

Christianity Beliefs: Assessment 1: MODEL ANSWERS

Question 1.

Give two Christian beliefs about the nature of God.

[2 marks]

-God is omnipotent ✓

-God is benevolent ✓

2 marks – 2 correct answers

Question 2.

Give a quote to support the Christian belief that God is all-powerful.

[1 mark]

“Nothing is impossible with God” ✓ This was said in Luke's Gospels and was said when Gabriel answered Mary when she questioned her pregnancy. This is significant because it shows Christians that with God, he can make anything happen, including a immaculate conception. So God has control over life.

1 mark – Accurate and relevant quote provided.

Question 3.

Give a quote to support the Christian belief that God is all-loving.

[1 mark]

“God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” ✓ -John 3:16 This is significant because it shows Christians that they were loved so much that God sacrificed his son to make atonement for sins and humans which shows that we should be respectful to one another because God did all this for humans.

1 mark – Accurate and relevant quote provided.

Question 4.

Give two ways in which a belief that God is loving may influence a Christian today.

[2 marks]

-God has loved them so, they should love God by praying to him. ✓

-They will trust God, they know even suffering has a purpose as a loving God wouldn't allow them to suffer unless it had a purpose. ✓

2 marks – 2 accurate and relevant influences provided.

Question 5

Explain two ways in which the belief that God is just influences Christians today.

[4 marks]

One way in which the belief that God is just that influences Christians today is that they will be fair towards others ✓. This is because Christians believe God loves them and is also fair to them. So, they have experienced the justice of God which makes others want to experience them too.

✓✓*For example, they will treat people as innocent until proven guilty*

Another way in which the belief that God is just that influences Christians today is that they try and bring justice into the world. ✓ This is because God cares about justice and Christians will try and end injustice by campaigning for a better share of the Earths resource. ✓✓

For example, by supporting Christian agencies such as CAFOD who work to increase the standard of living of people living in LEDCS

4 marks – 2 clear and well explained influences provided

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Question 7

Explain two Christian teachings on the Trinity.

[5 marks]

One Christian teaching on the trinity is that even though Christians are monotheist and believe in the unity of God they believe that God is revealed to the world in three distinct ways. Christians believe that God's nature is revealed in the Bible and is experienced in the world as 'three Persons' – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Christians believe that each 'Person' of God fully possesses all the attributes of God e.g omnipotence/omniscience. In the New Testament all three Persons of the trinity are revealed at Jesus' baptism. As Jesus was coming out of the water, he saw a Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice (God the Father) from heaven saying, "**You are my Son whom I love; with you I am well pleased.**"

Another Christian teaching on the trinity is that it helps Christians to understand the otherwise **paradoxical** claim that God is both **transcendent** and **immanent**. Christians believe God the Spirit is the unseen power of God at work in the world today, showing immanence. God the Father is the creator of Heaven and Earth and exists beyond space and time, showing Gods transcendence.

5 marks – 2 clear and well explained Christian teachings on the trinity. Good use of key terms, accurate and relevant quote from scripture provided

Question 8

"The Bible is the best source of information about the creation of the universe"

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Christian teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]

[+ 3 SPaG marks]

HELP BOX

- **You must include reference to Genesis 1:1-3** – and think about how for some Christians the Bible is the absolute word of God.
- **Consider that not all Christians take Genesis literally** – so other sources of information may be needed.
- **Consider the role of the scientific theories about the creation of the universe** – think about the evidence that there is for these and so they may well be a better source of information.

