

GCSE Religious Studies – Component 1

Students: Ask someone at home – mum, dad, brother, sister to help you with your revision. Make them a cup of tea, hand them this sheet and show them everything you know about your RE!

Parents: How to use this

- Read the **question aloud**
 - Student answers **from memory**
 - Parent checks against the **answer clues**
 - If unsure, prompt with: “*Can you add one more detail?*”
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CREATION (Catholic Beliefs & Science)

Q1. What does *creation ex nihilo* mean?

Answer should include:

God created the world out of nothing

Q2. Which Christian thinker taught creation ex nihilo?

Answer:

St Augustine (in *Confessions*)

Q3. What does creation ex nihilo show about God?

Answer should include:

God is omnipotent and transcendent

Q4. Why do Catholics not read Genesis as literal history?

Answer should include:

It uses symbolism

It teaches truths, not science

Q5. Which Pope taught that Genesis is symbolic but meaningful?

Answer:

Pope John Paul II

Q6. Which scientist proposed the Big Bang theory?

Answer:

Stephen Hawking

Q7. Do Catholics accept the Big Bang?

Answer should include:

Many do

It explains *how*, not *why*

Q8. Which scientist proposed evolution?

Answer:

Charles Darwin

Q9. Why does Richard Dawkins challenge Catholic beliefs?

Answer should include:

Rejects God

Believes science explains everything

GENESIS & HUMAN VALUE

Q10. How does Genesis 1 describe God?

Answer should include:

Creator

All-powerful

Ordered

Q11. How does Genesis 2 describe God?

Answer should include:

Personal

Close to humans

Relational

Q12. What do both creation accounts teach about humans?

Answer should include:

Humans are special

Life comes from God

Q13. What does *imago Dei* mean?

Answer:

Humans are made in God's image

Q14. Why is human life sacred in Catholic belief?

Answer should include:

God created life

Only God can take life

ABORTION & SANCTITY OF LIFE

Q15. When do Catholics believe life begins?

Answer:

At conception

Q16. Which commandment supports Catholic views on abortion?

Answer:

“Do not kill”

Q17. What alternative to abortion do Catholics promote?

Answer:

Adoption

Q18. How do Humanists view abortion differently?

Answer should include:

No belief in God

Focus on quality of life

Q19. What is Peter Singer’s key argument?

Answer should include:

Speciesism

Some lives seen as less valuable

ART & SYMBOLISM

Q20. How is God shown in Michelangelo’s *Creation of Adam*?

Answer should include:

Powerful

Intelligent

Omniscient

Q21. Why are God and Adam’s hands nearly touching?

Answer:

Shows closeness between God and humans

Q22. What does Adam’s appearance show?

Answer should include:

Made in God’s image

Special relationship

TREE OF LIFE (SYMBOLISM)

Q23. What does the hand of God symbolise?

Answer:

God reaching out to humanity

Q24. What does the lamb represent?

Answer:

Jesus as the Lamb of God

Q25. What do the vine and branches represent?

Answer:

Growth and spread of Christianity

Q26. What does the cross as the Tree of Life mean?

Answer should include:

Jesus brings new life

Victory over death

STEWARDSHIP & CAFOD

Q27. What is stewardship?

Answer:

Duty to care for creation

Q28. Which Pope wrote *Laudato Si'*?

Answer:

Pope Francis

Q29. Why should humans protect the environment?

Answer should include:

Creation belongs to God

Future generations matter

Q30. How does CAFOD help people?

Answer should include:

Education

Healthcare

Emergency aid

Development projects

SVP & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Q31. What does SVP stand for?

Answer:

St Vincent de Paul Society

Q32. What is the main aim of the SVP?

Answer:

Helping those in need

Q33. Which teaching of Jesus inspires the SVP?

Answer:

Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

Q34. What does Catholic Social Teaching say about humans?

Answer should include:

All humans have dignity

All made in God's image

Catholic Beliefs about Evil and Suffering

Q1. How did St Augustine explain the origin of evil?

