



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Specification A)

Islam, Christianity & Thematic Studies

REVISION GUIDE

There are four parts to your GCSE Religious Studies course. We teach two of these – the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam and Christianity – in Year 10. In Year 11 we cover four themes; everybody studies Christian Perspectives on Relationships and Families and Christian Perspectives on Life (Bioethics). In addition, there is a choice between studying two themes on St Mark's Gospel or Christian Perspectives on the Existence of God & Revelation and on Peace & Conflict.

The amount of content in this GCSE specification is significant; there is a great deal to learn, including the definitions of many unfamiliar key-terms and quotations to support each topic. It follows that keeping good and complete notes in your exercise books is essential and that ongoing revision (starting in Year 10 for quizzes, module tests and exams) will make all the difference to the grade you can achieve.

Q: How do I revise for Religious Studies?

A... try these ideas...

1. **KEY TERMS:** Identify and define the key terms for each topic (in bold in the textbook & listed in this guide). Learn any that are unfamiliar, including spellings. Add any other words that are important for each topic that you are not confident in your understanding of.
2. **QUOTATIONS:** Learn your quotations! Make sure that you know at least three per topic (in addition to those that are versatile, such as "Love your neighbour...") Write them on record cards (including references) and quiz yourself/each other.
3. **A3 MIND-MAPS:** Summarise each topic or sub-topic onto an A3 sheet as a mind-map. Don't forget to include how each belief, teaching or practice affects the lives of believers, how people put their beliefs into practice. **TIP:** Be as specific as possible about who believes what, including details of different denominations or leaders. Demonstrating detailed knowledge & understanding of **DIVERSITY** in religion is crucial to get a top grade.
4. **PLAN 12 MARK QUESTIONS:** On the back of each mind-map write 2-4 12 mark questions and a **TRADEC** plan for your answer to each. This helps you to form reasoned opinions about each topic and so to prepare to argue well in the exam.
5. **PRACTICE FULL EXAM QUESTIONS:** Have a go at some of the practice exam questions included in this pack, preferably under timed conditions – 25 minutes for a full a-e question, about 1 minute per mark.
6. **(SELF) ASSESS YOUR WORK:** Use the marking criteria in this pack to identify the level of your work and make targets for improvement. Check your facts against your exercise book or the textbook to make sure that your knowledge is accurate.
7. **DEVELOP NEW EXAM QUESTIONS:** Using the specification summary in this pack and your exercise books, create new potential exam-questions. Get them checked by a teacher and then repeat steps 3 & 4.

GUIDANCE ON ANSWERING 12 MARK QUESTIONS

We recommend using the [TRADE C structure to answer 12 mark questions](#). This helps you to develop an argument and start *evaluating* different points of view rather than just *describing* them. This is what you must do to access Levels 3-4 (7-12 marks). If you are viewing this guide online, this link takes you to a video explaining how to use TRADE C (otherwise google "Charlotte Vardy GCSE")

NB: You have only 12 minutes to tackle these questions in the exam, so keep your answers tightly focussed on the question, picking up on any key-words.

THESIS:

This is the point that your argument is going to make, your point of view or answer to the question. The Thesis should avoid using "I" or "This essay will argue" – just rephrase the question

X DON'T WRITE "I think it is not irrational to believe in Jesus' resurrection"

✓ WRITE "It is not irrational to believe in Jesus resurrection"

REASONS:

Because... because... because... follow your Thesis with at least 3

reasons in support, including EVIDENCE (i.e. quotes, examples) to support each.

AGREE:

Include at least one person, group or denomination who would take this view & explain why.

DISAGREE:

Explain who would disagree with your thesis & explain why, giving as many REASONS as possible and EVIDENCE as & where possible.

EVALUATE:

Explain why this view is mistaken / why you disagree with it, giving reasons & EVIDENCE in support.

CONCLUSION:

Write "In conclusion..." then restate your Thesis and main reason(s). Acknowledge the limitations and/or implications of your argument.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

- Part a) 1 mark questions – 1 mark for the correct answer in the multi-choice
- Part b) 2 mark questions – 1 mark each for two correct words, phrases or short points.
- Part c) 4 mark questions – 1 mark each for two simple correct points or two marks each for two correct points explained in detail.
- Part d) 5 mark questions – 1 mark each for two simple correct points or two marks each for two correct points explained in detail. 1 mark for a relevant and accurate reference to scripture or sacred writing.
- Part e) 12 mark questions –

12 Mark Questions: AO2 Levels of Response

Examiners must read the WHOLE response and then decide which of these levels best describes the work. They then decide what mark to award.

LEVEL 4 **A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.** **10-12**

Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.

LEVEL 3 **Reasoned consideration of different points of view.** **7-9**

Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.

LEVEL 2 **Reasoned consideration of a point of view.** **4-6**

A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.
OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence.

LEVEL 1 **Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.** **1-3**

LEVEL 0 **Nothing worthy of credit.** **0**

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) – (12 mark questions ONLY)

High performance (4-5 marks)

- Learners spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy
- Learners use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall
- Learners use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate

Threshold performance (1 mark)

- Learners spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy
- Learners use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall
- Learners use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate

Intermediate performance (2-3 marks)

- Learners spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy
- Learners use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall
- Learners use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate

No marks awarded (0 marks)

- The learner writes nothing or the learner's response does not relate to the question
- Errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning

Islam

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

Ablution

Ritual washing in Islam. The Arabic term is wudu.

Adalat

The concept of justice in Shi'a Islam

Adam

One of the prophets of Allah. The father of humankind. He built the Ka'aba.

Allah

The Islamic name for God.

Akhirah

Belief in life after death.

Angels

They are spiritual beings created from elements of light. They gave Gods messages to the prophets and watch over humans.

Arafat

A plain near to Makkah where pilgrims gather to worship, pray and ask for forgiveness. This takes place on the ninth day of the Islamic month, the day before Eid ul Adha.

