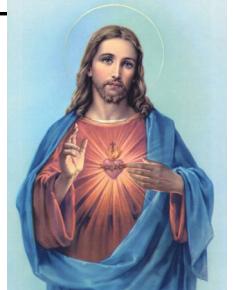




# Paper 1—Christian Beliefs Revision Guide



## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXAM

- Read the questions carefully.
  - 1 mark = MULTIPLE CHOICE
  - 2 marks = 2 POINTS
  3. INFLUENCES QUESTION = 4 marks = POINT + EXPLAIN POINT + EXPLAIN

This question will always ask how something INFLUENCES a Christian today, which means how does it make them feel or act or think. So your answer should look like this:

POINT + EXPLAIN ('and this means Christians would think/feel/say/do.....')

POINT + EXPLAIN ('and this means Christians would think/feel/say/do.....')

4. 5 marks = POINT + EXPLAIN POINT + EXPLAIN + QUOTE

5. 12 marks = Evaluation question (A question with a statement) – see below:

You are given a statement in quotation marks.

You must explain how and why some groups would agree with the statement and how and why some would disagree.

- Always include religious beliefs and name the religion-  
Islam (religion) and Muslims (followers)  
Christianity (religion) and Christians (followers)
- Use terms “some” and “most”
- Try and use relevant quotes, you do not need to know them word for word

Come to a conclusion/judgement which explains which argument is strongest and why you think this.



Around 2.4 billion people claim to be a Christian of some sort.

They don't all agree on everything and there are a number of different versions of Christianity.

**Catholic:** the branch of Christianity that is the oldest; it is based in Rome and led by the Pope. Catholic services are called 'mass' and these are formal and traditional/liturgical. Catholic priests do not marry and are in charge of the religion.

**Orthodox:** a branch of Christianity practiced mainly in Eastern Europe. It is almost as old as Catholicism, it is very formal and traditional too.

**Protestant:** a branch of Christianity that began in Germany and was developed in England by Henry VIII. They are called '**Protestant**' because they **PROTESTed** against the Catholics. There are many Protestant churches, like Church of England (which is quite formal and traditional), Methodist, Baptist. They follow their own rules (and their priests/vicars can get married) but they ALL agree that **Jesus is the Son of God.**

### QUOTES:

The Nicene Creed is said in most Christian church services, which shows that it is important to them. It contains LOADS of quotes you could use in the Beliefs exam:

*WE BELIEVE in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;*

*he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;*

*he ascended into heaven*

*and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

*With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.*

*He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.*

Amen.

# Christian Beliefs

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## Nature of God

'Omnipotent' – all powerful

'Benevolent' - loving

'Omniscient' - All –seeing

'Just' - fair



**Quotes:** • 'God so loved the world that he sent his only son' (loving)

• 'Nothing is impossible with God' (all powerful, all seeing)

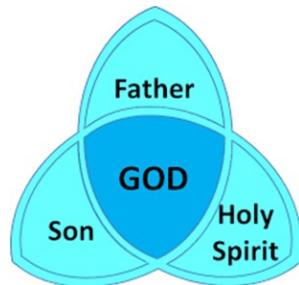
• 'He will separate the goats from the sheep' (as a judge)

## Trinity

God the Father—looks after us

God the Son – Jesus Christ—relates to us as a human

God the Holy Spirit—is all around us, everywhere



- It explains how Jesus was God here on earth, and confirms that he spoke and acted with God's authority
- It shows God is now working in the world as the Holy Spirit, so Christians can pray for help or for miracles
- It shows how God is present with Christians today as the Holy Spirit, which brings feelings of comfort and security even in hard times

### **QUOTES:**

'We believe in one God... We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ... We believe in the Holy Spirit' (Nicene Creed)

Christians make the sign of the cross which represents the Father, Son, Holy Spirit

## Incarnation

- Carnal – meaning of the flesh, to do with the body
- Incarnation—Jesus is God in human form

Jews have a belief in a Messiah – a leader who will come to bring about global peace. Christos means 'messiah' which is why Jesus is called Jesus

Christ. Jews do not think the Jesus is the messiah. Christians believe that Jesus is a spiritual messiah.



