

Beliefs and teachings

- The nature of God: God as omnipotent, loving and just; the problem of evil and suffering.
- the oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3).
- Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance, including: resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell.
- the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God
- the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension
- sin, including original sin
- the means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit
- the role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement

Salvation – Being saved from eternal damnation and entering paradise as a result. Salvation is viewed in 2 ways:

- **Salvation by grace** – Being saved through God's mercy as humans are inherently sinful due to original sin and therefore separate from God, and through Jesus' sacrifice (the crucifixion) we can bridge that gap as Christ atoned for our sins.
 - "For God so loved the world he gave his son, so that all that believe in him may have eternal life."
 - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
 - "The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"
- **Salvation by good works** – Being saved through our actions and good deeds, as there is no point in believing if we do not act upon what Jesus taught. Just believing is not enough.
 - "Faith without action is dead"
 - You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Atonement = Reconciliation between God and humanity. The quote “Christ died for our sins” is proof that the gap that was between us and God, due to original sin, has been bridged and we can achieve salvation through this

The nature of God: There are many different attributes that Christians believe God has, through which we can understand him better:

Omnipotent – All powerful, able to do all things.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”
(Genesis btw)

Shows his immense power to do something that is so impossible for a human

Omnibenevolent – All loving, compassionate to all beings and creatures.

“For God so loved the world he gave his only son”

Omniscient – All knowing, perfect awareness of everything

“He knows everything.”

Just – He is just to all creatures, and he doesn’t wrong anyone.

“Heavens proclaim his righteousness, for He is a God of justice”

How does believing in these characteristics influence Christians:

- Worship God only, knowing that only he deserves it.
- Being thankful
- Have hope for forgiveness of sins
- Follow God’s commandments and teachings and prepare for judgement day
- Be just in conduct, reflecting that God is ‘God of justice’
- Avoid sin, knowing he is always watching
- **Being in awe of him**, knowing that he is greater than them

Theodicy = Defence of God

Theodicies for evil:

- Humans have free will: Moral evil is caused by humans, not God
- St Augustine: Evil and suffering caused by original sin → “The Fall” (Genesis 3)
- John Hick: Evil and suffering part of God’s plan, need them to improve us → Proposed ‘soul making theodicy’ (we learn and grow in response to suffering) and if there is no one to help, how can you exercise moral goodness

Quotes:

- “When Adam sinned; sin entered the world, Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned” (St Paul, Romans 5:12)
- “Suffering produces perseverance” (St Paul, Romans 5:3)
- “A runaway horse is better than a stone” (St Augustine) → Free will
- “Suffering is the result of original sin” (Catechism of the Catholic church)

Trinity:

“Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy spirit”
(Matthew 28:19)

(2) Give two Christian beliefs about the Trinity (2 marks)

- The Trinity is the three parts of God
- The three parts of the Trinity are God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The **Father** is the powerful creator of the world
- The **Son** is Jesus, who came to Earth in human form and died [Key link to resurrection/salvation etc](#)
- The **Holy Spirit** is the invisible part of God acting within the world

Why is the trinity important:

- Central belief of Christianity, underpins every other Christian belief
- Christians can understand the complex nature of God
- Helps Christians understand different ways they can encounter/connect with God

Apostolic creed = Important statement of belief about the trinity

Quotes:

- "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)
- "I and the father are one" (John 10:30)
- "But the Advocate, the Holy spirit, whom the father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:26)
- "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

Creation

- Day 1: Light created
- Day 2: Sky created
- Day 3: Dry land, seas, plants and trees created
- Day 4: Sun, moon and stars created
- Day 5: Creatures living in sea and fly created
- Day 6: Animals living on land and humans were created (imago dei)
- Day 7: God rested (sabbath)

Fundamentalists (literalists)

- Understand creation story literally because Bible is word of God and is inerrant (not wrong)
- Don't believe in science

Liberalists (modernists)

- Understand account of creation in metaphorical way
- Believe science and religion can together explain creation
- They believe the full account of creation but believe science tells us how God created everything (religion – why and science – how)

Different beliefs of afterlife

Resurrection

- Jesus came back to life from dead
- Shows us proof of afterlife (Jesus conquered sin and death)
- “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25)

