



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject Religious Studies (GCSE Short Course)

Year 9: Term 1

Christianity: Beliefs in Great Britain

**What I need to know**

**Should the UK still be classed as a Christian country?**

**Statistics on belief from the 2021 Census**

Student reference point

**Beliefs in Great Britain**

**Results of the 2021 census compared to the 2011 and 2001 census**

2021 Census showed Christianity as the religion of 46.2% of British people, (still the largest proportion). In contrast the 2011 Census showed Christianity as the largest religion (59.3 % - down from 72% in 2001)

The second largest was Islam at 6.5% (increased from 3% in 2001 to 4.8% in 2011) then Hinduism (1.7%) Sikhism (0.9%) Judaism (0.5%) Buddhism (0.5%) and others (0.6%)

There was an increase in those reporting no religion to 38% in 2021 (25.1% reported having no religion in 2011, up from 15% in 2001)

Overall, this shows that Christianity is still the religion followed by the largest number of people, but this number is declining while the number stating that they do not follow any religion is increasing. Figures for minority religions are increasing.

**UK Laws, festivals and traditions rooted in the Christian tradition**

- Laws related to the Ten Commandments (e.g. not killing, not stealing)
- Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas are celebrated by many people, including non-Christians
- Traditions such as Christian ceremonies for births, marriages and deaths remain popular

**Should the UK still be classed as Christian?**

Supporting views...

- Nearly half of those who completed the 2011 census considered themselves to be Christian
- Many people still have rites of passage ceremonies in church (e.g. christenings, weddings, funerals)
- Some Christian churches are growing
- Church leaders are still influential (e.g. Bishops in the House of Lords)
- Immigration can bring Christians to the country

Opposing views...

- Increase in non-religious beliefs and society has become more secular (e.g. shops open on Sunday; relaxing of divorce and abortion laws)

- Christian traditions but now also holds large communities made up of different faiths such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism which all have different places of worship, dress codes etc. Greater diversity from immigration.
- Attendance at Christian services is falling, far below the number of people stating that Christianity is their religion. In particular younger people are reporting themselves as having no religion.
- Being an atheist is now more acceptable than in the past. Emphasis on Science rather than religion.

Challenge question

Why do less people classify themselves as Christian in modern Britain?

Suggested reading

[GCSE Religious Studies - Eduqas - BBC Bitesize](#)



## Highsted Knowledge Organiser

### Subject RS GCSE

### Year 9: Term 2

### Nature of God

<p>What I need to know</p> <p>What do Christians believe about the nature of God?</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p><i>Theist : Someone who believes in God/s</i></p> <p><i>Agnostic: Someone who is undecided whether they believe in God/s.</i></p> <p><i>Atheist: Someone who does not believe in God/s.</i></p> <p><i>Monotheist: someone who believes in one God</i></p> <p><i>Polytheist: someone who believes in more than one God</i></p> <p><i>Omnipotent: all powerful</i></p> <p><i>Omniscient: all knowing</i></p> <p><i>Omnibenevolent: all loving/forgiving</i></p>
<p>Student reference point</p> <p><b>Christians believe that God is...</b></p> <p>- <b>Omnipotent</b> (all powerful). This was demonstrated in the book of <b>Exodus</b> where he unleashed a series of plagues upon Egypt including turning water into blood and killing all first born children. These demonstrated his power of nature, the elements and even life and death</p> <p>- <b>Omnibenevolent</b> (all-loving/ininitely good). Demonstrated in the following texts:</p> <p><b>Psalm 86:15.</b> <i>But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.</i></p> <p><b>This tells us that God cares for us, is full of love for us, and will never leave us.</b></p> <p><b>John 3:16.</b> <i>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.</i></p> <p><b>This tells us that God loves us so much that he sacrificed his son so that we could be forgiven and go to heaven for eternity</b></p> <p><b>Romans 8: 37-39.</b> <i>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</i></p> <p><b>This tells us that nothing will come between us and God's love</b></p> <p>- <b>Evil and suffering</b></p> <p><b>Quote on God from Epicurus:</b></p> <p>"Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent (wishes harm to others) Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?"</p> <p><b>This quote challenges Christian beliefs regarding the nature of God, asking why an all-knowing and all-powerful God does not intervene in the world and stop evil.</b></p> <p>Some people would argue that the presence of evil and suffering in the world goes against the idea of an all-loving God as he would hold the power to stop the suffering. However, Christians explain this in different ways:</p>	

- God gave each person **free will** so that they can make their own choices. Some will choose evil.
- The devil exists on earth as a force for evil
- Suffering is a **test**
- Suffering is a **result of sin**
- How we deal with suffering gives us the chance to **become better people**
- Evil can lead to **positive actions** (e.g. compassion on a large scale following a terrorist attack)

### **The story of Job**

Job was a wealthy man who always avoided doing wrong. Satan appears before God and says that Job is only good because God had blessed him – if Satan was allowed to challenge him he would turn against God. God allowed Satan to test him. Job hears that all of his flocks, servants and children have died but he still praises God. God allows him to be tested again with terrible sores and his wife encourages him to curse God but he refuses. Job eventually questions why God allows the wicked to prosper while the innocent suffer. However, he ultimately states that God's ways are beyond human understanding and he still has faith in God.

This story therefore tells us that Christians will suffer but that God's ways are beyond human understanding and they should therefore remain faithful

**The Trinity** -Christians believe in the **oneness** of God (they are monotheists) but that God is made up of **three persons**:

- **God the father.** All knowing and all powerful. Shows the caring nature of God, like that between a father and his child

- **God the son.** Jesus Christ – God in human form (God incarnate). By becoming human as Jesus God revealed his nature to the world

- **The Holy Spirit.** Christians believe that after his resurrection Jesus rose up to heaven. God then sent the holy spirit into the world to guide Christians and help them to live their lives in the best way possible. Some Christians such as Pentecostals believe that the Holy Spirit allows them to 'speak in tongues' or fall over having been 'slain by the spirit'

**John 10:30** (Jesus said) *"I and the father are one"* – **this tells us that Jesus is God in human form**

**John 14: 6-11** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

*Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."*

*Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*

**This also tells us that Jesus is God in human form and that what he says is the word of God.**

Suggested reading [GCSE Religious Studies - Eduqas - BBC Bitesize](#)