"The Bible is the best source of information about the creation of the universe"

Some Christians consider the Bible to be the absolute word of God. For example, they believe that God made the world in seven days as it states in Genesis. Furthermore, in Genesis, it is believed that God made everything into existence out of nothing as the universe was made out of Gods word. These words of creative power are Gods simple words of 'Let there be...'. However, in Genesis 1: 1-3 it states: "*In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God*" this means that 'God the Son' was present at the creation and it is described as 'the

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Word'. Also, some Christians believe that Genesis describes an already existing dark and watery chaos so, Christians believe that God wanted to create light to banish the darkness and make all things good in the world. Also, some religious believers believe that everything made on the universe was God's choice and he was able to achieve this because of his omnipotence. This shows to some Christians that a human's life had a purpose and a meaning because God chose human life. Following on from this, some Christians believe that the relationship between God and the universe is panentheistic. This means that they exist together. So therefore, some Christians believe that without God we have no universe. So, that is why some Christians strictly believe that God was the only creator of the universe. This is a convincing argument because some Christians believe that God was the only creator and this universe helps them guide them through life. Which is why some religious believers consider the Bible as the best source of information about the creation of the universe, **as the Bible contains the literal word of God and so is infallible.** ✓✓

However, on the other hand, some Christians believe that The Bible may not be the best source of information about the creation of the universe and don't consider Genesis literally as other sources of information may be needed to see if it wasn't just God that created the universe. For example, they believe that Genesis is not scientifically accurate but, it does hold religious truth which explains what caused it to happen but not how it happened. In addition, some Christians believe that the truth of Genesis was not dictated. This could reflect that God inspired the writers so, there could actually be human error which may mean that God creating the universe may not be true. An example of this is if day means 'day' of a period of time. Furthermore, Some Christians believe that Genesis is a manmade document and the point of the story is to understand Gods benevolence and that humans have a place in the world. Showing the world is a good place. So, they believe that the story is fictional and its just a profound message trying to tell us the truth about God's nature and well as his relationship with his creation. This is a convincing argument because some Christians have a different interpretation on Genesis. This could show that some Christians believe that the Bible may not be the best source of information about the creation of the universe. ✓✓

Moreover, some people believe that religion is not the answer to the creation of the universe. They believe that science is the answer. The most popular theory is the Big bang theory. The big bang theory is a theory where scientist believe that the universe started as a hot and infinitely dense point which exploded overtime, which created matter, energy, space and also time. The reason why many people believe in science creating the universe rather than religion is because it's the most explainable answer as well as having evidence to back up the theory. **Evidence we have to back up the theory of the big bang is that the universe is expanding. For example, when we look at the night sky, the stars we can see are within our own galaxy. However, some patches show other galaxies much further away from stars we can see. This means that the galaxies are moving away from us showing that in the past, they would've been closer and therefore the universe must've been much smaller. So, millions of years ago, the Earth must've been packed into a point and expanded causing the big bang as there was too much pressure - which would've created the universe. Therefore, non-religious people would believe in the science behind the creation of the universe as we have solid evidence.** So, therefore, some people may believe in science over religious beliefs. **In addition, Atheists will believe in science rather than the Bible because they are non- believers in God. So, they therefore wouldn't believe that God created the universe if they believe he doesn't exist so, to them, the Bible wouldn't be the best source of information.** This is a convincing argument as it's the most explainable answer for the creation of the universe. So therefore "The Bible isn't the best source of information about the creation of the universe.

In conclusion, the Bible and science are both good sources of how the universe was created. However, no one actually has the real answer as the Universe was created millions of years ago and the creation is all one mystery. For example, evidence to explain the creation of the universe

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by God is very different to the evidence of the big bang theory. Furthermore, many religious believers will believe that God created the universe in six days. However, were the six days just a period of time? Also, in the big bang theory, do scientists have enough evidence to fully explain how the universe was created by a bang? Altogether, the creation of the universe is unexplainable which is why both Genesis and scientific evidence are both good sources of the creation of the universe. In my opinion, I disagree with the statement. The reason why I disagree is because there is more scientific evidence to explain the creation of the universe rather than the Bible which could be a man-made story. For example, for me, it is more believable that science is behind the creation of the universe rather than God the creator himself because even though God is omnipotent, benevolent, transcendent etc, there is no evidence to back up the Bible. So overall, I disagree with the statement and I believe that science having solid evidence is the best source of information about the creation of the universe.

12 marks – Well reasoned response. Excellent use of evidence to create reasoned arguments.

Clear references to religion applied to the issues. Logical chains of reasoning provided leading to judgements.