**PLC TASK 1:**

*Christian beliefs about God being omnibenevolent, eternal, loving, transcendent, immanent, incarnate, omniscient, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, omnipotent, creator, good, judge*

**Not all of these key words matter – on this sheet I have provided the ones you MUST know. Match them to their definition and example and then response to the question provided.**

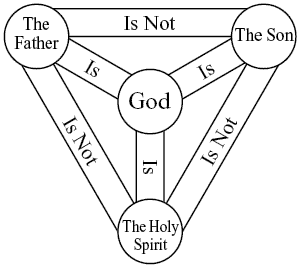
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| **Aspect of God** |  | **Definition** |  | **Example** |
| **Omnipotent** |  | **Everywhere** |  | *Then Job replied to the Lord:* ***“I know that you can do all things, no plan of yours can be thwarted.”*** Job 42:1-2 |
| **Omniscient** |  | **All-knowing** |  | God knows everything: ‘**For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts’**  **1 Chronicles 28:9** |
| **Omnipresent** |  | **Cause of everything** |  | God hears all prayers and so he must be everywhere all at once **“nothing is impossible with God”** |
| **Omnibenevolent** |  | **All-loving** |  | **“God so loved the world that he gave his only son”** A loving God sent Jesus to save the world from sin. |
| **Creator** |  | **In human flesh** |  | **‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth’** Genesis 1:1 |
| **Judge** |  | **All-powerful** |  | God punishes and rewards based on how people act. This determines whether a person goes to heaven or hell. |
| **Incarnate** |  | **A just leader** |  | Jesus is believed to be God in human flesh. For Christians he is divine. **‘The word became flesh’ John 1:14** |

**Explain two Christian teachings about the nature of God.** Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. (5 marks)

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**PLC TASK 2:**

**The Trinity:** Understanding what this teaches about the Nature of God. (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

**The Trinity is really confusing so don’t be worried that you are stuck! :)**

*The Trinity is the idea that God is ONE but has 3 different aspects - this helps Christians to understand how God can exist in different ways and be so complex.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Aspect** | **Explanation** | **Teaching** |
| **God the Father** | Father of Jesus  Creator of the universe  Shows the omnipotence of God | **“Our father who art in heaven”** |
| **God the Son** | Jesus as the human incarnation of God  Reassures that God understand suffering  Bore our sins so we can be forgiven  ‘The word became flesh’  Shows the omni-benevolence of God | **“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son”** |
| **God the Holy Spirit** | Can take any form  The giver of life and answerer of prayers  Brings people to God and comforts people  Shows the omniscience and omnipresence of God. He is everywhere and knows everything! | |

**Using the information above complete the following cloze activity**

Christians believe in the idea that God is ……….. but has ………… different aspects. This helps Christians to understand how ………………………………………………….. and be so ……………………

The Trinity is made up of God the …………., God the ………….., and God the ………………………

God the Father is the …………….. of the universe. This shows the ……………………………. Of God. Jesus, God the Son is considered to be the …………………………………………of God. The Bible calls Jesus the …………… and believe that ‘God …………….. the world so much that he …………………… …………… as a sacrifice. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice we have the grace of God and can be saved. This shows …………………………..of God.

The Holy Spirit can ……………………….. It is the ………….of …………and answerer of ……………… Many people believe is brings people …………………………………………………people. This shows God’s ……………………….. and ……………………………. He is ………………….and knows ………………………..

**EXAM SKILL:**

Give two beliefs expressed about the nature of God in the Trinity. (2)

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2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLC TASK 3:**

Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3).

**Creation – get your head around it and make sure you understand the different viewpoints about it! :)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bible quote: | | Explanation. **What does this show about Creation?** | |
| **Genesis 1:1-3**  “On the first day God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless…and the **Spirit** of God was hovering over the waters…God said ‘Let there be light.” | | This quote is saying…  This shows….  **Which aspect of the Trinity is involved in creation:** | |
| **John 1:1-3**  ‘’ In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word [Jesus] was with God, and the Word [Jesus] was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made…” | | This quote is saying…  This shows….  **Which aspect of the Trinity is involved in creation:** | |
| **GENESIS CREATION STORY OUTLINED: Write down what happened each day.**  Image result for creation story | | | 1 |
| 2 |
| 3 |
| 4 |
| 5 |
| 6 |
| **7 –** On what 7th Day God rested. |
| **‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and birds in the sky…’** | Explain what this quote is teaching:  How is God referring to himself and what could this be evidence of? | | |

**Explain two ways in which beliefs about the creation of the world might influence Christians today. (4)**

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**PLC TASK 4:**

Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3).

**Creation – taking your learning further**

Christians do not always agree with the idea that God created the universe exactly as explained in Genesis.

