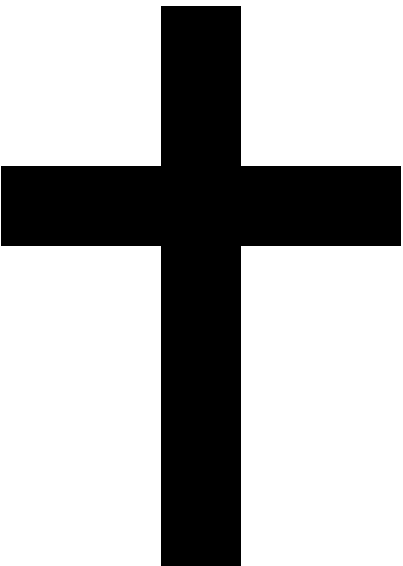


Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

- Christianity is a monotheistic religion based on the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God and the saviour of humanity.
- It began over 2,000 years ago in the Middle East and is now the world’s largest religion, with billions of followers worldwide.
- Christians believe in one God who exists as three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit - a belief known as the Trinity.
- The central message of Christianity is that through Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection, humans can be forgiven for their sins and have eternal life with God.
- The Bible is the holy book of Christianity, containing the Old Testament (shared with Judaism) and the New Testament, which includes the Gospels that tell the story of Jesus’ life and teachings.
- Worship typically takes place in a church, and many Christians follow practices such as prayer, reading the Bible, and celebrating sacraments like baptism and Holy Communion.



Key Beliefs

Belief	Key Concepts	Examples / Scripture
Nature of God	Omnipotent (all-powerful), Loving, Just. The problem of evil challenges belief in a good God.	Psalm 103:8; Job 1–2
Trinity	God as One but revealed as Father, Son, Holy Spirit.	Matthew 3:16–17; 2 Corinthians 13:14
Creation	Some Christians interpret Genesis literally (creationism); others see it as symbolic. The ‘Word’ (Jesus) and Spirit are present at creation.	Genesis 1:1–3; John 1:1–3
Afterlife	Beliefs in resurrection, judgement, heaven and hell vary.	1 Corinthians 15:42–44; John 14:2
Incarnation	Jesus is fully God and fully human. God made flesh.	John 1:14; Luke 1:26–38
Crucifixion	Jesus died to atone for human sin. Shows God's love and offers salvation.	Luke 23; Romans 5:8
Resurrection	Central to Christian belief - proves Jesus is the Son of God and gives hope of eternal life.	Luke 24; 1 Corinthians 15
Ascension	Jesus returned to heaven - shows victory over death and his divine status.	Acts 1:9–11
Sin & Salvation	Original sin (from Adam & Eve); salvation needed. Salvation by law (obeying God), grace (God’s gift), and Spirit (help from God).	Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8
Atonement	Jesus’ death restored the relationship between humans and God.	Isaiah 53; Hebrews 9:2

Christian Practices

Practice	Key Practices	Examples / Scripture / Notes
Worship	- Liturgical (structured) (e.g. Catholic Mass) - Non-liturgical (e.g. Baptist services) - Informal (e.g. Pentecostal worship) - Private worship (personal prayer and Bible study)	Matthew 18:20
Prayer	- Set prayers (e.g. Lord’s Prayer) - Informal prayers - Meditation and thanksgiving	Matthew 6:9–13
Sacraments	Holy acts or signs of God’s grace.	Varies by denomination
Baptism	- Infant baptism (Catholic, Anglican) - Believer’s baptism (Baptist, Pentecostal)	Matthew 28:19
Holy Communion (Eucharist)	Remembers Jesus’ Last Supper. Different interpretations (literal/symbolic).	Luke 22:19–20
Pilgrimage	- Lourdes (healing, Marian shrine) - Iona (peace, reflection)	Not compulsory in Christianity
Festivals	- Christmas - birth of Jesus - Easter - death and resurrection	Celebrated in churches and homes
Church in the Local Community	- Food banks (e.g. Trussell Trust) - Street pastors - practical help and witness	Mark 12:31
Mission & Evangelism	- Spreading the Gospel - Church growth and outreach	Matthew 28:19
Worldwide Church	- Reconciliation work - Responding to persecution - Christian charities (e.g. CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund)	1 Corinthians 12:26

Denominational Differences

Area	Key Differences
Trinity & God	All major branches believe in the Trinity, though emphasis may differ.
Sacraments	Catholic: 7 sacraments Protestant: usually 2 (Baptism & Eucharist) Quakers: may reject formal sacraments
Creation	Some literal (Evangelical), others metaphorical (Catholic, Anglican)
Salvation	Protestants: faith alone (sola fide); Catholics: faith and good works
Worship	Catholic: liturgical Evangelical: often informal and Spirit-led

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....