

What people believe will happen to them after **death** can influence the way they **live** their lives.

Christians Believe in Heaven and Hell

- 1) **Life after death** is the idea that, although your **body** may die and decay, your **soul** can live on.
- 2) Christianity teaches that the **soul** lives on after death (**immortality** of the soul), and that the body will be **resurrected** (brought back to life) for Judgement Day, just as Jesus was resurrected after his crucifixion.
- 3) Christians believe that God will judge you, and you'll go to either **heaven** or **hell**:

Heaven is often portrayed as a place of great beauty and serenity, a **paradise** where you'll spend eternity with God — as long as you believe in **Jesus** and have followed his **teachings**, you can be saved by **God's grace** (see p.5). The **soul** can go to heaven even though the body ('earthly tent') is gone.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die..." **John 11:25 NIV**

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." **2 Corinthians 5:1 NIV**



Freshly-washed bedding was Arnie's idea of heaven.

Hell, on the other hand, is often portrayed as a place of **torment** and **pain** — the final destination of **nonbelievers** and those who have led **bad** lives.

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." **Matthew 25:46 NIV**

- 4) However, not all Christians believe that heaven and hell are **real** places — many Christians see heaven and hell as **states of mind**. In heaven you'll be **happy**, and know God — in hell you'll be **unable** to know God's love. Pope John Paul II said that hell was a **metaphor** for how people who've **rejected** God will **feel**.
- 5) Some Christians, for example Roman Catholics, believe that going to hell means that any **connection** they have to God will be **severed** forever: "This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God... is called 'hell' " (**Catechism of the Catholic Church 1033**).
- 6) Some believe God **wouldn't** punish people for **eternity**. A few believe that those who God finds **unacceptable** will be **annihilated**. In a report called 'The Mystery of Salvation', senior members of the **Church of England** said that for those people "the only end is **total non-being**".
- 7) Some believe that a loving God **wouldn't** allow anyone to go to hell.

Purgatory

Roman Catholics believe in a place, or state of existence, called **Purgatory**. Here **sins** are punished and the person must "undergo purification" (**Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1030**) before the soul can move on to heaven. Protestants believe this isn't in the Bible, so they **reject** it.

Christians Believe Resurrection Happens at the Last Judgement

- 1) Many Christians believe that Jesus will return to Earth in the **Second Coming** (**Parousia**), and everyone who has died will be **resurrected**: "in Christ all will be made alive" (**1 Corinthians 15:22 NIV**).
- 2) Some believe that all of humanity will then be judged at the **Last Judgement**. Those that God finds **acceptable** will enter **heaven** — the rest will go to hell, as in the story of the sheep and the goats (**Matthew 25:31-46**).
- 3) Some Christians, e.g. **Roman Catholics**, believe in a **personal** day of **judgement** straight after a person **dies** — their actions will be judged and they'll go to heaven or hell **straight away**. Some think they'll be **judged again** at the Last Judgement, and will **re-enter** heaven or hell in their **resurrected forms**.
- 4) Others don't believe in a personal judgement — the soul must **wait** to be judged at the **Last Judgement**.

"Christ... ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until he return to judge all Men at the last day." **39 Articles IV**

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due to us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." **2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV**

The examiners will be judging your answers...

Outline three Christian beliefs about judgement. [3]



Revision Summary

That was a lot to take in there, so now see how you get on with these exam-style questions. They should give you an idea of how much you'll be expected to write in the exam.

If there's anything you can't answer, go back through the section and have another go when you've re-read it. For some questions — you'll be told which ones — there are extra marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology, so check your writing carefully.

Let's get cracking — have a go at these 1 mark multiple choice questions.

- 1) Which of the following words means that God is all-powerful?
a) just b) omnipotent c) immanent d) benevolent
- 2) Which of the following is Jesus's return to heaven to be with God the Father?
a) resurrection b) Last Supper c) ascension d) crucifixion

You've found your feet now, so let's jump up to 2 marks.

- 3) Give two beliefs about the Last Judgement.
- 4) Give two examples of different types of evil.
- 5) Give two ways that Christians celebrate Easter.

Comfortable with the 2 mark questions? Try your hand at some 3 mark ones.

- 6) Outline three beliefs about purgatory.
- 7) Outline three Christian teachings about the Trinity.
- 8) Outline three Christian beliefs about suffering.

Jumping up to 4 marks now. You need to give two points and develop them.

- 9) Explain two reasons why liturgical worship is important for some Christians.
- 10) Explain two Christian beliefs about creation.
- 11) Explain two contrasting Christian views on the Eucharist.

Organise your points and write concisely in the 4, 5 and 6 mark questions — make your points crystal clear to the marker.

Up to 5 marks now. Explain your points and make sure you refer to a sacred text.

- 12) Explain two reasons why evangelism is important to Christians.
- 13) Explain two reasons why prayer is important to Christians.
- 14) Explain two Christian teachings on baptism.

Just for fun, have a go at this 6 mark question. You'll need to explain and analyse to get full marks.

- 15) Explain why Jesus's resurrection is important for Christians.

It's the one you've been looking forward to — the 12 mark question.

Many essay questions like this one will have extra marks for SPaG and specialist terminology too.

- 16) 'Pilgrimage is the best way for a Christian to develop their relationship with God.'

Evaluate this statement.

Give arguments that support the statement and arguments that disagree with the statement.

You must include:

- examples from Christian teachings
- different Christian opinions
- a conclusion.

Turn to the 'Do Well in Your Exam' section for tips on writing essays.