

Christianity Beliefs

The Bible is the Christian Sacred Text

1	How many parts is the bible divided into?	The bible is divided into two main parts – the Old and New Testaments
2	How many books does the Old Testament have?	Depending on the version, the Old Testament has at least 39 books, which include the 'creation story and the Ten Commandments. These 39 books are the Jewish scriptures – they are also considered sacred by Jews.
3	How many books does the New Testament have?	The New Testament is the specifically Christian part of the Bible. Its 27 books include the 4 Gospels (Matthew Mark Luke and John), which are accounts of Jesus's life, The Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St Paul describe the early years of Christianity.

Christianity is Divided into Different Traditions

1	What is a denomination?	The different branches of Christianity are call denominations. They share key beliefs, but interpret some points of the faith differently and worship in different ways.
2	What authority do Roman Catholics respect?	Roman Catholics respect the authority of the Bible and Church tradition, plus the authority of the Pope and his teachings. The Seven Sacraments (which include the Eucharist) are an important part of their faith
3	What do Protestants base their beliefs on? What are nonconformists?	Protestants base their beliefs and practices on the Bible, rather than Church tradition or the teachings of the Pope. In England and Wales, Protestant and denominations that are not part of the Anglican Communion are often called nonconformists. These include Methodists, Baptists, Pentecostals, The Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Salvation Army.
4	Where are Orthodox Christians found and what do they practice?	Orthodox Christians are found mainly in Eastern Europe, Russia and Greece. They also have 7 Sacraments and honour (but don't worship) icons – pictures of saints.

There are Many Beliefs about the Nature of God

1	What does monotheism mean?	Christianity is a monotheistic (one God) religion. The Ten Commandments say "you shall have no other gods" (Exodus 20:3 NIV). Christians believe God has the following characteristics. Though they differ in the emphasis placed on each, e.g. some focus more on the loving nature of God than his role as judge.
2	What does omnipotence mean?	Omnipotent – God is all-powerful, although he still allows each person free will.
3	What does benevolence mean?	Benevolent – God is loving and caring: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16 NIV). Christians try to follow his example in their actions
4	What do Christians believe about God as judge?	God is believed by Christians to be a just judge, meaning that God judges people's actions fairly. Those who reject him and live sinful lives will be punished, as shown in The Parable of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25:31 – 46. But God also forgives people who are sorry for what they've done and become faithful to him, as in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31) God will forgive anyone who returns to him.
5	What does omniscience mean?	Omniscient - God knows everything in the past, the present and the future.

6	What does God as eternal mean?	Eternal – God has always existed, and he will continue to exist forever.
7	What does God as transcendent mean?	Transcendent – God is beyond this world – he doesn't depend on it to exist.
8	What does God as immanent mean?	Immanent – God is present in the human world, and takes an active role in humanity.
9	What does God as personal mean?	Personal – God is a person albeit an almighty and divine person. If God is personal, then a relationship is possible through prayer – which can be a conversation with God.

Christians Believe in God the Trinity

1	What is the Trinity?	The Trinity is the idea that God exists in three persons – the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. The importance of all three is shown in the Bible Matthew 3:16 – 17 and Philipians 2:6
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The Trinity is Explained in the Nicene Creed.

1	What is the history of the Nicene Creed?	In 325 AD, Church leaders from around the world gathered at the Council of Nicaea. They produced a creed – a statement of beliefs. This was further developed at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD, and is known as the Nicene Creed. It describes how Christians see God.
2	Did Christians always agree that Jesus was the Son of God?	Before this, not everyone had agreed that the Son of God (Jesus) was one with God. Rather than having been made by God. Now they agreed that he was equally important.
3	What was the importance that the early Church placed on the Trinity?	The importance the early Church placed on the Trinity in the Nicene Creed means it is a key belief for most Christians – but some groups such as Christadelphians, don't believe in the Trinity.
4	How do Christians view God The Father?	Christians see three parts of the Trinity as having different characteristics and roles. The Father Many Christians understand God the Father as the God of the Old Testament. He Created Heaven and Earth and sustains them. God the father might be described as the transcendent part of God. The title 'Father' is a mark of respect for God and is used by Jesus in the Gospels: "Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48 NIV)
	How do Christians view God The Son?	The Son Christians believe Jesus is the incarnation of God in human form, his is seen as both divine and human – the immanent and personal part of God, who understand human suffering. Christians believe that Jesus provides a model for Christian behaviour in obedience to God the Father, the Gospels contain a record of his life and teachings and we are important source of guidance for Christians on how they should live their lives.
	How do Christians view God The Holy Spirit?	The Holy Spirit Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in the world. In the Gospel it is written that Jesus promises his disciples he would ask the father to give them another advocate to help them and be with them – this is referred to as the Spirit of Truth. (John 14:16-17 NIV)

