

**0 1** Christianity: Beliefs

**0 1 . 1** Which one of the following is not part of God's nature?

[1 mark]

- A Just
- B Limited
- C Loving
- D Oneness

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.**

Answer: B: Limited

**0 1 . 2** Give two Christian beliefs about God's creation of the world.

[2 marks]

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.**

**One mark for each of two correct points.**

**Students may include two of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:**

- God made the world perfect/good.
- God's creation of the world teaches Christians that they have a responsibility for the world.
- God created the world from nothing / although some believe that he created from chaos.
- In the beginning, the earth was dark/void / there was darkness on the face of the deep.
- The Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
- Credit any correct and relevant material eg from the creation stories, eg that what God created was good / light was created first / day separated from night / morning and evening / separation of the waters / creation of dry land / seas / plants / sun & moon / birds & sea creatures / land animals / the Sabbath / details from the story of the creation and fall of humanity, so long as they are relevant to God's creation of the world / creation beliefs appear in other books, eg Psalm 75:3, that God maintains the created world in existence.
- Jesus (in John's Gospel) as the Word existed at the point of creation / he was in the beginning with God.
- All things were made by God/Jesus / in him was light / the light was the life of men, etc.

**0 1 . 3 Explain two ways in which belief in hell influences Christians today.**

**[4 marks]**

**Target: AO1:2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including influence on individuals, communities and societies.**

**First way**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark  
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks

**Second way**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark  
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks

**To be a ‘detailed explanation’ the ‘influence’ of the way must be included.**

**Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:**

- Many Christians are influenced by the belief that they will be judged when they die (eg as in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25:31-46) / and that being sent to hell/eternal torment is a real possibility, so they may decide to follow Jesus’ teachings.
- In both Christian literature and artwork, hell has been pictured as a place of punishment / a place of unquenchable fire and torment / so a big influence on Christians here is to make them scared of going there.
- Belief in hell as a place of suffering influences Christians to follow Christian beliefs and teachings so that they will not be sent there.
- Some Christians understand hell as a metaphor for separation from God / which again influences them to follow Jesus’ teachings.
- Some see hell as a free choice to deliberately turn away from God / so most do not reject God.
- Some see the idea of hell as so horrible that they reject the idea of it / they are influenced to believe in universalism / that everybody will be saved / because God is a God of love, etc.

**0 1 . 4 Explain two Christian beliefs about the role of Jesus Christ in salvation.**

**Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.**

**[5 marks]**

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.**

**First belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

**Second belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to sacred writing or another source of Christian belief and teaching – 1 mark

**Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:**

- Salvation means to be saved from sin and the consequences of sin.
- Some Christians believe that sin entered the world through the ‘original sin’ of Adam and Eve / when they ignored God’s command not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil / the result of disobedience was separation from God, and death (Genesis 2 & 3).
- Christians believe that salvation from sin comes from the life and teachings of Jesus / St Paul explains this in Romans 6:23: ‘The wages of sin is death, but God’s free gift is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord’.
- Jesus was aware that his death was necessary in order to restore the right relationship between humans and God / to make forgiveness and eternal life possible for all people.
- Jesus allowed himself to be crucified by the Romans / even though he was innocent of the charges brought against him by the Romans and the Jews / so his crucifixion was the execution of an innocent man / Jesus was the Son of God, so he had miraculous powers / and could have escaped crucifixion / and some of those near him at the crucifixion urged him to do that (Matthew 27:42 – ‘He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let him come down from the cross, and we will believe in him.’).
- After his death in this way, the Gospels record that Jesus rose from the dead / and that God accepted Jesus’s sacrifice as an ‘atonement’ for human sin / the idea of the Atonement therefore means that salvation became available for all humans / because Jesus’ suffering and death restored the right relationship between humans and God / so the author of 1 John says: ‘If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ. He is the atoning sacrifice for sins’ / humans can return to paradise/live for ever in paradise / by believing in Jesus and following his teachings.
- Peter says (Acts 4:12) that salvation exists through Jesus and no one else: ‘there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.’
- St Paul summarises Jesus’ role in salvation by saying: ‘If you say with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’ (Romans 10:9-10), etc.

**0 1 . 5** ‘The resurrection of the dead is the most important Christian belief.’

**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.**

**[12 marks]**  
**[SPaG 3 marks]**

**Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b>	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>Clear reference to religion.</b>	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. <b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b>	4–6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

**Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:**

**Arguments in support**

**NB** Some candidates might take ‘resurrection of the dead’ to refer only to the resurrection of Jesus, or else to the resurrection of Christians, or they might take it to refer to both. Accept all reasoned arguments based on these understandings. Also, accept any reasonable argument concerning what might be the most important Christian belief other than in resurrection.

- For most Christians, suffering, and death are the worst things they have to deal with / so if they believe that the dead are resurrected, then they no longer have to fear suffering or death.
- Christians fear separation from their families at death / so belief in resurrection to heaven means that they will be reunited with those they love.

- Christians believe that after their resurrection they will live forever in God's kingdom / in a state of perfect happiness.
- Ideas such as these are the central claim of Christianity: that Jesus was God incarnate / crucified, resurrected and ascended / and is the means of salvation from sin, since Jesus' death and resurrection atone for human sin.
- St Paul states clearly that God raised Jesus from the dead / and if he had not done so, then the (human) dead are not raised either / in which case faith is futile, for Christians are still in their sins / and those who have already died will remain dead (1 Corinthians 15:15-19) / so Paul shows that the resurrection of Jesus and of Christians are the most important Christian beliefs: one follows from the other.
- There is so much evidence for the resurrection of Jesus that it must be true / the four Gospels all have an account of the resurrection of Jesus / so the resurrection of Christians must also be true / and must be the most important Christian belief.
- St Paul reached this conclusion at his trial described in Acts 24, where he says that he is on trial for his life because of his belief that the dead will be raised to life, etc.

### **Arguments in support of other views**

- Some might argue that belief in God as Creator is the most important Christian belief / since for resurrection to be important to believers, people have to be created first.
- In the same way, some might argue that the most important belief is that God is good / this is not obvious from all the evil in the world / but if God is not good then there will be probably be no resurrection.
- Equally, some might argue that the most important Christian belief is not just in the resurrection of the dead but in resurrection to judgement / this can be seen in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25) / which teaches that the dead will be resurrected to God's kingdom or else to eternal fire / so the most important belief must be to follow the teachings of God/Jesus to avoid being sent to hell.
- Some might argue that belief in resurrection of the body is more important than belief in resurrection of the soul / eg because Jesus' resurrection was bodily / or else that resurrection is a metaphor for being with God in some unknown way.
- Some might argue that all Christian beliefs are equally important / and that the incarnation / crucifixion / resurrection / ascension / Pentecost are all equally necessary for Christian belief / belief in human resurrection is just one part of a connected group of beliefs, etc.

**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**