

Name: _____

GCSE Religious Studies

AQA, Specification A

Knowledge Organiser

This booklet contains essential knowledge for your GCSE examinations.

You will sit two examinations, of 1hr 45 minutes each.

In each exam you will complete 4 sections.

Paper 1:

Christian Beliefs and Teachings

Christian Practices

Islamic Beliefs and Teachings

Islamic Practices

You will have separate question/answer booklets for Christianity and Islam.

Paper 2:

Theme A: Relationships and Families

Theme B: Religion and Life

Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

Paper 2 will also contain Theme C and Theme F – do not answer these, you have not studied for them!

You will be given a blank answer booklet – make sure you write in the number of the question you're answering.

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Exam technique

1 Marker

1 mark for choosing the correct answer (multiple choice)

1 Marker

1 Point for 1 mark

4 Markers

2 Points, 2 E sentences (E = evidence/explanation/example)

Tip: Must be separate sentences

Tip: Looking for the same or different – check which one

6 Markers

2 Explained Points (4 marks) + Reference to relevant source of authority (2 marks)

E = evidence/explanation/example

Reference to relevant source of authority (2 marks) = refer to a religious book: Bible or Qur'an, a religious teaching e.g. parable of the Sheep and the Goats, or a religious leader e.g. teaching of Muhammad or the Pope.

You do not have to include a quote, but you must apply your chosen source of authority to the question.

Tip: Separate sentences for each point

Tip: 1 mark to name the source of authority. 1 mark to apply the source of authority to the question.

12 Markers

1 PEEE... Paragraph for, 1 PEEE... Paragraph against, 1 Explained/ justified conclusion

Tip: PEEE... = Point, Evidence/Explanation/Example, Evidence/Explanation/Example, repeat

Tip: Explained conclusion = Whilst, Ultimately, Matters

Tip: Add evaluative sentences into your main paragraphs – e.g. 'this point is particularly strong because...' or 'this argument holds less evaluative weight because...'

Tip: If you finish, add more Es










PEEEEE....

Sentence Starters








Point - *Some Christians/Muslims would argue that...*

E Sentence - *To explain, ... OR A quote from the Bible/Qur'an which supports this is... OR For example, ...*

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1 - Christian Beliefs

Key Ideas		
Nature of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe in one God who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists. - God is omnipotent which means he is almighty and have unlimited power. - God is benevolent which means he is all-loving and all-good. - God is just which means he is a perfect and fair judge. - The Problem of Suffering asks: if God is all these things why does he allow bad things to happen to good and innocent people? 	
The Trinity  <i>QUOTE - 'We believe in ... the father ... we believe in Jesus Christ ... We believe in the Holy Spirit'.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe God is three persons in one. This idea is called the Trinity. - Each person of the Trinity is fully God but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same. - The Father is the creator of all life. - The Son is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God. - The Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers. <i>"We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit" – The Nicene Creed.</i>	
Creation  <i>QUOTE - 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'.</i> <i>QUOTE - 'Through him (Jesus) all things were made'.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation in Genesis describes how God created the world in 6 days and also says that God thought creation was good. - Creation in Genesis (a book in the Old Testament) shows Christians that they should be good stewards of earth. - Creation in John (a book in the New Testament) is like a poem and shows that Jesus was present at the creation of the world. - Some Christians think the world was literally created in 6 actual days, but other Christians think it is just a metaphor. - Some people disagree with creation in the Bible because they say that it can't have been made in 7 days or that humans are evolved from apes. 	
Incarnation and Crucifixion	Incarnation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe that God was incarnated (born) in human form as Jesus Christ. - Mary 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. - Christmas is the festival that celebrates the incarnation. <i>QUOTE – 'The word became flesh'.</i> 	Crucifixion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate. - Jesus was then nailed to a cross where he died. - In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important forgiveness is. - This event is remembered on Good Friday. <i>QUOTE - 'By his (Jesus') wounds, we are healed'.</i> 
	Resurrection  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead – this is the resurrection. - Early on the Sunday, three women visited his tomb expecting to find his body but it was not there. - This event is celebrated on Easter Sunday. - After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and told them to spread the word of him. <i>QUOTE - "He is risen" – some Christians say this to each other on Easter Sunday.</i> <i>QUOTE - 'God raised him from the dead'.</i>	Ascension  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forty days after he rose from the dead Jesus ascended (went up) into heaven. A belief in resurrection and ascension ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shows life after death is real. - Assures Christians they will rise again after death and live on in the afterlife. - Leads Christians to try and lead a good life.
Sin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe you are judged after you die and whether you believe in Jesus decides if you go to heaven or hell. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats also suggests that you need to help the poor to go to heaven. - Sin is any action or thought that goes against God's will. The original sin was when Eve ate the apple in the Garden of Eden. - God gave humans free will but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin. 	
Salvation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is the idea that Jesus's crucifixion is the grace (undeserved kindness) that saves people from hell. - There are different theories about the way that Jesus saves (atonement). (1) Some Christians believe that Jesus saves because he pays the punishment for people breaking God's law by sinning. (2) Some Christians believe that Jesus saves because he defeated death and the devil. (3) Some Christians believe that Jesus saves because he shows us how to live a good life. <i>QUOTE - 'whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'.</i>	