God created everything

1	What does Genesis 1 teach about creation?	Genesis chapter 1 says that God created everything. The process took six days and on the seventh day God rested.
2	What was created on day 1-6 in the creation story?	On day one, light and darkness were made, and on day two the sky. On the third day oceans, land and plants on the land were created and on the fourth day the sun moon and stars. On the fifth day it was the creatures of the water and sky and on the sixth day land animals and people.
3	Who was responsible for creation?	Christians see God the Father as the Creator but the Bible also describes how the other beings of the Trinity were involved. God created the world by acting through the Holy Spirit.
4	What was the role of the son of God in the creation story?	The role of the son of God is described in the Gospel of John. He uses the phrase 'The Word,' but it is clear he is referring to Jesus, as he later says, "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14 NIV) John made it clear that Jesus was vital for creation.

It explains how Human Beings were Created

1	What does Genesis teach about the creation of the first human beings?	The creation of human beings is described in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 the first two humans were Adam and Eve and they lived in the Garden of Eden.
2	What does Genesis 1 teach about God creating mankind?	Genesis chapter 1 says, "so God created mankind in his own image in the image of God he created them: male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27 NIV)
3	What does Genesis 2 teach about the creation of mankind?	Genesis chapter 2 says, "the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground" (Genesis 1:27 NIV) and made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man." (Genesis 2:22 NIV)
4	Is the fact that God created humans in his image important? Why?	The fact that God created humans in his image is important, since for Christians it means that humans are special. They think humans should behave like God by being loving and fair. It also shows that humans are important to God and so everyone should be treated with respect.
5	What does Genesis teach about Adam and Eve ruling?	In Genesis 1:28 God told Adam and Eve to, "rule over the fish In the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (NIV).
6	What do some Christians believe about dominion and stewardship?	Some Christians believe that God gave humans dominion (power) over his creation and they can use it as they like. However, Genesis 2:15 says, "the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." NIV. Many Christians interpret this as humans having stewardship of the Earth and God expects them to care for it.

The different ways to interpret the Creation Story

1	Who are creationists and what do they believe?	Some Christians take the creation story literally – they are known as creationists. They believe that the process took six days and humans are descended from Adam and Eve.
2	How do liberal Christians interpret the Bible events?	Other Christians are more liberal in their understanding of the Bible's events. They view Genesis as more of a parable or a symbolic description; they acknowledge God as the creator, but are open to other theories such as the Big Bang theory and evolution. These theories can offer more information to Christians about how God made the universe. The Roman Catholic Church has accepted both theories.

3	How can the creation story help Christians to further understand	The creation story can help Christians further understand God's nature. God is eternal as he made time and was present prior to it. He is omnipotent as he created the universe through words. God's benevolence can be seen through creation too as he brought humankind to life and gave them the world.
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Free Will leads to evil entering the World

1	What does Christianity teach about evil that entered the world?	Christianity teaches that evil entered the world as a result of Adam and Eve giving into temptation in the Garden of Eden – they disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Christians refer to this action as 'the fall.'
2	What is original sin?	After the fall every human being was born with a flawed nature, capable of causing suffering – this is the idea of original sin.
3	What do Christians believe about free will?	Christians believe God created humans with free will - its up to them to choose whether they perform evil deeds or not, just as it was up to Adam and Eve whether to give in to temptation or not. Good is the opposite of evil and since God is good Christians try to follow his example.

Evil can be either Human (man) Made or Natural

1	What are the two types of evil?	Evil and suffering can be divided into two types: Moral (human – made) Evil, When suffering is brought about by the cruel actions of people and Natural Evil such as diseases, floods and earthquakes.
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Evil can lead People to Question their Faith

1	What does evil and suffering do to some people and their belief in God?	Evil and suffering may lead some people to question their belief in God – or even to reject their faith.
2	What do some Christians say about the existence of suffering?	Some might say that since suffering exists God can't be both benevolent and omnipotent – a loving and all powerful God wouldn't allow it to happen, they might argue that he doesn't exist or that he can't have the characteristic of omni-benevolence that believers say he has.
3	How might some Christians justify the existence of evil and God?	But others would say that although God has these characteristics he gave people free will and so doesn't interfere. Or some may say that he wants to help but is not powerful enough.
4	How do Christians react to evil and suffering?	Christians react to evil and suffering in various ways. Suffering is often seen as a test of faith – God has his reasons (even if we don't know what they are). Many believe that God is with people in their suffering and that it can bring people closer to him.
5	What is the argument that some put forward to justify how this world is not meant to be perfect?	Others say life on Earth isn't meant to be perfect – the focus should be on reaching heaven.
6	What does the book of Job teach about evil and suffering?	The Book of Job tells of the terrible suffering Job endures and how he questions God. In the end Job comes to the conclusion that God is all – powerful and knows what he is doing- and that suffering must be accepted because people can't really understand the world or God's plan, "though he slay me, yet will I hope in him" Job 13:15NIV
7	What do Christians believe they should do for people	Christians believe they should try to help people who are suffering – practically (charity) and by praying. Jesus said that, " whatever you did for

	who are suffering?	one of these brother and sisters of mine you did for me.” (Mathew 25:40 NIV)
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Christians believe in Heaven and Hell

