



CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

8062

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

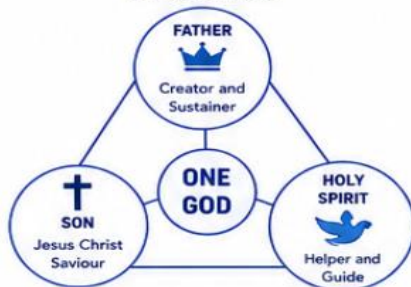
WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

- Christianity is the world's largest religion with over **2 billion** followers.
- Christians follow the teachings of **Jesus Christ**, who they believe is the Son of God and the **Messiah**.
- Christianity began around **2,000 years** ago in Israel and developed from Judaism.
- Today, Christianity has many denominations but all Christians believe in one God.



THE TRINITY

Christians believe there is one God in three Persons:



The Trinity shows that God is a community of love.

SOURCE OF WISDOM AND AUTHORITY
"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
This teaches the three Persons of God.

KEY BELIEFS OVERVIEW

	God	The nature of God and the Trinity
	Creation	God created the universe
	Incarnation	God became human in Jesus
	Jesus	Life and teachings of Jesus
	Crucifixion	Jesus died for humanity
	Resurrection	Jesus rose from the dead
	Ascension	Jesus returned to heaven
	Sin	Humans disobeyed God
	Salvation	God offers forgiveness and eternal life
	Atonement	Jesus' death repairs the relationship between God and humanity

CREATION

- God created the universe out of nothing by speaking.
- Creation shows God's power, wisdom and love.
- Everything God created was good.
- Humans are made in God's image and have special worth.



SOURCE OF WISDOM AND AUTHORITY

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1
This teaches that God is the Creator of everything.

THE NATURE OF GOD

Christians believe God is:

	Omnipotent	All-powerful
	Omniscient	All-knowing
	Loving	Full of unfailing love
	Just	Fair and righteous
	Merciful	Forgiving and compassionate
	Immanent	Close to and involved in the world
	Transcendent	Above and beyond the world

SOURCE OF WISDOM AND AUTHORITY

"For nothing is impossible with God."
Matthew 19:26
This teaches that God is all-powerful.

DENOMINATIONS

Christians belong to different denominations. Some of the largest are:

- Roman Catholic
- Orthodox
- Anglican
- Baptist
- Methodist
- Pentecostal

Although they worship and practice differently, they all believe:

- ✓ There is one God.
- ✓ Jesus is the Son of God.
- ✓ Jesus died and rose again.



THE STORY OF SALVATION – GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMANITY



CREATION
God creates the world (Genesis 1)



THE FALL
Humans disobey God (Genesis 3)



ORIGINAL SIN
Sin enters the world (Romans 5:12)



INCARNATION
God becomes human in Jesus (John 1:14)



CRUCIFIXION
Jesus dies for our sins (John 3:16)



RESURRECTION
Jesus rises from the dead (Luke 24:6)



ASCENSION
Jesus returns to heaven (Acts 1:9)



SALVATION
God offers forgiveness and eternal life (Ephesians 2:8)



JUDGEMENT
God will judge everyone fairly (2 Corinthians 5:10)



ETERNAL LIFE
Those who trust in Jesus receive eternal life (John 11:25)

SIN AND HUMANITY

- Sin is turning away from God.
- The first sin was Adam and Eve's disobedience.
- Original sin means everyone is affected by sin.
- Sin causes separation from God.



SOURCE OF WISDOM AND AUTHORITY
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23

This teaches that everyone has sinned and needs God's forgiveness.

SALVATION: HOW CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THEY ARE SAVED



FAITH
Trusting in Jesus and his sacrifice.



GRACE
God's free and undeserved love.



THE HOLY SPIRIT
Helps Christians live a holy life.



LAW
God's laws (e.g. the Ten Commandments) and Jesus' teachings show Christians how to live.

Following the law helps people avoid sin, but law alone cannot save.

MEANS OF SALVATION

Christians believe salvation is a gift from God. Nothing humans do can earn it. Faith, grace and the Holy Spirit make salvation possible.

SOURCE OF WISDOM AND AUTHORITY

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith."
Ephesians 2:8
This teaches that salvation is God's gift, not something we earn.

ATONEMENT AND HOPE

- Jesus' death on the cross is called the Atonement.
- It repairs the broken relationship between God and humanity.
- Through faith in Jesus, Christians can be forgiven and have eternal life.
- The Resurrection gives hope that death is not the end.



SOURCE OF WISDOM AND AUTHORITY
"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8
This teaches that Jesus died out of love to save humanity.

KEY VOCABULARY

Resurrection	Jesus rising from the dead.
Ascension	Jesus returning to heaven.
Salvation	Being saved from sin by God.
Atonement	Jesus' death to deal with sin.
Grace	God's free and undeserved love.

Law	God's rules for living.
Sin	Disobeying God.
Eternal Life	Living forever with God.
Judgement	God deciding right and wrong.
Denomination	A branch of Christianity.

STUDY TIPS

- ✓ Learn key quotations and what they teach.
- ✓ Be able to explain each belief in your own words.
- ✓ Use key vocabulary in your answers.
- ✓ Make links between beliefs.
- ✓ Practise 4-, 6- and 12-mark exam questions.

