

AQA RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

Revising for GCSE RE:

There are two Papers to revise for, each with four sections. Eight sections in total:

Paper One - The Study of Religions

Christian beliefs

Christian practices

Islam beliefs

Islam practices

Paper Two Thematic Studies:

Religion, peace and conflict

Relationships and families

Religion, crime and punishment

Religion and life

I have included 8 checklists to help you tick off revision topics. They are one per page so you could print them off. Good luck!

Exam Topic Guide - Paper One:

Islam Beliefs

Key beliefs

Tawhid (oneness) and Surah 112		The supremacy of God's will	
Six articles of faith : Sunni Islam		God's nature - omnipotent, beneficent, merciful	
Five roots of Usul-ad-Din : Shia Islam		God as immanent and transcendent	
God's fairness and justice - Adalat in Shia Islam		Angels - including Jibril and Mikail	
Predestination (al-Qads), human freedom and the Day of Judgement		Human responsibility in life after death (God will judge when people are resurrected)	
Life after death (akhirah) - resurrection, heaven and hell			

Authority

Prophethood - risalah		Other holy books - the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel, the Scrolls of Abraham	
3 prophets - Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad			
Holy Books as authorities		The role of the Imamate in Shia Islam	
The Qur'an as a revelation and authority			

Exam Topic Guide - Paper One: Islam Practices

Key practices

<p>The Five Pillars [Shahadah (belief), Salah (prayer), Zakah (almsgiving/charity), Sawm (fasting), Hajj (pilgrimage - trip to Makkah)]</p>		<p>Hajj (2): circling the Kaaba, walking between the two hills, standing at Arafat, stoning at Mina, sacrificing an animal at Id ul Adha</p>	
<p>The Ten Obligatory Acts (shia)</p>		<p>Jihad: greater and lesser jihad</p>	
<p>Salah: Shia and Sunni differences, wudu, direction of prayer, rakah actions, Jummah prayers</p>		<p>Id ul Fitr and Id ul Adha: End of Ramadan (Id ul F) and celebrating Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son (Id ul A)</p>	
<p>Sawm: Ramadan, Night of Power</p>		<p>Ashura: Shia festival for the death of Husayn</p>	
<p>Zakah: almsgiving - difference between Zakah and Khums</p>			
<p>Hajj: origins Ibrahim and his wife Hajira, the Kaaba</p>			

Exam Topic Guide - Paper One:

Christianity Beliefs

Key beliefs

Nature of God (God is one and holy)		The crucifixion: why it is important to Christians	
Different branches of Christianity : denominations Roman Catholic / Baptist / Orthodox / Methodist etc		Resurrection and ascension	
God as omnipotent, benevolent and just : also involves the problem of evil		Resurrection and Life after Death: different beliefs about how a person who is died will be resurrected after death and when	
The Trinity: God as one but also Father, Son and Holy Spirit		Afterlife and judgment - people judged on what they have done and what they have believed	
Creation: Genesis 6 days with Spirit, John's Gospel with The Word (Jesus)		Heaven, hell and purgatory	
Jesus Son of God: the teaching of the Incarnation		Sin, salvation and atonement: sin separating humans from God and Jesus atoning for sin through his death on the cross and restoring the relationship between humans and God	

Exam Topic Guide - Paper One:

Christianity Practices

Key practices

Worship (Liturgical and non-liturgical)		The church in the local community - Food Banks: The Trussell Trust and The Oasis Project	
Prayer: including The Lord's Prayer, the importance of prayer		The church in the local community - Street Pastors: the Ascension Trust and Parish Nursing Ministries	
Sacrament of Baptism - believers' baptism and infant baptism		Mission and evangelism: Alpha courses and The Great Commission	
Sacrament of Holy Communion: its meaning; its differences in celebration and its impact on individuals / communities / wider society		Church Growth - ways Christians spread their faith, Christ for all Nations (Reinhard Bonnke)	
Pilgrimage: Iona and Lourdes		The Worldwide Church: Corymeela and Coventry Cathedral	
Festivals: Easter and Christmas		Church Persecution: persecution in countries like North Korea or Somalia, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Barnabas Fund	

Exam Topic Guide - Religion, peace and conflict (Thematic Studies: Paper Two)

Violence, terrorism and war

Religion and beliefs about 21st century conflict

<p>Peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation - teachings linking these topics to the qualities of God, Mali in 2013 as an example of reconciliation.</p>		<p>Nuclear war and WMD: Hiroshima in 1945, Christian group CCND (Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament), WMD (weapons of mass destruction) - chemical and biological.</p>	
<p>Violence: violent protest (2011 riots) and terrorism, Jesus in the temple courts, teaching of St Paul about obeying the government.</p>			
<p>Reasons for war: three reasons wars might happen with examples - greed (some believe this about Iraq war to control oil area), self-defence (WW2 against Hitler / Falklands), retaliation (Afghanistan after 911)</p>		<p>Pacifism: "blessed are the peacemakers" as an influence on the Quakers and conscientious objectors in World Wars 1 and 2. Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. Example of peacemakers from Northern Ireland - the 'Peace People' Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams.</p>	
<p>Holy War: Christian teaching about holy war (Crusades), religion as a cause of violence e.g. Northern Ireland</p>		<p>Response to victims of war: Christian beliefs about supporting charities e.g. Help for Heroes, Caritas (Catholic charity), Christian Aid.</p>	
<p>Just War: Teaching based on teaching of Thomas Aquinas. (last resort / no civilians killed / methods proportional)</p>		<p>The "Great Britain topics" : violence, WMD and pacifism - always mention Christians / Christianity when answering</p>	