Prompt: Did God create evil?

What to listen for:

- God created the world perfect
- Evil is a *privation* (absence of good)
- Evil comes from human free will
- Linked to Adam and Eve

Q2. What does St Augustine mean by evil as “privation”?

Prompt: Is evil something created?

What to listen for:

- Evil is not a thing
- It is a lack of goodness
- Happens when humans turn away from God

Q3. How does free will explain the existence of evil?

Prompt: What choice do humans have?

What to listen for:

- Humans can choose good or evil
- God allows freedom
- Moral evil results from bad choices

Q4. Why do Catholics believe God is still good despite suffering?

Prompt: What about Jesus and suffering?

What to listen for:

- God did not create evil
- God suffers with humanity
- Jesus’ suffering gives meaning to human suffering

Suffering and Jesus

Q5. Why is Jesus' suffering important in Catholic belief?

Prompt: What happened on the cross?

What to listen for:

- Jesus suffered and died
- Shows God understands human pain
- Brings salvation
- Links to love and sacrifice

Q6. What did Pope John Paul II teach about suffering?

Prompt: Can suffering have value?

What to listen for:

- Wrote *Salvifici Doloris*
- Suffering can lead to love and compassion
- Humans respond to suffering with kindness

Q7. How does suffering influence Catholic action today?

Prompt: Think charities.

What to listen for:

- Helping the poor and suffering
- CAFOD and SVP
- Inspired by Jesus' suffering

Christian and Jewish Beliefs

Q8. How do Jewish beliefs explain suffering?

Prompt: What law should people follow?

What to listen for:

- Follow God's laws
- Suffering caused by disobedience
- Torah and mitzvot
- *Pikuach nefesh* (saving life)

Q9. What do Christians and Jews agree about evil?

Prompt: Think behaviour and responsibility.

What to listen for:

- Humans are responsible
- Moral choices matter
- God gives guidance through laws

Challenges to Belief (Problem of Evil)

Q10. Why does the problem of evil challenge belief in God?

Prompt: What qualities does God have?

What to listen for:

- God is all-loving
- God is all-powerful
- God is all-knowing
- Why doesn't God stop suffering?

Q11. What is John Mackie's challenge to belief in God?

Prompt: Is belief logical?

What to listen for:

- God's qualities contradict evil
- Called the *inconsistent triad*
- Therefore God may not exist

Q12. How does Richard Dawkins use suffering to challenge belief?

Prompt: What example does he use?

What to listen for:

- Digger wasp
- Extreme natural suffering
- Too much suffering for a loving God

Q13. How do William Rowe or John Stuart Mill explain suffering?

Prompt: Think fairness and innocence.

What to listen for:

- Innocent suffering
- Unjust pain
- No clear reason for suffering

Catholic Responses to Suffering

Q14. How does prayer help Catholics respond to suffering?

Prompt: Think Rosary.

What to listen for:

- Focus on Jesus
- Comfort and strength
- Reflection on suffering

Q15. Why do Catholics go on pilgrimage to Lourdes?

Prompt: What do they hope for?

What to listen for:

- Healing (physical and emotional)
- Strengthen faith
- Connect to suffering of Jesus and Mary

Art and Response to Suffering

Q16. What does Michelangelo's Pietà show about suffering?

Prompt: Look at Mary and Jesus.

What to listen for:

- Grief and love
- Jesus' sacrifice
- Mary accepts suffering
- Suffering can have meaning

Q17. Why do Catholics value statues and religious art?

Prompt: Do they worship them?

What to listen for:

- Not worshipped
- Help focus prayer
- Express beliefs visually
- Aid understanding and remembrance

Evaluation Practice (EXAM SKILLS)

Q18. “The existence of suffering proves God does not exist.”

What arguments would you include **for** and **against** this statement? **Prompt:** Catholic and non-religious views.

What to listen for:

- Non-religious challenge (Dawkins, Mackie)
- Catholic response (free will, Jesus, love)
- Conclusion with judgement