1	What do Christians believe is life after death?	Life after death is the idea that although your body may die and decay your soul can live on.
2	What do Christians teach about the soul?	Christianity teaches that the soul lives on after death (immortality of the soul and that the body will be resurrected (brought back to life) for Judgement Day, just as Jesus was resurrected after his crucifixion.
3	What do Christians teach about judgement?	Christians believe that God will judge you and you'll go to either heaven or Hell.
4	Do all Christians believe that heaven and hell are real places?	However, not all Christians believe that heaven and hell are real places – many Christians see heaven and Hell as a state of mind. In heaven you will be happy and know God – in hell you will be unable to know God's love. Pope John Paul II said that hell was a metaphor for how people who've rejected God will feel.
5	What do some Christians believe about their relationship if they go to hell?	Some Christians for example Roman Catholics believe that going to hell means that any connection they have to God will be severed forever: “ This state of definitive self = exclusion from communion with God is called hell (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1033)
6	What do some Christians believe about a loving God and going to hell?	Some believe that a loving God wouldn't allow anyone to go to hell.

Christians Believe Resurrection Happens at the Last Judgement

1	What do Christians believe about Parousia?	Many Christians believe that Jesus will return to Earth in the Second Coming (Parousia) and everyone who has died will be resurrected “in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22 NIV
2	What do some Christians believe about last judgement?	Some believe that all of humanity will then be judged at the last judgement. Those that God find acceptable will enter heaven – the rest will go to hell as in the story of the sheep and the goats. (Matthew 25:31-41)
3	What do some Christians believe about a personal day of judgement?	Some Christians e.g. Roman Catholics believe in a personal day of judgement straight after a person dies – their actions will be judged and they'll go to heaven or hell straight away. Some think they'll be judged again at the last judgement and will re-enter heaven or hell in their resurrected forms.
4	What do Christians who do not believe in personal judgement believe in?	Others don't believe in a personal judgement – the soul must wait to be judged at the last judgement.

God became Human at the Incarnation

1	What is the incarnation?	The incarnation was the act by which God became a human being as Jesus Christ. An angel told a woman called Mary in Nazareth that she would have a son - and that the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35 NIV)
2	What does the Nicene Creed teach about the	This belief is stated in the Nicene Creed: He was incarnate from the Holy spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

	incarnation?	
3	What is the Christian belief about the nature of God – half God / half man / both / neither?	Christians don't believe that Jesus was 'half god and half man' - he was fully both. The Bible describes how God "appeared in the flesh." (1 Timothy 3:16NIV)
4	What is the Messiah?	Jesus is referred to as Christ or Messiah - the anointed one of God.
5	What do Christians believe about the time Jesus spent on earth?	Christians see Jesus time on Earth as God's way of showing how much he loves the world. They study the Gospels to find out about Jesus's life and to see how they should live their own.

Jesus was Crucified and Resurrected

1	When did Jesus celebrate the Passover meal?	Shortly before his death Jesus and his disciples ate their Passover meal in Jerusalem. It was their final meal together and became known as the last supper
2	What did Jesus say at the Passover meal about the bread and wine? Why are these words important?	At the meal Jesus gave the disciples bread saying, "this is my body" and wine saying "this is my blood" (Mark 14:22-24 NIV) Luke's Gospel tells us he said, "do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:13 NIV) These words are important to many Christians today who remember Jesus with bread and wine through the Eucharist.
3	What does the washing of the feet symbolise at the Last Supper?	At the Last Supper Jesus also washed his disciples feet which teaches Christians about how important it is to serve others
4	What happened in the garden of Gethsemane?	After the Last Supper, Jesus went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane where he was arrested. The authorities felt threatened by Jesus - earlier that week the crowds had called him the king of Israel
5	What happened to Jesus at the Jewish trial?	He was put on trial before the Jewish high priest and found guilty of blasphemy. Then Jesus was tried before the Roman governor Pilate – he offered to release Jesus but the crowd said crucify him. (Mark 15:13 NIV). He was flogged before being sent to die.
6	What happened to Jesus at the Crucifixion?	Jesus was crucified at place called Golgotha next to two robbers. A sign was fixed to Jesus's cross that read, "The King of the Jews" to record the charge against him. Passers-by threw insults at Jesus saying that he could save others, but couldn't save himself.
7	What did Jesus call out in his suffering?	In his suffering Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34 NIV) This shows that Jesus understand how people can feel abandoned in their suffering.
8	What does atonement refer to?	Christians also believe the crucifixion helped to repair the relationship between God and mankind – the atonement.
9	What happened to the body of Jesus after the crucifixion?	According to the Gospels. after the crucifixion Jesus's body was put in a tomb, but he was resurrected (brought back to life) and his tomb was found empty.
10	What did Jesus say to the two women?	Jesus talked to two women and told them, "go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see me (Matthew 28:10 NIV)
11	What does the resurrection prove to Christians?	The resurrection is important to Christians as it shows them that there is life after death- death becomes less frightening. It shows them just how powerful God is. This power that raised Jesus from the dead gives people the strength to live Christian lives.

