**Knowledge organiser: AQA Religious Studies A – Christian Beliefs**

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| **Key Words** | | | |
| 1. Ascension | Jesus returning to be with God in heaven after the crucifixion. | 7. Omnipotent | God’s nature as all-powerful. |
| 1. Atonement | Making things better after sinning, asking for forgiveness from God. | 8. Original Sin | A Catholic belief- The built-in tendency to do wrong which comes from Eve’s disobedience. |
| 1. Benevolent | God’s nature as all-loving. | 9. Resurrection | Jesus returning from the dead after he was crucified. |
| 1. Crucifixion | Jesus’ execution by the Romans on the cross. | 10. Salvation | Being saved from sin and given eternal life in heaven by God. |
| 1. Incarnation | God becoming flesh in the form of Jesus Christ. | 11. Sin | Any thought or action which goes against God’s will. |
| 1. Just | God’s nature as fair. | 12. Trinity | God’s nature as three-parts-in-one, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. |

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| **Key Ideas** | | |
| **Nature of God** | - Christians believe in **one God** who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists  - God is **omnipotent** which means they are almighty and have unlimited power  - God is **benevolent** which means they are all-loving and all-good  - God is **just** which means they are a perfect and a fair judge  - **The Problem of Suffering** asks: if God is all these things why do they allow bad things to happen to good and innocent people? | |
| **The Trinity** | - Christians believe God is three persons in one. This idea is called the **Trinity**.  - Each person of the Trinity is fully God but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same.  - The **Father** is the creator of all life  - The **Son** is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God  - The **Holy Spirit** is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers | |
| **Incarnation**    **Crucifixion** | **Incarnation**  - Christians believe that God was **incarnated** (born) in human form as **Jesus Christ.**  - **Mary** was impregnated by the Holy Spirit and gave birth as a virgin – for Christians this is proof of Jesus’ status as the son of God.  - **Christmas** is the festival that celebrates the incarnation. | **Crucifixion**  - Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate.  - Jesus was then nailed to a **cross** where he died.  - In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important **forgiveness** is.  - When Jesus died, the sky became dark and the earth shook. For Christians, this confirms that Jesus had God’s power.  - This event is remembered on Good Friday |
| **Resurrection**    **Ascension** | **Resurrection**  - After Jesus was dead and buried Christians believe he **rose from the dead** – this is the **resurrection.**  - Early on the Sunday three women visited his tomb expecting to find his body but it was not there.  - After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples and told them to spread the word of him.  - This event is celebrated on **Easter Sunday.**  **-** Christians will give chocolate eggs as presents to resemble the empty tomb and new life. | **Ascension**  **-** Forty days after he rose from the dead Jesus **ascended** (went up) into heaven.  -Jesus gave his disciples a **mission** to spread Christianity around the world. |
| **A belief in resurrection and ascension ...**  - Shows **life after death** is real  - Assures Christians they will rise again after death and live on in the afterlife  - Leads Christians to try and lead a **good life** |
| **Sin and Salvation** | - Christians believe you are **judged** after you die (see Religion and Life) and how well or badly you have lived and treated others decides if you go to **heaven** or **hell.**  - **Sin** is any action or thought that goes against God’s will, Christians can look in the Bible for advice on what is a sin e.g. murder (you shall not kill) and adultery (cheating, you shall not commit adultery)  - God gave humans **free will** but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin.  - **Salvation** is the idea that Jesus’s crucifixion saves human beings from eternal damnation.  - The death of Jesus made up for **original sin** – the idea that we were all damned by Eve’s choice to disobey God – it allows us to atone for sins and reach eternal life in heaven. | |

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| **Key Quotes/ stories** | | |
| **Nature of God** | Power- God created the earth in 7 days by saying: “let there be light.”  -Jesus performed miracles such as walking on water, healing the sick, cured a man of blindness etc.  Just- The parable of the Sheep and Goats.  Benevolent- “God loved the world so much; he gave His one and only son.” | |
| **The Trinity** | *“We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit”* – The Nicene Creed | |
| **Incarnation**  **Crucifixion** | **Incarnation**   * *“The word became flesh”* – John 1:14 * “A virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son; he shall be named Immanuel.” - Bible | **Crucifixion**   * “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” – Bible * When Jesus died, he said: “Father into you hands, I commit my spirit.” - Bible |
| **Resurrection**    **Ascension** | **Resurrection**   * An angel appeared and questioned the disciples: “why do you look for the living amongst the dead?” - Bible | **Ascension**  **-** “Go forth and make disciples of all nations…” -Bible |
| **Sin and Salvation** | **Sin**   * Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate fruit from the tree of knowledge.   **Salvation**   * “For it is through Grace you have been saved…” - Bible | |
| **Afterlife** | * “I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, except through me.” - Bible | |