

CHRISTIANITY

Beliefs and teachings revision



THE NATURE OF GOD

Summarise here how different branches of Christianity developed

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:2-3

"We believe in one God" Nicene Creed

What do these tell us about Christian beliefs in God and the nature of God?

John 4:24 – "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Luke 24:39 – "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have"

Hebrews 1:3 – "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

Summarise Christian beliefs about the nature of God

God as omnipotent

Luke 1:37 – *“Nothing is impossible with God”*

God as loving

John 3:16 – *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son”*

God as just

Why is evil and suffering a problem for Christians?

'If God were loving, there would be no suffering in the world.'

Arguments in support

- Letting people suffer is cruel; humans who allow others to suffer are denounced for it. No acceptable reason can be given for the suffering of so many innocent people, particularly children.
- If there is a purpose to suffering, it could be achieved in some other way that does not result in such misery. So much suffering as part of the evolutionary process suggests a creator that does not care.
- Even if God is not the cause of suffering, he should be able to stop it; since he doesn't, he must not be loving.

Arguments in support of other views

- If God constantly intervened to prevent suffering, it would remove one of his greatest gifts to humans, free will.
- Suffering enables spiritual growth and deepens trust in God. The existence of suffering inspires people to reflect the love and compassion of God in their response to those who are suffering.
- Some Christians believe that God is all-loving but not omnipotent, and so although he would wish to remove suffering, he cannot.
- Humans are limited and so cannot understand God's purposes for his world; as the book of Job states, they are called to trust.

The Trinity is the belief that there are three persons in the one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God is not a physical being. The Trinity describes that there is only one God, each person of the Trinity is fully God, the persons of the Trinity are not the same.


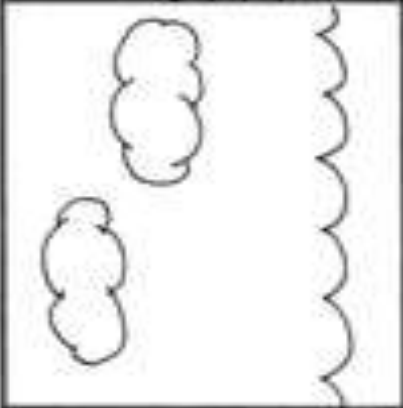

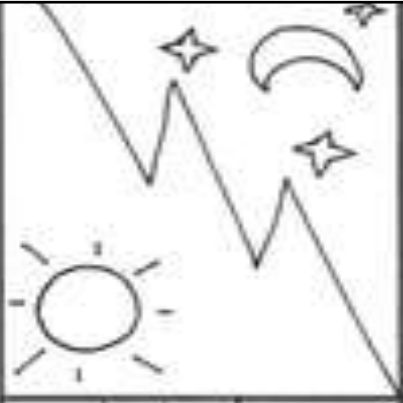

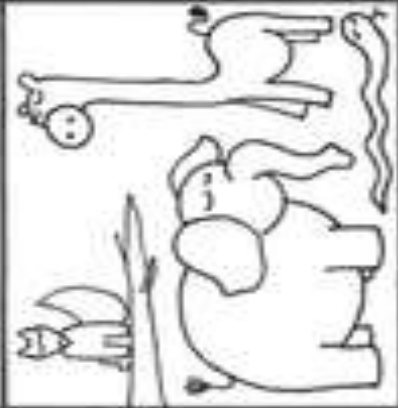
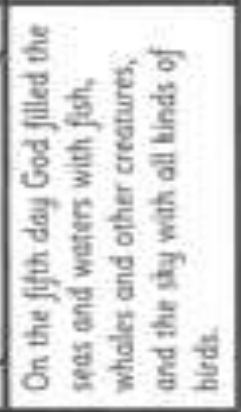

God the Father – believed to be the creator of earth and all living things. He acts as a Father would and is believed to be omnipotent, omnibenevolent, omniscient and omnipresent.

God the Son – the son of God and became incarnate on earth as Jesus. Christians believe Jesus was both fully human whilst on earth and fully God at all times.