Jesus Going to Heaven is Called the Ascension

1	Did the disciples see Jesus after the resurrection?	Over the 40 days after the resurrection many of Jesus's disciples said they had met him alive in various places around Jerusalem.
2	Why did Jesus ascend to heaven?	Then Jesus "ascended into Heaven" to be with God the Father once again. He had done what he was sent to Earth to do, and it was time for him to go back to God.
3	What did Jesus teach about preparing a place in heaven?	In John 14:2 Jesus tells his disciples he will "prepare a place" (NIV) for them in heaven. 1 John 2:1 says that in Jesus Christians have an advocate with God. (someone who will look out for them)
4	What did Pope Benedict teach about the ascension?	Pope Benedict XVI said that since Jesus was human and went to be with God the ascension shows there's a place for all human beings with God.
5	What does the ascension show about the power of Jesus?	The ascension shows Jesus power – he is now at the right hand of the mighty God. (Luke 22:69 NIV)

Jesus Died to Save Humanity

1	What does original sin mean?	Original sin means that everyone is born capable of sin. Many Christians believe that Jesus's suffering and death won forgiveness for everyone and ensured their redemption. (freeing them from sin).
2	What do Christians believe about Jesus and sin?	They believe that Jesus was perfect, (without sin) but God placed all the sins of the world on him at his crucifixion. Romans 3:21-26 teaches that his sacrifice paid for their sins, so long as they have faith in him.
3	What is atonement?	Jesus's actions brought about the reconciliation between God and humanity – known as the atonement.
4	What do Christians believe about the power of Jesus over death?	His power and goodness were so great that after he was crucified death couldn't keep hold of him.
5	Do all Christians believe that Jesus had to die to pay for people's sins?	However, not all Christians believe that Jesus had to die to pay for people's sins.

Christians Must seek Salvation to Get to Heaven

1	What does salvation mean?	Salvation means the soul being saved from death and sin allowing it to reach heaven. For this to happen Christians believe they must have faith in Jesus. "Salvation is found in no one else" (Acts 4:12 NIV)
2	How is salvation possible?	Salvation is only possible through God's grace – God showing favour to those who have earned it. "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith ... it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8 NIV)
3	How do Christians know how to live a good life?	But people can't just say they believe – if they're a true believer they'll try to live a Christian life. The Bible contains many laws such as the Ten Commandments which provide Christians with guidance on how they should behave. Everyone will sin, but the laws mean they'll become conscious of sin (Romans 3:20NIV) and turn to God in repentance. (Acts 20:21 NIV)
4	What does the Holy Spirit do to help Christians find salvation?	The Holy Spirit helps Christians to follow the teachings of God and his laws and keep their faith helping them to find salvation.

Christianity Practices

Christian Denominations have Different Forms of Worship

1	When do Christians celebrate the Sabbath?	For Christians Sunday is the Lord's Day when they celebrate the Sabbath (the Holy day of rest.) Most Churches have their main service on a Sunday Morning Worship often includes prayers readings from the Bible a sermon and the Eucharist – The different denominations place varying amounts of importance on each creating difference in worship.
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Some Worship is liturgical

1	How do Anglicans, Catholics and Orthodox Christians celebrate the Eucharist?	Anglican Sunday mornings services usually include the Eucharist and Catholic Sunday morning services always do (Catholics call the Eucharist Mass) For Catholics the Roman missal sets out the contents of the service. Anglican worship is guided by the Common Worship Book based on the Book of common prayer 1662. The main Orthodox Sunday service is the Divine Liturgy which centres on the Eucharist – it is usually based on the liturgy of St John Chrysostom.
2	How does public worship help Christians to be involved in a wider Christian community?	For many public worship helps them to feel involved in a wider Christian community it can also help them feel closer to Jesus as they believe he is there in the Church with them: “ For where two or three gather in my name there am I with them. (Matthew 18:20 NIV) Following traditions also helps Christians to feel connected to other worshippers throughout history.
3	What are the similarities between Catholic and Anglican Eucharist services?	Anglican and Catholic Eucharist services share many similarities. A confession of sin and a request for God's mercy is said by everyone call the Penitential rite by Catholics. There are readings including Gospel readings and a sermon – this part is known at the liturgy of the word. The Nicene or Apostles Creed is then recited. The priest says prayers over bread and wine – this is called the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Then the congregation says the Lord's Prayer and shares the peace by shaking hands. They receive the bread and wine; Catholics call this the rite of Communion.
4	How are Orthodox Eucharist services similar to Anglican and Catholic ones?	Orthodox services contain similar elements to Anglican and Catholic ones; a sermon, Bible reading, the Nicene Creed and blessing of bread and wine. They include the litany where the priest says prayers and the congregation respond with 'Lord have mercy.' Worshippers sing or chant for most of the service. Services are often longer than most Anglican and Catholic series and people stand for the majority of the time.

