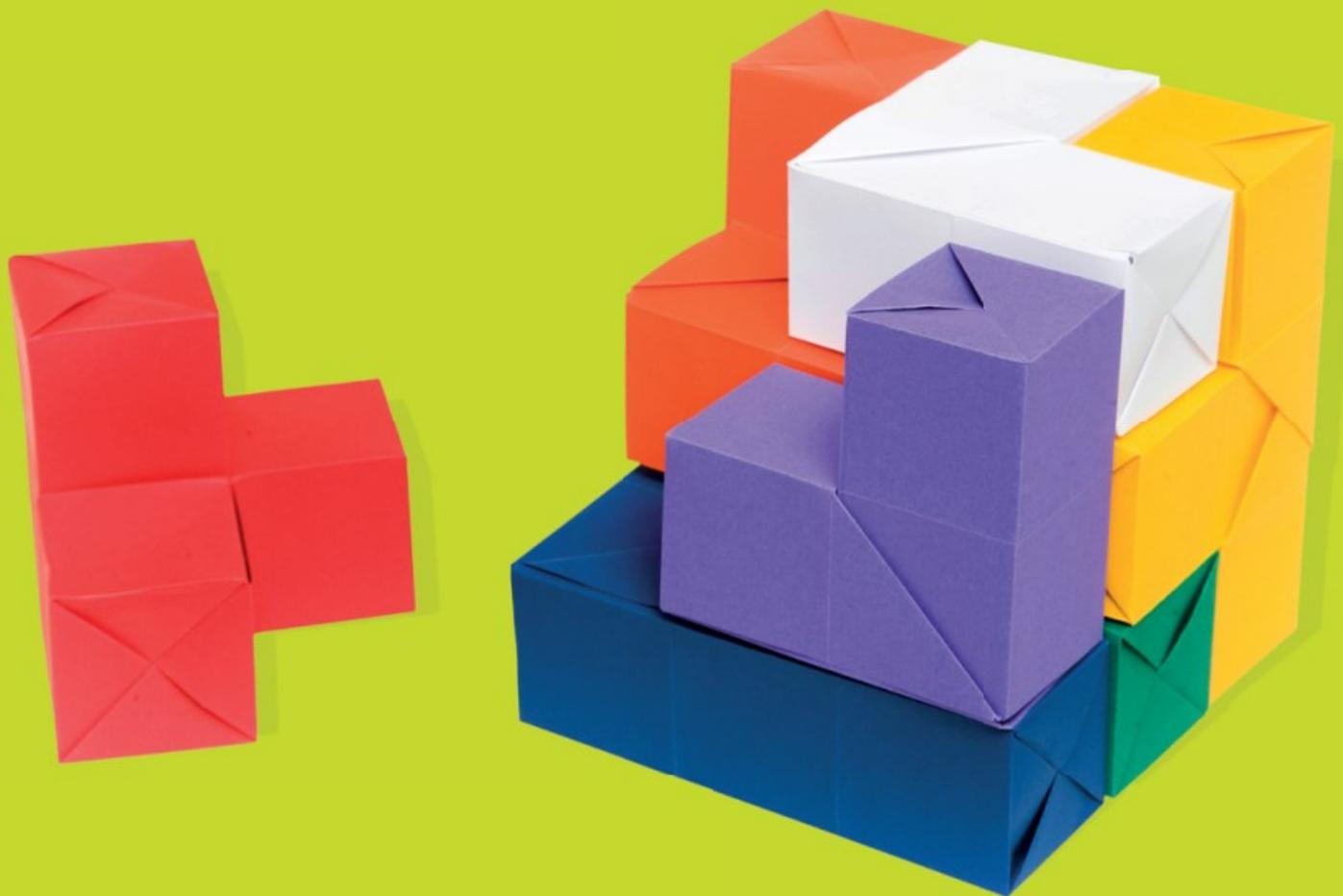


GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B

Beliefs in Action



Content Support: Paper 2B: Christianity

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies B (1RB0)

GCSE Religious Studies B

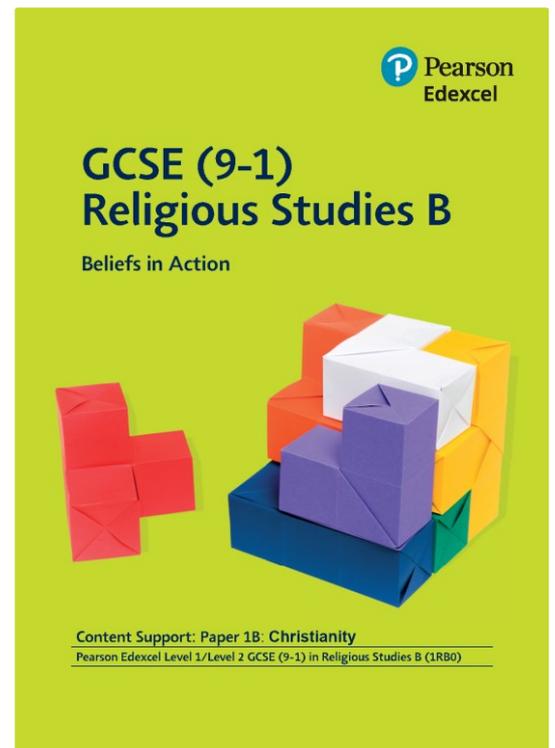
Content Support

Paper 2B: Christianity

About this resource

This resource is designed to provide support on content covered in the GCSE Religious Studies specification B for Christianity, Paper 2B: Religion, Peace and Conflict. This area of study comprises an in-depth study of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom and throughout the world, and its beliefs and teachings on life, specifically about the issues of peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. There are four sections: Christian Beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Living the Christian Life and Peace and Conflict.

This content can be found in the specification: <https://bit.ly/3SLnush>



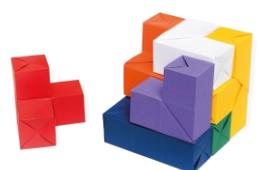
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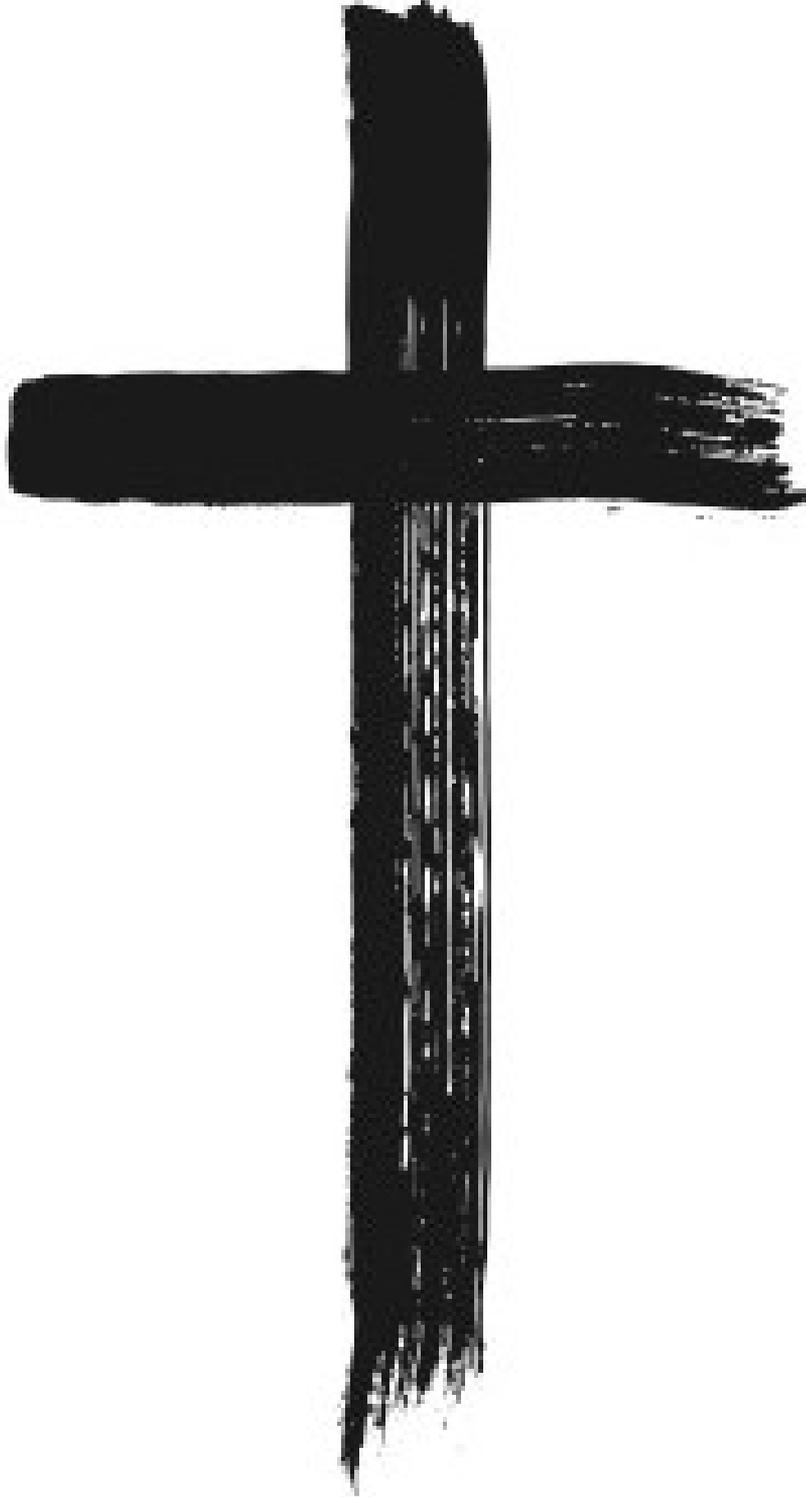
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Paper 2B: Christianity

Section 1: Christian Beliefs

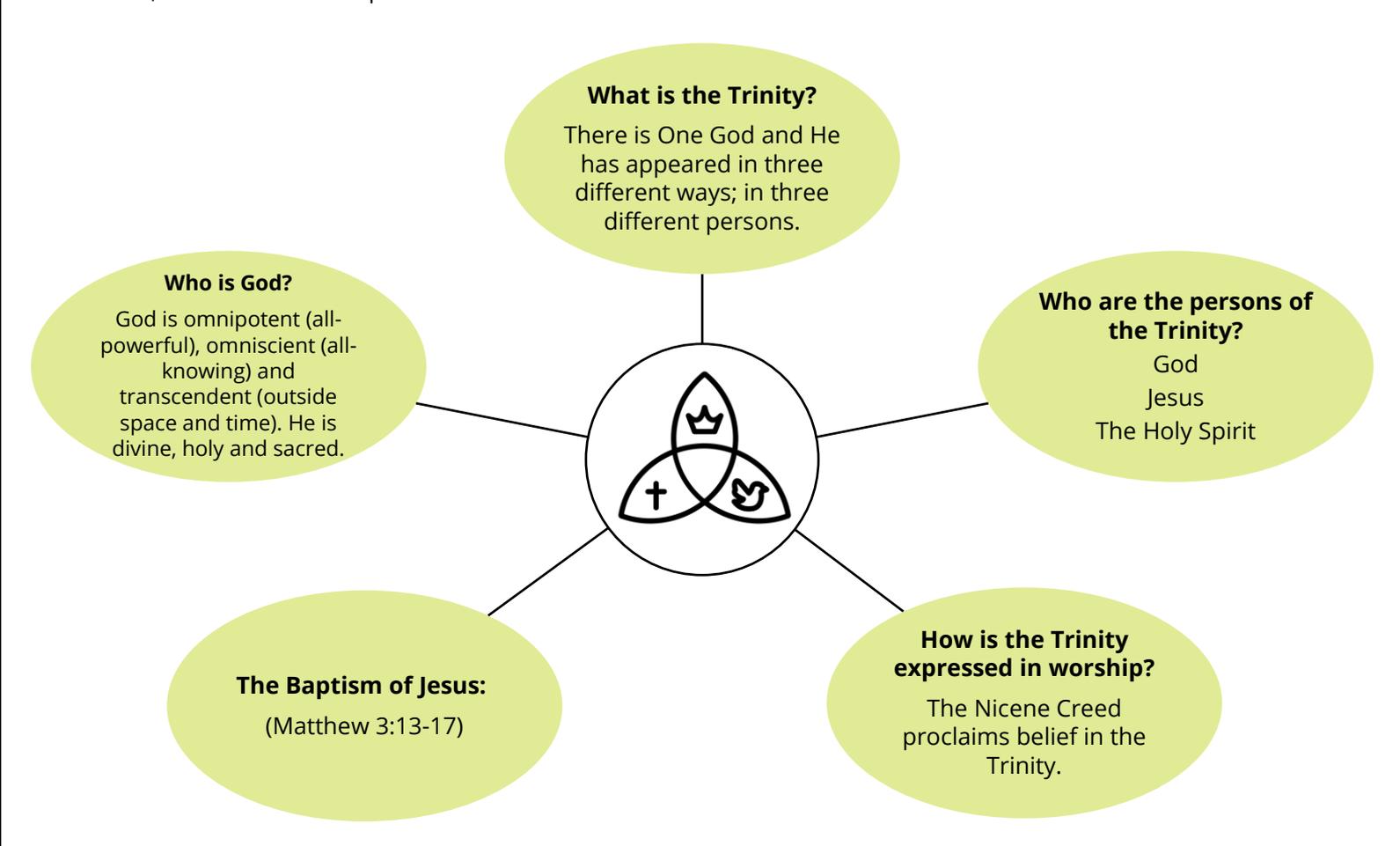


1.1: The Trinity

Who is God?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity is monotheistic (believes in one God). God is a supreme being, omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing) and transcendent (outside space and time). He is divine, holy and sacred. His nature and actions cannot be fully understood. The way the universe exists and operates 'as one' reminds Christians of God's oneness.
What is the Trinity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trinity is the way that Christians can experience God as three unique yet equal persons. Although God is a trinity of three persons, this does not stop them being monotheistic and recognising God's oneness. Belief in the Trinity is expressed in the Nicene Creed: 'We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty...in one Lord Jesus Christ...in the Holy Spirit'.
Who are the persons of the Trinity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God the Father: creator of all; loves, protects and sustains his people. Jesus, the Son: came to Earth (incarnation) to show people how to live and then die to save them from sin. The Holy Spirit: the way people experience God in the world today.
The Baptism of Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. All three persons of the Trinity are physically present and witnessed: the voice of God the Father is heard; the dove of the Holy Spirit descends, and the Son of God is baptised in the river. At that moment, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'
How is the Trinity expressed in worship?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nicene Creed proclaims belief in the Trinity. Baptism takes place in the 'name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. Some Christians make the sign of the cross at the beginning of a prayer.

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The Baptism of Jesus: "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him...And a voice from heaven said, This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17.