Ashura

A very important festival in Shi'a Islam, occurring on 10th Muharram. Shi'a Muslims commemorate the martyrdom of Hussein (Muhammad's grandson). Ashura is observed by Sunni Muslims for a different reason, as a day of repentance for sins in the belief that they will be forgiven.

Authority

As the direct Word of Allah, the Qur'an has supreme authority. This means its truths must be believed and its commands obeyed.

Beneficence

Literally 'doing good'. One of the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah, it refers to the generosity that Allah shows to humans.

Day of Judgement

The day when Allah will decide about individual deeds, good and bad, and on reward or punishment.

Fairness

This refers to Allah's justice. He treats all humans equally and as they deserve.

Fasting

Not eating or drinking. It refers especially to sawm, which is the 4th of the Five Pillars. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

The Five Pillars

The Five Pillars observed by Sunni Muslims which support Islam by encouraging the development of good character, attitude and behaviour. These are shahadah, salah, zakah, sawm and hajj.

The five roots of Usul ad-Din

The foundations of the faith in Shi'a Islam. They consist of five key beliefs: Tawhid(the Oneness of Allah), Adalat (justice), prophethood (nubuwwah), imamate (leadership).

Friday prayer

Jummah. Friday prayers in the mosque, where a sermon (khutbah) is heard.

Giving alms

A key practice in Islam. Zakah is the 3rd of the Five Pillars. Giving alms means giving to those in need, e.g. money, food, time.

The Gospel

The term means 'good news' and it is the good news about Isa (Jesus), one of the prophets of Islam. It was written down by his disciples.

Greater jihad

This refers to the duty of every Muslim to live a good life, staying faithful to the beliefs and obeying the commands of Islam.

Hajj

Annual pilgrimage to Makkah, which all Muslims must undertake at least once in their lives, unless prevented by problems over wealth or health. The 5th of the Five Pillars.

Heaven

Referred to by Muslims as paradise. It is Allah's reward after death to those who have been faithful to Allah and who have repented of their sins.

Hell

It is a place of great suffering after death for those who have rejected the Qur'an's teachings and have led a wicked life. For some it will last forever.

Human accountability

The belief that everyone must take responsibility for their actions and will be questioned about them on the Day of Judgement.

Human freedom

Humans have control over their thoughts, feelings and actions.

Human responsibility

Humans are responsible for most of what they do because they have free will and so will be accountable on the Day of Judgement.

Ibrahim

One of the prophets of Allah. He rebuilt the Ka'aba.

Id-ul-Adha

Celebration of the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for Allah. It comes at the end of the period of hajj.

Id-ul-Fitr

A celebration that comes at the end of Ramadan and marks the end of fasting.

The imamate

It means 'leadership' and refers in Shi'a Islam to the twelve imams who succeeded Muhammad as the leaders of Islam.

Immanence

The belief that Allah is close to humanity and involved in the world.

Islam

The name of the religion followed by Muslims. To surrender to the will of God. Peace.

Jibril

The most important of the angels and spoke with many of the prophets of Allah. Jibril dictated the Qur'an to Muhammad. On Judgement Day he will assist with the weighing of a person's deeds.

Jihad

'To struggle'. It refers to the effort made to obey Allah.

Jumma

Weekly communal salah performed after midday on a Friday.

Justice

Bringing about what is right, fair, according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed.

The Ka'aba

The black covered cube-shaped building in the centre of the grand mosque in Makkah. All Muslims face towards it when they pray.

Khums

This is a practice in Shi'a Islam. It is a 20% tax on annual surplus income and is given to the poor and to religious leaders.

Lesser jihad

This refers to the military struggle to defend Islam. It is carried out according to strict and clear cut rules.

Life after death

Akhirah. Muslims believe that death is not the end.

Makkah

The city where Muhammad was born. The spiritual centre of Islam, it is in Saudi Arabia.

Mercy

One of Allah's 99 Beautiful Names. It refers to Allah's willingness to forgive the sins of those who repent.

Mika'il

One of the most important angels. He gives spiritual and material help to humans. On Judgement Day he will assist with the weighing of a person's deeds.

Mina

Place to be visited on hajj – stoning of pillars.

Mosque

The Muslim place of worship.

Muslim

One who has submitted to the will of Allah and has accepted Islam.

Muzdalifah

Place where pilgrims hold a night prayer and rest during hajj, after the Stand on Mount Arafat.

Muhammad

The last and greatest of the prophets of Allah. He received the Qur'an and his Sunnah and Hadiths are also important sources of authority.

The Night of Power

The name for the night on which Muhammad received the first revelations of the Qur'an.

Omnipotence

One of the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah. It refers to Allah's ability to do anything.

The Oneness of God

Tawhid. It refers to the unity of Allah. Islam is a monotheistic religion.

Pilgrimage

A journey made for religious reasons.

Predestination

This is the idea that everything that happens has been decided already by Allah.

Prophethood

Risalah. Channel of communication with God. Three prophets are set for study: Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.

The Psalms

Sacred prayers/poems written by King Dawud (David) who was himself a prophet of Allah.

The Qur'an

The Holy Book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by the angel Jibril. Allah's final revelation to humankind.

Rak'ahs

Actions made during salah consisting of recitations, standing, bowing and prostration.

Ramadan

Month during which fasting from dawn to sunset is demanded (ninth month of the Islamic calendar).

Recitations

Acts of reciting from memory texts from the Qur'an.

Resurrection

After death, all people will be raised from the dead to face Allah's judgement. This is a physical resurrection.

Revelation

Allah shows his nature and his will to believers through the words of the Qur'an.

Risalah

Prophethood. The channel of communication between Allah and humanity. Three prophets are set for study: Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.

Salah

Prayer to and worship of Allah, performed under the conditions set by the Prophet Muhammad – five times a day. The 2nd of the Five Pillars.

Sawm

Fasting from dawn to dusk during Ramadan; sex and smoking are banned when the believer is engaged in this. The 4th of the Five Pillars.

The Scrolls of Abraham

These were individual revelations to Ibrahim that were written on parchment but have perished. They were given on the first day of Ramadan and consisted of stories.