Why is it important?

- God is the Father who is beyond this world but also the Son who understands our needs – he is powerful and sympathetic and can save us from sin and death
- It shows that God knows what it is like to live as a human and all the suffering it entails
- It proves that Jesus' teachings have God's authority

### **QUOTES:**

- 'For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.' (Nicene Creed)
- JOHN CALLS JESUS 'THE WORD', 'The Word became man' This BACKS UP that Jesus is God-the-son, part of the Trinity. JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY HUMAN.



## Crucifixion

- The Jewish leaders' refusal to believe that Jesus was the Messiah was the main reason he was condemned to death. Jesus claimed he was "King of the Jews" and the Messiah and he was gaining followers fast; they thought he would start a rebellion against their power.

Jesus ministry of teaching and healing lasted for 30 years until his death by crucifixion (being nailed to a cross). Jesus was found guilty of blasphemy (pretending to be God). All four Gospels tell the story of the crucifixion.

The Roman leader, Pontius Pilate condemned Jesus to death.

Why it is important:

Jesus had to die in order to get to heaven.

Jesus dying meant that all Christians who come after Jesus can then get to heaven.

He had to die to BUILD A BRIDGE TO HEAVEN.

How it affects Christians today:

**It helps them to know that when they are suffering and feel bad, this also happened to Jesus.**

**Jesus' crucifixion is important to them because it reminds them that he's part of the Trinity.**

**He built a bridge to heaven so that I can get there, which means that I'm not scared of death.**

**This couldn't have happened unless he was crucified.**

**He was a human sacrifice for their sins –they appreciate that and are grateful**

**Means they know they will be forgiven for their sins and get to heaven if they are truly sorry**

## **QUOTES:**

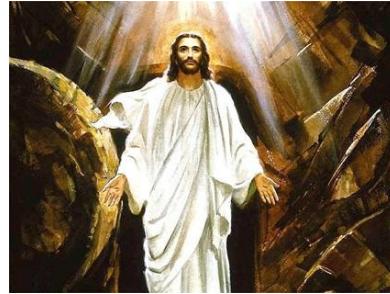
**'For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate' (Nicene Creed)**

**'he suffered death and was buried' (Nicene Creed)**

**'Father into your hands I commend my spirit' (New Testament, Bible, Luke)**

**'Surely this man is the son of God' (New Testament, Bible, Mark)**

**'He said, on the cross, 'Forgive them, they know not what they do' (New Testament, Bible)**



## Resurrection & Ascension

### Resurrection:

- a living being coming back to life after death

Jesus' body is cut down from the cross on Friday afternoon but there isn't time to bury him. Instead his body is put in a tomb with a heavy stone across it. The Sabbath ends on Sunday morning, so Jesus' female followers go to the tomb to wash the body. When the women get to the tomb the body is gone. Two men (who may have been angels) appear to the women and tell them Jesus is risen and they should go and spread the word. Jesus then makes 'RESURRECTION APPEARANCES'. He goes to visit the disciples and female followers 3 times. At first they don't recognise him. But he's a PHYSICAL body. NOT A GHOST.

### Ascension:

- Going up (into heaven)

After 40 days back on earth, Jesus rose back up into heaven. Christians believe that he is seated at the right hand of God and acts on our behalf, as someone who understands our lives, up there.

### Why these are important:

1. Proves the trinity – proves that Jesus is DIVINE
2. Good wins over evil
3. The ascension means Jesus went to heaven so ALL CHRISTIANS CAN GET THERE
4. Jesus didn't stay dead – neither will believers.

### How it affects Christians today:

Jesus' resurrection proves that God forgives them. Christians can feel closer to God in this life – and will be closer to him in the next life.

He built a bridge to heaven so that I can get there, which means that I'm not scared of death.

