**RE Department**

**Religion and Life-**

**EDEXCEL (Unit 1)**

 **Christianity**

**GCSE Revision Guide**

**Believing in God**

**Arguments FOR God’s Existence**

**Religious Upbringing**

* Some Christians baptise their children at a young age
* The child is usually taught to pray and they go to church.
* Families usually celebrate Christmas and Easter (and the meaning of those festivals and stories around them)
* Some Christian parents arrange for their children to attend a ‘Sunday School’ where there is encouragement to be a good Christian and lead a Christian life.

***How would this support a person’s belief in God?***

* Being born into a Christian family might support someone’s belief in God because they are surrounded by others who are convinced of the existence of God.
* If the religion has been handed down through generations it may seem perfectly natural to members of that family to believe in God.
* Learning about God at home, school and in the church could lead some people to decide that God must exist.

**Religious Experiences**

Sometimes religious experiences can convince people that God exists without a religious upbringing.

* For some this is the ‘wow’ factor and they see something that takes their breath away and gives feelings of awe and wonder. This is called **numinous** and could be felt by looking up at a starry sky or a wonderful sunset and convinced that God is behind it all.
* **Prayer** is an important and personal way for some people to communicate with God. If a prayer is answered then it can strengthen a person’s faith in God.
* **Miracles** can also convince people that God exists e.g. surviving a plane crash, Jairus’ daughter
* **Conversion** happens after an event where people believe they have experienced God and want to commit their life to God e.g. St Paul on the road to Damascus

**DESIGN ARGUMENT**

Several hundred years ago **WILLIAM PALEY** put forward the design argument. He said that if somebody happened to find a watch and had never ever seen one before, they would be astounded. The fact that finding something so tiny with lots of mechanisms inside it had been made by someone very clever (a designer) and it could **NOT** have been made by accident. Paley said that the same argument could be said about the universe which is even more complicated than a watch! **The universe must have been designed by an extremely clever being, not by accident.** The only possible **designer** **of the universe must be God – therefore God exists.** E.g.s of design = DNA, evolution…

**CAUSATION ARGUMENT**

Things do not happen by themselves; for example, if we drop an egg it may smash (the **cause** would be us dropping it – the **effect** would be the smashing of the egg) the causation argument says that the existence of the universe proves that God exists. **If the universe has a beginning then something must have caused it, it did not happen by accident so something caused it and brought it into existence** – this is God, and so this proves that God exists.

**Arguments AGAINST God’s Existence**

**Scientific Explanations of the world**

Science can explain how the universe began without the need for God e.g. the **Big Bang** says how the universe began and **Evolution** explains where animals and humans came from. Christians respond in 3 ways;

1. Science is true but God controlled the process e.g. not strictly due to chance.
2. Science and the Bible are correct. Main points fit e.g. 7 days of creation could be 7 periods of time.
3. Science is wrong! God made world look older **Apparent Age Theory**

**Unanswered Prayers**

God not answering ‘good’ prayers e.g. end poverty, cure cancer…

**Problem of Evil**

**Moral evil**- actions done by humans which cause suffering

**Natural evil-** things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans, e.g. earthquakes

Christians believe God is all-powerful, all-loving and all-knowing so evil should not exist. Because evil does exist it leads to a number of possibilities 1) God is simply not powerful enough to stop evil; 2) God does not know that it is happening; 3) God simply does not love us enough to want to stop the evil. Christians tell us that he can do all of these things **SO** God does not exist otherwise he would stop evil!

**How Christians Respond to Evil and Suffering**

Christians have different viewpoints about the causes of evil and suffering:

* **God created people with free will** and because people are not programmed like computers, they can choose whether to do good or evil. When they choose evil, suffering happens.
* **To some Christian’s life is a test.** The way people react to suffering and evil determines whether they go to heaven or hell in the afterlife. E.g. Job
* **Others say that ‘God works in mysterious ways’** and He has reasons for letting evil and suffering happen, but humans will never be able to understand the mind of God.

**How do Christians respond to evil and suffering?**

In responding to the problems of evil and suffering, Christians follow the teachings and actions of Jesus, who taught his followers to:

* **PRAYER:** (asking God to help those who are suffering - this type of prayer is called intercession and is found in nearly all types of Christian worship).
* **SERVICE:** (Actively helping those who suffer) many Christians help in hospitals and hospices, organise food and clothing for homeless in the UK, raise many to help less developed countries, etc. Some set up charities such as the ‘Children’s Society’ to help children from broken homes.