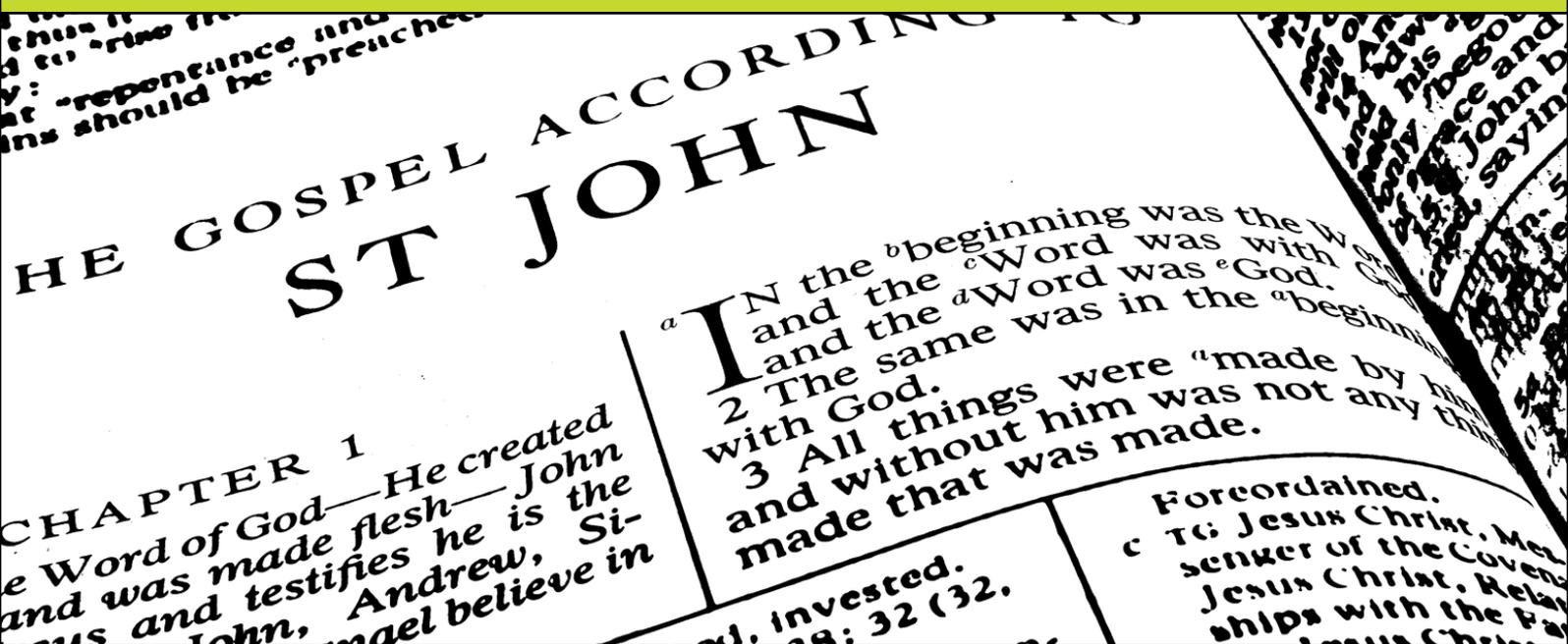


1.2: The creation of the universe and of humanity

Genesis 1:1-2:3	<p><u>Key Quote</u></p> <p>“In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth.” Genesis 1:1</p>	<p><u>What is it describing?</u></p> <p>The story begins with an empty void where nothing but the Spirit of God dwells. God created the world in 7 days starting with light, sky, land and sea, fish, birds, animals and then, finally, humans. At the end of each day, God proclaims how good his creation is. On the seventh day, God rests.</p>	<p><u>Why is it important?</u></p> <p>It teaches that God is the creator. God created everything with a planned purpose and order. He chose to create all of creation before humans – so that the Earth was ready to support human survival.</p>
Genesis 2:4-25	<p><u>Key Quote</u></p> <p>When creating Eve, The man said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she will be called ‘woman’ for she was taken out of man.”</p>	<p><u>What is it describing?</u></p> <p>God created Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They were the first two humans on the earth. God told them not to eat from the tree of the ‘Knowledge of Good and Evil’ or they would die.</p>	<p><u>Why is it important?</u></p> <p>It shows how important the creation of humans was to God – he gave them a place of paradise to live in with enough food and drink. They had only one rule to follow, but there was a consequence if they broke that rule.</p>
Genesis 3	<p><u>Key Quote</u></p> <p>“The Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden to the ground from which he was taken.”</p>	<p><u>What is it describing?</u></p> <p>The serpent (Satan) persuaded Eve to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree. Adam then did the same. They became aware of what they had done and were ashamed. They covered their naked bodies so that they hid their imperfections. God banished them both from the garden of Eden.</p>	<p><u>Why is it important?</u></p> <p>This is the first sin of humanity – the first time they have turned away from what God has asked them to do. Genesis 1 and 2 have shown how humanity was created to live in paradise – Genesis 3 shows how human temptation disrupted this perfect relationship with God.</p>
John 1:1-18	<p><u>Key Quote</u></p> <p>“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”</p>	<p><u>What is it describing?</u></p> <p>The story of creation is reintroduced in a new way – emphasising the presence of the ‘Word’. The Word is described as being at one with God throughout creation and that nothing could happen without it.</p>	<p><u>Why is it important?</u></p> <p>Christians understand that the ‘Word’ of God refers to Jesus. This text reinforces the importance of Jesus as being God and united to God (Trinity). This text reminds Christians that Jesus is the light of the world by which they live their lives. When read alongside Genesis 1 with the Spirit hovering over the water, Christians understand the Trinity has always existed.</p>
How could different Christians choose to read these texts?	Interpretation	Literal	Metaphorical
	What does this mean?	Understanding that the text has complete accuracy in its entirety	Recognising the use of metaphor in the text.
	How would the Creation story be interpreted in this way?	God created the world in 7 days and in the exact order it is written.	The story is a metaphor to explain that God created everything with a good purpose, but that it doesn’t have to have happened in exactly 7 days.
Why is creation important to Christians today?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world belongs to God and so people should protect it. • All human life belongs to God and was created by God, so everyone must be treated with respect and dignity. 		

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The creation of the universe and of humanity: “In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth.” Genesis 1:1. “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she will be called ‘woman’ for she was taken out of man.” Genesis 2:4-25.



<p>What is the incarnation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term 'incarnation' comes from Latin, and it means 'En-fleshment' or the act of being made flesh. • It is the way that God takes human form in Jesus Christ. • Jesus has both fully human and fully divine natures.
<p>How is Jesus fully human?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was physically a human being - he experienced birth, pain, suffering and death. • He experienced grief and emotional pain at the death of his friend. Jn. 11:35. • He experienced doubt in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night he was arrested. Mt. 26:39. • He became angry with the merchants and gamblers in the temple when he flipped the tables. Mt. 21:12-13.
<p>How is Jesus fully God?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is the second person of the Trinity who has been present with God the Father and the Holy Spirit since the time of creation. Jn. 1:1-18. • The voice of the Father proclaims Jesus as His Son at Jesus' baptism. Mt. 3:17. • St Paul describes Jesus as the 'image of the invisible God'. Colossians 1:15. • He performs miracles such as Feeding the 5000, walking on water and rose from the dead to show his omnipotence. • 1 Timothy 3:16 outlines Jesus' divinity throughout his life: "He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by the angels, was preached among nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory".
<p>Why is the incarnation significant today?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God cared for the world so much that He sent Jesus to show people how to live. • Humans are made closer to God because Jesus teaches them what God is like. • Salvation began with the incarnation and is for all humans of all ages and times.

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

How is Jesus fully God?: "He is the second person of the Trinity who has been present with God the Father and the Holy Spirit since the time of creation". Jn. 1:1-18.

Jesus' divinity throughout his life: "He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by the angels, was preached among nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory". 1 Timothy 3:16.

1.4: The last days of Jesus' life

What were the events of Jesus' betrayal?	Satan (the devil) entered Judas Iscariot. Judas went to the chief priests to discuss and plan the betrayal of Jesus. He was given 30 pieces of silver as payment.	
How is Jesus' betrayal presented in Luke's gospel?	Luke 22:4-5. Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money.	
How does the betrayal of Jesus help Christians to understand the person of Jesus Christ?	The betrayal of Jesus highlights his human nature – that even though Jesus is fully God, the fact he is fully human means that he can be betrayed and experience the hurt and emotion attached to it.	



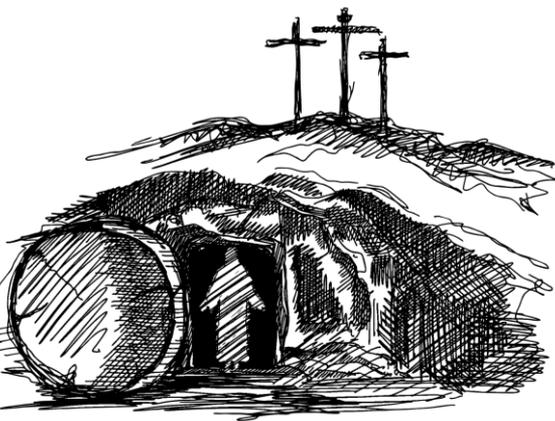
What were the events of the Last Supper?	Jesus and his Apostles gathered together to share a Passover meal together – they sang hymns, said prayers, shared stories and then Jesus washed their feet. During the meal, he gave his disciples the bread and wine which had become his body and blood.
How is the Last Supper presented in Luke's gospel?	Luke 22:15. 'And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.'
How does the Last Supper help Christians to understand the person of Jesus Christ?	In the changing of bread and wine to his body and blood, Jesus shows himself to be omnipotent. Through the action of washing feet, Jesus demonstrates how Christians should live with service and love for others at the centre of their lives.
What were the events of Jesus' arrest?	Jesus goes into the Garden of Gethsemane to consider his fate. Judas leads the soldiers to him and identifies Jesus by kissing him. Jesus allows the arrest and when one of his followers cuts off the ear of a soldier, Jesus miraculously brings the ear back.
How is Jesus' arrest presented in Luke's gospel?	Luke. 22:47-48 47While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"
How does the arrest of Jesus help Christians to understand the person of Jesus Christ?	Jesus' arrest shows him to be accepting of the fate that God has laid before him. He demonstrates, even in a moment of conflict, that violence is never the answer, and acts with love and compassion.

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Last Supper: "And he said to them, I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Luke 22:15.
Jesus' arrest: "...While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Luke. 22:47-48.

1.4: The last days of Jesus' life

What were the events of Jesus' trial?	Jesus went on trial first before the High Priest who found him guilty of blasphemy. He then stood trial with Pontius Pilate (the Roman Governor) who asked many questions about who he was and what he stood for. Pilate offered his fate to the crowds for them to decide if he should release Jesus or Barabbas, a murderer. The crowds shouted for Barabbas.	
How is Jesus' trial presented in Luke's gospel?	Luke 23:1-2. Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king."	
How does the trial of Jesus help Christians to understand the person of Jesus Christ?	Throughout the trial, Jesus answers all questions with a calm, well thought response showing his omniscience and benevolence. At all times throughout his trial, Jesus never becomes angry or aggressive showing that he was accepting ultimately of God's plan.	
What were the events of Jesus' crucifixion?	After being scourged (whipped) 39 times, Jesus was given a crown of thorns and carried his own cross through the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha. He was stripped of his clothes, nailed to the cross and a sign was attached proclaiming him King of the Jews. He was crucified between two criminals who asked him for forgiveness.	
How is Jesus' crucifixion presented in Luke's gospel?	Luke 23:33. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.	
How does the crucifixion of Jesus help Christians to understand the person of Jesus Christ?	As Jesus experienced immense suffering, Christians recognise that Jesus understands their pains and sufferings, helping them to feel less alone. Again, he accepts his fate as part of God's plan which can help support those who suffer to accepting their own situation.	
What were the events of Jesus' resurrection?	Jesus had been buried in a hurry before Shabbat. When the women went with spices to prepare his body, the stone was rolled away, and his body was gone. Jesus' followers encountered him but did not immediately recognise who he was.	
How is the resurrection of Jesus presented in Luke's gospel?	Luke 24:5-6. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee.	
How does the resurrection of Jesus help Christians to understand the person of Jesus Christ?	The resurrection is the ultimate demonstration that Jesus is God. He does not return to retaliate to those who did wrong to them, but he greets his followers with love and joy.	



Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Jesus' trial: "When the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king." Luke 23:1-2.

Jesus' crucifixion: "When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left." Luke 23:33.

Resurrection of Jesus: "...In their fright, the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee." Luke 24:5-6.

1.5: The Nature and Significance of 'salvation'

<p>What is 'salvation'?</p>	<p>Salvation means being saved from sin, from pain and granted eternal life with God.</p> <p>When we receive salvation from Jesus, it protects us from the harm of sin and allows our souls to be soothed with forgiveness from God – allowing us to get to heaven.</p>	
<p>What is Jesus' role in salvation?</p>	<p>To offer salvation to all, Jesus had to complete a sequence of events known as the Paschal Mystery beginning with his birth as a human.</p>	
<p>What is 'God's law'?</p>	<p>The rules which God gives for us to live our lives by.</p>	
<p>What is the role of the law in salvation?</p>	<p>Some Christians believe that the only way to be saved is to actively follow the law in their daily life as this is a preparation for life in Heaven. By following the law, Christians actively work to accept God's gift of salvation in their lives.</p>	
<p>What is 'grace'?</p>	<p>A gift from God which raises us spiritually to God.</p>	
<p>What is the role of grace in salvation?</p>	<p>To be saved from sin and enter Heaven means that a person will be the most full and complete version of themselves – aligned to God and living the fullness of the life they were created for. Grace, in life, brings people closer to that moment and helps them to be fully alive by being more the person they were created to be.</p>	
<p>What is 'sin'?</p>	<p>When we fall short of God's law - In the book of Genesis, we learn that God created all people to be united with him in a special way. Each time we don't manage to live up to God's standards, this is called a 'sin'. Each sin separates a person from God and, eventually, someone living a life of constant sin will lose sight of God. One way we can describe sin is like bricks in a wall which continues to grow until it separates God and a person.</p>	
<p>What is the 'Spirit'?</p>	<p>The part of a human which needs salvation.</p>	
<p>What is 'atonement' and how does it work?</p>	<p>The way Jesus corrects the effect of sin through his crucifixion. The effect of sin is separation between God and humanity. The separation widens as sin increases until humans lose sight of God. Jesus' greatest act of love for humanity was his atonement for our sins through his crucifixion which redeems people from the effect of their sins (redemption) and reunites them with God again (justification).</p>	

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The Gospel of John describes the process of atonement in the Paschal Mystery which leads to salvation from sin:
 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17.

After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, St Peter proclaimed to the people how he had been saved by Jesus.
 "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." Acts 4:20.

1.6: Christian eschatology *

<p>What is resurrection?</p>	<p>Eschatology is the study of what will happen to humans at the 'end of the world'.</p> <p>After the death of the body, the soul lives on. Resurrection is the reuniting of the body and soul as the body comes back to life. They believe this will happen when Jesus returns to Earth.</p> 		
<p>What are the different Christian beliefs about resurrection?</p>	<p><u>Most Christians</u>: resurrection will take place after Jesus returns to Earth at the second coming (Parousia).</p> <p><u>Catholic Christians</u>: People will be reunited with the most glorified form of their body at the final judgement.</p>		
<p>Why is belief in resurrection important to Christians today?</p>	<p>Resurrection of the body gives Christians the hope of a life beyond death. In the same way that Jesus rose from the dead, they believe that they too will be resurrected one day.</p> <p>Resurrection of the body highlights how important the human body is to Christians and encourages Christians to treat their bodies with care and respect.</p>		
<p>What is judgement?</p>	<p>The belief that after death all will be judged on their actions and be sent to heaven or hell.</p>		
<p>What are the different Christian beliefs about judgement?</p>	<p><u>Catholic Christians</u> believe in a personal judgement immediately after death before resurrection and final judgement.</p>	<p><u>Most Christians</u> believe that the soul will be judged at the final judgement based on actions towards others (as in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats).</p>	<p><u>Some Christians</u> don't believe in a 'personal' judgement and that the soul must wait until the final judgement.</p>
<p>Why is belief in judgement important to Christians today?</p>	<p>If Christians know that they will be judged based on their venial and mortal sins (Catholics), they will want to ensure that they are cleansed of sin through the sacraments, e.g. Reconciliation.</p> <p>If Christians believe that they will be judged at the final judgement as Jesus described in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, they will want to act with mercy towards others in their daily life.</p>		
<p>What is heaven?</p>	<p>Heaven is a place of paradise, beauty and serenity where the good can dwell with God.</p>		
<p>What are the different Christian beliefs about heaven?</p>	<p>Most Christians believe that heaven is a place of reward where Christians who are judged to have live a good life, would be at one with God.</p>		
<p>Why is belief in heaven important to Christians today?</p>	<p>If Christians believe that Heaven is a place of reward, then their entire life is spent working towards attaining this reward.</p>		

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Resurrection: "In Christ, all will be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22.
Judgement: "Christ...ascended into heaven and there sitteth, until he return to judge all Men at the last day." 39 Articles IV.
Heaven: "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." 2 Corinthians 5:1.