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1 - Christian Practices

Key Ideas		
<p>Worship + Prayer</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Pray without ceasing'.</p> 	<p>Liturgical Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This form of worship takes place in a church and is led by a priest. - Formal, set prayers are read out - A more traditional, and formal form of worship <p>QUOTE - 'God is not a God of disorder'.</p>	<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is one of the most important parts of the spiritual life of a Christian and enables them to have a personal relationship with God - Intercessions are prayers made on behalf of others. - Thanksgiving is when people pray to say thank you to God. - Set prayers are written down and used in liturgical worship. The 'Lord's Prayer' is an example of a set prayer. QUOTE - 'Our Father in Heaven...' - Informal prayer is off-the-cuff and often used in non-liturgical worship.
	<p>Non-liturgical Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Also takes place in a church but less formal. - No set prayers, instead people take turns to preach and read from the Bible. - Can be modern and appealing to young people. <p>QUOTE - 'Worship the Lord with joy, come before him with happy songs'.</p>	
<p>Eucharist + Baptism</p> <p>QUOTE - 'He took the bread ... saying "this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me"'. QUOTE - 'We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins'.</p>	<p>Eucharist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eucharist and baptism are both sacraments meaning special occasions in a Christian's life. - In Eucharist a priest consecrates (blesses) bread and wine and the congregation then receives these - Catholics believe the Holy Spirit transforms the bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood. - Anglicans believe the bread and wine are symbolic. - Christians take part in this ritual in order to remember the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for them by being crucified on the cross. 	<p>Infant Baptism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a formal service welcoming a new child into the Christian church. - Holy water is sprinkled over the baby's head. - All Catholics baptise their children close to birth in order to ensure they go to heaven. 
		<p>Believer's Baptism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A believer's baptism welcomes someone into the church who is old enough to decide themselves. - They are submerged in a pool of holy water. - They make promises to stay away from evil. - Baptists only practice this type of baptism.
<p>Pilgrimage + Festivals</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast for me'.</p>	<p>Pilgrimage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A pilgrimage is a journey made by a Christian to a holy site. - Catholics go on pilgrimage to Lourdes where a vision of Mary was once seen, they believe the water there has healing effects. - Iona and Taizé are pilgrimage sites because Christian monks have lived there for a very long time. - Jerusalem is a pilgrimage site because it is the place where Jesus died and was resurrected. 	<p>Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas celebrates the incarnation (birth) of Jesus Christ - Christians give gifts to commemorate the gift of God sending his own son to the world 
		<p>Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. - Christians celebrate by saying "<i>he is risen</i>" and by eating chocolate eggs that represent new life.
<p>Evangelism + Church in the Community</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Go and make disciples (followers) of all nations'.</p>	<p>Christians have a duty to evangelise (tell others of the word of God). An example is the Alpha Course which is an educational course that tells people more about the life of Jesus.</p> 	<p>Christians also have a duty to help others (mission) in the local community. Two examples of this are Street Pastors who help drunk people at night and Food Banks that provide food to people in poverty.</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Go, sell everything you have and give it to the poor'.</p>
<p>Reconciliation</p>  <p>QUOTE - 'If any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians across the world play an important role in reconciliation (seeking to restore friendly relations after a conflict or falling out). - An example is Coventry Cathedral which was bombed during World War II but now seeks to create peace and reconciliation elsewhere in the world. The World Council of Churches also works to help after conflict. - Tearfund is the name of another Christian charity which works for reconciliation around the world such as through its 'Afghanistan Crisis Appeal'. 	

