

AQA Religious Studies A – Christian Beliefs (Paper 1)



Key Words				
Ascension	Jesus returning to be with God in heaven after	Omnipotent	All – Powerful – a quality of God. It means God	
	the crucifixion.		has unlimited power.	
Atonement	Making things better after sinning. Jesus' death	Omniscient	All Knowing – a quality of God. It means	
	atoned (made up) for the sins of everyone.		knowledge without limits.	
Benevolent	All Loving – a quality of God. It means God is all	Original Sin	The built-in tendency to do wrong which comes	
	good.		from Eve's disobedience.	
Crucifixion	Jesus' execution by the Romans on the cross	Resurrection	Jesus returning from the dead 3 days after he	
	on Good Friday.		was crucified.	
Grace	The unconditional love God shows to humans,	Salvation	Being saved from sin and given eternal life in	
	that they do not need to earn.		heaven by God.	
Incarnation	God becoming flesh and taking human form as	Sin	Any thought or action which is against God's	
	Jesus Christ.		laws and wishes.	
Just	Fair – a quality of God. It means God treats us	Trinity	One God – revealed in three ways: the Father,	
	and judges us fairly.		Son and Holy Spirit.	

	Key Ideas			
	- Christians believe in one God who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists.			
Nature of God	- God is omnipotent which means he is almighty and has unlimited power.			
	- God is benevolent which means he is all-loving and all-good.			
	- God is just which means he is a perfect and fair judge.			
7 5 5 5	- The Problem of Suffering: if God is all these things why does he allow bad things to happen to good and			
, — —	innocent people? Christians believe God is just and tre	eats people fairly so we must trust in him even when		
	things seem to be wrong.			
	-Christians believe God created the earth and all living things in six days. The story of creation if found in the			
Creation	first book of the Bible - Genesis .			
	-Some Christians believe the story literally, others do not but still believe God was the creator.			
	- The Gospel of John (written 600 years after Genesis) has another version of the creation story. It contains			
No.	the phrase "In the beginning was the Word." Experts t	think " the Word" refers to God the son (Jesus).		
	- Christians believe God is three persons in one. This id	dea is called the Trinity .		
The Trinity	- Each person of the Trinity is fully God but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same.			
	- The Father is the creator of all life.			
$\boldsymbol{\omega}$	- The Son is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God.			
	- The Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers.			
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	Crucifixion	Incarnation		
	- Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was	- Christians believe that God was incarnated (born)		
Incarnation and Crucifixion	sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate.	in human form as Jesus Christ .		
_	- Jesus was then nailed to a cross where he died.	- Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit and gave		
NV. de	- In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those	birth as a virgin – for Christians this is proof of Jesus'		
	who were killing him showing Christians how	status as the son of God.		
77 1	important forgiveness is.	- Christmas is the festival that celebrates the		
•	- This event is remembered on Good Friday.	incarnation.		
	Resurrection	<u>Ascension</u>		
	- After Jesus was dead and buried Christians believe	- Forty days after he rose from the dead Jesus		
Resurrection and Ascension	he rose from the dead – this is the resurrection .	ascended (went up) into heaven.		
Result ection and Ascension	- Early on the Sunday three women visited his tomb			
^	expecting to find his body but it was not there.	A belief in resurrection and ascension		
	- After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his	- Shows life after death is real.		
	disciples and told them to spread the word of him.	- Assures Christians they will rise again after death		
	- This event is celebrated on Easter Sunday .	and live on in the afterlife.		
	"He is risen" – Christians say this on Easter Sunday.	- Leads Christians to try and lead a good life.		
	- Christians believe you are judged after you die and h	I now well or badly you have lived and treated others		
	decides if you go to heaven or hell. See the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (overleaf).			
Sin and Salvation	- Sin is any action or thought that goes against God's will, Christians can look in the Bible for advice on what			
Sin and Salvation	is a sin e.g. murder and adultery.			
	- God gave humans free will but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin.			
	- Salvation is the idea that Jesus's crucifixion saved human beings from eternal damnation.			
	-Salvation is achieved through good works e.g. having faith in God, following the 10 Commandments.			
	- The death of Jesus made up for original sin – the idea that we were all damned by Eve's choice to disobey			
	God – it allows us to atone for sins and reach eternal I			
	Atanament removes the effects of sin and allows no			

- **Atonement** removes the effects of sin and allows people to restore their relationship with God.

Teachings for Memorisation



Afterlife (Apostles Creed)

"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 Trinity (Nicene Creed)

"We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Creation (Genesis 1:1)

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Atonement (1 John 2:2)

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only ours but also the sins of the whole world."

Incarnation: John 1:14

"The word became flesh."

Nature of God: Luke 1:37.

"Nothing is impossible with God."

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

In this parable, Jesus uses the example of a shepherd who separates his sheep from his goats in order to help his followers understand what judgement will be like. Jesus explains that people will be separated into two groups:

- those who have lived good lives and believed in God will be put on one side and have a place in Heaven.
- those who have rejected the belief in God and sinned in their lives will be placed on the other side and will go to Hell.

Test Yourself! (All answers on the first page)



Define the following:

a) Atonement b) Crucifixion c) Resurrection d) Salvation e) Sin f) Trinity g) Grace, h) Omniscient

Explain the following:

a) what happened on Good Friday b) what is remembered on Easter Sunday c) three aspects of the nature of God d) the importance of the resurrection e) what Christians believe about creation.

Write a plan for the following 12 mark questions:

- a) The most important person of the Trinity is Jesus. Evaluate this statement.
- b) The incarnation was the most important event in Jesus' life for Christians. Evaluate this statement.
- c) Salvation is Gods greatest gift. Evaluate this statement.
- d) Atoning for sins of Christians was Jesus' greatest act. Evaluate this statement.

Questions types on Paper 1



Wording Explanation

Give two.... Just list two things-words or phrases.

Explain two in which.... You must give and explain two ways. You must show the impact on behaviour/thinking of people in Christianity today.

Explain two Christian teachings about... You must give and explain two teachings. Use of a quotation/teaching will earn the fifth mark. It is easier to get the

mark by using a clear, specific teaching.

- '.....' Evaluate this statement.
- Refer to Christian teaching
- Give developed arguments to support this statement
- Give developed arguments to support a different point of view
- Reach a justified conclusion
- Refer to teachings of the specified religion in order to reach higher levels.
- Support the statement and explain the reasons you give.
- Provide a different point of view and explain the reasons you gave for it.
- A possible formula to use to organise your answer is PEARL (x3) on each side. Then add the justified conclusion.
- PEARL = Point, Evidence, Argue, Religion. Link.
- Give a justified conclusion to reach the highest marks
- Save your strongest argument for the conclusion and explain why it is stronger than the other arguments you have written about.

Useful websites and revision guides

Exam board website, includes specification, practice papers, model answers. http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062





Basic Christian beliefs http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/beliefs/basics 1.shtml

My Revision Notes AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A (Hodder Education ISBN 978-1-510-40479-3)

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide - AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (Oxford University Press ISBN: 9780198422853)