**The Media**

Remember that for this section you need to know about **TWO** programmes and how they affect a person’s attitude to believing in God.

**Bruce Almighty**

* **Summary –** Bruce feels that life is not fair and bad mouths God. So God gives Bruce his powers. Bruce sorts out his own life but things start to go wrong. Eventually he can no longer cope as the town falls apart due to him giving everyone what they want. In the end he realises that his life was not that bad.
* **Supports God’s existence**
1. Even with God’s powers Bruce messes up e.g. the town riots as everyone wins $17

on the lottery. As such it shows how hard God’s ‘job’ is and says that we can’t all get what we want.

1. God’s existence is never questioned. It acknowledges from the start that God is real.
2. Shows the problems with free will. God exists and bad things happen because humans make bad decisions and choose to do evil things.
3. Shows that God hears all prayers and responds to some. Shows why God does not answer all prayers (which is a major reason for doubting his existence).
* **God does not exist**
1. Ultimately he answers Bruce’s prayer but throughout the film he is rude to God. If he is helped then why not help others.
2. Mocks a lot of the miracles in the Bible e.g. turning water to wine, walking on water.
3. Shows God in human form. But Christians believe that God is everywhere. This is not possible if God is human.
4. Christians believe God is all powerful, but Bruce is given his powers. According to Christianity this is not possible as God can have no equal.
* **Effect on your own attitude to God –** for the exam you need to comment on how watching the film made you feel. Did it make you appreciate how hard God’s ‘job’ is and so you now believe OR did it make you realise how silly it is to believe in a being that controls everything?

**Red Dwarf**

* **Summary –** In this episode Lister learns that he is the ‘god’ of the cat people. It focuses on how many things in religion could have been misinterpreted over the years e.g. the Cat’s ‘god’s’ name had become Cloister not Lister.
* **Supports God’s existence**
1. Religious wars are caused by people and not by God. The Cats argued over what colour the hat they wore was meant to be when it was completely different to what Lister wanted it to be. God still exists.
* **God does not exist**
1. Miracles are people misinterpreting an event. The Cat priest asks Cat to destroy his hat as he no longer believes that Cloister exists. However, he is blind and Lister stops Cat from destroying the hat. He gives it back and the priest thinks it is a miracle.
2. The ‘holy’ writings for the Cats are really Listers’ laundry list that they have misinterpreted.
3. Whether the Cats made mistakes or not if God existed he would have stopped the wars.
* **Effect on your own attitude to God –** for the exam you need to comment on how watching the TV show made you feel. Did it make you see that many problems e.g. holy wars are man made or does it seem that religion is based on lies and misinterpretations

**Key words:**

**Agnosticism-** not being sure whether God exists

**Atheism**- believing that God does not exist

**Theism-** believing that God does exist

**Prayer**- an attempt to contact God, usually through words

**Omnibenevolent-** the belief that God is good or kind

**Omnipotent**- the belief that God is all powerful

**Omniscient**- the belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that is going to happen

**Conversion**- when your life is changed by giving yourself to God

**Miracle**- something which seems to break the law of science and makes you think that only God could have done it

**Numinous**- the feeling of presence of something greater than you, e.g. in a Church or looking up at the stars

**Religious Experience –** an event where people feel that they have had direct contact with God

**Free Will** – the idea that human beings are free to make their own choices

**Moral Evil** – actions done by humans which cause suffering

**Natural Evil** – things that cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans

**Matters of Life and Death**

**Life after Death**

**Why Christians believe in life after death**

* The **resurrection** of Jesus for Christians proves that there is life after death.
* Jesus tells Christians they will be brought back to life in John 11:25.
* Jesus teaches that he is the key to eternal life. (John 3:16-17)
* St.Paul teaches about life after death and how the body will be transformed from a physical body to a spiritual one when it is raised. (1 Corinthians 15:20, 35-8, 42-4)

**How these beliefs affect Christians**

* Some Christians believe in the **Resurrection,** that after death the body stays in the grave till the **Day of Judgement.** When everyone will be raised from the dead and be judged by God. As such they want to lead good lives so they can get to heaven

**Non-Religious reasons for believing in life after death**

* **Near-death experiences**- people who have had these say that they were travelling through a tunnel or toward a light e.g. research of Dr S Parnia
* Existence of the **spirit world/ghosts** - who are thought to be the spirits of the dead that are sometimes visible to the living. Use mediums and ouija boards.
* **Reincarnation** – people claim they can remember previous lives e.g. case of Taranjit Singh

