Paper 1: Christian Beliefs - Incarnation, Jesus' Life, Salvation, Atonement & Afterlife

AQA RS GCSE



(1) Keywords Immaculate conception Mary conceived Jesus as a virgin — a miraculous birth. Hypostatic Union Jesus is 100% God and 100% human. Eucharist (Holy Communion) Sacrament of bread and wine in Church, to commemorate the Last Supper. A religious offence which involved claiming to be God.

tion - forbidden fruit.

The first sin involving Adam and Eve giving in to tempta-

Any action or thought which separates humans from

Restoring the relationship between people and God.

God's quality of giving love even when it is unearned.

Agreeing that God exists & asking Him to forgive sins.

A pardon from God for sinning—God expects us to sin.

What Christians believe follows life on earth.

God / is against God's laws. Physical & mental in form.

(2) Sacred Writings

-	Incarnation	'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.'
9	Last Supper	'Do this in remembrance of me.'
	Crucifixion	'God so loved the world he gave His one and only Son.'
	Resurrection	'He is risen!'
	Ascension	'He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of His Father.'
	Salvation	'The wage of sin is death.'
-	Heaven and Hell	'Hell is a lake of fire.'

Beliefs

(3) Incarnation-God in human flesh

- Christians believe that God came to earth in human form as Jesus Christ. Jesus' birth is referred to as the incarnation (God in flesh).
- Jesus is the referred to as the **Son of God**. This helps Christians to understand that he is 100% God and 100% human, **also understood** the **hypostatic union**. Jesus felt human feelings and emotions but was able to perform miracles and display **omnipotence**.
- Jesus' birth was a **miracle** because **Mary was a virgin**. She was chosen by God because she was pure and special.
- Jesus was **conceived** by the **power of the Holy Spirit** (God's presence on earth). This is called the **immaculate conception**.

How does this influence Christians?

- The incarnation influences Christians to **celebrate Christmas**, as this celebrates the birth of Jesus.
- Christians are influenced to follow the teachings of Jesus because they know he is God incarnate.

(4) Last Days of Jesus' Life

Original Sin

Atonement

Repentance

Forgiveness

Afterlife

Sin

Grace

The Last Supper: The meal Jesus had with his disciples the night before he died. They gave bread and wine to symbolise his body and blood. This influences taking of Holy Communion. During the meal, he correctly predicted 'One of you will betray me', demonstrating omniscience of Judas' betrayal.

The Crucifixion: Execution and death of Jesus on Good Friday; on a cross. Sentenced by Romans for blasphemy and fulfilled prophecy. Death was an act of atonement and sacrifice—'He was crucified, died, and was buried', The Apostles' Creed. Christians are influenced to accept suffering more easily as the hypostatic union means Jesus suffered when he died.

The Resurrection: Three days after he died, Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to his disciples, ate with them, and taught them. This shows Christians that Jesus really is the Son of God which influences them to follow his teachings. Christians celebrate this event at Easter.

Ascension: 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven alive. This shows Christians the victory of good over evil and influences them to not fear death as they can be resurrected in some way.

(5) Salvation and Atonement—Jesus' Sacrificial Death

Original sin: Christians believe that everyone is born with the **urge** to do bad things and give into **temptation / disobey God**. It comes from **Adam and Eve** eating the **forbidden fruit** in the **Garden of Eden**. This caused the relationship between humans and God to break.

In order to fix this broken relationship, Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to restore **the relationship** between God and humanity and **atone** for human sin.

Because of Jesus' sacrifice humans' souls can be saved and admitted to heaven. This is a direct result of Jesus' death on the cross. 'He died for us and for our salvation.'

There are three ways of being saved:

Grace: God's unconditional love means that some people will be saved even though they don't deserve it. This influences **Christians** to feel **grateful**.

Law: People who do good works & follow God's law (e.g. 10 Commandments) will be rewarded in heaven. Christians are **influenced** to follow God's law.

Spirit: Holy Spirit guides people to know how to live a good Christian life. This **influences** Christians like **Pentecostals** to connect with the Holy Spirit in church.

(6) Heaven, Hell and The Afterlife

Day of Judgement: Time when world will end and every soul will be judged by God and rewarded or punished. Jesus told the Parable of the Sheep and Goats explaining how God would put the sheep on His right side and the goats on His left; separating them based on whether they had cared for others, like sheep, or not, like goats. 'For I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.' Our helping other people helps God.

Heaven: State of eternal happiness in presence of God; place of eternal peace ruled by God. Physical place for some-'My fathers house has many rooms.' Spiritual only for others-'A house not made with hands.'

Hell: Place of eternal suffering; state of being without God. Some Christians believe that hell is a punishment for people who have committed unforgivable sins. 'Cast into a lake of fire.'

Purgatory: (Catholic only) **intermediate state** where souls are cleansed.

Divergent views: Entry to heaven for everyone / everyone Christian / only people who have been baptised and repented? Likewise, some say hell is not real (all go to heaven) as **God is omnibenevolent**.

Influence: All **decisions** made with afterlife, and so **judgement**, in mind.