

GCSE Christian Beliefs Knowledge Organiser

1) <u>Nature of God</u>	
Omnipotent	God is all powerful
Omnibenevolent	God is all loving
Omniscient	God is all knowing
Omnipresent	God is everywhere
The Plagues of Egypt	God showed his omnipotence by sending 10 plagues to show the Pharaoh that he was more powerful and that he needed to free the Israelites.

2) <u>Bible teachings about the Nature of God</u>	
Omnipotent	"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made"
Omnibenevolent	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son"
Omniscient	"His understanding has no limit"
Omnipresent	"Where two or three have gathered, I am there in their midst"

3) <u>The Trinity</u>	
The Trinity	There is one God but in three parts
God the Father	Judge, Father in Heaven
God the Son	Jesus, Teacher, Healer
God the Holy Spirit	Guide, God on earth within his people
Why is the Trinity important for Christians?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses who God is • Expresses how humans can interact with God • It allows humans to come face to face with God

4) <u>Evil and Suffering</u>	
Moral Evil	Human actions that cause suffering eg murder, rape
Natural Evil	Events that have nothing to do with humans but to do with the world eg Earthquakes, Diseases
Inconsistent Triad	If God is omnipotent he should get rid of evil and if God is omnibenevolent he should want to get rid of evil. Evil still exists, therefore there is no God.
Christian response to evil and Suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus suffered, we learn from suffering • God doesn't cause suffering – Humans do through free will (Adam and Eve) • We get rewarded for suffering in heaven • "God works in mysterious ways" We cannot understand God. • Job – There is sin in the world, need to keep faith.

5) <u>Incarnation of Jesus</u>	
Evidence that Jesus existed	The Romans kept records. He appears on the census. Historians wrote about him.
Incarnation	Jesus was God in human form
Teachings on the Incarnation	"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"
Teachings on the Incarnation	When Jesus was baptised a voice from Heaven said "You are my Son"

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6) <u>The Crucifixion</u>	
What is crucifixion?	A roman form of execution, designed to make the criminal suffer.
Why was Jesus crucified?	Jewish and Roman authorities charged him with blasphemy (saying he was the son of God).
Importance of the crucifixion	It brought salvation to people. Part of God's plan. Crucifixion was needed to allow resurrection to take place (this was prophesied about in the Old Testament)
Importance for Christians	Act of atonement for the sins of people in the world. Salvation is offered because Jesus did this. "You will be with me in Paradise". It allowed eternal life and resurrection. Jesus suffered "My God, My God why have you forsaken me"

7) <u>Salvation and Atonement</u>	
Atonement	Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift (separation) between humans and God.
Salvation	Delivered from sin and its consequences. Christians believe that if you have faith in Jesus Christ you will be saved and will have eternal life in heaven.
Salvation through	The Law: Bible, 10 commandments
Salvation through	The Bible – Inspired by God, revealed from God
Salvation through	Other sources – Vicars, conscience, church teachings
Salvation through	Holy Spirit – Lives within people – can be active in the world. Prayers help people.
Salvation through	The Sacraments – Special 'rites' Christians perform eg Baptism and Communion.

8) <u>Resurrection of Jesus</u>	
Key events	Women visit the tomb with spices, the stone is rolled away and no sign of Jesus' body. Two men in shining clothes appear and say "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive. He has risen!" They return and tell the disciples who do not believe them at first.
Visits to the disciples	After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples. He proved he was fully humans by getting them to touch him and he ate fish with them.

9) <u>Resurrection theories</u>	
Stolen Body	The disciples arranged for the body to be stolen and hidden so that people believed Jesus was the son of God. <i>Counter Argument – The tomb was sealed and they wouldn't have been able to move it quietly!</i>
Coma (Swoon theory)	Jesus didn't really die on the cross, he was merely in a coma and he woke up in the tomb and left before the women arrived. <i>Counter Argument – Jesus was stabbed in the side by the Roman soldiers.</i>
Wrong Tomb	The women went to the wrong tomb. <i>Counter Argument – The disciples went to the tomb after hearing from the women, and arrived first.</i>
Hallucination	The disciples wanted to see Jesus rise from the dead that they imagined it. <i>Counter Argument – How would a whole group hallucinate at the same time?</i>

10) <u>Ascension</u>	
Ascension	After time spent with the disciples, Jesus ascended to heaven.
Disciples	Jesus' disciples were with him when he was lifted into the sky. He told them to go out and be 'witnesses to all nations'.

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11) <u>Afterlife</u>	
Sheep and Goats	Those who help vulnerable in society (sick, hungry, prisoners) will have eternal life because it is like you are helping Jesus himself. Those that don't will not go to heaven.
Jesus' resurrection	Due to Jesus' resurrection, Christians believe they will be resurrected also (some spiritually and others bodily) "I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me will live, even though they die"
St Paul	"The physical body is imperishable, the spiritual body is imperishable"
Heaven	Eternity with God. Some believe it is a physical location, others believe it is a symbol for eternity with God.
Hell	Separation from God. Some believe it is a physical location with hell fire and torment and others believe it is a symbol for eternity without God.
Purgatory	Catholic belief – a place of cleansing that is between heaven and earth. Prayers are said for the souls in purgatory.

12) <u>Judgement</u>	
Sheep and Goats	There will be a judgement day and the quality of people's lives will be judged by God.
The Parousia	There will be a second coming when Jesus returns to earth (The Last Day)
Bodily Resurrection	Some Christians believe that on the Last Day their spiritual bodies will go back to their physical body and a new heaven and new earth will begin.

13) <u>Resurrection</u>	
Soul	Spiritual part of the person (soul) goes to heaven with God upon death
Physical resurrection	At the end of time there will be a physical resurrection (some believers)
Teaching	"The dead will be raised imperishable and we will all be changed"

14) <u>Christian creation of the World</u>	
Who?	God
Where?	Genesis
How?	Over 7 days God spoke and created different aspects of creation.
Why?	Everything was planned by God with a purpose.
Humans	Humans were a special part in creation. God breathed life into Adam and made them 'in his image'. Adam was made from the dust, and Eve from Adam's rib as his 'helper'. Humans were told to be stewards of the world.

15) <u>Genesis creation story</u>	
Conservative Christians	Read the bible literally. God created the world exactly as it says in Genesis. The Bible is 'God-breathed' and is precise and accurate. 6 lots of 24 hours, Adam made from a rib
Liberal Christians	The main point of the story is not the detail of how God made the world, but the fact he did. God created the world over a period of time. He used natural processes.