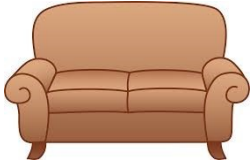


<b>Christianity: Beliefs and teachings – Personal learning checklist</b>	
Key Beliefs	
The nature of God.	
God as omnipotent, loving and just.	
The problem of evil and suffering.	
The oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	
Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3).	
Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurrection</li> <li>• Life after death</li> <li>• Judgement</li> <li>• Heaven</li> <li>• Hell</li> </ul>	
Jesus Christ and Salvation – Beliefs and teachings about:	
The incarnation of Jesus as the Son of God.	
The crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.	
Sin, including original sin.	
The means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit.	
The role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement.	

**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>Influence</b>	How does something make people feel, act, think (F.A.T)

<b>Christian beliefs and teachings glossary</b>	
<b>Ascension</b>	Going or being taken up; the event forty days after the resurrection when Jesus returned to glory in heaven
<b>Atonement</b>	Making amends or payment for a wrong. The belief that reconciliation between God and humanity that was brought about by the death of Jesus as a sacrifice
<b>Benevolent</b>	All loving. A characteristic of God
<b>Bible</b>	Source of wisdom and authority; a holy both containing both the Old and New Testaments
<b>Christ</b>	Literally means 'Anointed One' in Greek; the Hebrew equivalent is Messiah. The leader promised by God to the Jews; Christians believe Jesus to be the Christ
<b>Creation</b>	Bringing the world into existence; the belief that the world is God's loving creation
<b>Crucifixion</b>	The death of Jesus; a form of the death penalty used by the Romans
<b>Eucharist</b>	Literally 'thanksgiving'; a sacrament in which the death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated, using bread and wine
<b>Evil</b>	The opposite of good a cause of suffering and against the will of God
<b>The Father</b>	The first Person of the Trinity, the belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe
<b>Freewill</b>	God's gift to humanity allowing them to make their own decisions
<b>Genesis</b>	Means the 'origins' and is the first book of the Bible.
<b>Grace</b>	The unconditional and generous love that God shows to people who do not deserve it
<b>Heaven</b>	Belief that after death Christians can enter a state of being with God for eternity
<b>Hell</b>	Belief in a place of eternal suffering, or a state after death of being in separation from God
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	The third Person in the Trinity; believed to be present with believers since Pentecost and active on earth
<b>Incarnation</b>	Literally 'in flesh', or 'enfleshed', the belief that God took on human form in the person of Jesus
<b>Jesus</b>	Believed by Christians to be the son of God, he was a first century Jewish teacher living and travelling in Palestine/Israel
<b>Judgement</b>	The belief that God will decide whether each person should receive eternal life or punishment based on their earthly life
<b>Last supper</b>	The final meal Jesus ate where he told people to remember him and his death
<b>Literal understanding of Creation</b>	Believing creation occurred as described in Genesis 1-3 (creationism)
<b>Metaphorical understanding of Creation</b>	Believing Genesis 1-3 can be understood as a myth/symbolically
<b>Moral suffering / evil</b>	Evil and suffering caused by people
<b>Natural suffering/ evil</b>	Evil and suffering caused by natural events such as earthquakes
<b>Omnipotent</b>	All powerful. A characteristic of God
<b>Omniscient</b>	The belief that God is all knowing
<b>Oneness of God</b>	The belief that God is one singular divine being (who can manifest in the Three Persons of the Trinity)
<b>Original sin</b>	The belief that human nature is flawed and that we all have the tendency to sin; traditional belief held by some Christians that this came from Adam & Eve's eating of the forbidden fruit
<b>Problem of Evil</b>	If God is benevolent, omnipotent and omniscient why is there evil and suffering? Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?
<b>Prayer</b>	Communication with God
<b>Purgatory</b>	Where one is purified to achieve holiness to enter Heaven
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Making up and rebuilding relationships between two groups/sides after disagreement
<b>Resurrection</b>	Being raised from the dead; the event three days after the crucifixion when it is believed that God raised Jesus from the dead
<b>Salvation</b>	Being saved; belief that through God's grace, Jesus' death and resurrection brought about salvation for humanity, allowing them to enter eternal life in heaven
<b>Sin</b>	An act against the will or law of God
<b>Suffering</b>	An effect of evil; undergoing pain and hardship, can be moral or natural
<b>Trinity</b>	The Christian belief that there is One God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit



## Christian beliefs and teachings SofAs.

### Old Testament

- “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
- The Fall in Genesis 3
- Moses and the burning bush in Exodus 3
- The story of Job in Job

### New Testament

- “When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven said ‘You are my Son’...” Mark 1:11
- “But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Luke 5:24
- “This is my body given for you... and this is my blood which is poured out for you...” Luke 22:19
- “I say to you today you will be with me in paradise” Luke 23:24
- “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
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son. Who so ever believes in him will not die but will have eternal life” John 3:16
- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23
- “I am the Alpha and omega” Revelation 1:8
- The Parable of the Sheep and The Goats, The Parable of the Good Samaritan and The Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus

### Other

- “I suggest to you that it is because God loves us that he gives us the gift of suffering” CS Lewis
- “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit...” - The Apostle’s Creed.