**The case against life after death**

* Scientific evidence shows that when the body dies, everything decays**.**
* No one has returned from the dead to tell us.
* The end of life means exactly that, it is illogical to speak about life after death.
* Life-support machines prove the brain dies before the body

**Abortion**

**The Law (1967 Abortion Act)**

* 2 doctors agree that mother’s life at risk OR risk to health of already living children OR baby is severely disabled.
* Can’t take place after 24 weeks of pregnancy **(1990 Abortion Act)**

**Non-religious arguments in favour**

* A woman has the right to chose.
* A child’s quality of life is important.
* A mother’s health and welfare are more important then that of her unborn child.
* There are too many people on the planet.

**Non-religious arguments against**

* Its a form of murder.
* Everyone has the right to be born so they can reach their full potential.
* All life has value,

**Christian Teaching**

* **Roman Catholics** and some **Evangelical** Christians believe that life begins at conception so abortion is murder and a serious sin.
* Christian teachings on the **Sanctity of life** means every human has the right to a life (even a foetus).
* **Some** Christians, such as Liberal Christians, believe that abortion in certain circumstances may be the kindest and most loving action. They refer to **Jesus’** teaching that love is the most important thing.

**Euthanasia**

**Non- religious arguments in favour**

* Suicide is legal, so why not help someone who cannot commit suicide themselves,
* If animal were suffering, we have it put down as its the most humane thing to do.
* It is their life they have should have the right to end it if they want to.
* It’s not fair for the relatives to have to watch their loved one dying painfully.

**Non- religious arguments against**

* Drugs can be used for pain control.
* **Euthanasia** is just a fancy word for murder.
* Doctor’s take an oath to save life, it is wrong to ask them to kill people.
* People can better or medical science might find a cure for them.

**Christian teachings**

1. **Wrong but do not want people to suffer.**
* Christians believe that God created everything and that humans were created in his image. So life is holy, this is known as the **Sanctity of Life.** Only God should end life.
* Jesus accepted his suffering and death and never tried to escape from it, so Christians believe that this teaches them to preserve and cherish life.
* God tells us not to kill in the **Ten Commandments.**
1. **Evangelical Protestants believe it is wrong in every circumstance**
* Bible condemns suicide and they follow it literally
* God tells us not to kill in the **Ten Commandments.**
1. **Liberal Protestants allow limited use of euthanasia**
* Jesus said ‘**love thy neighbour’**. Helping someone to die might be the most loving thing to do.

**Life and Death in the Media**

**Media should NOT criticise religious beliefs on life after death because…**

* Might stir up religious hatred
* Might be offensive to religious believers
* Criticising what the Pope says could be seen as blasphemy
* Religious attitude based on God’s teachings. God is beyond human criticism

**Media SHOULD be allowed to criticise religious attitudes because…**

* A free media is a key part of democracy
* If religions want to be free to say what they want then the media should also have that right.
* Life and death is such an important topic all people should be made aware of the arguments
* Freedom of expression is essential for society to make progress (Karl Popper)

**Keywords:**

**Paranormal**- unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes, e.g. ghosts and mediums

**Heaven**- a place of paradise where God rules

**Hel**l-a place of horrors where Satan rules

**Immortality of the soul**- the idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body

**Resurrection**- the belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised

**Abortion**- the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive

**Assisted suicide**- providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide

**Euthanasia**- an easy and gentle death

**Non-voluntary euthanasia-** ending someone’s life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would you want you to do so, e.g. switching of a life support machine

**Voluntary euthanasia**- when someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end his/her life personally

**Sanctity of life**- the belief that life is holy and belongs to God

**Purgatory** – a place Catholics believe you go to so as to work of sins before going to heaven

**Quality of Life –** the idea that life must have some benefits for it to be worth living

**R**eincarnation **–** the belief that after death souls are reborn in a new body

**Near death Experience (NDE) –** when someone about to die has an out of body experience

**Marriage and Family**

**Changing attitudes to marriage, divorce…**

1. Most have sex before marriage. Socially acceptable for people to live together unmarried.
2. Age to get married has increased and not many get married in church.
3. Increase in reconstituted families. Civil partnerships introduced (2004)
4. Divorce now accepted as part of normal life

