

TOP TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Your best source for revision is the work you have completed in class. We have covered the whole syllabus so use your books first.

Additionally, nearer the exam period we will issue you with a revision guide.



Great source of information. You **only** need **Christianity and Islam**.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/z6bw2hv>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/z3xvfcw>



<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts#6003/6024/8698>

N.B. Lots of good content. Again, be warned to only use video if you are confident it's part of our syllabus. Lots of irrelevant information too.

Apps – Some good content, and useful to have on your phone to revise at any time. Do not rely solely on the apps.

Gojimo



Revision Buddy



RE Definitions



Pocket Poster



TOP REVISION TIPS

- 1) Complete practice questions and write your own questions – demonstrates understanding really well.
- 2) Turn key concepts into pictures and images.
- 3) Create flash cards with small amounts of information.
- 4) Use websites to create word searches and crosswords for learning key terminology.
- 5) Learn specific quotes by heart – for each quote write what it means and how it links to specific topics.
- 6) Small chunks of revision approx. 25/30 mins max per session.
- 7) Use the personalised learning checklists to identify gaps in knowledge and start with those topics for revision.
- 8) Remember you should not be learning anything new when you are revising; you are making sure you know the content inside and out.

QUESTION STYLE AND HOW TO ANSWER:

| Question | Exam Terminology | What this means? | Marks | What to do in the answers... |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| A | Define | What does a key term mean? | 2 | Give a comprehensive definition and an example |
| B | Describe... | Demonstrate knowledge of key teachings | 5 | Pick one/two key themes, give details of what they are, how the religion 'does it', examples and where possible a related teaching (one PEEL paragraph) |
| C | Explain | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key teachings by giving reasons/teachings and quotes to support | 8 | Give 2 different religious points in response to the question. Two detailed PEEL paragraphs. Reasons for beliefs important to include key teachings and quotes to back up the viewpoint. |
| D | Discuss/evaluate | Evaluating the arguments and the, evidence, teachings and quotes to make judgements and conclusions about key themes. | 15 | A mini essay weighing up the different arguments and attitudes towards a statement. Different points of view essential. Making judgements on the best point of view to give specific well justified conclusions. |
| SPAG | Spelling, punctuation and grammar | Using your grasp of the English Language to demonstrate higher level thinking and reasoning | 6 (Paper 1) 6 (Paper 2) | Check SPAG thoroughly on Paper 1. Question 1 D Paper 2 Question 1 D |

Paper 1 – Themes = 4 x a-d

Issues – Relationships, Life and Death, Good and Evil and Human Rights

Paper 2 – Christianity = 2 x a-d

Beliefs and Teachings, Practices

Paper 3 – Islam = 2 x a-d

Beliefs and Teachings, Practices

WHAT YOU ARE AIMING FOR:

- a) **What is meant by the term "cohabitation"?** [2]

When two people live together in a sexual relationship without being married.

- b) **With reference to one religion you have studied, describe teachings about the purpose of marriage.** [5]

For Christians one of the purposes of marriage is to have children and raise them in a safe environment. They would point to the fact that God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply. For this reason many Christian couples wait until they are married before starting a family.

Christians also believe that one of the purposes of marriage is to provide companionship and support. In Genesis God created Eve to be a companion and supporter for Adam and therefore Christian couples would make sure that within their marriage that they spend time together doing things that they both enjoy.

- c) **From two different religions or two religious traditions, explain views regarding the role of women in worship** [8]

Roman Catholics believe that women do not have a leadership role within worship, they would point to the fact that Jesus only chose male disciples. Women do have a lay role to play within the church and that this role would probably be focused on the family. For example, they may run activities for children. Women can act as extraordinary ministers and distribute, but not bless, the Eucharist. This does not mean that women are less important because their role at home raising children within their faith is a vital one. Some Roman Catholics would point to the teachings found in 1 Timothy which forbid women from teaching men or having authority over them, they would say the Bible as well as the catechism forbids the ordination of women.

The Church of England does ordain women and has recently ordained their first female bishops. They would point to the work of female deacons within the early church who set a clear precedent for the future. They would say that the letters of St Paul which forbid women from leading in worship were addressing a particular audience at a particular time and that we need to move with the times. They would contrast teachings which forbid women to play a role in worship with Galatians 3 which says that in Christ there is no male or female and so women can play an active role in worship.

d) "Marriage should be for life".

[15 + 6]

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated in to this question.

A Roman Catholic would agree with this statement because the Catholic Catechism teaches that divorce is wrong. They would say that divorce is one of the few ethical issues in which Jesus takes a stricter line than the Old Testament. Roman Catholics would remind couples who are struggling that marriage vows are made in front of God and therefore are binding for life. They would also refer to the views of Pope Francis who said that the best environment for children to be raised in is within a marriage. For this reason a Roman Catholic would see their marriage vows as a lifelong commitment and they would not marry for the second time. The Roman Catholic view is convincing because they are correct to point out that Jesus tightened up the existing laws on divorce; at the time it was relatively easy for a Jewish man to divorce his wife. However Jesus also spent time with people perceived as sinners and therefore it is unlikely that he would want the church to judge those who divorce.

A member of the Church of England would agree with a humanist that couples should work to resolve their problems but they recognise that sometimes divorce is the "lesser of two evils". For this reason, the Church of England can marry a couple where one or both parties have been through a divorce and therefore marriage is not necessarily for life. The strength of this view is that the Church of England is recognising that sometimes people make mistakes when they marry and they should be able to repair that mistake through a second marriage. Christianity is a religion based on forgiveness and therefore people should be allowed a second chance at marriage. A challenge to this view is that it contradicts the marriage vows which state that couples should stay together until death "do them part" and the strict teachings of Jesus on divorce. A member of the Church of England would point out that people are not allowed to remarry as often as they wish and that there are occasions when a vicar may feel that a couple have not taken their marriage vows seriously in the past and therefore they should not be allowed to remarry again. Therefore we should all aim to marry for life and we should not assume that remarriage is always allowed.

In conclusion there are contrasting Christian and humanist views on whether marriage should be for life, the most convincing views come from the Church of England which states that we should aim for marriage to be for life however people are human and make mistakes and therefore there are occasions in which marriage is not for life and Christians should forgive people for those mistakes and help them start a new marriage.