Exam Topic Guide - Relationships and Families (Thematic Studies: Paper Two)

PLC - rag rate or tick when "green"

Sex, marriage and divorce

Families and gender equality

Sexuality - teaching about human sexuality including heterosexual and homosexual relationships	Views of Christians about the nature of families: different types of families and the family as a place of love
Sex before and outside marriage: teaching and belief about fornication and adultery	Roles of parents and children: parents providing for children, and children respecting parents. Includes polygamy (more than one wife - not approved by Christians or legal in UK) and same sex parents (different Christian views)
Family planning and contraception: different forms of contraception	Purpose of families: procreation (having children), stability, protecting children and educating children in the religion.
Marriage: its nature and purpose according to Christians	Roles of men and women: Christian beliefs about jobs they can / should do, roles in the home.
Same sex marriage: (contrasting Christian views on this)	Gender equality, prejudice and discrimination: different Christian views about whether men and women should be treated equally (includes male headship and the example of Jesus treating women fairly)
Cohabitation: views on living together as a couple but not being married	Gender issues in contemporary society: including real life examples of gender prejudice and discrimination: e.g. paying women less for the same job, - an issue at the BBC
Divorce: reasons for divorce, Christian views on remarrying and divorce.	The " Great Britain topics " : contraception, sex before marriage and homosexual relationships - mention Christianity

Exam Topic Guide - Religion, crime and punishment (Thematic Studies:)

PLC - rag rate or tick when "green"

Crime and causes of crime

Religion and punishment

<p>Good and evil intentions - crime and sin, original sin, evil, free will</p>		<p>Aims of punishment: retribution, deterrence and reformation</p>	
<p>Reasons for crime: 7 reasons - poverty, hate, greed, mental illness, upbringing, addiction and opposition to an unjust law (e.g. Rosa Parks 1955).</p>		<p>Religious beliefs about the treatment of criminals: corporal punishment - not legal in UK, community service e.g. removing graffiti</p>	
<p>Views about those who break the law: reformation of criminal, inhumane treatment wrong.</p>		<p>Christian beliefs about the death penalty: not legal in UK, goes against the teaching of the sanctity of life, some argue it would be a deterrence, most Christians oppose it e.g. Pope Francis wants it abolished worldwide.</p>	
<p>Hate crimes - e.g. racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, goes against Christian teaching of equality.</p>		<p>Forgiveness = many believe it is not a replacement for punishment, but it is a key Christian teaching. <u>Case studies</u> - <u>Gordon Wilson</u> forgave murder of his daughter in IRA bomb, <u>Maureen Greaves</u> forgave the murder of her husband at Christmas in 2012.</p>	
<p>Attitudes to suffering = causing suffering wrong, but we have free will, good can come out of suffering</p>			
		<p>The "Great Britain topics" : corporal punishment, death penalty and forgiveness - always mention Christianity!</p>	

Exam Topic Guide - Religion and Life (Paper Two - Thematic Studies)

PLC - rag rate or tick when "green"

The origins and value of the universe

The origins and value of human

life

<p>Christian beliefs about the origin of the universe - stories from the Book of Genesis, and fundamentalist and liberal Christian views on these</p>		<p>Christian beliefs about the origins of human life: stories in the Book of Genesis including Adam and Eve, and fundamentalist and liberal Christian views on these</p>	
<p>Scientific views: The Big Bang theory and Christian views of this</p>		<p>Scientific views on human origins: Charles Darwin and evolution</p>	
<p>The value of the world and Christian duty to it: including responsibility, stewardship and dominion. Pope Francis and his 2015 teaching (encyclical)</p>		<p>Ideas of the Sanctity of Life: life as holy/sacred and given by God, the idea of quality of life: the value of life can depend on its quality</p>	
<p>The use of natural resources and abuse of the environment: deforestation, renewable energy, recycling, Assisi and Ohito meetings</p>		<p>Abortion: Christian beliefs for and against abortion, the legal position in the UK (allowed up to the 24th week with some conditions applying)</p>	
<p>Pollution: air, land and water pollution and Christian beliefs and action about it</p>		<p>Euthanasia: different types (voluntary / involuntary / active / passive), different Christian beliefs about Euthanasia</p>	
<p>Use and abuse of animals: animal testing and eating meat</p>		<p>Death and the Afterlife: heaven+hell, purgatory (Roman Catholic belief) judgement, impact of belief in eternal life on views about the value of human life</p>	
		<p>The "Great Britain topics" : abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation</p>	