

<b>Christianity: Practices – Personal learning checklist</b>	
Worship and festivals	
Different forms of worship and their significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• liturgical, non-liturgical and informal, including the use of the Bible</li> <li>• private worship</li> </ul>	
Prayer and its significance, including the Lord’s Prayer, set prayers and informal prayer.	
The role and meaning of the sacraments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the meaning of sacrament</li> <li>• the sacrament of baptism and its significance for Christians; infant and believers' baptism; different beliefs about infant baptism</li> <li>• the sacrament of Holy Communion/Eucharist and its significance for Christians, including different ways in which it is celebrated and different interpretations of its meaning.</li> </ul>	
The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona</li> <li>• the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today.</li> </ul>	
The role of the church in the local and worldwide community	
The role of the Church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors	
The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth.	
The importance of the worldwide Church including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working for reconciliation</li> <li>• how Christian churches respond to persecution</li> <li>• the work of one of the following: Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, Tearfund.</li> </ul>	

**Command words** are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell you how you should answer the question.

<b>Evaluate</b>	Tests evaluation. It requires you to consider different viewpoints and arrive at a judgement.
<b>Explain</b>	Tests knowledge and understanding of beliefs, teachings and practices. It requires you to identify relevant points and demonstrate understanding by adding detail/development.
<b>Explain how X may influence Y</b>	Tests knowledge and understanding of (eg) how a religious belief or practice influences individuals or groups. This means how it would make them think feel or act.
<b>Give</b>	Tests recall of knowledge, eg two examples or two beliefs.
<b>Similar</b>	Nearly the same/lots in common
<b>Contrasting</b>	Different/opposite

<b>Christian Practices glossary</b>	
<b>Advent</b>	The 4 Sundays before Christmas. Time of preparation for Christmas
<b>Agape</b>	Greek word used in New Testament meaning unconditional/selfless love. Compassion or charitable love. <i>"Love your neighbour"</i>
<b>Anglicans</b>	Members of the Church of England.
<b>Baptism</b>	The ritual through which an individual becomes a member of the Church. Water is used to symbolise washing away of sin.
<b>Believers Baptism</b>	Often called Adult baptism. Done by immersion into water for people old enough to understand their faith and commit to living the Christian life.
<b>Infant Baptism</b>	Done to babies to make them part of the Church. Adults make promises on the child's behalf. Water is poured on their head to symbolise washing away of future sin.
<b>Christian Aid</b>	Christian charity that tackles worldwide poverty and injustice
<b>Christmas</b>	Celebration of the birth of Jesus (incarnation). Lasts 12 days ends at Epiphany
<b>Church</b>	Christians anywhere. The local community of Christians who worship together. With a small c it refers to the building. A denomination of Christianity
<b>Convert</b>	Someone who commits to a religion or changes from non-belief /swaps religion
<b>Denomination</b>	A Christian group or church: Eg: Anglican, Catholic, Baptist etc
<b>Easter</b>	Festival celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. Starts on Easter Day and ends at Pentecost in May
<b>Ecumenism</b>	Different Christian denominations working together to develop closer relationships, better understanding and to promote unity
<b>Evangelism</b>	The spreading of the faith through teaching about the religion and helping others and public preaching. (evangelical work)
<b>Eucharist</b>	From Greek word meaning Thanksgiving. See below Holy communion.
<b>Festival</b>	A day or period of time devoted to celebration for religious reasons
<b>Great Commission</b>	Jesus' last command to his disciples to go and spread his teachings "go and make disciples of all nations"
<b>Holy Communion</b>	The sacrament of Thanksgiving where bread and wine are eaten to remember Jesus' death. AKA Eucharist/Mass/Breaking bread/ Lord's Supper
<b>Holy Week</b>	The week leading up to the important Christian festival of Easter includes Good Friday
<b>Informal prayers</b>	Prayers that are personal and spontaneous made up by the person praying
<b>Informal worship</b>	Non liturgical worship which is more spontaneous or led by the Holy Spirit
<b>Liturgy /liturgical worship</b>	A church service that follows a set structure or ritual/pattern
<b>Mission</b>	A strong conviction: a calling or vocation of an organisation or individual (e.g. Mother Teresa) to go into the world to share their faith
<b>Missionary</b>	Christians who are sent to spread the teachings of Jesus by charitable work and preaching and teaching.
<b>Non-liturgical worship</b>	A church service that does NOT follow a set text/pattern or ritual
<b>Non -Conformist</b>	Protestant Christians who do not conform to the beliefs and Practices of the Anglican (C of E) Church
<b>Parish</b>	An area looked after by a priest or church
<b>Persecution</b>	Ill treatment, torture, abuse hostility towards a person (due to being Christian)
<b>Pilgrimage</b>	A journey made to a place of importance to a religion for spiritual reasons e.g. Jerusalem, Iona and Lourdes. Pilgrimage is an act of worship
<b>Prayer</b>	Communication with God ... silently or with words (remember ACTS)
<b>Private worship</b>	Praying or praising God on your own
<b>Protestant</b>	Name given to the original Christians who opposed the Catholic Church. Today any Christian who is not Catholic or Orthodox is a Protestant. Central belief is the authority of the Bible not a leader like the Pope.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	A sacrament for Catholics. Restoring of harmony after broken relationships
<b>Sacraments</b>	A religious ceremony (rite/ritual) where the believer receives a gift of grace or blessing from God. An outward action to show an inward blessing.
<b>Set prayers</b>	Prayers that are written, taught and learned, or read the same every time
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	The prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples
<b>Worship</b>	Acts of religious praise, honour or devotion



