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# Revision Guide & Workbook

Component 1: Study of religions  
Christian  
Practices

## Christianity

### Practices:

- Worship
- Prayer
- The sacraments: Baptism & Eucharist
  - Ways of celebrating Eucharist
  - Pilgrimage
  - Celebrating festivals
- The role of the church in the local community
  - The place of mission and evangelism
  - Church growth
- The importance of the worldwide church
  - Christian persecution
- The church's response to world poverty

# Christianity

## Practices Key Terms

Key Term	Definition
<b>Agape</b>	a word used in the Bible that describes selfless, unconditional love
<b>Baptism</b>	the ritual through which people become members of the Church
<b>believers' baptism</b>	initiation into the Church, by immersion in water
<b>Church</b>	The holy people of God and A building in which Christians worship.
<b>Christmas</b>	the birth of Jesus
<b>Convert</b>	someone who has decided to become committed to a religion and change his or her religious faith.
<b>Easter</b>	the religious season celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead
<b>Evangelism</b>	spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.
<b>Festival</b>	a day or period of celebration for religious reasons
<b>Holy Communion</b>	a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus
<b>infant baptism</b>	the ritual through which babies and young children become members of the Church
<b>Informal prayer</b>	prayer that is made up by an individual using his or her own words.
<b>Informal worship</b>	a type of non-liturgical worship, sometimes 'spontaneous'
<b>Liturgical worship</b>	a church service that follows a set structure or ritual
<b>Mission</b>	the vocation or calling of a religious organisation to go out into the world and spread their faith.

<b>Missionary</b>	a person sent on a religious mission
<b>Nonconformist</b>	an English Protestant who does not conform
<b>Non-liturgical worship</b>	a service that does not follow a set text or ritual
<b>Persecution</b>	hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race, or political or religious beliefs.
<b>Pilgrimage</b>	a journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons
<b>Prayer</b>	communicating with God
<b>Private worship</b>	when a believer praises or honours God on his or her own
<b>Poverty</b>	the state of being extremely poor
<b>Reconciliation</b>	restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down
<b>Sacraments</b>	rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace
<b>Set prayers</b>	prayers that have been written down and said more than once
<b>Street Pastor</b>	trained volunteers from local churches
<b>The Great Commission</b>	Jesus' instruction to his followers
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	the prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus
<b>Worship</b>	acts of religious praise, honour or devotion

# Worship

## What is worship?

Worship is the way in which Christians show their deep love, reverence and respect for God. It is connected with the word 'worth' and means to recognise someone's importance and value.

Christians may worship alone or with others, in a special building like a church, in peoples homes or any appropriate place. Worship may involve prayer, meditation, Bible readings, singing hymns, preaching, sharing food, pilgrimage, celebrating festivals or using religious art, music or drama. People can worship anytime, but Christians weekly public worship takes place on Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection.



## Why worship?

Worship allows Christians to **praise** and **thank** God for his blessings, to ask for **forgiveness** of sin or to seek God's help for themselves or others who may be suffering.

Worship helps deepen a Christians relationship with God and gives him or her comfort and strength to live a more truly Christian life.

## Different forms of Worship

### Liturgical worship

Some Christians prefer services that follow a set pattern each time. This is called **liturgical worship**. Here a priest leads the congregation in formal prayers that have set responses. Passages from the Bible are read out, particularly from the gospels and sometimes there is a sermon based on these. The priest may perform symbolic actions which have a specific meaning. During the service there will be music, hymns sung by the congregation or choir, or sometimes chanting by the priest.

An example of liturgical worship is the celebration of the Eucharist for Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches.

In liturgical worship the priest may perform symbolic actions which have a specific meaning.

Passages from the Bible are read out and sermons based on these.

Hymns are sung by the congregation.

### Non-liturgical worship

Christians also take part in **non-liturgical worship**, in which there doesn't need to be a set order or ritual. Nonconformist Churches such as Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches, those planning the service may choose an order to suit a theme. Nonconformist Churches place an emphasis on the word of God in the Bible and although many Churches may celebrate Holy Communion regularly, perhaps once or twice a month, the service is usually focused on Bible readings and a sermon based on the readings. The basic structure of the service might remain the same each week but the preacher may change the order, the number of hymns or types of prayer.

