



Questions

1. (a) What is meant by 'baptism'? [2]
(b) Describe what happens at a Christian baptism service [6]
(c) Explain how parents might bring up their children to live a Christian life [7]
(d) 'All Christians should have their children baptised.'
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

(MEG Sample Paper 1998)

2. (a) Choose **either** Christmas or Easter.
Give an account of:
(i) a special service of worship held only during the festival.
(ii) the Christian beliefs on which the festival is based.
(b) Explain how **either** Christmas or Easter shows the importance of family life.
(c) 'Easter is a more important festival for Christians than Christmas.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. (Total 20 marks)

(NEAB Paper 2, Short Course, 13 June 1997)

3. (a) What is Holy Communion? (2 marks)
(b) Describe the role of the priest at Mass. (6 marks)
(c) Explain why the Eucharist is important to Christians. (8 marks)
(d) 'It is not necessary to go to Mass in order to be a good Catholic.'
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer showing that you have considered another point of view. (4 marks)

(Total 20 marks)

(London (1479) Specimen Paper for May/June 1999)

4. (a) Describe how the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. (7 marks)

- (b) Explain:
- (i) the importance of this event; *and*
 - (ii) what Christians believe about the Holy Spirit.
- (c) Christians claim that the Holy Spirit is active in the world today.
Do you think this claim can be proved? Give reasons for your answer.

(Total 20 marks)

(SEG SYL A, Paper 2, June 1993)

5. Questions (a)–(d) can be answered in a single word, phrase or sentence.
Question (e) requires a longer answer.

- (a) Give **one** other name for the eucharist. *(1 mark)*
- (b) Name **one** of the four gospels. *(1 mark)*
- (c) What is the word for the Christian belief that God is three persons in one? *(1 mark)*
- (d) Name **two** people who visit Jesus' tomb and find it empty according to Luke chapter 24. *(2 marks)*
- (e) 'Any set pattern for worship will always end up being lifeless and boring.'
How far do you agree with this statement? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. *(5 marks)*

(Total 10 marks)

(SEG Paper 14801/1, Section A, 1998 Short Course Specimen Questions)



Christianity: a glossary

Absolution

The pronouncement by a priest of the forgiveness of sins

AD/CE

AD = Anno domini, 'In the Year of Our Lord': The Christian era dates from the birth of Jesus. (CE = Common Era)

Advent

'Coming': the period observed as the preparation for Christmas

Agape

The New Testament word for 'love'; also used for the common meal of Christians, a love feast

Altar

A table made of wood or stone, used for the *Eucharist* or *Mass*

Anglican

The Fellowship of Churches, including the Church of England, in full communion with Canterbury and its historic tradition

Anointing

See *Unction*

Apocalyptic

Derived from a Greek word meaning 'revelation', it refers to a type of literature that reveals God's purposes, often concerning the end of the world, as well as the present. The revelations were made to prophets and seers. Examples include the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament, and the Book of Revelation in the New Testament

Apocrypha

Derived from a Greek word meaning 'hidden', it is often used to describe books in the Old and New Testaments that are non-canonical: that is, those included in the Septuagint but excluded from the Hebrew Bible (for example, Ecclesiasticus). Some early Christian writings are sometimes described as Apocryphal New Testament, for example the Gospel of Thomas

Apologists

Christian writers of the first two centuries CE, who set out an apology (a reasoned argument), for their faith; for example, Tertullian and Justin Martyr

Apostasy

In the Septuagint apostasy relates to rebellion against God, as in Joshua 22:22. In the New Testament it means deliberate turning away from God, or abandoning religious customs and duties, as in Acts 21:21

Ascension

This marked the last appearance of Jesus in human form. Luke 24 and Acts 1 tell of his ascension into heaven to assume full divine authority. Ascension day is the sixth Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter

Atonement

The reconciliation between God and humanity (at-one-ment): it restores a relationship broken by sin. New Testament doctrine is that Jesus Christ through his life, death and resurrection is the Saviour who brings about the atonement

Baptism

The rite of initiation into the faith, it involves immersion in or sprinkling with water. There are two symbolic meanings: (1) purificatory, the washing away of sin; (2) regenerative; the death of the penitent is seen in the immersion in water, followed by the rebirth in their emergence from the water