**Reasons for the changes**

1. **Cohabitation and Marriage**
* Contraception made sex safer from pregnancy
* Christianity lost its influence
1. **Divorce**
* Law made it easier and cheaper to get divorced (1969)
* More equal rights. Women can no afford to support themselves
1. **Family Life**
* More divorce means more remarriage
* Social acceptance of unmarried mothers = more single parent families
1. **Homosexuality**
* Changes in the law make it easier to be openly homosexual
* Scientists have shown that homosexuality is probably genetic = not a choice

**Pre-marital sex, adultery and Cohabitation (sex outside marriage)**

.**What do the Churches say?**

* Adultery is banned in the 10 Commandments
* For Christians, sex (procreation) is an act of love and commitment and should take place within marriage.
* Many Christians believe that restricting sex within marriage is in the best interests of society, children and the individual.
* **The Roman Catholic** church forbids **pre-martial sex** and sees it as a grave sin. So for a Roman Catholic couple considering marriage cohabitation is not an option. Bible forbids pre-marital sex.
* **Some Christian** groups e.g. Protestants, recognise that times have changed and are prepared to accept **Cohabitation** if the couple intend to marry.

**Divorce**

**Christian beliefs**

* Christians recognise that not all marriages work and that some people will want to end their marriages. (Jesus allows it for divorce so he recognises some situations are severe enough for divorce)
* Some orthodox Christians and liberal Protestants will permit divorce if they think it is the most loving thing to do. (Choose the **lesser of two evils**, better to divorce than live in hatred)

**Roman Catholic Church**

* Does not accept divorce. (Jesus said it was wrong in Mark’s Gospel)
* If a marriage has broken down, the couple can live apart but they must remain celibate and never into a sexual relationship with anyone else. That would be **adultery** (banned in 10 Cs)
* In few cases they are permitted to have an **annulment.**

**Family Life**

**Christian teachings**

* **Family** was created by God as the best environment in which a couple can live and raise children.
* The Old Testament refers to the importance of family.
* The Gospels show Jesus was a member of a family, cared for his mother and father.
* Having Children is one of the purposes of Christian marriage.
* Salvation army believes family life based on marriage is ‘the bedrock of a stable society’

**Homosexuality**

**Christian teachings**

1. **Catholic attitude –** only homosexual RELATIONSHIPS are a sin. Homosexuals should be celibate. Condemns homophobia.
* The **Bible** forbids same sex relationships. (Leviticus 18:22)
* Everyone is a child of God.
1. **Evangelical Protestants –** Homosexuality is a SIN. Hold prayer meetings to **cure** homosexuals.
* Romans 1:26-8 says that those who do unnatural things with someone of the same sex will be punished.
* Believe that Christ can remove all sins including homosexuality
1. **Liberal Protestant attitude –** Lifelong homosexual relationships are acceptable and welcomed. Priests can be homosexual but must be celibate.
* Jesus’ teachings focused on love, so should be accepted
* Bible needs to be reinterpreted for today’s society

**Contraception**

1. **Natural methods** – couple need to be in a long term relationship. Do not prevent STIs
* Natural Family Planning (NFP) – monitor woman’s fertility cycle so she knows when she is most fertile and so does not have sex on those days.
1. **Artificial methods –** many types. Do not need to be in a long term relationship. Some prevent STIs from spreading.
* Barrier methods e.g. condoms. Stop sperm meeting the egg.
* Hormonal e.g. the Pill. Stops women from producing an egg.
* Others e.g. coil or morning after pill prevent fertilised egg attaching to the womb

**Different Christian Attitudes**

1. **Catholic Attitude -** do not accept the use of **artificial** **contraception** because it would prevent the act of sexual love being open to new life. Allow NFP.
* Casti Connubii (1930) banned Catholics from using artificial contraception
* 1951 – Pope Pius XII says Catholics can use natural contraception
1. **Non-Catholic Christians –** Allow all contraceptives as long as they are to limit the family size.
* Christian’s who accept the use of **contraception** in marriage argue that there is nothing written in the Bible forbidding it.
* The **Church of England** accepts the use of all forms of contraception by a married couple and it allows the couple the chance to enjoy sexual love but choose the best timing, and size, of their family.

