

# **PAPER 1:**

## **Christianity – beliefs and teachings.**



# Creation: Genesis Chapter 1: the act by which God brought the universe into being.

Christians believe that God created the earth and all living things on the earth. This story is found in the first book of Genesis Chapter 1. Many Christians believe that although it may not be scientifically accurate, this account contains religious truth, explaining that the process of creation was God's choice and that God designed and caused it to happen.



**“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. **And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”** *Genesis 1:1-3*  
[NIV]

# Creation: John 1:1-3

No one knows exactly when the story Genesis 1 was first written but experts believe it to be around 500BCE. Around 600 years later, in the New Testament of the Bible, **John** opened his gospel with the following passage:

**“In the beginning was the Word,** and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made;** without him nothing was made that has been made.”

*John 1:1-3 [NIV]*

'The Word' refers to God the Son (Jesus). This shows that not only was the Holy Spirit involved in the Creation, but that the Son was as well.

# Belief about God – The Trinity

**Father - God is referred to as a FATHER because Christians believe that he created them and the WORLD.**

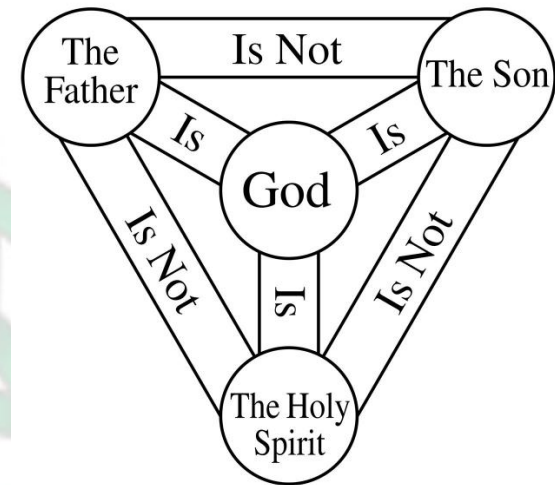
- God the **FATHER** continues to care for us as a father would his own children.
- God will **judge**.
- God **sustains and rules** everything.

**Son - God came to Earth in the form of his SON – Jesus.**

- **Born** of the Virgin Mary.
- Performed **miracles**.
- He **rose** on the third day.
- Jesus is the **redeemer**, saviour.

**Holy Spirit – works within the world**

- **Helper** and guider.
- **Invisible power of God** which breathes new life into people.



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 28:19**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

### The Trinity as a lesson to Christians

The Trinity expresses the way Christians should relate to God:

- **worship** God the Father
- **follow the example** set by God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit **lives in them**

# The Bible



*When Christians want to know how God wants them to live, an obvious place to look is in the teachings of the Bible.*

**The 10 Commandments are a set of rules which they should try to live by...**



# CHRISTIANITY: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

## GOD

- 1: Do not worship  
any other gods
- 2: Do not make  
any idols
- 3: Do not misuse  
the name of God
- 4: Keep the  
Sabbath holy

## MAN

- 5: Honour your  
father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit  
adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

# The nature of God – Match them up...

<b>Just</b>	God is in the world and working in it
<b>Transcendent</b>	God is just and fair, and will judge people according to their actions.
<b>Benevolent</b>	God is all knowing
<b>Omniscient</b>	God is above and beyond the world and cannot act within it.
<b>Omnipotent</b>	God is loving and caring
<b>Immanent</b>	God is all powerful



# The nature of God – Answers

<b>Just</b>	God is <b>just</b> and fair, and will <b>judge</b> people according to their actions.
<b>Transcendent</b>	God is <b>above and beyond</b> the world and cannot act within it.
<b>Benevolent</b>	God is <b>loving</b> and caring
<b>Omniscient</b>	God is all <b>knowing</b>
<b>Omnipotent</b>	God is all <b>powerful</b>
<b>Immanent</b>	God is <b>in the world</b> and working in it

# Exam Questions

0 1 . 1 Which **one** of the following is the idea that God is three-in-one?

- A) Atonement
- B) Incarnation
- C) Salvation
- D) Trinity

[1 mark]

0 1 . 2 Give two qualities which Christians believe describe the nature of God.