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1- Islamic Beliefs

Key Ideas		
Nature of God <i>QUOTE - 'He is God the One, God the eternal'.</i>	<p>Muslims believe in the Oneness of God (Tawhid).</p> <p>There are 99 names of Allah revealing his many qualities. The belief in the one God is the most important Muslim belief which is reflected in the Shahadah: 'There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his messenger.'</p>	<p>Qualities of God include:</p> <p>Immanent (close)</p> <p>Transcendent (beyond our understanding)</p> <p>Omnipotent (all powerful)</p> <p>Beneficent (kind)</p> <p>Merciful (kind)</p> <p>Justice (fair)</p>
Sunni and Shi'a	<p>Six articles of faith in Sunni Islam:</p> <p>H – Holy books</p> <p>A - Angels</p> <p>P – Prophets (Risalah)</p> <p>P - Predestination</p> <p>J - Judgement</p> <p>O – Oneness of God (Tawhid)</p>	<p>Five roots of Usul-ad-Din in Shi'a Islam:</p> <p>J – Justice (adalat)</p> <p>I - Imams</p> <p>P – Prophets (Nubuwwah)</p> <p>J – Judgement (Mi'ad)</p> <p>O – Oneness of God (Tawhid)</p>
Angels <i>QUOTE - 'We are your allies in this world and in the world to come'.</i>	<p>Jibril</p> <p>Relayed the Qur'an to Mohammad – God's revelation.</p> <p>God continued to guide Mohammad throughout his entire life communicating through Jibril.</p>	<p>Mika'il</p> <p>Angel of mercy. God has assigned him to reward righteous people for the good they do on earth. Also has the responsibility of sending rain, thunder and lightning to earth.</p>
Predestination <i>QUOTE - Allah 'regulates all things'.</i>	<p>Some Sunni Muslims believe God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe and written this down in the 'book of decrees'. God creates all things, including the actions of his creatures, so they must act according to his will.</p>	<p>Shi'a Muslims believe that God knows everything that is going to happen, but this does not mean that he decides what is going to happen. This means humans still have free will, so they can make their own choices.</p>
Life after death <i>QUOTE - 'Fire will scorch their faces'.</i> <i>QUOTE - 'What a blessed reward. What a pleasant resting place'.</i>	<p>Death is not the end but the beginning of a new stage of life called Akhirah. After death, Muslims are waiting for the Day of Judgement. While in the grave, God sends two angels to question them about their faith. If they answer correctly, they will see the rewards to come, but if they deny God, they will see the punishments they will have to endure. Everyone who has ever lived will be raised from the dead and judged by God. They will be given new bodies and the book of their life will be given to them.</p>	
Holy books in Islam <i>QUOTE - 'Let there be no doubt about it (the Qur'an), it is from the Lord of the Worlds'.</i>	<p>The Qur'an is believed to be the word of God, which was revealed to Mohammad via the angel Jibril over a period of around 22 years. Other Muslim holy books include the Torah, Psalms, Gospel and the Scrolls of Abraham, which are all believed to be revealed texts of God. However, these are not seen to have the same authority as the Qur'an because they are said to have been changed or distorted. Muslims also use Hadiths – actions and sayings of Mohammad.</p>	
Prophethood <i>QUOTE - 'We sent a messenger to every community'.</i>	<p>Adam:</p> <p>Role was to rule and look after the earth for God</p> <p>First human, Muslim and prophet</p> <p>To teach other humans to care for the Earth as Allah taught him</p> <p>To teach others how to live, what to eat, how to pray.</p> <p>Believed to have built the first Ka'aba in Mecca (rebuilt by Ibrahim).</p>	<p>Ibrahim:</p> <p>Rebuilt the Ka'aba in Mecca – the holiest place in Islam, important focus on Hajj, direction Muslims pray in.</p> <p>He was a monotheist at a time when many others were polytheists.</p> <p>He was prepared to sacrifice his son to show his faith in Allah, but Allah stopped him. This is celebrated at Eid-ul-Adha.</p>
Imams / Imamate <i>QUOTE – 'Obey those of you who are in authority'.</i>	<p>The largest group in Shi'a Islam, sometimes known as Twelvers, believe that there were twelve imams after the death of Muhammad. Twelvers believe that the twelfth imam is still alive somewhere on Earth, and will one day make himself known and bring equality to all. Seveners believe that the seventh imam was Isma'il. Isma'il was the son of one of the Twelve Imams.</p>	

