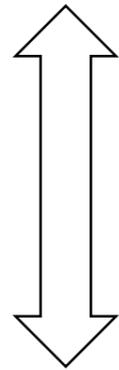


Judaism: foundational beliefs and history

In Judaism G-d is written without an 'o'. This is because Jews never want to destroy G-d's name. By writing it without an 'o' you're not writing His name properly, so cannot destroy it.

Different Jewish groups

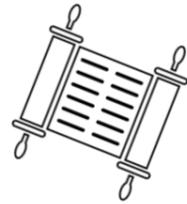


Most strict

- Orthodox
- Conservative
- Reform
- Liberal

Least strict

Jewish holy books



Tanakh:

- 3 sections
- The **TORAH** is the most important section source of law.

Talmud:

Based on the rabbis discussion of the tanakh and gives extra advice on the tanakh.

Rabbi: a Jewish leader.



Abraham: the founding father of Judaism (this means he started the religion).

Abraham made a covenant with G-d.

Covenant: an agreement between G-d and human kind.

G-d promised Abraham a promised land and for him and future Jews. He also promised Abraham many descendants. Abraham had to trust G-d on this as both he and he was wife Sarah were really old...but they did have a baby called Isaac.



Abraham promised to only follow one G-d.

Moses: helped to develop Judaism (hundreds of years after Abraham).

Moses was born in Egypt at a time when Jews were being kept as slaves. G-d told Moses to tell the Pharaoh to "let my people go".

When the Pharaoh said, NO God sent the 10 PLAGUES to punish him. The final plague was the death of the first-born baby in every house. This persuaded the Pharaoh to let the slaves go.



Once the Jews were free, G-d gave Moses the 10 **COMMANDMENTS**. In Hebrew, commandments are called **Mitzvot**.

1. Do not worship any other gods.
2. Do not make any images or sculptures and worship them.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Do not work on the Sabbath (or make others work for you).
5. Respect your parents.
6. Do not kill.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not be jealous of your neighbour's possessions.



Synagogue: the Jewish place of worship.



Synagogues are important because:

- ✓ It brings the community together.
- ✓ Provides a chance to learn about faith.
- ✓ Provides space for special occasions.

Key features in a synagogue:

- ✓ **Siddur:** prayer book
- ✓ **Ark:** the Torah scrolls are kept in here.
- ✓ **Bimah:** the raised platform from which the Torah is read.
- ✓ **Eternal light:** also known as the Ner Tamid. It represents that G-d is always around and will the Torah always have meaning.

The Messiah: a special person who will come and liberate/ free the Jews.

What will the world be like when the Messiah arrives?

- ✓ Peace/ no fighting.
- ✓ No pain or suffering.
- ✓ He will be wise and fair so he will help fairly settle arguments.



Judaism: foundational beliefs and history

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History of Christianity

Christianity was founded over 2000 years ago and is based on the belief that Jesus died and resurrected 3 days later.



Different denominations

Catholic → Based in Rome and led by the Pope



Orthodox → Split from Catholic Christianity in 1054CE and practised in Eastern Europe

Protestant → split from Catholic Christianity in the 16th century and branched out into different denominations (distinct groups), e.g. Baptist, Pentecostal, Methodist, United Reformed Churches. Protestants agree that the Bible is the only authority for Christians.

Whilst there are many different groups of Christians they share the following in common:

- The belief in one God (Christianity is a monotheistic religion)
- The belief that Jesus is the Son of God
- The Bible is the religious text for Christians

What do Christians believe about God?

“We believe in one God”

The Nicene Creed

- God is the creator and sustainer of the universe
- Belief in the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- God is omnipotent (all powerful)
- God is omnibenevolent (all loving)
- God is omniscient (all knowing)



The Bible – Christian holy book

The Bible is the Christian holy book and it is split into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Old Testament → contains the 10 commandments and teachings from important religious figures before Jesus



New Testament → contains the Gospels which are dedicated to the life and death of Jesus

Why is the Bible important for Christians?

- Guide on how to live a good Christian life
- Contains the history of Christianity
- It is sacred, holy and inspired



The Messiah

Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah. For Christians, Jesus is still the most important figure within their religion to this day.

Without his birth, death and resurrection, the relationship between humans and God would still be broken. Christians remember Jesus in many ways, including celebrating Christmas and Easter.

What did they predict the Messiah was going to be like?

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.” Isaiah 35:5-6

St Paul

- St Paul was a missionary (person sent on a religious mission) shortly after the death of Jesus. He grew up a Jew, disliking Christians.
- On the road to Damascus St Paul had a conversion experience and was blinded by God for 3 days.
- After these 3 days he dedicated his life to spreading the Gospels and making sure everyone knew about the religion of Christianity.