Baptistry

A building or pool used for baptism, especially by immersion

Baptists

Members of a Protestant denomination which practices adult baptism by total immersion as the rite of entry into membership

Beatific vision

For Roman Catholics this is the ultimate goal of human existence; it is the intuitive knowledge of, and union with, God which constitutes the supreme joy of heaven

BC

The time before the birth of Christ

BCE

Before the Common Era

Benedictine

A monastic order founded by St Benedict of Nursia c.530 CE

Benediction

The blessing at the end of a service; also a late afternoon service (Roman Catholic) including the blessing of the congregation with the consecrated host

Bible

A collection of sacred writings: the Massoretic text (Hebrew) of the Jewish Bible contains 39 books, and is also called the Old Testament; the Greek text of the New Testament has 27 books. The Old and New Testaments make up the Christian scriptures as translated in the Authorized and Revised Versions. The Latin Vulgate text and its translations has an extra 15 books known as the *Apocrypha*

Calvinism

A school of Protestant theology, based on the teaching of Jean Calvin, with the emphasis on *pre-destination*, *election*, *original sin* and total depravity: this theology is followed by the Baptists, Presbyterians and Reformed Churches of France, Holland and Switzerland

Catechumens

One who is being taught the principles of Christianity

Catholic

‘Universal’: the catholic faith seen as the universal church throughout the world

Charismatic

A modern movement in the Church, its emphasis is on spiritual gifts such as healing and speaking in tongues

Chrism

Mixture of oil and balsam consecrated by a bishop and used for anointing in various church sacraments such as baptism

Chrismation

Anointing with oil

Church

A community of Christians, or a building in which they worship

College

The order of Roman Catholic Cardinals responsible for electing a new Pope

Confirmation

The rite of admission into full communicant membership of the Christian Church; Roman Catholics regard it as a *sacrament*

Consubstantiation

Luther’s teaching concerning Christ’s presence in the *Eucharist*

Contrition (also *penance* or *confession*)

One of the seven sacraments of Roman Catholicism

Council

An assembly of bishops for the maintenance of discipline and the declaration of doctrine

Covenant

An agreement between God and an individual or group of people; God promised to grant certain blessings if they kept his laws. So in the Old Testament there was a Covenant with Noah, and with Abraham and Israel at Sinai. The New Testament has a new Covenant made through Christ with the Church

Creed

A statement of religious beliefs, for example the *Nicene Creed*

Crucifixion

Roman method of executing criminals by nailing or tying them on to crosses till they died: used to execute Jesus

Diocese

Area ruled by a bishop

Dominicans

A Roman Catholic monastic order founded by St Dominic at Toulouse in 1212 CE

Easter

The most important Christian festival, in memory of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ

Ecumenical

World-wide

Ecumenism

A movement within the Church towards co-operation and eventual unity, it started at the Edinburgh Missionary Conference in 1910. It established the World Council of Churches

Election

This is a doctrine which states that from the beginning of creation, God elected some of humanity to eternal life. The rest were passed by or condemned to eternal damnation. It is particularly associated with Augustine and Calvin

Episcopacy

A system of Church government by bishops

Epistles

New Testament letters, for example, by Paul and John

Eschatology

(Lit: 'the doctrine of last things') The doctrine that there will be an end to this world, probably in judgement, its concern is for the destiny of humanity

Eternal Life

A term used in the Fourth (John's) Gospel, which is almost synonymous with the Kingdom of God in the *Synoptics*. It refers to the special quality of life experienced by those who commit themselves to Christ as Lord

Eucharist

(Lit: 'thanksgiving') The central liturgical act of the Church, originating in the *Last Supper*: the bread and wine focus attention on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. It can also be called *Mass* or *Holy Communion*

Evangelical

A group or church emphasising the gospel and the scriptures as the path to salvation

Evangelist

A gospel writer: a preacher of the gospel

Excommunication

Cut off from, excluded from the Church

Font

The receptacle holding water for use in the *baptism* of infants

Franciscans

An order of friars founded by St Francis of Assisi in 1210 CE, they are dedicated to absolute poverty and the renunciation of worldly pleasure, and to preaching the Gospel and caring for the sick and needy

