1.11 Sin and salvation

**Essential information:**
- Sin is any thought or action that separates humans from God.
- Original sin is the in-built tendency to do wrong and disobey God, which Catholics believe all people are born with.
- The ways Christians can be saved from sin to gain salvation include following God’s law, receiving God’s grace, and being guided by the Holy Spirit.

**The origins and meanings of sin**

A sin is any thought or action that separates humans from God. Sinful thoughts (such as anger) can lead to sinful actions (such as murder).

- Some sins, like murder or assault, are illegal.
- Other sins, like adultery, are not illegal but are against the laws of God.

Christians believe that all humans commit sins. Some Christians (particularly Catholics) also believe humans are born with an in-built tendency to sin, called original sin.

- The idea of original sin comes from Adam and Eve’s disobedience of God, when they ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil which was forbidden by God. This was the first (original) sin.
- The result of their sin was separation from God, and the introduction of death into the world.

Christians believe God gave people free will, but they should use their freedom to make choices God would approve of, otherwise they will separate themselves from God. God provides people with the guidance to make good choices in his law, for example the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–19), the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12) and other Christian teachings.

**Salvation**

- Salvation means to be saved from sin and its consequences, and to be granted eternal life with God.
- Salvation repairs the damage caused by sin, which has separated people from God.

There are two main Christian ideas about how salvation can come about:

- Through doing good works — the Old Testament makes it clear that salvation comes through faith in God and obeying God’s law.
- Through grace — salvation is given freely by God through faith in Jesus. It is not deserved or earned, but is a free gift of God’s love.

**RECAP**

- Sin is any thought or action that separates humans from God.
- Original sin is the in-built tendency to do wrong and disobey God, which Catholics believe all people are born with.
- The ways Christians can be saved from sin to gain salvation include following God’s law, receiving God’s grace, and being guided by the Holy Spirit.

1.12 The role of Christ in salvation

**Essential information:**

Christians believe that salvation is offered through the life and teaching of Jesus. Jesus’ resurrection shows that God accepted Jesus’ sacrifice as atonement. This means that through the sacrifice of his death, Jesus restored the relationship between God and humanity that was broken when Adam and Eve sinned.

**The role of Jesus in salvation**

Christians believe Jesus’ life, death and resurrection had a crucial role to play in God’s plan for salvation because:

- Jesus’ crucifixion made up for the original sin of Adam and Eve.
- The death of Jesus, as an innocent man, was necessary to restore the relationship between God and believers, to bring them salvation.
- Jesus’ resurrection shows the power of God to defeat evil. It was proof that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice on behalf of humankind.
- Jesus’ resurrection means humans can now receive forgiveness for their sins.
- Jesus’ death and resurrection made it possible for all who follow his teachings to gain eternal life.

**Atonement**

- Atonement removes the effects of sin and allows people to restore their relationship with God.
- Many Christians believe that through the sacrifice of his death, Jesus took the sins of all humanity on himself and paid the debt for them all. He atoned for the sins of humanity.
- This sacrifice makes it possible for all who follow Jesus’ teachings to receive eternal life with God.

**TIP**

This quote shows the Christian belief that death came into the world as a punishment for sin, but salvation is offered through the life and teaching of Jesus.

Romans 6:23 [NIV]

1 John 2:1–2 [NIV]

**RECAP**

- Christians believe that salvation is offered through the life and teaching of Jesus.
- Jesus’ resurrection shows that God accepted Jesus’ sacrifice as atonement. This means that through the sacrifice of his death, Jesus restored the relationship between God and humanity that was broken when Adam and Eve sinned.

**Essential information:**

Christians believe it is the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1–2 [NIV]

**RECAP**

- The role of Christ in salvation

**TIP**

The role of Jesus in salvation

Try to put them in a logical order. What do you think is missing from these statements to make a top level answer? Explain how the answer could be improved.

1. Atheists do not consider salvation important because they do not think there is a God who saves people.
2. God shows his great love for people by sending his Son to save us.
3. Even some religious people may think that there are greater gifts to humans, such as nature or life itself.
4. Everyone needs forgiveness from God.
5. Without salvation, humankind would have to pay the price of human sin.
6. People may doubt the truth of Jesus’ resurrection so they don’t see the need for a belief in salvation.
7. Some people may question whether God is loving if God demands the death of his Son in payment for human sin.
8. Humans should be grateful every day of their lives for Jesus’ sacrifice on their behalf.

Here are some sentences that could be used to evaluate the statement, ‘Salvation is God’s greatest gift to humans’.

Sort them into arguments in support of the statement, and arguments in support of different views. Try to put them in a logical order. What do you think is missing from these statements to make a top level answer? Explain how the answer could be improved.