Judgement

- God is just and will judge people after their death
- Christians believe there will be day of judgement at the end of time (some say faith is enough and others say good works are needed)
- Parable of sheep and goats (Matthew 25)
- “For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for things done while in the body” (2 Corinthians 5:10 – St Paul)

Heaven

- Some Christians believe heaven is a physical place, others believe it is a spiritual state in a state of happiness
- "My fathers house has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2-3)
- "Those who believe in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)
- "The righteous will have eternal life" (Matthew 25:46)
- "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36)
- "The eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands" (2 Corinthians 5:1) "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4)
- "Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43) "Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool" (Acts 7:49)
- "Those who die in God's grace and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ...To live in heaven is to be with Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Hell

- Bible teaches that this is where unrepentant sinners go if they have not accepted salvation and forgiveness through Jesus
- Some believe that it is physical
- Some say there is nobody there (universalism: God will save everyone through his love)
- Some say it's a spiritual state
- Matthew 25: Parable of the Sheep & the Goats
- "We will be separated from God if we fail to meet the need of the Poor" (Catechism)
- "God predestines nobody to go to Hell; for this, a wilful turning away from God is necessary" (Catechism)
- "The fiery lake of burning sulphur" (Revelation 21:8)
- "Wrongdoers will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9)

Explain two ways belief of heaven influences Christians (4)

- Christians follow Jesus because they believe that they will be saved and go heaven through belief in him (John 3:16)
- Worship God and follow his commandments in the Bible in hope that God will judge them worthy of going heaven
- Do good and avoid sin because God will decide whether they go heaven based on how they behaved in this life (Matthew 25)
- Believe that they will be judged when die so they will follow Jesus' teachings to go heaven
- Inspires Christians to have hope and reassurance that death will not be the end. They will not be scared when they die and will have hope that they see their loved ones again

Explain two ways belief of hell influences Christians (4)

- They will be judged after death so they will follow Jesus' teachings and influenced to follow scripture and avoid sin
- Hell is depicted as a place as punishment which makes Christians scared
- Belief in hell as a place of suffering influences them to follow teachings so they will not be sent there – avoid sin
- Catholics see hell as free choice to turn away from God so they don't turn away from God and stay faithful even through difficulties
- They believe in universalism because hell is incompatible with God being omnibenevolent

Incarnation = Become flesh (embodiment of God in Jesus)

Why Christians believe God is Son of God

- "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14)
- "Whoever does not honour the Son, does not honour the father" (John 5:23)
- "The only begotten Son of God" (Nicene Creed)
- "Surely he was the Son of God" – Roman Centurion (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
- "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18)

- “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30)
- And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love with him I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17)
- Resurrection and ascension is proof of his divinity
- Virgin Birth – Immaculate conception
- When Jesus walks on water, disciples exclaim “you really are the son of God” (Matthew 14)

Human side

- Jesus wept (John 11:35)
- Death

How does belief that Jesus is God influence Christians

- Dedicate their lives to following Jesus and practicing his teachings no matter how difficult (“Take up your cross and follow me” - Matthew 16)
- Believing in the power of crucifixion as source of atonement and forgiveness – thanks God for sending Jesus to save the world

Resurrection – “He is not here, he has risen” (Luke 24:5-6)

Ascension – “After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19)

Importance

- Give evidence that Jesus is Son of God
- Demonstrate Christian belief in life after death
- Means Christians are saved from sin

Suffering is the result of original sin (Catechism)

All have sinned (St Paul, Romans 3)

4. Explain two Christian teachings about sin. Refer to sacred writings or another source of authority in your answer [5 marks]

Sin entered the world because of Adam and Eve which is told in Genesis 3 where their disobedience lead to original sin according to Christians

Christians believe they are saved from sin by the crucifixion of Jesus, which is an act of atonement – St Paul wrote “Christ died for your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

Salvation – The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29)

Explain two Christian beliefs about the role of Jesus Christ in salvation. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

Some Christians believe salvation exists through Jesus alone, showing essential role he plays – New Testament (Acts 4:12) states “there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” and (John 14:6) “I am the way, the truth and the life...nobody comes to the Father except through me”

Some Christians believe Jesus died on the cross for humanity’s salvation. His crucifixion was a sacrificial death, restoring relationship between humans and God and atoning sacrifice for original sin (Genesis 3) teaching that Adam and Eve caused sin

