



CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

8062

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

WHAT ARE CHRISTIAN PRACTICES?

- Christian practices are the ways Christians worship God and live out their faith.
- Worship strengthens a Christian's relationship with God.
- Christians worship together in churches and individually through prayer and Bible study.
- Practices differ between denominations but all aim to follow Jesus.



KEY PRACTICES OVERVIEW

	Worship	Praising and honouring God
	Prayer	Communicating with God
	Sacraments	Special acts showing God's grace
	Baptism	Welcoming someone into Christianity
	Eucharist	Remembering Jesus' sacrifice
	Pilgrimage	Visiting holy places
	Festivals	Celebrating key events in Jesus' life
	Mission	Spreading the Gospel
	Evangelism	Sharing Christian beliefs
	Charity	Putting faith into action

WORSHIP

Christians worship to:

- Praise God
- Thank God
- Confess sins
- Pray for others
- Strengthen faith



Types of Worship

- Liturgical**
 - Formal
 - Structured
 - Set prayers
 - Example: Roman Catholic, Anglican
- Non-Liturgical**
 - Informal
 - Modern music
 - Spontaneous prayer
 - Example: Baptist
- Informal**
 - Relaxed atmosphere
 - Contemporary worship bands
 - Personal prayers
- Private Worship**
 - Prayer
 - Bible reading
 - Meditation

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20
This teaches Christians that worshipping together is important.

BAPTISM

Christians believe baptism:

- Washes away sin
- Welcomes someone into the Church
- Symbolises a new life with Christ



Infant Baptism



- Parents make promises
- Godparents support the child
- Water poured over head

Believer's Baptism



- For those old enough to choose faith
- Full immersion in water
- Common in Baptist churches

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them..." Matthew 28:19
This teaches Christians that baptism was commanded by Jesus.

THE EUCHARIST

Also called:

- Holy Communion
- Mass
- Lord's Supper



Christians remember:

- Jesus' Last Supper
- His sacrifice on the cross
- The New Covenant

Different beliefs



Catholics
Transubstantiation – Bread and wine become Christ's body and blood.



Protestants
Bread and wine symbolise Jesus' sacrifice.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19
This teaches Christians to remember Jesus through Communion.

PILGRIMAGE

Christians travel to holy places to:

- Grow closer to God
- Pray
- Reflect
- Seek healing



Important places

- Lourdes
- Iona
- Walsingham
- Jerusalem



Many Christians believe pilgrimage strengthens faith.

CHRISTMAS & EASTER

Christmas



Celebrates:

- Jesus' birth
- Incarnation
- God becoming human

Easter



Celebrates:

- Crucifixion
- Resurrection
- Salvation
- Victory over death

Easter is the most important Christian festival.

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Churches support people through:



Food banks



Street pastors



Homeless shelters



Youth clubs



Debt advice



Charity fundraising

Christians believe faith should be shown through actions.

SOURCE OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY

"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:17
This teaches Christians that faith should lead to helping others.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH



Worship God



Teach the Gospel



Baptise believers



Celebrate Communion



Evangelise



Serve the community



Support charities



Make disciples



Prepare people for eternal life

The Church exists to glorify God and to share His love with the world.

EVANGELISM

Christians spread the Gospel by:

- Preaching
- Personal testimony
- Mission work
- Social media
- Alpha Courses
- Youth work



CHARITY

Examples include:

- Christian Aid
- Tearfund
- The Salvation Army
- CAFOD



Christians help because they believe everyone is made in God's image.

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE CHRISTIAN YEAR



ADVENT
Preparing for Christmas



CHRISTMAS
Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20)



EPIPHANY
Celebrates the Magi's visit



LENT
A time of prayer, fasting and giving



PALM SUNDAY
Jesus enters Jerusalem



MAUNDY THURSDAY
The Last Supper



GOOD FRIDAY
Jesus' crucifixion



EASTER SUNDAY
Jesus' resurrection



PENTECOST
The Holy Spirit comes (Acts 2)

KEY VOCABULARY

Worship	Showing love and praise to God	Pilgrimage	Religious journey
Liturgy	Set order of worship	Evangelism	Sharing the Christian faith
Sacrament	Visible sign of God's grace	Mission	The Church's work
Baptism	Welcoming someone into Christianity	Communion	Another name for Eucharist
Eucharist	Remembering Jesus' sacrifice	Transubstantiation	Catholic belief that bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood

STUDY TIPS

- Learn key quotations.
- Know differences between Catholic and Protestant beliefs.
- Revise reasons for worship.
- Remember the purpose of baptism and Eucharist.
- Learn examples of Christian charities.
- Practise linking beliefs to practices in 4, 6 and 12 mark questions.