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1	Do all Christians agree with non-liturgical worship?	Some Christians prefer the freedom of worshipping God in a less structured way. Others view non- liturgical worship as unsuitable for the level of respect that religious services require.
2	How do the Society of Friends, Methodists and Evangelical Christians celebrate the Eucharist?	The worship of the <u>Society of Friends</u> (Quakers) is non liturgical and it is usually unstructured. Worshippers sit together in silence but they are free to pray or speak out loud <u>Methodist services</u> don't have to follow a set structure but there is a Methodist worship book with suggested liturgy for parts of worship e.g. the Eucharist services feature humans readings a sermon and prayers. The Eucharist also takes place but not every week. Worship in <u>Evangelical Churches</u> e.g. Pentecostals is often spontaneous. Worshippers believe they're inspired by the Spirit – this is called charismatic worship, it might inspire them to pray clap dance or shout sometimes they speak in tongues – praying in an unrecognisable language

Some Christians also Engage in private Worship

1	Some Christians worship informally at home. How do they do this?	Many Christians worship informally at home (not just on Sundays. This can be anything from saying grace before a meal to singing worship songs with family to reading the Bible or praying.
2	How do Christians worship privately?	Lots of Christians worship both publicly and privately – private worship can help them keep God in mind throughout their everyday lives. Some also find greater freedom in private worship – they decide how they worship God and so feel a better connection with God.

Different Denominations Believe in Different Sacraments

1	What is a sacrament?	A sacrament is a ceremony (usually carried out by a minister or priest) through which Christians believe they receive God's grace. It's a song of God's grace working within them.
2	How many sacraments do Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants practice?	Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches believe in seven sacraments, but most Protestants accept only baptism and the Eucharist as sacraments – they believe only these two were prescribed by Jesus in the Gospels. Many believe that the sacraments bring people close to God.
3	Do Quakers and the Salvation Army celebrate the Eucharist?	Quakers and the Salvation Army don't celebrate the Eucharist or any other sacraments seeing them as unnecessary symbols for the inward acceptance of God's grace.

Baptism is an Important Sacrament for Many Christians

1	Why is baptism regarded as a sacrament?	Baptism is seen as a sacrament because Jesus was baptised. After his resurrection, he told his disciples to go out and baptise people, "go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19 NIV)
2	What did Jesus teach about baptism?	Jesus also said no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. (John 3:5 NIV)
3	What does baptism do for Christians? Why do they have it?	Baptism makes someone a member of God's family and welcomes them to the Church. Some Christians believe that baptising cleanses people from the original sin that everyone is born with.
4	Which denominations baptise babies?	Babies are baptised in many denominations e.g. Anglican, Catholic and Methodist (they also baptise adults if they weren't baptised as children and want to join the Church.)
5	How is baptism conducted in many churches? What happens?	A sign of the cross is made on the baby and in many churches holy water is poured three times over the forehead (in the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit. Orthodox Christians baptise babies by total immersion.
6	What is confirmation?	Denominations that baptise babies also usually have confirmation – a person confirms their faith when they reach an age that they can declare it themselves.
7	What do Baptists and Pentecostals believe about baptism?	But some denominations – for example Baptists and Pentecostals – believe you shouldn't be baptised until you're old enough to accept Christianity for yourself. They hold believers baptisms when adults who wish to join the church are baptised by total immersion.

There are many different understandings of the Eucharist

1	What is the Eucharist?	The Eucharist is where Christians remember the last supper with bread and wine.
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		Many denominations see it as a sacrament but have different beliefs about the bread and wine.
2	<p>What is transubstantiation?</p> <p>What do Lutherans and most Anglicans believe about Holy Communion?</p> <p>What do Baptists believe about the bread and wine at communion?</p> <p>How do denominations which place more meaning on the bread and wine celebrate the Eucharist?</p>	<p>Roman Catholics believe in transubstantiation (i.e. the bread and wine used a mass become the flesh and blood of Christ) and every Mass is a re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice. They believe that they receive the saving power of Jesus into themselves through the bread and wine.</p> <p>Lutherans Methodists and most Anglicans believe Holy Communion is more than just an intellectual commemoration of the Last Supper – its re – enactment. They believe that there is a real presence of Christ in the bread and wine but they don't believe that transubstantiation occurs.</p> <p>Baptists view the bread and wine as symbols but believe that God is present through the act of Christians coming together to share Communion. The bread and non-alcoholic wine are set out on a simple table. The bread is later offered from person to person and the wine drunk from small individual cups.</p> <p>Denominations which place more meaning on the bread and wine (e.g. Catholicism and Orthodox) hold Eucharist's more often – they believe it's essential for sustaining their relationship with God. They tend to use a more ornate table (an altar), and have more ritual surrounding the Eucharist (e.g. using incense). Catholics will be given bread by the priest and drink wine from a shared cup. Orthodox Christians are given the bread and wine together on a special spoon.</p>

