

IGCSE Cambridge Topical Past Papers

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490 | Paper 1

2017 — 2023

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1 - (0490/11\_Winter\_2017\_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) (i) Name **four** symbols used during a baptism ceremony. [4]
- (ii) Describe **three** promises made by the parents or godparents at an infant baptism. [3]
- (b) Explain why Christians think baptism is an important rite. [7]
- (c) 'Believers who are baptised as infants are stronger Christians.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

2 - (0490/12\_Winter\_2017\_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) (i) Name **three** days in Lent which have significance for Christians. [3]
- (ii) Describe the different ways in which Christians might observe Lent. [4]
- (b) Explain why Holy Week is an important preparation time for Easter. [7]
- (c) 'Some Christians think that there should be fewer festivals.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

3 - (0490/11\_Winter\_2017\_Q2) - Christianity

**‘...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:  
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”’**

Acts 20:35 – NIV

- (a) (i) Explain what is meant by tithing. [3]
- (ii) How might Christians fulfil their duty to care for others? [4]
- (b) Explain why Christians think caring for others is important. [7]
- (c) ‘A man’s responsibility is to look after his family, not to worry about the suffering of others.’  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

4 - (0490/12\_Winter\_2017\_Q2) - Christianity

**God gave Moses Ten Commandments.**

**Jesus told his disciples that the greatest commandment was to 'Love  
God and  
love your neighbour as yourself'.**

- (a) (i) Give **three** of the Ten Commandments that must be followed to show love of God. [3]
- (ii) State **four** of the other Commandments that enable Christians to show love for their neighbour. [4]
- (b) Explain how Christ's teachings about love and concern for others might influence the life of a Christian. [7]
- (c) 'Serving others is a Christian principle that is not fashionable today.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

5 - (0490/11\_Winter\_2018\_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) (i) Name **three** types of literature found in the Old Testament. [3]
- (ii) Briefly describe the content of **two** of these types of literature. [4]
- (b) Explain why the Old Testament might be important to Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Only the New Testament is relevant to Christians.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

6 - (0490/12\_Winter\_2018\_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) (i) What is a commandment? [3]
- (ii) Give **four** of the Ten Commandments. [4]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Ten Commandments to Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Christians should follow rules which are more suitable for the modern world.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

7 - (0490/11\_Winter\_2018\_Q2) - Christianity

**'In the sixth month ... God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee ...'**

Luke 1:26 [NIV]

- (a) (i) Whom did the angel Gabriel visit **and** what was his message? [3]
- (ii) Briefly describe the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) to Bethlehem. [4]
- (b) Explain the significance of the visit of the Magi for Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Christmas is more important than Easter.'  
Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [6]

# ANSWERS

[www.exam-prepare.com](http://www.exam-prepare.com)

1 - (0490/11\_Winter\_2017\_Q1) - Christianity

(a)(i)	<p><b>Name <u>four</u> symbols used during a baptism ceremony.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Holy Oil</li> <li>• White garment</li> <li>• Sign of the cross</li> <li>• Candle for the baptised</li> <li>• Paschal Candle.</li> </ul> <p>1 mark for each response</p>	<b>4</b>
(a)(ii)	<p><b>Describe <u>three</u> promises made by the parents or godparents at an infant baptism.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To bring the child up Christian</li> <li>• To bring them to the other sacraments</li> <li>• To reject Satan and all his promises</li> <li>• To support the child/adult in their Christian life</li> <li>• To make sure they have a Christian education.</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
(b)	<p><b>Explain why Christians think baptism is an important rite.</b></p> <p>Candidates may answer this question using infant baptism, believers' baptism or both. Baptism is the first of the sacraments of initiation and as such is the normal gateway to the Christian community. Infant baptism, along with the Eucharist and Confirmation brings children and adults into full communion in some Christian churches. As well as being a celebration of a child coming into the world and joining the Christian family it can also be seen for adults as a celebratory rite of their own joining of their particular church.</p> <p>It is also believed by Christians that they are all born with the 'original sin' committed by Adam and Eve and therefore in need of redemption. Baptism is the rite which washes away that original sin and allows Christians to begin their religious life with a clean soul.</p>	<b>7</b>
(c)	<p><b>'Believers who are baptised as infants are stronger Christians.'</b></p> <p>Candidates might argue that having been a Christian since they were an infant the practices are ingrained and may need little effort and don't conflict with modern life. They would be able to argue whether being a cradle Christian makes it easier or not to follow teachings about being responsible for their fellow Christians and in fact all who suffer.</p> <p>Some may suggest that making an adult decision to become a Christian is a much more positive thing and therefore making those who make such decisions stronger Christians.</p> <p>Candidates might discuss what it could mean to be a stronger Christian. They could, for example, talk about what it means to be a practising Christian and how attending rites together could be seen as an act of witness and a support for all those around them.</p>	<b>6</b>

2 - (0490/12\_Winter\_2017\_Q1) - Christianity

(a)(i)	<p><b>Name <u>three</u> days in Lent which have significance for Christians.</b></p> <p>Responses might include <b>three</b> from the following:</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Mothering Sunday Palm Sunday Spy Wednesday Maundy Thursday Good Friday.</p> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	<b>3</b>
(a)(ii)	<p><b>Describe the different ways in which Christians might observe Lent.</b></p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Christians remember Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness Make a sacrifice of giving up certain food and drink Saving money to contribute to charity Penitents marked with ash (Ash Wednesday) Fast for periods (e.g. Ash Wednesday/Good Friday) Money distributed to poor (Maundy Thursday) Washing of feet (Maundy Thursday) Attend special services Bible Study No decorations in churches Crosses covered with veils.</p> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	<b>4</b>

(b) **Explain why Holy Week is an important preparation time for Easter.**

**7**

Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective B. Understanding and interpretation.

