

# Christian Beliefs & Teachings - Paper 1

## The nature of God

Key Terms	Symbol
<b>Omnibenevolent</b>	All-loving & infinitely good. An attribute of God
<b>Omnipotent</b>	All-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God
<b>Trinity</b>	The three persons of God. God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy spirit
<b>Incarnation</b>	God becoming human in the form of Jesus
<b>Atonement</b>	The belief that Jesus' death on a cross healed the rift between man & God
<b>Resurrection</b>	The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
<b>Sacraments</b>	An outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God, for example Baptism. Eucharist
<b>Evangelism</b>	Preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting them to the Christian faith

**Trinity**—Christians believe that God is Trinity, one God in three persons. They believe that the trinity is defined by love and out of that mutual love, the Trinity created the universe.

**Creator**—Christians believe that the Trinitarian God created the universe. God the Father spoke, God the Son was the Word who made all things and God the Holy Spirit gave it life.

**The Omni's**—Christians believe that God is all-powerful, as seen in creation, all-knowing, and all-loving. The attributes of God are essential to God's nature,

**Transcendent**—Christians believe that God exists outside of time & space. This means that he does not age or change. The Bible says that God is 'the same today as yesterday and will be forever.'

## The afterlife—eschatological beliefs

Judgement	Resurrection	Heaven & Hell	Purgatory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Christians believe in a judgement day, a moment when God will decide if a person will go to heaven or hell.</li> <li>* The parable of the sheep &amp; goats teaches Christians that how they treat others will determine if they go to heaven or hell.</li> <li>* The parable of Lazarus &amp; the Rich Man helps them understand that faithful, kind people go to heaven, whereas selfish people go to hell.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Christians believe in a physical resurrection at the end of time.</li> <li>* They believe that just as Jesus was resurrected with a body that had the marks from His life on it was also different (it could appear out of nowhere), they too will be given a new resurrected body suitable for heaven.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Traditional views of Heaven &amp; Hell</b>—Real places in the sky or under the earth</li> <li>* <b>Contemporary views of Heaven &amp; Hell</b>—Heaven is with God &amp; Hell is not being with God. Question whether hell is real</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Catholic belief of a place to be cleansed of sin before going to heaven.</li> <li>* Catholics practice infant baptism and anointing the sick to help remove the original sin which needs punishing in purgatory.</li> </ul>

## Salvation and atonement

### Salvation

What is salvation?	A historical view	A Catholic approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Salvation is the belief that the death of Jesus was God's way of saving Christians from the consequences of sin, which is an eternal separation from God in hell after they have died.</li> <li>* The <b>Apostles creed</b> teaches that Jesus... 'suffered, was crucified, died and was buried...on the third day he rose again and ascended to the right hand of the Father and will come again to judge the living and the dead.'</li> <li>* An important part of salvation is <b>atonement</b>—this is the belief that Jesus' death healed the rift between humans and God. This restored relationship is at the heart of salvation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>In the Old Testament</b> animals were sacrificed to make up for human sin. Leviticus 16 teaches Christians: 'The goat shall bear their sins and take them into the desert.'</li> <li>* However, Christians believe that <b>Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice</b> and died for the 'sins of the world', so now there is no need to sacrifice animals.</li> <li>* <b>The last supper</b> is the meal where Jesus predicts his death and links it to sacrifice. Today Christians remember this by drinking wine and eating bread in Communion. Matthew 26 tells this story: 'Take eat, this is my body.'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Catholics believe that salvation can be found in keeping the <b>seven sacraments</b>.</li> <li>* They believe that God blesses them and sacraments such as Baptism removes <b>original sin</b>, allowing the person to attain salvation and continue on their journey to heaven</li> </ul>

# Christian Practices - Paper 1

## Forms of Worship

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**Liturgical**—Worshippers follow a very set structure, for example in the Eucharist service

**Informal**—Worship with no set structure. Usually seen in Evangelical services

**Individual**—Personal worship such as reading the Bible and private prayer

**Prayer**—Christians believe prayer is an important part of their faith. Jesus taught that Christians should pray with all of their thoughts, actions and words. There are seven forms of prayer:

1. Adoration—Love and respect for God
2. Confession—Saying a statement of faith
3. Contemplation—meditation
4. Penitential—Saying sorry
5. Praise—includes singing
6. Thanksgiving—Saying thank you
7. Supplication—asking for something

### Extemporaneous Prayer

Spontaneous prayers led by the Holy Spirit.