Liturgical worship and non-liturgical worship

	AQA Paper 1 – Christian Practices
1	Worship: Liturgical, non-liturgical, informal and private
2	Prayer: The Lord's Prayer, Set prayer and informal prayer
3	Sacraments: Infant and Believer's Baptism
4	Sacraments: Holy Communion / Eucharist
5	Pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona
6	Celebrations: Easter and Christmas
7	Local Church: Food Banks and Street Pastors
8	Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth
9	Worldwide Church: Reconciliation, Persecution and Organisations

Private worship = Believer giving God praise and worship on their own

Worship = Give adoration and reverence to God

How do people worship God

- Bible study
- Praying informal prayers
- Praying set prayers (our father)
- Attending church services
- Singing hymns that glorify him
- Serving others and caring for creation

Liturgical worship

- Church service that follows a set structure/ritual (Protestant/Catholic)
- The Lord's prayer
- Receive sacrament of holy communion (Eucharist)
- Pope Paul VI – "Liturgy is like a strong tree"
- **Why is it important**
 - o Done for a long time → familiar to people
 - o Consistent

Non liturgical worship

- Service which does not follow a set text/ritual
- Non conformist churches such as the Baptist church
- Found in Pentecostal church
- May include laying hands, speaking in tongues, and personal testimonies
- **Why important**
 - o Anyone can be involved
 - o May be seen as more energising/inspiring
 - o Involves God more (speak through holy spirit)
 - o Appealing to young people
 - o People of all ages feel more comfortable

Quaker worship:

- People sit in silence together
- Waiting to be inspired to speak by holy spirit
- No leader and anyone can contribute

Pentecostal worship

- "Charismatic" – led by spirit
- Involves, dancing, clapping, speaking in tongues

Quotes

- "Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them": This teaches Christians that collective worship is important. (Jesus)
- "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs" (Psalm 100): Teaches to be happy and joyful (sing and dance)
- "Give thanks to Him and praise His name (Psalm 100): Teaches Christians to thank God (thanksgiving) and praise God (adoration) as part of their worship
- "Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts" (Colossians): Worship must be sincere
- "Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching" (St Paul): Teaches Bible is important in worship (its infallible and inerrant word of God)
- "Anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God" (St Paul): Speaking to God

- "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (St Paul): ACTS (4 types of worship) Christians should pray regularly but also for important occasions

Liturgical worship is better than non liturgical worship

Liturgical	Non liturgical
"Worship Lord with gladness" – Provides consistent way of worshipping God	"Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them" – Jesus is not specific so you can do either
"Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching" (St Paul) – Learn from expert	"Anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God" (St Paul) – Non-liturgical is better because you can get closer to God
"Liturgy is like a strong tree" (Pope Paul VI) – More traditional and has been done for 100s of years	Anyone can be involved in non-liturgical, and it is more spontaneous – more appealing to younger people and anyone can contribute

Worship	Advantages	Disadvantages
Public	<p>"Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them" – Jesus</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Learn from worship leader</p> <p>Participate in sacraments (eucharist)</p> <p>Participate in charismatic practices (speaking in tongues, laying hands)</p> <p>Be inspired by others</p>	<p>Doesn't feel personal</p> <p>Face distractions and face restrictions</p> <p>No time to travel to scheduled service</p> <p>Not get opportunity to communicate directly with God</p>

Private	<p>“When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you” – Jesus</p> <p>Less distractions</p> <p>More personal</p> <p>Feel more comfortable to be open</p>	<p>Don't benefit from communal aspect of public</p> <p>Don't learn from leader (albeit you can learn from YouTube etc)</p> <p>Doesn't involve participation in sacraments</p> <p>No inspiration from others</p>
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Prayer

Set prayers – Written down and regularly used (Lord's prayer)

Informal prayer – Spontaneously made up using own words

Key quotes

- “Pray without ceasing” (St Paul): Pray regularly
- “Give thanks always” (St Paul): Pray to thank God
- “Pray in spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (St Paul):
- “Ask it and it will be given to you” (Jesus)
- “Pray for those who persecute you” (Jesus)
- Prayer is a “vital and personal relationship with God” (Catechism)

Why pray?