The Shahadah

Muslim declaration of faith. It is a statement of faith in Allah as the only God and in Muhammad as Allah's prophet. The 1st of

the Five Pillars for Sunni Muslims. In Shi'a Islam it is not a separate Pillar and it has two additional statements relating to Ali as beloved of Allah and the rightful trustee and successor of Muhammad.

Shi'a Islam

Muslims who believe in the Imamah, successorship of Ali.

Surah

A division (chapter) of the Qur'an. There are 114 in all.

Sunni Islam

Muslims who believe in the successorship of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali.

Tawhid

The oneness and unity of Allah. Islam is a monotheistic religion.

The Ten Obligatory Acts

These are requirements for Shi'a Muslims. They include salah, sawm, zakah, hajj and jihad (duties also for Sunni Muslims) but the final five are not part of the Sunni tradition.

The Torah

This was given by Allah to Musa (Moses), who was a prophet of Allah. It was given on Mt. Sinai.

Wudu

Ablution. Ritual washing performed before salah and also when purification is needed.

Zakah

The 3rd of the Five Pillars. It consists of the giving of alms to purify those who give it and the rest of their money.

Useful Quotations

Islam

"This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt, containing guidance for those who are mindful of God." Qur'an 2:2

"This is a truly glorious Qur'an [written] on a preserved tablet" Qur'an 85:21-22

"We sent Jesus, son of Mary, in their footsteps to confirm the Torah that had been sent before him. We gave him the Gospel..." Qur'an 5:46

"Say, "He is God, the One, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was He begotten. No one is comparable to Him." Qur'an 112:1-4

"You who believe, obey God and the Messenger." Qur'an 4:59

"Misfortunes can only happen with God's permission." Qur'an 64:11

"Only what God has decreed will happen to us. He is our Master. Let the believers put their trust in God." Qur'an 9:51

"God does not change the condition of a people [for the worse] unless they change what is in themselves." Qur'an 13:11

"Those who believe, do good deeds, keep up the prayer and pay the prescribed alms will have their reward with the Lord. Qur'an 2:227

"The most excellent Names belong to God; use them to call on Him." Qur'an 7:180

"He is with you wherever you are." Qur'an 57:4

"There is no God but Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him; He is in charge of everything." Qur'an 6:102-103

"Praise be to God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, who made angels messengers with two, three, four pairs of wings." Qur'an 35:1

"Each person has angels before him and behind him, watching over him by God's command." Qur'an 13:11

"Every community if sent a messenger, and when the messenger comes they will be judged justly; they will not be wronged." Qur'an 10:47

"One of his signs is that He created you from dust and – lo and behold! – you became human and scattered far and wide." Qur'an 30:20

"He first created man from clay... Then he moulded him; he breathed from His Spirit into him; He gave you hearing, sight and minds..." Qur'an 32:7, 9

"He taught Adam all the names [of things], then He showed them to the angels..." Qur'an 2:31-32

"God took Abraham as a friend." Qur'an 4:125

"Muhammad is not the father of any one of you men; he is God's messenger and the seal of the prophets; God knows everything." Qur'an 33:40

"They will find everything they ever did laid in front of them; your Lord will not be unjust to anyone." Qur'an 18:49

"They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing." Qur'an 56:42-44

"Garments of fire will be tailored for those who disbelieve." Qur'an 22:19-22

"beautiful-eyed maidens like hidden pearls; a reward for what they used to do Qur'an 56:16-24

"You who believe, when you are about to pray, wash your faces... and if required wash your whole body" Qur'an 5:6

"So woe to those who pray but are heedless of their prayer." Qur'an 107:4-5

"Your Lord says "Call on me and I will answer you"". Qur'an 40:60

"Believers! When the call to prayer is made on the day of congregation, hurry towards the reminder of God and leave off your trading." Qur'an 62:9

"Read! In the name of your God who created... who taught man what he did not know!" Qur'an 96:1-5

"What will explain what the Night of Glory is? The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months." Qur'an 97:2-3

"It was in the month of Ramadan that the Qur'an was revealed as guidance for mankind... So any one of you who is present that month should fast." Qur'an 2:18

"God is well aware of whatever good that you do." Qur'an 2:215

"Alms are meant only for the poor, the needy." Qur'an 9:60

"Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it." Qur'an 3:97

"Safa and Marwa are among the rites of God, so for those who make major or minor pilgrimage to the House, it is no offence to circulate between the two." Qur'an 2:158

"This is my path, leading straight, so follow it." Qur'an 6:153

"God is most forgiving and merciful" Qur'an 2:218

PRACTICE GCSE QUESTIONS:

ISLAM: BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS

- a) Which word refers to the Oneness of Allah? (1)
a. Akirah b. Tawhid c. Risalah d. Iblis
- b) Give two qualities that Muslims believe that Allah has. (2)
- c) Explain how belief in Predestination affects the lives of Muslims today. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about Life After Death. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Muhammad is the only prophet that matters!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Who built the Ka'aba? (1)
a. Muhammad b. Iblis c. Ibrahim d. Adam
- b) Give two Muslim beliefs about Ibrahim. (2)
- c) Explain how belief in Muhammad as seal of the Prophets affects the lives of Muslims today. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about the Qur'an. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Allah is responsible for human suffering: He cannot be beneficent!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
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- a) For Shia Muslims, which word refers to Allah's justice? (1)
a. Adalat b. Bismillah c. Usul ad-Din d. Ashura
- b) Give two Muslim beliefs about Angels. (2)
- c) Explain how belief in the revelation of the Qur'an affects the lives of Muslims today. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about Muhammad. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Ali was the true successor of the Prophet!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
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- a) Which word refers to the Prophet's journey from Makkah to Medinah? (1)
a. Haram b. Hijrah c. Hafiz d. Hadith
- b) Give two Shia beliefs about the Imamate. (2)
- c) Explain how teaching against idol-worship affects the lives of Muslims today. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about human freedom. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Allah is beyond human imagination or experience!" Evaluate this statement. (12)

PRACTICE GCSE QUESTIONS:

