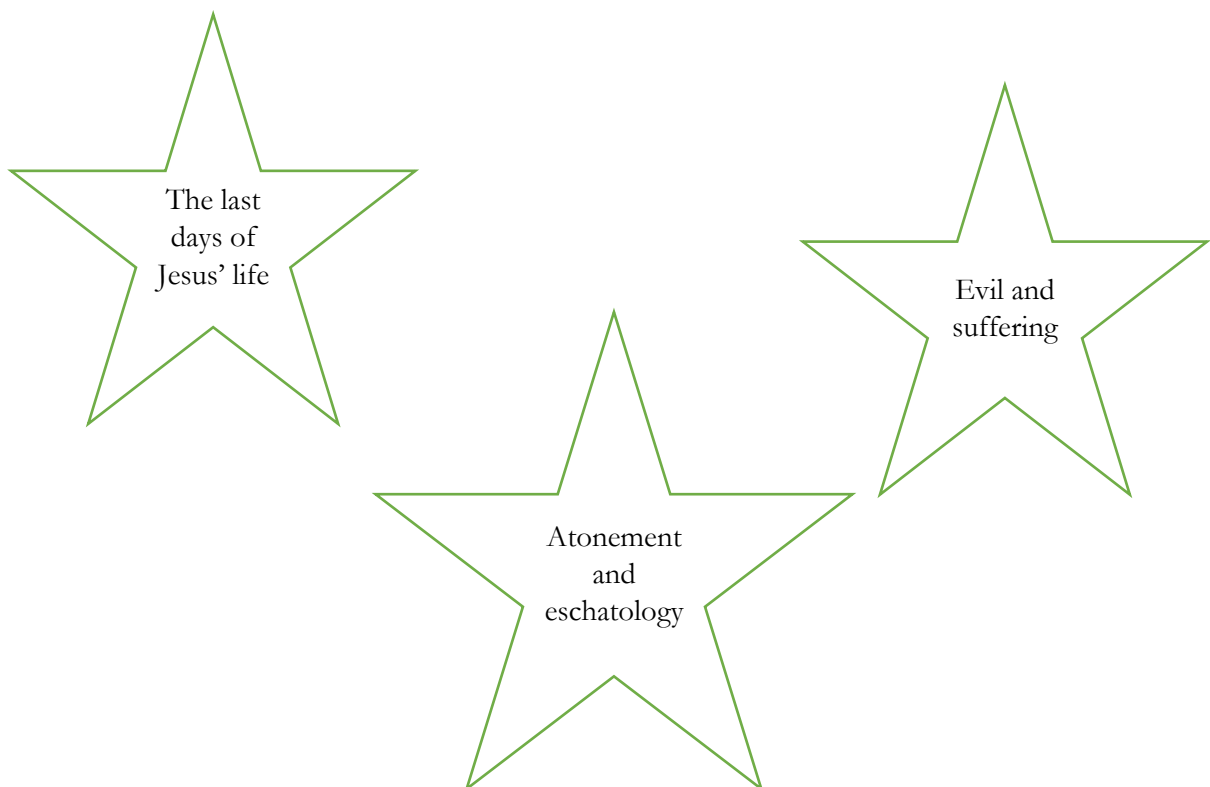


Name:

Christian beliefs



Christian beliefs – key terminology

Key word	Definition
Creed	Statement of Christian belief
Lords' prayer	The prayer Jesus taught his disciples that begins 'our father'
Holy communion	The Christian service of thanksgiving using bread and wine (Eucharist)
Liturgy	A set form of public worship
Anglicans	Members of the church of England or a church in communion with the church of England.
Free will	The idea that human beings are free to make their own choices
Ex nihilo	From nothing (God created the world from ex nihilo)
Self-knowledge	Knowing who you are and why you are here
Human dignity	The belief that humans are persons, not things and they have self-knowledge and free will
Stewardship	Looking after something so it can be passed on to the next generation
Incarnation	The belief that God took human form in Jesus
Virgin birth	Jesus was not conceived through sex
Gospels	The books of the bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
Theological	Academic study of God and religious ideas
Maundy	Refers to the washing of the disciples feet
Maundy Thursday	The day before Jesus was crucified
Prophesied	Predicted events in the future
Sanhedrin	Supreme religious authority in Israel at the time of Jesus
Blasphemy	Peaking disrespectfully about God
Apostles' Creed	A short statement of belief attributed to the disciples of Jesus
Ascension	The return pf Christ to heaven
Atonement	Reconciliation between God and humans
sacrament	An outward ceremony through which God's grace is given
omnipotent	All powerful
Omniscient	All knowing
omnibenevolent	All loving



Lesson one – Introducing Ethics, Religion, and life.