## The Seven Sacraments

Baptism	Confirmation	Eucharist	Penance	Anointing of the Sick	Holy Orders	Marriage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiates people into the Church</li> <li>• Catholics believe it takes away original sin</li> <li>• Infant Baptism</li> <li>• Believers (adult bap-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a person is old enough, they repeat the promises made in infant baptism for themselves.</li> <li>• This joins them to the church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians share bread and wine to remember Jesus death</li> <li>• Also known as communion</li> <li>• The Priest leads the service using set liturgy</li> <li>• Catholics believe that the wine &amp; bread become Jesus blood &amp; body.</li> <li>• Protestants believe that the wine &amp; bread symbolise Jesus blood &amp; body.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known as confession for Catholics</li> <li>• Involves telling a Priest about sins so that he can forgive them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a Catholic is very ill a priest will pour oil on their head whilst praying for them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The way people join the priesthood of the Church</li> <li>• Known as being 'ordained'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spiritual union of a couple and God</li> <li>• Wedding vows reflect this belief</li> </ul>

## Persecution

Persecution—persistently cruel treatment due to religious belief

- \* Throughout the history of Christianity, Christians have been killed for their faith. They are known as martyrs.
- \* Jesus was killed as a martyr & warned that his followers would suffer the same fate.
- \* Today Christians are killed or persecuted in places such as the Middle East and China.
- \* Open Doors are a Christian organisation who support Christians suffering from persecution.
- \* Open Doors help by: Giving Bibles to people who are not allowed them, training Church leaders in persecuted places, Supports Christians who have suffered and speaks up to governments to try and change situations of suffering.
- \* Christians also pray and donate money to help those in need.
- \* The ecumenical movement helps Christians worldwide to come together and unify so that they can better support those who need it.

## Evangelism

The Church grows in two ways. One is through helping Christians to develop their skills to support the church community and the other is through bringing new people into the community. All Christians are told to be evangelists because the last command Jesus gave to his followers was 'to go into all of the world and tell people about him'. However, evangelism can take many forms.

- \* Some Christians evangelise through living good lives and helping others in their work or schools, rather than talking about their faith.
- \* Other Christians go on mission. This means that they travel to particular places to help others and tell them the story of Jesus (gospel). Some Christians think that mission work is essential whereas others think that Christians should not be telling other people how to live.
- \* In the past, mission focussed upon providing schools and medical care to communities so that people would be brought together to hear the gospel message.
- \* Today, much evangelism is done through community work such as youth groups or coffee mornings.

# Islamic Beliefs & Teachings - Paper 2

Key Terms		Symbol
<b>Tawhid</b>	The basic belief in the oneness of God	
<b>Prophethood</b>	The messengers of God from Adam to Muhammed	
<b>Halal</b>	Things which are allowed in Islam	
<b>Haram</b>	Things which are not allowed in Islam	
<b>Jihad</b>	To struggle/strive	
<b>Mosque</b>	A place of worship & prayer	
<b>Shariah</b>	Law that guides Muslims to live the 'straight' path	
<b>Ummah</b>	The community of Muslim believers	

## The Prophet Isa

- Isa is the Islamic name for Jesus
- Apart from Muhammad, Isa and his mother Maryam (Mary) are the most important people in the Qur'an
- Isa is the successor to Ibrahim
- Isa was given the Injil (Gospels)
- Muslims deny that Isa is God and deny the Christian belief in the Trinity
- The Qur'an teaches that Isa did not die on the cross because God would not let evil men to defeat a prophet.
- Isa was taken to heaven alive and will come back when God judges the world.

## The significance of Angels

- \* All Muslims accept that angels are real and it is one of the six articles of Sunni faith.
- \* The Qur'an mentions angels more than 100 times.
- \* The primary purpose of angels is to worship God
- \* They also communicate with humans and have specific roles to help creation run smoothly.
- \* Angels never make mistakes because they have no free will, this means that everything they do is exactly as God wants.
- \* Angels constantly watch humans and are important as they report on the actions people choose which affects where that person goes in the afterlife.
- \* Jibril is significant because he brings Allah's message to the prophets. The Qur'an says 'Jibril has brought the Revelation...from your Lord.'
- \* Mika'il is significant because he provides nourishment for bodies and soul and bring the seasons.
- \* Israfil is significant because he blows the trumpet to end time and announce the day of resurrection

## Akhirah (Life after death), heaven, hell & the Day of Judgement

Beliefs about Akhirah	Day of Judgement	Heaven & Hell
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims believe that Allah decides when people will die. 'No soul may die except with God's permission.' (Qur'an)</li> <li>• After death all people will go to the after-life (Akhirah).</li> <li>• How you lived your life determines where you will go after you die.</li> <li>• The soul goes to Barzakh to wait for the day of Judgement</li> <li>• Both Sunni &amp; Shi'a believe in the afterlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the Shi'a roots of Usul ad-Din &amp; the Sunni six articles is to believe in the day of judgement.</li> <li>• This is the day when the fate of all humans will be decided according to how they have lived.</li> <li>• A <b>book of deeds</b> is read out and the person is sent to heaven or hell.</li> <li>• This is important because it helps Muslims make morally good choices in life.</li> <li>• Shi'a Muslims believe that the Mahdi (12th imam) will come back and defeat the evil ones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heaven</b> (Jannah) is a garden of bliss where faithful Muslims are rewarded for living a good life.</li> <li>• Jannah is a place of perfection with no pain or suffering.</li> <li>• Here, everyone is forgiven. 'I will wipe out the bad deeds...and admit them to the gardens.'</li> <li>• Jannah is important because it motivates Muslims to submit all of their lives to God.</li> <li>• <b>Hell</b> has seven levels guarded by 19 angels. Each level of hell is more horrendous than the last.</li> <li>• People are sent to the level of hell that matches how wicked their life has been.</li> <li>• Hell is terrifying, 'filled with the screams of the damned and black smoke'.</li> <li>• Hell is important because the fear of it motivates Muslims to submit to God and provides justice for the wicked.</li> </ul>