ISLAM: PRACTICES

- a) Which word means fasting? (1)
a. Zakah b. Salah c. Hajj d. Sawm
- b) Give two duties (Obligatory Acts) that only Shia Muslims accept. (2)
- c) Explain how Salah affects the lives of Muslims in Britain today. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about Zakah. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Ashura is the most important Muslim festival" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which is NOT a place Muslims visit on the Hajj? (1)
a. Well of Zamzam b. Mina c. Arafat d. Dome of the Rock
- b) Give two conditions for a Holy War in Islam. (2)
- c) Explain how belief in the importance of the greater Jihad would affect the lives of Muslims today. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about Salah. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Hajj is just an excuse for a holiday!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
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- a) Which word relates to the white/plain clothing Muslims wear on Hajj? (1)
a. Ishmael b. Ihram c. Iblis d. Ibrahim
- b) Give two of the five Arabic names for main prayer-times. (2)
- c) Explain how Muslims pray in a mosque. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about Jihad. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "Muslims should give more than 2.5% of their income to support the poor." Evaluate this statement. (12)
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- a) Which word refers to the 20% excess income that Shia Muslims give in charity? (1)
a. Zakah b) Ashura c) Khums d) Salah
- b) Give two things that this Shia charity-money can be spent on. (2)
- c) Explain how Muslims show their respect for the Qur'an. (4)
- d) Explain Muslim teaching about the Hajj. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
- e) "There is no need to attend mosque; Muslims can pray just as well at home." Evaluate this statement. (12)

Christianity

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

Ascension

The event 40 days after the Resurrection, when Jesus returned to God, the Father, in heaven, recorded in Luke 24 and Acts 1.

Atonement

Literally 'at-one-ment', it refers to the reconciliation between God and humanity that was sealed by the sacrificial death of Jesus.

Baptism

The sacrament through which people become members of the Church. Baptism involves the use of water as a symbol of the washing away of sin. It is a rite of initiation.

Believers' baptism

Initiation into the Church, by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony/rite and willing to live a Christian life. Some denominations prefer this to infant baptism. This form of baptism contains many similarities to the baptism of Jesus.

Bible

Sacred book for Christians containing both the Old and New Testaments.

Catholic

The tradition within the Christian Church which is led by the Pope.

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

A Christian charity that provides emergency and long-term aid to the developing world.

Christ

The leader promised by God to the Jews. The word literally means 'Anointed One' in Greek; the Hebrew equivalent is Messiah. Christians believe Jesus to be the Christ.

Christian

Someone who believes in Jesus Christ and follows the religion based on his teachings.

Christian Aid

A Christian charity that provides emergency and long-term aid to the developing world.

Christmas

The Feast Day commemorating the birth of Jesus (25 December in most Churches).

Church

The Holy People of God, also called the Body of Christ, among whom Christ is present and active.

Members of a particular Christian denomination/tradition.

A building in which Christians worship.

Creation

Christians believe that the world is God's loving creation.

Crucifixion

Roman method of execution by which criminals were fixed to a cross.

The execution and death of Jesus on Good Friday.

Easter

The religious season celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It starts on Easter Day and finishes with the feast of Pentecost.

Eucharist

Literally 'thanksgiving'. Another name for Holy Communion and a service in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated, using bread and wine. Thanks are given to God for his creation of the world, for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and for the bread and wine which many Christians refer to as Jesus' Body and Blood.

Evangelism

Preaching the gospel (the good news about God) to convert people to the Christian faith.

Evil

The opposite of good. A force that is seen in many traditions as destructive and against God.

The Father

The first Person of the Trinity, the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Food banks

This relates to Christian charities collecting donated food to distribute to the poor in Britain.

Grace

The unconditional and generous love that God shows to people who do not deserve it.

Heaven

The state after death of being with and enjoying eternity with God

Hell

The place of eternal suffering or the state after death of separation from God for those who want no relationship with him.

Holy Communion

Another name for the Eucharist in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine.

Holy Spirit

The third person of the Holy Trinity who descended like a dove on Jesus at his baptism. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is present and inspires them.

Incarnation

Literally 'in flesh', or 'enfleshed', the doctrine that God took the human form as Jesus.

Infant baptism

Initiation of babies and young children into the Church, where promises are taken on their behalf by adults. The infant is freed from sin and introduced to the saving love of God and the support of the Christian community.

Informal prayer

This takes the form of extempore prayer, consisting of spontaneous prayers spoken from the heart as opposed to the use of set prayers.

Informal worship

Worship which has no set structure. It is usually spontaneous and sometimes charismatic in nature.

Iona

An island on the west coast of Scotland founded by Columba in the 4th century. It is used by Christians today as a centre for pilgrimage and religious retreat.

Jesus

First century Jewish teacher and holy man, believed by Christians to be the Son of God.

Judgement

When God decides whether each person should receive eternal life or eternal punishment.

Just

This refers to the nature of God as one who treats each individual human being fairly and equally.

Liturgical worship

A church service which follows a set structure or ritual.

Law

This refers to the law of God, revealed in the Bible, which Christians are called to obey. St Paul made it clear, however, that salvation is not earned by obedience to the law but is God's free gift.

Lourdes

A town in France, where the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a series of visions, and now a place of pilgrimage, where it is claimed that miraculous healings have taken place.

Lord's Prayer

The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus; also known as the 'Our Father'.

Mission

Literally 'sent out'. It refers to the duty of Christians to spread the gospel (the good news about Jesus).

Non-liturgical worship

A service which does not follow a set text or ritual. This type of worship is sometimes spontaneous or charismatic in nature.

Omnipotent

The belief that God is 'all powerful'.

The Oneness of God

The belief that God is 'One'.

Original sin

The traditional belief that is still held by some Christians that human nature is basically flawed, and so humans have a tendency to go against God's will. Christians who think that the Bible is literally true believe that it has been passed down from Adam and Eve.

Orthodox

The most popular Christian tradition in some parts of Eastern Europe. There are two main Orthodox Churches – Greek and Russian.

