

Name: _____

GCSE Short Course Religious Studies

AQA, Specification A

Knowledge Organiser

This booklet contains essential knowledge for your GCSE examinations.

You will sit one exam – 1hr 45mins long.

In the exam you will complete 4 sections.

Exam Sections:

Christian Beliefs

Islamic Beliefs

Relationships and Families

Religion, Peace and Conflict

Contents

Exam technique.....	3
AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1 - Christian Beliefs.....	4
AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1- Islamic Beliefs.....	5
AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme A: Relationships and Families.....	6
AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict	7

Exam technique

1 mark questions

Multiple choice response – choose one of four answers

2 mark questions

A knowledge based question for which you need to give two simple responses.

4 mark questions

2 **P**oints, 2 **E** sentences (E = evidence/explanation/example).

Leave a line between each of your point-E mini-paragraphs.

Use 'Firstly', 'Secondly' to show how many points you've made.

5 mark questions

2 **P**oints, 2 **E** sentences (E = evidence/explanation/example), **1** Quote

Leave a line between each of your point-E mini-paragraphs.

Use 'Firstly', 'Secondly' to show how many points you've made.

12 mark questions

1 PEEE... Paragraph for.

1 PEEE... Paragraph against.

1 SE Conclusion.

(You must use the phrase "the strongest side of the argument is" in the conclusion)

PEEE... = **P**oint, **E**vidence/Explanation/Example,

Evidence/Explanation/Example, repeat.










SEE = **S**trongest, **E**xplain, **E**xplain

PEEEEE.... Sentence Starters

Point - *Some Christians/Muslims would argue that...*

E Sentence - *To explain, ... OR A quote which supports this is... OR For example, ...*

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1 - Christian Beliefs

Key Ideas	
<p style="text-align: center;">Nature of God</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe in one God who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists. - God is omnipotent which means he is almighty and have unlimited power. - God is benevolent which means he is all-loving and all-good. - God is just which means he is a perfect and fair judge. - The Problem of Suffering asks: if God is all these things why does he allow bad things to happen to good and innocent people?
<p style="text-align: center;">The Trinity</p>  <p><i>QUOTE - 'We believe in ... the father ... we believe in Jesus Christ ... We believe in the Holy Spirit'.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe God is three persons in one. This idea is called the Trinity. - Each person of the Trinity is fully God but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same. - The Father is the creator of all life. - The Son is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God. - The Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers. <p><i>"We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit" – The Nicene Creed.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Creation</p>  <p><i>QUOTE - 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'.</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'Through him (Jesus) all things were made'.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation in Genesis describes how God created the world in 6 days and also says that God thought creation was good. - Creation in Genesis (a book in the Old Testament) shows Christians that they should be good stewards of earth. - Creation in John (a book in the New Testament) is like a poem and shows that Jesus was present at the creation of the world. - Some Christians think the world was literally created in 6 actual days, but other Christians think it is just a metaphor. - Some people disagree with creation in the Bible because they say that it can't have been made in 7 days or that humans are evolved from apes.
<p style="text-align: center;">Incarnation and Crucifixion</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Incarnation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe that God was incarnated (born) in human form as Jesus Christ. - Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit and gave birth as a virgin – for Christians this is proof of Jesus' status as the son of God. - Christmas is the festival that celebrates the incarnation. <p><i>QUOTE – 'The word became flesh'.</i></p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Crucifixion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate. - Jesus was then nailed to a cross where he died. - In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important forgiveness is. - This event is remembered on Good Friday. <p><i>QUOTE - 'By his (Jesus') wounds, we are healed'.</i></p>  </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Resurrection and Ascension</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Resurrection</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead – this is the resurrection. - Early on the Sunday, three women visited his tomb expecting to find his body but it was not there. - This event is celebrated on Easter Sunday. - After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and told them to spread the word of him. <p><i>QUOTE - "He is risen" – some Christians say this to each other on Easter Sunday.</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'God raised him from the dead'.</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Ascension</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forty days after he rose from the dead Jesus ascended (went up) into heaven. <p>A belief in resurrection and ascension ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shows life after death is real. - Assures Christians they will rise again after death and live on in the afterlife. - Leads Christians to try and lead a good life. </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sin</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christians believe you are judged after you die and whether you believe in Jesus decides if you go to heaven or hell. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats also suggests that you need to help the poor to go to heaven. - Sin is any action or thought that goes against God's will. The original sin was when Eve ate the apple in the Garden of Eden. - God gave humans free will but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin.
<p style="text-align: center;">Salvation</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is the idea that Jesus's crucifixion is the grace (undeserved kindness) that saves people from hell. - There a different theories about the way that Jesus saves (atonement). (1) Some Christians believe that Jesus saves because he pays the punishment for people breaking God's law by sinning. (2) Some Christians believe that Jesus saves because he defeated death and the devil. (3) Some Christians believe that Jesus saves because he shows us how to live a good life. <p><i>QUOTE - 'whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'.</i></p>

