

GCSE Religious Studies

Learner Knowledge Organiser

with quotations

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1. Relationships

1.A. Relationships

- (a). Christian views about relationships in the 21st century:
- families
 - roles of women and men
 - marriage outside the religion
 - cohabitation
- (b). Christian views about marriage and the point of marriage
- (c). Christian weddings (marriage ceremonies)
- (d). Different Christian views about
- adultery
 - divorce
 - annulment
 - separation
 - re-marriage
- (e). Meanings of Matthew 19:8-9, Mark 10:9

1.B. Sexual relationships

- (a). Christian views about sex and contraception
- (b). meanings of the natural law (and absolutist) approach (Thomas Aquinas, five primary precepts, the second primary precept)
- (c). Christian views about same sex relationships
- (d). Meanings of Leviticus 20:13 and 1 Timothy 1: 8-10

1.C. Gender prejudice and discrimination

- (a). Christian views about the roles of women and men in worship and authority (=leadership)
- (b). Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican views on this issue
- (c). Meanings of 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Galatians 3:27- 29

Key words: adultery, divorce, cohabitation, commitment, contraception, gender equality, responsibilities, roles

Relationships quotes

Sexual relationships

If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads. Leviticus 20:13

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practising homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine. 1 Timothy 1:8-10

Relationships

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery. Matthew 19:8-9

But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Mark 10:6-8

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. Mark 10:9

Gender equality

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man [or her husband]; she must be quiet. 1 Timothy 2:11-12

For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:27- 29

2. Life and Death

2.A. The world

- (a). Different Christian beliefs about the origin of the universe: Genesis 1 and 2
- (b). Christian views and non-religious views of creation and whether they are opposite
- (c). Stephen Hawking's view of the Big Bang
- (d). Christian and non-religious views about
 - dominion
 - stewardship
 - environmental responsibility
 - sustainability
 - global citizenship
- (e). Meaning of Genesis 1:28, Psalm 8:6
- (f). The work of Humanists for a Better World group

2.B. The origin and value of human life

- (a). Christian beliefs about the origin and sanctity of human life: Genesis 1:31, Jeremiah 1:5
- (b). Non-religious beliefs about evolution; Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins
- (c). Christian views about abortion
- (d). Christian views about euthanasia
- (e). Non-religious views on the importance of human life and animal life
- (f). Peter Singer's views on 'speciesism'
- (g). The humanist Dignity in Dying group

2.C. Beliefs about death and the afterlife

- (a). Christian views about life after death
 - soul
 - judgement
 - heaven
 - hell
- (b). Meaning of John 11:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44
- (c). Christian beliefs about the afterlife
- (d). Christian funerals and how they reflect beliefs about the afterlife

(e). Humanist funerals and how they reflect beliefs about the afterlife

Key words: afterlife, environmental sustainability, euthanasia, evolution, abortion, quality of life, sanctity of life, soul

Life and death quotes

Genesis 1 & Genesis 2 – the two creation stories

Creation

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. Genesis 1:28

You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet. Psalm 8:6

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

Abortion

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

Afterlife

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” John 11:24-27

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44

3. Good and Evil

3.A. Crime and Punishment

- (a). What makes an act 'wrong'?
- relative morality and absolute morality
 - conscience
 - virtues
 - sin
- (b). The causes of crime
- (c). The aims of punishment, including Christian beliefs about these:
- justice
 - retribution
 - deterrence
 - reformation
- (d). The treatment of criminals
- (e). The work of prison reformers
- (f). The work of prison chaplains
- (e). Christian views about the death penalty.

3.B. Forgiveness

- (a). Christian teachings about forgiveness
- (b). Meanings of Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6:14-15
- (c). Examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs.