### Informal worship

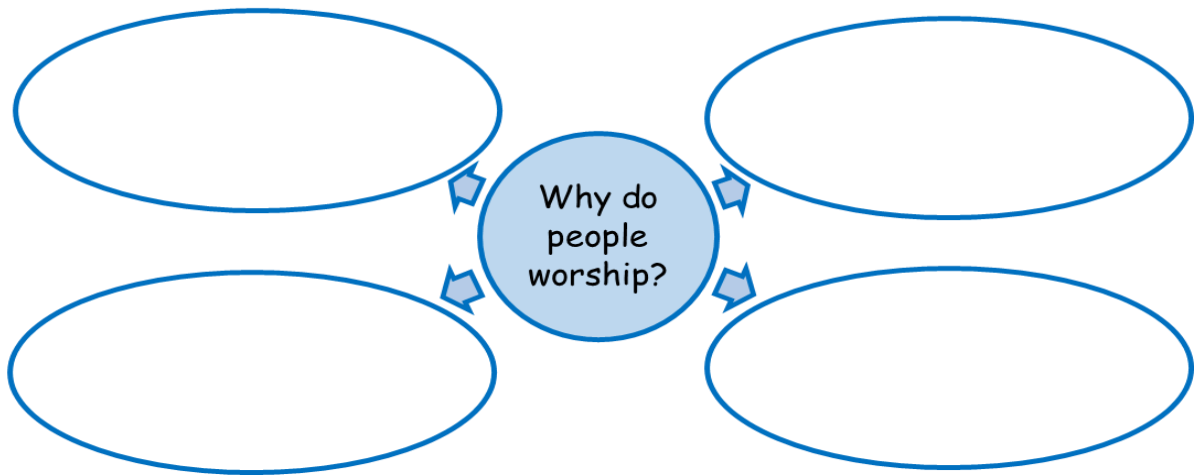
**Informal worship** may depend on peoples spontaneous prayers or sharing of thoughts. Quaker worship is mainly silent and people speak when they feel God's spirit moving them to offer thoughts, prayers or a reading from the Bible. Community or house churches meet to eat together and share their faith to recreate what they believe to be the worship of the Early Church. Some informal worship, like that of the Pentecostal Church, is 'charismatic' (that is, 'led by the Spirit') and may involve dancing, clapping, calling out and speaking in tongues. These worshippers feel it is easier to experience God's Holy Spirit in informal worship.

### Private worship

Private worship allows individuals to spend time with God, either alone or with close friends or family. It may involve prayer, meditation, studying or meditating on a Bible passage, or using aids to worship such as an icon, or a rosary.

# Worship

Type of worship	What is it?	Example?	Why is it important to Christians?
Liturgical			
Non-liturgical			
Informal			



## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting ways which Christians worship.

(4 marks)

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

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Explain two ways that Christians practice worship.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# Prayer

## What is prayer?

Prayer is communicating with God in silence or aloud, with others or alone, using set prayers or informal prayer. Sometimes Christians say a set prayer before eating a meal to thank God for providing what they need to live. Other Christians might pray spontaneously for their meal using their own words, in an informal prayer.

"Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Catholic Grace before meals

People may pray in a humble position, kneeling down, sometimes with hands pressed together. In Orthodox services people stand to pray, Nonconformists often sit, Anglicans may kneel, and other Christians raise their hands to invite the Holy Spirit into their lives. Catholics may use a rosary, while Orthodox Christians use icons to aid prayer.



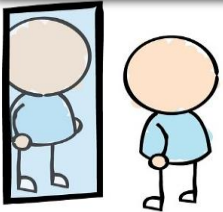
Orthodox Christians pray to God using icons in their homes

Catholics say set prayers using a rosary while meditating on the life of Jesus



Christians believe that God will answer prayer but not always in the way the person would like. Prayer can help someone accept God's will even if it means suffering. Sometimes Christians prefer to find their own way of expressing their needs to God by using informal prayer; they sometimes feel they can open their hearts to God more easily by using their own words.

## What is the significance of private worship and prayer?



Worship is not just about attending public services, it affects the whole of a Christian's life. Private worship helps Christians build up a discipline which gives them strength to cope in times of trouble. It encourages a routine that allows time for reflection in a busy day. Through prayer and meditation Christians find peace and a sense of communion with God in their everyday life as followers of Jesus.

## The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer gives individual Christians a pattern for how to pray as it combines giving praise to God and asking for one's needs. When used as a private prayer, a Christian is reminded that he or she must forgive others in order to be forgiven. It is believed that prayer is only effective if the person's relationships with others are right.

" Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen."

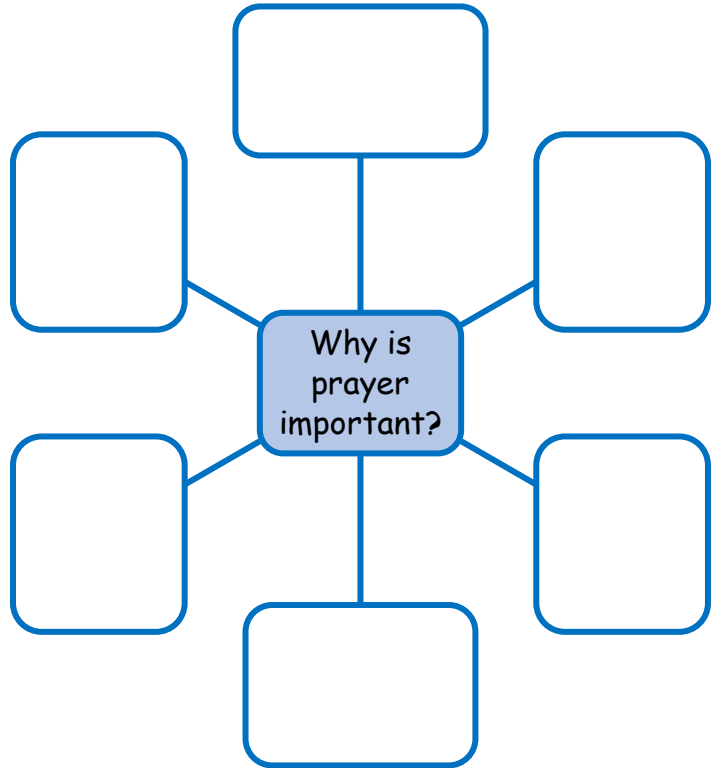
*The Lord's Prayer*

The Lord's Prayer reminds Christians that God is the Father of the whole community, not just of the individual. The prayer is used often in Christian worship and tends to be prayed out loud by all members of the congregation together. It is nearly always said at Holy Communion, baptisms, marriages, and funerals. Even non-believers can feel its impact in such services as it is a prayer that many people in Great Britain learned as children in their families or in school. It can bring a sense of unity and spiritual purpose in society at important times, for example when recited at commemoration services after a tragic event.



# Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:



Why is the Lord's Prayer significant?



## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting reasons why prayer is important to Christians.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two reasons why the Lord's Prayer is important to Christians.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# Baptism

## What are sacraments?

Sacraments are holy rituals that outwardly express an inner, spiritual experience. They make visible for believers a special gift of grace, Catholic and Orthodox Christians expect seven sacraments which they believe to have been initiated by Jesus:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Holy Communion
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the sick



Many Protestant Churches see baptism and Holy Communion as important rituals because they believe Jesus instructed them to undertake these.

Some Churches that practice believers' baptism consider it an important ceremony but do not refer to it as a 'sacrament'.

Some Churches like the Quakers of The Salvation Army, so not use any sacraments.

Sacraments involve symbolic actions, words, and physical elements such as water in baptism and bread and wine in Holy Communion. Many Christians believe that sacraments are special rituals which help to strengthen their relationship with God by making him a part of their life. They are important to the Christian community because they affirm that Christians are part of the Body of Christ, the Church, with all its responsibilities.

“Therefore 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 28:16 [NIV]*

In baptism the person is formally acknowledged as a child of God and receives God's saving grace; the person's sins are forgiven and he or she enters a new life with Jesus Christ.

When John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the Jordan River, two extraordinary things happened that showed God's approval of his son's mission (see Mark 1:9-11). Jesus' baptism set an example for his followers to be baptised in order to receive the Holy Spirit and begin a new life in the Christian community.

## Infant baptism

Catholics and Orthodox Christians believe that infant baptism removes the original sin for a baby.

At an infant baptism, the child is welcomed into the Church as soon as possible, and the parents are able to thank God for their new baby and celebrate the birth with family and friends. Godparents and parents promise to bring up the child in a Christian faith.

Symbols used in an infant baptism:

- Water
- Making the sign of a cross on the baby's forehead
- Anointing with oil
- Dressing the child in white
- Giving the parents a candle lit from the Paschal candle

Rites vary but the priest or minister says:

*'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'*

## Believer baptism

Some Christians think that a baby is too young to understand the meaning of baptism, so people should wait and be baptised when they are old enough to come to a mature decision about their faith. They believe that baptism does not itself save a person; it is someone's conversion to living a life dedicated to Jesus that is important.

Rites vary but the priest or minister says:

*'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'*

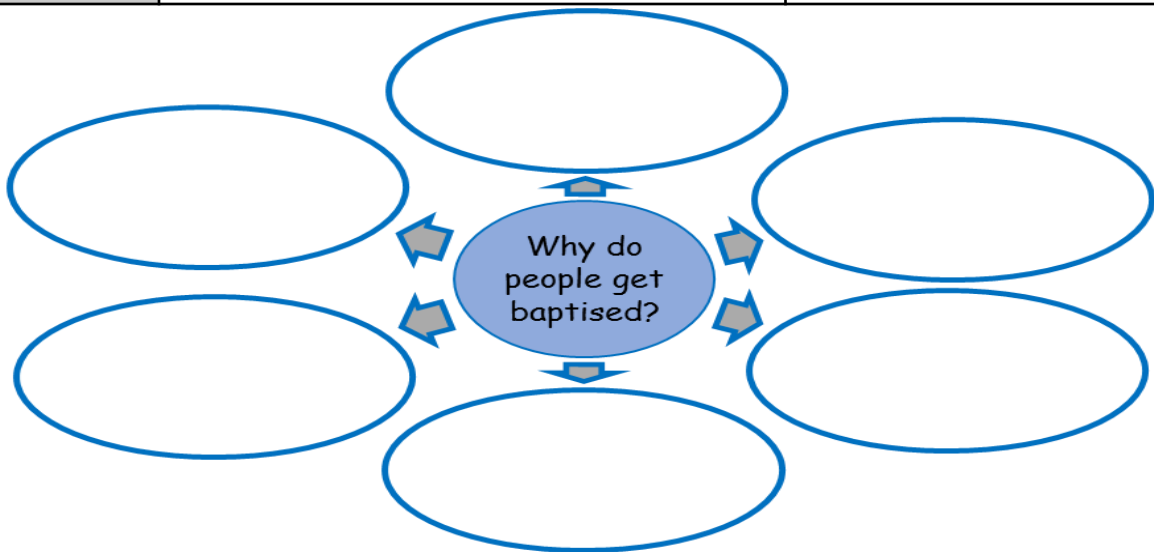
Believers baptism involves full immersion in a pool, symbolising the cleansing from sin and the rising up to new life with Christ.

Rites vary but usually the minister talks about the importance of baptism and asks if the candidates are willing to change their lives.

Each person may read a Bible passage and give a brief testimony of their faith in Jesus as their personal saviour.