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1 - Islamic Practices

The 5 Pillars are:

- **The Shahadah** - The basic statement of Muslim faith.
- **Salah** – Five daily prayers.
- **Zakat** - 2.5% of wealth to be given to charity.
- **Sawm** - Fasting during the month of Ramadan.
- **Hajj** - Annual pilgrimage (journey) to Mecca.

The Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam are: The 5 pillars minus Shahadah + Jihad, Khums, associate with good people, don't associate with bad people, do good, avoid evil.

Key Ideas		
Shahadah <i>QUOTE - 'There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his messenger.'</i>	Said during prayers, first thing a baby has whispered into their ear when they're born, last thing a dying person hears.	Shi'a Muslims add 'and Ali is the friend of God' onto the end.
Salah <i>QUOTE - 'Hurry towards the reminder of God'</i> <i>QUOTE - 'Call on me and I will answer you'</i>	Muslims pray 5 times per day. Perform wudu/ablution/washing before prayer. Friday Midday prayers are called Jummah prayer, all male Muslims are expected to leave work and go to the Mosque . They prostrate (bow) towards God as a reminder of God's greatness and importance. All Muslims face Mecca when they pray, uniting all Muslims around the world. Shi'a Muslims group prayers together and so say all 5 prayers but at 3 times throughout the day.	
Zakah/almsgiving <i>QUOTE - 'God is well aware of whatever you do.'</i> <i>QUOTE - 'Riches do not lie in the abundance (having a lot) of wealth'</i>	2.5% of savings is donated to charity every year. Muslims also donate time to charitable causes and may donate additional money - this is called sadaqah .	Shi'a Muslims have an additional 20% tax on all excess income called Khums .
Sawm <i>QUOTE - 'You who believe, fasting is prescribed for you ... that you may learn self-restraint.'</i> <i>QUOTE - 'Lailat al-Qadr is better than a thousand months'.</i>	The Qur'an began to be revealed to Muhammad during the 9 th month of the Islamic calendar (the month of Ramadan). Muslims focus on fasting, charity and pleasing God during this month. They do not eat or drink during daylight hours, and smoking and sex is also banned. Purity of thought is required to focus on God and to cleanse the soul and free it from harm. Fasting requires considerable self-discipline, but it allows Muslims to show they can sacrifice their physical needs as evidence of their submission to God. The Night of Power (Lailat al-Qadr) takes place during the month where some Muslims will stay awake reading the Qur'an and devoting themselves to prayer.	
Hajj <i>QUOTE - 'Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it.'</i>	During the Hajj, at Mina: A representation of the devil is stoned, an animal is sacrificed for Id-ul-Adha and the head is shaved. During the Hajj, at Mecca: Ihram is put on, pilgrims run between Safa and Marwa and pilgrims visit the Zamzam well. During the Hajj, at Arafat: Pilgrims pray on the hill for a long period of time and believe that Allah forgives them of all their sin. During the Hajj, at Muzdalifah: Pilgrims sleep in the open as one Ummah and pilgrims collect stones ready to stone the devil at Mina. The Ka'bah is important because it was built by Ibrahim, because the Prophet cleared the idols away from it and because it is the direction Muslims pray to.	
Jihad <i>QUOTE - You who believe be mindful of God and struggle (jihad) for His cause'.</i> <i>QUOTE - 'Fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but not go beyond the limits'.</i>	Greater jihad. The inner struggle to fight evil in your life. This could involve the struggle to fast, complete Hajj, etc.	Lesser jihad. The outer struggle to fight evil in society. If it involves war, it must (a) be for a good cause, (b) be self-defence, (c) not carry on after victory (e.g. no destruction of their cities).
Festivals <i>QUOTE - You who believe be mindful of God and struggle (jihad) for His cause'.</i>	Eid-ul-Adha – celebrated at the end of Hajj. Celebrates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for God. People visit family and friends, enjoy festive meals, prayer in the mosque. Animals are slaughtered on Hajj to remember Ibrahim's sacrifice.	Eid-ul-Fitr -celebrated at the end of Ramadan. Festival of breaking the fast. They are thanking God for the strength and help he has given them to fast for a month, and providing guidance and wisdom in the Qur'an, the first revelation of which was made during the month of Ramadan. They celebrate with special clothes and food.
Festivals <i>QUOTE - You who believe be mindful of God and struggle (jihad) for His cause'.</i>	Ashura – commemorates the death of Husayn, Ali's son, the third Imam. He was martyred at the battle of Karbala when challenging the Sunni leadership. Major Shi'a festival; a day of great sorrow, a symbol of the struggle against injustice, tyranny and oppression. During the day Shi'a Muslims take part in a public expression of grief and mourning. Some even go as far as to beat themselves on the back with chains, pound their head or cut themselves in an attempt to connect with Husayn's sufferings and death. For Sunni Muslims, Ashura is a day when many fast voluntarily. Many give to charity, show kindness to their family and the poor, recite prayers and learn from Islamic scholars.	