The Church – Christian place of worship

The church is important to Christians because:

- ✓ It brings the religious community together
- ✓ Place where Christians feel close to God
- ✓ Where religious ceremonies take place (baptisms/weddings/funerals)

Key features in a church:

- ✓ Font – bowl used for baptism
- ✓ Pews – benches where people sit
- ✓ Pulpit – a stand where the priest preaches
- ✓ Altar – Space at the front of the church
- ✓ Lectern – Eagle shaped book stand where the Bible is read from
- ✓ Tower – Where the church bells are rung



Christianity: foundational beliefs and history

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The nature of God (what is God like?)

- God is omnipotent (all powerful)
- God is omnibenevolent (all loving)
- God is just (fair)



Key quotes

“For nothing is impossible with God” – shows God is omnipotent

“For God so loved the world, he gave his One and Only Son” – God is omnibenevolent

Incarnation

Incarnation - the belief that Jesus was God in human form (becoming flesh, taking a human form)

Jesus was fully God and fully human, which helps explain his miracles and resurrection.

His words and teachings have authority because they are the word of God.

Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah (saviour)



Key quote → “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:14 NIV

Resurrection and life after death

Christians believe that because Jesus resurrected they will too.

There are different Christian beliefs about resurrection: some believe a person’s soul is resurrected straight after death, others believe it happens at the end of time when Jesus returns to play the role of judge.

How does the belief in resurrection impact Christians?

- Means life after death is real
- Gives them confidence in the face of death
- Inspires them to live a good life and follow Gods laws



Key quote → “So it will be the resurrection of the dead.”

Sin and salvation

Sin – any thought or action that separates humans from God



Original sin – everyone is built with the urge to sin/Adam and Eve brought sin into the world

Salvation – saving the soul from sin, made possible by Jesus

Grace – God’s love which humans do not have to earn

Salvation through good works → can be achieved by doing good and following God’s laws “Faith...without action is dead”

Salvation through grace → salvation is given by God to show his love, does not have to be earned “For it is by grace you have been saved”

Creation

Creation – the act by which God brought the universe into being



The Word – term used at the beginning of John’s gospel to refer to God the Son

Christians believe that God created the earth and all living things. Some take the creation story in Genesis literally, therefore they believe God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th whereas other Christians believe it is symbolic and teaches them about what God is like.

Key quote → “in the beginning, God created the heavens and earth”

Crucifixion



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

- Jesus was accused of blasphemy (proclaiming to be God) and was crucified on Good Friday
- Although he was fully God he still felt pain as he was also fully human
- Christians believe God understands suffering as Jesus suffered and therefore accept suffering as a part of life
- Jesus’ death on the cross washed away humanities sins

Key quote → “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Luke 23:46 NIV

The afterlife and judgement

Day of Judgement – a time when the world will end and every soul will be judged

Christians believe Jesus plays the role of judge as he has lived life as a human and set the path for Christians to follow

They will be judged based on their behaviour and actions as shown in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats

Key quotes → “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...”



The Trinity

Trinity – Christians believe there are three persons in the One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity is fully God.

The Father – creator of life

The Son – became incarnate through Jesus. Fully God and fully human

The Holy Spirit – guides and comforts Christians

Key quote → “ We believe in one God”



Resurrection and ascension

Resurrection - rising from the dead. Jesus rising from the dead on Easter Sunday

Ascension – the event, 40 days after Jesus’ resurrection, when Jesus returned to God, the Father in heaven

Christianity is based on the belief that Jesus died and resurrected

Resurrection is important as it teaches Christians not to fear death and that their sins will be forgiven if they follow God’s laws.

Ascension is important as it shows Jesus is with God in heaven.

Key quote → “He is risen!”



Heaven and hell

Heaven – a state of eternal happiness (with God)

Hell – place of eternal suffering (separated from God for eternity)

Purgatory – intermediate state where the soul is cleansed (Catholic belief)

Christians believe if they have lived a good life and had faith in God they will be rewarded with heaven and if they have lived a bad life they will be punished with hell.

Some believe that heaven and hell are physical places, whilst others believe they are spiritual places.



The role of Christ in salvation

Atonement – restoring the relationship between God and humans through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus

- Jesus’ crucifixion made up for the original sin of Adam and Eve
- The death of Jesus restored the broken relationship between God and humans which allowed for salvation to be achieved
- Christians can now be forgiven for their sins and go to heaven
- Jesus atoned for the sins of humanity

Key quote → “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 6:23 NIV



Exam advice

1 mark Q – multiple choice (normally linked to key words)

2 mark Q – two simple bullet points

4 mark Q – for the beliefs it will ask how a belief in something INFLUENCES a Christian today. This effectively means how this belief makes them act/change their behaviour. Two P.E.E paragraphs

5 mark Q – ‘Explain two’ – two P.E.E paragraphs required. In addition to this you will also need a relevant teaching/quote to support your points.

12 mark Q – evaluative question. You will be given a statement and will have to come up with two agree arguments and two disagree arguments (4 P.E.E paragraphs with two quotes). You will also need to reach a justified conclusion. What is the strongest argument and why?