# Baptism

Type of baptism	What happens?	Why is it important?
Infant baptism		
Believer baptism		



## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting ways in which Christians practice baptism.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two reasons why Christians practice baptism.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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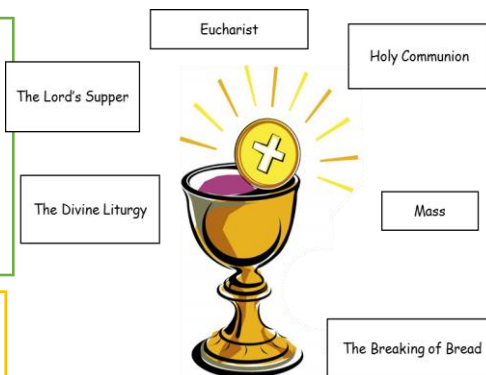
# Holy Communion

## 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.

For Catholics, the sacrifice of Jesus is made present again during this ritual and made real for believers. For the Churches that do not consider Holy Communion a sacrament it is still a significant ceremony.

Many Christians consider it the most important act of worship. It recalls the Last Supper of Jesus (Matthew 26:17-30)



## Holy Communion can be interpreted in different ways



Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Anglicans believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. It is divine mystery how this happens but they believe that Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine. By receiving Holy Communion they believe they become present in a mystical way at the death and resurrection of Christ which saves them.

Protestant Christians who celebrate Holy Communion do so as a reminder of Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. The bread and wine remain symbols of Jesus' sacrifice and help them to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection for their lives today.



## The impact of Holy Communion on individuals, communities and societies

Brings the community of believers together in unity, strengthening their commitment to their faith. If someone is having doubts or is going through a difficult time, celebrating Holy Communion with others can give them support or encouragement.



Holy Communion is at the centre of many Christian lives. They believe that they receive God's grace by joining in the great sacrifice of Jesus.



It reminds Christians that while they are breaking bread together, there are many in the world that are starving. Holy Communion encourages them to work for equality and justice for all. Many Churches collect money during the service to support work being done.

## There are many different ways that Christians celebrate Holy Communion.

There is a small pattern in the way most churches celebrate Holy Communion:

- The ministry of the Word which focuses on God's word in the Bible
- The ministry of Holy Communion - offering, consecrating and sharing the bread and wine.

## Holy Communion in the Anglican Church

A Communion service in the Church of England is almost identical to that of a Catholic Church. One small difference is that the 'peace' is shared at a different point in the service; whereas Catholics do this after the Lord's Prayer, Anglicans do it before the offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Some Anglicans share the Catholic view and Orthodox view that the bread and wine are transformed into Christ's body and blood, but many believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine in a spiritual way and only while it is being eaten. The main emphasis is on this community meal being shared equally with all.

# Holy Communion

What is Holy Communion?

Catholic meaning of Holy Communion:

Protestant meaning of Holy Communion:

The impact of Holy Communion

Individuals

Communities

Wider society

## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting beliefs about Holy Communion.

(4 marks)

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

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Explain two ways in which Holy Communion can impact a Christian.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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## Holy Communion in Nonconformist Churches



A typical service in the United Reformed Church has these elements:

- It begins with a hymn and a prayer of praise and thanksgiving
- Bible readings and sermon follow
- The congregation prays for the world and for the needs of particular people
- The minister reminds the congregation of Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. He or she takes bread and wine, says a prayer of thanksgiving over them, including the words of Jesus, 'This is my body' and 'This is my blood.'
- There is an 'open table' so anyone who wishes to take communion may receive the bread and wine
- People may come forward to receive the bread and wine. In some places the bread is cut beforehand, in others people break off a piece as it is passed around the seated congregation. The wine is sometimes non-alcoholic and is usually distributed in small cups.
- There is a prayer of thanksgiving, blessing and an encouragement to go out and serve God.

### The Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church

#### **Liturgy of the Word**

- There are hymns, prayers and readings from the Bible
- The priest comes through the Royal Doors to chant the Gospel
- There may be a sermon

#### **Liturgy of the Faithful**

- The priest comes through the Royal Doors to receive wine and bread baked by members of the congregation. He selects one loaf to be consecrated.
- The Creed, the Lord's Prayer and other prayers are offered for the church, the world, and the local community.
- Behind closed Royal Doors, the priest says the words Jesus said at the Last Supper.
- The bread is divided into four: three parts are consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. The fourth unconsecrated part is broken into small pieces.
- The priest comes through the Royal Doors to distribute the consecrated bread and wine together on a spoon to the people who come forward for communion.
- Prayers of thanksgiving are said after communion.
- As people leave, the priest gives them pieces of the unconsecrated bread to take home as a sign of being a part of the Christian Community.

### Catholic Mass

Mass begins with a greeting from the priest, and prayers of penance and praise (the 'Gloria').

#### **Liturgy of the Word**

- On Sundays there are three readings from the Bible (the Old Testament, Paul's letters and the Gospel), a psalm and a homily.
- People say prayers for the Church, the world, the local community, the sick and the dead. On Sundays this is preceded by the Creed.

#### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

- Offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar
- The priest says the Eucharist Prayer using the words of Jesus at the Last Supper: 'He gave you thanks and praise, he broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, Take this, all of you, and eat it; this is my body which will be given up for you.'
- He prays over the wine using similar words
- The people say the Lord's Prayer
- The priest and congregation give a sign of peace to each other
- Members of the congregation come forward to receive communion
- The priest blesses the people and tells them, for example, 'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives.'