**Key words:**

**Adultery**- an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner

**Cohabitation**- living together without being married

**Faithfulness**- staying with your marriage partner and having sex only with them

**Marriage**- the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children

**Pre-martial sex**- sex before marriage

**Promiscuity**- having sex with a number of partner without commitment

**Homosexuality**- sexual attraction to people of the same gender

**Annulment**- a declaration by the Church that a marriage never lawfully existed

**Re-marriage**- marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage

**Extended family**- children, parents and grandparents/aunts/ uncles living as a unit in close proximity

**Nuclear family**- mother, father and children living as a unit

**Re-constituted family**- where two sets of Children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other

**Celibate life-** one without sex

**Annulment**- this means the marriage is invalid and never truly existed

**Civil Partnership** = a legal ceremony giving homosexual couples the same legal rights as a husband and wife

**Contraception –** intentionally preventing pregnancy from occurring

**Procreation –** making a new life

**Community Cohesion**

**Women**

**HOW attitudes in him UK have changed to roles of men and women**

* Women could own property but when they married it passed to the husband. Very few women worked 15% in 1900.
* Lots of changes in 19th and 20th centuries. Could keep own property when married (1882)
* Equal Pay Act (1970) and Sex Discrimination Act (1975) gave women full rights.

**WHY attitudes have changed**

* During the War women had to take on roles men usually did. Showed they did them just as well. More women need to work for homes to afford things.
* The Suffragettes showed women no longer wanted to be treated badly.

**Catholic attitudes -** Men and women should have equal roles and rights in society. Do not think this is the case in Church leadership. They point to the fact that Jesus personally nominated Peter to be lead the Church. Only men can be priests.

* Men and women created on same day (Genesis). Made in God’s image, so equal.
* Jesus’ closest followers (apostles) were all men and priests follow on from them.

**Traditional Protestant –** Evangelicals see men and women as having different roles so they can’t be equal in religion. Women bring up children and men provide for the family. Only men are church leaders.

* St Paul teaches that women should not speak or teach in church
* Men made before women (Genesis) so they have more rights

**Modern Protestants –** Men and women fully equal and now have women ministers and priests

* Jesus treated women as his equal e.g. the Samaritan woman in John.4
* St Paul said women and men were equal in the eyes of God

**Multi-ethnic society**

**Racial harmony – benefits of a multi ethnic society**

* The UK has a wide variety of music, culture, food and clothes from different cultures.
* It can make for a more peaceful world as people of different races and nationalities learn to live and work alongside each other.
* It is good for religions to see members of different ethnic groups following their religion

**Problems of discrimination and racism**

* Prejudiced employers will not give jobs to certain religious groups
* Prejudiced teachers might get ethnic children expelled or put them in lower sets
* Prejudiced police officers might stop black people more often or not treat them seriously.

**Effects of discrimination and racism**

* If treated unfairly some groups might work against society
* If people feel wont get a good job due to prejudice some will turn to crime or terrorism
* Can lead to extremist groups coming about e.g. the BNP (British National Party)

**Community Cohesion**

**HOW the government promotes it**

* Schools have to promote community cohesion
* Race Relations Act = illegal to discriminate against people due to race, colour etc
* Appointing MPs from ethnic backgrounds
* Fund research into the best ways of achieving community cohesion

**WHY is community cohesion important**

* Without it different groups have their own agendas which can lead to violence
* E.g. Oldham, Burnley and Bradford riots

**Why Christians promote racial harmony**

* The Bible opens with a description about God creating everyone in his own image. so **prejudice**  and **discrimination** are wrong.
* In parable of the good Samaritan Jesus tells people to help whoever is in need regardless of race or religion.
* There are Christian leaders of every colour and race so silly for them to be racist
* St Paul said everyone is equal in the eyes of God

**The UK as a multi faith society**

* In 2001 the UK had 1,500,000 Muslims, 500,000 Hindus, 300,000 Sikhs, 250,000 Jews.
* 36% of people in Tower Hamlets were Muslims
* 14% of people in Birmingham were Muslims
* Leicester was 14% Hindu

**Benefits of living in a multi-faith society**

* Learn what other religions are about from friends and neighbours
* Seeing others who are committed to their religion may make others think about their own faith more
* People are likely to become a lot more understanding
* Cause more religious tolerance which will limit conflict

**Issues for religion in a multi faith society**

1. **Conversion –** teachings of religions can be in conflict with each other. Some see it as their duty to convert others. This causes problems because this could be seen as a type of prejudice. This could lead to arguments and violence.
2. **Bringing up children –** in the UK children come into contact with lots of other religions and they may go against their parents. Some religions say parents must keep children in their faith in order to see them when they die. Could cause friction between parents and children.
3. **Inter faith marriage –** people of different meet and fall in love. Causes problems e.g. where will they marry, and which religion will their children grow up in? If these are not worked out then they can lead to hatred and violence.