Persecution

Throughout the centuries and still in some parts of the world, Christians face punishment and even death for adherence to their faith.

Pilgrimage

A journey by a Christian to a holy site, eg Lourdes, Iona. Pilgrimage is itself an act of worship and devotion.

Prayer

Communicating with God through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession, or requests for his help or guidance. Listening to and speaking to God.

Private worship

A believer giving God praise and worship on his or her own.

Protestant

The Churches that 'protested' against and broke away from the Catholic Church during the Reformation. Services are generally based more closely on the Bible than those of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

Reconciliation

The process of restoring harmony after relationships between people has broken down. A sacrament in the Roman Catholic and some Anglican Churches.

Resurrection

The event celebrated on Easter Day of Jesus rising from the dead, an event recorded in all four gospels and the central belief of Christianity. The form that many Christians believe the afterlife will take,

referring to either physical or spiritual bodies.

Sacrament

The outward and visible sign of an invisible and spiritual grace. Baptism and the Eucharist are recognised as sacraments by most Christians.

Salvation

Saving the soul and deliverance from sin and admission to heaven brought about by Jesus.

Set prayers

These are prayers written throughout the centuries by Christian holy men and women, which many Christians use. The Lord's Prayer is an example of a set prayer.

Sin

Behaviour which is against God's laws and wishes/against principles of morality. A thought, word or action which is wrong, which people know is wrong and which people freely choose.

The Son

The second Person of the Trinity. This is Jesus, in whom God became incarnate.

Son of God

A title used for Jesus, the second person in the Trinity; denotes the special relationship between Jesus and God.

Sources of wisdom and authority

Christians believe that the Bible, religious leaders and statements of belief, eg the Apostles' Creed, should be respected as conveying deep religious truths.

Street pastors

A Christian organisation consisting of people who work mainly at night on city streets, caring for those who need help.

Suffering

When people have to face and live with unpleasant events or conditions.

Tearfund

A Christian charity that provides emergency and long-term aid to the developing world.

Trinity

The belief that there are three Persons in the One God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are separate, but are also one being.

Word

St John's Gospel 1 describes God creating the world through his Word and links this to Jesus in the statement: 'The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us'.

Worship

Offering to God the praise that he is due. This may be done in public or in private worship.

Useful Quotations

Christianity

"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

"Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but shall have eternal life." John 3:16

"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 face of the waters. And God said "Let there be light..." Genesis 1:1-3

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God from the beginning. Through Him all things were made and without Him was not anything made that was made. " John 1:1-3

"The Word became flesh (INCARNATION) and made His dwelling amongst us, full of grace and Truth." John 1:14

"I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen." Nicene Creed

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Lord's Prayer

"Love is patient, love is kind... it always perseveres. Love never fails" 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"This is how the birth of Jesus came about. His Mother, Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:18

"Again the High Priest asked him; "Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one? "I AM" said Jesus." Mark 14:61-62

"You may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." John 21:31

"When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven said "You are my Son" Mark 1:11

"Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father into your hands I commend my spirit." When he had said this, He breathed his last." Luke 23:46

"Surely this man was the Son of God." Mark 15:39

"When He had led them to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." Luke 24:50-51

"So it will 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

"He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end." Apostles' Creed

"I am the way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father, except through me." John 14:6

"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 drink..." Matthew 25:33-34

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:21

"If anybody does sin, we advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning Sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:1-2

PRACTICE GCSE QUESTIONS:

CHRISTIANITY: BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS

- a) Which word means all-powerful? (1)
 - a. Omnibenevolent
 - b. Omnipresent
 - c. Omnipotent
 - d. Omniscient
 - b) Give two persons of the Trinity. (2)
 - c) Explain how belief in God as judge influences Christians today. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teachings about sin. You must refer to Sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "Only Christians can go to heaven!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Christians DON'T believe that Jesus was... (1)
 - a. Just a prophet
 - b. The Word of God
 - c. The Son of God
 - d. The Messiah
 - b) Give the two Gospels which contain Nativity Stories. (2)
 - c) Explain how belief in the Incarnation influences Christians today. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teachings about Jesus' role in salvation. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "It is irrational to believe that Jesus rose from the dead!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) The word which refers to the intermediate place of waiting in the afterlife is... (1)
 - a. Hell
 - b. Heaven
 - c. Purgatory
 - d. Paradise
 - b) Give two ways in which Christians describe Hell. (2)
 - c) Explain how belief in salvation influences Christians today. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teaching about the Atonement. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (12)
 - e) "Being a good person is more important than going to Church!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which word refers to the sin people inherit from Adam? (1)
 - a. Mortal Sin
 - b. Venial Sin
 - c. Original Sin
 - d. Human Sin
 - b) Give two Christian beliefs about creation. (2)
 - c) Explain how belief in God as all-powerful influences Christians today. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teachings about the origins of evil and suffering. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "The Trinity is a confusing and unhelpful way of thinking about God!" Evaluate this statement. (12)

PRACTICE GCSE QUESTIONS

CHRISTIANITY: PRACTICES

- a) Which Church does NOT practice infant baptism? (1)
 - a. Anglican
 - b. Roman Catholic
 - c. Eastern Orthodox
 - d. Baptist
 - b) Give two Christian sacraments. (2)
 - c) Explain how taking Holy Communion influences the life of a Christian. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian beliefs about the importance of the Church. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "The UK isn't really a Christian country any more!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which is a Christian Aid Organisation, working to end poverty. (1)
 - a. CAFOD
 - b. Greenpeace
 - c. Oxfam
 - d. Amnesty International
 - b) Give two ways in which a Christian might make disciples. (2)
 - c) Explain how a Christian might celebrate Easter. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teachings about the Eucharist. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) There is no need to go to Church; Christians can pray just as well at home. Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which is a prayer-aid used by Roman Catholic Christians. (1)
 - a. Chewing gum
 - b. Rosary
 - c. Mantra
 - d. Icon
 - b) Give two ways in which Christians worship in a Church. (2)
 - c) Explain how the Lord's Prayer influences the lives of Christians today. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teachings about ending Global Poverty. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) Religion should be a private matter; it is wrong to evangelize. Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which is NOT another name for Holy Communion? (1)
 - a. Eucharist
 - b) Lord's Supper
 - c) Reconciliation
 - d) Divine Liturgy
 - b) Give TWO ways in which a Christian can pray at home. (2)
 - c) Explain the Christian symbolism of TWO aspects of typical British Christmas celebrations. (4)
 - d) Explain Christian teachings about being a disciple. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "The Church is irrelevant in the 21st Century world." Evaluate this statement. (12)

Thematic Studies

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

Theme A: Relationships and families

Adultery

A sexual relationship between a couple not married to each other, but married to/in relationship with others (affair).