- Need guidance
- Sick
- Ask for help
- Thank God

Types of prayer (ACTS)

- Adoration: Praising God
- Confession: Repenting
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication: Requests

Why is it important for Christians

- Supports personal relationship with God
- Way of communicating with God
- What Jesus did
- Bible says (word of God)

Infant and believers baptism

Baptism = Wash away original sin

Infant baptism = Catholic/CofE ritual where babies/children become members. Promise is made by adult on child's behalf and original sin is washed away and journey begins

Believers baptism = Baptist church immerse people in water old enough to understand ceremony and willing to live Christian life

Sacraments = Holy rituals that express spiritual experiences

Catholic Church Sacraments (7)

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Penance
- Anointing of sick
- Matrimony
- Holy orders

Key quote

- “Make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father, son and holy spirit” (Jesus): Known as “the great commission”
- “Be baptised and wash your sins away” (Book of Acts): Wash original sin → salvation
- “Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved” (Jesus): Achieve salvation
- “Holy baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the spirit” (Catechism): Practice infant baptism
- “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water” (Catechism): Catholics teach baptism as second birth
- “All were baptised by one spirit so as to form one body” (St Paul): Baptism welcomes you into community

Infant baptism is not as important as believers baptism (12)

AQA say that 12 mark answers should:

- Include **two different points of view**; a one-sided response will be capped at Level 2 (max 6 marks). **Give both sides of the argument.**
- Include **religious teaching and explain how it is relevant to the argument being made**; an entirely secular response will be capped at Level 2 (max 6 marks).
- Be detailed. The AO2 questions account for 50% of the total mark so **up to 15 minutes should be spent answering each of these questions.**
- Use a **minimum of three paragraphs** (one giving arguments for the statement, one giving arguments against and a final conclusion). As a guide, this could be around **250 words**.
- **Ensure that the answer includes evaluation and finishes with a strong, justified conclusion.** **Judgements on the arguments are essential for the top level**, phrases like ‘this argument/evidence is robust/strong/weak/inconclusive/insubstantial/convincing because...’ may be useful here. This also helps to address the ‘logical chains of reasoning’ element of the Levels of Response.
- Any **references to religious teachings can be paraphrased**, as in other question types. Students don’t need to cite references in their answer. Furthermore, other sources of wisdom & authority such as religious leaders, set prayers, hymns, the Catechism and key religious figures are also creditworthy.
- Answers can **draw on the beliefs of different denominations or schools of thought.**

Many people have differing opinions on whether infant or believer's baptism is more important.

However, surely it is different for everyone and are both equally important? Some people would agree that infant baptism is not as important as believers baptism. This is because when you are an adult you can make your own choice whether you want to enter a religion or not as you have more of an understanding of what you are signing up for than when you are a baby. Furthermore, having a believers' baptism demonstrates your devotion to God a lot more as you are willingly making that decision, not having it forced upon you.

However, there are many people who would disagree with the statement. This is because infant baptism means that you are devoted to God all of your life whereas believers' baptism doesn't have that level of devotion. Moreover, it is taught that infant baptism is to rid the baby of original sin as everyone is born with it. This means if the baby dies young they won't go to hell as their souls have been rid of original sin. Christians would disagree with the statement. This is because they believe it doesn't matter how long you have been a Christian, as long as you are devoted to God nonetheless. In addition, Jesus taught his followers: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit." This means Jesus just cares about you being baptised, not about when.

In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. This is because I think that as long as you are baptised, it doesn't matter when. Also, in the Bible it says that if you are baptised you will go to heaven, meaning that no matter when you are baptised you will go to heaven to be with God. This means neither type of baptism is more important than the other.

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage = Religious journey to sacred place

Reasons for pilgrimage

- Get closer to God
- Seek healing
- Learn more about the history of their religion
- Fulfil religious duty
- Seek guidance

Lourdes

- Virgin Mary was in St Bernadette vision
- Bernadette dug hole and water started flowing and still flows

Impact of visiting Lourdes

- Strengthens faith

- Spiritual healing
- Physical healing
- Feeling of inner peace
- Feeling of togetherness
- Spirit renewal

Iona

- St Columba founded monastery that does evangelism

Impact of visiting Iona

- Strengthens faith
- Spiritual healing
- Feeling of inner peace
- Spirit renewal

Similarities

- Both involve journey of spiritual importance
- Both are sacred
- People pray together
- Both have profound effect
- Both associated with saints