1. Atheists do not consider salvation important because they do not think there is a God who saves people.
2. God shows his great love for people by sending his Son to save us.
3. Even some religious people may think that there are greater gifts to humans, such as nature or life itself.
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5. Without salvation, humankind would have to pay the price of human sin.
6. People may doubt the truth of Jesus’ resurrection so they don’t see the need for a belief in salvation.
7. Some people may question whether God is loving if God demands the death of his Son in payment for human sin.
8. Humans should be grateful every day of their lives for Jesus’ sacrifice on their behalf.

**TIP**

To remember the meaning of ‘atonement’, think of it as at-one-ment, because Jesus death and resurrection make people at one with God.

**RECAP**

Give two reasons why the death and resurrection of Jesus is important to Christians.

A "Give two reasons why the death and resurrection of Jesus is important to Christians.

B 'As nobody is perfect, it is impossible not to sin.' Evaluate this argument and explain your reasoning.

"It is perfectly possible to live a good life without sin. Jesus lived his life without sin. Many saints have lived good and courageous lives without acting badly to other people. It is true that nobody is totally perfect, but that’s different. Sin separates you from God and goes against God’s law, and there are many people who stay close to God and keep his commandments, so I disagree with the statement."

1. James 2:17 [NIV]
2. Ephesians 2:8 [NIV]
Atonement

Resurrection

One second way in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today is that it helps Christians who are suffering because they know Jesus suffered as well. For example, Christians who are suffering persecution for their faith will be comforted to know that Jesus understands what they are going through because he too was innocent and suffered for his beliefs.

Test the 5 mark question

Explain two Christian beliefs about salvation. Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

1. Explain one belief.
   - One Christian belief about salvation is that salvation can be gained through good works.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - These good works may be following teachings such as the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule and 'love your neighbour.' Worshipping and praying regularly also help Christians to earn salvation.

2. Explain a second belief.
   - A second Christian belief about salvation is that it is gained through grace.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - God gives salvation to people who have faith in Jesus. It is a gift for the faithful.

3. Add a reference to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching.
   - Paul wrote in his letters that it is through grace, which is a gift from God, that people are saved, not simply through their good works.

Test the 4 mark question

Explain two ways in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today.

1. Explain one way.
   - One way in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today is that they believe that the crucifixion was a sacrifice Jesus chose to make for them.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - In order to give them the opportunity to be granted forgiveness by God, so they can live in confidence that their sins have been forgiven.

2. Explain a second way.
   - A second way in which a belief in Jesus' crucifixion influences Christians today is that it helps Christians who are suffering because they know Jesus suffered as well.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - For example, Christians who are suffering persecution for their faith will be comforted to know that Jesus understands what they are going through because he too was innocent and suffered for his beliefs.

Test the 2 mark question

Give two ways that Christians believe salvation can come about.

1. _______
   - One Christian belief about salvation is that it is gained through faith or grace.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - Christians believe that faith or grace are required to receive salvation.

2. _______
   - One Christian belief about salvation is that it is gained through good works.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - Good works may be following teachings such as the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule and 'love your neighbour.' Worshipping and praying regularly also help Christians to earn salvation.

Test the 1 mark question

Which one of the following is the idea that God became human in Jesus?

A) Atonement  B) Incarnation  C) Resurrection  D) Creation

Which one of the following is the idea that God is loving?

A) Omnipotent  B) Omnipresent  C) Benevolent  D) Immanent

Give two Christian beliefs about life after death.

1. _______
   - One Christian belief about life after death is that the soul goes to heaven after death.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - Christians who believe in an afterlife may pray to God to be with Jesus after death.

2. _______
   - One Christian belief about life after death is that the soul goes to purgatory after death.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - Christians who believe in an afterlife may pray to God to be with Jesus after death.

Give two Christian beliefs about atonement.

1. _______
   - One Christian belief about atonement is that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross makes atonement for our sins.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - For example, the sign of the cross is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.

2. _______
   - One Christian belief about atonement is that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross makes atonement for our sins.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - For example, the sign of the cross is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.

Explain two Christian teachings about God.

1. Explain one teaching.
   - Christian teachings about God include that God is almighty, omnipresent and omniscient.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - You can support either your first or your second point.

2. Explain a second teaching.
   - Christian teachings about God include that God is almighty, omnipresent and omniscient.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - You can support either your first or your second point.

Explain two Christian teachings about creation.

1. Explain one teaching.
   - Christian teachings about creation include that God is all-powerful and all-knowing.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - These teachings encourage Christians to pray to God for forgiveness and to live in confidence that their sins have been forgiven.

