**GCSE RE**

**Revision & Homework Booklet 2**

**God, Life and Death (Looking for meaning)**

Name: ........................................................................................................................................................................

**Topic: Looking for meaning**

**Issues about God, life and death**

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<td>How important is Worship?</td>
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**God, life and death (Looking for meaning) Key words.**

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<tr>
<th>Theist</th>
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<td>Atheist</td>
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THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD. (Summary of learning)

- People who have a religious view of life and do believe in God are called **THEISTS**
- People who do not believe in God and are convinced without any doubts that God is not real are called **ATHEISTS**.
- People who are unconvinced either way and feel that proof of God is beyond human understanding and therefore is not sure if you can know if there is such a thing as God are called AGNOSTICS.
- Belief in one God is MONOTHEISM. Christians and Muslims [Islam] are MONOTHEISTS
- Belief in many Gods is POLYTHEISM
- God is OMNIPOWERT (all powerful)
- God is OMNISCIENT (all knowing)
- God is OMNIPRESENT (present everywhere at once)
- God is IMMANENT (in the world)
- God is TRANCENNDENT (above the world, outside it)
- God is a CREATOR
- God is a JUDGE
- God is ETERNAL (without beginning or end)
- Muslims call God, ALLAH.
- Christians call God, Father and Jesus, Lord and Redeemer.

Many religions look for evidence for the existence of a God. Sources of evidence are:
- Design/Teleological – the universe shows too much evidence of intelligent design for it to have been an accident. Therefore God designed it has he is a creator.
- Philosophical (Cause and Effect) – something cannot not come from nothing. Everything has a cause and effect. God is the first cause because he is eternal.
- Experience as proof. A popular argument, e.g. miracles, answers to prayer, Holy Spirit, charismatic people who lives are dedicated to helping other because of their beliefs in God – Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jesus. Bible/ Qur’an
- Evil/Suffering – because humans have free-will they create evil and suffering and then have to deal with its consequences. God doesn’t clear up the mess for us otherwise we would not be free. This is also seen as a test from God to examine faith. (See Job) Muslims believe in the teaching of AL QADR – Allah has a plan even before the Muslim is born, some of which cause suffering to others.

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<tr>
<th>What is a theist?</th>
<th>Some one who has a religious view on life.</th>
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<tr>
<td>What is an Atheist?</td>
<td>Someone who does not believe in God.</td>
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<td>What is an Agnostic?</td>
<td>Someone who is not sure whether God exists because there is no proof.</td>
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</table>

State two reasons why some people believe in God. [Two things that influence people’s ideas about God]
- They have been brought up to believe
- Experience of a miracle
- A sense of God’s presence on worship
- Through prayer/personal experience
- Following an act of giving/charity from a religious believer
- Because of the beauty and wonder doer of the natural world
- Fear of death/the unknown after life
What is revelation?

Showing and making known God’s character.
God showing who and what his purpose is to humans.
Miracle of knowledge and understanding about God.

Explain the meaning of ‘revelation’ in one religious tradition

CHRITIANITY:
God making himself known to his people.
This can be through
The natural world
Prophets and prophetic words
The bible/ word of God
Jesus, Incarnate Son of God
Holy Spirit
Oneness of God
Some people feel a particular religious experience can be a time when God makes known his presence/power/will

ISLAM:
The Quran – revealed to the prophet
Muhammad from Allah through the angel
Jibreel
It is the last revelation of Allah’s truth
There were pervious revelations through earlier prophets e.g. Adam, Abraham, Musa
The oneness of Allah revealed to Muhammad.

Although Christians believe in one God, they also describe God as a’ Trinity’. What does this mean?

One true god revealed throughout history in three persons – three different ways.
God the Father, god the Son, God the Holy Spirit.
These are aspects of God’s nature which humans are able to understand.
God the father, the creator and sustainer of all life.
God the Son, Jesus the incarnate who became human. God the Holy Spirit, the power of God in work in individuals and the world.
Christians accept that this belief is difficult to explain.

Christians describe Jesus as ‘Lord’ and ‘Redeemer’. Explain the meaning of each of these titles.

Jesus as Lord:  
-as being equal/one with God (the Father)
- as being the one who rules all world/heaven and earth
- as being the one to whom allegiance is owed
- as being the one who directs a believer’s life/guides a believer.

Jesus as Redeemer:
- the one who pays the ransom price to set another free
- the one who enables a believer’s sin to be forgiven and their life to improve/set free
- the one who enables a believer to: live with God permanently, after their body has stopped working
- be freed from death and sin.
Describe the central beliefs about God (or ultimate reality) from two religious traditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of religious tradition</th>
<th>CHRISTIANITY</th>
<th>Beliefs:</th>
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<tr>
<td>God is one</td>
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<tr>
<td>God is all powerful and all knowing</td>
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<td>God is creator of the world and its creatures.</td>
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<td>Trinity – Tri in nature, father, Son, Spirit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>God wants a meaningful relationship with humans</td>
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<tr>
<td>God gave freewill to humans</td>
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<tr>
<td>God sent his Son Jesus – gave his life to make amends (redeem) human sin.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name of religious tradition</th>
<th>ISLAM</th>
<th>Beliefs:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allah is one (tawhid), as described in the 1st Pillar (Shahadah)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allah is transcendent and all knowing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allah is creator of the world and its creatures, (including all humanity)</td>
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<td>Allah is merciful and gracious</td>
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<td>Allah has given responsibility to humans to care for each other and for the rest of creation too</td>
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<td>Allah requires humans to submit to him in obedience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allah gave the Qur'an, through his last and greatest prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to guide, and strengthen his people</td>
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Explain two ways in which believers respond to God [4 marks]