# Celebrating Holy Communion

## Orthodox Divine Liturgy

Liturgy of the Word

## Catholic Mass and Anglican Holy Communion

Liturgy of the Word

## Holy Communion in the United Reformed Church

Liturgy of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting ways in which Holy Communion is celebrated.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two ways in which Holy Communion services may differ.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# Pilgrimage

## What is a 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.



Pilgrimage is an important part of spiritual life for many Christians. By taking the time to go on pilgrimage, people can try and forget about problems from back home and spend time in the presence of God as they travel to a place with special meaning.

People have always gone on pilgrimage for many reasons:

- to say sorry to God for something they have done wrong
- They are ill and want God to heal them
- looking for an answer to a problem or difficulty
- looking for peace or healing

## Lourdes

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

In 1858 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 disabled and are accompanied by able-bodied helpers.



"As I raised my head to look at the grotto, I saw a Lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same colour as the chain of her rosary; the beads of the rosary were white."

Bernadette describing her first vision of the Virgin Mary.



## Iona

The Iona community hold daily services in the abbey church, lead a seven-mile hike to the island's holy and historic spots, and conduct workshops on Christian themes. Pilgrims are asked to help out with daily chores and meals whilst staying there.

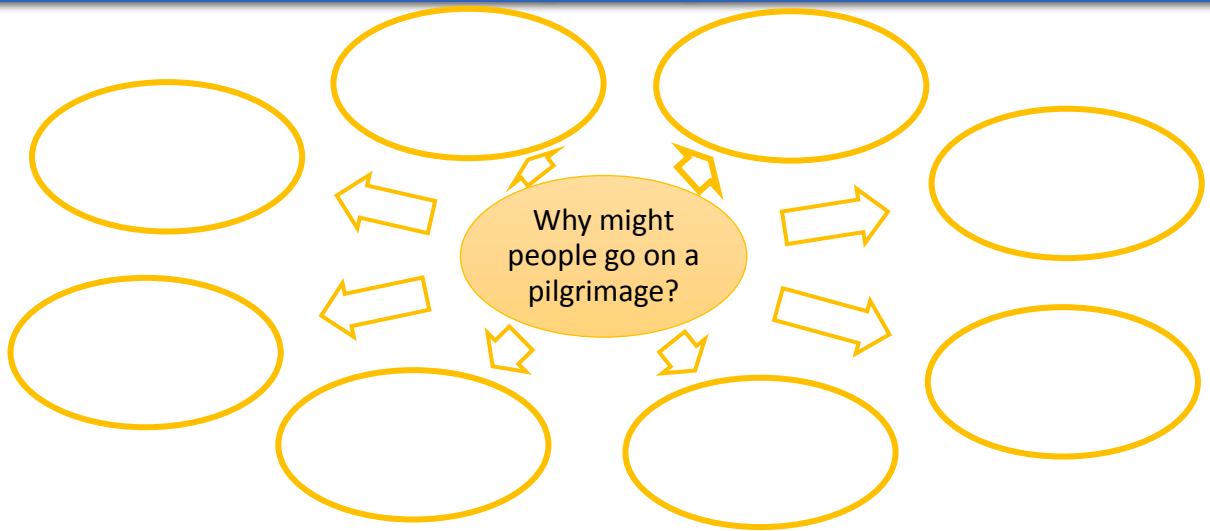
There is time for silence, reflection and meditation, reading the Bible or holy books, and for enjoying the area's natural beauty.

Iona is an island off the west coast of Scotland.

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

Some people think of Iona as a 'thin place', where the veil between the spiritual world and the physical world is thin. It is a very remote place and windswept, many pilgrims feel like it is a place where nature reveals God's infinite power and presence.

# Pilgrimage



Place of pilgrimage	Why is it a place of significance?	What happens?
Iona		
Lourdes		

## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two religious beliefs about the significance of pilgrimage.  
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

(5 marks)

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# Celebrating festivals

## Christmas

Christmas commemorates the Incarnation of Jesus. It is celebrated in the UK on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The celebration lasts 12 days and ends with the feast of Epiphany.

Trees and homes are decorated with lights and nativity scenes. The lights represent Jesus as the light coming into the world and the nativity scenes show baby Jesus being born in poverty.



“Father, you make this holy night radiant with the splendour of Jesus Christ our light. We welcome him as Lord, the true light of the world. Bring us to eternal joy in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”

*Opening prayer of the Catholic Midnight Mass at Christmas*

Christmas is seen as a time of peace and goodwill, many Christians send cards and exchange gifts which recall the wise men's gifts to Jesus.

Christians may also give to charity as God gave the gift of Jesus.

Churches have carol services and have readings from the Bible which shows God's promise of a saviour. The readings also include events of Jesus' birth. Midnight Mass takes place on Christmas Eve.



## Easter

Easter is the most important Christian festival. The festival celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. The week leading up to Easter is called Holy Week and Christians remember the events that led to the sacrifice that Jesus made.

Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and then placed in a tomb. There are special services and processions in the streets. The processions are led by a person carrying a wooden cross.

Churches are filled with flowers on Easter Sunday and special hymns are sung.

Orthodox Christians walk around the church at midnight on Saturday and then enter the darkened church with lit candles or lamps. This symbolises entering the empty tomb. The priest then announces 'Christ is risen!' and the congregation answers 'He is risen indeed.'



“Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.”

*Traditional hymn sung by Orthodox Christians at the Easter Divine Liturgy*

Catholics and Anglicans also have a Saturday night vigil that starts in darkness. A large Paschal candle is lit which symbolises that Christ has risen, this then ends in Holy Communion. Often, there are sunrise services and people will share breakfast together, usually eating eggs, a symbol of new life.