[2 marks]

0 1 . 3 Explain two ways in which the belief that God is just influences Christians today.

[4 marks]

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority

One mark for each of two correct points.

Students may include some of the following points but all other relevant points must be credited:

Omnipotent/ loving/ just/ One/ Trinity/ merciful/ forgiving/ omniscient/ eternal etc

Explain two ways in which the belief that God is just influences Christians today.

First way:

simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence - 1 mark

detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence - 2 marks

Second way:

simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence - 1 mark

detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence - 2 marks

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

- It influences them to try and be fair towards others / this is because they believe God loves them and is fair to them too / they have experienced the justice of God so they want others to experience it, etc.
- It influences them to try to bring about justice in the world / this is because God cares about justice / they will try to end injustice, etc.
- They believe that God is pleased with people who are just and fair like him / so they will try to develop this quality / God sets them an example to follow, etc.

# Christian beliefs about life after death



**Quotation: 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live...' (judgement)**

**Quotation: 'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.' (Heaven and Hell)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3ZdNlaG9pg>

## Similarities and differences in Christianity on their views about life after death.

### SIMILARITIES

**All Christians believe that they will be judged by God.**

**All Christians believe that their beliefs and actions will determine where they go after death.**

**All Christians believe in some form of heaven where God is.**

**All Christians believe in the soul.**

### DIFFERENCES

Not all Christians believe in hell.

**Roman Catholic Christians** believe in **Purgatory** – a state between heaven and hell where soul is cleansed, Protestants don't.

Evangelical **Protestants** believe that the **body and soul stay together** in the grave, whereas **other Protestants** believe the **soul leaves the body**.

Roman Catholics believe in confession to a priest, other Christians don't.

# Salvation

In Christianity, salvation means to be **saved from sin** and the consequences of it and be granted **eternal life** with God. Sin has separated humans from God who is holy, and **salvation enables humans to get close to God again.**

- Salvation is gained through **good works** -having faith in God and obeying God's law.
- Salvation through **grace** - salvation is given by God through faith in Jesus. It is not earned or deserved but is a gift for the faithful.

'Salvation is found  
in no-one else.'

'It is by grace  
that you have  
been saved... a  
gift from God'



# The incarnation

The act by which Christians believe God became human in the form of Jesus (birth at Christmas)

For Christians, the belief that Jesus was God in human form is more important than the details of his birth.





# Crucifixion: the execution and death of Jesus on Good Friday.

One of the most detailed stories from the whole of Jesus' life is the account of how he died. He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, and his death was to be by crucifixion.

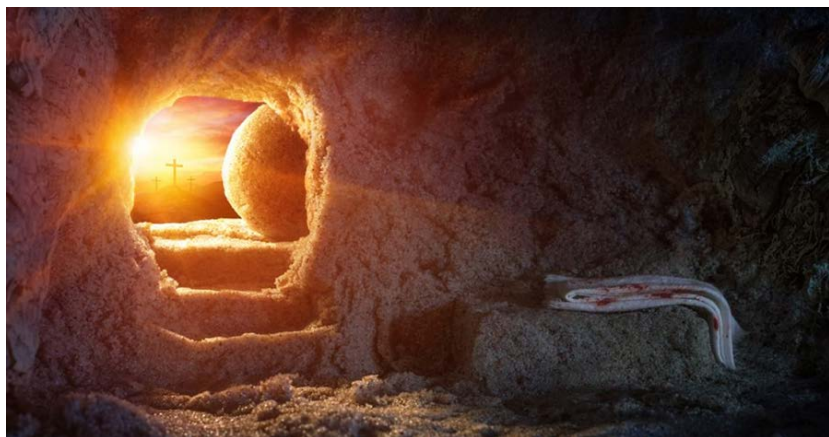
Even though Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God, it does not mean that he was in some way spared the pain and horror of his crucifixion. Not only was he fully God, he was also fully human, and had the same feelings as anybody else.