**How do people experience God?**

- **Prayer** – communicating with God, personally and communally
- **Worship** – regular – daily, experience of entering/seeking God’s presence, through rituals and observations
- **Preaching and teaching** – being helped to grow in one’s faith or experience of god, sharing faith with others
- **Vocation** = a choice of career, perhaps a monastic life, or a life of service commitment
- **Pilgrimage** – visiting a special holy sacred place
- **Changing life style** – after an encounter with God or a decision to belong to a faith community
- **Miracles** Something unusual happens

**What awe?** Completely overwhelmed by a sense of God’s presence. So filled with amazement and wonder that you feel humble and insignificant

State one thing that Christians believe helps them when life gets difficult

Belief that God is there to support them
Jesus Christ was human and had to face difficulties
All life belongs to God and God is in control.
God is loving and forgiving, he knows everything we have to go through and with us by our side. We are never alone.
LIFE AFTER DEATH

What is the soul?

- After death the body (physical) dies but the soul lives on.
- Soul goes to heaven
- After life affected by how you lived this life.
- Soul the part of human that can have a relationship with God.

Is There Life After Death?

- Science sees life as only possible when the brain is active. When the brain is dead, life ends.
- Doctors use biological evidence to prove when your body dies everything about you dies.
- Brain death implies the mind can die before the body; a life support machine can be used as evidence to prove this.
- There is no evidence of non-material existence, where could life after death be?
- Yes . . . can’t see though but they are real.
- Evidence from all religions, e.g. in their holy books.
- Religious experiences, if God exists, life after death probably exists.
- Ghosts etc.
- Near-death experiences, being out of the body, then a light urging them down a tunnel of light and having a vision of the after-life.
- Christian ideas . . .
- Many Evangelical Protestant Christians believe God will judge everyone at the end of time and decide if they go to heaven or hell.
- Most other Protestants believe your soul is immortal and goes straight to heaven.

Most Roman Catholics believe very good Christians go straight to heaven. Other Christians go to purgatory and pay for their sins, then go to heaven. Others go to hell. Those who seek God in other religions may also go to heaven.

What happens when someone dies?

When someone dies it is a very sad time for all the relatives and friends.
The family arrange a special service called a funeral. Everybody comes to church to pray. They remember all the happy times with this person.
In Christianity the Minister will pray for the family. He will ask God to help them at this sad time, when they are missing this special person.

Christians believe they go to heaven to be with Jesus when they die.
The family have a special stone made to remember the person who has died
**Explain what Christians believe about Life after death.**

*Death is not the end, but a beginning.*

It is life with God / Jesus / in heaven

It is a new life that is not physical – a spiritual body like Christ’s resurrection body.

A life without pain or suffering.

Life in a better world, at peace, at rest.

After death belief of resurrection like Jesus Christ.

Belief in Judgement followed by reward (heaven) or punishment (hell) or interim preparations (purgatory)

Belief in being united with love ones and being in the community of saints.

<table>
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<th>What is ‘Purgatory’?</th>
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<td>- The Roman Catholic Christian belief of a soul’s place after death</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Roman Catholic Christians believe you cannot go straight to heaven because no one is perfect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Purgatory is believed to be a place to prepare to enter heaven and to enter into the presence of God.</td>
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**Explain the teachings on judgment, or what happens as a result of one’s life according to two different religious traditions.**

**Religious tradition: Christianity**

- When a person dies their soul does not cease to exist.
- The soul moves to another life. The destination is determined by two things – a persons response to Jesus and his teachings and the way a person responded to those in need on earth
- Heaven is a state of being with God eternally, where there are no more tears and sadness.
- Hell is a state of being separated from God through a person’s own deliberate choice of rejecting God and his ways whilst on earth.
- Heaven is already present in believers, as they share in Christ’s victory over sin and death, it merely remains to be finally consummated at the end of time.
- There will be a final judgement day, a new heaven and a new earth will be made, and those ‘redeemed’ will live in it, worship God and enjoy his presence.

*Roman Catholics – believe in Purgatory, this being a place of preparation for heaven, people may pass from earth to purgatory, and when ready they are prepared for heaven, they will then proceed there.*

**Religious tradition: Islam**

- There is life after death called **Akirah**
- At death the soul is taken by the **Angel of Death – Azrail**, to a state of waiting for Judgement.
- The angel will ask three questions: Who is thy god? What is thy religion? Who is that man who was sent among you?
- Life on earth is a test, a preparation for the life to come.
- Each person will be judged according to the extent they have followed the Quran and Shari’ah, and their actions towards other humans and animals, but repentance can bring forgiveness.
- Those who perform ibadah, and so obey Allah’s will. Will be rewarded with Paradise (beautiful garden – milk & honey), whilst the rest will be in Hell (terrible torment heat.)
- There will be a resurrection of the body.
- Burial should take place as soon as possible after death, and without a coffin
- Cremation is not normally allowed
“A person’s religious faith is of great comfort when facing death”
Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answer showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. {6 marks}

Disagree:
Death is the end of life, so what has gone before is of no consequence
Death is to be experienced by everyone, so faith makes no difference
Even religious communities cannot shield you from death or share the experience
Faith and belief may help during life, but does not prevent death or prolong life
It could be bad preparation for death, as one’s beliefs may not match up to the actual experience of death itself.

Agree
Religious faith can help a person come to terms with death because of what it offers after death
People through religious faith, have no fear or horror of death
Sharing beliefs about life after death, when pain and suffering are removed, or when injustice is put right, are found by many to be a comfort and a hope
In many religious traditions, death is not seen as a defeat of life, but a new chapter