1.6: Christian eschatology*

What is hell?	Hell is a place of torment and pain where those who have turned away from God will dwell.
What are the different Christian beliefs about hell?	Across Christianity, there are a range of views about the existence of hell : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some believe that hell exists, but God is benevolent and forgives everyone, so no one is there.• Some believe that hell is a place created by an individual separated from God.• Some believe hell is a state of mind or a metaphor for how those who have rejected God will feel.• Some have described hell as severing any connection with God.
Why is belief in hell important to Christians today?	If a Christian believes that hell is a place of their own making, through separation from God, Christians will work to ensure their relationship with God is wholesome. Some Christians will view hell as an outcome to be avoided, and so they will work to live the life God wants of them.
What is purgatory?	Purgatory is a place of cleansing and preparation before heaven for those with unforgiven venial sins.
What are the different Christian beliefs about purgatory?	Belief in purgatory is a Catholic belief based on the tradition and developed understanding of the Church. Protestants reject this belief as it is not in the Bible.
Why is belief in purgatory important to some Christians today?	Catholics believe that they should pray for the souls who are in purgatory, so that they can enter heaven. Catholics also believe that the souls in heaven can also pray for people on Earth.

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Hell: "Then they will go away to eternal punishment." Matthew 25:46.
Purgatory: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification." CCC 1030.

1.7: The problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God

What do Christians believe God is like?	<p>Omnipotent: God is all-powerful.</p> <p>Omniscient: God is all-knowing.</p> <p>Benevolent: God is good and all-loving.</p>	<p>Evil exists</p> <p>Omnipotence Omnibenevolence</p>
What is natural evil?	<p>Evil is something bad or morally wrong; something that causes suffering. Acts of 'evil' within the natural world are caused by natural disasters, which causes suffering.</p>	
Examples of natural evil	Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, floods, land slide, drought.	
Why does natural evil cause a problem for belief in an omnipotent God?	<p>If God is all-powerful, then he has the power to stop acts of natural evil – yet they still happen.</p> <p>If he has this power, why not use it?</p>	
Why does natural evil cause a problem for belief in an omniscient God?	<p>If God is all-knowing, then he knows that the acts of natural evil are happening – yet they still happen.</p> <p>If he has this knowledge, why not intervene?</p>	
Why does natural evil cause a problem for belief in a benevolent God?	<p>If God is good and all-loving, then he wouldn't want to allow acts of natural evil which cause people enormous suffering – yet they still happen.</p> <p>If he is good and all-loving, why would he allow natural disasters, which cause people suffering?</p>	
What is moral evil?	Wicked acts committed by humans which causes suffering to others.	
Examples of moral evil	Murder, rape, war, torture, abuse, theft.	
Why does moral evil cause a problem for belief in an omnipotent God?	<p>If God is all-powerful, then he has the power to stop a person committing an act of moral evil – yet they still happen.</p> <p>If he has this power, why not use it?</p>	
Why does moral evil cause a problem for belief in an omniscient God?	<p>If God is all-knowing, then he knows that a person will commit an act of moral evil - yet they still happen.</p> <p>If he has this knowledge, why not intervene?</p>	
Why does moral evil cause a problem for belief in a benevolent God?	<p>If God is good and loving, then he wouldn't want to allow people to commit acts of moral evil which cause people suffering – yet they still happen.</p> <p>If he is good and all-loving, why would he allow people to commit moral evil acts, which causes so much suffering?</p>	

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How God reacts to the actions of the world and the way in which his actions are always of love and compassion:
 "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." Psalm 103:8.

1.8: Divergent solutions to the problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God

Biblical solutions to the problem of evil and suffering	
What is a biblical solution to the problem of evil and suffering?	A biblical solution is when the Bible seems to provide an explanation or reason about why evil and suffering exist in a world in which Christians believe in a loving and righteous God.
How does Psalm 119 provide a solution to the problem of evil and suffering?	Psalm 119 provides the reasoning that people who experience evil and suffering in their lives can go on to learn from the suffering they have endured: 'It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes.' (Psalm 119:71).
How does the Book of Job provide a solution to the problem of evil and suffering?	The Book of Job tells the story about Job, a good man who God allowed to be tested and tormented by Satan. The book provides an explanation for Christians that evil and suffering may have an intended reason or purpose, but that as humans are not omniscient, they lack the capacity to understand it fully.

Theoretical solutions to the problem of evil and suffering	
What is a theoretical solution to the problem of evil and suffering?	A theoretical solution to the problem of evil and suffering is when a theory has been developed which tries to explain the existence of evil and suffering in a way that makes sense to human existence.
How does the existence of free will provide a solution to the problem of evil and suffering?	Christians believe that God gave free will to all people as one of the implications of being created ' <i>Imago Dei</i> ' (the Latin translation of "Image of God"). St Augustine of Hippo came to the conclusion that evil exists in the world from where humans have abused their free will.
How does the vale of soul-making provide a solution to the problem of evil and suffering?	Based on the work of Irenaeus , English Philosopher John Hick developed the theory of the 'vale of soul-making' in which he argued that when humans were created by God, they were made to be imperfect so that they could grow towards perfection in their life, as they make their soul. In this way, evil exists because it has the purpose of helping to develop the souls of people to work towards perfection and ultimately, to get to heaven.

1.8: Divergent solutions to the problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God

Practical solutions to the problem of evil and suffering	
<p>What is a practical solution to the problem of evil and suffering?</p>	<p>A practical solution is a tangible action that a person can do which provides a response and potential solution to the problem of evil and suffering.</p>
<p>How can prayer provide a solution to the problem of evil and suffering?</p>	<p>As a direct response to suffering, Christians can pray for those who are suffering as a result of different acts of moral or natural evil.</p> <p>Some Christians who are suffering personally feel that the effect of the suffering can be lessened by sharing their pain with God. In prayer services and liturgies such as the Mass (Catholic), Christians will pray for other people around the world who may be suffering to offer them comfort, support and solidarity.</p>
<p>How can performing acts of charity provide a solution to the problem of evil and suffering?</p>	<p>As a way of helping to physically solve the suffering caused by acts of moral and natural evil, Christians can take part in acts of charity.</p> <p>This could be raising money for a charity or practically volunteering time to take part in the work of the charity such as working in a foodbank.</p> <p>These actions are inspired by the teaching of Jesus in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in which it is taught that those who do good towards others will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven.</p>

Successes of the solutions to the problem of evil and suffering

<p>Are the solutions to the problem of evil and suffering successful?</p>	<p><u>Biblical Solutions:</u> As the holy book of Christianity, the Bible is believed to be the word of God. Christians can find comfort and reassurance in the fact that the Bible shows suffering in the life of God's people and, ultimately, demonstrated by Jesus.</p>	<p><u>Theoretical Solutions:</u> As theories which have been developed by philosophers throughout history, theoretical solutions help Christians to gain an understanding of why things are happening. This understanding can give a Christian comfort and peace.</p>	<p><u>Practical Solutions:</u> By working practically to resolve the issues caused by acts of evil, Christians feel that they are able to live by the example of Jesus and act with love. If acts of evil allows Christians to respond with love, this arguably provides a reason for the existence of suffering.</p>
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Sources of Wisdom and Authority

A biblical solution to the problem of evil and suffering:
 "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes." (Psalm 119:71).

Paper 2B: Christianity

Section 2: Crime and Punishment



2.1: Christian attitudes towards justice

<p>What is justice?</p>	<p>Justice is the due allocation of reward and punishment. Maintaining what is right.</p> 
<p>What is law and justice?</p>	<p>Society is governed by the law which sets out our responsibility to behave in an appropriate manner towards each other and the property of others. Laws are made by parliament, and then, enforced by the courts system. Justice is therefore crucial in ensuring that the law is being applied to everyone in the fairest way that works for everyone. Justice is the thing that gives the authority to the legal system because people feel that it is managed fairly – if it wasn't, people wouldn't feel that they needed to follow it.</p>
<p>Why is justice important to victims?</p>	<p>In order for victims to have confidence in the justice system, it must address the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the crime has involved personal attack, justice need to provide the victim with the confidence that they will be safe from a repeat attack. • The justice system must provide a sense of fairness for the victim that the crime committed against them will be punished in an appropriate way. • If the punishment involves some form of compensation, it should be a way to repay the victim. • If the offender has committed a crime that makes the victim desire revenge, justice should help to alleviate that desire.
<p>Why is justice important for Christians?</p>	<p>Justice is important for Christians because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as Christians, people follow the example of Jesus, who was just in his actions and the way in which he treated others. • in all of his teachings, Jesus' message is rooted in justice to others: "...do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12). • justice and judgement is a fundamental belief within Christianity – all will be judged based on how they have treated others, of which justice is a crucial element. • the prophet Micah highlights the importance of leaders in upholding justice, by outlining how God responds to those who ignore the possibility to be just and choose to be unjust to their people, equating injustice to evil: "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, you who hate good and love evil...he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done." (Micah 3). • Micah 6 asks the question about how the Lord should be best worshipped and what should be offered to God above everything else. The answer presents the understanding that justice, mercy and humility are the keys to living a life for God: "...act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8).
<p>Why is justice important to non-religious people?</p>	<p>Atheists and humanists recognise the importance of justice for the same reasons as Christians, but without the recognition of God and his just nature.</p> <p>They recognise that confidence in the justice system is essential for people to follow the legal system and to see its authority. This isn't something which requires belief in a God to encourage good behaviour, rather it is the recognition that, by following the law, people are able to live free and happy lives; however, breaking the law will lead to appropriate and proportionate punishment.</p>

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Justice: "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, you who hate good and love evil...he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done." (Micah 3).
 "Act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8).

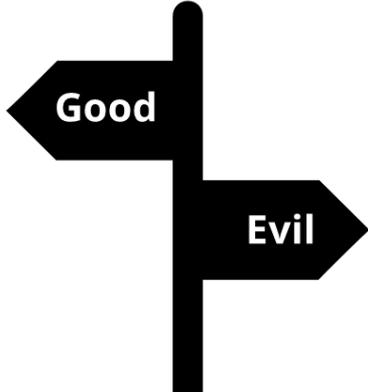
2.2: Christian attitudes towards crime

<p>What is crime?</p>	<p>Crime is an action which breaks the law of the country and is subject to official punishment.</p>	
<p>What do Christians believe about the causes of crime?</p>	<p>Christians agree that where a crime is committed, an appropriate and proportionate punishment for the one who committed the crime is the right thing to do. However, they recognise that it often isn't as straight forward as someone committing a crime – there is often an underlying reason for the crime which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people could turn to crimes such as theft because of desperation. They could be in poverty and in need of food for their family. • Some people might be acting in a state of addiction and acting in ways which they might not normally if they were not dependent on an addictive substance, such as alcohol or drugs. • Some people might commit crimes to stand in opposition to legal systems that they feel are unjust, e.g. Rosa Parks who stood up against the apartheid laws in the 1950s, in the USA. <p>Some Christians believe that the root cause of the crime should be taken into account when punishment is being given. They believe that, by understanding the root cause of the crime, they can support and work with the offender to prevent them from offending again.</p>	
<p>What does the story of 'The Woman caught in Adultery' teach about crime?</p>	<p>This scripture tells of a woman being brought to Jesus by the Pharisees who tried to trick him into making a contradictory statement about between the situation of the woman and the law of Moses in the Torah.</p> <p>Jesus uses the statement: "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7). In this way, Jesus teaches that whilst the woman is in a state of sin, it is not the role of individuals to judge her against the law, for no one is without sin themselves. Jesus does not condone the sin and say that it doesn't matter; however, there is a difference between condoning and condemning the sin. Jesus goes on to tell her to turn her life around, as he says: "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:11).</p>	
<p>How do Christians work individually to end crime?</p>	<p>In order to support an end to crime, Christians will often try to help to resolve the underlying source of the crime. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people in poverty through individual acts of kindness to help someone. • Volunteering in foodbanks. • Raising money for charity. • Volunteering for a support phone lines charity. • Praying for specific circumstances. 	
<p>How do Christian groups work to end crime?</p>	<p><u>Prison Fellowship</u>: An organisation which works across England and Wales, aiming to help prisoners see how they have affected victims and also helping them to prevent re-offending through restorative justice, prayer ministry, group activities and making prisoners stay in contact with their families.</p> <p><u>Street Pastors</u>: these volunteers demonstrate the love of Jesus to people by working on the streets on Friday and Saturday evenings, particularly in areas where people are drinking alcohol. By working with people on the streets, they can help prevent crime by ensuring people are able to travel home safely, have places to stay and work to prevent violent crime and anti-social behaviour.</p>	

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Crime: "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7).
 "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:11).

2.3: Christian teachings about good, evil and suffering

<p>What are good and evil actions?</p>	<p>Christians teach that good actions are those which bring people closer to each other and to God. They are actions which help and support others which ultimately pleases God. Ultimately, good actions are in line with the way God wants people to live.</p> <p>Evil actions are those actions which directly oppose what God desires human lives to be. Evil actions committed by humans are called moral evil. Christians believe that these evil actions happen when people do not act in accordance with how God expects them to live, and instead, they misuse their free will.</p>	
<p>How are good actions rewarded?</p>	<p>Christians believe that, through performing good actions, a person becomes holier (closer to wholeness – being most fully the person they were created by God to be). In this way, a person is brought into a closer relationship with God. This is then fully realised after death when a person is taken to heaven to be rewarded for living a life of good actions where they live alongside God for all time.</p> <p>Some Christians would say that a soul can only go to heaven if the soul is completely cleansed of the consequences of sin. Some Christians would argue that the soul can be cleansed after death of some sin which can then lead to heaven.</p>	
<p>Why do non-religious people believe that suffering exists?</p>	<p>Non-religious people would not attribute suffering or the cause of suffering to God. For an atheist, this is because they do not believe that God exists.</p> <p>Atheists and humanists recognise that people do commit acts of moral evil which causes suffering. This is often for self-motivated purposes, e.g. revenge, a necessity for something, an ideological standpoint. Non-religious people will often point to the fact that religion itself can also be the cause of great suffering and would argue that religion isn't worth the acts of terrorism or persecution that it can create.</p> <p>Non-religious people would attribute suffering caused by natural disasters to natural causes and not as a result of God. They would however recognise that some natural disasters can be caused indirectly by the actions of humans, such as, events caused by climate change.</p>	
<p>Why do Christians believe that people suffer?</p>	<p>Christians have a range of different beliefs about why people suffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians such as Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Anglicans would argue that people suffer as an effect of original sin caused by Adam and Eve, outlined in the story of the Fall. • Some Christians would argue that suffering is a test that, as they pass through the suffering, they become spiritually stronger. • Most Christians would agree that suffering can be caused by humans who misuse their free will. • All Christians agree that whilst God's omniscience would mean he can explain the existence of suffering, it is possibly beyond the limited understanding of humans. 	
<p>What does the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats teach about suffering?</p>	<p>The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats has a number of important teachings about suffering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It presents the idea of suffering as part of life – recognising that there will be hungry, thirsty, sick, naked, imprisoned people. • It doesn't explain why suffering exists but highlights the importance of working to reduce the effect of suffering. • It reminds Christians that Jesus is close to those who suffer. • The role of judgement in the parable reminds Christians of the importance of helping those who suffer as it will be those who help that go to heaven – those who choose not to help, will go to hell. 	

