

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS SPECIFICATION

Content	Studied?	SOWAA?	RAG
The Nature of God- God as omnibenevolent, omnipotent, omniscient, transcendent, immanent, judge, forgiving, eternal, personal, forgiving			
The Trinity- What it means, The roles of each and the divergent attitudes (unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses)			
Creation- Genesis, John 1, The role of the Spirit and the compatibility with science from literal and liberal perspectives, the role of God as the creator.			
The Fall- The story of Genesis 3, The impact of the Sin and whether it is a literal event.			
Problem of Evil- Moral and Natural evil, causes of evil, Mackie's inconsistent triad, Augustine, Irenaeus and Hick's Theodicies and the story of Job.			
Jesus' Titles- Messiah, Lord, Saviour and Son of God- Meanings and significance.			
Jesus' teachings- Agape + Sermon on the Mount.			
Incarnation- What happens and why is it important?			
Crucifixion- What happens and why is it important?			
Resurrection- What happens and why is it important?			
Ascension- What happens and why is it important?			
Salvation- The link between Christ and Salvation, Christ as the ransom, sacrificial lamb and substitutionary atonement. Method of salvation- Sola Fide, Works and Spirit.			
Life After Death- Judgement, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory and whether these places are literal or symbolic.			
Apocalyptic ideas of the Early Church- Blowing of trumpet, Parousia, Armageddon, Rapture, Millennium reign, Final Judgement and New Heaven and New Earth- where these beliefs come from.			

Christian Practices Specification.

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connected to it?	RAG
Worship- Purpose and types: liturgical, non-liturgical, charismatic, private.			
Sacraments- What are they? What happens during Eucharist and Baptism? Divergent views.			
Prayer- Different types, purpose + significance. Lord's Prayer and its use.			
Pilgrimage- What are the different sites? What happens there? Why are they important?			
Christmas + Lent- Why is it celebrated? What happens? How is it celebrated differently?			
Easter + Holy Week- Why is it celebrated? What happens? How is it celebrated differently?			
Rites of Passage What happens at a Funeral, Marriage + Confirmation? Why are they important?			
Mission and Evangelism- What does it mean? Why are they significant?			
New Forms of Church- What are the new types of Church? Why are they important?			
Ecumenicalism- What does it mean? Why is it significant? What are some ecumenical communities?			
Role of the Church in the local community- How does the Church work in the local community?			
Role of the Church in the wider world- What are Christian Aid groups? Why are they important?			

Islam Beliefs Specification.

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connected to it?	RAG
Core beliefs- Six articles, 5 roots of Usul-ad-Din.			
Nature of Allah- Attributes, implications of Tawhid and shirk Allah as creator, judge, and guide			
Risalah- Roles of key prophets: Adam, Ibrahim, Isma'il, Musa, Dawud, Isa, Muhammad Muhammad as the seal of the prophets Importance of the Imamate in Shi'a Islam			
Kutub- Belief in revealed scriptures: Torah, Psalms, Gospel, Qur'an Importance of the Qur'an and attitudes to previous scriptures.			
Malaiakah - Roles of Jibril, Mika'il, Izra'il, Israfil Nature and functions of angels Impact of belief in recording angels on behaviour.			
Akhirah- Beliefs about life after death, judgement, Barzakh, heaven and hell Importance of accountability and responsibility Martyrdom and different interpretations of the afterlife			
Predestination (al-Qadr)- Allah's foreknowledge and human free will Differences between Sunni and Shi'a views on Qadr Relationship between freedom, responsibility and judgement			

Islam Practices Specification.

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connected to it?	RAG
<p>Five Pillars (Sunni) & Ten Obligatory Acts (Shi'a)- Understand each of the Five Pillars Know all Ten Obligatory Acts (especially Khums, Amr-bil-Marroof, Nahi Anil-Munkar, Tawalla, Tabarra) Sunni and Shi'a similarities and differences</p>			
<p>Prayer (Salah & Du'a)- How, when, and why Muslims pray Ablution, directions, times, postures Private prayer and the importance of du'a Jummah prayer and khutba</p>			
<p>Hajj- Meaning and importance How it is performed and why Spiritual significance and exceptions</p>			
<p>Zakah and Khums- Importance of almsgiving Differences between Sunni Zakah and Shi'a Khums Voluntary charity (Sadaqah) and views on wealth</p>			
<p>Sawm (Fasting)- Purpose and significance of Ramadan and fasting Duties, exemptions, benefits Night of Power</p>			
<p>Festivals- Origins and meanings of: Eid-ul-Adha, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Ghadeer, Ashura How they are celebrated and their significance</p>			
<p>Jihad- Greater vs Lesser Jihad Conditions for Lesser Jihad Different Muslim views on Jihad and violence</p>			

Relationships and Families Specification.

