clearest contrast is between believers' baptism and infant baptism, but you should focus your answer on the way each of these is carried out, not what people believe about them.

- 7 Explain **two** contrasting interpretations of the meaning of Holy Communion.

[4 marks]

2 Exam practice



Test the 5 mark question

- 8 Explain **two** ways that Christian charities help the poor in less economically developed countries. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

● Explain one way.	<i>One way that Christian charities help the poor in less economically developed countries is by providing emergency aid when there has been a natural disaster, like an earthquake or famine.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	<i>For example, Tearfund, a Christian charity, was set up originally to provide emergency aid in response to the famine in Biafra, Nigeria, where it sent emergency food and clothing to refugees fleeing the famine-struck country.</i>
● Explain a second way.	<i>A second way that Christian charities help is by providing long-term aid that helps countries become self-sufficient or less dependent on aid.</i>
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	<i>CAFOD, for example, works on development projects to give people access to education, healthcare, and clean water.</i>
● Add a reference to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching. If you prefer, you can add this reference to your first belief instead.	<i>These charities are inspired by Christian teachings such as the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, where Jesus taught that rich people who ignore the needs of the poor will be punished by God.</i>

TIP

Here the student has used a parable from the Bible. Another 'source of Christian belief and teaching' could be official statements or documents by leaders of the Church.

- 9 Explain **two** reasons why Christians practise evangelism. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

● Explain one reason.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	
● Explain a second reason.	
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	
● Add a reference to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching. If you prefer, you can add this reference to your first teaching instead.	

TIP

It is helpful to start by explaining the meaning of 'evangelism' before explaining why Christians practise it.

- 10 Explain **two** ways that Christians may work for reconciliation. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

Test the 12 mark question

11 'The most important duty of the Church is to help people in need.'

Evaluate this statement. 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.

[12 marks]

REASONED ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

● **Explain why some people would agree with the statement.**

- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority.
- **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.

The Church' in this statement clearly stands for the Christian believers and not the actual building. So what does the Bible say about the duty of Christians? Jesus taught his followers that helping those in need is extremely important and he showed he believed that by the way he acted. If he saw a person suffering from an illness he healed them. He touched lepers in order that they might be cured, even though it was something other people would not do because it was against the law and they feared catching leprosy. He gave sight to the blind, healed the crippled and even cast out evil spirits that were tormenting a naked madman. Jesus did this because he had compassion and pity on those he saw were in need.

Jesus also showed in his teaching that Christians should help people in need. In the parable of the Good Samaritan it is the traveller who showed pity on the wounded man and helped him that is the hero of the story. Furthermore Jesus warns that those who do not help will face the anger of God on judgement day in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats. The sheep represented the people who helped and were given the reward of eternal life, but the goats did not and were thrown out of God's presence. So you could argue that it is the most important duty of the Church to help people who are in need.

TIP
The student has developed this argument by referring to the Bible. Although there are no direct quotations, the answer shows excellent knowledge of Jesus' actions and teaching and uses these to support the statement.

REASONED ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

● **Explain why some people would support a different view.**

- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority.
- **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.

On the other hand, Jesus summed up the duty for Christians and the Church in two commandments. He said that the first, most important commandment is to love God. The second is to love our neighbour as ourselves. If that is the case, then the most important duty of the Church (Christians) is to love and worship God, and this is more important than helping those in need.

CONCLUSION

● **Give a justified conclusion.**

- Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning.
- **Include evaluation.** Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other or why they are equally strong.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

In conclusion I would say that the statement is wrong and I would argue that the most important duty is to love God. The only way the Church can show love of God is by loving human beings who need help. So that is also important, but not the most important duty. It merely follows on from the most important duty.

TIP
This argument could be developed further for more marks. For example, it could go into more detail about other important duties of the Church (such as preaching the gospel or administering the sacraments), and explain why these are equally or more important than helping people in need.

2 Exam practice

12 'The best way for Christians to grow closer to God is to go on a pilgrimage.'

Evaluate this statement. 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.

TIP

Look for the key words in questions. Here it is 'best'. The answer should focus on whether or not a pilgrimage is the best way for Christians to grow closer to God or whether there are other ways that might be better.

[12 marks]

REASONED ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- **Explain why some people would agree with the statement.**
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority.
- **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.

REASONED ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- **Explain why some people would support a different view.**
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority.
- **Evaluate the arguments.** Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.

CONCLUSION

- **Give a justified conclusion.**
- Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning.
- **Include evaluation.** Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other or why they are equally strong.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

13 'A Christian's most important duty is to tell others about their faith.'

Evaluate this statement. 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.

TIP

'To tell others about their faith' is the meaning of evangelism, which is part of a Christian's mission. Try to use these terms in your answer to show the depth of your understanding about this topic.

[12 marks]



Check your answers using the mark scheme on pages 159–160. How did you do? To feel more secure in the content you need to remember, re-read pages 30–43. To remind yourself of what the examiner is looking for, go to pages 7–13.