

IGCSE Cambridge Topical Past Papers

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490 | Paper 1

2020 — 2025

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1 - (0490/12_Winter_2020_Q1) - *Christianity*

- (a) (i) Name **three** historical places connected with the story of the life of Jesus. [3]
- (ii) Briefly describe what happened to Jesus at **one** of these places. [4]
- (b) Explain why believers might visit Christian historical places. [7]
- (c) 'Not all Christian historical places are of equal importance to believers.'
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_2020_Q2) - *Christianity*

'But when you pray, go into your room.'

Matthew 6:6 [NIV]

- (a) (i) Give **three** types of private devotion. [3]
- (ii) Briefly describe **two** ways in which the Bible is used in public worship. [4]
- (b) Explain the importance of the Bible to Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Christians should pray only to Jesus.'
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 - (0490/13_Winter_2020_Q1) - *Christianity*

- (a) (i) Name **three** elements of services of reconciliation. [3]
- (ii) Briefly describe what happens during a service of reconciliation. [4]
- (b) Explain why some Christians think that services of reconciliation are important. [7]
- (c) 'Only God can forgive sins.'
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 - (0490/13_Winter_2020_Q2) - Christianity

'I believe in God, the father almighty ...'

The Apostles' Creed

- (a) (i) Give **three** beliefs about Jesus stated in the Apostles' Creed. [3]
- (ii) Briefly describe Christian beliefs about Jesus' mother Mary. [4]
- (b) Explain what Christians mean by the term salvation. [7]
- (c) 'Christians today should rely only on the Bible for knowledge about Jesus.'
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 - (0490/12_Winter_2021_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) (i) Describe what hierarchy means to Christians. [3]
- (ii) Describe the role of the head of **one** church hierarchy you have studied. [4]
- (b) Explain the importance of having a hierarchy for some Christian communities. [7]
- (c) 'A religious hierarchy is not necessary for an individual to have a relationship with God.'
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_2021_Q2) - Christianity



- (a) (i) What does the word pilgrimage mean? [3]
- (ii) Describe the places some Christian pilgrims might visit in Rome. [4]
- (b) Explain what a Christian might gain from a pilgrimage to Bethlehem. [7]
- (c) 'Going on a pilgrimage might help individuals but does nothing for their community.'
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 - (0490/13_Winter_2021_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) (i) What items might believers use to help with their private devotion? [3]
- (ii) Describe how Christians use an altar/communion table. [4]
- (b) Explain the importance of thanksgiving in services and prayers. [7]
- (c) 'The best way to pray to God is through private devotion.'
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

1 - (0490/12_Winter_2020_Q1) - Christianity

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|---------|---|----------|
| (a)(i) | <p>Name <u>three</u> historical places connected with the story of the life of Jesus.</p> <p>Bethlehem Nazareth Jerusalem</p> <p>Other places may be mentioned and if they are in the gospels they can be credited.</p> <p>1 mark for each response.</p> | 3 |
| (a)(ii) | <p>Briefly describe what happened to Jesus at <u>one</u> of these places.</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <p>Bethlehem – Jesus was born here. Nazareth – Jesus grew up here. Jerusalem – Jesus died here.</p> <p>2 × 2 marks. 1 mark for a simple statement plus 1 mark for amplification.</p> | 4 |
| (b) | <p>Explain why believers might visit Christian historical places.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective B – Understanding and interpretation.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>Christians go to historical places because they feel closer to where Biblical events took place. It helps to strengthen their faith and bring them closer to God. If they actually walk where Jesus once walked they might understand the events in Jesus' life better and understand how he lived.</p> <p>Other historical sites might be mentioned, such as Lourdes and Rome. Christians visit these places for different reasons, for example many Christians go to Lourdes to get healed from any infirmities they might have. Rome is where the Catholic Church is based and so many Christians go to see the Vatican and the Pope, others might go to Rome to see the sites of events that took place in the period of the early church.</p> <p>Other reasons may be explained, credit if relevant.</p> | 7 |