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Suffering in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats "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 eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me... Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger, and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes, and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison, and you did not look after me... whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me...they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Matthew 25:31-46.

2.4: Christian attitudes towards punishment

<p>What is punishment?</p>	<p>Punishment is the consequence for someone doing something wrong or breaking a rule (law). Punishments aim to be fair and proportionate to the level of wrongdoing which has taken place. Within the legal system of a country, they could be in place to provide protection for victims and society; to provide a level of 'pay back' for the crime committed; to reform criminals so that they do not reoffend; or they could try to act as a deterrent for people to not commit crimes in the first place.</p> <p>Punishment could take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a financial penalty (fine) • a community service order where people undertake a number of hours of unpaid work to give back to the community • a sentencing to spend time in prison. 	
<p>How do Christians respond to the use of punishment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Christians would support the use of punishment in situations where someone has committed a crime. • At all times, Christian belief and teaching is guided by the example of Jesus and the rules laid out in the scriptures. Jesus declared that one of the most important teachings was to love each other and so any punishment should always be used in line with the teaching to love. • Christians believe that God is loving and offers forgiveness when people make mistakes – and so humanity should be forgiving in its approach. • Christians would point to their understanding that there could be a range of underlying factors which could be the reason for a crime being committed – they would say these should be taken into account when punishment is decided. • Christians believe that as all humanity is part of God's creation, as stewards, Christians should look to support and help to rehabilitate and reform those who have committed acts of crime. • Ultimately, Christians believe that God is the judge, and he will give the ultimate rewards to those who have acted with love and service of others. 	
<p>What does the Bible teach about the use of punishment?</p>	<p>In Luke 12, Jesus tells the Parable of the Faithful Servant to teach his followers about how they should be aware of their actions at all times and to always be ready for the return of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' opening words "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning," Luke 12:35, tells Christians of the need to stay alert for the imminent return of Jesus. • Jesus reminds them that those who live their lives aware of Jesus' return and acting in accordance with his will shall be rewarded: "It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready." Luke 12:37. • However, Jesus teaches that those who turn away and do not keep watch for his return will often turn to "beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk" Luke 12:45. For these people, who know of Jesus and choose to still behave in this way, they "will be beaten with many blows." Luke 12:47. 	
<p>What do Christians teach about why punishment can be regarded as justice and why is it needed in society?</p>	<p>The Bible also has a number of key messages about forgiveness which Christians can apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has first forgiven people and so people should be willing to forgive others. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13. • God does not just ignore the wrong actions of people – he works in the lives of people to help them correct their actions. He "disciplines those he loves, as a father, the son he delights in." Proverbs 3:12. • In the same way, the action of discipline, when used to help someone change their behaviour (reform) can be considered an act of love: "Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them." Proverbs 13:24. <p>Christians would say that punishment is part of justice because it provides a sense of order and fairness across society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If people know that there is a punishment for their actions, it can make them think about whether committing the crime is worth the consequence. • It teaches that people have an individual responsibility for the way they behave and that if they choose to behave in a way that is not acceptable for society, then there is a price to pay. • In Leviticus, passing judgement fairly on all people is commanded as "do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly." Leviticus 19:15. In this way, no one is seen to be above the law and judgement and punishment can be dealt to all. <p>Ultimately, Christians recognise that punishment is needed to provide a fairness to the legal system and also raise the authority of the law. For these reasons, punishment is needed for the smooth running of a well-ordered society.</p>	

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Punishment: "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning." Luke 12:35.
 "It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready." Luke 12:37.
 For these people, who know of Jesus and choose to still behave in a bad way, "they will be beaten with many blows." Luke 12:47.

2.5: Christian attitudes towards the aims of punishment

<p>What are the different theories that are used for punishment?</p>	<p><u>Deterrence:</u></p> <p>The aim of making a punishment feel bad enough that it would deter people from choosing to commit the crime, e.g. if someone knows that murder will lead to a life sentence in prison, it should make them think again before they commit the crime.</p> <p>Some Christians would recognise that presenting a punishment as a deterrence can prevent some significant crimes from happening.</p> <p>This is a good thing as it is encouraging people to act in the best possible way.</p>	<p><u>Reform:</u></p> <p>The aim of making a punishment be rooted in a reformation of character – looking at the underlying reasons for the crime having been committed and looking at how to reform ideas and thought processes to support the offender in not re-offending.</p> <p>All Christians would support this aim of punishment, although some believe it should be the only aim. Christians would recognise that this way of supporting people is in line with the teaching of Jesus and is acting in the most loving way.</p>
	<p><u>Retribution:</u></p> <p>The aim of making a punishment serve to pay back for the offence of a crime. It could be that this involves a financial payment/repayment to a victim, or it could be that the payback is a prison sentence or community service carried out by the offender.</p> <p>Some Christians would say that, whilst they understand a proportioned approach to the length of sentencing as related to the committed crime, the emphasis of the punishment should be on the person, not the crime that they have committed.</p>	<p><u>Protection:</u></p> <p>The aim of making a punishment act as protection for victims. When a crime has been committed that caused physical harm to others, punishment can be used to ensure the offender isn't able to harm people any further.</p> <p>Some Christians would recognise the need for this aim in punishment due to the nature of some crimes which can be of a physically harmful nature.</p>
<p>How do Christians respond to each of the different aims of punishment?</p>	<p>Some Christians believe that punishment should only be used to reform criminals because Christians should not judge others.</p> <p>They believe this because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus taught people not to judge others: “do not judge or you too will be judged.” Matthew 7:1. • Jesus did not judge other people for the things they did – he offered forgiveness and urged them to change their life. • In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus lists visiting those in prison as one of the actions which will lead to eternal reward in heaven, showing the importance placed on caring for and supporting prisoners. • Some Christian faith leaders have prioritised the support of prisoners in their actions, e.g. on Maundy Thursday, Pope Francis visits a prison to wash the feet of the prisoners there. • In St Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he clearly talks about the need to support people and work for their reform: “If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.” Galatians 6:1. In this way, reformation of character should be supported in a way that guides people gently rather than forcefully. 	<p>Some Christians believe that deterrence and protection are also needed along with reform for criminals.</p> <p>They believe this because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible often talks about the reward of heaven and punishment of hell, which is arguably an active way of using deterrence to encourage the avoidance of evil actions. • The book of Ezra describes the organisation of judges and magistrates in the area – supporting the need for judgement. Ezra 7:25. • Christians believe that all human beings are created and loved by God – therefore, it is important to uphold that dignity by giving adequate protection and support when one is made victim.



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About the need to support people and work for their reform: “If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.” Galatians 6:1.

2.6: Christian teachings about forgiveness

<p>What is forgiveness?</p>	<p>Forgiveness is the act where someone stops blaming someone and pardons them for what they have done.</p> 
<p>What do different Christians teach about forgiveness?</p>	<p>Forgiveness is very important for Christians as they believe that God is merciful and so they must be merciful in their attitudes towards others. Ultimately, they believe that forgiveness is an act of love because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus taught that God is a merciful and loving God who is always ready to forgive. On the cross, among the final things Jesus said, he prayed “forgive them Father, they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34. • In his many teachings about forgiveness, Jesus was questioned about how many times people should forgive. He taught that people should forgive “not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matthew 18:22. • Within ‘The Lord’s Prayer’, Christians ask God to “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” This is the prayer Jesus taught people to say and so again highlights the importance that Jesus places on forgiveness in the life of a Christian. <p>Some Christians would say that God will only forgive people who repent (have sorrow for the sins they have committed). Other Christians believe that because God is benevolent; his love has no limits and that there is nothing within human capability that goes beyond the forgiveness of God.</p>
<p>How are offenders forgiven by the community?</p> <p>Why is it necessary for this to happen?</p>	<p>When an offence is committed, it can often be that more than just the direct victim of the crime are affected. When this is the case, it is important that the community are able to rebuild their lives and move forward in the most positive way possible. A key part of this is having the ability as a community to forgive. If this doesn’t happen, it can lead the offender to being isolated and separated from the community, which can then lead to re-offence. However, the belief is that by finding the capacity to forgive and then reincorporate the offender into the community will help to reform and support the individual to not re-offend.</p> <p>This reconciliation can take place by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dialogue between the community and the offender • offering those affected to voice their feelings about how the crime impacted them • a program of rehabilitation education to support the offender in not offending again • support to enable the offender to access work, qualifications and a fresh chance within the community.
<p>What is restorative justice?</p>	<p>Restorative justice is a process which deals with committed offences by focussing on the way in which relationships can be healed. The process involves ensuring that the offender understands the impact of their actions and the way they can repair the relationships which have been broken.</p>
<p>What do Christians teach about restorative justice?</p>	<p>Restorative justice is a process that can be supported by all Christians due to its nature as a reformative exercise. Christians would support the fact that the offender is developing an understanding of the impact of their actions which should make it more likely for them to avoid reoffending and as such, turning their life around. Christians would also then encourage further support for the offender beyond the restorative justice so that the process successfully reconciles and reincorporates the offender into society.</p>

2.6: Christian teachings about forgiveness

How do Christian organisations use restorative justice?

Prison Fellowship: A Christian organisation, founded by Sylvia Mary Alison, through which she believed that they answered Jesus' call to visit those in prison. Matthew 25. She didn't believe that she personally was the one who needed to go into the prison, but rather it was Jesus himself out of love for his people that had to go into the prison. She believed she accompanied him.

They work for restorative justice by:

- giving prisoners a chance to make amends with those they have hurt
- offering learning programs to support prisoners in learning new skills, receive qualifications and hope for a future career
- providing help for the families of prisoners to support them in welcoming back the offender into their family lives.



Why is restorative justice important for criminals?

Within the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus discusses the previously given commandments around murder and judgement. Within Matthew 5:21-26, the teachings Jesus gives align directly with the values and principles of restorative justice.

- Jesus describes how religious people should prioritise reconciliation and restoration even above worship: "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24.
- Jesus also discusses that people should settle any disputes quickly: "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court." Matthew 5:25.
- However, Jesus also suggests the importance of paying back for the crime committed which could suggest that whilst restorative justice is crucial, it is not to be the first priority as "Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny." Matthew 5:26.

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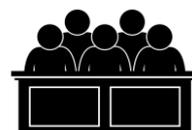
Restorative justice: "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24.

"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court." Matthew 5:25.

"Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny." Matthew 5:26.

2.7: Christian teachings about the treatment of criminals

<p>What does Proverbs teach about how criminals should be treated?</p>	<p>Proverbs 31:8-9 offers a number of insights about how criminals should be treated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute” emphasises the importance of each individual having a voice. Christians believe that all people are made in the image of God and so have a dignity which should be upheld – regardless of the crimes they have committed. • “Defend the rights of the poor and needy” highlights how those who are imprisoned should be treated with respect and dignity. Christians recognise that within a prison environment, prisoners could fall victim to violence and isolation – in essence making them poor and needy. In this way, they should have the dignity of their rights intact. 		
<p>What are the different Christian attitudes about the treatment of criminals?</p>	<p><u>Catholic/Protestant:</u></p> <p>Focus on the dignity of every person and forgiveness and rehabilitation. Protestants would also focus on the need to give individuals an opportunity to change.</p>	<p><u>Quaker:</u></p> <p>Strong belief in non-violence, alternatives to punishment and focusing on the root causes of the crimes committed.</p>	<p><u>Orthodox Christian:</u></p> <p>Strong focus on repentance, forgiveness and transformation of the individual.</p>
	<p><u>The use of torture on criminals</u></p> <p>Within Christianity, it is generally accepted that all humans are created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore, should be treated with respect regardless of the crime they have committed. With this in mind, most Christians would be opposed to the torture of criminals.</p> <p>In some extreme circumstances, situation ethics could lead some Christians to view torture as being acceptable if it is for the greater good of a community or the protection of others. This would be a minority Christian view on an individual basis and would not represent the views of any one denomination.</p>		
	<p><u>The human rights of criminals</u></p> <p>In line with the belief that all Christians have about the dignity of the human person, all Christians would agree that criminals should be afforded most basic human rights within the restraints of their punishment, e.g. if someone is imprisoned, they have forfeited the right to freedom.</p>		
	<p><u>Fair trials for criminals and trials by jury</u></p> <p>All Christians would support the fact that all trials should be fair and that in some situations, the use of a jury, adds a level of impartiality. They believe that fair trials ensure justice within the legal system and protect the rights of all involved within the trial – including the victim and the accused.</p> <p>However, between the different denominations, there are some variations in understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catholic Church believes that all individuals should have the opportunity to present their case. • Protestants often focus on the need for impartiality in judgements, and so, will favour the use of a jury within a trial. • Quakers strongly advocate for fair trials which treat people, including the accused, with dignity and respect. 		



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Treatment of criminals: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” Proverbs 31:8-9

2.8: Christian attitudes towards the death penalty

<p>What is capital punishment and what is the purpose of it?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital punishment, also known as the death penalty, is taking away the life of a condemned prisoner. • Capital punishment was introduced for serious crimes, known as capital offences. In the past, these included less serious crimes such as stealing livestock, but the list of offences was reduced until eventually only murder was considered a capital offence. • Capital punishment has been abolished in the UK since 1970. <p>Its purpose is to provide punishment for the most severe crimes committed, to act as a deterrent to other criminals and to make victims feel that a punishment has been carried out.</p>	
<p>What are the different Christian teachings about capital punishment?</p>	<p>Most Christians are opposed to capital punishment in all circumstances. They have this belief because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • human life is sacred and belongs to God and so only God has the right to take life • the central belief of Christianity is salvation from sin. Jesus came to save all sinners – even if they haven't broken a civil law. In this way, all are equal – regardless of the offences committed • Jesus taught a law of love and forgiveness – he said that “You have heard that it was said ‘eye for eye, tooth for tooth’, but I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other also.” Matthew 5:38. 	<p>There are some cases in which Christians believe capital punishment can be a good thing. They have this belief because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis teaches: “whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” Genesis 9:6. • There is no specific teaching of Jesus which says that capital punishment is wrong. • Within America, where the death penalty is still legally used, some Christians believe that it provides deterrence for people who might commit the most serious crimes.
<p>What are the non-religious attitudes to capital punishment?</p>	<p><u>Some non-religious people would argue that the death penalty should be allowed because:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can act as a more effective deterrent than prison sentences for people to not commit murder. Christians would recognise that, whilst this is true, in order for the deterrent to be effective, it would need to be practiced so that people see that it is a realistic prospect. This alone would not be a good enough argument for a Christian to accept the death penalty. • For a murderer, the death penalty is the ultimate way of preventing re-offending. Christians would note that whilst this effect of the death penalty being used is positive, it is not the initial aim or purpose of the death penalty and certainly should not be seen as a way of condoning the use of the death penalty. • Followers of Utilitarianism would argue that, in some cases, it is a greater good to society the death penalty is used as it removes offenders from the possibility of endangering society further and can make people feel safer. Christians would not accept this as an acceptable view as it fails to recognise the God's given dignity of every individual (the prisoner) and would highlight the parable of the lost sheep where the shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to go and find the 1 missing sheep – recognising the importance of each individual person. 	<p><u>Some non-religious people would argue that the death penalty should not be allowed because:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The killing of someone who has committed murder is arguably just as bad as the murder. Christians would support this as Jesus taught people not to follow ‘eye for eye, tooth for tooth’ which is arguably what happens when the death penalty is used for murderers. • There is no opportunity to reform the offender. As the main aim of punishment agreed by all Christians, if the opportunity for reformation has been missed, it would mean that the legal system is failing and could lose authority. • There have been cases of people being falsely accused and executed before being found innocent. Christians would agree that it is very important for all the accused to have a fair trial and hearing. Where there is any level of doubt, Christians would not be able to support capital punishment – even in a situation where it is still legalised.