The history of Christianity:



Denominations of Christianity:



The history of the church:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



The structure of the Bible

	The law	History	
Old Testament			
	Poetry	Major prophets	Minor prophets
New Testament	Gospels	History	Paul's letters
	General letters	Prophecy	

- 1) How many books does the Old Testament contain?

- 2) How many books does the New Testament contain?

- 3) Which of the gospels of the New Testament is thought to have been written first?

- 4) How do Christians use the Bible in life and worship?

A denomination is a sub group within a religion and occurs as a result of a division in the church. Different Christian churches are often described as a denomination of Christianity. As Christianity grew, more division appeared and by the time Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire there were several different Christian groups. It is mainly divided into orthodox, catholic and protestant denominations.

Humanists reject the idea or belief in a supernatural being such as God. This means that humanists class themselves as agnostic or atheist.

Humanists have no belief in an afterlife, and so they focus on seeking happiness in this life. They rely on science for the answers to questions such as creation, and base their moral and ethical decision-making on reason, empathy and compassion for others.

Humanists are concerned with **human welfare** and **happiness** and believe that this is **the one and only life and world** they have.

As a result, they believe that people should make the most of their lives while on Earth. However, they also believe that they have a duty to support others to live fulfilling lives too – this includes people who are alive today as well as future generations.

Because humanists do not believe in any kind of God or supernatural force that will solve their problems, they believe that human beings must take sole responsibility for solving the world's environmental problems. Only humans are capable of finding the solutions that can lead to a sustainable existence.

Plenary quiz

1. How many books does the Old Testament contain?
2. List two ways that Christians use the bible during life and worship.
3. Do Humanists believe in a God?
4. What is one of the main focuses for Humanists to achieve in life?

Lesson two – The nature of God.

List as many attributes of God as you can:



What is Monotheism?

What is the Nicene Creed?

What does the following section of the Nicene Creed teach Christians about God?

'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty...We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God...begotten not made, one of Being with the Father...We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified'

What does the following section of Exodus teach Christians about God?

"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 [NIV]

Is God a man?

Is God physical?



Attribute of God	Definition

Quiz:

1. What does the term 'monotheistic' mean?
2. What is the Nicene Creed?
3. What religion does Christianity share some teachings with?
4. Give two characteristics of God.
5. Explain the term 'holy'.
6. Name the three main Christian denominations.
7. Give the definition of 'denomination'.

Lesson three – The Trinity.

What is the Trinity?

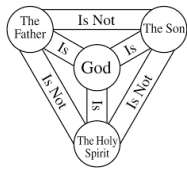


Diagram of the Trinity:

What does the Nicene Creed teach Christians about God?

Outline key beliefs and attributed of the Trinity in the boxes below.

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

What does the following source of authority teach Christians about the Trinity?

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked (Luke 4:21-22)

Not all Christians believe in the way the Nicene creed expresses the trinity.

- The church of Jesus latter-day saints (Mormons) believe that the father, son and holy ghost are not one in substance or essence; instead they are who are united in will and purpose, as one God/
- Jehovah's witnesses believe that Jesus was created by God and so is God's son; the holy spirit is God's power applied to the world and so it is not a person.
- Unitarians believe that there is one God and that
..... They believe that there is no difference between God and God the holy spirit.

How is the Trinity shown in worship?

Lesson four – Christian beliefs about creation

Do you think it matters how the earth started? Explain your answer.

What do Christians believe about God and creation?



What does the following quote teach Christians about creation?

"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 [NIV]

The creation story:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |

What does the following quotes teach Christians about creation?

'He (the Word) was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made'.

John 1:2-3

'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them'.

Genesis 1:27

What is stewardship?



1. What does dominion mean?
2. What part of the story tells Christians about dominion?
3. According to Christians, why did God put humans on Earth?



Recap:

- 1) List three things that happened in the creation story.
- 2) What does dominion mean?
- 3) What does stewardship mean?