# Islamic Practices - Paper 2

Key Terms	Symbol
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## The Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam

- \* **Salah** – committing to daily prayers.
- \* **Sawm** – fasting from just before dawn until sunset.
- \* **Zakah** – giving a proportion of your wealth to help the poor.
- \* **Hajj** – pilgrimage to **Makkah**.
- \* **Jihad** – the struggle to keep belief in Allah and follow his rules, to follow the Five Pillars of Islam successfully and to defend Islam.
- \* **Khums** – 20 per cent annual tax. This tax is paid on any profit earned by Shi'a Muslims. The money is split between charities supporting Islamic education and anyone who is descended from **Muhammad** who is in need.
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- \* **Amr-bil-Marooif** – encouraging people to do what is good: Enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong (Qur'an 9:71). Maruf is anything that has been approved in **Shariah Law**.
- \* **Nahil Anril Munkar** – forbidding evil by discouraging people from doing what is wrong.
- \* **Tawalia** – showing love. This includes both love for God and love for those who follow him.
- \* **Tabarra** – disassociation. Shi'a Muslims should not associate with God's enemies

## Differences between Sunni & Shi'a Muslims

<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Shi'a</u>
* <b>Prayer</b> —Pray 5 times a day	* <b>Prayer</b> —Pray 3 times a day & use a clay tablet
* <b>Zakat</b> —Paid to the government	* <b>Zakat</b> —Paid to religious leaders
* <b>Fasting</b> —Fast through the month of Ramadan	* <b>Fasting</b> —The same a Sunni but add three days remembering Ali
* <b>Hajj</b> —Pilgrimage to Makkah	* <b>Hajj</b> —Pilgrimage to Makkah & other sacred sites such as the tombs of the prophets family.
* <b>Festivals</b> —Celebrate Id-UI-Adha & Id-UI-Fitr	* <b>Festivals</b> —Celebrate Ashura as well

## Salah (prayer)

One of the five pillars, Salah refers to the daily prayers that all Muslims must complete. The Qur'an command all Muslims to perform 'regular prayer'.

- \* All Muslims pray facing towards Makkah and the Ka'aba. 'Turn your face towards the sacred Mosque'.
- \* Prayer is performed at either home or the Mosque and on a clean dry place with shoes removed.
- \* Ritual cleanliness—Muslims perform Wudu (ablution) before they pray. This is a ceremonial washing and helps prepare the believer to ask for forgiveness for their sins.
- \* The call to pray—the Imam sings a call to pray which tells Muslims that prayer is going to start. This is called the adhan.
- \* Rak'ahs—Once the adhan is said, believers bend their body and bow as they pray. This is known as Rak'ahs. They also say '*Allahu Akhbar*' (praise God), pray private prayers and ask for sins to be forgiven.

The Five pillars of Islam are the actions that Sunni Muslims are required to do in order to live a good Muslim life. They are listed in order of importance, so declaring Allah to be the one true Good is the most important action that any Sunni Muslim can do.

## Living as a Muslim in Britain today

### Opportunities

- \* Britain has laws which protect a Muslims right to freely practice their religion.
- \* The number of Mosques in Britain is increasing
- \* Society recognises the work that is done by Muslim groups such as Muslim Aid in helping people in need.
- \* Prayer rooms and quiet spaces are provided in many public buildings so Muslims can perform Wudu and Salah
- \* Multi-culturalism is making society more tolerant of all faiths including Islam
- \* The number of Muslim people in Britain is growing (Islam is the fastest growing religion in Britain)

### Challenges

- \* Performing Salah is difficult because British life does not afford time to stop and pray.
- \* Muslim communities are often isolated from other communities leading to a lack of understanding in society.
- \* Hajj is very expensive and this can make it very difficult for poor people to complete.
- \* Islamophobia exists in some parts of British society.
- \* The Qur'an is written in Arabic which means that British Muslims must learn Arabic before being able to read it.
- \* Sunni and Shi'a communities can be divided in parts of the county.
- \* British law and Shari'ah law do not agree on what is morally acceptable.