

Synoptic links

GCSE
Christology and catholic beliefs

Issues for analysis and evaluation

- The extent to which the birth narratives provide insight into the doctrine of the incarnation.
 - The relative importance of redaction criticism for understanding the biblical birth narratives.
 - The nature of the resurrected body.
 - The historical reliability of the resurrection.
 - The relative value of the Bible as teaching on the meaning and purpose of life.
 - The extent to which the Psalms studied offer a guide to living for Christians.
- The extent to which the Bible can be regarded as the inspired word of God.
Whether the Christian biblical canonical orders are inspired, as opposed to just the texts they contain.
The extent to which the kerygmata (within the areas of Acts studied) are of any value for Christians today.
Whether the speeches in Acts have any historical value.
The validity of using critical realism to understand Jesus.
The validity of using apocryphal gospels to understand Jesus

F: Two views of Jesus:

A comparison of the work of two key scholars, including their views of Jesus with reference to their different methods of studying Jesus:

Crossan: Jesus the social revolutionary; using apocryphal gospels; seeing Jesus as a product of his time; what the words of Jesus would have meant in Jesus' time.

Wright: Jesus the true Messiah; critical realism; texts as 'the articulation of worldviews'; seeks to find the best explanation for the traditions found in the Gospels.

E: The early church (in Acts of the Apostles):

Its message and format: the kerygmata as presented by C. H. Dodd, with reference to Acts 2:14-39; 3:12-26.

The challenges to the kerygmata (with reference to the historical value of the speeches in Acts and the work of Rudolf Bultmann).

The adapting of the Christian message to suit the audience.

D: The Bible as a source of wisdom and authority:

How the Christian biblical canon was established.
Diverse views on the Bible as the word of God:
different understandings of inspiration (the objective view of inspiration; the subjective view of inspiration; John Calvin's doctrine of accommodation

A: Jesus - his birth:

Consistency and credibility of the birth narratives (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:26-2:40); harmonisation and redaction; interpretation and application of the birth narratives to the doctrine of the incarnation (substantial presence and the kenotic model)

B: Jesus - his resurrection:

The views of Rudolf Bultmann and N.T. Wright on the relation of the resurrection event to history; interpretation and application to the understanding of death, the soul, resurrected body and the afterlife, with reference to Matthew 10:28; John 20:21; 1 Corinthians 15; Philippians 1:21-24.

C: The Bible as a source of wisdom and authority in daily life:

The ways in which the Bible is considered authoritative: as a source of moral advice (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Luke 6:36-37); as a guide to living (Psalm 119:9-16; Psalm 119:105-112); as teaching on the meaning and purpose of life (Genesis 1:26-28; Ecclesiastes 9:5-9) and as a source of comfort and encouragement (Psalm 46:1-3; Matthew 6:25).

Religious figures and Sacred Texts



Scholars

Rudolf Bultmann
John Calvin
John Dominic Crossan
N. T. Wright.

Future synoptic links

Religious Language
Magisterium and Authority

Theme 2

Prior synoptic links

- The nature of God in Philosophy – Inductive and Deductive Arguments
- Normative Ethics

E: The community of believers

Acts 2:42-47:

- Listening to the Apostle's teaching: **Didache**
- Fellowship: **koinonia**
- Breaking bread: **eucharist**
- Prayers: Justin Martyr

Activities of Churches today

Issues for evaluation and analysis

- The extent to which wealth is a sign of God's blessing.
- Whether the ascetic ideal is compatible with Christianity.
- The extent to which the UK is a modern mission field.
- The relative ease of assimilation of Christian migrants into Christian churches in the UK. Whether men and women are equal in Christianity.
- The extent to which feminist theology impacts modern Christian practice.

F: Key Moral Principles - Biblical sources (Authority)

- Lev, 19:34
- Lk, 10:25-28
- Ex, 34: 6-7
- 1 Jn 4: 19-21
- 1 Sam 12:24
- Eph 4: 25-27
- 11 Cor 1:12
- 1 Tim 1:5
- Mt 6: 14-15
- Col 3: 12-13

A: The nature of God: is God male?

Issues of male language about God

All language about God is Metaphor

Pastoral benefits and challenges of the model of Father; **Sallie McFague and God as Mother**

Can God suffer? Impassibility of God

The modern view of a suffering God
Jurgen Moltmann

Scholars

Sallie McFague
Jurgen Moltmann
Augustine of Hippo
Gregory The Great
Anselm/ Gustav Aulen
Martin Luther
E P Saunders

B: The Trinity: monotheism

Is Christianity monotheistic? Was the baptism of Jesus a kind of adoption? Is the evidence for the Trinity in the Bible coherent, consistent and pervasive? What common ground on the nature of God is shared between Christians, Muslims and Jews? Where is the divergence?