Age of consent

According to the law, the age at which a person is considered old enough to give consent to have sex.

Annulment

Cancellation of a marriage in Roman Catholic tradition, as if marriage never was.

Civil marriage

Non-religious marriage.

Civil partnership

Legal union of two people of same gender; now of equality with heterosexual marriage in all respects.

Commitment

Making a promise or pledge, in this case, in marriage.

Celibacy

Not having sexual relations.

Chastity

Sexual purity, eg not having sex before marriage.

Cohabitation

Where a couple live together without being married/in civil partnership.

Contraception

Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy and to protect against contracting/transmitting STIs (sexually transmitted infections).

Contract

A binding agreement between two sides.

Covenant

An agreement based on promises between two sides, here in marriage where the agreement is made before God (as a witness) and with God (as a partner).

Divorce

Legal ending of a marriage.

Extended family

Family unit comprising mother, father and children, but also grandparents, cousins etc.

Family planning

Planning when to have a family and how big a family to have by use of birth control practices and/or contraception.

Gender discrimination

Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender.

Gender equality

Belief that both genders have equal status and value, so discrimination against either is wrong.

Gender prejudice

The belief that one gender is 'better' than the other.

Heterosexuality

Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the opposite gender.

Homosexuality

Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the same gender.

Nuclear family

Family unit made up of mother, father and their child(ren).

Polygamy

The practice of one man having several wives; legal under Shariah law (up to four wives, given specific circumstances).

Procreation

Having a child; seen as a duty in many religions.

Remarriage

Marriage for the second time, after divorce ending an earlier marriage.

Responsibility

Duties; what a person has to do as part of the agreement they have made, or role they have taken on.

Single parent family

Family unit in which child(ren) and one parent, either mum or dad, live together.

Vows

Promises made by bride and groom during marriage ceremony.

Theme B: Religion and life

Abortion

Deliberate ending of a pregnancy, intended to prevent new life.

Afterlife

Beliefs about what happens to 'us' after our body has died.

Animal rights

Belief that animals should be treated with respect, so have rights to adequate food/water/shelter/rest/freedom.

Awe

Sense of wonderment, often linked to the feeling that God is involved/revealed.

Big Bang Theory

Scientific theory about the origins of the universe – that the universe was created in a huge explosion.

Charles Darwin

The man who proposed the theory of evolution (19th century).

Creation

Belief that God created the world/universe from nothing, eg Genesis creation story.

Conception

Point at which sperm fertilises an egg to begin pregnancy.

Conservation

The practice of repairing/protecting the natural environment and/or animal species.

Dominion

Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world.

Environment

The world around us, can be natural or artificial.

Euthanasia

Mercy killing; ending the life of a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness. Can be voluntary (person seeks this), or non-voluntary (person is on life support so family makes decision). Can be active (what is done kills directly), or passive (medical support removed to allow natural death).

Evolution

Scientific theory of the development of species, which comprises natural selection and survival of the fittest.

Fossil fuels

Coal, oil, gas – fuels that developed over millions of years beneath the earth's surface.

Hospice

Place of medical care for the dying, but which also gives emotional support to the dying and their families.

Natural resources

Resources which are found in nature – fossil fuels, plants etc.

Pesticide

Chemicals used to kill pests, especially on farmed crops.

Pro-life

Stance of being anti-abortion and/or anti-euthanasia; many pressure groups exist with this view, eg SPUC.

Pro-choice

Stance of being for a woman's right to decide what happens to her own body, which extends to the right to have an abortion.

Quality of life

How good or comfortable a person's life is.

Right to die

Belief that a human has the right to end their life, or seek it to be ended if they want that.

Sanctity of life

Belief that life is sacred/special, because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals.

Science

Knowledge that comes from observed regularity in nature and experimentation.

Stewardship

Duty given by God to mankind to look after the created world, and all life within it.

Sustainable energy

Resources that are renewable and will not run out, eg solar, wind, etc.

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation

Agnostic

Belief that there is insufficient evidence to say whether God exists or not.

All-compassionate

Characteristic of God; all-loving, omnibenevolent.

All-merciful

Characteristic of God; always forgiving and never vindictive.

Atheism

Belief that there is no God.

Benevolent

Characteristic of God; all-loving.

Conscience

Sense of right and wrong; seen as the voice of God within our mind by many religious believers.

Design argument

Also known as teleological argument. An argument purporting to prove God's existence by focusing on evidence of design in the world, which therefore proves the existence of a designer – God. One version put forward by William Paley in the 18th century.

First cause argument

An argument purporting to prove God's existence by logical argument that everything is caused by something else. This requires an uncaused cause, which must be God. One version put forward by Thomas Aquinas in 13th century.

General revelation

Indirect revelation; the idea of being able to see something of God through nature, for example.

Humanism

Belief system which excludes God, but focuses on the morally good behaviour of human beings.

Illusion

That something is not real, but a trick of the mind.

Immanent

Characteristic of God; at work in the world, involved in the creation, eg miracles.

Impersonal

Characteristic of God; beyond human understanding.

Miracle

An event that contradicts the laws of nature, so should be impossible, eg recovering from a terminal illness; usually attributed to God.

Omniscient

Characteristic of God; all-knowing.

Omnipotent

Characteristic of God; all-powerful.

Personal

Characteristic of God; relatable, humans can build close relationships with this God.