**The Nature of God:** God is omnipotent (all powerful) omniscient (all knowing) and benevolent (loving). He created the world. He will judge us, and sent his only son to save us.

These qualities raise the problem of evil: If God is omnipotent, omniscient and benevolent then why is there suffering in the world? Surely, he could stop it?

Some answers to the problem of evil include that he may test us (Job), that this world was never meant to be perfect (CS Lewis) and that we grow stronger through suffering.

**The Oneness of God and the Holy Trinity**

Christians are monotheists- they believe in one God. They believe this God is Triune (three persons in one God). The 3 parts of the Holy Trinity are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the loving creator. God the Son is sacrifice for salvation. God the Holy Spirit is unseen power of God at work in the world- it guides and influences.

**Creation:** The book of Genesis has two creation stories. Firstly, it teaches how God made the earth in 7 days and was pleased with all he made. God creates through his word, on each day he says something and it happens. 'Let there be light.' At the end of each day 'God was pleased with all he made.' It also tells us how Adam was made from the earth of the ground, and that Eve was made from his rib. Some Christians believe this is literally true (Creationists). Other Christians believe that God caused Big Bang and drives evolution. Others believe that the story in Genesis is a story of morals- we should look to it for how to behave.

**The Incarnation of God: Jesus**

- Born of a virgin (born without sin)
- Baptism (creates the new tradition)
- Miracles (shows his power and benevolence)
- Crucifixion (fulfilment of prophecy- sacrifice)
- Resurrection- (defeats death- must be the Messiah)
- Ascension-(rises up to Heaven- tells people to spread the word)

**The significance of the crucifixion:** The Messiah that is prophesised in the Old Testament is believed to suffer. Jesus suffered the humiliation and pain of the crucifixion, as he dies he says; 'It is finished.' (John). This shows he was the Messiah. His words speak to the sacrifice he has made and debt of humanity's sin being redeemed. We also see this in John when he says 'God so loved the world he gave his only son.'

**Significance of the Resurrection** According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus was placed in the tomb on Friday and resurrected on Sunday. The Gospels tell how the women go to the tomb but Jesus has risen. They are told to spread the word to the other disciples. This is important as it shows Jesus defeats death, it is proof he was the Son of God and the power of good over evil. Without the resurrection there would be no Christian faith.

**Resurrection and Life After Death** Life after death refers to beliefs that people have on what happens after we die. Some Christians believe that a person's soul is resurrected soon after death. 'Today you will be with me in Paradise' (Jesus). Other Christians believe we wait in our graves until Judgement Day when we will all be resurrected. 'He will come...to judge the quick and the dead.' (Nicene Creed)

**After Life and Judgement** Christians believe it is God who decides the fate of those who die. The final book of the Bible is called Revelation and it describes the final Judgement where all people will get what they deserve. Jesus also talks about a Judgement Day where he will return and separate the people like a shepherd separating Sheep from Goats. The sheep have helped others and are rewarded. The Goats have been selfish and are condemned.

**Sin and Salvation:** Sin is any action or thought that separates humans from God. For example, murder, hatred or adultery. Christians think it is impossible to not sin in some way. 'We all fall short of the glory of God.' (St.Paul). Christians think we are all born into a state of sin because of the original sin of Adam & Eve. They disobeyed God becoming aware of sin and that has passed to all people. Christians believe that salvation (being saved through sin) can come via grace- faith in Jesus or atoning for your sins with good works.

**Heaven:** A reward for the faithful and moral. The Sheep and the Goats describes it as a reward for those who helped others. Jesus refers to it as his 'Father's house' and tells his followers he is 'going there to prepare a place' for them'

**Hell:** A place of punishment- described as a 'place of fire' in Lazarus and the Richman and the Sheep and the Goats. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe a loving God sends people to Hell.

**Purgatory:** Roman Catholics believe this is a place where you sin can be burned clean and then you can go to Heaven. This gives people a second chance if their sins are not too big (venial).

## 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