## Christian Practices SofAs.

### Old Testament

- “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the tress, belongs to the Lord” Leviticus 27:30
- “The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it” Psalm 24:1
- “God has placed eternity in the hearts of men” Ecclesiastes 3:11

### New Testament

- “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come; your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. Amen” **The Lord’s Prayer:**
- “Love your neighbour as you love yourself”
- Parable of Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25
- “Go therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19 (The Great Commission)
- “When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven said ‘You are my Son’...” Mark 1:11
- “This is my body given for you... and this is my blood which is poured out for you...” Luke 22:19
- “I am the way the truth and the life: no one gets to the father except through me” John 14:6
- “As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you” John 20:21
- “Whenever you eat bread or drink wine, do so in remembrance of me” 1 Corinthians 11
- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” Philippians 4:6
- “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful” Colossians 4:2
- “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” 1 Peter 5:2-4
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins” 1 John 1:9

### Other

- Christian Aid insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. (Christian Aid mission statement)

## Christian Practices

### What are the different forms of worship and why are they significant?

**Liturgical worship** follows a set pattern. A priest will lead the congregation in formal prayers that have set responses. An example is the celebration of the Eucharist for Catholics. This is important because people receive the living presence of Jesus through Holy communion. It also allows a set order of service that gives a sense of tradition.

**Non-liturgical and informal worship** does not follow a set pattern or rituals. The order of the service may instead follow a theme and place an emphasis on the word of God in the Bible. This is considered important because faith can be expressed in a variety of way and have more of an emotional and personal impact.

### Why is prayer and why is it significant?

Prayer is communication with God, either silently or through praise. Prayer is significant because it provides spiritual strength and comfort. Christians believe that God hears all prayers. Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to his disciples. *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful"* Colossians 4v2

The Lord's Prayer is important because it gives Christians a pattern of how to pray. It reminds Christians that they must forgive others if they are to be forgiven.

### The role of the Church in the local community

The church as a building provides a location where the Christian community can meet, pray and obtain spiritual guidance.

The Church has become involved in helping the local community, such as giving to food banks or even volunteering to be a street pastor.

### The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth.

The Church has a mission to spread the gospel to non-believers that Jesus is the Son of God and came in to the world as its saviour. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28)

Some Christians may go to other countries and evangelise. They may work amongst the poor and disadvantaged. Other Christians may evangelise through organised events or preaching.

### How do Christian churches respond to persecution?

Christians are encouraged to show love to those who have faced persecution. The Church campaigns on behalf of persecuted Christians. For example, they may smuggle Bibles in to countries where Christians are facing persecution to strengthen their faith.

## Topic on a page

### The sacraments:

Sacraments are holy rituals that outwardly express an inner spiritual experience.

For many Christians baptism is the initiation rite by which people become members of the Church. John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. Jesus' baptism sets an example for his followers to receive the holy spirit.

Baptism is important because it symbolises people becoming members of the Church and washing away sin.

Infant baptism is the ritual through which babies are baptised and welcomed in to Church. The decision is made on behalf of their parents. The ceremony symbolises being rid of 'original sin'.

Some Christians e.g. Baptists will only perform adult baptism as they believe people need to be old enough to agree to live as a Christian.

Holy communion is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection. Holy communion is important because it strengthens people commitment to their faith and brings believers together.

### The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations

Pilgrimage is important because it allows Christians to grow closer to God, experience a holy place and ask God to forgive their sins.

Christians may go on pilgrimage to:

**Lourdes** in France, this place is holy because a young girl, Bernadette had a vision of the Virgin Mary. It is also believed that there is a spring of water that contains healing properties.

**Iona** is also a place of pilgrimage for Christians. The remoteness of the island offers a place of reflection, an opportunity to read the bible and enjoy the islands natural beauty.

**Christmas** commemorates the incarnation of Jesus, the belief that God became human in Jesus. Christians will exchange gifts and which recall the gifts from the wise men. It is seen as a time of 'peace and goodwill'.

**Easter** is the most important Christian festival. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Christians will participate in holy communion and may eat eggs, symbolising new life.

### Christian Aid charity

Christian Aid aims to encourage sustainable development, stop poverty and provide emergency relief. It has a vision to end poverty and will help the worlds poorest regardless of religion.

### Working for reconciliation

The world wide Church works for reconciliation, they have a role to restore peoples relationship with God and one another.

For example, in Northern Ireland the Irish Churches Peace Project was set up to bring together Catholics and Protestants from across NI to discuss initiatives for peace and understanding.

## How to write in Religious Studies – 12 Mark questions



→ Icing – turn the statement into a question

→ Layer 1 – Argument **for** the statement

→ Layer 2 – A **different** point of view

→ Layer 3 – which is the best argument? Why?

## How to write in Religious Studies – 4 Mark questions