**There are three main ideas.**

|  |  |  |
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| The Bible is the exact word of God and Genesis explains exactly how the world was made. God made the world in 6 days and each day was 24 hours long. This is possible because God is omnipotent. | The Bible was inspired by God but not written by Him. It is an account of how God made the world but may have some false information. e.g. the word ‘day’ may have been translated wrongly. | The Bible was inspired by God but fully written by man and not a real account of how God made the world. The importance of the story is that God created a perfect world and we are special and have a purpose. |

**Christians fall into two main groups about the importance of the creation story – record the statements underneath the correct heading.**

* As Genesis states, before the world was created there was nothing except God
* God created the world but Science (Big Bang/Evolution) explains how this happened
* God created the world in exactly 7 days
* Design Theory - There must have been a creator because the world is so complex it can’t just have happened by chance. It shows evidence of design.
* God isn’t constrained by science or logic and is beyond human understanding, just because we couldn’t do it doesn’t mean it isn’t possible for God.
* Before the world was created there was nothing except God. Everything needs a cause.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Literalist Christian** - Creation occurred exactly as is written in the Bible. | **Non-Literalist Christian** - The Bible account is a **metaphor** for how God created the world. |
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**Which interpretation of the Bible creation story seems reasonable to you? Explain why (PEEL please!)**

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**PLC TASK 5:**

The problem of evil and suffering. The idea of sin, including original sin

**Remember – God made a perfect world – so why is there so much suffering?**

**READ AND HIGHLIGHT THE KEY FACTS BELOW**

**Evil is a cause of human suffering. There are two types of evil:**

These two types of evil can work together, eg human evil can make natural evil worse. If natural evil, eg a drought brought on by lack of rainfall, causes crops to fail, the policies of a government can make the food shortages for the poorest people worse (moral evil).

1. moral evil - the acts of humans which are considered to be morally wrong
2. natural evil - natural disasters, such as earthquakes or tsunamis

**Suffering** **is the bearing or undergoing of pain or distress.**

Most people experience suffering at some time in their life. Religions attempt to explain suffering, help people to cope with it and learn from it.

**WHY IS EVIL AND SUFFERING AN ISSUE IN RELIGION?**

**If God was all-powerful, wouldn't he stop natural disasters?**

**If God was all-loving, wouldn't he stop suffering?**

**If God was all-knowing, wouldn't he know that people were going to do something evil and stop them?**

**What does Christianity teach is the cause of evil?**

Many Christians believe that evil is the result of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. God punished Adam and Eve for their actions, and the punishment was to endure suffering in life. This is known as 'the fall'.

Some Christians believe that all people inherited the tendency to sin from Adam and Eve. This belief is called **original sin**. According to this belief, all humans are born with a tendency towards evil and the ability to cause suffering.

Most Christians also believe that as well as a power for good (God) there is also a power for evil. Christians refer to the power for evil as Satan or the Devil. Satan is traditionally thought to have been an archangel who disobeyed God and so was thrown out of heaven.

**‘THE INTENT OF MAN’S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH’** – GENESIS

**Why does God allow evil**?

* God has given people free will. He has shown people how they should obey the Ten Commandments and follow Jesus' life and teaching. It is then up to human beings to decide whether or not to follow God's instructions.
* God has a plan for people's lives that they may not always understand. This may include evil and suffering but Christians should trust and have faith in God's plan.
* God wants people to follow the example of Jesus and help those who are suffering. God must have a reason for allowing evil and suffering but the reason is beyond human understanding.
* Christians also pray for those who suffer and try to help them.
* Evil and suffering in this life is a preparation for heaven. Evil and suffering give people a chance to become better people and improve their souls. They believe that God will reward them in heaven.

**How should Christians respond?**

* **PRAYING** - God answers the prayers or helps a person cope with it.
* **HELPING** - Jesus helped people who were suffering and is the best example of how to act when they suffer. **THE PARABLE OF THE SHEET AND GOATS TEACHES THIS!**

**PLC TASK 5a:**

The problem of evil and suffering. The idea of sin, including original sin

**Cornell Notes: Use the facts provided to create focused notes on the topic as a way of recapping the knowledge you should have!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key term or concept | Development and explanlation |
| Natural and Moral Law |  |
| Problem of evil for God |  |
| Why does evil exist? |  |
| Original sin |  |
| Devil |  |
| ‘THE INTENT OF MAN’S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH’ – GENESIS | **Explanation of quote:** |
| Free will and evil |  |
| God’s plan |  |
| Following Jesus’ example |  |
| Prayer |  |
| Preparation for heaven |  |
| How a Christian should respond. |  |
| Parable and the sheep and goats | What does it teach? |

**PLC TASK 6:**

Christian beliefs and teachings about Jesus Christ and salvation. (Incarnation/ Crucifixion/ Resurrection of Jesus.