The Seven sacraments – God shows his Grace

1	What is Baptism?	Baptism – This marks a person's official entry into the Church.
2	What is Confirmation?	Confirmation – in this ceremony a Christian (often a teenager) renews the vows made on their behalf at baptism. Confirmation is believed to strengthen the ties of the confirmed to the church and to God. In Catholic confirmation the bishop anoints the believers forehead with holy oil called chrism.
3	What is Reconciliation?	Reconciliation – this involves confession of a sin following by contrition penance and absolution. This is how Catholics seek to obtain forgiveness for the sins they commit. They must tell a priest about any sinful things that they've done. The priest will give a penance (a certain number of prayers to be said or an action to be done) and will then pronounce absolution (God's Forgiveness.)
4	What is the Anointing of the Sick?	Anointing the Sick – A priest or bishop anoints a seriously unwell person with the oil of the sick. Catholics believe that through this the Holy Spirit renews the person's faith and strength to cope with their illness and accept their suffering. The anointing is also believed to link the person's suffering to Christ's suffering, allow their sins to be forgiven and to heal them if that is God's will.
5	What is Matrimony?	Matrimony – Catholics believe Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding. They believe that God is present at the ceremony and promises are made before him – couples joined in Holy Matrimony should be together for life. As it's a sacrament, the union is a way that God blesses the couple and he also blesses them through one another.
6	What are Holy Orders?	Holy Orders - this is the process by which men are ordained as deacons, priests or bishops. Like matrimony it is a commitment for life.
7	What is the Eucharist?	The Eucharist (Mass) is seen as "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324.) Receiving the body and blood of Christ joins people together in their faith and gives them the strength to live Christian lives and face any problems they may encounter.

Catholic Funerals have Three parts

1	What is the Vigil of Prayers?	The Vigil of Prayer takes place the day before the funeral and is sometimes held at home. Readings and prayers form the service which aims to help family and friends prepare to say goodbye.
2	What does attending a funeral allow Catholics to do? What happens at a funeral?	Attending a funeral allows Catholics to join together in praying to God to take care of the person. The Funeral Liturgy often includes Holy Communion (The Requiem Mass). Its purpose is to pray for the soul of the dead person. The coffin is covered with a white cloth (a Pall) as it is carried into the church. The coffin is sprinkled with holy water and the priest says "in the waters of baptism (name) died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May s/he now share with him in eternal glory. The coffin is later sprinkled again and perfumed with incense. The Paschal candle sits beside it.
3	What is the committal?	The committal is a short ceremony that happens at the cemetery (or the crematorium if the person wished to be cremated). The priest says ashes to ashes dust to dust as the body goes back to the earth.

Prayer puts People in Touch with their God

1	What is prayer?	Prayer is when believers mentally or vocally communicate with God – it should be part of daily life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God. During prayer people might thank God (thanksgiving), worship God (adoration) or admit sins (confession) They might ask God for something (supplication) or to help other people (intercession).
2	What do believers draw comfort from when praying?	Believers draw comfort from the fact that God is listening to them. They also listen for what he is saying to them – many believer prayer helps them to find out what God wants them to do in life.
3	Do denominations have set formal prayers?	Most denominations have formal, set prayers that are Church tradition – they can be said during acts of worship church and also in private.
4	Why is the Lord's Prayer important?	The Lord's Prayer is very important. It's based on the words Jesus used when he told his disciples how to pray. It covers key themes – e.g. the idea that God is our Father and he provides for peoples physical needs.
5	What are informal prayers?	Informal prayers are when the individual talks to God in their own words. They're sometime called extempore prayers and can be used in worship and privately. Informal prayers are more personal and show the individuals connection with God – many Christians prefer them to formal prayers.

Pilgrimages can help Believers feel Nearer to God

1	Are pilgrimages compulsory in Christianity?	Pilgrimages aren't compulsory in Christianity but many see them as important. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2691) says that, "pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven." Luke 2:41-43 tells the story of the pilgrimage Jesus and his parents made to Jerusalem.
2	Why do Christians make pilgrimages?	Christians make pilgrimages to seek healing or forgiveness to connect to God or to defend their faith. Pilgrimages also provide the chance to escape normal life and to concentrate more on religion. Pilgrims can learn from each other. The journey reflects the path they're trying to follow toward God.
3	Where do Christians go on pilgrimage that is of significance in	People may visit places that are significant in Christianity – such as Jerusalem where they can visit key places in Jesus's life and death. Roman Catholics often visit Rome then home of the Pope.