Iona is mainly for praying and getting closer to God

Lourdes is mainly for healing because of the miracles that happened there

Food banks and street pastors

Role of church in community

- Place for quiet reflection
- Social groups (e.g for elderly)
- Services
- Education

Key quotes

- “Faith without works is dead” (Book of James)
- “Clothe yourselves with compassion” (St Paul)
- Parable of sheep and goat (Matthew 25)
 - “Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”
 - “The righteous will have eternal life”

Trussel Trust

- Guided by Christian principles
- Local churches help by
 - Donating food items
 - Opening up their building for the food bank to use
 - Providing volunteers

Street pastor

- Help people who have been disenfranchised, marginalised

Worldwide persecution

Key quotes

- “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted” (St Paul): Christians should expect persecution
- “Suffering produces perseverance” (St Paul): Develop you and make you have stronger faith
- “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness” (Jesus): Will be rewarded greatly in heaven
- “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Jesus): Jesus warns Christians to anticipate persecution because of belief
- “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Jesus)
- “God reconciled himself to us through Christ” (St Paul): God reconciled himself through humanity
- “Reconciliation is a gift that flows from the crucified lord” (Pope Francis): Gift and should be practiced

How Christians are persecuted

- Murdered for beliefs
- Banned from worshipping
- Removed from job

How Christians respond to persecution

- Prayer: “Pray for those who persecute you” (Jesus)
- Donation (Open Doors UK) such as Bibles or food, water
- Protest and campaigning
- Get them out of the country

Interfaith dialogue = Dialogue between other religions

Ecumenism = Dialogue between different denominations

CAFOD

- Help people in poverty

Christian aid

- Help people in poverty and suffering disasters

Tearfund

- Free people from poverty

Explain **two** ways in which a worldwide Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas.

Refer to sacred writing or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

AQA Mark scheme:

- The organisation may care for victims of a natural disaster/they may help them re-build their communities/provide food, water, medicines, temporary shelters/comfort them in their time of need. Matthew 25: 35–36 etc
- The organisation may work with a community to make them stronger to face future problems/they may teach them new skills, how to look after themselves/they may provide money to start-up small businesses/they may build a school for the children or teach the adults better healthcare. Mark 12:31 etc
- The organisation may fight against injustice or provide a fairer way of doing things/they free people from slavery, poor working conditions, exploitation/they encourage people to work together and share profits/they put pressure on governments to implement change. Luke 4: 18–19, Gaudium et Spes: 26, etc.

Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth

Mission = Duty of Christians to spread the gospel (good news)

Evangelism = Preaching gospel to convert people into Christians

Key Quotes

- “Make disciples of all nations” (Jesus – Great commission)
- “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes” (St Paul)
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. Nobody comes to the Father except through me” (Jesus)
- “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Jesus)
- “Christ died for our sins” (St Paul)
- “Salvation is found in nobody else” (Book of Acts)

How do they evangelise

- Giving out leaflets or free Bibles
- Alpha courses (learn basics)
- Through social media

Why

- Been commissioned by Jesus
- Want people to be saved through faith
- Grow the Church

Evangelism is the most important task for Christians throughout the world (12)

AGREE – including evidence to support each argument.	DISAGREE – including evidence to support each argument.
<p>Jesus commissions his disciples to ‘make disciples of all nations’.</p> <p>This ‘Great Commission’ shows Christians that their most important task is to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. Jesus also teaches them to ‘proclaim the gospel to all creation’, further emphasising the importance of evangelism. This is what Jesus wants his followers to do. People need to know that ‘Christ died for our sins’ (St Paul) and know about his teachings.</p>	<p>Parable of the Sheep and the Goats – ‘the righteous will have eternal life’. In this parable, Jesus teaches that you will be judged based on your performance of good works. For example, feeding the hungry and caring for the sick. Jesus teaches ‘whatever you did for the least of these...you did for me’. This teaches that performing good works and helping those in need is more important than evangelism – good works are more important.</p>
<p>Jesus taught that ‘I am the way, the truth and the life...nobody comes to the Father except through me’. This teaches that Jesus Christ is the exclusive source of salvation. As Christians want people to be saved, they need to evangelise – if people do not know about Jesus Christ, they cannot be saved. This shows the urgency and importance of evangelism – it is their most important task as they want people to be saved.</p>	<p>Evangelism is just as important as good works. The Book of James teaches that ‘faith without works is dead’. This shows that Christians should not just preach the gospel but they should also put it into practice. Jesus says the two most important commandments are to love your God and love your neighbour – it is just as important to be loving and perform good works. Simply evangelising without good works as well isn’t enough...love is key!</p>