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 1- Islamic Beliefs

Key Ideas		
<p>Nature of God <i>QUOTE</i> - 'He is God the One, God the eternal'.</p>	<p>Muslims believe in the Oneness of God (Tawhid). There are 99 names of Allah revealing his many qualities. The belief in the one God is the most important Muslim belief which is reflected in the Shahadah: 'There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his messenger.'</p>	<p>Qualities of God include: Immanent (close) Transcendent (beyond our understanding) Omnipotent (all powerful) Beneficent (kind) Merciful (kind) Justice (fair)</p>
<p>Sunni and Shi'a</p>	<p>Six articles of faith in Sunni Islam: H – Holy books A - Angels P – Prophets (Risalah) P - Predestination J - Judgement O – Oneness of God (Tawhid)</p>	<p>Five roots of Usul-ad-Din in Shi'a Islam: J – Justice (adalat) I - Imams P – Prophets (Nubuwwah) J – Judgement (Mi'ad) O – Oneness of God (Tawhid)</p>
<p>Angels <i>QUOTE</i> - 'We are your allies in this world and in the world to come'.</p>	<p>Jibril Relayed the Qur'an to Mohammad – God's revelation. God continued to guide Mohammad throughout his entire life communicating through Jibril.</p>	<p>Mika'il Angel of mercy. God has assigned him to reward righteous people for the good they do on earth. Also has the responsibility of sending rain, thunder and lightning to earth.</p>
<p>Predestination <i>QUOTE</i> - Allah 'regulates all things'.</p>	<p>Some Sunni Muslims believe God has already determined everything that will happen in the universe and written this down in the 'book of decrees'. God creates all things, including the actions of his creatures, so they must act according to his will.</p>	<p>Shi'a Muslims believe that God knows everything that is going to happen, but this does not mean that he decides what is going to happen. This means humans still have free will, so they can make their own choices.</p>
<p>Life after death <i>QUOTE</i> - 'Fire will scorch their faces'. <i>QUOTE</i> - 'What a blessed reward. What a pleasant resting place'.</p>	<p>Death is not the end but the beginning of a new stage of life called Akhirah. After death, Muslims are waiting for the Day of Judgement. While in the grave, God sends two angels to question them about their faith. If they answer correctly, they will see the rewards to come, but if they deny God, they will see the punishments they will have to endure. Everyone who has ever lived will be raised from the dead and judged by God. They will be given new bodies and the book of their life will be given to them.</p>	
<p>Holy books in Islam <i>QUOTE</i> - 'Let there be no doubt about it (the Qur'an), it is from the Lord of the Worlds'.</p>	<p>The Qur'an is believed to be the word of God, which was revealed to Mohammad via the angel Jibril over a period of around 23 years. Other Muslim holy books include the Torah, Psalms, Gospel and the Scrolls of Abraham, which are all believed to be revealed texts of God. However, these are not seen to have the same authority as the Qur'an because they are said to have been changed or distorted. Muslims also use Hadiths – actions and sayings of Mohammad.</p>	
<p>Prophethood <i>QUOTE</i> - 'We sent a messenger to every community'.</p>	<p>Adam: Role was to rule and look after the earth for God First human, Muslim and prophet To teach other humans to care for the Earth as Allah taught him To teach others how to live, what to eat, how to pray. Believed to have built the first Ka'aba in Mecca (rebuilt by Ibrahim).</p>	<p>Ibrahim: Rebuilt the Ka'aba in Mecca – the holiest place in Islam, important focus on Hajj, direction Muslims pray in. He was a monotheist at a time when many others were polytheists. He was prepared to sacrifice his son to show his faith in Allah, but Allah stopped him. This is celebrated at Eid-ul-Adha.</p>
<p>Imams / Imamate <i>QUOTE</i> – 'Obey those of you who are in authority'.</p>	<p>The largest group in Shi'a Islam, sometimes known as Twelvers, believe that there were twelve imams after the death of Muhammad. Twelvers believe that the twelfth imam is still alive somewhere on Earth, and will one day make himself known and bring equality to all. Seveners believe that the seventh imam was Isma'il. Isma'il was the son of one of the Twelve Imams.</p>	

