






# Eduqas Religious Studies – Christian Beliefs



Key Concepts			
Omnipotent	The all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God	Atonement	The belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God
Omnibenevolent	The state of being all-loving and infinitely good – a characteristic often attributed to God	Resurrection	The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
Trinity	The three persons of God; The Father, Son, Holy Spirit	Sacraments	An outward sign of an inward blessing by God e.g. Baptism, the Eucharist
Incarnation	God becoming human in the form of flesh	Evangelism	Preaching the gospel to others with the intention of converting them to the Christian faith

Key Ideas					
<p><b>Nature of God</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe in <b>one God</b> who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists</li> <li>- God is <b>omnipotent</b> which means they are almighty and have unlimited power</li> <li>- God is <b>benevolent</b> which means they are all-loving and all-good</li> <li>- God is <b>just</b> which means they are a perfect and fair judge</li> <li>- <b>The Problem of Suffering</b> asks: if God is all these things why do they allow bad things to happen to good and innocent people?</li> </ul>				
<p><b>The Trinity</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe God is three persons in one. This idea is called the <b>Trinity</b>.</li> <li>- Each person of the Trinity is fully God but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same.</li> <li>- The <b>Father</b> is the creator of all life</li> <li>- The <b>Son</b> is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God</li> <li>- The <b>Holy Spirit</b> is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers</li> <li><i>"We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit"</i> – The Nicene Creed</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Incarnation and Crucifixion</b></p> 	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p><b>Crucifixion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate</li> <li>- Jesus was then nailed to a <b>cross</b> where he died.</li> <li>- In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important <b>forgiveness</b> is</li> <li>- This event is remembered on Good Friday</li> <li><i>"Forgive them father, they know not what they do"</i></li> <li>– Luke 23:34</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p><b>Incarnation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe that God was <b>incarnated</b> (born) in human form as <b>Jesus Christ</b></li> <li>- <b>Mary</b> was impregnated by the Holy Spirit and gave birth as a virgin – for Christians this is proof of Jesus' status as the son of God</li> <li>- <b>Christmas</b> is the festival that celebrates the incarnation</li> <li><i>"The word became flesh"</i> – John 1:14</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Crucifixion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate</li> <li>- Jesus was then nailed to a <b>cross</b> where he died.</li> <li>- In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important <b>forgiveness</b> is</li> <li>- This event is remembered on Good Friday</li> <li><i>"Forgive them father, they know not what they do"</i></li> <li>– Luke 23:34</li> </ul>	<p><b>Incarnation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe that God was <b>incarnated</b> (born) in human form as <b>Jesus Christ</b></li> <li>- <b>Mary</b> was impregnated by the Holy Spirit and gave birth as a virgin – for Christians this is proof of Jesus' status as the son of God</li> <li>- <b>Christmas</b> is the festival that celebrates the incarnation</li> <li><i>"The word became flesh"</i> – John 1:14</li> </ul>		
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<p><b>Sin and Salvation</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe you are <b>judged</b> after you die (see Religion and Life) and how well or badly you have lived and treated others decides if you go to <b>heaven</b> or <b>hell</b></li> <li>- <b>Sin</b> is any action or thought that goes against God's will, Christians can look in the Bible for advice on what is a sin e.g. murder (you shall not kill) and adultery (cheating, you shall not commit adultery)</li> <li>- God gave humans <b>free will</b> but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin</li> <li>- <b>Salvation</b> is the idea that Jesus's crucifixion saves human beings from eternal damnation</li> <li>- The death of Jesus made up for <b>original sin</b> – the idea that we were all damned by Eve's choice to disobey God – it allows us to atone for sins and reach eternal life in heaven</li> </ul>				

Example questions	
a)	What do Christians mean by the 'Trinity'? (2 marks)
b)	Describe the crucifixion of Jesus (5 marks)
c)	Explain why Christians believe Heaven is important (8 marks)
d)	'Jesus was just an ordinary man' Discuss (15 marks)