Polytheist

Belief that there are many gods/deities.

Reality

What is real, actual or provable by science.

Revelation

When God reveals Himself; can be special or general.

Science

The collection of knowledge from observation and testing.

Transcendent

Characteristic of God; beyond space and time, controlled by neither.

Ultimate reality

Hindu concept of God.

Vision

Seeing something which is not physically real.

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

Ageism

Discrimination against someone because of their age.

Community

A group of people who share a characteristic, eg the place they live.

Compassion

Loving kindness; attitude to help others simply because it is right to help.

Discrimination

Actions that come from prejudice.

Equality

Belief that everyone is equal in value and worth.

Fair pay

Payment that is appropriate for the work done.

Gender

Being male or female.

Harmony

Living together in society without argument/conflict.

Human rights

The rights a person should be entitled to simply by being a human being, eg education, fair treatment etc.

Human Rights Act

UK law which protects the rights of individuals and allows a challenge when these are breached.

Interest

Money paid back on loans aside from the original amount loaned.

Justice

Getting fairness; getting redress for unfairness.

Loan

Amount of money borrowed from a lender, usually paid back in installments with interest. Where excessive, the interest charged on the loan is extremely high (even unfairly so).

People trafficking

Illegal trade of humans for slavery, eg for sex and/or work.

Poverty

Having less than the basic needs of life, so that day-to-day living is a struggle.

Prejudice

Prejudging someone based on a characteristic they have, eg their ethnicity.

Racism

Prejudice against someone because of their ethnicity/skin colour.

Responsibility

Duty, eg the responsibility to work; to earn money for oneself.

Rights

What a person is entitled to, eg the right to education.

Sexuality

A person's sexual orientation, ie whether they are straight, gay, bisexual.

Social justice

Bringing justice to society so that all within a society have the same opportunities, and can take advantage of them; includes projects to improve the life situation of those at the poorest end of society, eg by educational support.

Stewardship

Duty to look after the world given by God to humans, which extends to looking after all life, including other humans.

Tolerance

Acceptance of difference rather than seeing it as a problem.

UN Declaration of Human Rights

A statement adopted by the United Nations (and all their signatories, including the UK) to protect human beings in specific regards.

Wealth

Money and possessions a person has, usually in such quantities as to give a very comfortable lifestyle.

PRACTICE GCSE QUESTIONS

THEMATIC STUDIES

THEME A: Relationships and Families

- a) Which of these words refers to the cancelling of a marriage?
a. Cohabitation b. Contraception c. Divorce d. Annulment
 - b) Give TWO examples of gender prejudice in contemporary Britain. (2)
 - c) Explain TWO similar religious beliefs about marriage. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about same-sex relationships. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "The main purpose of marriage is to have children." Evaluate this statement (12)
-
- a) Which of these refer to a means of preventing pregnancy?
a. Conception b. Contraception c. Annulment d. Divorce
 - b) Give TWO purposes of marriage, according to Christians (2)
 - c) Explain TWO different attitudes to divorce. One must be from the main religious tradition of the UK and the other from another religious tradition. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about the role of parents. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "Men and women are the same!" Evaluate this statement. (12)

Theme B: Religion and Life

- a) Which of these is a scientific theory about the origins of human beings.
a. Big Bang Theory b. 7 days of creation c. Adam and Eve d. Evolution
 - b) Give TWO reasons for which abortion is legal throughout pregnancy in England & Wales. (2)
 - c) Explain TWO different religious attitudes to euthanasia. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about Life after Death. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "Christians should do more to help the environment!" Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which of these is NOT a source of pollution. (1)
a. Power stations b. Forests c. Transport d. Agriculture
 - b) Give TWO causes of global warming. (2)
 - c) Explain TWO different religious attitudes to vegetarianism. One should be from the main religious tradition of the UK and another from another religious tradition. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about Abortion. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "People have the right to die with dignity!" Evaluate this statement. (12)

Theme C: Existence of God and Revelation

- a) Which of these is NOT an argument for God's existence? (1)
 - a. Design b. First cause c. Miracles d. Suffering
 - b) Give TWO types of revelation. (2)
 - c) Give TWO attitudes to Religious Experiences. One should be from the main religious tradition of the UK and the other from a non-religious tradition. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about the existence of evil and suffering in the world. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) Scripture is the best evidence for the existence of God. Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which of this means "all-powerful" (1)
 - a. Omnipotent b. Omnibenevolent c. Omniscient d. Immanent
 - b) Give TWO types of General Revelation. (2)
 - c) Explain TWO ways of accounting for order and purpose in nature. One must be from the main religious tradition of the UK and the other from a non-religious tradition. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO teachings about the origins of the universe. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) Miracles are a poor reason to believe in God. Evaluate this statement. (12)

Theme F: Human Rights and Social Justice

- a) Which of these means treating people fairly? (1)
 - a. Rights b. Discrimination c. Positive Discrimination d. Justice
 - b) Give TWO believers who have fought against racism. (2)
 - c) Explain TWO contrasting ways of combating poverty. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about religious freedom. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) "Disabled people should be treated exactly the same as able-bodied people." Evaluate this statement. (12)
-
- a) Which of these is NOT a human right? (1)
 - a. Life b. Freedom of religion c. Death d. Freedom of association
 - b) Give TWO ways in which Christians campaign for social justice. (2)
 - c) Explain TWO contrasting attitudes to freedom of religion. (4)
 - d) Explain TWO religious teachings about treating people of different sexualities equally. You must refer to sources of wisdom and authority in your answer. (5)
 - e) Slavery is a historical problem; it isn't a major issue in the 21st Century. Evaluate this statement. (12)

Useful Quotations

Theme A: Relationships

"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable." Leviticus 18:22

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own." 1 Corinthians 6:18-19

"Every sexual act must be within the framework of marriage." Roman Catholic Church, Casti Conubii, 1930

"You shall not commit adultery" Exodus 20:14

"You have heard it said "You shall not commit adultery" But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28

"He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." Mark 10:11-12

Here one learns endurance and the joy of work... love generous, and even repeated forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life." Catechism 1657

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially his own household, has denied the faith and is worse than the unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

"Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loves the Church and gave himself up for her...." Ephesians 5:25

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old." Proverbs 23:22

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." Psalm 127#

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." Colossians 3:20

"With painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you." Genesis 3:16

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

"Every sexual act should have the possibility of creating new life." Roman Catholic Church, Humanae Vitae, 1968

"The [Anglican Lambeth] Conference agrees that other methods [of contraception] may be used, provided this is done in the light of Christian principles." 1930

"That is why a man leaves his father and his mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh" Genesis 2:24

"God blessed them and said to them "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it." Genesis 1:28

"The [Church of England] sees marriage between a man and a woman as central to the stability and health of human society." House of Bishops General Synod

"The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin." Catechism 2390

"for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part, according to Gods holy law." Anglican wedding service.