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme A: Relationships and Families

Cohabitation – Living with someone (and being in a sexual relationship with them) without being married.






Family Planning - The practice of controlling the number of children one has and the intervals between their births (by using contraception).

Gender Prejudice - Holding biased opinions about people based on their gender.






Gender Discrimination - Acting against people based on their gender.

Compassion – Kindness

Polygamy – Being married to more than one person. Technically, Islam allows husbands to take up to four wives (this is rare in practice).

Key Ideas	
<p>Religious Views on Sexuality</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sexual Orientation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Roman Catholic church teaches that sex between people of the same gender is 'disordered'. - They argue that homosexual relationships are banned by the Bible. - Liberal Christians teach that Jesus wanted people to love each other and show mercy and that we should be accepting of homosexuals. - Gay marriage is banned in the Catholic Church and Church of England. <p><i>QUOTE - 'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; it is detestable.'</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adultery and Sex Outside Marriage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roman Catholics argue that all sex before marriage and after a divorce is unacceptable. Sex should only take place inside a marriage which is a lifelong, loving relationship. - Adultery is sex with someone who is not your husband or wife. - It is prohibited by the Bible and Christians argue it is wrong as it undermines marriage involves lies and secrecy. <p><i>QUOTE - 'You shall not commit adultery.'</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'Flee from sexual immorality.'</i></p>
<p>Artificial Contraception</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artificial contraception means using something man-made to stop yourself from getting pregnant. This could be a condom, the pill or a device like the coil. - The Rhythm Method means using the natural cycle of fertility which women go through to predict when a woman would be least fertile. It is much less effective than artificial contraception. - God tells Adam and Eve (the first couple) to "<i>be fruitful and multiply</i>" (Genesis 1:2) which encourages them to have children. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Catholic Church argues that all sexual acts inside marriage must be open to procreation (having babies) and that a baby is a gift from God. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Church of England argues that contraception should be allowed so that couples can take time and consider if they want to have children.
<p>Marriage and Divorce</p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.'</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage is a religious and legal ceremony in which two people make vows (promises) in front of their friends and family and (if in a church) in front of God. - During the ceremony you agree to be together for life saying "<i>til death do us part</i>" (Marriage Ceremony). - Divorce is the legal break-up of a marriage. It is legal in the UK and many marriages currently end in divorce. - Many Christians do not like it as it is seen to break the promises made in a marriage. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Catholic Church does not support divorce. They believe that sex after divorce is a form of adultery and you cannot get remarried in a Catholic Church once you have been divorced. Jesus says "<i>if a man divorces his wife [...] he involves her in adultery</i>" (Matthew 5:32). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Church of England accepts divorce, especially if it is for reasons of abuse but you have to receive special permission to get remarried in a church. They might see it as a merciful option.
<p>Family</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Types of Family</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuclear Family is a family with a mother, father and children – some Christians argue this is the ideal. - Extended Family is a family where grandparents and other relatives are involved. - Single Parent Family this is a family where one parent brings up the child. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Purposes of the Family</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procreation – the family should be for the purpose of having and bringing up children. - Stability – the family should be for providing a secure, stable environment for children. - Faith – the family should be a way of bringing children up as good Christians. <p><i>QUOTE - 'Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.'</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'Honour your mother and father.'</i></p>
<p>Gender</p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'There is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'</i></p> <p><i>QUOTE - 'So God created mankind in His own image; in the image of God. He created them; male and female he created them.'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender equality means that men and women should be equal and given the same rights and opportunities as each other. - In the UK women can face gender prejudice and discrimination where they are not treated equality - The Catholic Church argues that women have a special role as mothers and they do not allow women to be priests. The Church of England have allowed women priests since 1994. 