# Celebrating festivals

What is Christmas?

How is celebrated?

What do Christians reflect on during this time?

What is Christmas?

How is celebrated?

What do Christians reflect on during this time?

## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting Christian festivals.

(4 marks)

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

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Explain two ways in which Christians celebrate Christmas.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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

These teachings influence Christians to help others

"And God placed all things under his (Jesus') feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body."

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)

"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 (NIV)

## The Trussell Trust

Carol and Paddy Henderson founded The Trussell Trust in 1997 based on a legacy left by Carol's mother, Betty Trussell. Moved to help forgotten people, The Trussell Trust's initial Bulgaria projects focussed on improving conditions for the 60+ children sleeping at Central Railway Station in Bulgaria. The Trust's work soon expanded not only in Bulgaria, but in the UK too.



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

### Local communities

Passionate about the impact of working with local communities to discover and find solutions to local need, The Trussell Trust has launched several practical and innovative projects in partnership with local communities since its foundation in 1997.

As well as our foodbanks, our Social Enterprises provide vital funds as well as volunteering opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities.

The important work we started in Bulgaria is now being continued by our international partner FSCI, to break the cycle of poverty in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. This includes the House of Opportunity programme, which offers unique support to help Bulgaria's orphanage leavers to build successful futures free from crime, prostitution and drug abuse.

### The foodbank is born

Whilst fundraising for Bulgaria in Salisbury in 2000, Paddy received a call from a desperate mother in Salisbury saying: "My children are going to bed hungry tonight - what are you going to do about it."

Paddy investigated local indices of deprivation and 'hidden hunger' in the UK. The shocking results showed that significant numbers of local people faced short term hunger as a result of a sudden crisis.

Paddy started Salisbury Foodbank in his garden shed and garage, providing three days' of emergency food to local people in crisis.

In 2004, the UK Foodbank Network was launched teaching churches and communities nationwide how to start their own foodbanks.

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 problems.

## The Oasis Project

Founded in 2005, the Oasis Project is a community hub which offers personal support and development opportunities to residents of Plymouth. Many of the people who use its services are disadvantaged by such factors as ill health, learning disability, domestic violence and substance abuse. Low income and inadequate housing contribute to the difficulties.



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.

Oasis is well known and much valued among its visitors for the warm, friendly atmosphere provided by staff and volunteers. At Oasis, everyone is welcome and they aim to serve the community, respect individuals and remain loyal to their Christian faith.

The work of Oasis corresponds to its aim 'to nourish body, mind and soul'. To this end, activities fall into three broad categories: Food & Feeding, Practical & Spiritual Support and Learning & Training.

The Oasis Project of the Methodist Mission Circuit is a community hub with an internet café, creative courses, a job club, training opportunities and a base for meetings. It also runs a food bank. Paid staff are supported by volunteers and session tutors. Around 200 people use the centre each week and spiritual and practical support is given to those who need it because of ill health, learning disability, domestic violence, substance abuse, low income and housing problems.



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

What do individual churches aim to do in the community?

What does the Church aim to do in society?

Quote:

## Examples of the Church helping in the local community

The Trussell Trust

The Oasis Project

### Exam Questions:

Explain two similar ways in which the Church may help in the local community. (4 marks)  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

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Explain two ways why the Church helps in the local community. (5 marks)  
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# The role of the Church in the local community: Street Pastors

The teaching of Jesus, for example in the parable of Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46), shows that Christians should not ignore the needs of society because showing agape love is part of the Christian way of life.

Churches respond practically to the needs of their local communities. Churches have tried to meet these challenges with local projects such as Street Pastors.

Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who care about their community.

They patrol in teams of men and women, usually from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on a Friday and Saturday night, to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets.



Street Pastors was pioneered in London in 2003 by Les Isaac. On that first night, 18 volunteers took to the streets of Brixton - 15 women and 3 men.

Since then we have trained over 12,000 street and prayer pastors, who have played an active part in strengthening community life and working for safer streets. Currently, more than 300 towns and cities around the UK have a Street Pastors team. When you add prayer pastors, management teams and trustees, this means that there are over 20,000 volunteers in total associated with the Street Pastors network.

There are also a growing number of Street Pastors teams overseas. As well as serving the night-time economy, the Street Pastors model is being used in daytime and community settings, for example, in parks, schools and colleges. In 2014 we started to train experienced street pastors for the role of response pastors - volunteers who provide physical and emotional support in times of crisis.

Whichever context they are in, street pastors offer reassurance, safety and support through listening, caring and helping. They work together with other partners to make communities safer.

Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust, which is the governing body behind Street Pastors, and run by a local coordinator with support from local churches and community groups, in partnership with the police, local council and other statutory agencies.

# The role of the Church in the local community: Street Pastors

Why should Christians help their local communities?

Quote:

	Why and when did it start?	What do they do?	Why do they do it?
Street Pastors			

## Exam Questions:

Explain two similar beliefs about the role of Street Pastors.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two reasons why Street Pastors help the local community.  
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

(5 marks)

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# The place of mission and evangelism

## The place of mission

The Church not only provides a place to worship and learn about God, it also has a mission to spread the good news to non-believers that Jesus Christ is the son of God and came into the world to be its saviour.

Matthew's gospel ends with what is known as the Great Commission:



*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Matthew 28:19-20 [NIV]

Christians have a responsibility, according to the Great Commission to tell others of their faith. This may be by spreading the word to people they meet in everyday life or, for some, through organised events or preaching.