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme A: Relationships and Families

Cohabitation – Living with someone (and being in a sexual relationship with them) without being married.






Family Planning - The practice of controlling the number of children one has and the intervals between their births (by using contraception).

Gender Prejudice - Holding biased opinions about people based on their gender.

Gender Discrimination - Acting against people based on their gender.

Compassion – Kindness

Polygamy – Being married to more than one person. Technically, Islam allows husbands to take up to four wives (this is rare in practice).

Key Ideas		
Religious Views on Sexuality 	Sexual Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Roman Catholic church teaches that sex between people of the same gender is 'disordered'. - They argue that homosexual relationships are banned by the Bible. - Liberal Christians teach that Jesus wanted people to love each other and show mercy and that we should be accepting of homosexuals. - Gay marriage is banned in the Catholic Church and Church of England. <p>QUOTE - 'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; it is detestable.'</p>	Adultery and Sex Outside Marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roman Catholics argue that all sex before marriage and after a divorce is unacceptable. Sex should only take place inside a marriage which is a lifelong, loving relationship. - Adultery is sex with someone who is not your husband or wife. - It is prohibited by the Bible and Christians argue it is wrong as it undermines marriage involves lies and secrecy. <p>QUOTE - 'You shall not commit adultery.'</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Flee from sexual immorality.'</p>
Artificial Contraception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artificial contraception means using something man-made to stop yourself from getting pregnant. This could be a condom, the pill or a device like the coil. - The Rhythm Method means using the natural cycle of fertility which women go through to predict when a woman would be least fertile. It is much less effective than artificial contraception. - God tells Adam and Eve (the first couple) to "<i>be fruitful and multiply</i>" (Genesis 1:2) which encourages them to have children. ☑ The Catholic Church argues that all sexual acts inside marriage must be open to procreation (having babies) and that a baby is a gift from God. ☑ The Church of England argues that contraception should be allowed so that couples can take time and consider if they want to have children. 	
Marriage and Divorce <p>QUOTE - 'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage is a religious and legal ceremony in which two people make vows (promises) in front of their friends and family and (if in a church) in front of God. - During the ceremony you agree to be together for life saying "<i>til death do us part</i>" (Marriage Ceremony). - Divorce is the legal break-up of a marriage. It is legal in the UK and many marriages currently end in divorce. - Many Christians do not like it as it is seen to break the promises made in a marriage. ☑ The Catholic Church does not support divorce. They believe that sex after divorce is a form of adultery and you cannot get remarried in a Catholic Church once you have been divorced. Jesus says "<i>if a man divorces his wife [...] he involves her in adultery</i>" (Matthew 5:32). ☑ The Church of England accepts divorce, especially if it is for reasons of abuse but you have to receive special permission to get remarried in a church. They might see it as a merciful option. 	
Family 	Types of Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuclear Family is a family with a mother, father and children – some Christians argue this is the ideal. - Extended Family is a family where grandparents and other relatives are involved. - Single Parent Family this is a family where one parent brings up the child. 	Purposes of the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procreation – the family should be for the purpose of having and bringing up children. - Stability – the family should be for providing a secure, stable environment for children. - Faith – the family should be a way of bringing children up as good Christians. <p>QUOTE - 'Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever'.</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Honour your mother and father.'</p>
Gender <p>QUOTE - 'There is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'</p> <p>QUOTE - 'So God created mankind in His own image; in the image of God. He created them; male and female he created them.'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender equality means that men and women should be equal and given the same rights and opportunities as each other. - In the UK women can face gender prejudice and discrimination where they are not treated equality - The Catholic Church argues that women have a special role as mothers and they do not allow women to be priests. The Church of England have allowed women priests since 1994. 	







AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme B: Religion and Life

Creationist – Someone who believes that the creation story in the Bible is literally true.

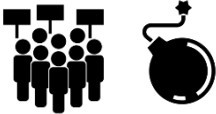





Conception – When the sperm and egg fertilise (the first stage of human life).

Liberal - A type of Christian who reads the Bible as stories, myths and metaphors.







Literalist - A type of Christian who believes the Bible is literally true + the word of God.

Key Ideas		
Ideas about Creation 	Christian Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The creation story in Genesis 1 says that God made the world in six days. - Literalist Christians believe this is true and that God created Adam + Eve from whom all humans come. - Liberal Christians say the creation story in the Bible is just a story and may agree with scientific ideas about creation. <p><i>QUOTE: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'</i></p>	Other Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Big Bang Theory argues that the universe started as a dense collection of mass which massively expanded creating stars, galaxies and planets - The Theory of Evolution comes from Charles Darwin who observed that animals change over time and argued that humans evolved from apes. - These theories do not fit with a literalist Christian's view but could fit with a liberal view.
Stewardship + Dominion 	Stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stewardship means Christians have a responsibility to look after the environment on behalf of God and for future generations e.g. campaigning for environmental charities, reducing waste or recycling. - Christians believe they should experience awe and wonder when looking at God's creation. <p><i>QUOTE: 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.'</i></p>	Dominion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dominion is the idea that God gave humans power and authority over the world. - Some Christians believe this allows them to use natural resources (e.g. oil and coal) and animals to make their lives better. - In Genesis, God gives Adam and Eve the power to name the animals and rule over them. <p><i>QUOTE: 'Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky.'</i></p>
Animal Experimentation + The use of animals for food 	The use of animals for food <p>Many Church of England Christians eat meat because they believe that God has created them to be enjoyed by humans.</p> <p>Some Christians may choose not to eat meat as part of the role as a steward – protecting creation.</p> <p><i>QUOTE: 'Everything that lives and moves will be food for you.'</i></p>	Animal Experimentation <p>Many Church of England Christians support the use of animals for experimentation because it supports scientific and medical discoveries and keeps people safe.</p> <p>Some Christians choose not to because they believe that God would want us to care for and value his creation.</p> <p><i>QUOTE: 'The righteous care for the needs of their animals.'</i></p>
Abortion  <p><i>QUOTE: 'I knitted you together in my mother's womb'.</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE: 'I, your Lord, give life, and I take it away.'</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE: 'Love your neighbour'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abortion is the removal of a foetus from the womb in order to end a pregnancy. - In the UK (except Northern Ireland) it is legal during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger or the foetus is severely deformed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Catholic Church is strongly against abortion. They believe in sanctity of life, the idea that life is a sacred gift from God which only God can take away. They see the foetus as a living thing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Church of England think abortion is sometimes acceptable as a pregnancy as a result of rape or where the child would be very ill would lead to a very poor quality of life. 	
Euthanasia  <p><i>QUOTE: 'Though shall not kill.'</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE: 'Blessed are the merciful.'</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE: 'There is a reason for everything – a time to live and a time to die.'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Euthanasia is the painless killing of a patient with a terminal illness. - Voluntary euthanasia is where the patient asks for their life to be ended. - Non-voluntary euthanasia is where the patient is not capable of asking to die, perhaps in a coma. - All forms of euthanasia are currently illegal in the UK. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Catholic Church is strongly against euthanasia. They believe that only God can give and take life and that life is sacred (sanctity of life) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some liberal Christians think euthanasia can be an act of mercy which Jesus tells them is a good thing to do, this is especially the case when someone's quality of life is very poor. 	
The Afterlife  <p><i>QUOTE: 'Then they [the goats] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous [the sheep] to eternal life.'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe that when you die you will be judged and that those who are found to believe in Jesus will go to heaven but those who do not will go to hell. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats shows that believers must also help the poor. <p>Roman Catholics believe that there is a middle stage called purgatory where souls go to be purified of sin before they go to heaven</p>	<p>Some Christians believe that Jesus will return on a future Day of Judgement when all souls will be judged</p>