AQA Religious Studies A – Paper 2 - Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Key Ideas			
<p>Protests and Terrorism</p> 	<p>Protests</p> <p>The right to gather together and protest is a fundamental democratic freedom. UK law allows for peaceful public protest but sometimes protests can turn violent and become a riot. Christians often protest unjust laws or for other forms of justice but would rarely advocate the use of violence in protest. <i>'An unjust law is not a proper law' (St Thomas Aquinas)</i></p>	<p>Terrorism</p> <p>The aim of terrorism is to make society aware of a cause or issue and to make people frightened to go about their business. Christians don't promote political violence + believe terrorism is wrong as it targets innocent people.</p>	
<p>Reasons for War</p> 	<p>Greed</p> <p>To gain more land or to control important resources such as oil or gas. e.g. The Nazis invading Poland to gain more land. <i>QUOTE - 'The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil'.</i></p>	<p>Self-Defence</p> <p>To defend one's country against invasion or attack or to protect allies who are under attack e.g. UK threatened by Nazi invasion in WWII</p>	<p>Retaliation</p> <p>To fight against a country that has done something very wrong or to fight against a country that has attacked you. e.g. US invading Afghanistan in retaliation for 9/11. <i>QUOTE - 'Do not repay anyone evil for evil.'</i></p>
<p>Nuclear War and WMD</p> <p>QUOTE - 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'.</p> <p>QUOTE - 'You shall not kill'.</p>	<p>Nuclear weapons work by a nuclear reaction and devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. They are a type of WMD (weapons of mass destruction). WMDs can also include chemical and biological weapons. All these weapons are not allowed under the Christian Just War Theory and would therefore be rejected by most Christians. Nuclear weapons were used at the end of WWII in Japan to force the Japanese to surrender. Some people say their use was justified as it prevented more suffering even though 140,000 people died.  Although some Christians justify war with 'an eye for an eye', this cannot be used to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction as they are not a proportionate response.</p>		
<p>Holy War</p> <p>QUOTE - 'I did not come to bring peace, but a sword'.</p> <p>QUOTE - 'The Lord your God goes with you to fight for you against your enemies'.</p>	<p>A Holy War is a war which is fought for religious reasons, often with the backing of religious leaders. An example of this was the Crusades fought from the 11th-14th Century by Christians, backed by the Pope. Religion can still be a cause for war today such as in Northern Ireland where Protestant and Catholic Christians fought a civil war from 1968-98.</p>		
<p>Just War Theory</p> 	<p>Just War Theory is a Christian moral theory for working out if a war meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness. These are some of the conditions that must be met in order for a war to be just:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Cause – fought in self-defence or to protect others. • Just Intention – fought to promote good and defeat wrongdoing. • Last Resort – only going to war if all other methods have been tried first. • Proportional – excessive force should not be used and innocent civilians must not be killed <p><i>QUOTE – 'There is a time for war and a time for peace'.</i></p>		
<p>Pacifism and Christian Responses to War</p> <p>QUOTE - 'Blessed are the peacemakers'.</p> 	<p>Pacifism is the idea that all forms of violence are wrong. Pacifists such as Quakers refuse to take part in war and often choose to be a conscientious objector (someone who doesn't go to war for moral reasons) or to assist in medical tasks like ambulance driving. Martin Luther King was a famous Christian pacifist.</p>	<p>Christians try to show mercy and agape (sacrificial love) to victims of war and provide them with assistance. This can be through charity or through welcoming them into their churches. It can be victims in their own country or refugees such as people fleeing from Syria.</p>	