3.C. Good, Evil and Suffering

- (a). The origin of evil:
- original sin
 - free will
 - 'soul-making' (Irenaeus and John Hick)
- (b). The problem of evil
- (c). Problems about free will

Key words: good/evil, forgiveness, free will, justice, morality, punishment, sin, suffering

Good and evil quotes

Crime and punishment quotes

You shall not murder. - Exodus 20:13

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. - Matthew 5:38-39

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? - Matthew 5:43-47

Forgiveness quotes

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.- Matthew 18:21-22 – The parable of the unmerciful servant

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.- Matthew 6:14-15

4. Human Rights

4.A. Human Rights and Social Justice

- (a). Christian beliefs about the dignity of human life
- (b). Christian practices to promote human rights including equality
- (c). Agape in action
- (d). An example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country (Martin Luther King)
- (e). Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

4.B. Prejudice and discrimination

- (a). Christian beliefs about prejudice and discrimination
- (b). Christian beliefs about racism (racial prejudice and racial discrimination)
- (c). Martin Luther King's teachings on equality

4.C. Issues of wealth and poverty

- (a). Right and wrong was of acquiring (getting) and using wealth
- (b). The work of Christian charities Christian Aid and the Salvation Army to alleviate (reduce) poverty

Key words: censorship, discrimination, extremism, human rights, personal conviction, prejudice, relative and absolute poverty, social justice

Equality

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:27-29

Wealth and poverty

The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31:

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

5. Christian Beliefs

5.A. The Nature of God

(a). Beliefs and quotations on:

- God's omnipotence
- God's omnibenevolent
- The problem of evil and suffering (also called Epicurus' paradox)

(b). The Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

5.B. Creation

(a). Creation stories in Genesis 1--3; the role of humans:

- Literalist interpretation
- Non-literalist interpretations

(b). The role of Word and Spirit in creation: John 1:1-5

5.C. Jesus Christ

Beliefs and quotations on

- incarnation
- crucifixion
- salvation
- atonement
- resurrection
- ascension

5.D. Salvation

(a). Beliefs about the Bible as the Word of God:

- laws
- inspiration
- revelation

(b) Different ways of interpreting the Bible

(c) The Bible and other sources of authority

(d). Sin as preventing salvation.

(e). Grace

(f). The Holy Spirit: The role of Holy Spirit in evangelical worship

5.E. The afterlife

- (a). Eschatological beliefs (which means 'beliefs about the afterlife')
- (b). Judgement (including Judgement Day)
- (c). Importance of the resurrection
- (d). Traditional and modern beliefs about heaven and hell

Key words: omnipotent; omnibenevolent; trinity; incarnation; atonement; resurrection

Christian beliefs quotes

There are too many quotations for the knowledge organiser and so these are available in a separate document.

6. Christian Practices

6.A. Christianity in Britain and the Church in the local community

- (a). The 2011 census compared to the 2001 census
- (b). The UK: A multi-faith country with a Christian past
- (c). The church and the Church

6.B. Forms of worship

- (a). Worship
 - liturgical
 - non-liturgical (informal) worship
 - individual worship
- (b). Prayer, including
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Set prayers
 - informal prayers
- (c). Society of Friends Christian worship
- (d). Evangelical Christian worship

6.C. Sacraments

- (a). Different beliefs about the sacraments
 - Roman Catholic beliefs
 - Protestant beliefs
 - baptism
 - eucharist

6.D. Pilgrimage and celebrations

- (a). Importance of pilgrimage:
 - Walsingham
 - Taizé
- (b). How Christians celebrate festivals:
 - Christmas

- Easter

6.E. The worldwide Church

(a). The importance of mission:

- evangelism
- church growth

(b). The work of Tearfund

(c). Persecution of Christians past and present

(d). Working for reconciliation:

- World Council of Churches
- The Ecumenical Movement

Key words: sacrament; evangelism

Christian practices quotes

Worship

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.[a]" "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. John 3:3-6

7. Islam Beliefs

7.A. The Nature of Allah

- (a). The oneness of Allah (tawhid)
- (b). Allah:
 - immanence
 - transcendence
 - omnipotence
 - beneficence
 - mercy
 - fairness
 - justice
- (c). Adalat (Shi'a Islam)

7.B. Prophethood (risalah)

- (a). Beliefs about prophethood
 - why the prophets are important
- (b). The importance of
 - Adam, the first prophet
 - Ibrahim, father of Isaac and Ishma'il
 - Isa as a prophet
 - Muhammad, the seal of the Prophets

7.C. Angels (malaikah)

- (a). The importance of angels
- (b). The difference between Shi'a and Sunni beliefs about angels and free will
- (c). The importance of
 - Jibril's revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad
 - Mika'il placed in charge of plants and rain
 - Israfil to announce the Day of Resurrection

7.D. Akhirah (Afterlife)