Eucharist

Transubstantiation = Catholic doctrine believing wine and bread is blood and body

“Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life” (Catechism of Catholic Church)

Why is Eucharist important

- You are giving thanks – “Christ died for sins”/ “The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (Gospel of John)
- Brings you closer to Jesus – “I am the living bread”

- Has been commanded
- Brings you closer to God
- Strengthens faith

“Take and eat; this is my body”

“This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me”

Contrasting beliefs

- Catholics
 - Believe physical presence of bread and wine (transubstantiation)
 - “There takes place a change of the whole substance” (Catechism)
- **CofE**
 - Believes Jesus is spiritually present
 - “Foretaste of the heavenly banquet”
- **Baptist view**
 - Symbolism
 - See it as ordinance (command) but not sacrament
 - “Do this in remembrance of me”
 - Priesthood of all believers – Anyone can distribute bread and wine

Quakers don’t believe in holy communion; they believe everyday is sacred

The celebration of Holy Communion (Eucharist) is the most important part of Christian life' – evaluate this statement

AGREE ARGUMENTS	DISAGREE ARGUMENTS
It is a memorial of Jesus' sacrificial death, inaugurated by Jesus himself on the night before he died: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). Without Jesus' sacrificial death, there would be no salvation. Show it's importance!	Quaker Christians do not celebrate Holy Communion or any other sacrament. Instead, they try to carry the Sacred into every part of their lives, believing there is 'something of God' in everybody.
Jesus said: "I am the living bread" (John 6:51). Eucharist brings you closer to Jesus.	Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25) teaches that God will judge you based on whether you have helped others, not whether you've taken part in religious rituals. Book of James teaches 'faith without works is dead'. Performing good works is just as important.
The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Eucharist as the "source and summit of the Christian life".	Whilst it was initiated by Jesus, it is not the only thing he commanded. He also commanded baptism: "Make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit" (Mt 28)
It brings people together and is an act of fellowship between Christians. 'Where two or three are gathered, I am there' (Matthew 18). Millions gather every Sunday for this.	

Christmas and Easter

Why Christmas is important

- "Christmas reveals Gods immense love for humanity" (Pope Francis)

How do Christians celebrate Christmas

- Donate to charity
- Singing carols that celebrate birth

Why Easter is important

- "If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (St Paul)
- Shows Gods omnibenevolence
- Atonement
- Proves Jesus is God

‘Easter is the most important Christian celebration
- evaluate this statement (12 marks).

AGREE – including evidence to support each argument.

- “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (St Paul)
- “Christ died for our sins” (St Paul)
- All of Christianity hinges on the resurrection, which is celebrated at Easter
- Easter is essential for salvation
- Without the **crucifixion**, there is no atonement
- Without the **resurrection**, there is no eternal life
- Easter is therefore important because of what is being celebrated and what this means for Christians today (salvation and eternal life)
- Easter gives Christians ‘evidence’ about Jesus – it is essential for demonstrating his identity as Son of God.
- Easter celebrates Jesus’ victory over sin and death (more significant than his birth?) Jesus being born didn’t save us from sin. His crucifixion was the act of atonement and his resurrection was the ultimate victory of life over death. This is why Easter is more important today, because it is only through Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection that we are saved.

DISAGREE – including evidence to support each argument.

- “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (John)
- “Christmas reveals the immense love of God for humanity” (Pope Francis)
- Christmas is more important because the incarnation is more significant - if Jesus had not been born, God would not have entered the world.
- Without Christmas, Easter would not have happened (and so everything achieved at Easter depends on Christmas) – it is most important
- The Nativity (which is celebrated at Christmas) is central to Christian faith - the Word becomes flesh! This is the beginning of Jesus’ life.
- Christmas brings more people together and involves more people – it is more important to people in modern society today.
- Christmas is more about giving to others, coming together and thinking of the less fortunate, which is putting faith into action (rather than thinking about your own salvation) – what Christianity is all about
- They are both as important as one another. Christianity would not exist without either Christmas or Easter. The incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection are dependent on each other.