	Christianity?	
4	Where do Catholics make pilgrimages to?	Some Christians especially Catholics make pilgrimages to shrines where Mary has appeared. These include Walsingham (which is popular with some Anglicans as well as Catholics) and Lourdes. The water in Lourdes is said to have healing properties which can cure ill health and lots of people believe miracles take place there. Catholics also visit shrines to saints.
5	Where are Protestants more likely to make a pilgrimage to?	Protestants are more likely to visit places they can find peace to study the Bible and pray – e.g. the quiet island of Iona (which has a long history for Christianity), or Taize, where they can join worship at the monastery. Some Christians see shrines such as Lourdes as being too commercialised, with too many people. Some regard pilgrimage as unnecessary – the journey inside is what matters.

Christmas is a Celebration of Jesus's Birth

1	When is Christmas celebrated by most Christians?	Christmas is celebrated by most Christians on 25 th December (for Orthodox Christians its 7 th January) it celebrates how Jesus was born in Bethlehem – there he was worshipped by shepherds after an angel told them, “a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah the Lord.” (Luke 2:11 NIV)
2	What is Advent?	Christmas comes after a period called Advent which begins four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is significant for many Christians as its time they spend getting ready to celebrate Jesus's birth – a time for prayer and reflection. Advent candles are lit in homes and churches and children may use advent calendars to count off the days until Christmas.
3	Which Christians celebrate Midnight Mass?	Lots of Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Anglican Churches have a Midnight Mass to welcome Christmas day and most Christians go to church on Christmas morning to celebrate.
4	What is the Epiphany and how is it celebrated?	Many churches hold services in the days after Christmas carrying on to Epiphany (6 th January) – the day after the Magi (wise men) went to see Jesus in Bethlehem.
5	Why are gifts exchanged at Christmas?	Customs vary around the world. Gifts are exchanged to symbolise the fact that Jesus was God's gift to the world and to remember how the Magi presented him with gifts of God frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11 NIV)
6	Why do some Christians dislike modern Christian traditions?	Some Christians dislike modern Christmas traditions and customs e.g. Santa Claus (Father Christmas) giving expensive presents and excessive eating and drinking. They believe that some of these modern traditions devalue the true meaning of Christmas. Others feel that it has retained too much pagan influence such as Christmas trees.

Easter celebrates Jesus's Resurrection

1	Why is Easter the most important festival for Christians?	Easter is the most important festival for Christians, since it celebrates Jesus Victory over death when God raised him back to life after his crucifixion. This reminds people that God loves them so much that he was willing to suffer death on the cross and gives them hope of eternal life.
2	What is Lent and what happens during it?	Lent is the 40 days before Easter. On Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent) ash is put on believers foreheads to show they are sorry for their sins. Some Christians fast (eat less and have only simple food) during Lent to mark when Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert. They stop fasting on Easter Sunday.
3	What are the important events that led up to Easter Day?	<p>The lead up to Easter day the day of resurrection is marked by a number of important events:</p> <p>Palm Sunday – is the Sunday before Easter when Christians remember Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This marks the beginning of Holy Week – Jesus's final week before his crucifixion.</p> <p>Maundy Thursday – commemorates the Last Supper held on the night before Jesus died.</p>

		Good Friday recalls Jesus's crucifixion – special services are held particularly on Friday afternoon. Some services last three hours to mark Jesus's final three hours on the cross when the sky became dark.
4	How is Easter Day celebrated by Christian Churches?	<p>Easter Day is a joyous occasion when Jesus's resurrection celebrated.</p> <p>Some Churches hold services on the Saturday night and most have special services on the Sunday mornings.</p> <p>The Paschal candle is lit during services in Anglican and Catholic churches. Worshippers light their own candle from its flame which represents Jesus as the Light of the World.</p> <p>Some Churches hold sunrise services to remember how Mary Magdalene discovered at daybreak that Jesus's tomb was empty. The rising of the sun is symbolic of Gods Son rising from the dead.</p> <p>Eggs are associated with Easter as a symbol of new life. Some view chocolate Easter Eggs as commercialisation of the festival.</p>

Churches play an Important Role in the local community

1	What is the role of the Church in the local community?	<p>Most communities in the UK have access to at least one church. The role of the local church is to put the Christian faith into action – this includes caring for the community as seen in lots of Christian teaching.</p> <p>Churches put this into practice in many different ways</p>
2	What kind of services do most churches celebrate?	By providing regular services and a place for quiet reflection – most churches hold a Sunday service and may also have other acts of worship throughout the week.
3	What else do churches do in the community?	Many Churches also raise money for charity.