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Forgiveness: “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” Genesis 9:6.
 “You have heard that it was said ‘eye for eye, tooth for tooth’, but I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other also.” Matthew 5:38.

Paper 2B: Christianity

Section 3: Living the Christian Life



3.1: Christian Worship*

<p>What is Christian worship?</p>	<p>Worship is when Christians gather together to recognise God as the most important part of their lives. Within Christian communities, the main worship gathering of the week happens on a Sunday which is the Christian holy day of the week, sometimes known as the Sabbath (day of rest) or the 'Lords Day'. Beyond the Sunday service, most Christian churches will also have times to gather throughout the week. Most communities will gather together to pray, but the structure of that prayer can be varied. Similarly, Christians are encouraged to pray individually.</p>		
<p>What is liturgical worship?</p>	<p>Liturgical worship is when the service follows a set pattern of prayers which has been set out by the Church. Across liturgical worship, the inclusion of the 'Eucharist' is a common factor, but the form in which it takes can vary.</p>		
<p>Why is liturgical worship important?</p>	<p>It follows a set pattern each time and so there is a connection with other Christians across the world. For Christians who celebrate a form of eucharist, this connects them back through history to the time of Jesus when he celebrated the first Eucharist at the last supper.</p>		
<p>What are the different Christian forms of liturgical worship?</p>	<p><u>Catholic 'Mass':</u> For Catholics, the Mass is regarded as the single most important way to worship. The Catechism defines it as the 'source and summit' of the faith. It follows a set structure where people are forgiven for their sins; listen to Bible readings and pray for others during the Liturgy of the Word; share the bread and the wine which transforms into Jesus' body and blood; and then get sent out into the world to live as Jesus taught them. Whilst the readings and hymns may change during each mass, the liturgy has a set structure celebrated by all Catholics across the world and set out in the 'Roman Missal'.</p>	<p><u>Anglican 'Eucharist':</u> Based on the 'Book of Common Prayer', Anglican worship, known as the 'Eucharist' is today found in 'Common Worship'. There is a set pattern to the service which involves the confession of sins and calling for God's mercy and forgiveness; readings or 'lessons' from the Bible and a sermon; prayers for others; prayers over the bread and wine and the sharing of communion. The understanding of Eucharist and communion is where there can be some variation among Anglicans. Some believe that the bread and wine do become Jesus' body and blood; whilst some believe that the action is nothing more than a memorial action and that as humans are not God, they cannot seek to replicate what Jesus did.</p>	<p><u>Orthodox 'Divine Liturgy':</u> Whilst the Orthodox 'Divine Liturgy' contains many similar elements to Catholic and Anglican worship, overall, the services are much longer and often can involve more elements of personal prayer whilst the liturgy takes place. The liturgy contains readings from scripture, a sermon and the blessing of the bread and the wine. For Orthodox Christians, the moment of the Eucharist is described as a holy mystery where heaven comes to Earth. This moment of transformation takes place behind a screen before taking the Eucharist out to the people.</p>
<p>What is non-liturgical worship?</p>	<p>Non-liturgical worship is where Christians worship in a less structured way. This can be more spontaneous and can be seen as allowing people to experience more freedom in their connection with God.</p>		
<p>Why is non-liturgical worship important?</p>	<p>Non-liturgical worship is much more spontaneous and allows people more opportunity to connect with God in a way that is more personal to the individual, and so could arguably be more impactful on the individual than set, formulaic liturgy. In this way, the individual remains open to God working through them.</p>		
<p>What are the different Christian forms of non-liturgical worship?</p>	<p><u>The Society of Friends (Quakers)</u> follow a completely non-liturgical form of worship. Worshippers will sit together in a room in complete silence and listen to the voice of God. Eventually if someone feels they have a message to share, they will communicate this to the community.</p>	<p><u>Methodists</u> do have some suggested liturgical structures including elements such as the Eucharist, but these are optional and do not need to be included each week. The eucharist would not be celebrated every week.</p>	<p><u>Evangelical Christians, such as Pentecostals,</u> worship in a much more spontaneous way. Worshippers allow themselves to be inspired in what to say and do by the Holy Spirit. This is called 'charismatic' worship and can lead to people clapping, singing, dancing or even shout out in unrecognisable languages called 'speaking in tongues'.</p>
<p>What is private worship?</p>	<p>Outside the constraints of the weekly worship services, many Christians choose to worship and build a relationship with God throughout their lives. This could be through reading a Bible passages, singing, writing a journal or praying in a more set way (e.g. Liturgy of the Hours is a structured set of prayers for different times of the day in the Catholic Church).</p>		
<p>Why is private worship important?</p>	<p>Private worship allows Christians to build a personal relationship with God in a way that is helpful to them. It can be that sometimes, because of the more spontaneous nature that private worship can have, some Christians feel that it allows them to build a better connection with God than they do in weekly worship services.</p>		

3.2: The role of the sacraments in Christian life and their practice in two denominations

<p>What is a sacrament?</p>	<p>A sacrament is a religious ceremony in which Christians receive God's grace. The Articles of Faith XXV states that '...but rather they be certain sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us...'</p>	
<p>What is grace?</p>	<p>Grace is a gift from God which makes a person more fully the person they are meant to be – it lifts a person closer to God.</p>	
<p>What is the role of the sacraments?</p>	<p>The sacraments are a way in which God can touch someone's life and give them grace to live in the way he asks of them. Whilst Catholics and Orthodox Churches celebrate seven sacraments, Protestants only accept two (Baptism and Eucharist) because they believe Jesus only instituted two sacraments.</p>	
<p>What is Baptism?</p>	<p>Baptism is the first sacrament in Christianity that makes a person become a member of God's family and the Church. Some Christians believe that it is through baptism that a person is cleansed of 'original sin' that everyone is born with.</p>	
<p>Why is Baptism important?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, showing the importance placed on the sacrament by Jesus himself. • Jesus used baptism as a central commandment when he told his disciples to 'go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Matthew 28:19. • Some Christians believe that without baptism, a person cannot enter heaven as Jesus taught that 'no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit' making a very clear reference to the water of baptism. John 3:5. 	
<p>How is Baptism celebrated by different Christians?</p>	<p><u>Infant baptism:</u></p> <p>Celebrated by Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists and Orthodox Christians, an infant baptism is where a baby is baptised to welcome them into the family of God and cleanse from original sin at the start of their life. A sign of the cross is made on the baby, and then, they are anointed with oil to show that they have been chosen by God. They are then baptised by pouring water onto their head three times (in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit).</p> <p>Orthodox Christians fully immerse their babies in the water at this point. The 39 Articles of Religion, the essential beliefs of the Anglican Church, support this as 'The Baptism of young Children is in any wise to be retained in the Church, as most agreeable with the institution of Christ. (39 Articles XXVII).</p>	<p><u>Believer's baptism:</u></p> <p>Celebrated by some denominations such as Baptists and Pentecostals, a believer's baptism is where the person being baptised is old enough to decide that they are ready to be baptised and can confirm this for themselves.</p> <p>When the moment of baptism happens, the person is baptised by total immersion; the person being baptised goes fully beneath the water.</p>

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Baptism: "The Baptism of young Children is in any wise to be retained in the Church, as most agreeable with the institution of Christ". 39 Articles XXVII.

3.2: The role of the sacraments in Christian life and their practice in two denominations

What is Eucharist?

The **Eucharist** is the celebration which remembers the Last Supper of Jesus through the sharing of bread and wine.



Why is Eucharist important?

- Jesus' words at the Last Supper were to 'do this in memory of me'.
- Communion recognises the communal aspect of the Church - uniting all people together in a common belief.
- Some Christians believe that whilst the bread and the wine might not actually transform into Jesus' body and blood, the act of Christians coming together brings about God's presence.

How is Eucharist celebrated by different Christians? (You need to know 2).

<p><u>Catholic:</u> Believe that the bread and the wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus. Every Mass is a re-enactment of Jesus' passion (the short final period before the death of Jesus).</p>	<p><u>Orthodox:</u> The Eucharist is a holy mystery which takes place behind a screen from which the bread soaked in wine is brought forth and distributed on a silver spoon.</p>	<p><u>Nonconformist Protestant:</u> The Eucharist is called 'Holy Communion' and is a commemoration of the Last Supper where the bread and the wine are symbols and do not change.</p>	<p><u>Church of England:</u> Within the Church of England, people are split into two groups largely: those who believe in the transformation of the bread and the wine; and those who believe it is just a symbol.</p>	<p><u>Salvation Army/Quakers:</u> There is no celebration of the Eucharist, as worship should be direct contact with God without symbols.</p>
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Which sacraments are celebrated by Catholics?

The Catholic Church celebrates **seven** sacraments categorised into **three** groups:

Sacraments of Initiation	Sacraments of Healing	Sacraments of Vocation
Baptism	Confession and reconciliation	Holy orders, ordination
Eucharist	Anointing of the sick (extreme unction)	Marriage
Confirmation		

Which sacraments are celebrated by Protestants?

Protestants only celebrate **two** sacraments which they believe were instituted by Jesus:
Baptism and Eucharist.

Which sacraments are celebrated by Orthodox Christians?

Whilst there may be some differences in the practice of the sacraments, Orthodox Christians celebrate the same **seven** sacraments as Catholics:
Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Confession, Extreme unction, Holy orders and Marriage.

3.3: The nature and purpose of prayer

<p>What is prayer?</p>	<p>Prayer is communicating with God, often through words.</p> 	
<p>What are the different types of prayer?</p>	<p>Adoration: Acknowledging that God is wonderful and worthy of praise.</p>	<p>Examples: Sitting silently worshipping God; the sign of the cross is an act of adoring God 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.</p>
	<p>Thanksgiving: Prayers which thank God for a blessing in life.</p>	<p>Examples: Offering thanks to God following a joyful moment in life, e.g. a family member having a successful surgery.</p>
	<p>Repentance: Prayers of sorrow when a Christian has done something wrong and wants to seek forgiveness.</p>	<p>Examples: When someone feels guilt for treating someone badly and they want to ask God for his forgiveness.</p>
	<p>Intercession: Prayers that Christians offer to ask God to respond to the needs of others.</p>	<p>Examples: When a family member is sick and is in need of prayers and so a Christian prays to God on their behalf.</p>
	<p>Petition: When individual Christians ask God to help them with a problematic situation.</p>	<p>Examples: When someone needs guidance to make a big decision in life and so they look to God for help and support.</p>
<p>What are set prayers?</p>	<p>Set prayers are the prayers which follow set words and have been said in the same way for many centuries. Some were written down and collected in prayer books. Examples of set prayers include 'The Lord's Prayer', 'The Glory Be Prayer' or 'The Hail Mary' for Catholics.</p> <p>There are also more complex set prayers in which there is a sequence of prayers which are said in the same order, every time. Examples of these include Morning and Evening prayer or the Rosary.</p>	
<p>What is informal prayer?</p>	<p>Informal prayer is when Christians use their own words to speak with God. There will be times when the formulas do not express the feelings and wishes of the person. It is possible for people to use their own words to raise their hearts and minds to God in a more spontaneous way. There are some Christians, including some Catholics, who feel so moved by the Holy Spirit that they worship God with unusual sounds. This is called 'charismatic' prayer or praying in 'tongues'.</p>	
<p>How is adoration included in the Lord's prayer?</p>	<p>The first line of the Lord's prayer begins with a statement of adoration using the term 'hallowed' which refers to making something 'holy': 'hallowed be thy name'.</p>	
<p>How is thanksgiving included in the Lord's prayer?</p>	<p>The opening name given to God, 'Father', suggests a relationship with God. However, when read in the original Aramaic, the term 'Father' is 'Abba' which is actually a more affectionate term: 'Daddy'. This suggests an intimacy with God in a personal relationship – something to be thankful for!</p>	
<p>How is repentance included in the Lord's prayer?</p>	<p>In this prayer, there is an acknowledgement that we fall short of perfection and so the Lord's prayer provides us with the opportunity to repent: 'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us'.</p>	
<p>How is intercession included in the Lord's prayer?</p>	<p>In a prayer of intercession, Christians look to pray for a better life for others in some way. Life cannot be better than living in the presence of God, and so, 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done' is the greatest prayer of intercession.</p>	
<p>How is petition included in the Lord's prayer?</p>	<p>Through asking 'give us this day, our daily bread' and 'deliver us from evil', Christians ask for their basic needs for life and protection.</p>	

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

How did Jesus teach people to pray? The best-known formulaic prayer is the Lord's Prayer (or 'Our Father'). It is called the Lord's Prayer because the Gospels tell us that these words were Jesus' instructions on how to pray. Matt 6:9-13.

**"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil".**

3.4: Pilgrimage

<p>What is a pilgrimage?</p>	<p>A pilgrimage is a religious journey to a place that is important within that religion.</p> 
<p>What is the history of pilgrimage?</p>	<p>Christians have travelled on pilgrimages throughout history:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrimages to Jerusalem and the Holy Land (where Jesus lived and worked) became common by the fourth century. • To visit the tombs of early Christian martyrs such as Peter and Paul, people began to visit Rome. • Across Europe, the Reformation destroyed many pilgrim sites that were connected to early Christian martyrs.
<p>What is the purpose of pilgrimage?</p>	<p>People see many different purposes in pilgrimage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that pilgrimages 'evoke our earthly journey to heaven.' • Some Christians go to seek healing or forgiveness. • Some Christians look to strengthen their faith. • Some Christians go to escape their ordinary life and consider other life changing opportunities. • Some Christians go to feel a closer connection to God in the places where God has worked.
<p>Why do Christians find some places significant to visit on pilgrimage?</p>	<p>There are a number of categories of places that Christians will visit on pilgrimage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places connected to where Jesus lived, worked, died and rose. • Places that are prominent in the life of the saints. • Places where miraculous events have occurred. • For Catholics, places where Mary has appeared (Apparition sites).
<p>How did pilgrimage feature in the life of Jesus?</p>	<p>As a Jewish family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph took part in the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover. This example of pilgrimage in the life of Jesus shows how important religious journeys can be: 'When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.' Luke2:42.</p>
<p>Why is Jerusalem a place of pilgrimage?</p>	<p>Jerusalem is the place where Jesus lived, worked, died and rose from the dead. As this was the place that Jesus called his home whilst on Earth, it has increasing appeal to connect Christians with the daily life of Jesus.</p>
<p>What do people do on pilgrimage to Jerusalem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private prayer, daily Mass. • Visit to the sites significant in the life of Jesus to pray and feel connected to the places where Jesus himself stood: Mount of Olives, the Via Dolorosa, the Cenacle and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
<p>What do different Christians believe about pilgrimage to Jerusalem?</p>	<p>Christians of many different denominations would visit Jerusalem, as visiting the place where their faith first began is an intensely spiritual event for them that would bring them closer to God.</p>

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Pilgrimage: "Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it." Luke2:41-43.

