

PAPER 1

CHRISTIANITY Beliefs and teachings – ALL PUPILS

Key beliefs

- God as omnipotent, loving and just, and the problem of evil and suffering
- the oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ and salvation
- Creation
- Afterlife
- 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.

Practices

- Different forms of worship and their significance: liturgical, non-liturgical and informal, private worship.
- Prayer and its significance, including the Lord's Prayer, set prayers and informal prayer.
- The role and meaning of the sacraments: Baptism and eucharist.
- The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations including: two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona. The celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today.
- The role of the Church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors.
- The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth.
- The importance of the worldwide Church including: working for reconciliation, how Christian churches respond to persecution, the work of **one** of the following: Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, Tearfund.

ISLAM - Beliefs and teachings – MRS POWELL, MRS STOTT, MISS BUCKLEY'S CLASSES

- The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam and five roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam, including key similarities and differences.
- Tawhid (the Oneness of God), Qur'an Surah 112.
- The nature of God: omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice/Adalat in Shi'a Islam, including different ideas about God's relationship with the world: immanence and transcendence.
- Angels, their nature and role, including Jibril and Mika'il.

- Predestination and human freedom and its relationship to the Day of Judgement.
- Akhirah (life after death), human responsibility and accountability, resurrection, heaven and hell.
- Risalah (Prophethood) including the role and importance of Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.
- The holy books: Qur'an: revelation and authority, the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel, the Scrolls of Abraham and their authority.
- The Imamate in Shi'a Islam: its role and significance.

Practices

- Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam (students should study the Five Pillars and jihad in both Sunni and Shi'a Islam and the additional duties of Shi'a Islam).
- Shahadah: declaration of faith and its place in Muslim practice.
- Salah and its significance: how and why Muslims pray including times, directions, ablution (wudu), movements (rak'ahs) and recitations; salah in the home and mosque and elsewhere; Friday prayer: Jummah; key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam, and different Muslim views about the importance of prayer.
- Sawm: the role and significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan including origins, duties, benefits of fasting, the exceptions and their reasons, and the Night of Power, Qur'an 96:1-5.
- Zakah: the role and significance of giving alms including origins, how and why it is given, benefits of receipt, Khums in Shi'a Islam.
- Hajj: the role and significance of the pilgrimage to Makkah including origins, how hajj is performed, the actions pilgrims perform at sites including the Ka'aba at Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah and their significance.
- Jihad: different understandings of jihad: the meaning and significance of greater and lesser jihad; origins, influence and conditions for the declaration of lesser jihad.
- Festivals and commemorations and their importance for Muslims in Great Britain today, including the origins and meanings of Id-ul-Adha, Id-ul-Fitr, Ashura.

JUDAISM - Beliefs and teachings – MR POUNTAIN'S CLASSES

- The nature of God: God as one, God as Creator, God as Law-Giver and Judge, loving and merciful.
- The divine presence (Shekhinah).
- Beliefs about life after death, including judgement and resurrection.
- The nature and role of the Messiah, including different views on the role and importance of the Messiah.
- The promised land and the Covenant with Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3.

- The Covenant at Sinai and its importance including the role of Moses and the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17.
- Key moral principles including justice, healing the world, charity and kindness to others.
- The importance of the sanctity of human life, including the concept of 'saving a life' (Pikuach Nefesh).
- The relationship between free will and the 613 mitzvot.
- Mitzvot between man and God and mitzvot between man and man, including the difference between them and their importance.

Practices

- The synagogue and its importance.
- The design and religious features of synagogues including bimah (reading platform), aron hakodesh (ark), ner tamid (ever burning light) and associated practices; differences between Orthodox and Reform synagogues.
- Public acts of worship including: synagogue services in both Orthodox and Reform synagogues, the significance of prayer, including the Amidah, the standing prayer.
- Shabbat in the home and synagogue and its significance.
- Worship in the home and private prayer.
- Tenakh (the written law) and Talmud (the oral law), and their study, use and significance in daily life.
- Rituals and their significance: ceremonies associated with birth including Brit Milah. Bar and Bat Mitzvah, the marriage ceremony, mourning rituals.
- Dietary laws and their significance, including different Jewish views about their importance: kosher and trefah, separation of milk and meat.
- Festivals and their importance for Jews in Great Britain today, including the origins and meaning of: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Pesach.

PAPER 2

THEME A: RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES – ALL PUPILS

- Human sexuality including: heterosexual and homosexual relationships.
- Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage.
- Contraception and family planning.
- The nature and purpose of marriage.
- Same-sex marriage and cohabitation.
- Divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying.
- Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion.
- The nature of families, including: the role of parents and children, extended families and the nuclear family.
- The purpose of families, including: procreation, stability and the protection of children, educating children in a faith.
- Contemporary family issues including: same-sex parents, polygamy.
- The roles of men and women.
- Gender equality.
- Gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples.

THEME B: RELIGION AND LIFE – ALL PUPILS

- Abortion.
- Euthanasia.
- Animal experimentation.
- The origins of the universe,
- The value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it, including religious teaching about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder.
- The use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources, pollution.
- The use and abuse of animals, including: animal experimentation, the use of animals for food.
- The origins of life, including: religious teachings about the origins of human life, and different interpretations of these and the relationship between scientific views, such as evolution, and religious views.
- The concepts of sanctity of life and the quality of life.

- Abortion, including situations when the mother's life is at risk. Ethical arguments related to abortion, including those based on the sanctity of life and quality of life.
- Euthanasia.
- Beliefs about death and an afterlife, and their impact on beliefs about the value of human life.

THEME D: RELIGION, PEACE AND CONFLICT – ALL PUPILS

- The meaning and significance of: peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Violence, including violent protest and Terrorism.
- Reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation.
- The just war theory, including the criteria for a just war and Holy war.
- Pacifism.
- Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world.
- Nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence.
- The use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Religion and peace-making in the contemporary world including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching.
- Religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation.

THEME E: RELIGION, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT – CHOOSE EITHER E OR F

- Corporal punishment.
- Death penalty.
- Forgiveness.
- Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering.
- Reasons for crime, including: poverty and upbringing, mental illness and addiction, greed and hate and opposition to an unjust law.
- Views about people who break the law for these reasons.
- Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder.
- The aims of punishment, including: retribution, deterrence and reformation.
- The treatment of criminals, including: prison, corporal punishment and community service.
- Forgiveness.
- The death penalty and ethical arguments.

THEME F: RELIGION, HUMANS RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE – CHOOSE EITHER E OR F

- Prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief, including the status and treatment within religion of women and homosexuals.
- Issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief including freedom of religious expression.
- Human rights and the responsibilities that come with rights, including the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Social justice.
- Racial prejudice and discrimination.
- Ethical arguments related to racial discrimination (including positive discrimination), including those based on the ideals of equality and justice.
- Wealth, including: the right attitude to wealth, the uses of wealth.
- The responsibilities of wealth, including the duty to tackle poverty and its causes.
- Exploitation of the poor including issues relating to: fair pay, excessive interest on loans and people-trafficking.
- The responsibilities of those living in poverty to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face.
- Charity, including issues related to giving money to the poor.