**How religions promote community cohesion in UK**

1. Work with other religions to see what they have in common. E.g. Christianity, Islam and Judaism all believe in Abraham and Moses. Try to find ways to live together.
2. Develop ways of having interfaith marriages e.g. Protestant churches and liberal Jewish synagogues have special wedding services for mixed couples.
3. Respond to how children should be brought up e.g. Some Protestant Churches and liberal Jewish synagogues encourage mixed couples to raise children in both faiths and let the child decide when they are older.
4. Join together in special groups to explore ways of helping community cohesion e.g. the Inter Faith Network has members from lots of religions working together to promote good relations between religions.

**The Media**

You need to study how **ONE** issue in this section has been presented by the media.

**The Vicar of Dibley**

* **Summary / issue –** The issue this programme deals with is **Equal Rights for Women**. We see a new vicar arrive and the locals are shocked to find that it is a woman. The episode sees ‘Geraldine’ struggling to be accepted into the community.
* **Why an important issue –** Christianity is split today with different groups having various attitudes to the roles of men and women. Catholics and Evangelical Protestants do not allow women to be priests/vicars. But CofE do.
* **FAIR to religious beliefs/people –**
1. Geraldine, the vicar, is very normal with a good sense of humour. Shows Christians in a positive light.
2. Presents basic arguments ‘for’ and ‘against’ women as vicars in a fair and balanced way. A clear attempt not to upset Christians.
* **UNFAIR to religious beliefs/people –**
1. Many of those against the female vicar are shown to be posh, rude and sexist. This is not a fair view of Christians and could offend.
2. At the time female vicars was a topical debate and many objected to it happening. Some even left the church. As such is it right for a comedy programme to be focusing on this topic?

**Key words:**

**Equality**- the state of everyone having equal rights regardless of gender/race/class

**Sexism**- discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)

**Multi-ethnic society**- many different races and cultures living together in one society

**Prejudice**- believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them

**Discrimination**-putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class

**Racism**- the belief that some races are superior to others

**Racial harmony**-different races/colours living together happily

**Multi-faith society**- many different religions living together in one society

**Religious pluralism** -accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist

**Religious freedom**- the right to practise your religion and change your religion

**Community Cohesion –** a common vision and shared sense of belonging for all groups in society

**Interfaith marriage –** marriage where the husband and wife are from different religions

**Ethnic Minority –** a member of an ethnic group (race) which is much smaller than the majority group

**How to Answer Exam Questions**

**(a) DEFINITION QUESTIONS – 2 marks**

Write a complete sentence or two – give a brief example if needed.

Do not write any more than this.

**(b) DESCRIBE/OUTLINE/STATE – 4 marks**

This question will have a question in it e.g. Do you think Christians should use contraception?

Do not explain or debate. Give your opinion, (I agree/disagree because…). Support your opinion with **two** reasons (a religious teaching e.g. something Jesus or the Pope said, a quote from the Bible)

**(c) EXPLANATION QUESTIONS – 8 marks**

You must go beyond describing and explain your answer. Tell the examiner **WHO** you are talking about (e.g. Methodists, Roman Catholics), **WHAT** they believe or do (e.g. against abortion) and **WHY** they believe that (e.g. give a Bible quote to back up their beliefs). Do not include your own opinion. If the question asks why Christians have different opinions – start your answer with ‘There are different opinions because Christians/Muslims interpret the Bible/Quran differently’. This will gain you marks even if you know nothing else!

For **8** marks give **4** different reasons.

Your Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all of these questions. **DO NOT** make spelling mistakes in this section. **USE** paragraphs, full stops, commas, capital letters etc

**(d) EVALUATION QUESTIONS – 3 + 3 marks**

This question will have a statement e.g. ‘Abortion s always wrong.’ It will ask for your opinion. You then have to give 3 reasons to support your view and 3 reasons why people might disagree.

Part 1 – I agree/disagree because…

 Give 3 reasons to support your opinion.

Part 2 – I can see why some people might disagree with my opinion because…

 Give 3 reasons to support this side of the argument,

**In all cases make sure you remember to use appropriate religious vocabulary (key words) wherever possible.**

**REMEMBER**

* Read the question
* Think about what you are going to write
* Write for **no more than** 1 minute per mark
* Never generalise. REMEBER NOT ALL CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE SAME THING ALL OF THE TIME! Use phrases like ‘some Christians’ or ‘Catholics believe’