3.4: Pilgrimage

<p>Why is Iona a place of pilgrimage?</p>	<p>Iona was the home of St Columba, who spread Christianity throughout Scotland with the training of missionaries.</p>
<p>What do people do on pilgrimage to Iona?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience peace and tranquillity away from the noise and bustle of life. • Take time to go on a pilgrimage walk around the island, which highlights the significant religious and historical points. • Take an ecumenical retreat with Christians of different denominations.
<p>What do different Christians believe about pilgrimage to Iona?</p>	<p>All Christians would support pilgrimage to Iona as a place of ecumenism where ‘people from different walks of life and different traditions engage’ (George McLeod). Some Protestants would be conscious that they do not wish to be seen to ‘worship’ St Columba; however, as a reformed community, the focus has arguably shifted.</p>
<p>Why is Taizé a place of pilgrimage?</p>	<p>Founded in 1940 by a Protestant called Brother Roger, The Taizé community was formed with the intention of bringing reconciliation to Christians across Europe. The community of monks who live there, in central France, are a mix of both Roman Catholic and Protestant men.</p>
<p>What do people do on pilgrimage to Taizé?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live a week of work and prayer, looking for ways to cross cultural divides and build cohesion among Christian groups. • Candle-lit Taizé chant services where short phrases of music are sung repeatedly as a form of prayerful meditation. • Bible study each morning with prayerful meditation.
<p>What do different Christians believe about pilgrimage to Taizé?</p>	<p>All Christians would support pilgrimage to Taizé as a place of ecumenism and reconciliation among Christians.</p>
<p>Why is Walsingham a place of pilgrimage?</p>	<p>A shrine is a place with strong religious connotations. The shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, in Norfolk, is the most important place of Christian pilgrimage in Britain. Following visions of the house of Mary in Nazareth, Richeldis de Faverches, an English Christian noblewoman, was asked to build a replica of the house in 1061. A statue of Mary was placed in the spot where the vision took place.</p>
<p>What do people do on pilgrimage to Walsingham?</p>	<p>As there are two sites of pilgrimage at Walsingham for Catholics and Anglicans, the daily activities may have variations, but are largely similar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visit to the Slipper Chapel • walking the Holy Mile • daily Mass and Prayers • reconciliation • adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
<p>What do different Christians believe about pilgrimage to Walsingham?</p>	<p>As there is both a Catholic and Anglican shrine, Christians of various denominations have visited Walsingham as a centre of pilgrimage in England for centuries. Walsingham presents a pilgrimage site with a deep history that can be shared by Christians across the British Isles.</p> <p>It provides a centre of prayer for all to develop a relationship with God.</p>

3.5: Christian religious celebrations

What is Advent?	Advent is a four-week season of preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It allows Christians the opportunity to reflect on the prophecies made about the coming of Jesus throughout the Old Testament and time to prepare their hearts for the upcoming festival.		
How is Advent celebrated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians use an advent wreath and light a candle on it each Sunday with the final candle being lit on Christmas Day. Christians will attend and sing in carol services, e.g. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. With Christingle services, a celebratory event to recognise and celebrate Jesus Christ as the 'Light of the World'. 		
What is Christmas?	Christmas is the celebration of God becoming human in the incarnation (God in flesh). It celebrates the time when Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a stable in Bethlehem .		
How is Christmas celebrated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are crib services for families on Christmas Eve. There is a Midnight Mass. There are Christmas Day masses. There is a Christmas dinner and celebrations together. 		
What are the different days in Holy Week?	What is Holy Week?	Holy Week is the final week of Jesus' life before his crucifixion and ultimately his resurrection.	
	<u>Palm Sunday:</u> Remembrance of Jesus entering Jerusalem triumphantly with people waving palm leaves and singing Hosanna! Provides a joy filled start to a week that will end very differently.	<u>How is it celebrated?</u> Gathering to process into church with palm leaves. Sometimes the palms are folded into a cross shape.	<u>Why is it significant?</u> It reminds Christians that Jesus is the one who is welcomed in triumph into Jerusalem. Some Christians believe this could be a foretaste of how Christ will be welcomed at the second coming.
	<u>Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday:</u> The day of the Last Supper. Jesus institutes the Eucharist and demonstrates that he is a servant by washing the feet of the disciples. Jesus goes into the Garden of Gethsemane where he doubts his fate. He is betrayed and arrested.	<u>How is it celebrated?</u> Most Catholic and Anglican churches are stripped bare. Some even cover all the states with purple fabrics. A celebration of the Eucharist (Mass for Catholics) takes place with a re-enactment of the washing of feet.	<u>Why is it significant?</u> It is a day that commemorates Jesus Christ's Last Supper with his disciples. It reminds us of the importance of humility and of serving others through Jesus' new commandment to love one another. When Jesus enters the garden and doubts God it also emphasises the human nature of Jesus.
	<u>Good Friday:</u> Jesus goes on trial with the High Priest and then handed over to Pilate. He is accused, questioned and sentenced to death. He is scourged 39 times, given a crown of thorns and carries his own cross. Even at the end, he offers forgiveness for his killers.	<u>How is it celebrated?</u> Catholic Christians will often mark this day by praying the Stations of the Cross. Some Christians will also hold walks of witness by carrying a cross into their local community. In the afternoon, a three-hour service is traditionally held to remember the time Jesus was on the cross.	<u>Why is it significant?</u> It is the day when Jesus took away the consequence of all sin from the world and entered Hell on behalf of all people. It was the day on which Jesus showed his love for all humanity.
	What is Easter?	As Holy Week comes to an end, Easter Sunday marks a new week and commemorates the resurrection of Jesus which opens the gates of heaven. This is the day that celebrates Jesus' victory over death and brings eternal life for all.	
	How is Easter celebrated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Easter Vigil takes place on Holy Saturday night to mark the beginning of Easter and the rising of Jesus from the dead. Dawn church services to mark the time the women found the empty tomb. Easter eggs. Family dinner. 	

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

How is the importance of the resurrection highlighted in 1 Corinthians 15?
 "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." 1 Corinthians 15:14.

3.6: The future of the Christian Church

<p>'Church' or 'church'?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Church' refers to the global community of believers. • 'church' refers to a building in which people worship. 	
<p>What is evangelism?</p>	<p><u>Meaning:</u> Evangelism is Spreading the news that Jesus came to Earth to teach us how to live, and he also came to die in order to save us from sin and rose from the dead so that we could enter heaven.</p> <p><u>History:</u> This was the task given to the apostles who were the first to be sent out as Jesus said: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22.</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To introduce people to Jesus who may have heard of him but do not have a personal relationship with him. Ultimately, the purpose is conversion.</p>
<p>What is missionary work?</p>	<p><u>Meaning:</u> Going back to the time of Jesus in the Bible, missionary work is a form of evangelism where Christians were sent out to a part of the world that had never heard of Jesus or Christianity.</p> <p><u>History:</u> This work goes back to a command of Jesus when he said "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15-16.</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To take the Gospel message specifically to areas of the world that had not already received the message.</p>
<p>How are evangelism and missionary work carried out locally?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through parish life: meetings, liturgies, services, sacraments, worship, charity work, Bible study groups, etc. All these provide the opportunity to bring people into the local parish church to meet and discuss with them. • Living the Gospel message of love in a practical way within a community can draw people to want to be involved and find out more about the faith. 	
<p>How are evangelism and missionary work carried out nationally?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through national organisations, charities and initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alpha: (talks and discussion groups to invite Christians and non-Christians together in a setting for discussion). Youth for Christ: an organisation which organises youth groups to bring the message to young people outside Christianity. Bible Society: a charity who create resources to help share the message of the Bible with Christians and non-Christians. • Within the Catholic Church, the Bishops of England and Wales have a committee for evangelisation who look specifically at organising national events and initiatives for the purpose of evangelising the nation. 	
<p>How are evangelism and missionary work carried out globally?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelical Protestantism has committed its efforts for decades to send missionaries across the world. • The use of social media allows for religious leaders and influential Christians to have far-reaching impacts on people across the world. Even Pope Francis uses X (Twitter). • International meetings are held by the Catholic Church in various locations around the globe. World Youth Day was started in the 1980's and gathers over a million young Catholics in different global cities such as: Sydney, Rome, Manila, Krakow, Panama, Lisbon. 	
<p>Why is evangelical work important for the Church?</p>	<p>Most Christians agree that evangelical work is important for the Church because it helps to build the Church to be more fully what God intended. The more individuals who become members of the Church, the stronger, more diverse and more vibrant the Church will be.</p>	
<p>Why is evangelical work important for individual Christians?</p>	<p>For individual Christians, the work of evangelism is the fulfilment of Jesus' Great Commission to go out and make disciples of all nations. They feel that by doing this, they don't just benefit the Church by their efforts, but that they offer salvation to individuals.</p>	



Sources of Wisdom and Authority

<p>Evangelism and missionary work:</p> <p>"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22.</p> <p>"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15-16.</p>

3.7: The role and importance of the local church in the local community

<p>How is the local church important as the centre of Christian identity and worship?</p>	<p>For Christians, the local church is a place of great significance for themselves and for their families' lives. This is because of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church is the gathering place for Christians for weekly worship on Sunday's which is the holy day of Christianity. • It is the place where the sacraments are celebrated at key moments in a person's life. • It is a gathering place for discussion and learning groups. • It is a space where people feel that they can belong as a member of a community. 	
<p>What is ecumenism?</p>	<p>Ecumenism is a collaboration between different Christian denominations, each with their own beliefs and practices. Through this shared endeavour, the hope of Christians is that people will see the reality of Jesus' teaching: "All people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35.</p>	
<p>What is outreach work?</p>	<p>Outreach work is when Christians go outside of their own churches, communities and local areas to work with people in such a way that they feel compelled to be part of the community and part of the same work.</p>	
<p>How does the local church help the local area and individual believers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By running Christian schools which benefit the community. • By offering the use of the building as a cultural venue for concerts and community events. • By organising events that will support people with difficult social situations such as loneliness, homelessness and family issues. • By offering counselling services to support people through difficult times. • Street Pastors can go out from church hubs to support people on nights out or living on the streets – especially in the winter months. 	
<p>Why does the local church help the local area and individual believers?</p>	<p>The local church aims to help people because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Peter 5:2 tells that those who lead and provide guidance for the community should: "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care". The same text does go on to explain that this work would lead to being crowned with a crown of glory, but that there is also a note of caution that any work to help others should be through being an example, not through lording it up over others. • Showing love for others is a key teaching of Jesus in the Parable of the Sheep and the Sheep and the Goats when it says: "I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me." Matthew 25:35-36. 	

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

The local community: "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care." 1 Peter 5:2.

3.8: The role and importance of the Church in the worldwide community

What problems are faced by the Church in areas of persecution?	<p>Religious persecution is when a group is targeted and mistreated because of their faith. Many different religions are persecuted in various locations around the world including Christians. It is the case that in some countries where it is illegal to be Christian, something seemingly as simple as owning a Bible can lead to a Christian being imprisoned or sentenced to death.</p> <p>Persecution can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• murder or public humiliation of individuals• vandalism and destruction of religious sites and places of worship• it being made illegal for places of worship to open• it being made illegal to publicly be a member of a religion• it being made illegal to own religious texts/artefacts.
What is reconciliation?	<p>Reconciliation is when two parties or sides who have been in conflict with one another are brought back together.</p>
How does the Church work for reconciliation?	<p>Across the world, Christian groups and leaders work to reconcile in places where Christians are persecuted or in conflict. Christian leaders will often make public calls for unity or peace in areas of the world where this is not being lived out, and they will look for justice, peace and the integrity of God's creation.</p> <p>The work of reconciliation also happens through some Christian organisations:</p> <p>The World Council of Churches (WCC): An established congress of different Christian communities to encourage an ecumenical approach to issues across the world including 'breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace and upholding the integrity of creation.'</p> <p>Pax Christi: A Catholic, international organisation that works peacefully for human rights, disarmament and global peace.</p> <p>Corrymeela Community: A Northern Ireland organisation which uses group activities and discussion to try and heal political and religious divisions in Northern Ireland.</p>
Why does the Church work for reconciliation?	<p>All Christians agree in the fundamental teachings and values of love, forgiveness and reconciliation as these were the principal themes of Jesus' ministry and New Testament teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The Lord's Prayer.• "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18.• "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.
What is charity?	<p>Charity is an act of goodness in which someone gives something of their own (money/time or something valuable), and this is given to someone else who can benefit from this gift.</p>
What do different Christians teach about charity work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The word charity originates in the Latin term 'caritas' and the Greek term 'agape' which both refer to a Godly, self-giving love. Therefore, for Christians, charity is an act of selfless love, which is what God intended. Demonstrating this love in a practical way is agreed by all Christians as the way they can show God's love to the world. In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul presented the different values and virtues of Christian life, 'but the greatest of these is love.' 1 Corinthians 13:13.• It was the teaching of Jesus that the greatest commandments were to 'love God and to love your neighbour', recognising that acts of charity are one of the most important ways of acting in the way Jesus asked.• The Bible offers teachings about a charitable practice called 'tithing'. In this process, Christians are called to give 10% of their wealth for charity work. Some Christians would refer to the Parable of the Widow's Mite, where the rich people donated an abundance of wealth which they could afford, yet Jesus praised the widow who gave two copper coins which was all she had. She gave much more than 10% of her wealth – is 10% enough?