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connect ed to it?	RAG
<p>Marriage- Know the Christian purposes of marriage (e.g. union, love, raising children, sacred covenant). Be able to describe how Christian beliefs and teachings are reflected in the marriage ceremony. Understand the reasons for differences in beliefs and practices between denominations (e.g. Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Quaker).</p>			
<p>Family- Understand the role and purpose of the Christian family (e.g. nurture, support, religious upbringing). Understand the types of families.</p>			
<p>Same-Sex Marriage- Understand Christian attitudes to same-sex marriage and how they differ between denominations. Be able to explain the cultural and doctrinal reasons for differing views (e.g. traditional teachings vs modern inclusivity).</p>			
<p>Civil Partnerships + Cohabitation- Know what a civil partnership is and how Christian views may vary. Understand Christian responses to: Pre-marital sex (sexual relationships before marriage) Cohabitation (living together before marriage)</p>			
<p>Celibacy- Define celibacy and understand why some Christians choose it (e.g. religious calling).</p>			
<p>Contraception- Explain Christian views on contraception: Natural vs artificial methods, Use within and outside marriage, Understand why attitudes vary (e.g. Catholic vs Protestant views).</p>			
<p>Divorce, Annulment and re-marriage. Know the difference between divorce, annulment, and remarriage. Understand Christian teachings about the sanctity and permanence of marriage. Be able to explain why some churches: Do not permit divorce/remarriage Allow it in limited or compassionate circumstances Understand the importance of forgiveness, repentance and grace in shaping attitudes.</p>			
<p>Roles of men and women- Know Christian teachings about the roles of men and women in: Family life (e.g. parenting, leadership, mutual respect) Christian communities (e.g. priests, pastors, teachers) Be able to explain differing denominational views (e.g. on women in leadership roles). Understand how views have changed over time, especially in response to social changes.</p>			
<p>Equality and Discrimination- Understand the relationship between religion and culture in shaping views on gender. Be able to explain Christian beliefs about: Spiritual equality of men and women The idea of different roles, same value Understand Christian attitudes to gender discrimination and prejudice (e.g. sexism). Explore how some traditions maintain embedded inequalities and how others challenge them</p>			

Existence of God

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connect ed to it?	RAG
<p>Describe different Christian beliefs about what God is like (e.g. personal, loving, omnipotent, transcendent) Explain Christian beliefs about God’s relationship with the world (e.g. creator, sustainer, judge) Explain Christian beliefs about God’s relationship with humanity (e.g. love, forgiveness, guidance, presence)</p>			
<p>Evaluate the belief that God is good, and what that goodness means in terms of: God’s actions God’s justice and mercy Understand Christian views on how suffering relates to God's nature (e.g. as a test, consequence of free will, or part of a greater plan) Explore different Christian responses to the problem of evil</p>			
<p>Design Argument (Teleological Argument) Understand the value and limitations of each argument Know why some Christians accept or reject these arguments Be able to explain denominational differences in emphasis</p>			
<p>Cosmological / First Cause Argument Understand the value and limitations of each argument Know why some Christians accept or reject these arguments Be able to explain denominational differences in emphasis</p>			
<p>Anthropic Principle Understand the value and limitations of each argument Know why some Christians accept or reject these arguments Be able to explain denominational differences in emphasis</p>			
<p>Moral Argument Understand the value and limitations of each argument Know why some Christians accept or reject these arguments Be able to explain denominational differences in emphasis</p>			
<p>Explain different ways Christians believe God reveals Himself: Through inspirational people Through scripture (the Word of God) Through Jesus Christ Through Christian historical figures Through acts in the world (miracles or providence) Through the conscience</p>			
<p>Identify and describe types of religious experience: Conversion experiences – radical change in belief or lifestyle Mystical experiences – a deep sense of connection or unity with God Charismatic/ecstatic experiences – speaking in tongues, spiritual gifts Visions – visual or auditory perceptions believed to come from God Worship and sacraments – a sense of presence or connection during rituals</p>			
<p>Evaluate the credibility and significance of religious experiences Understand why some Christians accept miracles and others question them Explore denominational differences in beliefs about revelation and experience</p>			

