

# AQA RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

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

### Authority

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

# Exam Topic Guide - Paper One: Islam Practices

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## Key practices

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

# Exam Topic Guide - Paper One: Christianity Beliefs

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## Key beliefs

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

<b>Worship</b> (Liturgical and non-liturgical)		<b>The church in the local community - Food Banks:</b> The Trussell Trust and The Oasis Project	
<b>Prayer:</b> including The Lord's Prayer, the importance of prayer		<b>The church in the local community - Street Pastors:</b> the Ascension Trust and Parish Nursing Ministries	
<b>Sacrament of Baptism -</b> believers' baptism and infant baptism		<b>Mission and evangelism:</b> Alpha courses and The Great Commission	
<b>Sacrament of Holy Communion:</b> its meaning; its differences in celebration and its impact on individuals / communities / wider society		<b>Church Growth -</b> ways Christians spread their faith, Christ for all Nations (Reinhard Bonnke)	
<b>Pilgrimage:</b> Iona and Lourdes		<b>The Worldwide Church:</b> Corymeela and Coventry Cathedral	
<b>Festivals:</b> Easter and Christmas		<b>Church Persecution:</b> 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 21<sup>st</sup> century conflict

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

<b>Sexuality</b> - teaching about human sexuality including heterosexual and homosexual relationships	<b>Views of Christians about the nature of families:</b> different types of families and the family as a place of love
<b>Sex before and outside marriage:</b> teaching and belief about fornication and adultery	<b>Roles of parents and children:</b> 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)
<b>Family planning and contraception:</b> different forms of contraception	<b>Purpose of families:</b> procreation (having children), stability, protecting children and educating children in the religion.
<b>Marriage:</b> its nature and purpose according to Christians	<b>Roles of men and women:</b> Christian beliefs about jobs they can / should do, roles in the home.
<b>Same sex marriage:</b> (contrasting Christian views on this)	<b>Gender equality, prejudice and discrimination:</b> different Christian views about whether men and women should be treated equally (includes male headship and the example of Jesus treating women fairly)
<b>Cohabitation:</b> views on living together as a couple but not being married	<b>Gender issues in contemporary society:</b> including real life examples of gender prejudice and discrimination: e.g. paying women less for the same job, - an issue at the BBC
<b>Divorce:</b> reasons for divorce, Christian views on <b>remarrying</b> and divorce.	The " <b>Great Britain topics</b> " : 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><b>Good and evil intentions</b> - crime and sin, original sin, evil, free will</p>		<p><b>Aims of punishment:</b> retribution, deterrence and reformation</p>	
<p><b>Reasons for crime:</b> 7 reasons - poverty, hate, greed, mental illness, upbringing, addiction and <b>opposition to an unjust law</b> (e.g. Rosa Parks 1955).</p>		<p><b>Religious beliefs about the treatment of criminals:</b> corporal punishment - not legal in UK, community service e.g. removing graffiti</p>	
<p><b>Views about those who break the law:</b> reformation of criminal, inhumane treatment wrong.</p>		<p><b>Christian beliefs about the death penalty:</b> 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><b>Hate crimes</b> - e.g. racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, goes against Christian teaching of equality.</p>		<p><b>Forgiveness</b> = 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><b>Attitudes to suffering</b> = causing suffering wrong, but we have free will, good can come out of suffering</p>			
		<p>The "<b>Great Britain topics</b>" : 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><b>Christian beliefs about the origin of the universe</b> - stories from the Book of Genesis, and fundamentalist and liberal Christian views on these</p>		<p><b>Christian beliefs about the origins of human life:</b> stories in the Book of Genesis including Adam and Eve, and fundamentalist and liberal Christian views on these</p>	
<p><b>Scientific views:</b> The Big Bang theory and Christian views of this</p>		<p><b>Scientific views on human origins:</b> Charles Darwin and evolution</p>	
<p><b>The value of the world and Christian duty to it:</b> including responsibility, stewardship and dominion. Pope Francis and his 2015 teaching (encyclical)</p>		<p><b>Ideas of the Sanctity of Life:</b> 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><b>The use of natural resources and abuse of the environment:</b> deforestation, renewable energy, recycling, Assisi and Ohito meetings</p>		<p><b>Abortion:</b> Christian beliefs for and against abortion, the legal position in the UK (allowed up to the 24<sup>th</sup> week with some conditions applying)</p>	
<p><b>Pollution:</b> air, land and water pollution and Christian beliefs and action about it</p>		<p><b>Euthanasia:</b> different types (voluntary / involuntary / active / passive), different Christian beliefs about Euthanasia</p>	
<p><b>Use and abuse of animals:</b> animal testing and eating meat</p>		<p><b>Death and the Afterlife:</b> heaven+hell, purgatory (Roman Catholic belief) judgement, impact of belief in eternal life on views about the value of human life</p>	
		<p>The "<b>Great Britain topics</b>" : abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation</p>	