

Christianity: Practices

0 2 . 1

Which one of the following is the saint most associated with Lourdes?

[1 mark]

- A St Andrew**
- B St Bernadette**
- C St Joan**
- D St Peter**

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

Answer: B: St Bernadette

0 2 . 2

Give two reasons why prayer is important for Christians.

[2 marks]

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

1 mark for each of two correct points.

If students provide more than two responses only the first two responses should be considered for marking.

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

Prayer is important to Christians because they follow Jesus' example / many examples of Jesus praying / told his disciples to use the Lord's Prayer / examples of Jesus praying, eg Jesus' last prayer in Gethsemane as a prayer for Christians to meditate upon / relief from illness / troubled mind / friends and family / forgiveness / to thank God before a meal / formal, set prayers in worship / informal prayer on the spur of the moment / brings strength to cope with trouble / gives a sense of peace / a sense of connection with God / brings the worshipping community together / is appropriate for weddings, baptisms, funerals, etc.

0 2 . 3 Explain two contrasting ways that Christians can support food banks in the local community.

[4 marks]

Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.

First contrasting way

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

Second contrasting way

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

If similar ways are given, only one of them may be credited up to 2 marks max.

Contrasting may mean opposing or may mean different ways.

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

- Some Christians donate money to local charities who organise food banks / so that food stocks can be maintained for those who need them.
- Some will work as volunteers / to sort, parcel up, and distribute food that arrives in food banks / others will check the food labels to see that they are not out of date / or will sort the food into non-perishable categories and those which need to be consumed within a relatively short time frame.
- Some might work with the local police and other authorities / to distribute resources and relieve need.
- Many supermarkets run a food bank scheme / Christians who shop there can support the scheme by donating food they have purchased.
- Some of the food banks provide courses designed to help people eat well and spend less / and some Christians help to deliver such courses.
- The Trussell Trust runs food banks in different areas of the UK / Christians in their local areas can collect, sort and distribute food donated through churches, schools, businesses and individual donors / Christians who work as doctors and health visitors, for example, can identify and help those in need by supplying vouchers for nutritionally balanced food.
- Many churches run food banks / offer premises for them / without vouchers or referral, etc.

0 2 . 4 Explain two reasons why Christian churches help people who are being persecuted.

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 reason

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

Second reason

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate reason – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate reason – 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:

- Christian churches help those who are being persecuted because in effect it is a duty commanded by Jesus' teaching / one main text that underpins this duty is Matthew 5:10-12: 'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.' / so enduring persecution brings the reward of heaven.
- For some Christians, the scale of persecution of Christians is so great that it demands action to combat its different forms / for example, The Barnabas Fund raises awareness of religious persecution in areas where Christians are an ethnic minority, are migrant workers, and are often victims of violence / to ignore such persecution would not be the act of a Christian church.
- Jesus helped everybody who was in need, or outcast, such as people with leprosy (eg Mark 1:40-42) and those possessed by demons (eg Mark 1:23-27) / so Christian churches should help those being persecuted in any way.
- If help is not given to persecuted Christians, then it is likely that persecution of all kinds will increase / also, if Christian churches refuse to help persecuted Christians elsewhere in the world, then they might not receive help if they themselves are persecuted.
- Christians believe that they are united by faith / so this must include giving help to persecuted members of the faith.
- In the Parable of the Great Judgement (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus talks about how Christians should treat others / eg visiting those in prison / Christian churches should therefore help others who are persecuted, since that is what they would wish for themselves.
- Christian virtues include: love, compassion, sympathy and empathy / virtuous behaviour must therefore include helping those being persecuted in the worldwide community.
- Freedom is a basic human right / so (for example) Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) works internationally to uphold the right to freedom of religion and freedom from persecution.
- Jesus taught: 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' / so Christian churches must pray for those being persecuted throughout the world, etc.

Sources of authority might include:

‘And a leper came to him beseeching him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I will; be clean.”’ (Mark 1:40-41).

‘Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you ... on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven ...’ (Luke 6:22-23).

‘And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”’ (Acts 9:4-6).

‘... I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven ...’ (Matthew 5:44-45).

‘Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.’ (2 Timothy 3:12).

‘For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.’ (2 Corinthians 13: 10).

‘... you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of man comes.’ (Matthew 10:22-23), etc.

0 2 . 5 ‘The celebration of Holy Communion (Eucharist) is the most important part of Christian life.’

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]

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

Level	Criteria	Marks
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. References to religion applied to the issue.	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. Clear reference to religion.	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. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.	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

- Holy Communion/Eucharist is a sacrament, a holy ritual, and is (alongside baptism) one of two sacraments authorised by Jesus.
- Jesus was explicit about the celebration of Holy Communion/Eucharist / ‘The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) / Christians are therefore obliged to carry out this command until Jesus comes again, which underlines its importance.

- The authority of the command comes from the situation, which was Jesus' last supper with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion.
- For worshippers, re-enacting the Last Supper makes it real and authoritative for believers.
- Holy Communion/Eucharist is an act of fellowship between Christians everywhere / so Christians throughout the world worship in solidarity, whatever situation they are in / churches make everyone welcome to that fellowship, regardless of age, gender or race, etc.

Arguments in support of other views

- Others will argue that celebrating Holy Communion/Eucharist is only one part of Christian life, and is not the most important in comparison with faith, good works, prayer, etc.
- Some prefer a less rigid understanding of Holy Communion/Eucharist / and this leads to different ways of celebrating it / for example Roman Catholics believe that the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ through transubstantiation / whereas Protestants do not, often regarding it simply as a fellowship meal / the differences suggest that Holy Communion/Eucharist is not the main focus of Christian belief and action for all.
- At the start of Jesus' ministry he told the people to 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 4:17) / Matthew 4:23 goes on to say that – 'he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people' / some therefore argue that the essence of Christian living is not to follow rituals such as Holy Communion/Eucharist but to follow the example of Jesus by preaching, teaching and healing.
- Methodists, for example, see Jesus' commands about Holy Communion/Eucharist as a memorial: the bread and wine are symbols of Jesus' death, and Jesus' death brought salvation / many churches focus on what they should do to bring salvation to all, focusing eg on baptism to remove people's sins.
- Some Christians do not celebrate Holy Communion/Eucharist / eg Salvation Army; also Quakers, who question why some practices should be seen as sacred and not others / some may argue that during Lockdown, Holy Communion/Eucharist was impossible, and yet Christians survived without it.
- Others focus on faith rather than ritual as the guide for all Christian life / following Jesus' example of healing through the faith of the person concerned / eg in the healing of Jairus' daughter / 'Daughter, your faith has made you well.' (Mark 5:34).
- Others focus on doing good works, guided by the conduct and the teachings of Jesus / particularly in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:27) / since 'faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead' (James 2:17), etc.