Peace and Conflict

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connected to it?	RAG
<p>Violence and Conflict- Explain different Christian views on violence (including teachings on peace, retaliation, and justice) Understand how Christian individuals and communities respond to and are affected by violent conflict</p>			
<p>Terrorism- Describe causes of terrorism and explain the relationship between religion, politics, and terrorism Evaluate Christian attitudes toward terrorism, both its causes and use</p>			
<p>Just War Theory- Explain what the Just War Theory is, including traditional criteria (e.g. just cause, proportionality, right intention). Evaluate the usefulness of the Just War Theory.</p>			
<p>Holy War- Understand the concept of Holy War and how it differs from Just War, Describe different examples of Holy War and evaluate whether Christian teaching supports them.</p>			
<p>Apocalyptic Warfare- Evaluate Christian views on types of warfare: Conventional warfare (e.g. armed forces) Technological warfare (e.g. drones) Apocalyptic warfare (e.g. nuclear weapons)</p>			
<p>Pacifism- Define and explain: Absolute pacifism – never justified to use violence Conditional pacifism – violence is wrong except in extreme situations</p>			
<p>Peacemaking- Understand how religious teachings about peace influence Christian individuals and groups Describe how Christians work for peace through: Community action National and international activism Religious organisations Evaluate the claim that working for peace should be the most important Christian activity Explain the role of non-violent action and resistance (e.g. peaceful protest, civil disobedience)</p>			
<p>Forgiveness + Reconciliation- Define and explain the concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation in Christian thought Explore different Christian views on: Whether forgiveness is always possible Whether forgiveness is always desirable</p>			
<p>Justice + Social Justice- Understand the link between justice and peace – can there be peace without justice? Distinguish between social justice and injustice, and how Christians respond to both Describe how Christian teachings on forgiveness and justice influence: Individual behaviour Community values National or global efforts (e.g. truth commissions, charities)</p>			

Dialogues

Content	Studied?	Know quotes connected to it?	RAG
<p>Role of Christianity in the UK- Understand the role of Christianity in British society, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity as the established religion The Monarch as Supreme Governor of the Church of England The presence of Bishops in the House of Lords Christian services at national events Church schools and public holidays based on Christian celebrations 			
<p>Secularisation- Explain the concept of secularisation and how it affects religion</p> <p>Understand the rise of humanism and its influence in society</p>			
<p>Education- Identify and explain potential clashes between religious and secular values:</p> <p>In education: faith schools vs secular ethics in schools. Explain the role of RE in curriculum.</p>			
<p>Medical Ethics- abortion, euthanasia, genetic manipulation, and views on the creation of life</p> <p>Be able to evaluate Christian responses to these challenges</p> <p>Compare how different Christian denominations might justify their attitudes</p>			
<p>Salvation - Understand different Christian views on exclusivism, inclusivism, and pluralism:</p> <p>Exclusivism: only Christianity leads to salvation</p> <p>Inclusivism: truth may exist in other faiths, but salvation is through Christ</p> <p>Pluralism: multiple paths to truth or salvation</p>			
<p>Interfaith Dialogue-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism – unity within Christianity Intra-faith dialogue – dialogue between Christian denominations Inter-faith dialogue – dialogue between different religions Evaluate the importance of inter-faith dialogue in 21st-century Britain, especially in a multicultural society Understand how religion relates to national identity and the role of proselytisation (sharing one’s faith) 			
<p>Dialogue Between Religious and Non-Religious Groups- Explain how different Christian denominations view and respond to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atheism, Agnosticism, Humanism, Secularism Identify shared values and ideals between Christianity and non-religious groups (e.g. dignity, compassion, justice) Evaluate the importance of shared values in building respectful societies Understand points of disagreement, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority of religious texts vs human reason Moral laws given by God vs moral relativism Sanctity of life vs right to choose (in bioethics) Discuss whether secular values should take precedence over religious values in public life Evaluate how disagreements between religious and non-religious groups affect individuals and communities 			