2. Explain a second teaching.
   - Christian teachings about creation include that God is all-powerful and all-knowing.
   - Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.
     - These teachings encourage Christians to pray to God for forgiveness and to live in confidence that their sins have been forgiven.
Test the 12 mark question

‘The stories of the incarnation prove that Jesus was the Son of God.’

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
- refer to Christian teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

REASONED ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT

- Explain why some people would agree with the statement.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.

REASONED ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING A DIFFERENT VIEW

- Explain why some people would support a different view.
- Develop your explanation with more detail and examples.
- Refer to religious teaching. Use a quote or paraphrase or refer to a religious authority.
- Evaluate the arguments. Is this a good argument or not? Explain why you think this.

CONCLUSION

- Give a justified conclusion.
- Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning.
- Include evaluation. Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other or why they are equally strong.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

The question is about Jesus (plural) in it would improve the answer to mention details of Jesus’ conception in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

The question is about Jesus (plural) in it would improve the answer to mention details of Jesus’ conception in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

It may be true that the title ‘Son of God’ does not mean that there is such a close relationship between Jesus and God. It is possible that he was chosen by God, maybe when he was baptised, to do good works on earth and tell people about Christianity without there being a family relationship between himself and God. If this is true, there is no such thing as incarnation as far as Jesus is concerned.

The best way to gain salvation is to obey God’s law.’

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
- refer to Christian teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

CONCLUSION

- Give a justified conclusion.
- Include your own opinion together with your own reasoning.
- Include evaluation. Explain why you think one viewpoint is stronger than the other or why they are equally strong.
- Do not just repeat arguments you have already used without explaining how they apply to your reasoned opinion/conclusion.

Check your answers using the mark scheme on pages 161–162. How did you do?
To feel more secure in the content you need to remember, re-read pages 12–23.
To remind yourself of what the examiner is looking for, go to pages 6–11.
Christianity: practices

2.1 Worship

Essential information:

- Worship is the act of religious praise, honour or devotion. It is a way for Christians to show their deep love and honour to God.
- Worship can take different forms, including liturgical, non-liturgical and informal worship.
- Private worship is when believers praise or honour God in their own home.

Why do Christians worship?

- To praise and thank God
- To ask for forgiveness
- To seek God’s help for themselves or others
- To deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their faith

Different forms of worship

| Type of worship      | What form does it take?                                                                 | Examples                                                                 | Why is it important for Christians?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>liturgical worship</td>
<td>- takes place in a church</td>
<td>the Eucharist for Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches</td>
<td>- worldwide set order for service that is familiar to everyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- priest leads the congregation and may perform symbolic actions</td>
<td></td>
<td>- ritual passed down through generations gives a sense of tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- formal prayers with set responses</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Bible passages are read out, there may be a sermon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- music and hymns</td>
<td></td>
<td>- music and hymns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-liturgical worship</td>
<td>- takes place in a church</td>
<td>services in non-Conformist churches, e.g. Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed</td>
<td>- services can be planned and ordered to suit a certain theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- often focused on Bible readings followed by a sermon</td>
<td></td>
<td>- non-Conformist churches place an emphasis on the word of God in the Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>informal worship</td>
<td>- takes place in a church</td>
<td></td>
<td>- worship of the Pentecostal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- community or house churches meet in private homes and share food</td>
<td></td>
<td>- the style of worship in house churches is similar to the worship of early Christians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Quaker worship is mainly silent, people speak when moved by God to offer their thoughts or read from the Bible</td>
<td></td>
<td>- people can share readings and prayers and can take an active part in church by calling out or speaking without formal training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ‘charismatic’ worship may involve dancing, clapping, calling out and speaking in tongues</td>
<td></td>
<td>- service may have an emotional impact with a feeling of personal revelation from God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Prayer

Essential information:

- Prayer is communicating with God, either silently or through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession, or requests for God’s help or guidance.
- Christians may use set prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person. An example is the Lord’s Prayer, which is the prayer Jesus taught to his disciples.
- Christians may also use informal prayers (made up by an individual using his or her own words) to communicate with God. Some Christians find they can express their needs to God more easily by using their own words.

The importance of prayer:

- Gives strength in times of trouble
- Enables Christians to talk and listen to God
- Helps Christians to keep a close relationship with God
- Encourages reflection in the middle of a busy life
- Gives a sense of peace
- Helps Christians to accept God’s will even if it means suffering

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

- When Jesus’ disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, he answered with the Lord’s Prayer.
- Christians see it as a model of good prayer, as it combines praise to God with asking for one’s needs.
- It reminds Christians to forgive others in order to be forgiven, since prayer is only effective if people’s relationships with others are right.
- It reminds Christians that God is the Father of the whole Christian community, and it can create a sense of unity when everyone in the congregation says it together.
- The Lord’s Prayer is often used in worship and is nearly always said at Holy Communion, baptisms, marriages and funerals. It is also used in schools and in commemoration services in Britain.