Some people feel called to go to other countries and become missionaries, which involves evangelism and in some cases humanitarian work among the poor and disadvantaged.

The main aim is to persuade people to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and to extend the Church to every nation of the world. The New Testament book, the Acts of Apostles explains how the early Christian Church grew in this way and includes, for example, the mission journeys of the apostle Paul.

## The Alpha Course

Originally known as the Alpha Course, Alpha was started in 1977 by a Church of England curate, Reverend Charles Marnham, at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London. The aim was to help church members understand the basics of the Christian faith but soon it began to be used as an introduction for those interested in learning about Christianity. The organisers described this evangelistic course as 'an opportunity to explore the meaning of life 'through a series of talks and discussions.

The idea caught on and many of the major Christian denominations in Britain and abroad began using it. In the 1990's the Reverend Nicky Gumbel from Holy Trinity, Brompton, was involved in revising the course and encouraging its use.



Alpha courses take place not only on church premises but also in peoples' homes, universities, workplaces, prisons and other venues. Worldwide, millions of people have taken part in this course and other related course have been started. These include relationship and marriage courses for adults and study programmes for young people.





# The place of mission and evangelism

The Great Commission:

What does the Great Commission teach?



What is evangelism?

What is mission?

Alpha Centre:

## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting ways a Christian may spread the faith.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two ways in which the Church spreads the faith.  
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

(5 marks)

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# Church Growth

Key facts

- It is estimated that there are 1.5 to 2.5 billion Christians.
  - In 2010 there were nearly 1.1 billion Catholics
- It is estimated that in China there will soon be more Christians than in any other country of the world.
- In 1900 there were no Protestant churches in South Korea but now the capital has 7000.
- It is estimated that Churches in Africa are increasing by an average of 34,00 per day. Worldwide around 80,000 people become Christians each day.

**CfaN**  
CHRIST  
FOR ALL NATIONS

## Christ for all Nations (CfaN)

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke is principally known for his Great Gospel Crusades throughout the Continent of Africa. The son of a pastor, Reinhard gave his life to the Lord at age nine, and heard the call to the African mission field before he was even a teenager. After attending Bible College in Wales, and his ordination in Germany he pastored a church and then went on to start missionary work in Africa.

He began holding meetings in a tent that accommodated just 800 people, but, as attendance steadily increased, larger and larger tents had to be purchased, until finally, in 1984, he commissioned the construction of the world's largest mobile structure " " a tent capable of seating 34,000 people! Soon, attendance at his meetings even exceeded the capacity of this huge structure, and he began open-air Gospel Campaigns with an initial gathering of over 150,000 people per service! Since then, he has conducted city-wide meetings across the continent with as many as 1,600,000 people attending a single meeting using towering sound systems that can be heard for miles.

Since the start of the new millennium, through a host of major events in Africa and other parts of the world, the ministry has recorded 55 million documented decisions for Jesus Christ.

## Discipleship

The Great Commission was to make disciples, not just new believers. Therefore, the Christian mission does not involve only evangelism, but also the training of new converts in the way of following Jesus.

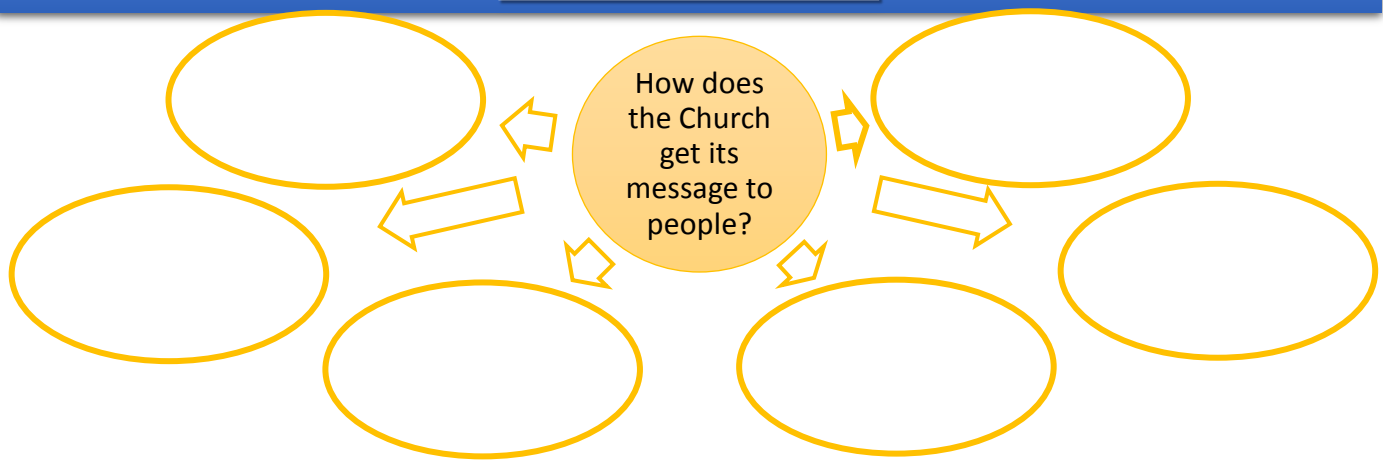
Each individual Christian has a part to play in spreading the faith and encouraging fellow believers.