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

**Ascension:** the event, **40 days after the resurrection**, when Jesus returned to God, the Father, in heaven.



# Evil and Suffering

<b>Moral Evil</b>	Actions by humans that cause suffering.
<b>Natural Evil</b>	Things that cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans e.g. Earthquakes.
<b>Free Will</b>	The ability to choose how to behave. Christians and Muslims both believe humans have free will.
<b>Original Sin</b>	The flawed nature that humans have been born with since Adam and Eve first sinned.



# Evil and Suffering -the argument...

- If an omniscient God exists, he would know that people are suffering, because he knows everything.
- If a benevolent God exists, he would want to stop people from suffering, as this would be a loving thing to do.
- If an omnipotent God exists, he would have the power to stop or even prevent the suffering - he could stop earthquakes, or cancer...
- But people DO suffer.... Therefore either God is not omniscient, benevolent and omnipotent.... Or he simply does not exist.

## Christians believe that:

- ✓ Suffering is a test of faith
- ✓ A punishment for sin
- ✓ Part of life that has to be accepted
- ✓ Jesus went through the ultimate suffering and therefore Christians should be comforted in their own suffering and help others who suffer like Jesus did.

# FREEWILL

- On the other hand, many people argue that God gave us Freewill. This means that we are able to NOT believe in him...
- Humans used their freedom to disobey God, causing suffering.

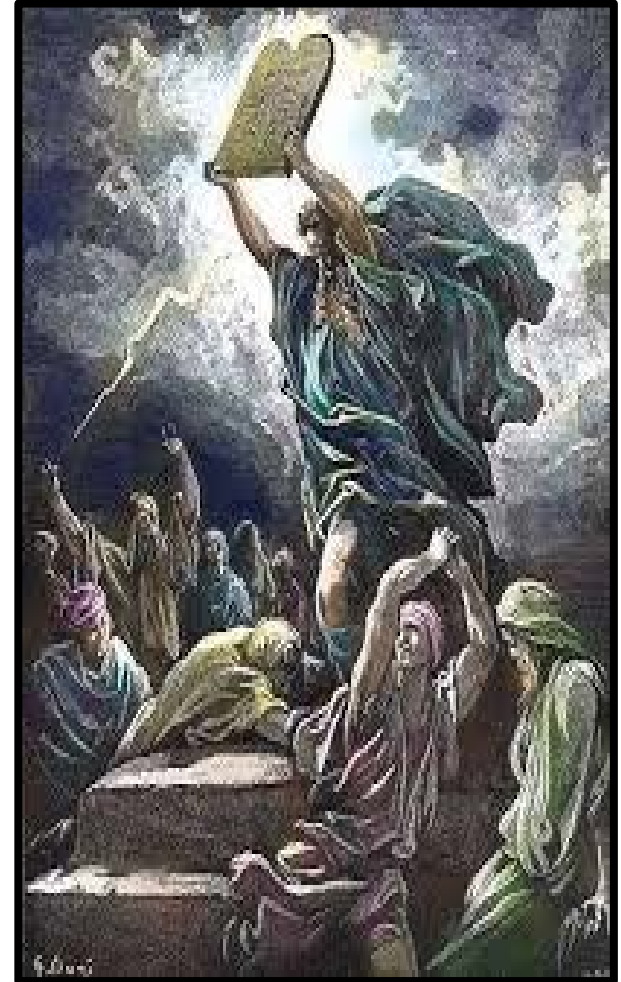


# Free Will and sin

Christians believe that **God gave everyone free will in order to choose how they live their lives.** However, this does not mean that they can do whatever they want.

If people use their free will to make choices that God would not approve of, these will be **sinful and will separate them from God.**

The **Ten Commandments** and other Christian teachings - eg. *live like Jesus did - love each other, forgive, treat people equally, give guidance to allow Christians to use their free will wisely.*



# **PAPER 1:**

## **Christianity - practices.**



# TYPES OF WORSHIP

**Worship:** acts of religious praise, honour or devotion

**Liturgical worship:** A church service that follows a set structure or ritual

**Non-liturgical worship:** a service that does not follow a set text or ritual

**Informal worship:** a type of non-liturgical worship, sometimes 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature

**Private worship:** when a believer praises or honours God on their own

# Christian forms of worship

## Liturgical worship

**Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox churches**

Liturgy - a set structure or pattern, eg Roman Catholic Mass. Features are:

- a set structure to the service
- the use of set prayers and readings
- singing of hymns
- The priest may perform symbolic actions – eg. which have specific meaning.
- Some Christians see it as 'old-fashioned' or 'very traditional'.