3.8: The role and importance of the Church in the worldwide community

<p>Who are Christian Aid?</p>	<p>Sponsored by 41 Churches in Britain and Ireland, 'Christian Aid' are an international aid charity which works to eradicate the root causes of poverty and to bring about social justice for all people regardless of their ethnicity, nationality or religion.</p> 
<p>What does Christian Aid do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up projects in the developing countries of the world to utilise the skills and talents of local people – helping people to help themselves. • Lobby the government to bring about change in the UK government policy that could allow for greater support for the poorest countries, e.g. through debt relief. • Educating people in the UK of the situations that people across the world are dealing with. • Supporting people to be able to help the developing countries through the sale of Fairtrade and Traidcraft products.
<p>Why does Christian Aid complete its work?</p>	<p>As a Christian organisation, the Bible is at the heart of the work of Christian Aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) in which Jesus teaches about the importance of doing good for others because “whenever you do this for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.” In this way, Christian Aid follow Jesus’ teaching to treat everyone with dignity and respect as if they were Jesus. • In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches about the importance of giving time, help and money to our neighbours – especially the poor. • The Golden Rule teaches us that we should love our neighbour – treating others as we would want to be treated. <p>Overall, Christian Aid’s work is underpinned by the belief that every person has intrinsic dignity. Part of their vision is for a world where the rights and dignity of every person are respected.</p>

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

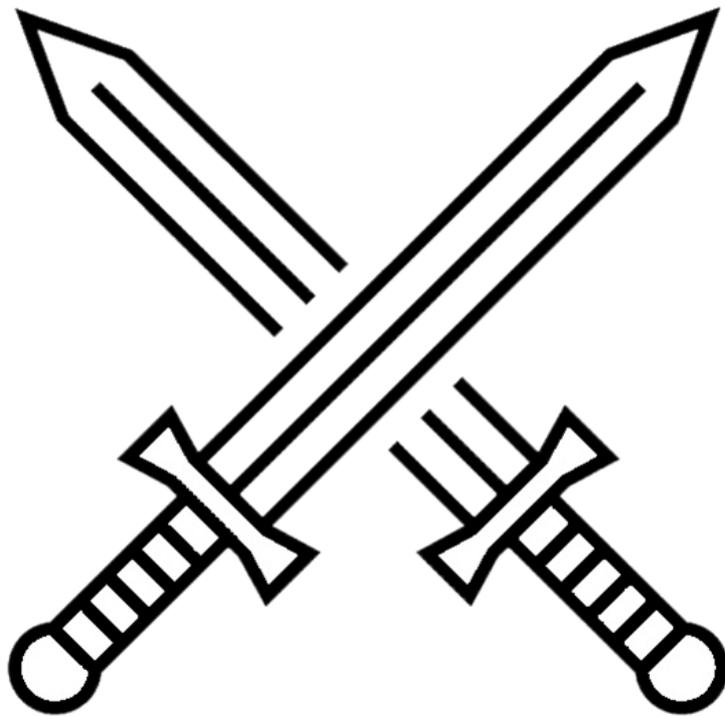
Charity:

St Paul presented the different values and virtues of Christian life, by saying: “the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13.

“I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.” Matthew 25:35–36.

Paper 2B: Christianity

Section 4: Peace and Conflict



4.1: Christian attitudes towards peace

What is peace?	<p>Peace is a state of tranquility and harmony among people where there is no conflict or violence.</p>		
What are the different Christian attitudes to peace and its importance?	<p>Whilst Christians generally agree that working for peace is the way to follow Jesus' teaching on love, there are some more specific beliefs among different denominations:</p>		
What does the Church teach about peace based on Jesus' life as a peacemaker?	<p><u>Catholic/Protestant:</u></p> <p>Actively working for peace is one way to follow Jesus' teachings. A significant approach to this work involves humanitarian work and supporting those who are victims of violence, in particular refugees.</p> <p>They follow particularly the teaching of the Beatitudes as values to live by: "Blessed are the peacemakers." Matthew 5:9.</p>	<p><u>Quaker:</u></p> <p>Quakers are famously pacifists and believe in complete non-violent approaches in all situations and encourage peaceful conflict resolution.</p> <p>A guiding principle in the life of Quakers 'let your life speak' is an encouragement for Quakers to demonstrate an approach to pacifism within their daily lives.</p>	<p><u>Orthodox Christian:</u></p> <p>Believe that unity is the way to peace and work first to ensure that there is peace and unity within their own community.</p> <p>Practically, this is done through organising events and discussions to promote understanding and ongoing dialogue among religions.</p> <p>"Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3.</p>
What does the Church teach about peace based on Jesus' life as a peacemaker?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The heart of the Christian message are Jesus' teachings on love. If love is the rule which is followed, then peace will be the fruit that follows. • Luke 6:27 presents that Jesus said "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you". Whilst it may seem to be counter intuitive, this strive to do good for enemies is at the heart of the Christian teaching on love. • Jesus also criticised the Old Testament teaching 'eye for eye, tooth for tooth' that seemed to call for people to retaliate against those who have attacked them, whereby Jesus told people to "turn and offer them the other cheek also." Matthew 5:39. • In what is arguably the most painful experience in his own life, Jesus demonstrated his own way of making peace in the Garden of Gethsemane, following his betrayal by one of his chosen followers, Judas. In this moment of intense emotion and pain where Jesus' followers jump to defend him and ultimately lead to the cutting off of the high priest's ear, "Jesus answered 'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him." Luke 22:51. Even in this moment of betrayal, Jesus reaches to repair the damage caused by the emotive violence of his followers. 		

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Peace: "Jesus answered 'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him." Luke 22:51.

4.2: The role of Christians in peacemaking

<p>What do Christians teach about peacemaking?</p>	<p>Peacemaking is the process of bringing about and working for peace and reconciliation. The three key elements of peacemaking are justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. All three of these are crucial in ensuring that peace is achieved and ultimately, sustained.</p> <p>Christians believe that peacemaking is a fundamental part of fulfilling Jesus' message of love. Jesus set the example as a peacemaker, and so, it is the Christian responsibility to imitate him to try and be more like him.</p> 
<p>Why are justice, forgiveness and reconciliation important for Christians within peacemaking?</p>	<p><u>Justice</u>: All people are seen to be equal in the eyes of God and has been created in the image and likeness of God. As stewards of God's creation, Christians have a duty to look after other people and to treat them with fairness and dignity. This duty is highlighted by the prophet Micah: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8.</p> <p><u>Forgiveness</u>: Forgiveness is very important for Christians as they believe that God is merciful, and so, they must be merciful in their attitudes towards others. Ultimately, they believe that forgiveness is an act of love because of the teachings and example of Jesus. In order to be able to make peace from a situation of conflict, forgiveness is necessary to be able to move forward without holding any bad feelings, which could resurface ultimately again as conflict.</p> <p><u>Reconciliation</u>: Reconciliation is the process of bringing two sides back together again and reestablishing the relationship between them. Christians believe that when someone repents and puts their faith in God, then God forgives them, and they are reconciled (brought back together with a re-established relationship). Christians believe that they have been created in the image of God and so they should reflect this action and therefore reconcile with one another.</p>
<p>Who are Pax Christi?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An international, Catholic, peace organisation. • Started in France in 1945, following the end of World War II, in an effort to stop such devastation from happening again. • Aim to promote peace and stop wars.
<p>What does Pax Christi do to work for peace today?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peaceful marches and protests where people carry signs and banners to promote peace, not war. • Bring people back together following a conflict. • Run educational programs to help people understand other cultures and deescalate conflict before it becomes a significant issue. • Campaign for nuclear disarmament. • Provide aid packages to help people who have been affected by war and violence.
<p>Why does Pax Christi work for peace today?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a Catholic organisation, the values of love, compassion, and forgiveness are central to the work and mission of Pax Christi who believe that they can help to create a more peaceful world. • Catholics believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, and so, should be afforded the same dignity and protection – which would mean ensuring that all were kept free from harm. • The Beatitudes are often thought of as being Jesus' code for living, which encapsulates all the examples from his life and his teaching. Whilst any one of the Beatitudes could be applied to Pax Christi's reasoning for working for world peace, Jesus does specifically say "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9. Therefore, the work of Pax Christi is believed to be recognised, blessed and ultimately will be rewarded by God.

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Peacemaking: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy...Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:7-9.

4.3: Christian attitudes to conflict

<p>What is conflict?</p>	<p>Conflict is a clash or disagreement between individuals, groups or countries involving opposing ideas and ideologies which can lead to tension and violence.</p>	
<p>What are the causes of conflict and how do Christians respond to them?</p>	<p><u>Retaliating</u>: When war starts as a revenge attack for something which has happened.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Some Christians would refer to Jesus' teaching that 'eye for eye' should not be followed, but that people should turn and offer the other cheek. They would say that a retaliation or revenge attack is not in line with the teachings of Jesus and that other channels of reconciliation should be tried.</p>
	<p><u>Religion</u>: When wars happen because of religious identity. Often, this gives a sense of self-righteousness to individuals who believe that God is on their side.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Some Christians would remember the teaching presented by Jesus in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, whereby everyone is their neighbour.</p> <p>If everyone is their neighbor, this includes people of all faiths and none, and so, using religion as an excuse to go to war would not be aligned with Christian thinking. However, some Christians could look to Jesus overturning tables in the temple out of anger – in this way, Jesus fights for religion in a self-righteous manner, and so, arguably this concept could be applied to the context of fighting a war for a self-righteous goal.</p>
	<p><u>Acting in self-defence</u>: When wars take place because a nation is under attack, and they undertake action to protect themselves.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Some Christians would accept that in the cases of self-defence, if any action is necessary for the protection of people, then it would be recognised as a necessary action. Some Christians would say that actions taken cannot be aggressive but should only be taken in a way which prevents the loss of life.</p>
	<p><u>Fight for independence</u>: When a group start a war to gain independence or governance of a particular area.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Some Christians would argue that it depends on the situation of the individuals involved and the area in which they are trying to gain independence or governance, if it is acting in the best interests and most loving way for the people. Some Christians would look at the way in which the war was being fought and the methods used to ensure that the war was proportionate to the cause.</p>
	<p><u>National dignity</u>: When a war takes place so that a country can be seen to be honourable for fighting for what they think is right.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Some Christians would say that fighting a war to 'save face' or for a sense of 'honour' would not be in line with Jesus' teaching on love, and so, would not be supported in these circumstances.</p>
	<p><u>Greed</u>: When a country raids or invades another country with the sole purpose of gaining land or goods.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Whilst throughout history, there have been holy wars which were fought over territory, e.g. the crusades in 11th-13th centuries; if the motive for the war was a self interest, then this would not be recognised as a worthy reason.</p>
	<p><u>Religion</u>: When wars happen because of religious identity. Often, this gives a sense of self-righteousness to individuals who believe that God is on their side.</p>	<p><u>Christian response</u>: Some Christians would remember the teaching presented by Jesus in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, whereby everyone is their neighbour.</p> <p>If everyone is their neighbor, this includes people of all faiths and none, and so, using religion as an excuse to go to war would not be aligned with Christian thinking. However, some Christians could look to Jesus overturning tables in the temple out of anger – in this way, Jesus fights for religion in a self-righteous manner, and so, arguably this concept could be applied to the context of fighting a war for a self-righteous goal.</p>

4.3: Christian attitudes to conflict

How do Christians respond to the problems caused by conflict?

Christians respond to the problems caused by **conflict** in a number of ways:

- They pray for peace and ask that leaders in the war are guided by God in their actions to reach reconciliation.
- They preach forgiveness and the teaching of Jesus to promote understanding and harmony.
- They perform acts of love and charity in response to the conflict.

More specifically, Matthew 26:47-56 tells of Jesus' betrayal by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane and the way in which Jesus teaches his followers how to react to conflict.

This teaches Christians:

- Even though he was met with aggression - 'a large crowd armed with swords and clubs' - Jesus responds with love and peace - "Do what you came for, friend." Jesus responds to the conflict with calmness and compassion, setting an example that even when faced with violence, Christians should respond with kindness.
- When his disciples move to respond physically, Jesus reminds them to trust in God's plan - "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"
- Finally, Jesus' instruction is to be patient and rely on prayer in the face of aggression: "all who draw the sword will die by the sword."

What are the non-religious attitudes about the role of religion in the causes of conflict?

Non-religious people (including atheists and Humanists) who do not believe in God, have been very critical of the role that religion has played as a cause of conflict over many centuries. They would not support a war that is fought in the name of a God, who they do not believe exists, and they believe that wars fought in this way are a waste of life, money and resources.

Many Christians would agree with this view and would support the view of some non-religious people that pacifism is the way to live and not use conflict at all.

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Christian attitudes to conflict: "Do what you came for, friend...Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?... all who draw the sword will die by the sword." Matthew 26:47-56.

4.4: Christian attitudes to pacifism

What is pacifism?	Pacifism is rejecting the use of violence and war as a means of resolving conflict.		
What is the history of pacifism?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first 300 years of Christianity, Christians refused to fight in wars. Many of the great, early Christian leaders (e.g. Origen and Cyprian) taught that Christians must not be involved in the fighting of a war and that they should be pacifists. Moving forward to the 17th Century and the foundation of the Quakers by their founder George Fox, led to the beginning of a new religious organisation who emphasised non-violence and peaceful living as part of their religious beliefs. As a faith group, the Quakers continue to work today to abolish slavery, provide aid and relief work during conflicts, and they continue to inspire others to a belief in pacifism. In the modern day, many Christians, religious and non-religious people turn to pacifism as they feel that modern warfare has the potential to cause too much catastrophe for innocent civilians. 		
What do Christians teach about pacifism and how do they respond?	<p>The reasons why some Christian groups follow a life of pacifism are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' teaching to turn the other cheek rather than 'eye for eye'. Within the Ten Commandments, the fifth commandment is 'do not murder.' Exodus 20. Jesus' example to not use violence when he was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus' example to forgive those who were crucifying him. <p>Christians would also reference that there have been some horrifying uses of nuclear weapons in recent history - Hiroshima and Nagasaki – which have caused horrific levels of devastation.</p>		
What is passive resistance?	Sometimes known as non-violent resistance is a strategy which uses peaceful protests and opposition to any action which is unjust. The methods employed rely on peaceful methods to bring about social and political change.		
What do different Christians teach about passive resistance?	Whilst all Christians would agree with the process of passive resistance and would recognise how it can align with Jesus' teachings to act with love and non-violence, whilst aiming for a peaceful reconciliation; there are some specific reasons for why they hold these beliefs.		
Catholic:	Anglican:	Evangelical:	Quakers:
Based on the teaching of the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9, Catholics believe that a peaceful solution and reconciliation should be the preferred outcome whenever possible. They look to the example of Saints such as St Francis of Assisi, who promoted love and peaceful harmony between all peoples and all aspects of God's creation.	Using St Paul's letter to the Romans, Anglicans focus on the importance of peaceful relationships with others, because it says "if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18. This example was demonstrated by Archbishop Desmond Tutu who was an Anglican leader who used non-violent resistance during the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.	Guided by the words of Jesus when he said "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44. From this, Evangelical Christians focus on the actions of forgiveness, love and prayer for others in the face of great challenge. Looking to the example of Martin Luther King Jr, Evangelical Christians are inspired in the way that he led the civil rights movement within the United States using non-violent protest and civil disobedience.	Having had a long history of non-violent resistance, including significant work to move to the abolishment of slavery. Their beliefs in the importance of passive resistance are founded in the teaching of Jesus when he says "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44.

At his Last Supper, Jesus presents to his closest friends an understanding of what was going to happen following the extraordinary events of the resurrection. Within his words of explaining the coming of the Advocate (Holy Spirit) at Pentecost, he presents a number of themes aligned to the Christian understanding of passive resistance:

- Jesus encourages his followers to live lives of peace as "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." John 14:27.
- He tells them to put their trust in God and not to be afraid: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." John 14:27.
- He connects the concepts of loving Jesus with having obedience for the teachings he had given: "Anyone who love me will obey my teaching." John 14:23.

By bringing together these themes of having peaceful lives, trusting God and obeying God's rules to show their love of Him, Christians can argue that passive resistance as opposed to violence is preferred.

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you...Do not let your hearts be troubled...John 14:27.
"Anyone who love me will obey my teaching." John 14:23.

