



**CHESTERTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

AQA 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies

Christianity: basic facts practices

Worship

1. Worship is the way in which Christians show their deep love, reverence and respect for God. It allows them to praise and thank God for his blessings, to ask for forgiveness of sin or to seek God's help for themselves or for others.
2. Christians may worship alone or with others, in a special building like a church, in people's homes or any appropriate place.
3. Worship may involve prayer, meditation, Bible readings, singing hymns, preaching, sharing food, pilgrimage, celebrating festivals or using religious art, music or drama.
4. Worship helps deepen a Christian's relationship with God and gives him or her comfort or strength to live a more truly Christian life.
5. Liturgical worship follows a set pattern each time. A priest leads the congregation in formal prayers that have set responses. The people receive forgiveness from God through the action of the priest.
6. Non-liturgical worship does not have a set order or ritual. People can take an active part in church by praying aloud or speaking without formal training.
7. Informal worship may depend on people's spontaneous prayers or sharing of thoughts. Quaker worship is mainly silent, and people speak when they feel God's spirit moving them to offer thoughts, prayers or a reading from the Bible.
8. Private worship is when a believer praises or honours God on his or her own.

Prayer

9. Prayer is communicating with God in silence or aloud, with others or alone, using set prayers or informal prayer.
10. Set prayers have been written down and said more than once by more than one person, for example the Lord's Prayer. They are usually said aloud.
11. Informal prayer is made up by an individual using his or her own words.

12. Christians believe that God will answer prayer but not always in the way the person would like. Prayer can help someone accept God's will even if it means suffering.
13. The Lord's Prayer was taught by Jesus as a model for prayer – adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication (ACTS)

Sacraments

14. Sacraments are rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace; for Catholics, Anglicans and many Protestants, sacraments are 'outward signs' of 'inward grace'.
15. Catholics accept seven sacraments – baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, marriage, Holy Orders, reconciliation and the anointing of the sick.
16. Quakers and The Salvation Army do not use any sacraments.
17. Sacraments involve symbolic actions, words and physical elements and many Christians believe that they help to strengthen their relationship with God by making Him a part of their life.

Baptism

18. Baptism is the ritual through which people become members of the Church.
19. In baptism, the person is formally acknowledged as a child of God and receives God's saving grace. Their sins are forgiven, and they enter a new life with Jesus.
20. Baptism involves the use of water as a symbol of the washing away of sin.
21. John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the Jordan River and this set an example for his followers to be baptised in order to receive the Holy Spirit and begin a new life.
22. Believers' baptism is initiation into the Church, by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony/rite and willing to live a Christian life.
23. Infant baptism is the ritual through which babies and young children become members of the Church. Promises are taken on their behalf by adults; the infant is freed from sin and introduced to the saving love of God and the support of the Christian community.

Holy Communion

24. Holy Communion is also known as the Eucharist or Mass. It is a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine.
25. Catholics believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ so that Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine. This is called transubstantiation.
26. Protestants who celebrate Holy Communion do so as a reminder of Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. The bread and wine remain symbols of Jesus sacrifice and help them to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection for their lives today. This is consubstantiation.

27. Catholic Eucharist: offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar; the priest says the Eucharistic prayer over the bread and wine using the words of Jesus at the Last Supper; the people say the Lord's Prayer; the priest and congregation give a sign of peace to each other; people come forward to receive communion; the priest blesses the people.
28. Holy Communion in the Anglican Church: is very similar to the Catholic Mass but the sign of peace is given before the offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Pilgrimage

29. Pilgrimage is a journey made for religious reasons, alone or with others to a sacred place. The believer makes a physical journey and a spiritual journey towards God.
30. Christians go on pilgrimage to grow closer to God; express sorrow for sin and be forgiven; reflect on their lives, particularly when facing a crisis or a big decision; pray for something special or thank God for a blessing; seek a cure for an illness; experience a holy place; meet others who share their faith.
31. It is not compulsory for Christians to go on a pilgrimage.
32. Lourdes is a place of pilgrimage dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus. In 1858 a young girl named Bernadette had visions of Mary in a cave and she spoke of praying the rosary with Mary. Mary told Bernadette to dig for a spring of water, which was discovered to have healing properties.
33. In the 6th century AD, St Columba, an Irish missionary who brought Christianity to Scotland, established a small monastic community on Iona. It is now the home of the ecumenical Iona community and a place of pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Festivals

34. Festivals are days or periods of celebration for religious reasons. They help believers to remember the major religious events and to plan their public worship.
35. The Christian calendar has two main seasons: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany; Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
36. Christmas Day commemorates the incarnation, the birth of Jesus (25th December); The Christmas season is 12 days ending with the Epiphany (remembering the visit of the wise men).
37. Easter is the religious season celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; it starts on Easter Day and finishes with the feast of Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit).