Theme B: Life

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" Psalm 83:3-4

"For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." Romans 1:20

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves along the ground." Genesis 1:28

"The Earth is the LORD's and everything in it." Psalm 24:1

"Every human act of irresponsibility towards creatures is an abomination." Christian Assisi meeting declaration (1986)

"Everything that moves about will be food for you." Genesis 9:3

"Do not muzzle an ox when it is treading the grain." Deuteronomy 25:4

"The righteous care for their animals." Proverbs 12:10

"The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them." Romans 14:3

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God." Luke 12:6

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Jeremiah 1:5

"It does not matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to birth. In both instances, destruction is murder." Tertullian (Early Christian writer)

"You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13

"All people deserve compassion and care in their suffering and dying. Euthanasia and assisted suicide should not, however, be considered acceptable responses. They undermine human dignity and are morally wrong." The Salvation Army

"Blessed are the merciful" Matthew 5:7

"all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalm 139:16

Theme C: Existence of God & Revelation

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" Genesis 1:1

"In the absence of any other proof, my thumb alone would convince me of God's existence." Isaac Newton

"The big bang... does not contradict the divine act of creation; rather, it requires it." Pope Francis 2015

"When we read the creation story in Genesis we run the risk of imagining that God was a magician... but it is not so. He created beings and let them develop according to internal laws which he gave every one, so they would develop, so they would reach maturity." Pope Francis 2015
hen there is a prophet among you, I the LORD reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams." Numbers 12:6

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

*"Why do you ask me what is good?" Jesus asked.
"There is only One who is good. If you want to*

enter life, keep the commandments." Matthew 19:17

"For 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

"You have searched me and you know me LORD. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar." Psalm 139:1-2

"[A miracle is] a transgression of the laws of nature by particular volition of the deity or other invisible agent." David Hume

"God is neither something nor nothing." St Thomas Aquinas

"O God thou art that than which nothing greater can be imagined." St Anselm

"If God is omnipotent, omniscient and wholly good, whence evil? If God wills to prevent evil, but cannot, then he is not omnipotent. If he can prevent evil but does not, then he is not wholly good. In either case, he is not God." David Hume

Theme F: Rights & Justice

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." UN Declaration of Human Rights 1948

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." Romans 13:1

"There is no Jew or Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor male nor female. All are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

"Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not permitted to speak... for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the Church." 1 Corinthians 14:24-35

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom to change his religion or belief, and... to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observation." UN Declaration of Human Rights 1948

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them." Romans 16:17

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Mark 10:25

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Timothy 6:17

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40"

"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." 2 Thessalonians 3:10

"Do not exploit the poor because they are poor." Proverbs 22:22

Revision Tips

START EARLY!

By working consistently throughout the two year GCSE course and revising each module thoroughly as you complete it and again before the two sets of mock exams, you stand the best possible chance of meeting or ideally exceeding your target Level. Relying on last minute cramming is ineffective and usually leads to people underperforming.

1. Before each of the eight RS Module Tests...

- a) Make sure that your exercise book is 100% up-to-date with all activities, whether class-work or homework, complete and all sheets or booklets neatly stuck in.
- b) Try to make flash-cards for the key-words and quotations related to that topic; you can re-use these when it comes to mocks and final exams, making the task of revision much less time-consuming.
- c) Use the ZIG ZAG topic-on-a-page and revision worksheets to review and apply your knowledge.
- d) Go through the module using SENECA online revision; this lets you check and test your knowledge and adapts as you go to focus on areas that you are finding tricky to remember.

2. When it comes to the end of Year 10 RS exam and then the Mock RS GCSE exam...

- a) Complete a revision check-list, making sure you understand which modules will be on the exam and which topics each module breaks down into.
- b) Check that you have your exercise book(s) for these modules up to date and that you have the relevant flash-cards, Zig Zag resources and other revision materials in one place.
- c) Rate your understanding of the topics on your revision check list as GREEN (fully learned & understood), AMBER (some revision needed) and RED (area to focus on).
- d) Buy the AQA REVISION GUIDE (available for £6 from the RS department or online for £9.99). This has good topic summaries and useful exam-tips and practice GCSE questions for each module. Use the revision guide to revise RED topics first, then the AMBER topics.

3. In the run up to GCSE exams in Year 11...

- a) Complete a revision check list for the whole course and rate your understanding of topics GREEN, AMBER and RED (as above). Make a revision-plan and focus on the RED topics over the Easter Holidays, using the AQA REVISION GUIDE, your exercise books & ZIG ZAG sheets.
- b) Take part in SENECA online revision of the whole course, reviewing and testing your knowledge of every module. This will also help with the next revision task which is to...
- c) Gather your key-word and quotes flash-cards from all eight modules (or make them) and learn key-words and quotes. Sort through them, putting those you already know in one pile and those you don't know in the other. Learn the key-words and quotes you still don't know really thoroughly.
- d) Use this booklet to complete practice GCSE questions under timed conditions – a mark a minute, 25 minutes per a-e question.

Additional revision-resources, including digital copies of most PowerPoints, worksheets etc, videos and links to relevant websites at www.divinityphilosophy.net under AQA GCSE RS resources (password is staidansgcse)