Free Churches

Non-conformist denominations, free from state control

Gehenna

Hell

Gnosticism

From the Greek word for knowledge, this refers to systems of belief that claim to impart special knowledge of God, of his relation to the world and humanity, and their redemption. Only the enlightened who go through initiation ceremonies can gain such knowledge. Leaders such as Marcion, Valentinus and Ptolemaeus developed different schools. There was strong opposition from the early Church because they minimized the importance of faith in the journey to salvation

Gospel

‘Good news’: of salvation through Christ; also refers to accounts of his life and work as found in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Grace

The favour and mercy of God given to people in this life, and shown in the death of Jesus Christ, his son, as the *atonement* for the sins of humankind, Grace brings about the forgiveness of sins and the *justification* of the sinner. Protestant theology holds that Grace comes through faith alone. Catholic and Orthodox theology emphasises the part of the Sacraments as ‘efficacious signs’ of Grace. They also see Grace as an essential transformation of a person by a new God-like quality

Hades

The place of dead. Righteous & wicked are separated. The good go to the part of Hades called Paradise

Heaven

The habitation of God and his angels, this is where the souls of the righteous will go after death

Heresy

Denial or dissension from **Christian** doctrine by a **Christian**

Hell

The place where damned souls go after death. Also Sheol and Gehenna

Holy Communion (also *Eucharist* or *Mass*)

Central liturgical (public worship) act of the Church

Holy Spirit

The third person of the Holy Trinity: through the Holy Spirit, God the Father continues his redemptive work shown in Jesus Christ. The Spirit is active in the church and the world

Holy Week

The week before Easter, when the last week of Christ’s life is remembered

Icon (also *ikon*)

Painting or mosaic of Christ or one of the saints, used in the Orthodox faith as an aid to devotion

Iconostasis

A screen separating the sanctuary from the nave in Orthodox churches

Immortality

Christian theology holds that the survival of the soul after the death of the body is dependent on the resurrection of Christ, believing that by faith in him, the believer is saved from the death of sin to experience the fullness of *Eternal Life*

Incarnation

This is the doctrine that the eternal word of God, the second Person of the Trinity (Christ), became flesh. The New Testament says that he lived a human life, with all the difficulties that people suffer such as hunger, tiredness, doubt and so on, but that his deity was not reduced or lessened in any way

Indulgences

Gift of money to the Roman Catholic Church who defines it as a ‘remission of the temporal punishment which often remains due to sin after its guilt has been forgiven’

Jesuits

The Society of Jesus was founded by the Spanish knight Ignatius Loyola. Papal approval was granted in 1540. The stress is on missionary and educational activity. Members take the three monastic vows, plus a vow of absolute obedience to the Pope

Jesus Christ

The central figure of Christianity, the Son of Man, born to Mary; also the Son of God, the incarnate Word, one with God the Father, the second Person of the Trinity

Justification

God's gift to individual Christians, this is the event by which the sinner passes from a state of condemnation to being declared just or righteous. Christian theology says that humanity is sinful and in wrong relation to God, but unable to put things right. Protestantism teaches that justification is by faith alone. Catholicism says that Justification is by faith reinforced by the grace that is mediated through the sacraments

Kerygma

Early church preaching (as distinct from exegetical or analytical/critical teaching)

Last Judgement

This is the belief that humankind is under the judgement of God. Some believe it is a process that continues throughout life and after death. Others believe in the judgement of the individual at the end of earthly life. Yet others believe that at the end of history there will be a Last Judgement by Jesus Christ when the saved and the damned will be separated

Lectern

A stand on which the Bible is placed in church

Lectionary

A list of scriptural passages for systematic reading throughout the year

Liturgy

Divine service according to a prescribed ritual – for example, the Eucharist, Matins, Evensong

Logos

A Greek noun meaning 'word': in John 1:1 it is the naming of Christ as the eternally pre-existing and creative word of God. As the Incarnate Word, he is one with the Father, perfect God and perfect man in John's teaching

Lord's Supper

The term used by St Paul for the *Eucharist* or *Holy communion* (1 Corinthians 11:20)

Lutheran Church

A Protestant denomination which follows the teachings of the German monk, Martin Luther, who started the Reformation

Mass

Roman Catholic term for the *eucharist* or *Holy Communion*, it is probably derived from the closing words of the Latin liturgy, 'Ite, missa est'