## Non-liturgical worship

Non-liturgical worship is typical of some non-conformist churches eg. **(Baptist)** and tends to be Bible based.

- If often follows a structure (hymn, prayer, reading, hymn, sermon, prayer, hymn)
- but the service leader has free choice within that structure.
- They may chose a relevant theme for in the world or community.
- The minister will choose Bible teachings to base



## Informal worship

**Charismatic worship**

Pentecostal and Evangelical churches

is free-flowing.



- 'led by the Spirit'
- Worshippers often speak in tongues (words which are not intelligible but express a person's devotion to God).
- This is seen as a gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Singing, often accompanied by music, clapping and dancing, has a more relaxed feel to it, comes from the heart.

## Private worship

Worship on your own eg. At home, more of a personal connection with God.

# Prayer

*“This is then how you should pray”....*

**How should a Christian pray?**

**- The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be 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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



# **The Lord's Prayer**

**“Our Father who art in heaven”**

**“Hallowed be thy name”**

**“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**

**“Give us this day our daily bread”**

**“Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”**

**“And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”**

**“For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen”**



# The Sacraments

**Sacrament:** A religious **ceremony or ritual**, such as baptism or the Eucharist, where they receive a special gift of grace from God

**Roman Catholics** – believe in 7 sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation/first communion
3. Holy Communion/Mass
4. Marriage
5. Holy Orders – priesthood
6. Reconciliation
7. Anointing of the sick



**Protestants** – believe in 2: **Baptism and marriage.**

**Quakers and other churches** don't see those ceremonies as sacraments.

# Christian Baptism

## Infant Baptism



## Believers/Adult Baptism



**Washing away of original sin, becoming a member of the Christian faith. As a believer/adult you are renewing your life and being fully immersed you wash away your previous sins to start a new life in Christianity.**

**Holy Communion:** a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine.

**Sacrament:** A religious ceremony or ritual, such as baptism or the Eucharist.



# What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection from death.

The Lord's  
Supper

The Divine  
Liturgy

**Eucharist**



Holy  
Communion

**Mass**

The Breaking  
of Bread

Many Christians consider it the most important act of worship. It recalls the **Last Supper** of Jesus

The Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church	The Catholic Church Mass	Holy Communion in Non-conformist Churches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hymns, prayers, Bible reading/sermon</li> <li>• The priest comes through the royal doors</li> <li>• Most of the service is carried out behind the <b>iconstasis</b> – the screen that separates the priest from the people.</li> <li>• The bread and wine are <b>consecrated</b> by the priest ( he says a prayer to make it holy)</li> <li>• <b>The priest gives the bread and wine to members of the congregation – only members can receive it</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hymns, prayers, Bible reading/creed is said</li> <li>• Catholics believe that the bread and wine actually becomes the body and blood of Jesus – <b>transubstantiation</b>.</li> <li>• The bread and wine are <b>consecrated</b> by the priest</li> <li>• ( he says a prayer to make it holy)</li> <li>• <b>The priest gives the bread and wine to members of the congregation – only members can receive it.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hymns, prayers, Bible reading/sermon</li> <li>• <b>Anyone who wants to receive holy communion can do so.</b></li> <li>• The minister repeats the words of Jesus at the Last Supper.</li> <li>• The bread and wine are <b>symbols of Jesus’ body and blood</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Wine and bread are passed around by the congregation (wine in separate cups)</b></li> <li>• <b>It is more informal and focussed on the union of all Christians together.</b></li> </ul>



# Christian pilgrimage.

A pilgrimage is a journey made for religious purposes, this could be alone or with other Christians. A believer makes a physical journey but it is also a spiritual journey towards God.

Some Christians may visit the Holy Land, particularly Jerusalem because it is where Jesus lived, died and resurrected and where Christianity began.