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| (c) | <p>‘Not all Christian historical places are of equal importance to believers.’ 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.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective C – Evaluation.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>Some candidates might argue people have known where different events took place since the time of Jesus and were visiting these sites as early as the first century. Christians in the early church were known to visit places such as where Jesus was born.</p> <p>Others want to walk the way of the crucifixion to understand and experience the end of Christ’s life in a different and closer way.</p> <p>Some candidates might argue that we cannot know where events took place because there was a period of time between the events and when people started to visit the sites and so the exact places were forgotten. Others may suggest that the events never happened.</p> <p>Credit should be given as long as other points of view and a personal opinion are included.</p> | 6 |
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2 - (0490/12_Winter_2020_Q2) - Christianity

| | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| (a)(i) | <p>Give <u>three</u> types of private devotion.</p> <p>private prayer private bible reading meditation use of the rosary</p> <p>Other relevant types of private devotion may be mentioned and should be credited.</p> <p>1 mark for each response.</p> | 3 |
| (a)(ii) | <p>Briefly describe <u>two</u> ways in which the Bible is used in public worship.</p> <p>Gospels in the Bible are used in most types of collective worship to teach lessons about God and Jesus. Passages are read during sacraments to emphasise teachings, for example, 1 Cor 13 on 'love' and its importance during a marriage ceremony.</p> <p>The Bible is also used during Reconciliation Services.</p> | 4 |
| (b) | <p>Explain the importance of the Bible to Christians.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective B – Understanding and interpretation.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>The Bible is important to Christians because it is the history of their faith and is full of teachings about the relationship between God and his people. The Old Testament shows how God helped his people to become his chosen people and predicts the coming of the Messiah, his son Jesus Christ.</p> <p>In the New Testament Christians read about the founding of the early Christian Church and the types of worship which took place after Jesus died. It also describes the early missionary work of the apostles and the work St Paul did to spread the Christian faith throughout the Roman Empire.</p> <p>It is also the place Christians look to for advice on how to live a good life and enter heaven when they die.</p> | 7 |

(c)

'Christians should pray only to Jesus.'**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 the level descriptors for Assessment Objective C – Evaluation.

Responses might consider some of the following:

Some candidates may agree with the statement. In the Gospel of John, Jesus states that no-one comes to the Father except through him. Only Jesus can intercede with God and so praying to anyone else is a waste of time. Jesus is part of the Trinity and so has a connection with God whereas people are just people who live and die.

Other candidates might disagree and say that in the Bible it says that holy ones (Job 5 v1) can be turned to and that 'the prayers of the saints went up before God' (Revelation 8 v4). Some churches believe that the intercession of saints is supported in the Bible and so is not a waste of time.

Credit should be given as long as other points of view and a personal opinion are included.

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3 - (0490/13_Winter_2020_Q1) - Christianity

| | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| (a)(i) | <p>Name <u>three</u> elements of services of reconciliation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrition • Satisfaction • Absolution • Confession <p>1 mark for each response.</p> | 3 |
| (a)(ii) | <p>Briefly describe what happens during a service of reconciliation.</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <p>It begins with a greeting or blessing and the penitent is invited to trust in God. There may also be a Bible reading. For individual penitents, they then confess their sins and the priest may then offer counsel and propose an act of penance. The penitent accepts the act and recites an act of contrition and resolves to avoid the sin in the future. The priest gives absolution. If there are several penitents, the service can either have individual confession or general confession (penitents do not confess but show contrition).</p> <p>2 × 2 marks. 1 mark for a simple statement plus 1 mark for amplification.</p> | 4 |
| (b) | <p>Explain why some Christians think that services of reconciliation are important.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective B – Understanding and interpretation.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>These services are the way sins can be forgiven after someone has been baptised. These services are based on contrition, which is grounded in charity and love of God.</p> <p>The person must want to receive the sacrament of Penance.</p> <p>These services are based on the Bible. For example, in the book of James it says ‘Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.’ (ch 5 v 16).</p> <p>Other reasons may be explained; credit if relevant.</p> | 7 |

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| (c) | <p>‘Only God can forgive sins.’ 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.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective C – Evaluation.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>Some candidates might argue that it says in the Bible that it is through the death of Jesus that sins are forgiven. For example, Jesus says in Matthew 26 v 28 ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins’ and in John 14 v 6 he says ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.’</p> <p>Some candidates might argue that Jesus taught Christians how to pray and that included Christians forgiving others, ‘Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us’ (Luke 11 v 4).</p> <p>Credit should be given as long as other points of view and a personal opinion are included.</p> | 6 |
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