Matrimony

The rite of marriage, it is one of the seven sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church

Messiah

'The anointed one', an early Christian title for Christ

Methodism

This is a Protestant Christian denomination, which was founded by John Wesley (1703–91). His followers were called Methodists because of their methodical practice of prayer and Bible study

Missal

A book containing words and ceremonial directions for saying mass

Montanism

A Christian movement founded by Montanus in the second century, its members expected the immediate fulfilment of the prophecy concerning the pouring out of the Spirit in the last days

New Testament

The 27 books forming the central section of the canon of Christian scriptures

Non conformist

Protestant denominations that do not accept the teachings of the Church of England

Old Testament

The 39 books of Jewish scriptures included in the canon of Christian scriptures

Order

A brotherhood of monks, friars or nuns – for example, Benedictines, Dominicans and Carmelites; also, in the priesthood of the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches, the three divisions of bishop, priest and deacon

Original sin

This is the doctrine that there is a connection between the sin of Adam and Eve and the sin of all people since. Apart from Genesis, this is mentioned in Psalm 51:5 and Romans 5:12. It is believed that baptism cleanses the baptized person of this original sin

Orthodox

This was the Church of the Eastern Roman Empire which separated from the Roman Catholic West in 1054 CE. It has five major Patriarchates: Constantinople, Moscow, Greece, Cyprus and Jerusalem

Papacy

The papacy is the doctrinal and administrative office of the Bishop of Rome, the central organization of the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope is the successor of St Peter and the Vicar of Christ on earth, and as such is the guardian of the faith in the Roman Catholic Church

Parable

From Greek: placing beside; a comparison; equivalent to Hebrew 'mashal' used by Jesus to teach. Earthly stories with religious meanings, e.g. the wheat and the tares

Paraclete

A term used for the Holy Spirit

Paradise

From the Iranian word meaning 'a walled garden': it is a place where the righteous live with God. Christ used the word to explain the place where the repentant thief would be with him after dying at the crucifixion (Luke 23:43). Revelation 2:7 describes it as the dwelling place of God, in the middle of which is the tree of life

Parousia

From Greek: 'presence' or 'arrival': the second coming or return of Christ

Parish

An administrative subdivision of a diocese with its own church

Paschal

Derived from **Pesach**, the Hebrew word for the Passover; the Paschal candle lit on Holy Saturday symbolizes the resurrection light. The paschal lamb is a title applied to Christ

Passion

The sufferings of Christ

Patriarch

The main Eastern Orthodox bishops; also the early Hebrew leaders such as Abraham and Isaac

Paul of Tarsus (*St Paul*)

He was a Jewish scholar who set out to destroy Christianity. On the road to Damascus he was converted when a blinding light dazzled him and Jesus spoke to him (Acts 9). His Letters have made him accepted as a source and an interpreter of Christian doctrine

Pentecost

The day the early Christians received the gift of the Holy Spirit: it is usually called *Whitsun*

Pope

The chief bishop, the Head of the Roman Catholic Church

Predestination Church

The belief by theologians such as Augustine and Calvin that some (but not all) Christians are chosen or elected by God for salvation

Presbyters

Elders or senior figures in the Church

Presbyterianism

A Protestant Christian form of Church government based on the ideas of Calvin, it teaches that the church leaders should be presbyters or elders, and rejects the system of bishops and prelates. It also emphasises the importance of the local congregation

Priest

A priest is a person authorized to officiate in public worship and religious ceremonies. The term '*presbuteros*' (lit: elder) has been translated as 'priest' in the Catholic and Anglican Churches to refer to those, ordained by bishops, who are authorized to administer the sacraments

Protestant

A major division of the Church protesting against the belief and practice of the Roman Catholic Church, and who do not follow the Orthodox Church, it originates from the Diet of Speyer in 1529 when Luther's supporters 'protested' against the Catholic Church

Pulpit

An elevated stand from which sermons are preached

Purgatory

An intermediate state after death for those not yet ready for the reward of heaven, and not guilty of such serious sin as would condemn them to hell, but who still have a debt to pay for sin; this is a Catholic doctrine ratified by the Council of Trent in 1563

Quakers

A Christian society which arose in seventeenth-century England from the teaching of George Fox, their formal title is the Religious Society of Friends. They have no paid ministry, refuse to take oaths, and reject war. Their meetings for worship are silent unless someone feels that they have to speak