God the Holy Spirit – Once Jesus left the earth God sent the Holy Spirit to influence, guide and sustain the earth. The Holy Spirit is believed to be the unseen power of God at work.

What is the role of the Spirit in creation?

The Creation Story

	<p>On the first day God said "let there be light!" He separated the light from the darkness and created day and night.</p>		<p>On the second day God made a space above the water on Earth and called it "sky".</p>		<p>On the third day God collected up the water so that land appeared. He created grass, trees, flowers, deserts, lakes, oceans and seas.</p>		<p>On the fourth day God made two great lights. He created the sun to shine in the day and the moon to shine at night. He made the stars to fill the night sky.</p>
	<p>On the fifth day God filled the seas and waters with fish, whales and other creatures, and the sky with all kinds of birds.</p>		<p>On the sixth day God filled the land. Every animal that walks, runs, crawls and climbs was made.</p>		<p>Then he made people. He made them with a spirit just like him so that they could look after everything else and worship him forever.</p>		<p>The seventh day was very special. God did not do any work, he rested and enjoyed what he had done.</p>

“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

Explain what this tells us about the role of the Son in creation

JESUS - INCARNATION

Explain fully why Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God

Add in some religious quotes that you could use as evidence to support that Jesus is the son of God

Luke 1:29-33

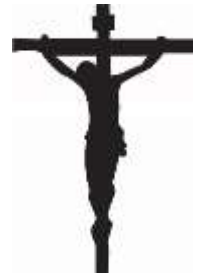
The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth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

Matthew 1:20-21

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, [a] because he will save his people from their sins

JESUS - CRUCIFIXION

Summarise what happened during the crucifixion here



Explain how the crucifixion impacts on Christians today

Luke 23:46

"Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last"

Mark 15:39

"Surely this man was the son of God"

Explain how the crucifixion impacts on Christians today

JESUS – RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

What happened during the resurrection?

What happened during the ascension?

Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important for Christians?

Why is the ascension of Jesus so important for Christians?

Explain 2 ways in which belief in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus influences Christians today (4 marks)

RESURRECTION AND LIFE AFTER DEATH

Why do Christians believe in life after death?

The main **source of authority** for Christians is the **Bible**. Christians find many reasons in the Bible to believe in life after death. They include:

Eternal life - Jesus promised that his followers would have eternal life.

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.

John 11:25-26

Jesus' life as an example - God sent Jesus to Earth in order that humans could overcome death and have eternal life.

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

John 3:16

Resurrection of the body - when Jesus rose from the dead he rose with a body. St Paul teaches in the Bible that people will have **resurrection** bodies like that of Jesus:

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.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

Immortality of the soul - Jesus told the criminal crucified with him that he would go straight to paradise.

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

Christians interpret the teachings of the Bible on life after death to mean that humans will have a spiritual existence after death, rather than a physical one. Belief in life after death may be influenced by the meaning and purpose that it gives to the lives of Christians.

Christians believe there is an afterlife. Although the body dies and is buried or cremated, they believe that their unique soul lives on and is raised to new life by God. Their belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion (a Roman method of execution) gives Christians hope that if they follow Jesus' teaching and accept him as their Lord and Saviour, then this new resurrection life awaits them. By being born as a human being (the incarnation), and then dying on the cross, Jesus made this new 'life after death' possible for all.

What do Christians believe about resurrection and life after death?

How might these beliefs impact on Christians?

AFTERLIFE AND JUDGEMENT

Christian teaching

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John 3:16

Christian beliefs

Why Christians believe in life after death

The resurrection of Jesus for Christians proves that there is life after death.

Jesus tells Christians they will be brought back to life in John 11:25.

Jesus teaches that he is the key to eternal life. (John 3:16-17)

St. Paul teaches about life after death and how the body will be transformed from a physical body to a spiritual one when it is raised. (1 Corinthians 15:20, 35-8, 42-4)

How these beliefs affect Christians

Some Christians believe in the Resurrection, that after death the body stays in the grave till the Day of Judgement. When everyone will be raised from the dead and be judged by God. As such they want to lead good lives so they can get to heaven

What does Christianity say about life after death?

