

IGCSE Cambridge Topical Past Papers

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0490 | Paper 2

2020 — 2025

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1 - (0490/22_Winter_2020_Q1) - *Christianity*

- (a) Describe the Christian artefacts and aids to worship used only at Christmas. [7]
- (b) Explain the importance of Epiphany for Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Attending church services is the most important part of Christian 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]

2 - (0490/22_Winter_2020_Q2) - *Christianity*

- (a) Describe a Christian marriage ceremony. [7]
- (b) Explain the traditional teaching about the importance of making and keeping the vows in a Christian marriage. [7]
- (c) 'Traditional Christian teachings on marriage might be challenging for couples 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]

3 - (0490/22_Winter_2020_Q3) - *Christianity*

- (a) What are the Two Greatest Commandments and why are they called this? [7]
- (b) Explain **one** way in which Christians today might follow each of the Two Greatest Commandments. [7]
- (c) 'Not all Christians can be generous to 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 - (0490/23_Winter_2020_Q1) - *Christianity*

- (a) Describe how Christians might observe Advent, before the Christmas festival. [7]
- (b) Explain the importance of Good Friday for Christians. [7]
- (c) 'Too many Christian festivals are ignored 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 - (0490/23_Winter_2020_Q2) - Christianity

- (a) Give an account of what happens at a believer's baptism. [7]
- (b) Explain why Christians might think it is important to have a religious ritual when a person becomes committed to being a Christian. [7]
- (c) 'Christians should not be afraid of death.'
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 - (0490/23_Winter_2020_Q3) - Christianity

- (a) Describe the features of Rome which make it a place of pilgrimage for Christians. [7]
- (b) Explain why Easter is a time when Christians might choose to go on pilgrimage. [7]
- (c) 'Christians should not combine holidays with pilgrimages.'
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 - (0490/22_Winter_2021_Q1) - Christianity

- (a) Give an account of what happened when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. [7]
- (b) Explain Christian beliefs about the significance of **one** group that visited the infant Jesus. [7]
- (c) 'The teachings in the story of Christmas should be shared with everyone.'
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]

8 - (0490/22_Winter_2021_Q2) - Christianity

- (a) Describe Christian beliefs about the origin **and** authority of the Ten Commandments. [7]
- (b) Explain how obeying **two** of the Ten Commandments might affect the behaviour of a Christian. [7]
- (c) 'Believers need guidance to help them to understand how to obey the Ten Commandments.'
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]

9 - (0490/22_Winter_2021_Q3) - Christianity

- (a) Describe the different types of charitable acts that Christians might carry out through their local church. [7]
- (b) Explain why Christians believe that missionary work is important. [7]
- (c) 'A person does not have to be a member of a church to be a good Christian.'
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 - (0490/22_Winter_2020_Q1) - Christianity

(a)	<p>Describe the Christian artefacts and aids to worship used only at Christmas.</p> <p>Mark according to level descriptors of Assessment Objective A. Knowledge.</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <p>The advent candle. This is still burning up until Christmas Day. It marks the approach and preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus.</p> <p>Nativity scenes which are set up in churches, homes and schools, etc. They depict all the elements of the nativity, e.g. the stable, the angels, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and Kings.</p> <p>Christmas carols/hymns. Songs of praise which retell the story of the birth of Jesus or reflect Christmas traditions.</p> <p>Candidates may give examples including:</p> <p>Bible readings from the Old Testament about the birth/coming of the Messiah. From the New Testament gospel stories of the event of the birth.</p> <p>Vestments and altar clothes. These are usually changed to white to signify that it is Christmastide.</p> <p>Christmas Bells. Special arrangement of bell ringing might be organised to bring in the good tidings of the birth and call people to the services, e.g. Midnight Eucharist/Mass on Christmas Eve.</p> <p>Christingle</p> <p>Candidates may also describe local chapel traditions or artefacts and these should be accredited appropriately.</p>	7
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(b)	<p>Explain the importance of Epiphany for Christians.</p> <p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective B. Understanding and Interpretation.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>Epiphany is usually 12 days after Christmas. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning revealing or displaying and the festival of Epiphany is seen as a celebration of the revealing of Jesus, as Saviour, to the gentiles when the three kings/wise men/magi visited the baby Jesus bearing gifts. The Bible story of the visit of the wise men is the focus of the church service at Epiphany.</p> <p>The gifts of the wise men have symbolic meanings: gold for kingship; frankincense for holiness and myrrh for suffering. Epiphany (and Christmas) are a reminder to Christians that the birth of Jesus is only the start of the story of God's plan for the salvation of the world.</p> <p>For some Christians Epiphany is a greater cause for celebration than Christmas because the true meaning of the birth of Christ is revealed at Epiphany.</p>	7
(c)	<p>'Attending church services is the most important part of Christian festivals.'</p> <p>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 level descriptors for Assessment Objective C. Evaluation.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>Candidates might support the statement with arguments that Christian festivals (although often also public holidays in some countries) are religious festivals which celebrate/commemorate an important event in the Christian year and the history of the religion and there are usually special services of worship held in churches. Examples might be given such as the requirement to participate in the Eucharist at Easter or carols services at Christmas.</p> <p>Reference might be made to family traditions of attending services together with other Christians e.g. midnight mass or Christmas Day/Easter Day services.</p> <p>Some responses might comment on the fact that if festivals are also public holidays they are becoming increasingly secular and many who celebrate them acknowledge their Christian origins but do not attend church and are not practising Christians. Many people are unaware of what happens in churches.</p>	6