Good defeats evil – no matter how bad things seem Christians can take comfort in that good will win in the end. Means they know they will be forgiven for their sins and get to heaven if they are truly sorry

### **QUOTES:**

**“ WHILE HE WAS BLESSING THEM HE LEFT THEM AND WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN” (New Testament, Bible, Mark)**

**‘On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures’ (Nicene Creed)**

**‘He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father’ (Nicene Creed)  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

# Afterlife

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## Life After Death

Christians believe that after we die, we will be resurrected, just as Jesus was. However they don't all agree on what the resurrection of the dead will be like.

Some Christians believe only the soul lives on after death; we will not have a body in heaven.

## Judgement After Death

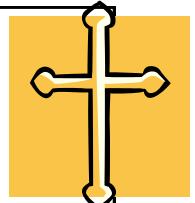
After-life - What happens after life on earth ends – (life after death)

There are different 'options' in the afterlife. One option is a reward (heaven). One is a punishment (hell). These will last FOREVER.

How we behave in this life determines whether we go to heaven or hell and only God/Jesus can be the perfect judge of that.

### **• QUOTES:**

- 'We shall not all sleep when we are dead. Instead, we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we will be changed.'** (Bible, 1 Corinthians)
- 'The body that is sown is weak, it is raised strong; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.'** (Bible, 1 Corinthians) These show us what Christians believe we will be like in Heaven



### **QUOTES:**

- The story of the sheep and the goats - When the Son of God comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then [the cursed] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."**



## Heaven and Hell

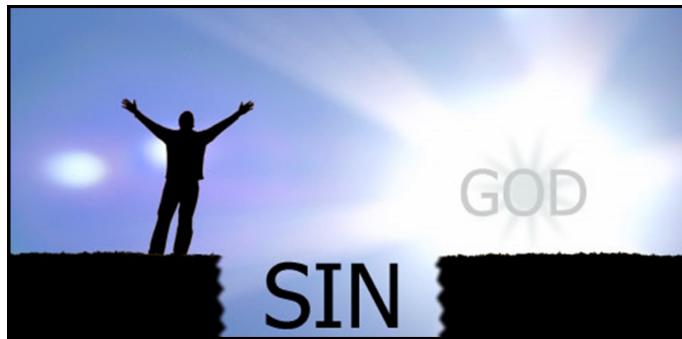
Heaven: a state of eternal happiness

Hell: the place of eternal suffering

- Some Christians think everyone who believes in Jesus will go to heaven.
- Some Christians think anyone who is BAPTISED will get into heaven when they die.
- Some Christians think that heaven is for Christians and people of other faiths as long as they act in good ways that please God.
- Some Modern Christians think that heaven is a spiritual peaceful existence in the presence of God
- Hell is often believed to be a state or place without God
- Do non-Christians go to Hell? As Christians believe God is kind and loving, they tend to not think so. Most believe that all those who try to follow God and try to live good lives will be welcome in Heaven.

# Sin and Salvation

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## Sin

A sin is something bad. It is an action or a thought that separates Humans from god. This is because it goes against the morals god wants.

Original Sin: this is the idea that human beings are born with the built-in potential to do wrong. Only some Christians believe in this. It comes from the story of Adam and Eve: ADAM AND EVE WERE SINFUL. ALL HUMANS DESCEND FROM ADAM AND EVE  
THEREFORE ALL HUMANS ARE potentially SINFUL

Free Will: the ability to make your own choices and choose how you live your life.  
But if people use their free will to do things God wouldn't approve of, this separates them from God and is sinful.

## Salvation

Means to be SAVED.  
SIN separates humans from God. Salvation allows them to get close again.  
It gives them ETERNAL LIFE with God.

### Salvation through:

1. Doing good works. Acting in a good way, as a good person.
2. Following the law. This is what it says in the OLD TESTAMENT.
3. Through God's GRACE: this is a gift of salvation from God through faith in Jesus.

## Jesus' Role in Salvation

**Why doesn't Jesus save himself? Use his powers to get down?**

**Because he HAS TO DIE to get humans back to God (he has to SACRIFICE himself)**

**ATONEMENT** = 'to be at one with' to come back to God, to make up with God. Making humans and God have a good relationship after human sin ruined it.

## **QUOTES:**

**'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ' (Bible, Romans)**  
**'We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.' (Nicene Creed)**