Ransom

A term applied to his death by Christ (Mark 10:45); some of the early Church leaders interpreted it as a ransom paid to Satan for the release of humanity from his power

Reconciliation

This is an important word in the theology of St Paul. Christ was the perfect, sinless sacrifice which redeemed humanity from sin, and so achieved reconciliation with God, bridging the gulf between a righteous God and sinful humanity

Redemption

Salvation through the death of Christ: this is a key word in St Paul's theology and is closely linked with *reconciliation*. Christ's death and resurrection makes it possible, delivering the human race from sin, death and the powers of darkness

Reformation

The sixteenth-century reform movement that led to the formation of the Protestant Churches, it is considered to have been started by Martin Luther when he pinned up 95 Theses against Indulgences

Reformed Churches

The Churches founded after the *Reformation*; This term is now used for the French Protestant Church, and the Calvinist Churches of Holland and Switzerland

Resurrection

A central doctrine of the Christian Church which says that Christ rose from the dead on the third day after the crucifixion. Also the rising from the dead of believers on the Last Day

Revelation

This term indicates a knowledge of God derived from what He himself reveals, as distinct from any thoughts about God which are the result of meditation and contemplation. Also the title of the last book of the bible

Roman Catholic

A major division of the Church, led by the Pope in Rome

Sacrament

This is an outward visible sign of an inward spiritual blessing obtained through the rites of the Church. The Anglican and Reformed Churches have two: baptism and eucharist. The Roman Catholic Church has seven: baptism; confirmation; matrimony; orders; eucharist; penance and extreme unction

Salvation Army

A Protestant organization founded by William and Catherine Booth, it is very evangelical, has open-air services with military-style bands, and emphasizes social work as an important aspect of the Gospel

Sanctification

This is the purification and dedication of life through the grace of God. In Catholic theology, sanctification comes through the grace that comes through the sacraments. Protestantism stresses the importance of faith alone

Satan

(Hebrew ‘the accuser’) In the New Testament, he is the leader of evil spirits who oppose God. Also, the chief of devils of fallen angels

Satisfaction

Doctrine of Anselm of Canterbury, that the death of Christ offered to God the satisfaction (apology) due for the offence by which man’s sin had offended God’s divine majesty

Sheol

See Hell

Sin

Act of disobedience or rebellion against the known will of God; the human condition assessed as disordered and needing transformation

Society of Friends

See *Quakers*

Soteriology

A branch of theology concerned with the salvation of humankind – this includes: the fall of man and sin; God’s redemptive work and the atonement in Christ; grace and eternal life

Spirit

In the New Testament the Spirit of god is referred to as the Holy Spirit. It represents a special power of God. It can also be another word for the soul

Stations of the Cross

14 pictures of Jesus’ journey to Calvary

Synoptic

A common viewpoint – for example, the first three Gospels by Matthew, Mark and Luke

Tabernacle

A receptacle for the vessels containing the Blessed Sacrament, the bread and wine for the Mass

Thirty-Nine Articles

The accepted doctrines of the Church of England

Transfiguration

The visionary transformation of Christ after the resurrection

Transubstantiation

The Roman Catholic view of the Eucharist, it says that the substance of the elements of bread and wine is transformed by God’s power into the substance of the body and blood of Christ directly upon the words of the priestly consecration of the Mass

Trinity

One God in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Unction

This is the anointing with oil in a religious ceremony. In the British coronation service the monarch is anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury before being crowned. The sick can be anointed in a special service with prayers for healing. Extreme Unction is a preparation for death, and is a sacrament in the Catholic Church. It can also be for the restoration of the sick to health

Universalism

This is the doctrine that God’s purposes are not limited to the Jews, but will ultimately include all nations. Also, the doctrine that at the end of time, all of humankind will be saved and will share eternal salvation

Vatican

The Pope’s residence in Rome, it is the administrative centre of the Roman Catholic Church

Viaticum

Holy Communion given to a person near to death

Vicarious suffering

The concept that one person without fault can suffer for another person who is guilty; Christ the sinless victim suffered in the place of the guilty, thus atoning for them

Virgin Birth

The doctrine that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, having no human father

Virgin Mary

The mother of Jesus Christ