






## AQA Religious Studies A – Christian Beliefs

| Key Words   |   |              |   |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| Ascension   | Jesus returning to be with God in heaven after the crucifixion      | Omnipotent   | God's nature as all-powerful  |
| Atonement   | Making things better after sinning, asking for forgiveness from God | Original Sin | The built-in tendency to do wrong which comes from Eve's disobedience |
| Benevolent  | God's nature as all-loving  | Resurrection | Jesus returning from the dead after he was crucified                  |
| Crucifixion | Jesus' execution by the Romans on the cross                         | Salvation    | Being saved from sin and given eternal life in heaven by God          |
| Incarnation | God becoming flesh in the form of Jesus Christ                      | Sin          | Any thought or action which goes against God's will                   |
| Just        | God's nature as fair  | Trinity      | God's nature as three-parts-in-one, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit   |

| Key Ideas  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nature of God</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe in <b>one God</b> who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists</li> <li>- God is <b>omnipotent</b> which means they are almighty and have unlimited power</li> <li>- God is <b>benevolent</b> which means they are all-loving and all-good</li> <li>- God is <b>just</b> which means they are a perfect and fair judge</li> <li>- <b>The Problem of Suffering</b> asks: if God is all these things why do they allow bad things to happen to good and innocent people?</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Trinity</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe God is three persons in one. This idea is called the <b>Trinity</b>.</li> <li>- Each person of the Trinity is fully God but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same.</li> <li>- The <b>Father</b> is the creator of all life</li> <li>- The <b>Son</b> is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God</li> <li>- The <b>Holy Spirit</b> is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers</li> <li><i>"We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit"</i> – The Nicene Creed</li> </ul>   |  |  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incarnation and Crucifixion</b></p>   | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u><b>Crucifixion</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate</li> <li>- Jesus was then nailed to a <b>cross</b> where he died.</li> <li>- In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important <b>forgiveness</b> is</li> <li>- This event is remembered on Good Friday</li> <li><i>"Forgive them father, they know not what they do"</i></li> <li>– Luke 23:34</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u><b>Incarnation</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe that God was <b>incarnated</b> (born) in human form as <b>Jesus Christ</b></li> <li>- <b>Mary</b> 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</li> <li>- <b>Christmas</b> is the festival that celebrates the incarnation</li> <li><i>"The word became flesh"</i> – John 1:14</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>   | <p><u><b>Crucifixion</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate</li> <li>- Jesus was then nailed to a <b>cross</b> where he died.</li> <li>- In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important <b>forgiveness</b> is</li> <li>- This event is remembered on Good Friday</li> <li><i>"Forgive them father, they know not what they do"</i></li> <li>– Luke 23:34</li> </ul>  | <p><u><b>Incarnation</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe that God was <b>incarnated</b> (born) in human form as <b>Jesus Christ</b></li> <li>- <b>Mary</b> 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</li> <li>- <b>Christmas</b> is the festival that celebrates the incarnation</li> <li><i>"The word became flesh"</i> – John 1:14</li> </ul>                  |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sin and Salvation</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians believe you are <b>judged</b> after you die (see Religion and Life) and how well or badly you have lived and treated others decides if you go to <b>heaven</b> or <b>hell</b></li> <li>- <b>Sin</b> is any action or thought that goes against God's will, Christians can look in the Bible for advice on what is a sin e.g. murder (you shall not kill) and adultery (cheating, you shall not commit adultery)</li> <li>- God gave humans <b>free will</b> but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin</li> <li>- <b>Salvation</b> is the idea that Jesus's crucifixion saves human beings from eternal damnation</li> <li>- The death of Jesus made up for <b>original sin</b> – the idea that we were all damned by Eve's choice to disobey God – it allows us to atone for sins and reach eternal life in heaven</li> </ul>   |  |  |