

The Nature of God:

- God's qualities: Omnipotent and Omnibenevolent
- Evil and Suffering
- Trinity

Key Sources of Authority:

- Exodus 7-11
- Exodus 14: 21
- Book of Job 1: 8-12
- Psalm 86: 15
- John 3: 16
- Romans 8: 37-39
- John 10: 30
- John 14: 6-11

Key Concepts:

Omnipotent	Characteristic of God – all powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God	Atonement	Belief Jesus' death healed the rift between humans and God
Omnibenevolent	Characteristic of God – all loving and infinitely good	Resurrection	Belief Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
Trinity	Three persons of God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit	Sacraments	Outward sign of an inward and invisible blessing by God
Incarnation	God becoming man in the form of Jesus	Evangelism	Preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith

Key Beliefs:

Nature of God 'omni'	Christians believe in one God (monotheism). The teaching of the Bible is that God is all powerful (omnipotent) and all-good (omnibenevolent). Christians believe God is the creator of all things and is eternal . These beliefs are found in the Bible , one of the most important sacred sources of authority for all Christians.
Evil and Suffering	Christians believe suffering is a result of human sin and a turning away from God. It becomes a test of faith and suffering is often a result of the misuse of free will . Many people find it difficult to believe in a kind and all powerful God who allows so much suffering and the existence of evil .
The Trinity	The belief that God is one and that there are three persons of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit	God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit; the three persons of God are one. The belief in the Trinity is expressed in the Apostles' Creed , where God the Father is in heaven , Jesus Christ is the Son of God in human form on earth and the Holy Spirit , or the Paraclete , is at work in the world.

Exam Practice:

- What do Christians mean by the Trinity? (2)
- 'Jesus was just an ordinary man.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (you must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

Key Connections:

How does beliefs about the nature of God relate to other areas of your study?

Our Father prayer worship creation Apostles' Creed

Christianity – Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ:

- Incarnation of Jesus
- Crucifixion
- Salvation and Atonement
- Resurrection
- Ascension

Key Sources of Authority:

- John 1: 14
- Matthew 27: 28-50
- Luke 24:1-9
- Luke 24: 50-53
- Luke 1: 28-33
- Leviticus 16: 20-22
- 1 Corinthians 12-14
- Matthew 26: 26-29
- Isaiah 53: 3-9
- 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8

Key Terms:

Bethlehem	Place of Jesus' birth	Jerusalem	Place of Jesus' death
Gospels	The gospels of Matthew and Luke record the birth of Jesus	Good Friday	The name given to the day on which Jesus was crucified
Virgin Mary	Name given by Christians to the mother of Jesus	Golgotha	The place where Jesus was crucified
Ascension	Belief Jesus ascended to Heaven forty days after Easter	Disciples	The twelve chosen followers of Jesus

Key Beliefs:

Incarnation	Incarnation is the belief that God was made ' flesh ' or truly human in the person of Jesus Christ on earth. Christians believe Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit . For Christians, this belief is a miracle which demonstrates the power of God and the divinity of Jesus.
Crucifixion	Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, a Roman governor. He was crucified on Good Friday . During the crucifixion he spoke seven times. After his death, he was taken down from the cross before the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.
Salvation and Atonement	Christians believe salvation from sin is possible because Jesus died on the cross to atone for the sins of all of humankind. His death is considered an act of atonement to bridge the rift, caused by sin, between humans and God.
Resurrection	Resurrection means rising from the dead and Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday , 'I am the resurrection and the life'.
Ascension	Christians believe Jesus ascended to Heaven forty days after the resurrection.

Key Connections:

Bible narrative *Celebration of Christmas* *Celebration of Easter*
Sacraments: Eucharist *Worship* *Prayers* *Liturgical Prayers*
Afterlife

Exam Practice:

- **What do Christians mean by incarnation?** (2)
- **Describe the crucifixion of Jesus.** (5)
- **Explain why Christians believe the Resurrection of Jesus is important.** (8)

Christianity – The Afterlife

The Afterlife:

- Eschatological beliefs
- Judgement
- Resurrection
- Traditional beliefs about Heaven and Hell
- Contemporary beliefs about Heaven and Hell

Key Sources of Authority:

- John 11: 25-26
- John 14: 2-7
- Matthew 25: 31-46
- Luke 16: 19-31
- 1 Corinthians 15: 42-55

Key Terms:

Heaven	In the presence of God in the afterlife	Hell	Place of punishment and suffering
Afterlife	Religious beliefs about human life after death	Soul	The spiritual part of a person made in the image of God
Purgatory	Catholic belief in a place where souls are prepared for heaven	Spiritual	Connected to the spirit or soul of a person
Physical Resurrection	Physical resurrection on the Day of Judgement	Parousia	The second coming of Jesus to the earth and Judgement Day

Key Beliefs:

Eschatological beliefs	Eschatological beliefs mean ' beliefs about the last things '; for Christians this involves ideas about the afterlife , including death, judgement, Heaven, Hell and the Parousia , or the return of Jesus to the earth.
Judgement	Christians believe all humans have a soul which is immortal and at death the soul may go to Heaven or Hell in the afterlife .
Resurrection	Christians believe the soul of a person is able to be with God in Heaven after death because the soul is believed to be made in the image of God and the spiritual part of a person; and that there will be a physical resurrection . Christians believe death was defeated by the Resurrection of Jesus .
Heaven	Some Christians believe there is a physical Heaven and others it is a spiritual dimension . Catholic also believe in purgatory.
Hell	Some Christians believe there is a physical Hell and others it is a spiritual dimension . It is a place of punishment and suffering.

Key Connections:

Prayer *Liturgical worship* *Informal and individual worship*
Lord's Prayer *Sacraments* *Nature of God* *Salvation* *Sin* *Grace*

Exam Practice:

- Explain why Christians believe Heaven is important. (8)
- 'Christian beliefs about hell are out of date.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (you must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)