Lesson five – Creation and different interpretations

Starter:

Do you agree with the creation story as told in Genesis?



What are the varying accounts of Genesis?

What does it say in Genesis 2?



What are the main differences in the two accounts?

Literalists	Conservatives	Liberals

Why is the creation story important for Christians?

Lesson six – The incarnation

Key terminology:

Incarnation: becoming flesh, taking human form.

Resurrection: 1. rising from the dead; 2. Jesus rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. An event recorded in all four gospels and the central belief of Christianity.

Blasphemy: a religious offence which includes claiming to be God.

Hypostatic Union: The union (combination) of Jesus' humanity and divinity in the one person.

Gospels: The books of the New Testament in the bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



What is the incarnation?



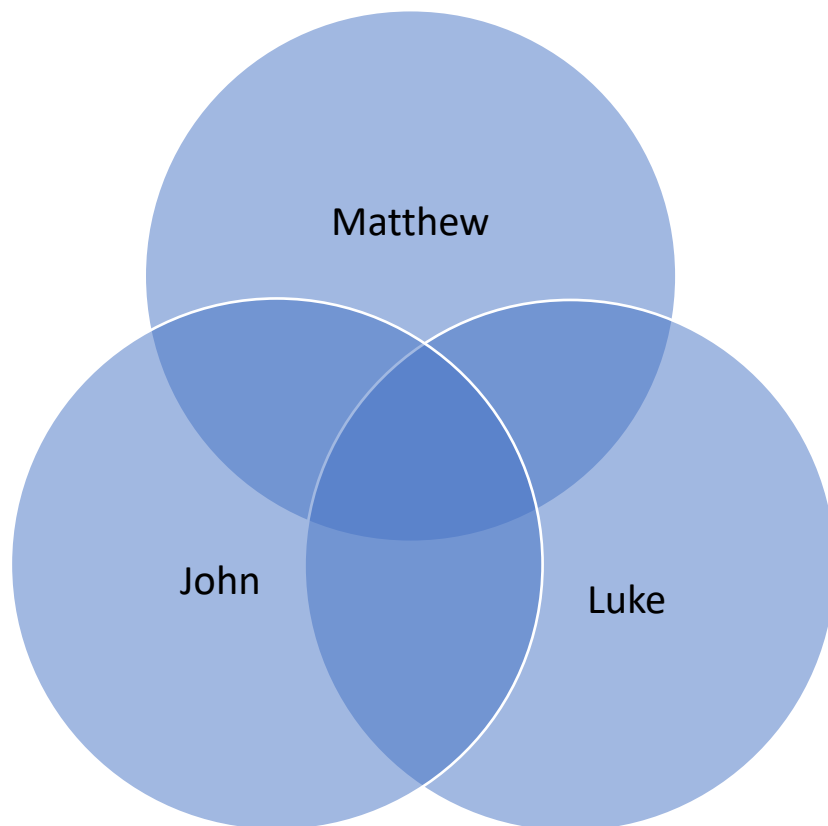
What do the gospels say about the incarnation?

Do you agree that the belief in the incarnation is more important than the details of the Christmas story? Explain why.

What does the following quote teach Christians?

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” *John 1:14 [NIV]*

Read through the three gospels and create a Venn diagram showing how the gospels are different and also showing their similarities



Why is the doctrine of the incarnation important for Christians today?

Recap activity:

1. What does incarnation mean?
2. Do the gospels of Mark and John include information on the birth of Jesus?
3. Give two reasons why the incarnation still important to Christians today?

Lesson seven – The last supper

Key terminology:

Passion: The suffering of Jesus, especially in the time leading up to his crucifixion.

Eucharist (holy communion): Taking the bread and the wine.

Blasphemy: Using Gods' name in negatively.



Analyse the image of the last supper below, detailing the symbolism of particular imagery.



What happened at the last supper and what does it represent?

On your table you have three pieces of text where Jesus predicts his death/passion: You have 15 Minutes to analyse all three pieces of text. (5 Minutes for each piece).

What happened after the last supper?