Heresies and the Development of The Creed

Nicaea to Chalcedon

Religious concepts and religious life



D: Faith and Works - Luther (Rom 1:17)

Justification is accessed through:

Sola Fide/ Sola Gratia/Sola Scriptura
Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:6; he rejected James 2:24

Council of Trent and two sources of Authority; Scripture AND Apostolic Succession

E P Sanders

O.T. Hermeneutics – Luther's misinterpretation of O.T Law

C: Theories of The Atonement

- **Victory/Ransom**, (I Corinthians 15); (Mark 10:45)
- **Substitution/Satisfaction/ Righteousness**; modelled on legislative system of justice
- **Moral Example**; Jesus an **enlightened human** who set a superior moral example

Future synoptic links

- Religious identity and practices
- Determinism
- Religious Language; non-cognitive and meaningful

Prior synoptic links

- Key moral principles
- Mission of the Church today
- Theodicies
- Natural Law (Aquinas and Finnis)

Issues for Analysis and evaluation

- The validity of referring to God as mother
- The theological implications of a suffering God.
- The monotheistic claims of the doctrine of the Trinity.
- Whether the doctrine of the Trinity is necessary to understand the God of Christianity.
- The extent to which the three theories of the Atonement are contradictory.
- The extent to which the three theories suggest that the Christian God is cruel.

F: Historical developments in religious thought - challenges from pluralism and diversity within a tradition:

Difference between religious pluralism and tolerance of religious diversity; the exclusivist and inclusivist views expressed in the Christian Bible (Deut 6:5; Joshua 23:16; John 14:6; Acts 4:12); the contribution of John Hick and Karl Rahner to Christian inclusivism (and the difference between their positions); the differences between Christian universalism and pluralistic universalism

E: The relationship between religion and society: respect and recognition and the ways that religious traditions view other religions and non-religious worldviews and their truth claims.

Historical developments in religious thought - challenges from science: Richard Dawkins' and Alister McGrath's contrasting views on the relationship between religion and science, and the nature of proof; the limits of science; the 'God of the gaps' argument

D: The conflicting religious and non-religious views on Christianity in the UK (the value of Christian faith schools; whether the UK can be called a 'Christian country'); beliefs conflicting with laws of the country; perceived challenges to Christianity (decline of role and status of Christianity; reduced impact in public life; restricted religious liberty).

A: Social developments in religious thought - attitudes towards wealth:

The dangers of wealth (with reference to Mark 10:17-25; Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:33-34, 1 Timothy 6:10); apparent contradiction between biblical teaching on stewardship and the ascetic ideal; the prosperity gospel of the Word-Faith movement.

Significant Social and historical developments in religious thought

B: Migration and Christianity in the UK

Challenges of Christian migration to the UK, with reference to assimilation, provision of worship, style of worship and issues of culture

The Reverse Mission Movement to the UK

C: The relationship between religion and society: religion, equality and discrimination. Social developments in religious thought - feminist theology and the changing role of men and women:

The contribution of Mary Daly and Rosemary Radford Ruether to feminist theology. The changing role of men and women with reference to the issue of the ordination of women priests and bishops; the impact on the lives of believers and communities within Christianity today.

Scholars

Mary Daly
Rosemary Radford-Ruether
Richard Dawkins
Allister McGrath
John Hick



Future synoptic links

Religious identity
Pluralism
Religious Language

Theme 4

Prior synoptic links

- Maleness of God
- Religious concepts and Religious Life
- Church today

Issues for analysis and evaluation

- Whether the work of the World Council of Churches can be viewed as a success or a failure.
- The extent to which the non-membership of the Roman Catholic Church affects the aims of the World Council of Churches. The strengths and weaknesses of the Charismatic Movement
- Whether the political and ethical foundations of liberation theology are more important than any religious foundations.
- The extent to which liberation theology offered a cultural challenge to the Roman Catholic Church.

F: Religious identity through responses to poverty and injustice:

The basis (political, ethical and religious) of South American liberation theology with reference to Gustavo Gutierrez and Leonardo Boff; Roman Catholic Church responses to South American liberation theology

E: Religious identity through religious experience:

The development of the Charismatic Movement post-1960; main beliefs; implications for Christian practice in the experience of believers and Christian communities; philosophical challenges to charismatic experience (verification and natural explanation)

D: Religious identity through unification:

The development of the Ecumenical Movement since 1910 (World Missionary Conference); the World Council of Churches, its rationale, its mission and its work in three main areas: Unity, Mission, and Ecumenical Relations; Public Witness and Diakonia; and Ecumenical Formation.



Religious practices that shape religious identity

A: Religious identity through diversity in baptism:

The case for infant baptism by Augustine and Zwingli (the role of baptism in salvation; the role and importance of Christian parents); the case for believer's baptism with reference to Karl Barth (the example of Christ; importance of consent)

B: Religious identity through diversity in Eucharist:

The importance of the Eucharist in the life of contemporary Christian communities; selected modern Roman Catholic theories (transignification and transfinalization); selected Protestant approaches (consubstantiation and memorialism); the similarities in Eucharistic practice in Christian traditions.

C: Religious identity through diversity in festivals: **Christmas**

The similarities (with reference to the focus on incarnation of Christ) and differences (date of celebration; focus of Advent season; Christmas services) between the Eastern Orthodox and the Western churches' celebration of Christmas.

Easter

The similarities (with reference to the doctrine of the resurrection of Christ) and differences (date; liturgical practice at Easter; the diversity within each stream of tradition) between the Eastern Orthodox and the Western churches' celebration of Easter.



Scholars

Augustine of Hippo
Karl Barth
Gustavo Gutierrez
Leonard Boff
Anthony
Gavin DaCosta