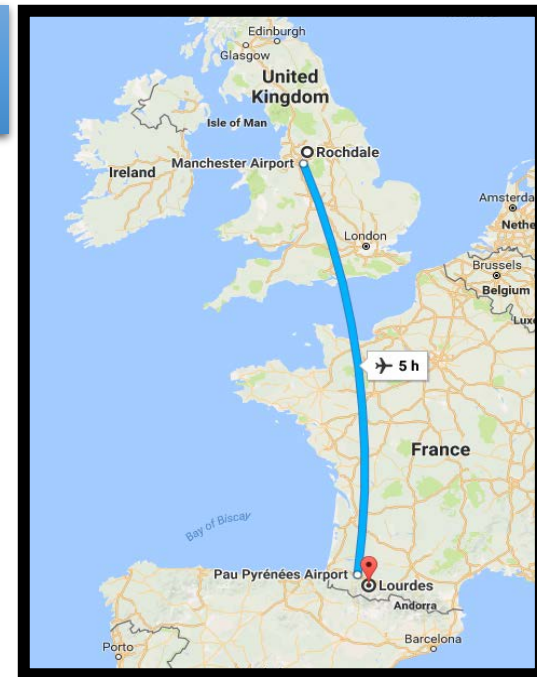


# Lourdes

Lourdes is a pilgrimage dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

In 1958 a young girl names Bernadette spoke of praying the rosary with Mary who looked lovingly upon her. Mary told Bernadette to dig for a spring of water, which was discovered to have healing properties.

Now thousands of pilgrims visit Lourdes to pray at the grotto where Mary appeared, to recite the rosary together, and to bathe in the water where it is claimed that 67 miracles and over 6000 other cures have taken place. Many of these pilgrims are sick or disables and are accompanied by able-bodied helpers.

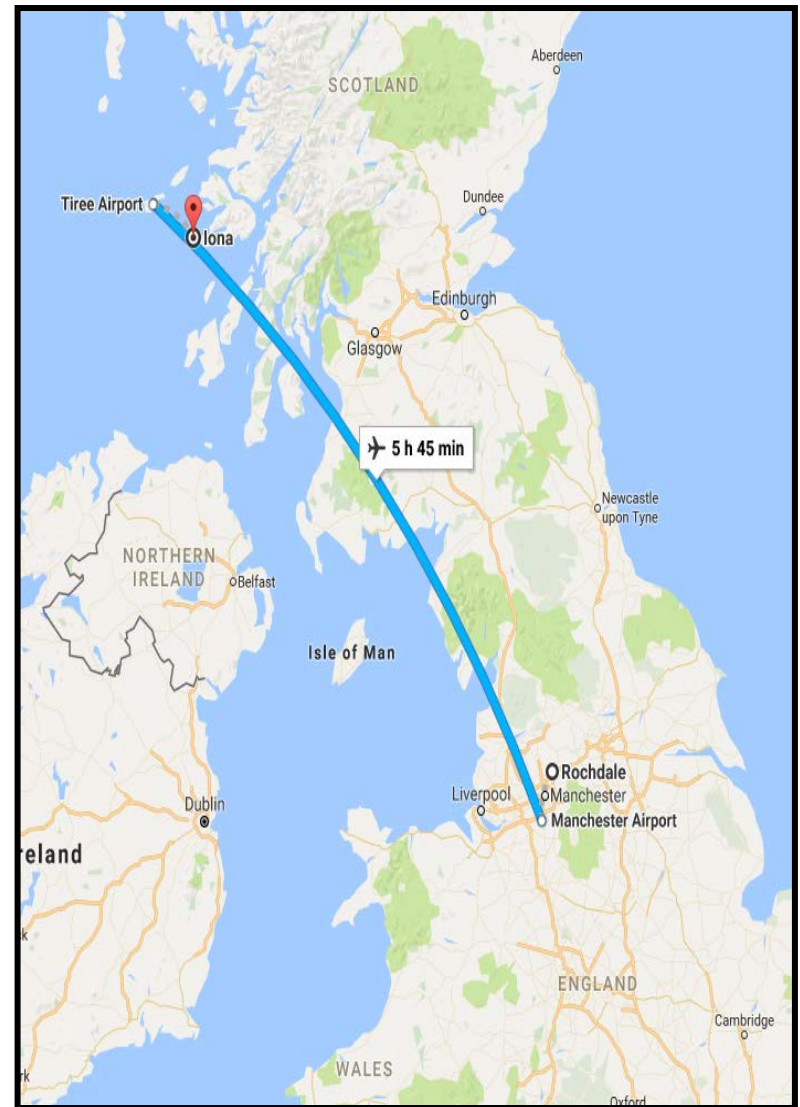


# Iona

Iona is an island off the west coast of Scotland.