Mark 8:31-33

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

- 1. What are the key words/terms used in this passage?**

- 2. Why do you think the disciples rebuked Jesus?**

- 3. Why do you think Jesus Called Peter 'Satan' in the passage?**

Mark 10:32-34

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

- 1. What are the key words/terms used in this passage?**
- 2. Who was Jesus going to be betrayed to?**
- 3. If Jesus could predict what was going to happen what does this teach Christians?**

Mark 9:30-32

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

- 1. What are the key words/terms used in this passage?**
- 2. What was Jesus talking about when he said 'Son of Man'?**
- 3. What does this passage teach Christians?**

Lesson eight – The crucifixion and resurrection

Why was Jesus put on trial?

-
-
-
-
-

Who were the Sanhedrin and what role did they play in Jesus' arrest?



Was Jesus' trial fair? Why?

Why did Jesus have to die?

What is the resurrection?



Why is the resurrection important?

What is the ascension?

Differences in the records of the other Gospels.

What are the following sources of wisdom and authority teaching Christians?

Jesus answered 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me'. (John 14:6)

After the lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19)

What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you? – Judas (Matthew 26:14-26)

Lesson nine –Atonement

Key terminology:



Atonement – Forgiveness of sins.

Salvation – saving the soul and being granted eternal life with God.

Redemption – Freedom from the consequences of sin.

What is the original sin?

1. What did God ask Adam and Eve not to do?

2. What role did the snake play in the story and who does it represent?

3. What did Adam and Eve do wrong?

4. What were the consequences of their actions?

What is salvation?

What is Jesus' role in salvation?

What does the following source of authority and wisdom teach Christians?

‘For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him’. (John 3:17)

Why is salvation important?

Salvation and differing views:

Church of England –

Roman Catholic –

Orthodox Christians -

Did Jesus have to die?

Moral change theory –



Ransom theory –



Penal substitution theory -



What is moral change theory, and does it require Jesus to die?

What is ransom theory, and does it require Jesus to die?

What is penal substitution theory, and does it require Jesus to die?

The significance of atonement and salvation for Christians today.

Lesson ten –Eschatology

What does the eschatology mean?



What is the soul?



What does the following source of authority and wisdom teach Christians?

‘You know the way to the place where I am going’. (John 14:3)

What are the differing Christian beliefs about bodily resurrection?

What does the immortality of the soul mean?


How does the parable of the sheep and the goats give evidence for immortality of the soul?



Lesson eleven – Heaven, hell, and purgatory

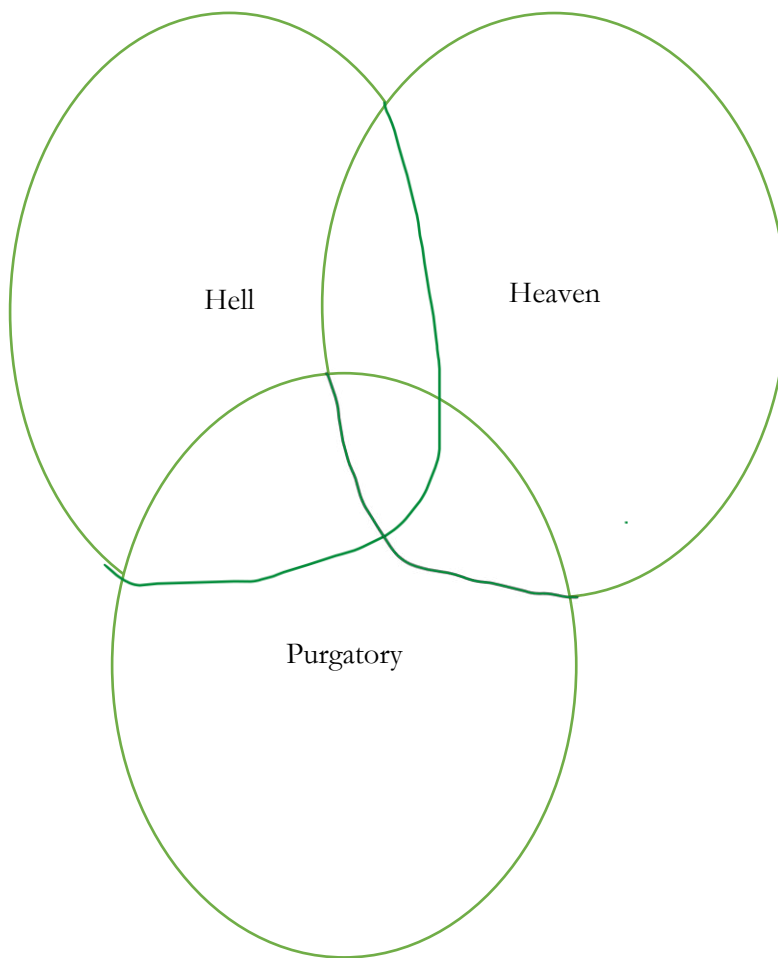
Starter:

When watching the clip from ‘the invention of lying’ note down all the different ways that Mark describes the afterlife.