Apply

A. Going on pilgrimage, celebrating festivals and religious art are also forms of worship. Give two more ways that Christians worship.

- Worship is most powerful when believers follow a set ritual.
- List arguments to support this statement and arguments to support a different point of view.

TIP:

- The arguments should apply to Christianity.
- Try to use religious language (see key terms in red).

B. Give two reasons why the Lord’s Prayer is important to Christians.

- ‘Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship.’ (AQA Specimen question paper, 2017)
- Develop this argument to support the statement by explaining in more detail, adding an example, or referring to a relevant religious teaching or quotation.

TIP:

- Always analyse the statement carefully. For example, here has more meaning ‘weight’ depend on an individual’s reasons for prayer.

"An individual Christian can choose how they want to worship in private, whereas in public worship they have to follow what everyone else is saying and doing. Therefore private worship has more meaning because they can put their heart and soul into it.”
### 2.3 The sacraments: Baptism

#### Essential information:
- **Sacraments** are holy rituals through which believers receive a special gift of grace (free gift of God’s love). Some Christian denominations recognise seven sacraments while others acknowledge fewer.
- **Baptism** is the ritual through which a person becomes a member of the Church. It involves the use of water to symbolise the washing away of sin.
- **Infant baptism** is for babies and young children. **Believers’ baptism** is for people who are old enough to understand the significance of the ritual.

#### The sacraments

- **Catholic and Orthodox** Christians recognise seven sacraments: baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, marriage, Holy Orders, reconciliation and the anointing of the sick.
- Many **Protestant** churches recognise two sacraments – baptism and Holy Communion – because they believe Jesus taught people to undertake these.
- Some churches that practise believers’ baptism consider it to be important but not a ‘sacrament’.
- Some churches, like the Quakers or Salvation Army, do not see any ritual or ceremony as being a ‘sacrament’.

#### Evaluation

Write a paragraph to explain whether you agree or disagree with the statement, ‘It is more important to help the poor than to celebrate Holy Communion.’

#### RECAP

- Evaluating this statement:
  - Christians receive God’s grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus.
  - This helps to strengthen their faith.
  - They become closer to God.

- Holy Communion brings the community of believers together in unity by sharing the bread and wine.
- It can provide support and encouragement for those going through a difficult time.

- For many Christians, Holy Communion is at the centre of their lives and worship. It affects individuals, local communities and the wider society in a number of ways:
  - **Individuals**
    - Christians receive God’s grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus.
    - This helps to strengthen their faith.
    - They become closer to God.
  - **Communities**
    - Holy Communion brings the community of believers together in unity by sharing the bread and wine.
    - It can provide support and encouragement for those going through a difficult time.
  - **Wider society**
    - Holy Communion acts as a call to love others in practical ways.
    - It encourages Christians to work for equality and justice for all.
    - Many churches collect money during the service to help support those in need, such as the poor or homeless.

#### APPLY

A. Explain two ways in which Holy Communion has an impact on the lives of believers.

B. Use the table below with arguments about the statement, ‘It is more important to help the poor than to celebrate Holy Communion.’

Write a paragraph to explain whether you agree or disagree with the statement, having evaluated both sides of the argument.

#### RECAP

- For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
  - 1 Corinthians 11:26 [NIV]

---

#### Infant baptism and believers’ baptism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practised by</th>
<th>Reasons why</th>
<th>What happens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infant baptism</strong> Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, and United Reformed Christians.</td>
<td>- Removes original sin (Catholic and Orthodox belief).&lt;br&gt;- Allows the child to be welcomed into the Church as soon as possible.&lt;br&gt;- The parents can thank God for their new baby and celebrate with family and friends.</td>
<td>- The priest or minister pours blessed water over the baby’s head and says, ‘I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’&lt;br&gt;- Godparents and parents promise to bring up the child as a Christian.&lt;br&gt;- The child is welcomed into the Christian community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Believers’ baptism</strong> Baptists, Pentecostalists.</td>
<td>- People should be old enough to consciously make a mature decision about their faith.&lt;br&gt;- The decision to live a life dedicated to Jesus is what saves a person, rather than the baptism itself.</td>
<td>- The person is fully immersed in a pool which symbolises cleansing from sin and rising to new life in Christ.&lt;br&gt;- When asked whether they are willing to change their lives to devote them to Jesus, the person gives a free testimony of their faith in Jesus.&lt;br&gt;- The person is baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>