Responses might explain some of the following:

Holy Week, at the end of Lent is the final preparation for the Easter festival. It is a week of activity and worship that leads up to the most important celebration in the Christian year.

Palm Sunday, which celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is depicted in the gospels as the 'Triumphal Entry'. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (on a donkey) denoted his Messiah-ship and probably incensed his enemies. He was welcomed by people shouting and waving palm branches and this was the beginning of his last week on earth.

Spy Wednesday is marked by some Christians in remembrance of Jesus' betrayal to the High Priests by the disciple Judas.

Maundy (Holy) Thursday involves rituals which remember Jesus' washing the feet of the disciples before the Last Supper and as the evening of the Last Supper itself. In most denominations alms are distributed on Maundy Thursday. Churches are stripped of altar cloths and decorations and a special service held.

Good Friday marks the day of the crucifixion and special services are held in churches. In some denominations the stages of the journey to the cross are re-enacted and pilgrims also visit Jerusalem to do this.

Easter marks the resurrection of Christ and this is an important part of Christian belief, so Holy week marks a week of preparation from the joy of the entry into Jerusalem to the sadness of the cross – as the journey to redemption and salvation for all Christians. During the week, Christians try to take stock of their own life and improve their religious life.

(c)

**'Some Christians think that there should be fewer festivals.'****6**

**Discuss this statement. Give your own opinion and show that you have thought about other points of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer.**

Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective C. Evaluation.

Responses might consider some of the following:

Candidates are likely to agree with the statement as some non-conformist churches and others have dispensed with the celebration of some festivals e.g. Saints' Days (obscure) and, in some cases, Christmas (too commercial). Or, believers with busy lives only attend churches and celebrate the major festivals on Sundays. Many Christians are unaware of how many festivals there are in the liturgical year and would still consider themselves practising, worshipping members of the religion.

However, although not all members of congregations celebrate all festivals they are still marked with special prayers and services throughout the year by both clergy and laypersons. Denominational schools observe some of them with holidays or special services. So some would say that they are all necessary as marking different aspects of the life and ministry of Christ and the history of the Church.

Views and arguments might concentrate on a number of festivals or on one example of a necessary or less well known festival.

3 - (0490/11\_Winter\_2017\_Q2) - Christianity

(a)(i)	<p><b>Explain what is meant by tithing.</b></p> <p>At one level this is simply the practice of taking tax. Often though it is associated with giving 10% of something to a religious organisation. This could be a tenth of a family income or in the past it was often a tenth of a farmer's harvest or livestock. Some may be aware that in some parts of the world 'tithing barns' can still be found, which in the past were used for storing the tithes of a parish.</p>	<b>3</b>
(a)(ii)	<p><b>How might Christians fulfil their duty to care for others?</b></p> <p>Some may fulfil this duty by seeing their working life as a vocation and becoming ministers, teachers, doctors, nurses or members of other caring professions. Others may see this in a more personal way and find themselves caring for their family some of whom may have particular needs.</p> <p>Others may take the lead from the work done in their local parish and become involved in fundraising for local or worldwide needs.</p> <p>Some candidates may suggest examples from work done by Christians they know.</p>	<b>4</b>
(b)	<p><b>Explain why Christians think caring for others is important.</b></p> <p>Candidates might begin by looking at the life and teaching of Jesus, suggesting that disciples now and then are called to follow his example. It is clear from teaching, such as the parable of the sheep and the goats, the importance Jesus puts on actual acts, giving food and drink or visiting prisoners. He is directly saying that these are ways of getting into heaven and to ignore suffering is to be among the goats.</p> <p>Others may make use of the Sermon on the Mount and again the importance Jesus puts on caring, summarising these teaching by saying that we should 'do unto others as we would wish to be done unto us'. Some may come up with examples showing how they might interpret this teaching.</p> <p>There are many other biblical teachings which candidates may choose to use. They could make use of the teachings of their particular church, such as the many social teachings found in the encyclicals of various Popes.</p>	<b>7</b>

(c)

**'A man's responsibility is to look after his family, not to worry about the suffering of others.'**

6

Some candidates may begin by attacking the question and saying that these things are not mutually exclusive, looking after a family does not stop people being concerned for others.

Others may begin by getting into the debate of where a man's responsibility should be focused. Living in an area of great suffering it might be at least just as important to try and improve the lives of those around him if only to keep his own family safe. Some may argue that societies which see family as important can carry these teachings into the society they live in and by doing so improve that society.

Some may argue that a man who does not see the importance of looking after his own family is unlikely to be capable of productively caring for the suffering of others.

Some candidates may discuss/compare the roles and responsibilities of men and women.

4 - (0490/12\_Winter\_2017\_Q2) - Christianity

(a)(i)	<p><b>Give <u>three</u> of the Ten Commandments that must be followed to show love of God.</b></p> <p>Responses might contain <b>three</b> of the following:</p> <p>I am the Lord your God – You shall have no other Gods before me You shall not make for yourself any idol, you shall not bow down or worship them You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy Honour your father and your mother.</p> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	3
(a)(ii)	<p><b>State <u>four</u> of the other Commandments that enable Christians to show love for their neighbour.</b></p> <p>Responses might contain some of the following:</p> <p>The following five commandments are about not harming others and are summed up in the phrase 'love your neighbour':</p> <p>You shall not murder You shall not commit adultery You shall not steal You shall not give false testimony against a neighbour.</p> <p>You shall not covet your neighbour's house, wife, manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbour.</p> <p>Candidates might just describe four commandments or concentrate on one or two e.g. 'do not covet' has four aspects.</p> <p>1 mark for each response.</p>	4