2 - (0490/22_Winter_2020_Q2) - Christianity

(a)	<p>Describe a Christian marriage ceremony.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective A. Knowledge.</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <p>Description of events common to Christian marriage ceremonies in any denomination.</p> <p>The important people present are the bride and groom, the officiating minister or someone who is authorised to conduct a wedding, and witnesses. The bride and groom make vows to each other to remain together in all circumstances, richer, poorer, sickness, health until death, etc. The couple usually exchange rings. They are declared man and wife.</p> <p>Prayers are said.</p> <p>Candidates may, according to various traditions, describe different ceremonies and venues and these might be credited appropriately.</p>	7
(b)	<p>Explain the traditional teaching about the importance of making and keeping the vows in a Christian marriage.</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 believe that marriage is the proper relationship in which to have sexual relations, bear children and give each other mutual support. Making the vows is important because Jesus said God's intention for marriage was that a man and woman should become one flesh and that what God has joined together no man should separate. All Christian denominations teach that marriage is a lifelong commitment.</p> <p>The vows are meant to be taken seriously and some Christians believe divorce is wrong and not allowed. Keeping the vows is important in maintaining a loving relationship and providing stability and a loving home for children.</p>	7

(c)	<p>‘Traditional Christian teachings on marriage might be challenging for couples 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.</p> <p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective C. Evaluation.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>An evaluation of the challenges faced by following traditional teaching on marriage might contain arguments that society is ever-changing and that there are many pressures on Christian married couples who wish to follow traditional teaching and traditions.</p> <p>Some responses might give examples of the challenges that might be faced. Increasingly women play a role outside the home and contribute to the upkeep of the household and this requires a progressive attitude towards equality of both partners in a marriage. Other examples might be given. The challenge is that both partners in the marriage must value the contribution of the other.</p> <p>Some may note that the role of the wife is no longer viewed as being subservient to the husband and ‘obey’ is omitted from many marriage vows.</p> <p>Some may discuss the traditional teachings regarding the role of parenting within the marriage. It may be suggested that this is accepted by some Christian couples: ‘be fruitful and multiple.’ However, for others they may choose a lifestyle without children.</p> <p>Another view might be that a couple in a marriage that is based on mutual belief in the sacredness of the vows and love and respect for each other, will be able to face any challenges.</p>	6
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3 - (0490/22_Winter_2020_Q3) - Christianity

(a)	<p>What are the Two Greatest Commandments and why are they called this?</p> <p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective A. Knowledge.</p> <p>Responses might include:</p> <p>The Two Greatest Commandments are 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul. Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' Any version of this is acceptable.</p> <p>Candidates might describe how Jesus was asked a question about which of all the commandments was the most important and this was his reply. They are called the Two Greatest Commandments because they cover all the Ten commandments from the Old Testament. The first five, duty to God. The second five, crimes not to commit against your neighbour (other people).</p>	7
(b)	<p>Explain <u>one</u> way in which Christians today might follow each of the Two Greatest Commandments.</p> <p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective B. Understanding and Interpretation.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>Explanation of two ways:</p> <p>For example, Christian behaviour, attitudes, actions which might demonstrate love of God; in worship, following the commandments, following Christian beliefs.</p> <p>Explanation of behaviour, attitudes, actions which might demonstrate self control and determination not to commit wrong actions against others and also demonstrate love for others.</p> <p>Some specific examples of how Christians might demonstrate these two commandments in their life could include such things as charity work, donations and caring for the sick.</p> <p>All valid responses should be credited appropriately.</p>	7

(c)	<p>‘Not all Christians can be generous to others.’</p> <p>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 level descriptors for Assessment Objective C. Evaluation.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>This is an evaluation of the ways in which Christians might respond on a number of levels to the teaching to be generous/to care for others.</p> <p>It might be seen as a matter of degree. All Christians, whatever their means have the capacity to be generous to others. It is commonly thought that generosity is applicable only to material wealth but it is applicable in every aspect of life. The majority of responses are likely to disagree with the statement and illustrate a variety of ways in which generosity of spirit might be shown to others. Also, it is often the case that people who are themselves in poverty/disadvantaged find ways to help others.</p> <p>The alternative points of view might be matters of degree of generosity, e.g. in receiving charity the poor are allowing the rich to receive blessings, or, a kind word/praise might be more valuable than a gift of money.</p> <p>All relevant views should be credited appropriately.</p>	6
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