Christian beliefs about life after death are based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection are part of God's

divine plan for humankind. Through his death on the cross, Jesus pays the penalty for mankind's sin and mankind's relationship with God is restored. This is called atonement. Christians believe that three days after the crucifixion, God raised Jesus from the dead and he once again appeared to his disciples. This is taken to mean that Jesus' sacrifice was a victory over sin and death. Although physical death still happens, those who believe in Christ and live good lives will be given eternal life in Heaven.

Many Christians believe that after death, they will be taken into the presence of God and they will be judged for the deeds they have done or failed to do during their lifetime. Some of the guiding principles for what will happen upon death include:

Judgement

Some Christians believe that this judgement will happen when they die. Others believe that there will be a Day of Judgement at the end of time, when everybody will be judged at the same time. Some believe that judgement will happen in two stages: an initial personal judgement when you die, followed by the definitive judgement at the end of time.

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What do Christians believe about the afterlife?

What do Christians believe about judgement?

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Judgement will happen after death: everyone will be raised from the dead and will face God/Jesus for judgement; this may happen at the end of time or Second Coming. Apostles' Creed.

- They will be judged on the basis of what they have said and done: how they have used their 'talents', how they have helped others; Matthew 25 parables of the Talents and the Sheep and the Goats.
- After judgement they will be sent to heaven, hell or purgatory; explanation of concepts of heaven/ hell/ purgatory. Matthew 25:46, John 5:29

Matthew 25:31-36 The Sheep and the Goats

"When the Son of Man 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 King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 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 sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:46

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

John 5:29

"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

KEY CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS - HEAVEN

QUOTES

How would these ideas impact on Christians today?

KEY CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS - HELL

QUOTES

How would these ideas impact on Christians today?

What do Christians teach about purgatory?

SIN AND SALVATION

Summarise Christian ideas on sin and original sin here

What is the connection between freewill and sin?

Explain two Christian beliefs about salvation.

Refer to scripture of sacred writings in your answer.

5 marks

Target: Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority

First teaching:

- simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching - 1 mark
- detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching - 2 marks

Second teaching:

- simple explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching - 1 mark
- detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate teaching - 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to scripture /or sacred writing – 1 mark

In Christianity belief in salvation is seen to mean when someone is saved from sin and granted eternal life with God in heaven. Sin has separated humans from God and salvation enables us to get close to God again.

Some Christians would say that salvation is achieved through good works. This means that a person achieves salvation by having faith and obeying God's law. This view is held by many who would suggest following rules like the Ten Commandments will allow us to make choices that God will approve of. There are many references to support this view in the Bible, John 3:16-17 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This suggests that through belief in God and Jesus we will be granted everlasting life through entrance to heaven. Salvation is achieved through belief, faith and obedience.

Other Christians would argue that salvation is achieved through grace. It is given by God through faith in Jesus. Salvation cannot be earned or deserved but is a gift for the faithful. In Ephesians 2:8-9 it stated "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God." This suggests that we do not need to take action to earn salvation, it is granted to us because God loves us. We achieve salvation and get close to God again because of the support he offers to humans as a gift.

THE ROLE OF CHRIST IN SALVATION

Summarise Christian teachings on the role of Jesus in salvation

Summarise Christian teachings on atonement

How might these ideas impact on Christians today?

REVISION CHECKLIST

You should now be able to	
Explain about the nature of God (including belief that God is omnipotent, loving and just)	
Explain the problem of evil and suffering	
Explain Christian belief in the oneness of God and the Trinity	
Explain different Christian beliefs about creation (including the role of the Word and Spirit from Genesis 1:1-3 and John 1:1-3)	
Explain different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance (resurrection, life after death, judgement, heaven and hell)	
Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about the incarnation and Jesus as Son of God	
Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus	
Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about sin and original sin	
Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about salvation (including by law, grace and Spirit)	
Explain Christian beliefs about the role of Jesus in salvation	
Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about the idea of atonement	
KNOW AND BE ABLE TO USE KEY WORDS IN YOUR WORK	
KNOW AND BE ABLE TO USE RELIGIOUS QUOTES IN YOUR WORK	