Evangelism Tells people about Christianity

1	What is Evangelism?	Evangelism means spreading the Christian message with the aim of converting people.
2	What did Jesus teach about evangelism?	In Mark 16:15 Jesus told his disciples to, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." NIV – Many Christians believe that they should be prepared to do the same.
3	What do Christians believe evangelism helps with?	They believe that by evangelising they can help people discover their real purpose in life and find salvation. They feel excited to tell other people about Jesus's love – Pope Francis said "The primary reason for evangelising is the love of Jesus which we have received" (Evangelii Gaudium 264)
4	What are the different approaches and potential issues that surround evangelism?	<p>For some evangelism is about telling people directly about God. This can sometimes cause problems – people may feel offended. Others try to demonstrate God's love through their actions to bring people closer to God. Here are a few different types of evangelism.</p> <p>Gideon's distribute copies of the Bible in places like hotels and care homes.</p> <p>Churches might ask the congregation to bring along a friend who wouldn't normally go to church.</p> <p>The Salvation Army helps people by providing hot meals and beds for homeless people.</p>

		They also attend emergencies such as floods.
5	Why is evangelism regarded as being increasingly important?	As church attendance falls evangelism is increasingly important. The Church of England and Church in Wales are finding ways to interest new people in churches that don't follow the traditional model – for example worshipping in alternative venues like cafes or creating a café atmosphere in a church. Through initiatives called Fresh expressions and Pioneer Ministry they offer a new approach for modern society.
6	What do missionaries do?	Missionaries spread the Christian message abroad. Many aren't there to preach but to use their skills to help disadvantaged people – e.g. a doctor might choose to work in a poor country. These people demonstrate the message of Christianity through their actions.

Reconciliation works Towards Peace and Unity

1	Do Christians believe in justice and what does this mean?	Christians believe in justice – all people are equal in God's eyes, so they should be treated fairly. Christian organisations help people being treated unfairly due to war, religious persecution or poverty.
2	Why do Christians believe reconciliation is needed?	In Matthew 5:9 Jesus said, "blessed are the peacemakers." (NIV) Christians believe that reconciliation (coming together and making peace) is needed between people who have been in conflict with one another – just as Jesus brought God and humankind together through the atonement.
3	What are the two organisations that work for reconciliation?	<p>These are two examples of organisations that work for reconciliation.</p> <p>The Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland was founded to help heal the country's political and religious divisions. It works with people in areas where there is tension and it strives to help people understand each other and reconcile through group activities and discussion.</p> <p>Pax Chrisit is an international Catholic organisation working for human rights disarmament and peace. They believe violence should be avoided and they work to create a world where people can live in harmony.</p>

Organisations and Churches help Persecuted Christians

1	Do Christians suffer for being Christian?	Millions around the world suffer for being Christian – some endure prison sentences or even death.
2	How do organisations support Christians who get persecuted?	<p>Organisations give support by providing Bibles so people can continue worshipping in secret. They offer training to church members and support people who have lost their homes.</p> <p>Churches pray for the persecuted and may send money. Christians might petition for government help.</p>

Christian Charities help those in need

1	What does the parable of the Sheep and Goats teach?	In the story of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) Jesus explains that people who have been good (the sheep) and have helped others will be looked after by God. People who haven't (the goats) will suffer. The story tells Christians that they are helping Jesus when they help others.
2	Why is Charity important?	Because of this charity is very important to many Christians but it's not all about giving money – it must be done with love. In 1 Corinthians 12:3 St Paul said "if I give all I possess to the poor ...but do not have love I gain nothing." (NIV)
3	What does Christian Aid do?	Christian Aid works globally to relieve poverty. They set up project in the developing world drawing on the skill of local people. The organisation also aims to change government policy to help reduce the suffering of the world's poor e.g. through debt relief and fair trade products.

	What does CAFOD do?	CAFOD (Catholic agency for overseas development) works to fight poverty and injustice around the world. They work through churches helping in emergencies but also giving people the skill to help themselves
	What does Tearfund do?	Tearfund is an evangelical organisation – it helps communities with projects run through their churches. Their work includes trying to end hunger resolving tension in conflict zones and helping refugees. They also help areas hit by natural disasters.

There are many Catholic Charities

1	What does the Catholic Church teach about helping the poor?	Evangelii Gaudium (187) says that Catholics should strive to help the poor “to be fully a part of society” CAFOD is Roman Catholic organisation and there are many others that help those in need.
2	What is Trocaire?	Trocaire part of the Irish Catholic Church provides aid abroad. They help people escape poverty but also help in emergencies.
	What is the St Vincent de Paul Society?	The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) helps people in poverty. They provide support by visiting the isolated and ill, helping them with daily tasks providing schemes and clubs to help the disabled and donating food to the homeless.
	What is Missio?	Missio is an organisation that supports churches abroad that are struggling to fund themselves e.g. by training church leaders. It also runs projects to provide education and healthcare for children living in poverty.