### HEAVEN & HELL Christianity Beliefs and Teachings

What is the name of the intermediate state where souls are cleansed? [1 mark]
A) Purgatory
B) Heaven
C) Hell
D) Gehenna
Give two beliefs about heaven.
[2 marks]

It is perfect/"Nothing impure will enter it"/ there is no pain, no tears, no mourning, no death/ God will dwell with people/ it is eternal/ it is joyful/ God will be praised for eternity/ there will be no wars/ the wolf will lie down with the lamb/ there will be no night/ the gates will always be open/ Jesus will be there/ Only Christians will be there/ to enter you must put your faith in God and do good deeds

[4 marks]

3. Explain two teachings about hell.

It is an unpleasant place> "where the worm does not die and the fire does not go out"/ it is a place of regret > "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"/ It is a place to avoid> Jesus taught it is better to go into heaven with one eye than into hell/ Catholic belief: It is where those who have committed mortal sins and have not repented will go. Jesus referred to it as Gehenna and Hades.

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### 4. Explain two teachings about how to get to Heaven.

[5 marks]

Salvation by grace You cannot earn it, you are saved by Jesus death on the cross. "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through me." John 14:6 Salvation by works You earn your place in heaven by doing good deeds> the parable of the sheep and the goats> The 10 Commandments> "Faith without works is dead" James 2:17

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5. 'There is no such place as hell.'

#### Some Christians agree:

A loving God would not create a place like hell> God benevolent> God is meant to be 'a good father' and 'a good shepherd' how could he create a place in which his creation, his children are tortured for eternity? BIBLE: "For God so loved the world, he gave his only son so that whoever believes in him, shall not perish but have eternal life" – God is loving & "not perish" suggest "ceases to exist" not go to hell. Hell is just spiritual separation from God – not a physical place> BIBLE: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus on the cross in spiritual separation from God. Universalists would say that all end up in Heaven

#### Some Christians disagree:

Fundamentalists would believe there is a hell> Bible Word of God> literal interpretation> "all scripture is God-breathed". Jesus taught that hell is real and warned people to avoid it ("there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth") why would he do this if it was not real. Jesus is a saviour – what was he saving people from if not hell? A loving God must punish people who sin> If he is a good judge he cannot just forget that sins have happened, there must by punishment for there to be justice. *POTENTIAL WEAK ARGUMENT: God is loving so no hell. A loving God would ensure that justice was carried out* 

[12 marks]