This can be done through many ways:

- Testimonies
- Prayer advertising
  - Media
  - Radio
  - God TV
- Social media
- Newspapers
- Social events
- Fellowship meals



# Church Growth



What is a disciple?

What is a convert?

How does the Church spread their message?

Why is it important?

## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting ways the church gets its message to people.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two ways in which the Church spreads its message to people.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# The importance of the worldwide church

## Working for reconciliation

The primary mission of the worldwide Church is to proclaim that Jesus came to earth to restore the relationship between people and God.

Christians argue that sin caused this relationship to be broken and separated the world from God who is holy.

When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Christians believe that he saved humans from sin. Through his grace he made it possible for 'God's enemies' (mankind) to be forgiven and become his friends.



The worldwide Church has a role in restoring peoples relationship with both God and one another.

There is a lot of hatred and disharmony in the world which often results in violence and bloodshed.

This can happen within the Church, for example in Northern Ireland there has been conflict between Catholics and Protestants.

## The Troubles

The Troubles refers to a violent thirty-year conflict framed by a civil rights march in Londonderry on 5 October 1968 and the Good Friday Agreement on 10 April 1998. At the heart of the conflict lay the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. The goal of the unionist and overwhelmingly Protestant majority was to remain part of the United Kingdom. The goal of the nationalist and republican, almost exclusively Catholic, minority was to become part of the Republic of Ireland. This was a territorial conflict, not a religious one. At its heart lay two mutually exclusive visions of national identity and national belonging. The principal difference between 1968 and 1998 is that the people and organisations pursuing these rival futures eventually resolved to do so through peaceful and democratic means. This ascendancy of politics over violence was not easily achieved.

During the Troubles, the scale of the killings perpetrated by all sides - republican and loyalist paramilitaries and the security forces - eventually exceeded 3,600. As many as 50,000 people were physically maimed or injured, with countless others psychologically damaged by the conflict, a legacy that continues to shape the post-1998 period.



The Irish Churches Peace Project (ICPP) was set up to bring together Christians from all over Northern Ireland to discuss initiatives to develop peace and understanding

# The importance of the worldwide church

How do Christians work for reconciliation?



Why is it important?

What is Corrymeela?



Why is it significant?

## Exam Questions:

Explain two Christians beliefs about reconciliation.

(4 marks)

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

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Explain two religious beliefs about the importance of the worldwide church.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# Christian Persecution

In 2015 it was reported that the ten countries where the most serious persecutions was taking place are:

- North Korea
- Somalia
- Iraq
- Syria
- Afghanistan
- Sudan
- Iran
- Pakistan
- Eritrea
- Nigeria

The International Society for Human Rights, claims that 80% of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed at Christians.

The Pew Research Centre reported that in 2012 Christians were discriminated against in 139 countries. That is almost 75% of the worlds nations.

The forms of persecution ranges from the following:

- Forcing Christians to pay extra taxes
- Not allowing them to have good jobs
- Not allowed to build churches
- Attacks on their homes, churches and families
- murder

How do Christian Churches respond to persecution?

Christians have faced persecution since the religion began.

Not all persecution has a totally negative affect. Suffering may help a Christian to develop their faith.

Jesus said:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.

*Matthew 5:10-12 [NIV]*

Supporting the persecuted

The church campaigns on behalf of persecuted Christians and supports them where possible.

The Barnabas Fund



The Barnabas Fund sends financial support to projects to help Christians who are suffering from discrimination, oppression and persecution because of their faith.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)



CSW is a Christian human rights organisation that campaign for religious freedom for all.



It uses four main strategies:

- documenting and raising awareness of religious persecution
- Attempting to influence governments
- Offering training in the basics of human rights' laws
- Helping the oppressed to speak up for themselves

# Christian Persecution

Examples of how Christians may be persecuted:

How do Christians respond to persecution?

How are people who have been persecuted helped by Christians?



Quotes:

## Exam Questions:

Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about responding to persecution  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two religious beliefs about helping those who are being persecuted.

(5 marks)

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

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# The Church's response to world poverty

Many Christian charities follow the teaching and example of Jesus in working to relieve poverty.



"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

*1 John 3:17-18[NIV]*

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

They work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. They are part of a wider movement for social justice.

They provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

They are an agency of their churches in Britain and Ireland and are mandated to work on relief, development and advocacy for poverty eradication. Christian Aid's work is founded on Christian faith, inspired by hope and acts to change an unjust world through charity - a practical love and care for our neighbours

CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development. They are an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

They stand beside people living in poverty - whatever their religion or culture. Through local Church partners, they help people directly in their own communities, and campaign for global justice, so that everyone can reach their full potential.

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

CAFOD's Vision, Mission and Values draw directly from Catholic Social Teaching (CST), Scripture and the tradition of the Church. CST is at the heart of what we do and who they are.

**tearfund**

Tearfund is a Christian charity called to follow Jesus wherever the need is greatest. They work tirelessly to help communities around the world escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster.

They believe that the same people facing these troubles, also have the best idea as to how they can overcome them. Tearfund listens: helping people to rise out of their poverty, utilising their resourcefulness and determination. Tearfund works alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations to help realise these plans for a better future.

# The Church's response to world poverty

Why do Christians try to help those living in poverty?

Quote:



Christian Aid

Tearfund

CAFOD

## Exam Questions:

Explain two similar religious beliefs about responding to world poverty.  
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

(4 marks)

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Explain two ways in which a worldwide Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas.  
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

(5 marks)

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