**Remember:** Christianity is all about the teachings of Jesus so who he is and why he is important really matters!

Match the key term to the definition and the explanation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Aspect of Jesus** |  | **Definition** |  | **Why is it important?** |
| **Incarnation** |  | Jesus rising to heaven 40 days after resurrecting. |  | During his life Jesus suffered as a human, however, he taught forgiveness and performed many miracles which shows divine aspect. |
| **Actions** |  | What Jesus did throughout his life |  | When Mary gave birth to Jesus. Was a baby showing human aspect but virgin birth, angels etc. shows divine (God like) aspect of Jesus. “When Jesus was baptised a voice from heaven said ‘You are my Son’.” |
| **Crucifixion** |  | God becoming flesh as Jesus Christ |  | Jesus was put to death on the cross and suffered like a human. **“Father into your hands I commit my spirit’.”** |
| **Resurrection** |  | Jesus rising from the death three days after dying. |  | Jesus chose when he would ascend (rise) to heaven after speaking with his disciples. **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations…”** |
| **Ascension** |  | Jesus being killed by being placed on a cross. |  | Jesus came back to life (divine), the stone was removed from the tomb and he spoke with his disciples. |

*‘And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead… For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.’ New Testament (1 Corinthians)*

**Explain two Christian teachings about the importance of Jesus Christ.** Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer. (5 marks)

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**PLC TASK 7:**

The meaning of the term grace and its role in personal atonement

**Remember! Most of you were RED for this one – make sure you really try on this sheet! :)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Relevance and connection to Jesus sacrifice. **Why did Jesus need to die?** |
| Sin | An action or thought that is a human behaviour against the laws of God. Some Christians argue that sins will be judged before entering heaven. |
| Salvation | Saving the soul, deliverance from sin and admission to heaven. “For the wages of sin is death but the gift of god is eternal life in heaven.” |
| Personal Atonement | A person is able to, through self-action, atone (seek forgiveness) for previous actions. Jesus’ sacrifice allows us to build a relationship with God through forgiveness. ‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us’ |
| Salvation by Grace | The belief that someone will be saved of their sins by believing in Jesus and following his actions and teachings during their life. “He is the atoning sacrifice of our sins…”. Grace is the unconditional love that God shows to everyone, even when it seems undeserved. God loves all humans despite how they act and it is through Jesus sacrifice that we are able to be saved. |
| Salvation by Spirit | The belief that someone will be saved from their sins through prayer and seeking forgiveness for sins that they have committed. Salvation comes from asking for forgiveness. |
| Salvation by Law | The belief that someone will be saved from their sins by following the law of the land and God’s laws (10 commandments). You can go to heaven by follow the rules of the religion. |

**Use the above information to help you learn/recap the concept of GRACE.**

1. What is grace? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is grace important? **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith… It is the gift of God - not by works.’ - *New Testament (Ephesians)***

**Explain what this quote is teaching about why we can be saved, and why faith may be more important than ‘works’.**

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**Explain two Christian teachings about salvation (4)**

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**PLC TASK 8:**

Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance, including: resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell.

**JESUS CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD! OF COURSE CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH!**

Christians believe in life after death. The resurrection of Jesus and the teachings of the Bible support this idea. Some believe that through the gift of grace people can reach heaven. It is all down to God.

Some people believe that actions are judged and if you act bad and sin the punishment is hell for eternity. Some Christians believe heaven and hell are physical places whilst others believe they are spiritual. Some Christians, like John Hick, believe that Hell cannot possibly exist because an omni-benevolent God would save everyone.

Some Christians believe you are judged and go to heaven or hell immediately after death, whilst others believe you may be in a place of waiting until the second coming of Jesus when he returns to judge everyone and bring the Kingdom of God (perfection) to earth. This is called the FINAL JUDGEMENT.

**Use the quotes to develop and consolidate an understanding of Jesus Christ.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Quote – highlight the key point – the first one is done for you** | **Explanation/Analysis** |
| ‘For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus** our Lord’  *New Testament (Romans)* | How do we receive eternal life and live on after death? |
| Jesus taught the *Parable of the Sheep and Goats.* He said God will divide all nations into the ‘sheep’ and the ‘goats’. Sheep will be on the right and inherit the kingdom of heaven through their good deeds.  *New Testament (Matthew)* | What is the Parable of the Sheep and Goats teaching Christians? |
| ‘They (sinners) will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.’  *New Testament (2 Thessalonians)* | How is this quote describing hell? What will a person not receive? |
| ‘For God so loved that world that He gave His Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life.’  *New Testament (John)* | How do you receive eternal life based on this quote? |
| ‘Faith without works is dead.’  *New Testament (James)* | What is this quote saying about the relationship between faith and works (actions)? |
| ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’  *New Testament (from the Beatitudes, Matthew)* | Who is going to heaven? |