- (a). Al-Qadr (predestination), and what this means for human freedom

(b). Human responsibility and accountability

- human freedom and its link to Day of Judgement

(c) Beliefs about the afterlife

- heaven, including its stages
- hell

7.E. Foundations of faith

(a). The six articles of faith (Sunni Islam)

(b). The five roots (Shi'a Islam)

(c). Islamic attitudes towards

- Kutub (books)
- Sahifah (Scrolls)
- Injil (Gospel)
- Tawrat (Torah)
- Zabur (Psalms)

Key words: tawhid, prophethood

The nature of Allah

Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

Qur'an 3:18

Do they not see that Allah, who created the heavens and earth and did not fail in their creation, is able to give life to the dead? Yes. Indeed, He is over all things competent.

Qur'an 46:33

Prophets

"We believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the descendants (of Jacob) and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and in what the other Prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them,⁶ and we are those who submit to Allah."

Qur'an 2:136

And indeed We already brought Musa (Moses) the Book, and We made to supervene the (other) Messengers even after him; and We brought Isa son of Maryam (Jesus son of Mary) the supreme evidences and aided him with the Spirit of Holiness; (The Holy Spirit, the Angel jibril "Gabriel") yet, is it not (the case that) whenever there came to you a Messenger with what (you) yourselves did not yearn to, you waxed proud, (and) so you cried lies to a group of them and (another) group you kill?

Qur'an 2:87

Angels

"Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel - it is [none but] he who has brought the Qur'an down upon your heart, [O Muhammad], by permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers." Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers and Gabriel and Michael - then indeed, Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers.

Qur'an 2:97-98

The Messenger believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, as do the faithful. They all believe in God, His angels, His scriptures, and His messengers. 'We make no distinction between any of His messengers,' they say, 'We hear and obey. Grant us Your forgiveness, our Lord. To You we all return!'-

Qur'an 2:285

8. Islam Practices

8.A. The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam (in Britain and worldwide)

- (a). Shahadah: the Muslim statement of faith: Qur'an 3:18
- (b). Zakah: How payment is made and how zakat money can be spent
- (c). Sawm: Fasting during Ramadan
- (d). Hajj: Pilgrimage to Makkah
 - issues facing British Muslims undertaking Hajj
- (e). Salah: the practice of prayer
 - in the mosque
 - at home

8.B. Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam (in Britain and worldwide)

- (a). Salah, prayers
- (b). Sawm, fasting
- (c). Paying zakat
- (d). Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah and to Shi'a shrines
- (e). Khums: Shi'a Muslims pay tax
- (f). Jihad: the struggle to live as a Muslim
- (g). Amr-bil-Marroof: encouraging others to do good
- (h). Nahil Anril Munkar: discouraging bad actions
- (i). Tawalia: the duty to love the friends of Allah
- (j). Tabarra: the duty to express disapproval of evil-doers

8.C. Jihad

- (a). Greater jihad: The daily struggle to live as a good Muslim
- (b). Origins, influence and conditions for lesser jihad

8.D. Festivals and commemorations: practices in Britain and elsewhere

- (a). Id-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice.

- (b). Id-ul-Fitr, the festival of fast-breaking following Ramadan.
- (c). Ashura, the Shi'a Muslim festival of remembrance.
- (d). The Night of Power: the importance of the revelation of the Qur'an

Key words: halal, haram, greater/lesser jihad, mosque, shariah, ummah

Islamic practices quotations

Five Pillars quotes

Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the Exalted in Might, the Wise. Qur'an 3:18

[Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] - a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew. Qur'an 2:184

And [mention] when We made the House a place of return for the people and [a place of] security. And take, [O believers], from the standing place of Abraham a place of prayer. And We charged Abraham and Ishmael, [saying], "Purify My House for those who perform Tawaf and those who are staying [there] for worship and those who bow and prostrate [in prayer]." Qur'an 2:125

So exalt [Allah] with praise of your Lord and be of those who prostrate [to Him]. Qur'an 15:98-99

Recite, [O Muhammad], what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer. Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing, and the remembrance of Allah is greater. And Allah knows that which you do. Qur'an 29:45

Jihad quotes

Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors. Qur'an 2:190

Permission [to fight] has been given to those who are being fought, because they were wronged. And indeed, Allah is competent to give them victory. Qur'an 22:39