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Key Ideas			
Protests and Terrorism 	Protests <p>The right to gather together and protest is a fundamental democratic freedom. UK law allows for peaceful public protest but sometimes protests can turn violent and become a riot. Christians often protest unjust laws or for other forms of justice but would rarely advocate the use of violence in protest. <i>'An unjust law is not a proper law' (St Thomas Aquinas)</i></p>	Terrorism <p>The aim of terrorism is to make society aware of a cause or issue and to make people frightened to go about their business. Christians don't promote political violence + believe terrorism is wrong as it targets innocent people.</p>	
Reasons for War 	Greed <p>To gain more land or to control important resources such as oil or gas. e.g. The Nazis invading Poland to gain more land. <i>QUOTE - 'The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil'.</i></p>	Self-Defence <p>To defend one's country against invasion or attack or to protect allies who are under attack e.g. UK threatened by Nazi invasion in WWII</p>	Retaliation <p>To fight against a country that has done something very wrong or to fight against a country that has attacked you. e.g. US invading Afghanistan in retaliation for 9/11. <i>QUOTE - 'Do not repay anyone evil for evil.'</i></p>
Nuclear War and WMD <p>QUOTE - 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'.</p> <p>QUOTE - 'You shall not kill'.</p>	<p>Nuclear weapons work by a nuclear reaction and devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. They are a type of WMD (weapons of mass destruction). WMDs can also include chemical and biological weapons. All these weapons are not allowed under the Christian Just War Theory and would therefore be rejected by most Christians. Nuclear weapons were used at the end of WWII in Japan to force the Japanese to surrender. Some people say their use was justified as it prevented more suffering even though 140,000 people died.  Although some Christians justify war with 'an eye for an eye', this cannot be used to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction as they are not a proportionate response.</p>		
Holy War <p>QUOTE - 'I did not come to bring peace, but a sword'.</p> <p>QUOTE - 'The Lord your God goes with you to fight for you against you enemies'.</p>	<p>A Holy War is a war which is fought for religious reasons, often with the backing of religious leaders. An example of this was the Crusades fought from the 11th-14th Century by Christians, backed by the Pope. Religion can still be a cause for war today such as in Northern Ireland where Protestant and Catholic Christians fought a civil war from 1968-98.</p> 		
Just War Theory 	<p>Just War Theory is a Christian moral theory for working out if a war meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness. These are some of the conditions that must be met in order for a war to be just:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Cause – fought in self-defence or to protect others. • Just Intention – fought to promote good and defeat wrongdoing. • Last Resort – only going to war if all other methods have been tried first. • Proportional – excessive force should not be used and innocent civilians must not be killed <p>QUOTE – 'There is a time for war and a time for peace'.</p>		
Pacifism and Christian Responses to War <p>QUOTE - 'Blessed are the peacemakers'.</p> 	<p>Pacifism is the idea that all forms of violence are wrong. Pacifists such as Quakers refuse to take part in war and often choose to be a conscientious objector (someone who doesn't go to war for moral reasons) or to assist in medical tasks like ambulance driving. Martin Luther King was a famous Christian pacifist.</p>	<p>Christians try to show mercy and agape (sacrificial love) to victims of war and provide them with assistance. This can be through charity or through welcoming them into their churches. It can be victims in their own country or refugees such as people fleeing from Syria.</p>	

