

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 humanity’s 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?