Christmas

38. Trees and homes are decorated with lights and nativity scenes. Lights represent Jesus as the light coming into the world of darkness and nativity scenes show the baby Jesus being born in poverty.

39. Many churches have carol services with readings from the Bible showing God's promise of a saviour and the events of Jesus' birth. Children act out nativity plays, and Midnight Mass takes place on Christmas Eve.
40. Christians send Christmas cards and exchange gifts which recall the wise men's gifts to Jesus. It is seen as a time of 'peace and goodwill' when Christians give to charity as God gave the gift of Jesus, His Son

Easter

41. During the week leading up to Easter (Holy Week) Christians remember the events that led to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was crucified on 'Good Friday' and laid in the tomb. Special services are held and processions in the streets are led by a person carrying a wooden cross.
42. Catholics and Anglicans have a Saturday night vigil that begins in darkness and includes the lighting of a large Paschal candle to symbolise the risen Christ and ends with Holy Communion.
43. Many churches share breakfast together on Easter Sunday, usually eating eggs as a symbol of new life.
44. On Easter Sunday (Easter Day) the churches are filled with flowers and special hymns are sung celebrating the resurrection. The priest announces 'Christ is risen' and the congregation answers 'He is risen indeed'.

The role of the church – food banks

45. The Trussell Trust food banks provide emergency food, help and support to people in crisis in the UK. They aim to bring people together to work towards ending poverty and hunger in Britain.
46. Non-perishable food is donated to the food banks by churches, supermarkets, schools, businesses and individuals and is sorted by volunteers.
47. Care professionals identify people in crisis and issue them with food vouchers which they exchange for three days' worth of food.
48. The work of food banks is based on the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.
49. Showing agape love is part of the Christian way of life. This is a word used in the Bible that means selfless, sacrificial and unconditional love.

The role of the church – street pastors

50. Street Pastors are Christian adult volunteers who receive training in order to patrol the streets in urban areas. They do not have the power to enforce the law but they do provide a reassuring presence in local communities.
51. Initially the main aim of street pastors was to challenge gang culture and the use of knives and guns but the focus has now widened to include responding to drunkenness, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
52. Street Pastors aim to help and care for vulnerable people in practical ways. They wear a blue, reflective street pastor uniform so that they can be easily identified.

53. Street pastors do not actively preach but they are backed up by prayer partners (Prayer Pastors) who pray for the Street Pastors and the work that they are doing.

Mission and evangelism

54. Mission is the vocation or calling of a religious organisation or individual to go out into the world and spread their faith.
55. A missionary is a person sent on a religious mission, especially to promote Christianity in a foreign country through preaching or charitable work.
56. Evangelism means spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.
57. According to the Great Commission, Christians have the responsibility to tell others of their faith.

Working for reconciliation and against persecution

58. Reconciliation means restoring harmony after relationships have broken down.
59. The primary mission of the worldwide church is to proclaim that Jesus came so that the relationship between God and people can be restored or reconciled. The Book of Matthew states that Christians are not only to be reconciled with God but should be reconciled with each other too.
60. Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs is called persecution.
61. Jesus told Christians to expect persecution from the world because if they persecuted Him they would persecute His followers too (John).
62. In Corinthians, Paul likens members of the church to different parts of the body and says 'If one part suffers, every part suffers with it' so the church campaigns on behalf of persecuted Christians and supports them where possible.

Christian Aid (a Christian charity)

63. There are many Christian charities that work to relieve poverty. Jesus told a rich man to sell everything and give to the poor (Mark) and in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, Jesus told of a rich man who ended up in hell having ignored the plight of a beggar (Luke).
64. Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency for 41 church denominations in Britain and Ireland.
65. Christian Aid aims to encourage sustainable development, stop poverty and provide emergency relief. Their slogan is 'we believe in life before death'.
66. Christian Aid will help the world's poorest people no matter what their religion, nationality or race.