4.5: Christian attitudes to the Just War theory

What is Just War Theory?	Just War Theory says that wars can only be justified if they are fought for the right reasons and in the right way.	
What is the history of Just War Theory?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed in its earliest form back in ancient times, when philosophers such as Aristotle would discuss in detail when it might be ok to go to war and ensure its fairness. • Christian thinkers such as Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas developed these ideas further and formulated rules for Christians to follow in the confines of war. • In the present day, governments and organisations such as the UN and NATO use the principles of Just War Theory to decide if a war is justified or not. 	
What are the conditions of a Just War?	<p>When developing his understanding of the theory, Thomas Aquinas said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the war must have a just cause • the war must have a just intention • there must be a reasonable chance of success • it must be a last resort • civillian targets should be avoided and protected – no intentional harm. 	
What do Christians teach about Just War?	<p>Many Christians including Catholics, Anglicans and Evangelicals are supportive of Just War because of the care and attention it brings to thoughts about war and the adequate reflection that it encourages leaders to go through before they commit to an act of war. They would say this is in line with Jesus’ teachings about conflict as they know they have to follow other methods of negotiation and peacemaking before going to violence.</p>	<p>Some Christians such as Quakers do not support the application of Just War theory as they are skeptical about whether you can ever truly have a just war. Instead, they continue to commit themselves to a life of peace and non-violent resistance.</p>
Why is Just War Theory important for Christians?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentally, any form of war will result in the loss of life. If a war is to be fought, it is important that the number of casualties is limited as much as possible and that people are thought about before action is taken. • Christians recognise that sometimes war can be the only remaining option to resolve conflict – by following the conditions set out in Just War Theory, Christians feel that they are acting in the most loving way in the given circumstances. • For some Christians, war, in some circumstances can be seen as the lesser of two evils, e.g. standing against an evil regime. By following Just War Theory, they remain considerate of human life whilst taking necessary action. 	
What do different Christians believe about the possibility of a Just War?	<p>It is understood by most Christians that having specific criteria for defining whether a war is just or not is a good thing. Some Christians believe that at times, a war can be the only way to restore peace. However, some are beginning to question if the same arguments can be made in light of advancements to weapons and modern-day warfare.</p> <p>When considering the moral legitimacy of a war declared by the authorities of a nation, Christians will often look to St Paul’s letter to the Romans in which he discusses the authority of those in power. The text teaches the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected governments do have authority to make decisions regarding the use of force and they should be recognised as morally acceptable, as long as the government is a legitimate authority and if they behave in a just way. This means that individuals must accept the legitimacy of their government: “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.” Romans 13:1. • However, the moral authority of the government is conditional on their behaviour: “For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong,” Romans. 13:3. Therefore, the actions of the government should be just and good such as defending people against an aggressive or oppressive regime. 	

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Just War: “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.” Romans 13:1. “For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong,” Romans. 13:3.

4.6: Christian attitudes to Holy War

<p>What is a Holy War?</p>	<p>Holy war is a war which is fought for a religious cause which they believe is what God wants. Usually, a holy war aims to accomplish a religious goal, is supported by a religious leader or teacher and offers the opportunity of a spiritual reward from God.</p>
<p>How has Holy War featured throughout Christian history?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy war has featured numerous times throughout the history of Christianity. • Whilst war is a feature of the Bible, it would seem that the first holy war as we understand it today was led by Emperor Constantine in 312CE, after a vision of the cross in the sky with an inscription that said: 'in this sign you will win'. Constantine used this cross as the symbol for the Roman Army and went to war against the Pagans. • Arguably, among the most famous holy wars, the Crusades were instructed by Pope Urban II in 1095. He wanted to capture the sacred places in the Holy Land from Muslim communities who had settled there and to therefore restore Christianity. Soldiers were granted forgiveness of all their sins and promised to be rewarded by God eternally.
<p>What does the Bible teach about war and peace?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described in the book of Joshua, the Battle of Jericho was the first battle fought by the Israelites as they aimed to conquer the land of Canaan. The story tells of how the walls surrounding the city miraculously fell down, allowing them to conquer the city – seen as an act of God. The book of Joshua support the belief that God intervened and helped the Israelites reach a victory: "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its King and its fighting men." Josh 6:2. • Christians also look to the story of young David defeating the giant Goliath as he believed that God was with him as he defended his people from the enemy: 'This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down' (1Samuel 17:46). • Matthew 10:34-40 has often been used to justify the belief that Jesus supports holy wars for the conversion of believers as he says "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the Earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Matthew 10:34, which would suggest that Jesus was condoning the use of violence. It is now widely understood, however, that Jesus was not referring to physical violence, rather he was highlighting that bringing followers to him would cause division and upset.
<p>What do different Christians teach about war?</p>	<p>Most Christians maintain the same stance on war as they do about Holy War – recognising the loving nature of God towards all people and considering how they should act towards others.</p> <p><u>Catholics</u> emphasise the idea of peace and love in line with the teachings of the Church and the Beatitudes, which blesses peacemakers. Similarly, <u>Anglicans</u> and <u>Evangelicals</u> promote peace and will not endorse holy wars due to their developed understanding of what God is like. In the same way, <u>Quakers</u> stand firmly as pacifists and will not support war in any circumstance.</p> <p>For <u>all Christians</u>, they would argue that whilst holy wars may have been supported in the past as a way of converting groups of people, they would say that the love and example of Jesus is strong enough to provide an inspirational and compelling image that can entice people into the faith without using violence.</p>
<p>What are the non-religious attitudes towards holy war and how do Christians respond?</p>	<p>Atheists and humanists would agree that fighting war for the sake of religion and using the name of God as the reason for the war is not acceptable and is a waste of human life.</p> <p>For <u>atheists</u>, this view would be specifically held because they do not believe in the god who is being fought in the name of; whereas for <u>humanists</u>, they place the emphasis on the individual person, and so, they do not believe it is worth fighting and losing human life in the name of religion. Many atheists and humanists also support pacifism.</p> <p>Christians would largely agree that human life is important and should not be wasted – however, they would recognise that it is through religion and a relationship with God that they are fulfilled.</p>

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

War and peace: "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the Earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Matthew 10:34.

4.7: Christian attitudes to weapons of mass destruction (WMD)

What is a weapon of mass destruction?	A weapon which has the ability to destroy large areas of land, buildings, and people all at once.	
Why are WMD argued to either beneficial or problematic?	Weapons of mass destruction can be chemical, biological or nuclear. Whilst chemical and biological weapons are against international law, nuclear weapons are highly controversial with a number of recognised benefits and problems.	
<u>Benefits:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They act as a deterrent, which ensures peace. If a country has nuclear weapons, it stops others attacking them out of fear for their use. • In the most extreme cases, they could be used as a form of defence. • Some people take a utilitarian approach – looking for the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people. Some utilitarians would argue that the use of nuclear weapons in World War 2 was appropriate because, even though there was a significant loss of life, it brought about the end of the war quicker and arguably saved more lives than it cost. 	<u>Problems:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of nuclear weapons is incredibly high, which means that not all countries can afford to invest in them. • For countries who can afford nuclear weapons, the money could be spent in other ways to better the lives of the people in that country. • Most people recognise that the taking of innocent lives is wrong and so would disagree with nuclear weapons due to the number of civilian deaths they cause. • The enormous impact of nuclear weapons makes it almost impossible to target specific groups/individuals, so there will always be innocent lives lost. 	
What do Christians teach about the potential problems and benefits of WMD?	All Christian denominations are against the use of weapons of mass destruction as they are believed to be a violation of Jesus' teachings on love, forgiveness and reconciliation. All Christians would accept that. However, there are two widely accepted positions across the different denominations of Christians surrounding the possession of nuclear weapons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possession and use of nuclear weapons goes in direct opposition to the teaching of Jesus about peace, love and reconciliation. • The possession of nuclear weapons can be seen as a way to maintain order and peace. 	
What are the Christian attitudes towards the use of WMD?	Deuteronomy 20 is recognised across Christianity as a source to turn to when considering acts of war and aggression. It outlines principles which Christians argue should be applied today. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This passage outlines the way in which force should be used and when first approaching a city, peace should be the first option: "when you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace." Deuteronomy 20:10. • Some Christians would recognise that this passage refers specifically to when a land-owner has to defend their land – and so they would apply this on a larger scale to nations. • The passage makes it clear to Christians that as peace should be the first option, violence should only ever be used as a last resort. 	
<u>Catholics:</u> They emphasise peace and oppose the use of nuclear weapons, as they are a threat to innocent lives and peace. Pope Francis has been very outspoken on this issue, stressing the importance of peace and aiming for disarmament.	<u>Anglicans:</u> Whilst Anglicans do promote and pursue peace, Psalm 34:14, they do recognise that there is a need for countries to defend themselves and that in a world where countries have nuclear weapons already, it could be argued acceptable to defend themselves with nuclear deterrents.	<u>Quakers:</u> They are complete pacifists and work for peace in all circumstances and situations. They would argue that whilst Deuteronomy 20 might suggest that violence is allowed, the text wasn't written with nuclear weapons in mind. They would also say that the words of Jesus on love, peace and reconciliation overrule any teaching in the Old Testament.
What are the non-religious attitudes towards the use of WMD and how do Christians respond?	Among <u>atheists</u> , there isn't one specific understanding about the use of weapons of mass destruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some would argue that the value of weapons of mass destruction are in their use as deterrents in order to keep peace between nations. They would also point to the fact that they do not believe they will be judged by God, and so, there would be no risk of not going to heaven or hell, as it is not in their beliefs anyways. • Some would argue that it is not right to take the life of another human – particularly an innocent civilian – and so weapons of mass destruction cannot be justified. <p><u>Humanists</u> do not agree with the use of weapons of mass destruction. Whilst they do not believe life is a sacred gift from God, they do agree that there is an importance to each human life, and so, using a weapon of mass destruction cannot be supported. Whilst most Christians would agree with the outcome to stand against weapons of mass destruction, they would add that human life is given its importance from the fact that God created everyone in his image and likeness.</p>	

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

WMD: "When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace." Deuteronomy 20:10.

4.8: Christian attitudes to issues surrounding conflict

What is conflict?	Conflict is a clash or disagreement between individuals, groups or countries involving opposing ideas and ideologies which can lead to tension and violence.		
What are the issues surrounding conflict?	<p>Violence: Actions which hurt or harm others physically or emotionally</p> <p>Violence can be between individuals, families or on a larger scale between communities or countries.</p>	<p>War: Large-scale armed conflict between groups or countries.</p> <p>It can result in a high-fatality rate as well as the destruction of areas and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Terrorism: Threats and acts of violence designed to instil fear and panic.</p> <p>They are carried out for various reasons, and often target innocent people.</p>
How do Christians respond to issues surrounding conflict?	<p>Mostly, Christians work to follow Jesus' teachings on love, forgiveness and turning the other cheek, Luke 6:29. They aim to seek peaceful resolution to conflicts and to avoid violence wherever possible.</p> <p>Christians work to overcome the issue of violence by providing medical care for those who have been affected by violence.</p> <p>When working in prison settings, Christian chaplains aim to support offenders to rehabilitate and not reoffend. In all situations of conflict, Christians will turn to God to pray for peaceful resolutions.</p>	<p>Most Christians work to avoid war wherever there are alternatives available. Where war does occur, Christians will seek to provide immediate aid and charitable responses for those who have been adversely affected by the war.</p> <p>Christians work to overcome the issue of war in a number of ways. They will try to foresee where issues of war can happen, and so, try to resolve these where possible.</p> <p>Where wars have already happened or are in progress, Christians will work to provide practical support in the forms of aid. In all situations of conflict, Christians will turn to God to pray for peaceful resolutions.</p>	<p>Christians condemn acts of terrorism due to the harm and disruption they cause to innocent people. Christians recognise that there can be root causes to these actions and so will look to support and address these.</p> <p>Christians work to overcome the issue of terrorism by promoting dialogue and cooperation among people. By helping communities to live and work alongside one another, Christians try to minimise the risk of terrorist attacks.</p> <p>As with war, where terrorist attacks have already happened or are in progress, Christians will work to provide practical support in the forms of aid for all those affected. In all situations of conflict, Christians will turn to God to pray for peaceful resolutions.</p>
How would non-religious people respond to them?	<p>Both atheists and humanists would typically oppose violence because it causes harm to people, which leads to suffering.</p> <p>They teach that peaceful means of resolution such as talking and understanding are more effective and good for humanity than using force. They are in favour of laws and policies which are put in place to support non-violent approaches to conflict resolution.</p>	<p>Whilst there may be some level of support for war in the cases of self-defence or to tackle an unjust regime, many atheists and humanists would be against acts of war.</p> <p>This is due to the loss of human life involved and the ability to settle matters peacefully.</p>	<p>Atheists and humanists strongly condemn terrorism which targets innocent people and instils fear.</p> <p>They believe in working to tackle the root cause of the problem to ensure the terrorist activity doesn't happen. Humanists would support the use of education to develop communities of coexistence where all can live peacefully.</p>

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Love for enemies: "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:27-31.

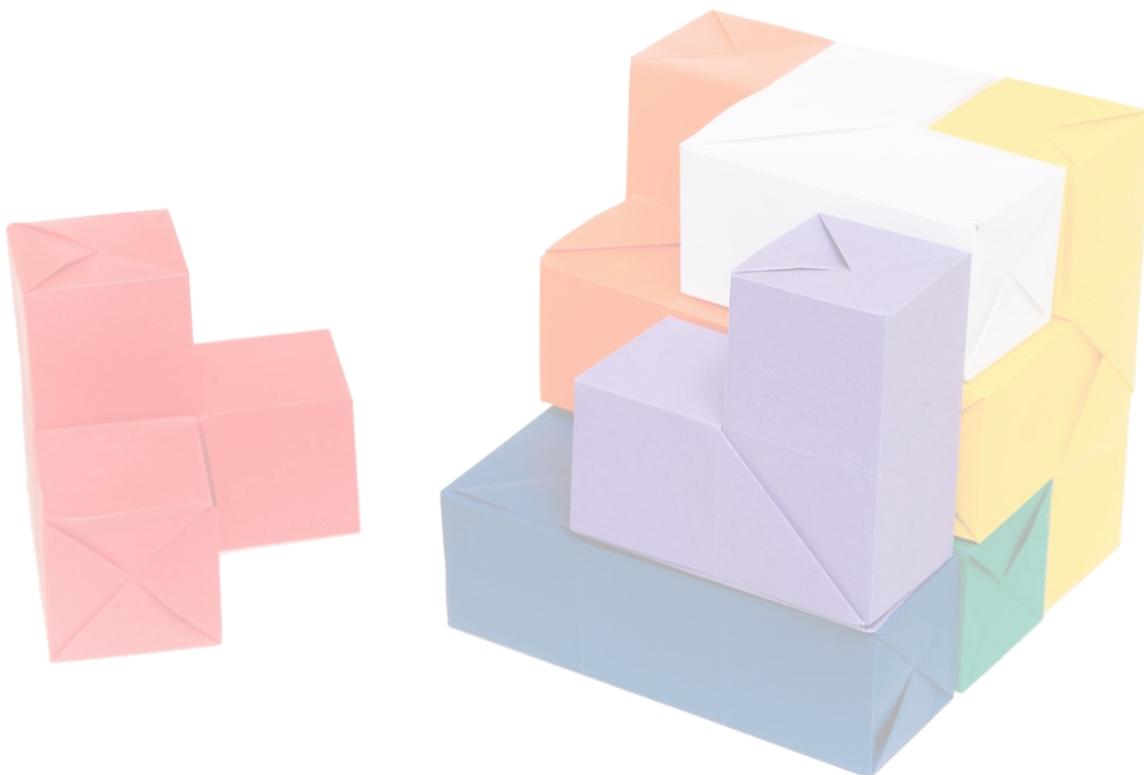
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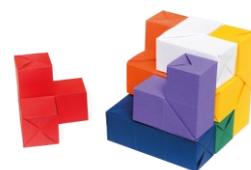
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