

GCSE



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN  
CONTENT FOR EDUQAS GCSE -  
CHRISTIANITY**



In order to try and compensate for lost teaching time, there may be some worth in trying to connect different areas of the specification content in a more synoptic or holistic way. Below is a suggestion of how the Route A Component 2 Christianity content could be delivered in this more thematic way by connecting it with areas of the Component 1 Philosophy and Ethics content (from a Christian perspective).

RELIGIOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL THEMES IN THE MODERN WORLD	COMPONENT 2 - CHRISTIANITY
<p>THEME 1 - ISSUES OF RELATIONSHIPS:</p> <p>RELATIONSHIPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian beliefs, attitudes and teachings about the nature and purpose of relationships in the twenty first century: families, roles of women and men, marriage outside the religious tradition and cohabitation</li> <li>• The nature and purpose of marriage as expressed through Christian marriage ceremonies in Britain and teachings: Mark 10:6-8 and the Church of England Synod</li> <li>• Varying Christian attitudes towards adultery, divorce and annulment and separation and re-marriage. Interpretations of Matthew 19:8-9, Mark 10:9</li> </ul> <p>SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian teachings about the nature and purpose of sex and the use of contraception including varied interpretations of the Natural Law/Absolutist approach of Thomas Aquinas' Five Primary Precepts with reference to the second Primary Precept</li> <li>• Diverse attitudes within and across Christian traditions towards same sex relationships, including varied interpretations of: Leviticus 20:13 and 1 Timothy 1: 8-10</li> </ul> <p>ISSUES OF EQUALITY – GENDER PREJUDICE &amp; DISCRIMINATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse attitudes within Christianity toward the roles of women and men in worship and authority with reference to Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican views on this issue</li> <li>• Interpretations of teachings: 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Galatians 3:27- 29</li> </ul>	<p>Creation Genesis 1-3; nature and role of humans</p> <p>Christianity in Britain: results of the 2011 census Increase in diverse religious and non-religious beliefs and practices (including those of Christianity, Humanism and Atheism). Also showing that over half of those who responded considered themselves Christian.</p> <p><b>The UK has a pluralist nature in terms of religious and non-religious beliefs and there are a wide range of attitudes to marriage and relationships. There are diverse views among Christians.</b></p>

RELIGIOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL THEMES IN THE MODERN WORLD

COMPONENT 2 - CHRISTIANITY

THEME 2 - ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH:

THE WORLD:

- Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes about the accounts of the origin of the universe: Genesis 1 and 2
- The relationship between Christian views and non-religious views of creation and the extent to which they conflict; Stephen Hawking's view of the Big Bang
- Christian and non-religious beliefs, teachings and attitudes about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship: Genesis 1:28, Psalm 8:6, 'Humanists for a Better World'

THE ORIGIN & VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE:

- Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the origin and sanctity of human life: Genesis 1:31, Jeremiah 1:5
- Non-religious beliefs about evolution; Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins
- Diverse Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia
- Non-religious views on the importance of human and animal life; Peter Singer's views on 'speciesism'
- Humanist 'Dignity in Dying' Movement

BELIEFS ABOUT DEATH & THE AFTERLIFE:

- Christian beliefs and teachings about life after death, including soul, judgement, heaven and hell: John 11:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44
- Diverse Christian beliefs about the afterlife
- How Christian and Humanist funerals in Britain reflect beliefs about the afterlife

Creation

Genesis 1-3: literal and non-literal ways of interpretation

Christianity in Britain: results of the 2011 census

Increase in diverse religious and non-religious beliefs and practices (including those of Christianity, Humanism and Atheism). Also showing that over half of those who responded considered themselves Christian.

**The UK has a pluralist nature in terms of religious and non-religious beliefs and there are a wide range of beliefs about the origins of the universe.**

**There are diverse views among Christians.**

Creation

Genesis 1-3; nature and role of humans

Christianity in Britain: results of the 2011 census

Increase in diverse religious and non-religious beliefs and practices (including those of Christianity, Humanism and Atheism). Also showing that over half of those who responded considered themselves Christian.

**The UK has a pluralist nature in terms of religious and non-religious beliefs and there are a wide range of attitudes to moral issues, such as abortion and euthanasia.**

The Afterlife

Judgement Matthew 25:31-46 Luke 16:19-31

Eschatological beliefs John 11:25-26 John 14:2-7

**Useful Biblical references regarding the idea of judgement and reference to the parable of the sheep and the goats.**

Traditional and contemporary beliefs about heaven and hell.

**Traditional Christian funerals are rich in imagery and symbolism, which reflect Christian beliefs about the afterlife.**

RELIGIOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL THEMES IN THE MODERN WORLD

COMPONENT 2 - CHRISTIANITY

THEME 3 - ISSUES OF GOOD AND EVIL:

CRIME & PUNISHMENT:

- What makes an act 'wrong'?
- Religious and ethical responses: relative and absolute morality, conscience, virtues, sin
- Beliefs and attitudes about the causes of crime and the aims of punishment: justice, retribution, deterrence and reformation
- The treatment of criminals and the work of prison reformers and prison chaplains
- Varied Conservative and Liberal Christian responses to the Death Penalty, including interpretations of Christian teaching: Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:38-39, 43-47

FORGIVENESS:

- Christian teachings about forgiveness, including interpretations of teachings: Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6: 14-15
- Examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs

GOOD, EVIL & SUFFERING:

- Philosophical perspectives on the origin of evil: Original Sin (free will) and 'soul-making' (Irenaeus and John Hick)
- Philosophical challenges posed by belief in God, free will and the existence of evil and suffering

Salvation

Sin as preventing salvation.

**For Christians, sin takes Christians away from God and many 'wrong' actions are regarded as sin.**

Forms of worship

The Lord's Prayer. **'And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us' is an example of Jesus' teaching.**

Sacraments

Celebration of Baptism.

**One aspect of baptism is the removal of Original Sin.**

The nature of God

Omnipotent and omnibenevolent.

Evil and suffering: quote on God and evil from Epicurus, Book of Job 1:8-12.

**The conflict between belief in an omnipotent and omnibenevolent God - inconsistent triad - and the presence of evil and suffering in the world.**

RELIGIOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL THEMES IN THE MODERN WORLD

COMPONENT 2 - CHRISTIANITY

THEME 4 - ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE:

- Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the dignity of human life: Genesis 1:26-27
- Christian practices to promote human rights including equality: agape in action
- An example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country
- Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION:

- Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination: Galatians 3:27-29
- Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards racial prejudice and discrimination, including Martin Luther King's teachings on equality

ISSUES OF WEALTH & POVERTY:

- Ethical considerations about acquisition and use of wealth: Luke 16:19-31
- The actions and attitudes of Christian charities in twenty first century Britain whose aim is to alleviate poverty: Christian Aid

The worldwide Church

The work of Tearfund: Christian beliefs in action. **Christian charity as a practical expression of agape; Tearfund working in over 50 countries.**

The worldwide Church

Persecution of Christians past and present.

**Examples of Christian persecution worldwide.**

The worldwide Church

The work of Tearfund: Christian beliefs in action. **Christian churches in the UK supporting the work of Tearfund overseas; raising funds and support through prayer.**