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

Key Ideas			
<div>Christian Attitudes to Crime</div> <div></div>	<div>Good and Evil Intentions</div> <div>The Bible warns Christians against having evil thoughts which lead to evil actions. Avoiding sin and temptation steers Christians away from crime.</div>	<div>Attitudes to Lawbreakers</div> <div>Most Christians do not believe that people are evil but that people can be tempted to do wrong and break the law. <i>QUOTE - 'let everyone be subject to (controlled by) the governing authorities'.</i> Christians are taught to "love the sinner, hate the sin" which means they should forgive and show mercy to people who have done wrong but admitted their mistakes and sought atonement. <i>QUOTE – 'Do not judge, or you too will be judged'.</i></div>	
<div>Reasons for Crime</div> <div></div>	<div>People are tempted to commit crime for a wide range of reasons including poverty (not having enough money or food), upbringing (where people are not taught right from wrong), addiction (some people commit crimes to feed an addiction), greed (committing crimes out of a desire for things they cannot afford), hatred or out of opposition to unjust law (breaking the law to oppose hateful or unjust laws). <i>QUOTE - 'The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil'.</i></div>		
<div>Three Aims of Punishment</div> <div><i>QUOTE - 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'.</i></div> <div></div>	<div>Deterrence</div> <div>This aim of punishment seeks to use punishment as a message to others considering committing crime. By giving one criminal a harsh punishment others may be put off committing a similar crime.</div>	<div>Reformation</div> <div>This aim of punishment seeks to help criminals change their behaviour for the better. It may involve therapy, education or training. Many Christians support this as a form of 'love your neighbour' mercy.</div>	<div>Retribution</div> <div>This aim of punishment is society getting its own back on the offender. The Old Testament says 'an eye for an eye' so some Christians would argue that this form of punishment is just according to the Bible.</div>
<div>Forgiveness</div> <div><i>QUOTE - 'you should forgive seventy times seven times'.</i> <i>QUOTE - 'if someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other also'.</i></div>	<div>Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. It means to show mercy and pardon someone for what they have done wrong but showing someone forgiveness does not necessarily mean they should not be justly punished for their crimes. When Jesus was crucified, he forgave those who sentenced him to death and crucified him saying: 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do'. Forgiveness leads Christians to support reformation as an aim of punishment as it allows the criminal to be forgiven and to ask for forgiveness. They also use forgiveness as an argument against the death penalty.</div> <div></div>		
<div>Christian Attitudes to Punishment</div> <div></div>	<div>Prisons</div> <div>Many Christians believe prisoners should be treated well when in prison as even though they have done wrong they do not believe in evil people as much as evil actions. Some Christians campaign for better prison conditions out of mercy.</div>	<div>Corporal Punishment</div> <div>Most Christians do not support using physical pain as a form of punishment as it is harmful and negative. It is currently illegal in the UK and many Christians would rather seek to reform a criminal than punish them in this way.</div>	<div>Community Service</div> <div>Many Christians argue in favour of community service where criminals work to repay their community as a punishment. It allows criminals to make up for what they have done and does not harm the offender in the process.</div>
<div>Death Penalty</div> <div></div>	<div>The death penalty means the state killing criminals who have committed the worst crimes. It has not been used in the UK since 1969 but is still a common punishment elsewhere in the world.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some Christians argue that the death penalty is a just punishment for murder as the Bible says both 'you shall not kill' and 'an eye for an eye'.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> They may also argue that it deters criminals from committing the worst crimes and keeps people safe.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Christians argue that the death penalty goes against sanctity of life. Life is sacred and holy and only God can give and take life.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> They might also argue that the death penalty goes against the aim of reformation as a dead criminal cannot be reformed, forgiven or shown mercy to.</div>		