Heaven	Hell	Purgatory
		

Why do some Christians reject the idea of hell entirely?

What is unique about each of these spiritual places? What do they have in common?



Why are teachings about life after death important to Christians today?

Lesson twelve – Atonement – Dead man walking.

Atonement

Dead man walking

Salvation

Write a blurb explaining the plot of the film:



What is atonement?

What is salvation?

Do you think some sins are unforgiveable?

In the final scene Matthew asks for Gods' forgiveness, how would a Christian respond to this?

Do you believe that Matthew should receive forgiveness from God, and why?

How is atonement represented in the film?

Do you think God would have forgiven Matthew?

Why do you think sister Helel wanted to help Matthew?

Lesson thirteen – Evil and suffering

What is natural evil?



What is moral evil?



What is the problem of evil and suffering?



How would the following people respond to evil and suffering?

Theist –

Atheist -

Annotate the meaning of the source of authority.

'God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.'
Psalm 46:1-3

What are the different ways that Christians cope with suffering?

Positive reactions	Negative reactions

Lesson fourteen – Christianity and evil and suffering

<u>The Augustinian theodicy</u>	<u>The Irenaean theodicy</u>
<u>The Devil</u>	<u>The story of Job</u>

How do Christians respond to evil and suffering?

Topic content	Revised?	Confidence rating R,A,G
The Trinity.		
The creation of the universe and of humanity.		
The incarnation.		
The last days of Jesus' life.		
The nature of salvation.		
Christian eschatology.		
The problem of evil and suffering.		
Solutions to the problem of evil and suffering.		

Revision questions:

A questions – ‘Outline questions’. These are three-mark questions which require you state three points. You must write in full sentences, or you will only be awarded one mark.

- Outline three features of the creation described in Genesis 1
- Outline three features of the birth story as described in Matthew’s Gospel
- Outline three features of the account of the trials of Jesus according to Luke’s Gospel
- Outline three different understandings of atonement.
- Outline three features of Catholic teaching about life after death.
- Outline three features of the problem of evil and suffering for Christians

B questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are four-mark questions which require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence.

- Explain two reasons why Christians believe in the Trinity.
- Explain two different interpretations of the accounts of creation in Genesis.
- Explain two reasons why Christians believe Jesus was God incarnate.
- Explain two reasons why the events of his last days show the importance of Jesus.
- Explain two reasons why Christians believe salvation is important.
- Explain two reasons why beliefs about life after death are important for Christians.
- Explain two biblical responses to the problem of evil and suffering.

C questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are five-mark questions which are almost identical to B questions – they require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence. You must also use a source of wisdom and authority to support one of your points.

- Explain two reasons why Christians believe in the Trinity. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

- Explain two pieces of evidence for the incarnation. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Christians believe atonement is important. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority
- Explain two reasons why evil and suffering in the world cause problems for Christian's beliefs about the nature of God. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

D questions – Evaluation questions – These are twelve-mark questions (two of your four will be 15 due to SPaG marks. You are required to give three points in agreement with the statement and three points against the statement. You should try to alternate your arguments, giving a flow of debate and showing chains of reasoning. You should try to include three sources of authority (you may include more). You must not give your opinion, the question expects you to give Christian viewpoints, if it requires atheist or humanist there will be bullet point stating so under the questions. You must include a conclusion, or you will be capped at nine marks. Give a justified conclusion, weighing up the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

- You can't be a Christian if you don't believe in the Trinity.
- It is hard to believe the biblical account of creation.
- Jesus was God incarnate.
- The resurrection was the most important event in the life of Jesus.
- Only those who have been saved from sin will get to heaven.
- Christians are better people because of their beliefs about life after death.
- Evil and suffering are the fault of humans.
- Evil and suffering are not a problem for Christians.