An Irish missionary St Columba who brought Christianity to Scotland established a small monastic community there in 6 CE.

Iona is a very remote place and windswept, many pilgrims feel like it is a place where nature reveals God's infinite power and presence.





## The role of the Church in the local community: Food banks

*"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."*

*Matthew 25:35-36*

# The Trussell Trust



The Trussell Trust is a charity founded on Christian principles. They work with people of all faiths and none, but are inspired to do what they do by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25: 35 - 36.

## Mission verse

**“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.”**

***Matthew 25:35-36***

**1**

## **FOOD IS DONATED**

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations and food is also collected at supermarkets.

**2**

## **FOOD IS SORTED & STORED**

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need. Over 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at foodbanks.

**3**

## **PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED**

Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

**4**

## **CLIENTS RECEIVE FOOD**

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.



Oasis is a Christian-based organisation, and though its hospitality and services are available to people of all faiths, or indeed no faith, Christian belief and practice is at its heart.

They offer information, advice and guidance as need arises, for example, helping people: to complete official forms; in their discussions with statutory and other agencies; to check their benefit entitlement; in the use of the computers in the café; and in the exploration of ideas for local initiatives.



# Street Pastors – practical help to people who need it. *‘faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead.’*

Adult volunteers are trained to patrol the streets in urban areas to challenge:

- gang culture and knife crime
- Drug abuse, anti social behaviour
- they work closely with the police
- They listen to people’s problems and try to offer help, advice.



# Evangelism/Mission

The **spreading of the Christian gospel** by public or personal preaching.



Explain **two contrasting views** on the **importance of evangelism**. (4 marks)

***Many Christians** believe that they have a duty to spread the gospel because **Jesus told his disciples to 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'** For them, helping to save other people is a major part of their religion.*

***Other Christians** believe that it is **more important** to have a good **personal relationship with God**, for example in **prayer or worship** in church, rather than to spend time spreading the word about him to others.*

# Persecution

The Society for human rights estimates **that 80% of all acts of religious discrimination are aimed at Christians** – eg. North Korea, Iraq and Syria

It might involve:

- **being forced to pay extra tax**
- **Job discrimination**
- **Forbidden to build churches**
- **Attacks on Christian homes, churches, families**



# World Poverty

**1. CAFOD – Catholic Agency for Overseas Development**

**2. Christian Aid**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thisischristianaid>



# 12 markers - Tips for success

- Include 2 balanced points of view.
- Refer to Christian beliefs and teachings
  - each to include arguments for and against the statement.
- Refer to sacred text (quotes from Bible/Qur'an).
- Use key terminology and good SPaG.
- Use Paragraphs.
- Use Point-Evidence-Explain-Linking viewpoints to the statement.
- Justify your conclusion with relevant reasoning.

## **Arguments to support the statement**

- Explain why some people would agree
- Develop your explanation
- Refer to Christian teachings including quotes/references
- Evaluate the arguments

## **Arguments to support a different point of view**

- Explain why some people would disagree
- Develop your explanation
- Refer to Christian teachings including quotes/references
- Evaluate the arguments

## **Conclusion**

- Give a justified conclusion
- Include your own opinion with reasoning.
- Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other.

# 12 mark question success criteria

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	<p>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p><b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b></p>	10-12
3	<p>Reasoned consideration of different points of view.</p> <p>Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p><b>Clear reference to religion.</b></p>	7-9
2	<p>Reasoned consideration of a point of view.</p> <p>A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence.</p> <p><b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b></p>	4-6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1-3
0	Nothing worthy of credit	0