



GCSE Religious Studies Extension Homework

Overview of the examinable areas:

Part 1 Year 10 Syllabus	Part 2 Year 11 Syllabus
Christian Beliefs and Teachings.	Relationships & Families.
Christian Practices.	The Existence of God.
Islamic Beliefs and Teachings.	Peace & Conflict.
Islamic Practices.	Dialogue between religions & non-religious beliefs and attitudes.

Extension Task 1:

Putting Beliefs into Practice

Jesus taught “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you love another.” (John 13:34-35)

- a) Find out about the work of Christian charity that puts this teaching into practice, through its mission statement / aims and the projects they are involved in.

- b) Explain the Christian teaching on love.

- c) What are the challenges of being a ‘disciple’ in the world today?



Extension Task 2:

Muslim Beliefs about Allah

Muslims believe that everything that happens in this world is planned by Allah; this belief is known as al-Qad'r.

- a) Outline Muslim beliefs about God.
- b) Explain the Islamic belief on al-Qadr.
- b) If Allah plans everything, is He then responsible for suffering or is it caused by humans' free will?

Extension Task 3:

Relationships and Families

Watch the following video whilst making notes on why marriage is important to Christians and what actually happens in a wedding ceremony.

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/christian-marriage>

Extension Task 4:

Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

The Persecution of the 21st Century Church

There are many parts of the world where religious freedom is limited, and practising Christianity is not only disallowed but is actively persecuted. The persecution experienced can range from disenfranchisement (not being allowed to vote) to risk of death.

Despite risk of death, many Christians chose to stay in countries where they are likely to experience persecution. There are many reasons for this, some stay to be 'a witness' to those who don't believe, others think that because the



early Christian church was persecuted, so they are willing to undergo persecution.

Other Christians pray for the persecuted church, for Christians globally who are forced to worship in secret or hide their faith due to the risks to their lives.

1) Which countries do you think actively persecute (punish) Christians for simply practising their faith?

2) Look at the following map <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/wwl-downloads/>

Make an accurate list of countries that actively persecute Christians.

3) Complete the activities on this link:

[GCSE Homework Extension Task 4](#)

Extension Task 5:

Complete each of the practice exam questions on the following page (below) using the guidance on what to include and how to structure each question.



OCR GCSE Religious Studies Assessment Structure:

Part 1: The Beliefs & Teachings and Practices (for Christianity and Islam) are examined by **two one-hour exams**; one for each religion. There will be two questions on each exam paper and you have to answer both of them. This paper is worth 50% of the marks.

Each of the two questions in this paper is divided up into five sections (a-e)

Questions (a), (b), and (c) are each worth 3 marks.

For example:

“Describe one Christian teaching about why there is sin in the world. (3 marks)”

- For the first mark, you must state a teaching.
- For the second you should show further detail and development for the second and third marks.

Or, *“What do Christians mean when they describe God as ‘personal’? (3 marks)*

- You could give three examples of what Christians mean or one with development.

Question (d) questions are worth 6 marks.

For example,

“Explain why Christians consider Easter to be an important festival in the Christian Church (6 marks)”

- You should show a deep understanding of the reasons which a Christian might give for Easter being important to them.
- A response might start with reference to the resurrection of Jesus and then explain why that is of significance to Christians in terms of belief and their hopes for salvation and for life after death.

Question (e) questions are worth 15 marks.

For example,



“ ‘Sincerely reciting the Shahadah is the most important religious practice for a Muslim.’ Discuss this statement. In your answer, you should:

- *Analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view of common and divergent views within Christianity.*
- *Refer to sources of wisdom and authority (15 marks).*

With additional 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

- Treat these discussion questions as a short essay.
- Explain the issue in the stimulus: then describe and explain different views within the religion about the issue comparing them with each other.
- Come to some sort of judgement or conclusion about the discussion. You do not need to give a personal point of view.
- However, a personal view could be used as a thread running through the discussion and against which you might compare other views but the requirement is to discuss the views of different Christian/Muslim groups within that religion.
- You should show how these views are based on sources of wisdom and authority. For example, you might refer to the texts from the Bible or teachings of the churches within Christianity or texts from the Qur’an or Hadith for Islam.
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Part 2: The Philosophical and ethical themes, are examined by a **two-hour** exam paper. There is a question on each of the four themes and you must answer all four questions. This paper is worth 50% of the marks.

Each of the four questions is divided up into four questions:

Question (a) questions are worth 3 marks.

For example,

“Describe one philosophical argument for the existence of God (3 marks)”



- You could explain any of the philosophical arguments for the existence of God for example the argument from design or the cosmological argument.
- Aim to describe the argument in three clear sentences.

Question (b) and (c) questions are worth 6 marks.

For example,

“Outline different Christian teachings about God’s relationship with the world. 6 marks”

- Answer this question in clear paragraphs.
- Make clear links between Christian beliefs and God as the creator, as described in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.
- Outline Christian beliefs about God’s ongoing sustaining of the world. You could make a link to Ecclesiastes 3:1.
- You could extend your answer by explaining the way that Christians believe that God reveals his existence through the created world. This could be linked to Romans 1:20.

Question (d) questions are worth 15 marks, with an additional 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

For example,

“ ‘God is most closely experienced by believers through the sacraments.’

Discuss this statement. In your answer you should:

Draw on your learning from across your course of study, including reference to beliefs, teachings and practices within Christianity.

Explain and evaluate the importance of points of view from the perspective of Christianity. (15 marks).

- You must evaluate this statement from different Christian perspectives. E.g. The Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England both believe that certain practices in Christianity are sacramental. However there are only two



sacraments in the Church of England compared to seven in the Roman Catholic Church.

- Explain what a sacrament is and possibly provide an example.
- Explain how some Christians would argue that through a sacrament a believer may experience God in a unique way. For example, during Eucharist.
- However other Christians may argue that experience of God comes in many diverse ways including charismatic, religious or conversion experiences. Some Christians reject the belief that any practice in the church is a sacrament.
- Some Christians would argue that a conversion experience of God is the closest and most powerful because it brings about a lifelong change and causes a person to then engage with sacramental aspects of worship, such as Eucharist.
- Make sure you offer a balanced judgement on this issue in order to get the highest marks.

For more guidance on the OCR assessment for GCSE Religious Studies, visit:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/religious-studies-j625-j125-from-2016/>



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